



The innovator's guide to
LEAN & AGILE

In a world of rapid change, your decision makers need to be organised in a lean and agile way to deliver on the objectives of digital transformation.

What is it?

'Lean and agile' is a business approach designed to help organisations handle rapid change and adjust to shifting objectives in an efficient fashion.

The lean approach grew out of Japanese automobile manufacturing and was focused on eliminating waste. By optimising process flows and cycle times, it aims to raise efficiency and deliver better value to the customer.

The agile methodology grew out of computer software development. Its main objective is speeding up development in order to meet a defined customer demand, and getting better at doing it every time by responding rapidly to customer feedback.

Agile entrepreneur Eric Ries led the way in using self-managing teams, iterative working methods, and post-it boards for synchronising time management.

By combining the rigour of lean with the responsiveness of agile, you have a flexible business process which is able to handle the volatile nature of the digitalised economy.

Why should I care?

Lean and agile is the fastest and least painful way to transform your business so that it can deliver on your objectives. It also happens to be the easiest way to get anything done in business these days. If projects have been stuck in the corporate mud for years, it will get them out of the gate right now.

Lean and agile raises operational efficiency, smooths workflow, and delivers goods and services that the customer actually wants. Its focus on responding rapidly to customer demand means that adding value becomes the shared objective of both management and self-managing teams.

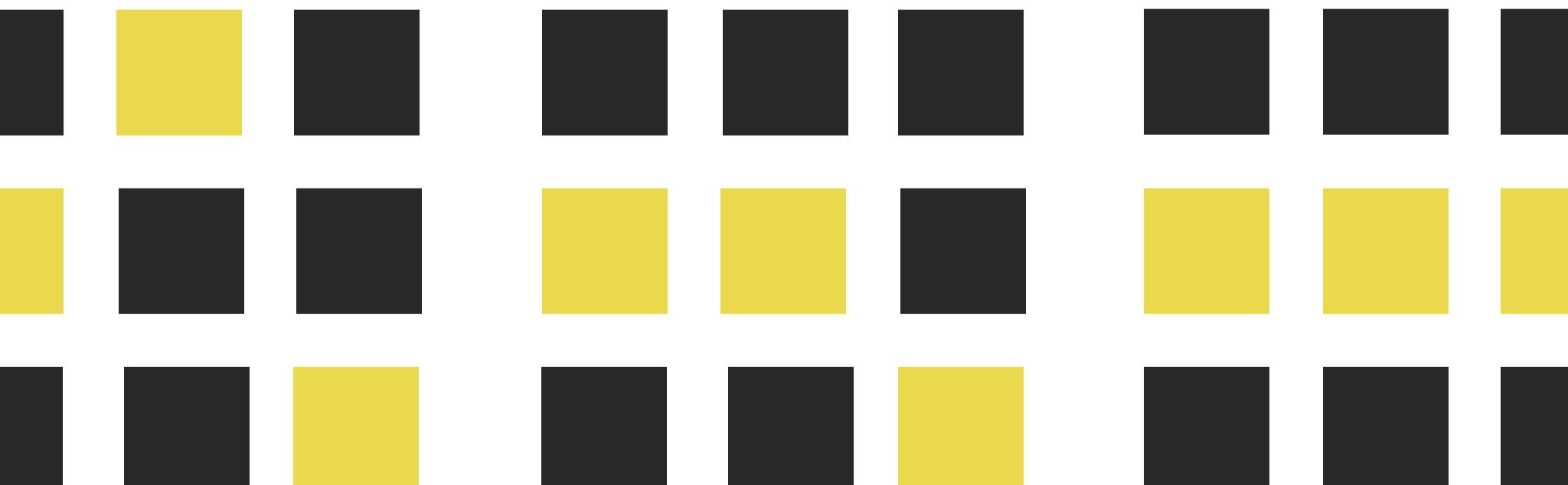
Lean and agile also enables continuous improvement by constantly monitoring and measuring how much value is added by decisions and processes. It's also a great way of stimulating innovative thinking.

What can I do about it?

01

BETTER PROBLEM SOLVING

Identify a problem that needs to be solved, then get your team to develop a minimum viable product (MVP) that will begin the process of learning how to solve the problem better. Introduce automation in test and build phases. Coach teams and management in agile delivery and new routes to market.



02

REDUCE COMPLEXITY

Update your process with technology that can reduce complexity and cost. Get everyone invested in a new framework that gives them clear roles, measurable objectives and a mission they can believe in.

03

CONTINUOUS MONITORING

Management performance should be continuously monitored with the help of decision making metrics and automatic feedback loops. Monitoring should include the decision making process itself. Everything needs to be assessed in terms of results.

Innovator's checklist

- ▶ Empower the individuals on your team by giving them the authority to solve problems in innovative ways. Management must lead by example in developing agile habits.
- ▶ Have you defined the team roles and given them a measure of success? Understand how synergies can work across teams and track how their behaviours improve over time.
- ▶ Avoid short-cuts. Simply copying other people's methodologies doesn't work. You need to find a lean and agile approach that fits your circumstances, and has a chance of driving long-term behavioural change.



**Learn more about Lean and Agile at
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