



Agile, Scrum, PPM – IT Project Initiation to Deployment

You have tried structured IT process, and maybe even a structured enterprise tool, to manage your project initiation to deployment process. And, has it failed, or been less than effective in getting projects, features or stories released at the right time, without any rollbacks necessary?

This is unfortunately the case where structure has been put in place for management reporting only, or for audit compliance only or for time reporting only which may be the single goals of certain business stakeholders. We suggest that forcing the development process into such a process not only slows down the release cycle, but in fact can make an agile or scrum environment totally ineffective.

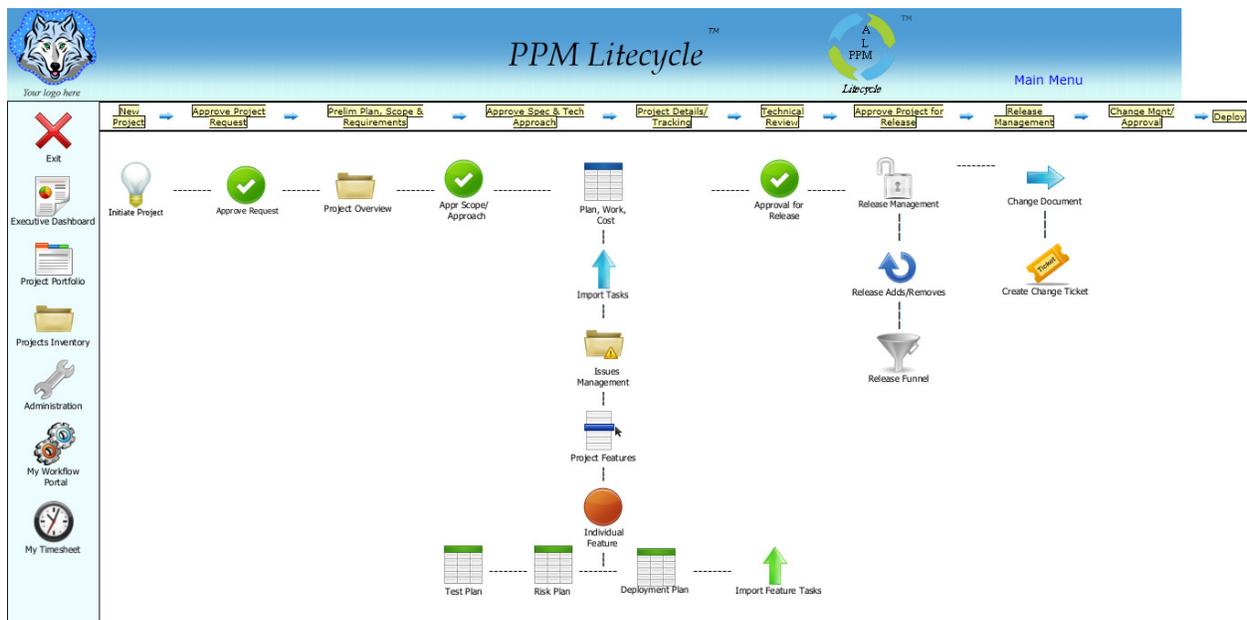
There is a way to meet the needs of agile development, while at the same time taking advantage of frameworks like Cobit and ITIL. What is needed is a light weight governance process and tool, which sits above the daily operations and development in IT, and in a non-interfering way, provides process support or aid to the agile/scrum teams in securing the support of management through just the right amount of reporting. The tool also needs to streamline the projects or stories approvals processes, the release management process, the change process, requirements, deployment and configuration management. Just as a ScrumMaster facilitates vs. dictates the teams processes, the tool needs to aid vs. hinder the agile environment, while keeping in mind that there are organizational needs for things like audit compliance and financials tracking.

So what should the tool specifically do?

- 1) Allow for the business and/or scrum team product owner to easily initiate a story for management approval and funding to move forward. The description of initial requirements is simple and is captured in such a way that multiple iterations and sub-dividing of the requirements can be easily accomplished.
- 2) Sub-projects or sub- stories should be made available to manage independently by the agile team.
- 3) Distribution of work to team members should be an easy outflow of the sub-story or feature
- 4) Feature work, whether by tasks, sprints or however the agile teams keep accomplished work, need to be unloadable to the tool for time and schedule overviews, at whatever project/story level is desired.
- 5) Features /sprints should easily flow into the Release cycle when ready. A means of adding or removing the features for release should be easy to do, up to a cutoff point window for Release.

- 6) Features, sprints and/or sub-stories should be enabled to be rolled up to a package or bundle which have mutual dependencies for release and deployment.
- 7) Release Bundles should directly produce a change document for the CAB (change board) prior to Deployment for use in agile sprint deployment.
- 8) Artifacts of a sprint such as a database or application component should be easily tied to an existing configuration management system.
- 9) Provision of integration to other tools via web services
- 10) Management/team reporting, seen in a color coded manor, for the budget, schedule, cost and issues statuses for any project, feature, story, sprint or artifact
- 11) Backlog viewing and management of project/story hierarchy burndown
- 12) The tool should be a web application available as a SaaS (cloud) application or standalone onsite tool
- 13) The tool should be inexpensive, open source or SaaS, and easy to implement (weeks not months for setup)

Below is a screen shot of the main menu of our product PPM Litecycle™ <http://ppmlitecycle.com>



Click to enlarge graphic http://cioservices.us/ppmlitecycle/ppm_main_page.png

This is our approach at CIO Services, LLC <http://cioservices.us> to meeting the tool and process needs described above to support Agile/Scrum project initiation to deployment. Each element is fully customizable to meet terminology or process changes specific to your organization's needs.

The software is available as FREE open source for onsite usage including all supporting applications, or as a SaaS on your own AWS instance we will run for you.

You can test drive the full application at <https://ppmlitecycle-app.com>

CIO Services, LLC is located in Atlanta, providing IT Process, Management Consulting and Interim Management personnel. PPM Lifecycle™ has been developed from requirements gathered from our many client consulting engagements.