

act agile

Implementing agile product development and innovative process models with MindManager

The Results



AGILITY

Always optimal access to documents and information



BUILDING TRUST

Clear representation of complicated content



LESS CLICKING

Less searching, less adjusting



HIGHER EFFICIENCY

Central communications platform

“For an agile product development, you have to bring together a variety of subjects to build mutual understanding. MindManager allows you to represent these in a way, that everybody understands, while giving you the ability to take different perspectives.”

Stefan Weigand
Director, Act Agile

About Act Agile

Stefan Weigand is the founder and director of Act Agile. According to the motto "It is always now, and now is the time to act", Weigand and his team assist companies with advancing their processes, projects, products and services. Agile product development concepts and process models play an important role in his work.

The Challenges

Seeking to optimize their product development, companies face the challenge of unveiling, scrutinizing and restructuring their procedures and processes. However, visualizing existing workflows alone implies considerable work. Though you can easily depict workflows in swimlanes and other forms of representation, these do not go into full detail, and offer insufficient options to draw conclusions and introduce changes. Stefan Weigand of Act Agile is aware of this challenge, and knows from his own experience how frustrating it is trying to reproduce a product development process in PowerPoint.

"If you want to drive changes, you have to inform, include and engage all stakeholders from the beginning. Having dealt with strategic corporate planning many times, and successfully introduced application portfolio managements in several companies, I know how important it is that the employees feel that your innovations are meant to help them," says Stefan Weigand. That's why he attaches great importance to providing meaningful and self-explanatory information and documentation to his customers. To find the right format for these requirements, Weigand looked into the leading tools for mind mapping, ticketing, process development, requirement management and more. Eventually, he decided to use MindManager for his consulting projects and trainings as, in his view, this solution offers the best support for the features he needs.

The Solution

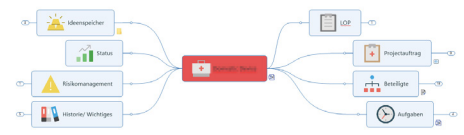
"I chose MindManager because my change projects are often about describing connections and dependencies. And it must be possible to quickly change these connections and to communicate the changes in an comprehensible manner," says the business consultant. With the ability to create links between different topics and content, MindManager offers him exactly the functionality he needs.

He considers complexity to be an essential factor in the implementation of agile product development. When developing a strategic reorientation of a company and/or its product development process, it is absolutely vital for him to be able to in the context of with regard to different time frames—i.e. it must be possible to view things from different perspectives. Weigand: "The mind mapping method enables this approach, and MindManager offers precisely the features that are required to transform a strategic framework into a specific project and to breathe life into it. I can view a process from a meta-level as well as in detail, and I can see immediately where problems could arise or how dependencies behave."

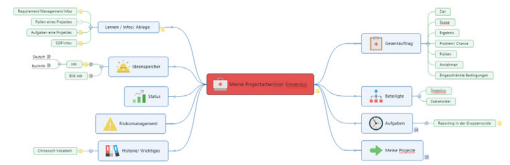
That's why Weigand and his team have been working with MindManager for process or product development processes for years. They plan projects, add timelines, define their specific requirements and embed all documents or information using links or attachments. It goes without saying that they involve all stakeholders in the companies in all these steps. And the feedback from stakeholders is extremely positive. Why? They feel that MindManager simplifies workflows, ensures transparency and facilitates communication. This is particularly true for international communications. MindManager allows Weigand to export maps at HTML files so that their content can be viewed by anyone, and on any browser and device. In particular, this facilitates the communication of information that is important to the production process.

With MindManager, I save up to 50% of the time needed to complete a task because I have a better overview, all information and documents in one place, and everyone knows what comes next."

Stefan Weigand
Director, Act Agile



Act Agile also uses MindManager to create training materials. This form of presentation allows everybody to understand a subject and, if necessary, to drill deeper into the details. "In my lectures, I also use maps to introduce students to the subject of agile product development," says Weigand. "In this way, the students have all the important information in one file and can use it for self-study as and when they wish."



The Results

Weigand feels well supported by MindManager in his consulting work, lectures, and in the organization of his everyday work life. "Without MindManager, I would have to painstakingly work out a comparable structure and overview. MindManager is a tool that helps to work very efficiently."

Weigand calculated that one click takes about one second, and that he saves a large number of clicks and long searches using MindManager—he estimates that it adds up to about 30 minutes less work per day. But, he adds, that it is difficult to quantify the general benefits as there is further added value beyond the time savings. MindManager provides a better overview, a better understanding of the project, a smoother collaboration, fewer mistakes and more agility—and let's not forget the fun at work.



MindManager®

MindManager software helps individuals, teams, and enterprises do great work faster by simplifying the way they capture, organize, and share information.

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