

WHITE PAPER

5 Application Development and Management Issues You Can Solve with a Sprint Team

by Michael Dunn



Contents

Page No.

- 2** The 5 Biggest Application Development and Management Issues
- 4** How Can Sprint Teams Help with ADM Issues?
- 6** Datavail's Sprint Team-as-a-Service
- 7** Case Study: Education Company
- 8** Final Thoughts





[65% of all companies now run custom applications](#) as part of their business operations. However, keeping these applications operational and working at peak performance is by no means an easy task.

This white paper will discuss the five biggest challenges of using custom enterprise software—and how “Sprint Teams-as-a-Service” can help you resolve each one.



The 5 Biggest Application Development and Management Issues

1. Time

Perhaps the greatest application development and management (ADM) challenge for large organizations is simply the amount of time that must be dedicated to ADM. While improving software applications is important, the time dedicated to this non-essential IT task takes away from the time that could be spent on core business goals that contribute more directly to revenue.



2. Budget

Maintaining a knowledgeable, experienced in-house team of developers and managers is well outside many companies' budgets, especially smaller organizations. Salaries, raises, bonuses, and benefits add up, and managers often can't justify the spend.



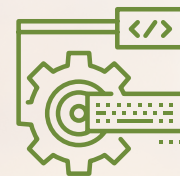
3. Skill Set

Even if you have the budget to do it, finding and hiring the right people is no easy task. The hiring, onboarding, and training process is long and expensive, which makes it hard to scale up and down quickly when necessary.



4. Strategy

Acquiring an in-house application development and management (ADM) team is one thing, but knowing what to do with it is something entirely different. Without a long-term vision for how to develop your technology in line with your business goals, much of your team's time and knowledge will be wasted.



5. Modernization

Many organizations continue to rely on legacy applications in today's modern, fast-paced business landscape. Unfortunately, legacy technology simply can't work as quickly or provide as many features as the latest, greatest software, which leaves you at risk of falling behind.

How Can Sprint Teams Help with ADM Issues?

The Business Challenges of ADM

While they're troublesome enough on their own, the five ADM issues listed above have the potential to cause a negative "ripple effect" on your business as a whole:

- Critical enterprise data remains siloed in various departments, hidden from people who would greatly benefit from using it. Managers and executives are unable to receive the insights that they could if their BI platform - PowerBI for example - were tailored to their users departments and business processes.
- Worker productivity shrinks, as employees waste valuable time and money searching for the information they need just to do their job in applications that may not be optimized or need customization for their business needs.
- Traditional on-premises software and hardware are becoming obsolete as tech-savvy competitors embrace the opportunity and advantages of the cloud.

Without a way to quickly and efficiently address your IT challenges, your business will fall further and further behind. As computer speed and storage capabilities continue to grow exponentially, organizations that don't stay ahead of the technology curve will simply be outclassed by their competitors who do.



What is a Sprint Team?

A "[sprint](#)" is a period of work during which a team of technicians addresses specific business goals one at a time. Planning, developing, testing, and deploying new responsive programming all occur within a relatively short two- or three-week span.

Usually deployed by enterprise-sized organizations, sprint teams can clear up backlogs, innovate new practices, and release solutions faster than can traditional programming development strategies.



The Benefits of "Sprint Teams-as-a-Service"

"Software-as-a-Service" (SaaS) is one of the biggest revolutions in business technology in the last decade. Breaking from the concept of traditional software licenses, SaaS uses a subscription model in which software is delivered over the Internet and priced according to the number of users.

Since the rise of SaaS, there have been dozens of "as-a-service" business models that give customers more flexibility to purchase on-demand licenses from a third-party vendor. These include Infrastructure-as-a-Service (IaaS), Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS), Data-as-a-Service (DaaS), and more.

The "as-a-service" model has been wildly successful because it's both scalable and cost-effective. While large enterprises can deploy their own in-house teams, "as-a-service" models enable businesses without in-depth IT abilities to have access to the latest technological developments as it fits their timeline and budget.

In the same vein, the idea of "Sprint Teams-as-a-Service" (STaaS) allows businesses to benefit from team members' vast knowledge and experience, without having to hire them as in-house full-time personnel.

The benefits of "Sprint Teams-as-a-Service" (STaaS) include:

- The ability to make smarter short-term and long-range strategic business decisions, leveraging the expert support and advice of Sprint Team members.
- Greater clarity into business needs and objectives.
- Turning application maintenance and development costs from capital expenses to operating expenses, making IT budgets more predictable.

Datavail's Sprint Team-as-a-Service

As a trusted ADM partner to countless businesses, Datavail recognized that we were in a unique position to help with these common ADM challenges. This realization led us to offer our very own [Sprint Teams-as-a-Service \(STaaS\)](#) offering.

Datavail's business model for STaaS includes the following steps:

- Clients hire a Sprint Team on an as-needed basis. Costs are levied per sprint or per month, rather than paying for a single large project in advance.
- The Sprint Team itself is populated by the technicians best suited for the project. Members can be swapped out as best fits the situation.
- The initial sprint gathers and parses data to clarify concerns and develop an initial strategy that may evolve over time.
- Clients can use additional teams to work on secondary objectives while the original team remains focused on the primary goals.

Datavail's STaaS offering also marries well with our comprehensive suite of other corporate services, including our [Application Development and Management \(ADM\)](#) service.

The ADM service offers an exceptional value to small and mid-sized businesses that use packaged or exclusive apps to deliver their goods and services. By letting Datavail manage their applications as an operational expense, organizations can make their IT budgets more manageable and predictable while focusing on their core business objectives.

Datavail's ADM services are also available when you need to develop new features or applications. Smaller companies, in particular, enjoy the improved flexibility and scalability that Datavail's ADM service provides them.



Case Study: Education Company

The idea of a "Sprint Team-as-a-Service" (STaaS) was born when Datavail was working with a new client that presented some unique challenges. The client was an education company that connected international schools with students who were interested in studying abroad.

Unfortunately, the client was experiencing a number of issues with legacy technology and integrations. For example, separate educational institutions often used their own choice of software that integrated poorly with the client's internal technology. In addition to legacy issues, the client also lacked the time and skill set to address in-house.

The client turned to Datavail for help. Datavail suggested that the client partner with an interim sprint team rather than rebuild the entire system right away. This would help address the client's most pressing concerns, giving the business time to consider its long-term technology strategy. Partnering with Datavail allowed them to get started quickly with our team's essential skills.

After starting work, Datavail's sprint team realized there was a growing backlog of application glitches and were able to burst capacity to quickly cut through the client's backlog. Solving these bugs and errors gave the team insights into how the client could improve their technology to provide better service overall.

After the conclusion of the first sprint, the client received a report with in-depth explanations of the work and suggestions for next steps. As soon as the budget allowed, the client scheduled a second sprint team to implement the first team's recommendations. Thanks to the work of both teams, the client was able to achieve all of their technology goals without breaking the bank.





Final Thoughts

Datavail's Sprint Team-as-a-Service offering gives every organization the chance to remain on the cutting edge of technology. By contracting with a skilled, knowledgeable team of development professionals, you can have access to top programming talent whenever you need it at a price that fits your budget.

As a Microsoft Gold Partner, we have more than 200 application development professionals and 15,000+ projects completed. Many of our customer relationships span 10 years or more. Our experts will partner with you to develop agile applications that keep your organization efficient, integrated and modernized. We offer complete end-to-end development services. [Contact us](#) to learn more.



Michael Dunn
Solutions Architect

Biography

Michael Dunn is a Solutions Architect at Datavail. He has more than 18 years of experience in project and program management, core business process and personnel development across industries in sectors. His technical expertise is all-things Microsoft and brings value to clients with his ability to problem solve, bridge the gap between technical and management speak to provide value to our customers.

datAvail

BI/Analytics • Applications • Databases

About Datavail

Datavail is a company of over 1,000 professionals helping clients build and manage applications and data via a world-class tech-enabled delivery platform and software solutions across all leading technologies.

Contact Us

Corporate Headquarters

Datavail Corporation
11800 Ridge Parkway
Suite 125
Broomfield, CO 80021

General Inquiries

 877-634-9222
 303-469-2399
 info@datavail.com

Toronto Office

Datavail Corporation
21 Randolph Ave., Suite 200 Toronto ON, M6P 4G4, Canada

India

Powai Office

Datavail Infotech Pvt. Ltd,
A-902, Supreme Business Park, Hiranandani Gardens, Powai, Mumbai – 400076, Maharashtra

Bangalore Office

Datavail Infotech Pvt. Ltd
Ground floor, South Wing, Maruthi
Chambers, Rupena Agrahara,
Hosur Main Road, Bommanahalli,
Bengaluru – 560068

Hyderabad Office

Datavail Corporation
1002 – 1003, Manjeera Trinity Corporate,
JNTU-Hitech City Road,
K P H B Phase 3, Kukatpally, Hyderabad,
Telangana-500072

Sri Lanka

Datavail Corporation
Maga One, 11th Floor, No 200, Nawala Road, Narahenpita, Sri Lanka

datAvail

BI/Analytics • Applications • Databases

www.datavail.com | 877.634.9222