



# What is Agile Business Analysis?

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Business analysis is the professional discipline of identifying business needs and determining solutions to the business problems. An Agile BA is someone who can apply the professional discipline of business analysis but who can also understand and apply the agile principles and values to their business analysis work. An Agile BA is therefore someone who can:

- Adopt and apply agile principles and thinking in their BA work
- Facilitate collaboration amongst customers and stakeholders
- Provide just enough detail and only when it is needed
- Deliver the 'right thing' and the 'thing right'
- Understand and apply business analysis thinking (i.e. Service thinking, Systems thinking, Lean thinking)

Effective agile business analysis involves understanding the needs of the customer. This includes not only the customer of the project, but also understanding internal project customers. The Agile BA recognises that anyone who consumes documents or models produced by the business analysts is in fact a customer too. For example, working directly with the development team to understand what requirements and models are needed and to what level of detail, are key factors in agile business analysis.

The Agile manifesto lists 4 Agile values and is shown below. This version has been amended slightly such that '*Working Software*' from the original Agile manifesto has been replaced by '*Working solutions*':

***Individuals and interactions* OVER processes and tools**  
***Working solutions* OVER comprehensive documentation**  
***Customer collaboration* OVER contract negotiation**  
***Responding to change* OVER following a plan**

The Agile business analyst strives to make sure that the things on the left hand side of the manifesto are given more focus than the things on the right hand side. This does not mean that the things on the right hand side are not important. They are important, but they need to be done 'just enough' and 'just in time'.

The Agile BA needs to constantly improve their processes and performance, plus those of their team, through embedding the principles of continuous improvement and adaption to different circumstances. The Agile BA knows that one size does not fit all.

An Agile BA is a business analyst who can '*be agile*' in their day-to-day business analysis work, and is effective whether working with or within an Agile development team.



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