

“ DB Consulting worked in a warm, friendly, open and constructive way that took into account the people and business processes at Chambers and Partners, instead of preaching best practice from the Agile bible. The specifically tailored recommendations are working very well with the business and IT staff are happy with the results so far. ”

Robert Howe, IT Manager, Chambers and Partners



Background

Since 1990, Chambers has published the world's leading guides to the legal profession and has built a reputation for in-depth, objective research. Chambers employs a large team of full-time researchers who work with Chambers's editors to identify and rank the world's best lawyers, i.e. those who perform best according to the criteria most valued by clients – such as technical expertise, business acumen, prompt delivery and value for money.

Business Issue

Chambers researches and compiles annual guides covering global regions, and its over one hundred researchers conduct many, many thousands of telephone interviews each year with lawyers and their clients all around the world.

Despite running large scale, complex IT systems, the sheer quantity of data generated was beginning to cause issues, and Chambers's IT team took the decision to take on a major overhaul of existing capabilities.

The Chambers team had heard the 'buzz' around Agile, and were keen to explore how an Agile approach might work in this environment.

The Challenge

To introduce an agile approach to the internal IT team and to support Chambers in running a pilot project to 'showcase' Agile within the business community.

Solution

Combining elements from our Agile Explore and Agile Quickstart services, DB Consulting delivered a bespoke, 5-day 'introducing agile' programme designed to bring everyone — IT professionals and business users alike — up to speed. Covering 'agile' at an appropriate level, four sessions were planned and delivered, spanning Processes, Method & Techniques, People Issues, and 'Road Map'.

The Processes session focussed on understanding, at a high level, IT governance, project management and software development processes, discussing the issues that Agile could address, and exploring how current processes might be adapted to align with a more Agile approach.

Method & Techniques focused on consideration of alternative agile methods and techniques appropriate for Chambers, given the scale and complexity of the systems portfolio, the nature of projects to be undertaken and the development technologies used. In addition, direction was provided to help Chambers identify the most appropriate methods and techniques to use and to understand how to implement Agile most effectively.

With regard to People, Chambers were guided to consider what changes to team composition and structure would be required, alongside discussion of how team member and stakeholder behaviours might change and consideration of changes in business processes that would need to be embraced to realise the benefits of Agile.

Finally, an 'Agile Roadmap' was created, setting out a way forward together with a realistic, costed transition plan.

Results

DB Consulting helped to accelerate Chambers's transition to a more agile way of working, and helped deliver the pilot projects which proved the benefits of Agile and allowed Chambers to 'tune' their approach to Agile to enable coexistence of agile software development with internal project governance requirements.

DB Consulting

DB Consulting works with ambitious, forward-thinking companies aiming to achieve strategic business objectives through the deployment of modern Information Systems.

We design, build and support software for companies operating in a wide range of industries, using technology products from Microsoft, Oracle, IBM and other leading software vendors.

Contact Us

Nick Hill
t: 01753 626625
e: nhill@dbgroup.co.uk