

Service Description:

Affinity is using 'Open-source' technology to help build very powerful relevant, up-to-date and cost-effective websites and software solutions for our clients. One of our major strengths is the broad spectrum of knowledge and experience we have gained through the wide variety of businesses we support, including publishing, manufacturing and the Government Digital Services.

We are an English award winning technology agency that is ideally placed to help you deliver high quality website solutions.

We have developed a passion and an area of excellence around 'Open-source' Cloud-based technology, enabling us to deliver very powerful websites and extranet solutions, ranging from powerful content management systems, collaborative tools and digital asset management to e-commerce and assessment tools, most of which are coupled with complex integration requirements.

We remain 'technology-agnostic' - accessing the most appropriate solution in each individual case - and whilst we have gained in-depth experience of a number of leading open-source packages (specifically Magento, Drupal, WordPress Joomla, and SugarCRM), we have resisted the offer of becoming a 're-seller' on any specific products or packages.

During the last 8 years, the management team has shown enormous strength in delivering complex and innovative technology projects. Affinity works in some of the most exciting areas of new technology; the development of large transactional e-commerce platforms/web stores and high performing CMS generated websites - all utilising cost-effective open-source technology.

We are very aware of the need to keep abreast of the evolution of open-source - not an easy task in such a dynamic and fast-paced industry.

Significant investment is therefore made into monitoring the primary open-source software products and, where necessary, relevant 'partner' conferences and exhibitions are attended.

Not only do we have a vast amount of expertise in the design and development of CMS-generated websites and extranets (gained over the last decade), our team have an unparalleled experience of working with large government bodies and publishing related clients to deliver highly engaging, solutions in this area.

Our team are used to working with clients to harness the information gleaned through use cases, turning them into effective user journeys and helping inform the information architecture.

In a market where project delivery can sometimes be problematic, Affinity's partnership approach and proven project management methodologies (incorporating both Agile and Waterfall depending on the client's preferences) has had a notable success rate and gained a reputation which is continually being built upon.

Affinity:

Affinity has been successfully operating since it was founded in January 2004 (winning best new business of the year at the 2005 CBAs and numerous awards since). It has recently achieved significant organic growth (despite the current global market difficulties) with sales revenue increasing year-on-year and into the current financial year - cementing its strong financial standing. The company remains independently-owned with a strong balance sheet and order book.

Putting the customer first is at the core of what we do. Only if the customer is satisfied will we have achieved the right result. And it is only through creativity and innovation that customer satisfaction can be ensured. Meeting the needs and demands of the customer always, in our experience, involves going the extra mile – finding often unexpected solutions to emerging requirements and challenges

Affinity's Processes:

Affinity Project Management

Affinity is in an excellent position with its multiple methodology offerings. We recognise that there is not a “one shoe fits all” approach to delivering successful projects and have developed and matured our own processes to match the differing needs of our diverse client base.

Our mainstay method utilises a core iterative development team following tried and tested Scrum agile principles. We have tailored the entry points to this core competency to enable us to support everything from formal “waterfall” engagements to “full agile” projects and most things in-between.

Ultimately we have modelled our approach to suit the needs of our clients rather than dictating one specific engagement process; we can fit in where you need us and deliver in a way that gives you the most benefit. As a key to this, early in any engagement we help our customers understand their own strengths and competencies in project processes and produce an offering that dovetails into a customers’ organisation rather than being at odds with it.



Affinity Waterfall

Many of our clients are seeking a traditional waterfall engagement and we equally welcome that approach. If there are no significant uncertainties in your own requirements, we will work with you in an elaboration phase to formally detail them together. Once defined, we will happily deliver against a set budget and specification. We add some further value to this approach by vertically or functionally dividing up your requirement in-house and iteratively developing it within our Core team. This means that change control can be managed better (and minimised) should your documented vision change or something unexpected happens.

Affinity Agile Hybrid

We are realists – we know that a full Agile engagement across company boundaries is hard to achieve and also in an uncertain world that Waterfall requirements can and do change. Unless an organisation has reached a reasonable level of Agile ‘maturity’ it may actually be culturally or organisationally impossible for them to work in a fully Agile way. We can solve this and we will do this in two ways:

1. An ‘out of the box’ approach to technology.

We will select and propose suitable open source packages, modules and templates that we believe can cleanly offer the solution that you are seeking ‘out of the box’ without the need for fundamental code writes at a low level. We promote taking this more straightforward approach to technology choice so that we can deliver you business value as soon as possible rather than building something from scratch.

Any package solution will require levels of configuration and customisation, however if the underlying business processes that they offer do indeed deliver your needs, then there is no need to re-specify those processes in agile story cards, and carry out a detailed business process mapping before we can start delivery.

2. A lightweight Agile backlog

Tied neatly to the above, we will embed our own agile expertise into your project and guide some of the Analyst and Product Owner activities particularly in the early iterations. Most importantly as we will have proposed technologies that minimise the need for the detailed requirements work that consumes a lot of time, you will be able to step back a little from the daily refinement and story breakdown work that would be present in a typical Full Agile engagement and predominantly focus on acceptance of the project deliverables at the end of each iteration.

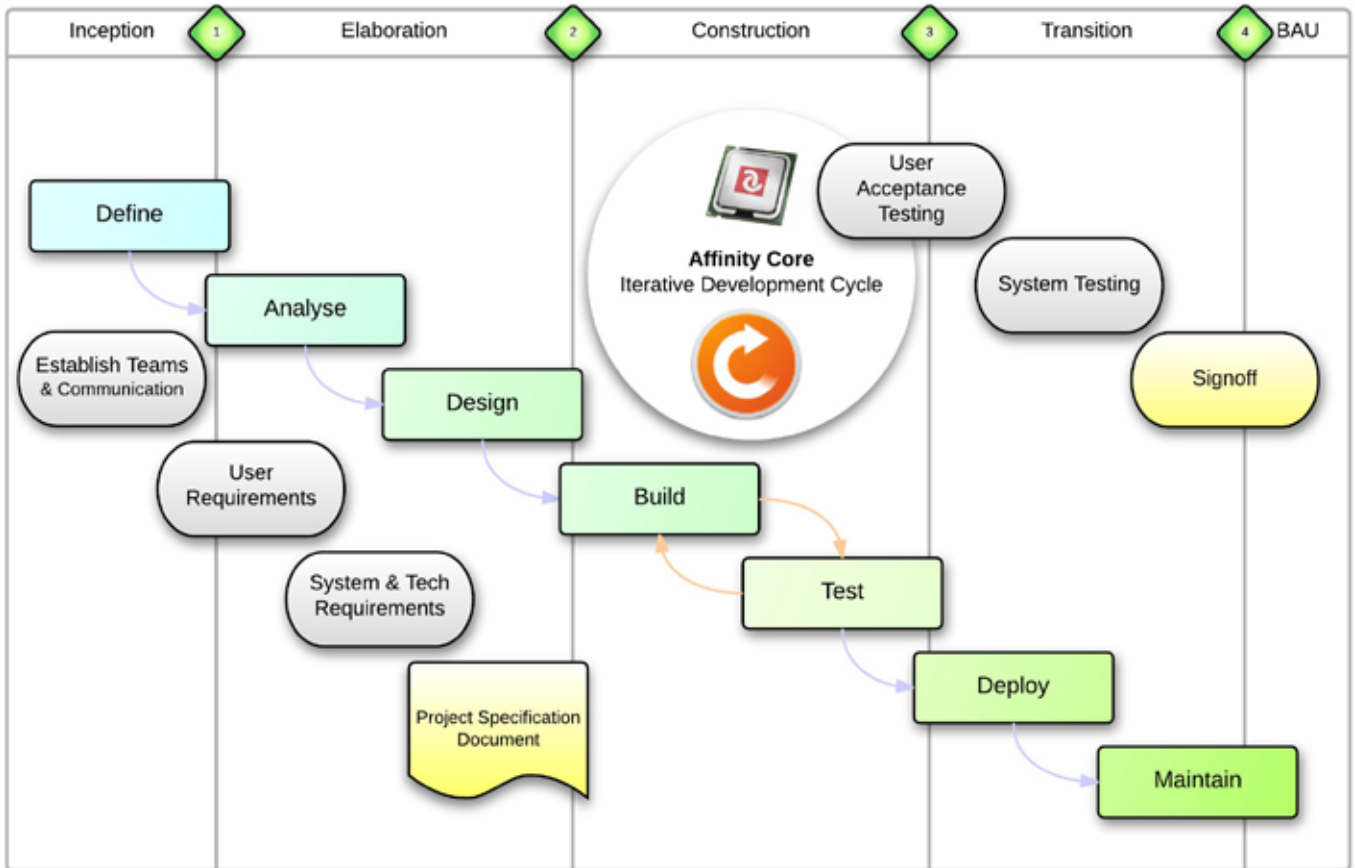
Affinity Agile

Our full Agile project process works on an iterative backlog definition and refinement cycle that feeds into our core development scrum process. This is an industry standard approach and as well as operating perfectly on its own, can also plug into large-scale Agile programme methods such as the Scaled Agile Framework (SAFe).

This highly collaborative approach puts your project at the heart of our company and delivers a cohesive end to end process from your Project Roadmap, Product Owners and Analysts downwards. We will justifiably have high expectations of your consistent daily engagement with us in stand-ups, refinement sessions and story-card workshops to make your project a success.

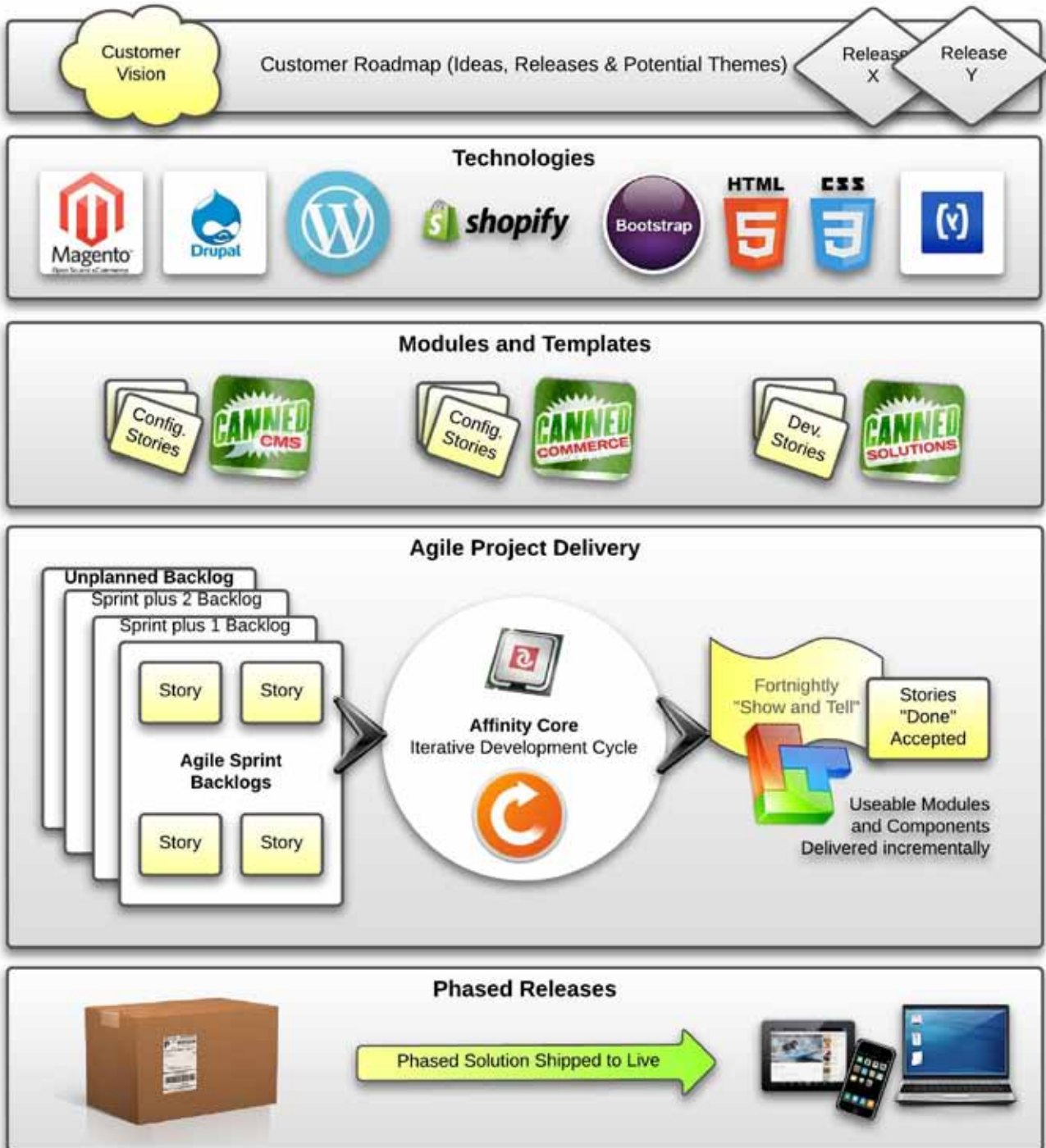
Affinity Agile

For a full definition of Affinity's Waterfall approach go to: www.affinity-digital.com/waterfall



Affinity Hybrid Agile

For a full definition of The Affinity Hybrid Agile approach go to: www.affinity-digital.com/Hybridagile



Who we do it for:

We work with a range of clients using the Open Source platforms for Websites, Extranet and Intranet solutions ranging from Government Contracts to Marketing solutions for SME's. This is one of the key benefits of the Open Source Platforms – Their flexibility and scalability.

Clients and solutions of note include:

Client: Group Lotus Plc

Profile: UK based Car Manufacturer with Global presence

Projects: Corporate global Website - www.lotuscars.com
Media Center - media.lotuscars.com
Driving accadamy - www.lotusdrivingacademy.com
VSIC portal – vsic.lotuscars.com
(Vehicle Service Information Centre)

Platform: Drupal

Sector: Automotive, manufacturing

Applications: Websites, Intranet/Extranet, Collaboration
and Asset Management

Client: DECC

Department of the Environment and Climate Control

Profile: Central Government body

Projects: <https://electricitysettlementscompany.uk>
<https://lowcarboncontracts.uk/>

Platform: Drupal with Drupal Atrium integration

Sector: Environmental

Applications: Websites, Intranet/Extranet, Collaborative tools
and Document Management

Client: AGCO

Profile: International Tractor and Agricultural machines manufacturer

Projects: EMEA Websites - shop.challenger-ag.com
shop.fendt.com
shop.valtra.com
shop.masseyferguson.com

Platform: Magento Enterprise

Sector: Agricultural, manufacturing

Applications: Website, ecommerce

Client: Falmouth University

Profile: UK based Educational Institute

Projects: Web based project builder and collaborative tools - <http://projects.falmouth.ac.uk>

Platform: Wordpress Multi-site

Sector: Education

Applications: Websites, Intranet/Extranet, Collaboration

CASE STUDY: Please go to www.affinity-digital.com/casestudy/decc

Affinity's Associated Services:

Business Analysis

One of the most critical components of the affinity team are the web business analysts. Without this crucial role, our Developers and Project managers will be unable to effectively complete their tasks. A web business analyst identifies the needs within an organization that correspond to the sphere of the online world. They are also charged with determining an appropriate course of action or solution depending on needs of the company. "Web Business Analysts are essential to linking the business objectives and the technical capabilities," Our clients want to achieve their goals, but they may not understand the technical limitations in what can be done, in terms of resources, technology, and the time available. Our web business analysts are the link that gives better understanding to both sides.

Creative Design Services

We believe that good design is fundamental to any successful project. Making good use of graphic design principles allows us to:

- Create attractive and engaging solutions for our clients;
- Maximise ease of use and facilitate the users' journey through any website or application;
- Enhance and drive forward the client's digital brand in support of their wider marketing strategies.

We focus on the usability of your website, making sure that your customers' interactions with it is enjoyable and without confusing or superfluous obstacles that may cause them to disengage or abandon their journey. By applying these principles to your website, we will be able to deliver against your requirements in a way which will not just enhance your visitors' experience but will also strengthen your brand in support of your wider marketing strategies.

Our design team are fully conversant with the implications of developing a truly fully responsive in design, meaning that whatever platform (screen size and resolution) the website is viewed on. the web page is optimized to deliver the best and most appropriate view of that page. The beauty of 'open source' software and Drupal in particular is that we can demonstrate this technological approach and many of its other features on a 'play before you pay' basis).

Use Cases

Well-written use case narratives (or simply "use cases") offer affinity's analysis, development, and testing teams an invaluable guidebook. A use case is a formalized story that describes how someone procedurally interacts with an existing or proposed system and they should be part of every project managers' permanent tool set. Well-written use case narratives (or simply "use cases") offer the analysis, development, and testing teams an invaluable guidebook. A use case is a formalized story that describes how someone procedurally interacts with an existing or proposed system and they should be part of every project managers' permanent tool set.

User Journeys

At affinity we ensure we understand the underlying problem before attempting to solve it and then make things simple and intuitive. Acknowledging that the user is not like you and having empathy is the key to a great User Journey. When we really get what makes people tick and why they do what they do, we'll have a much easier time making their visit better.

Affinity's Associated Services:

User Experience Design

When someone is trying to get something done, they're on a mission. Don't interrupt them unnecessarily, don't set up obstacles for them to overcome, just pave the road for an easy ride. Affinity's UX team will create designs that have intentional and obvious paths that will allow people to complete tasks quickly and freely. We will create a visual hierarchy that matches the user's needs, Provide signposts and cues and of course make actions reversible. Our mantra is - Less is more. It is important to make sure that everything in the design has a purpose. Some things are purely functional; other things are purely aesthetic. But if they aren't adding to the overall positivity of the experience, then we'll take it out. Finally be consistent Navigational mechanisms, organizational structure and metaphors used throughout the design must be predictable and reliable. When things don't match up between multiple areas, the experience can feel disjointed, confusing and uncomfortable. People will start to question whether they're misunderstanding the intended meaning or if they missed a key cue. Consistency implies stability, and people always want to feel like they're in good hands.

Other Affinity service offerings:

Open Source Website Consultancy

Open Source Website Development

Drupal Development

Magento Development

ERP - CRM Implementation

Open ERP odoo Implementation

Open Source software Development

Software Integration Specialists

Open Source Flexible Assessment Systems (FAS)

Making Contact:

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