

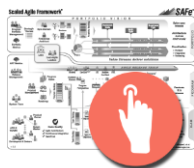
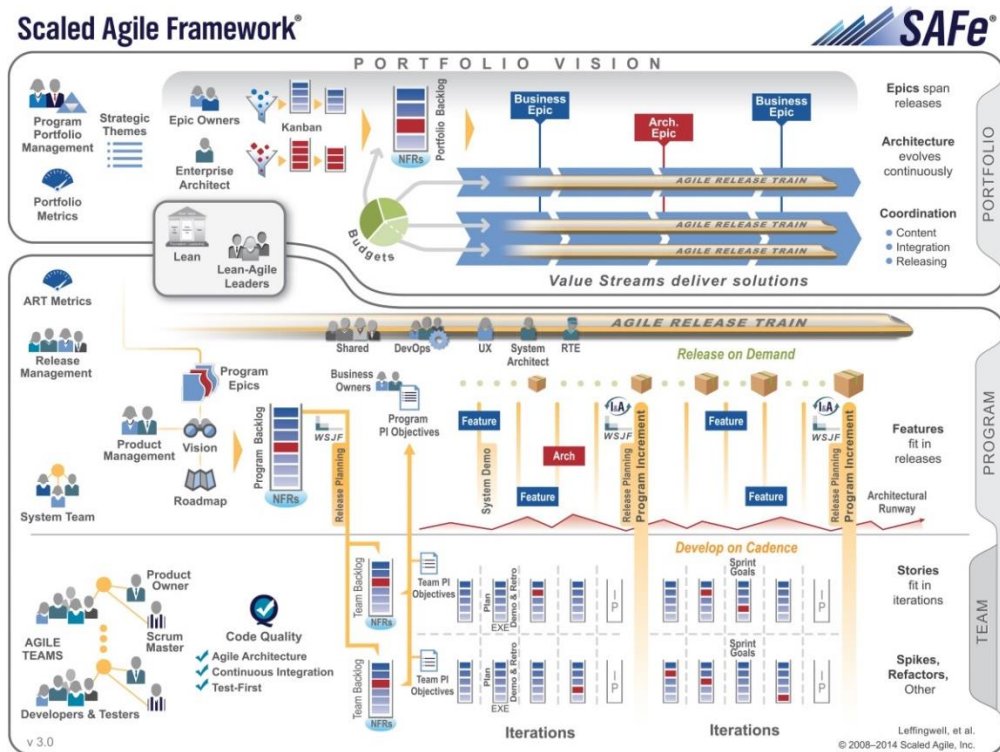


# Welcome to the Scaled Agile Framework® (SAFe®)

The Scaled Agile Framework ("SAFe") is a proven knowledge base for implementing lean-agile practices at enterprise scale. It has been successfully applied to programs ranging from 50-125 people, to enterprises employing thousands of software developers. The "Big Picture" below highlights the individual roles, teams, activities and artifacts necessary to scale agile from the traditional 4-9 person team through program up to enterprise level initiatives. Whilst software development focused, the principles and concepts that underpin SAFe can be leveraged for any change initiative.

The SAFe framework caters for three levels that span the enterprise:

**Team, Program** and **Portfolio**. Each of these scales the essential agile elements of *Value* (strategic alignment, investment classification and prioritization, economic and value driven pipeline and requirements management) *Teams* (integrated and collaborative cross-functional teams orientated around delivering real-work outcome) and *Timebox* (incremental, bite-sized delivery and budget periods that produce releasable components/solutions).



Clicking on each icon takes the user to an Abstract and a Detail page which elaborates on that element. Some elements (like Metrics) bring up additional sub-domains with navigation to further depth and description.

While SAFe is a powerful model with customizable components that can be leveraged to the organizational and situational context, the key principles that form the foundation of the framework have demonstrable, proven results in terms of engagement (+10 - 35%), productivity (+20 – 50%), Quality (incurring fewer defects +50%) and time to market/internal utilization (+30 – 75%).

Some of the key concepts / strengths of SAFe include:

- Definition of and alignment to Strategic Themes and organizational Value Streams
- Efficient portfolio definition and holding mechanism for prioritization and approval of key Business and Architectural initiatives
- Lean-Agile Budgeting that optimizes flow “Beyond Project Cost Accounting”, decrease management overhead, enable greater team flexibility and decentralized decision-making and utilization of resource pooling offered by the Agile Release Train concept
- Program Roadmap and Program Increment delivery mechanism via cadence-based intervals for realizing system-level benefits and enabling management reporting
- Timeboxing and standard delivery patterns: Plan the iteration, commit to a goal, execute the iteration, demonstrate the results to key stakeholders and conduct retrospectives to improve

In addition to these and other key aspects of the framework, some specific techniques and principles are integral to value realization, not least the planning process which ensures clarity of mission, collaboration and commitment from those accountable and responsible for delivery, management of dependencies, risks and issues, capacity and load estimation techniques in conjunction with management review and adjustment steps that stem from the integrated planning activities performed in a [typically] 2 day planning event. Other fundamental principles include:

- Lean – reduce delivery timelines and minimize non value-added activities, develop individuals, empower teams and foster effective partnerships
- Kaizen – reflection and continuous improvement as an enterprise capability, take action and use techniques like retrospectives, root cause analysis and value stream mapping
- Product development flow – take an economic view, actively manage queues, understand and exploit variability, reduce batch sizes and apply WIP constraints, decentralized decision-making and fast feedback

## Learn more

To learn more about our SAFe consulting and training solutions, contact [info@ap3m.com](mailto:info@ap3m.com)



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