



The  
Continuous  
Engineering  
Experts



# Scaling Agile to the Enterprise – Pitfalls and Practices addressed with the Scaled Agile Framework

**Doug Stewart**  
*Director of Services*  
*321Gang*

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- Agile principles are the foundation
- Team-based agile processes solve part of the problem
- Enterprises add scaling practices
  - Many patterns harvested and included in SAFe

# Pain Points of Scaling Agile

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- The Team of Teams becomes too large a team
- New corporate initiatives are large and may take a long time to complete
- Meeting regulatory compliance
- Emergent design does not provide for a stable architecture
- Agile is restricted to IT
- Can not set and meet expectations with Stakeholders and Customers
- No clear way to handle highly specialized roles
- Subcontractors and Vendors

# Lean Agile Principles

## Why the focus on principles?

*A common disease that afflicts management the world over is the impression that “Our problems are different”. They are different to be sure, but the principles that will help to improve quality of product and service are universal in nature.* —W. Edwards Deming



- A Lean-Agile transformation will deliver substantial benefits
- But it is a significant change and every implementation is different
- Leaders should understand why the practices work; it's part of "knowing what it is they must do"
- If a practice needs to change, understanding the principles will assure the change moves the enterprise in the right direction

# Apply Lean-Agile Principles

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#1-Take an economic view

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#2-Apply systems thinking

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#3-Assume variability; preserve options

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#4-Build incrementally with fast, integrated learning cycles

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#5-Base milestones on objective evaluation of working systems

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#6-Visualize and limit WIP, reduce batch sizes, and manage queue lengths

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#7-Apply cadence, synchronize with cross-domain planning

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#8-Unlock the intrinsic motivation of knowledge workers

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#9-Decentralize decision-making

# Team of Teams becomes too large a team

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- The problem: Scrum of Scrums becomes too large
  - 200 agile teams means 200 Scrum Managers to sync
  - $7 \pm 2$  is an ideal team size, for Scrum of Scrums as well

# How Do Scrum and Agile Help Teams?

Fosters decentralized decisions

Better aligned to deliver value faster

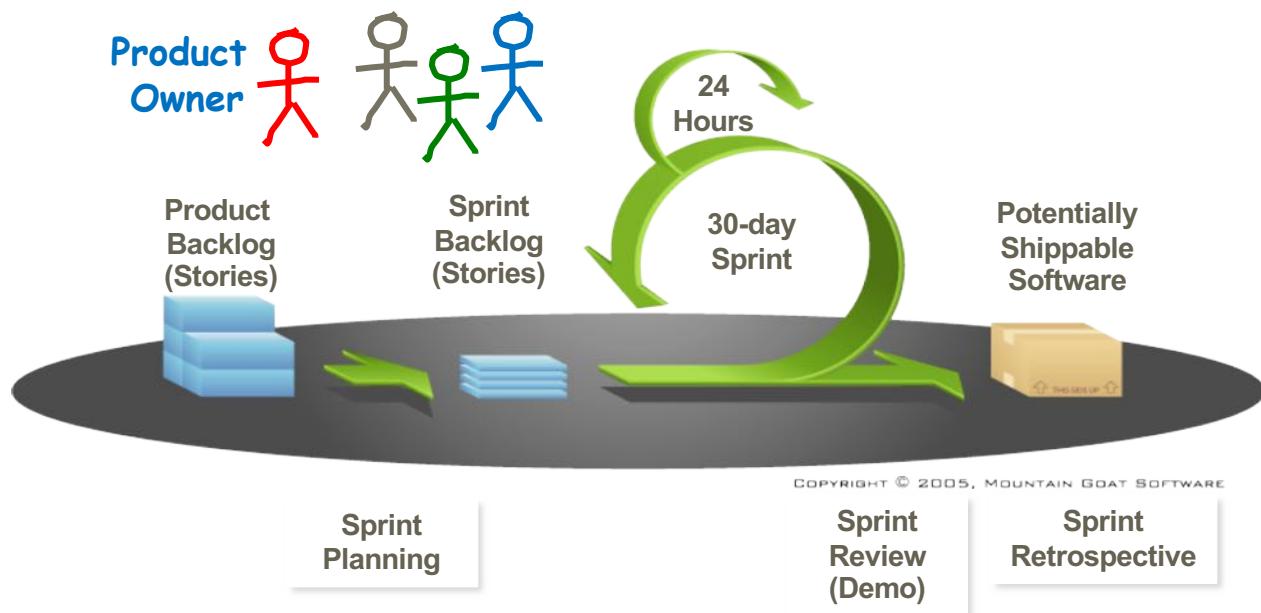
Reduced WIP drives focus

Synchronized around common ceremonies

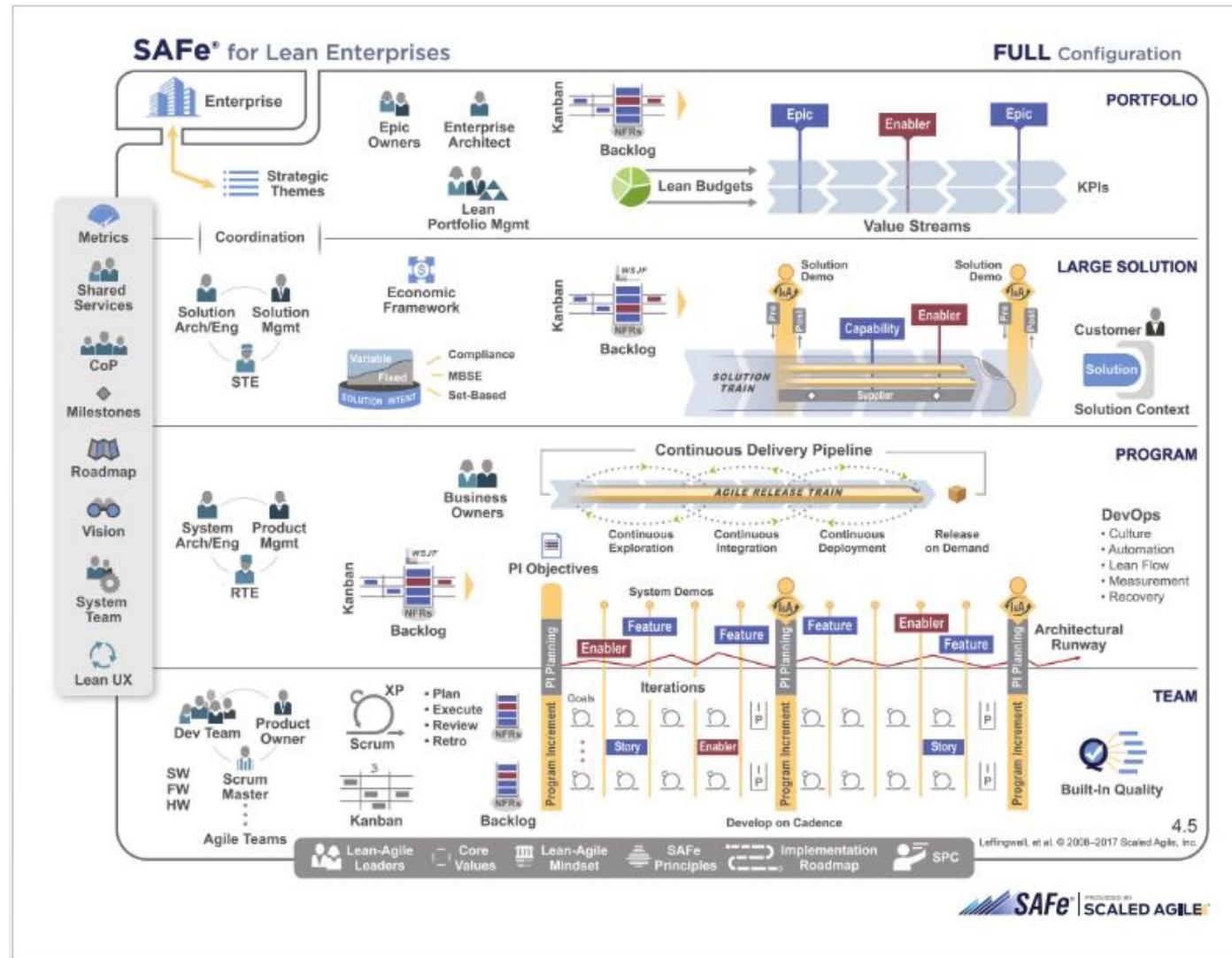
Smaller batches move through system faster

Regular cadence limits variability to single Sprint

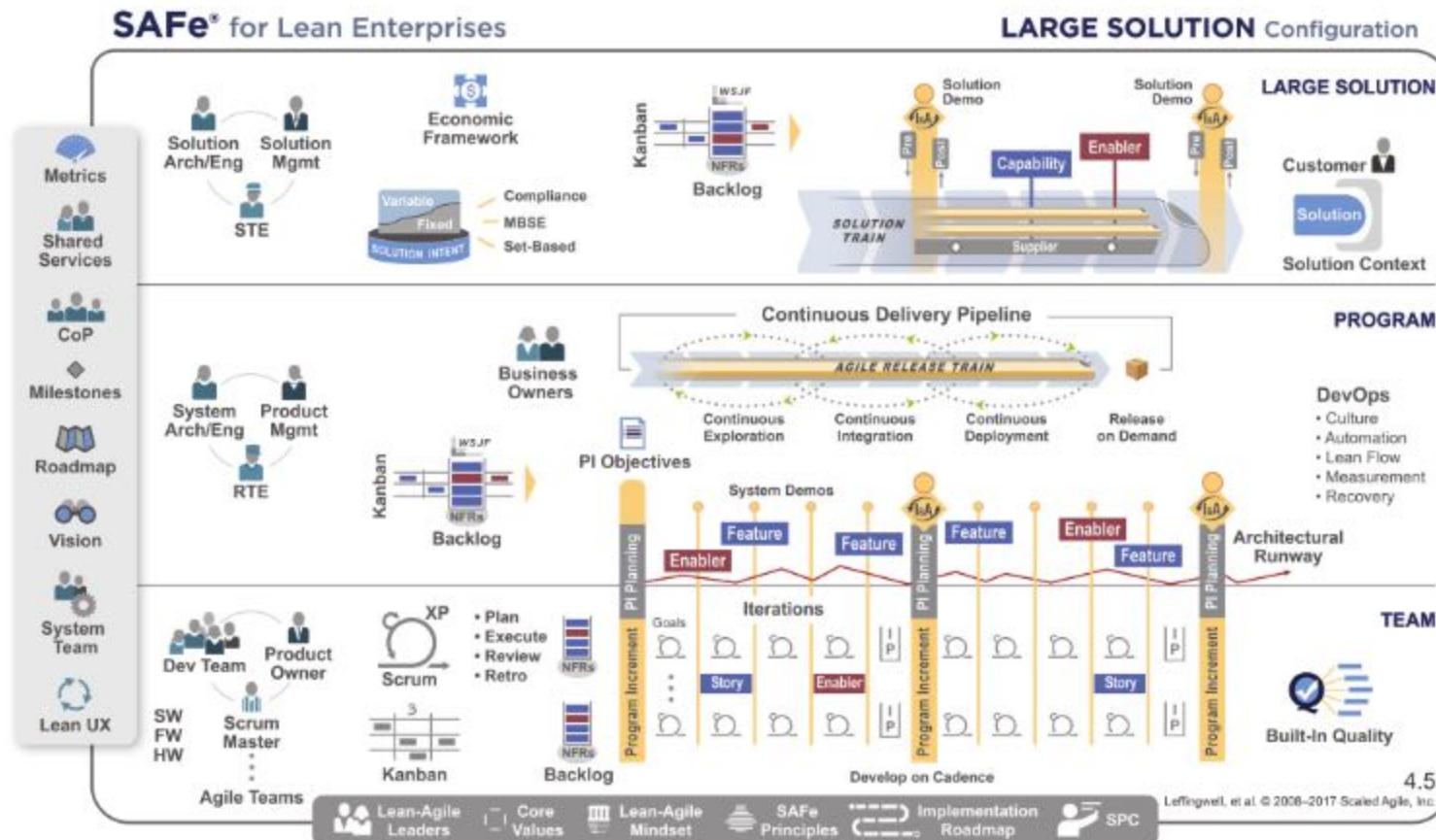
Incremental development provides fast feedback



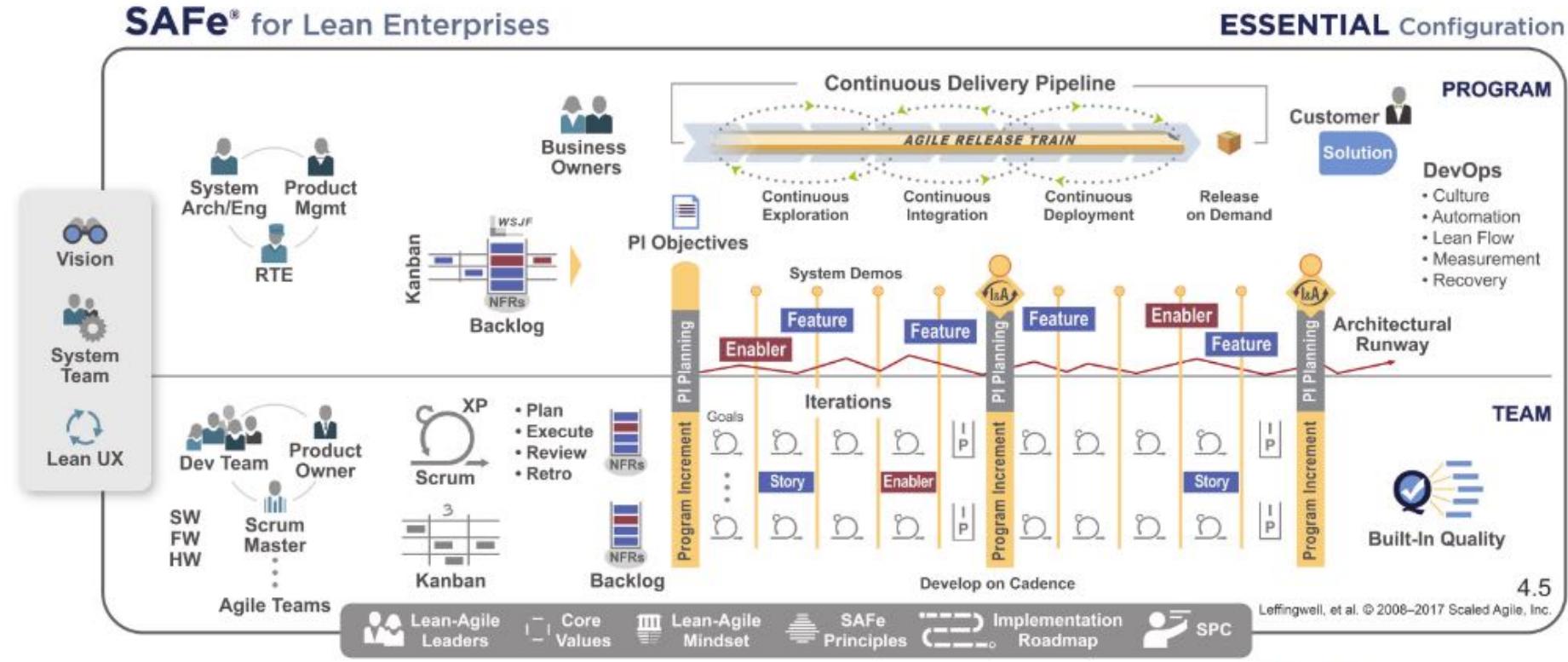
## SAFe Provides a Structure to Scale Teams



# Large Solution SAFe

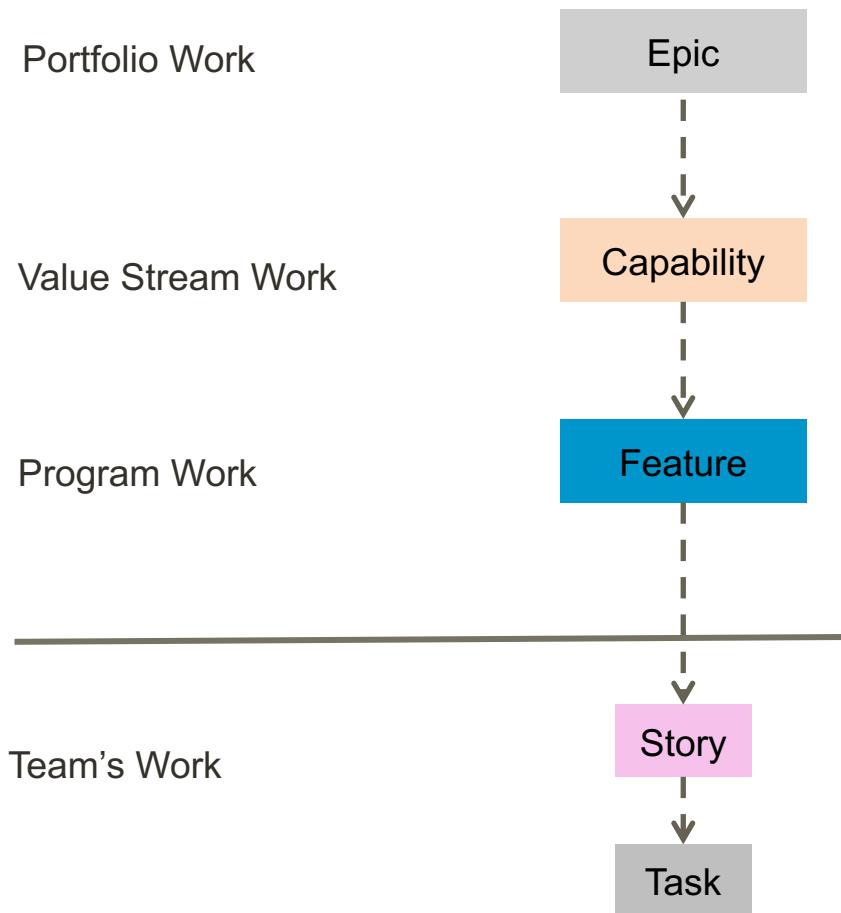


# Essential SAFe

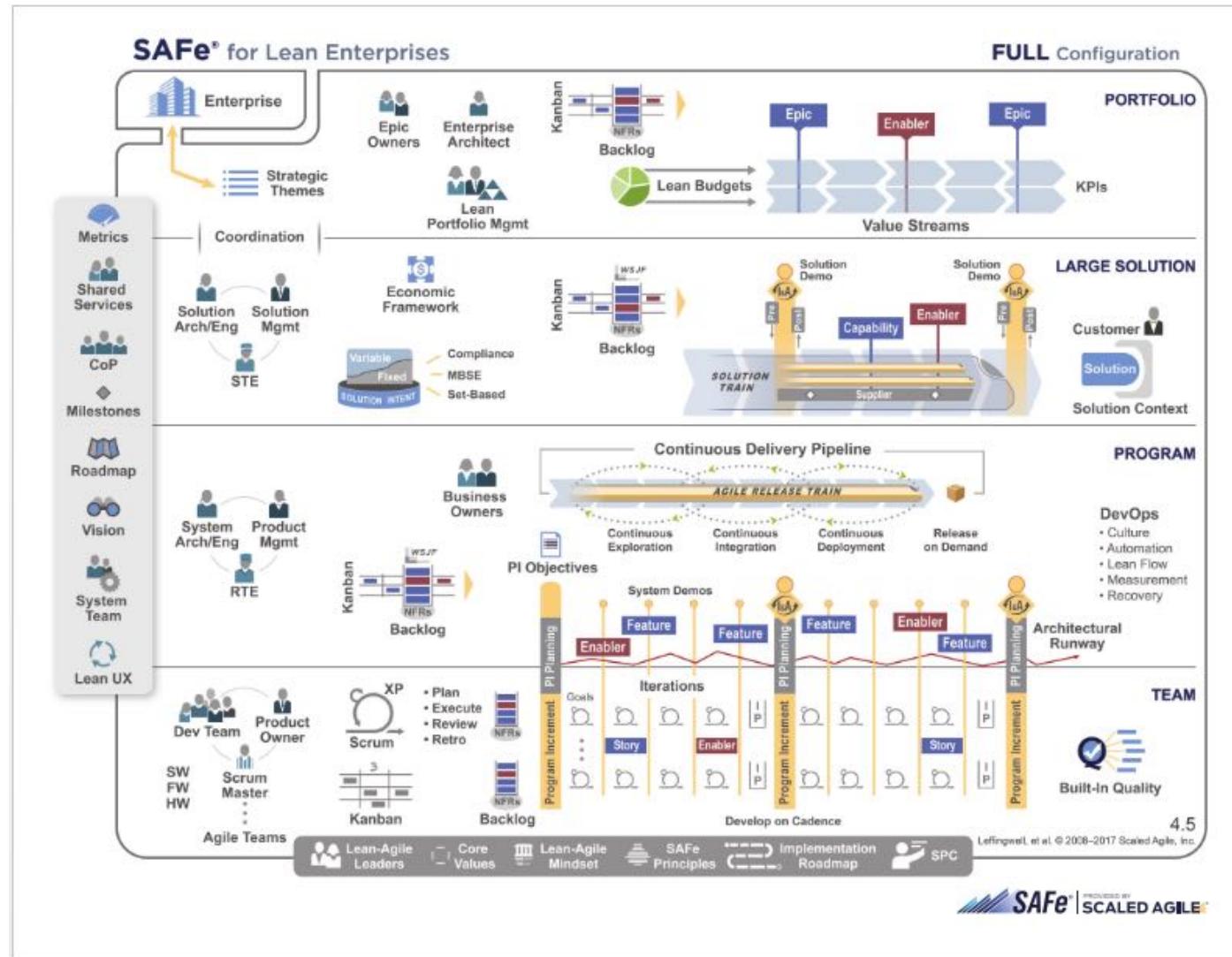


- The problem: It may take a year or longer to implement a large initiative
  - May cross product lines
  - May involve vendors
  - In traditional agile team-based practice, epics split into stories and big stories split into smaller stories. Once stories are split, the original story is no longer relevant
  - Can not track where we are
  - Difficult to explore multiple options in set-based designs

# Structure for Evolving Solution Intent



# SAFe Provides a Structure to Scale Requirements



# Meeting regulatory compliance

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- ➔ The problem: Being agile does not remove any compliance obligations
  - Still must prove we are meeting the regulations
  - Compliance traditionally measured with waterfall artifact inspections

## Regulatory/Compliance

*ensure health and welfare*

- Quality, safety, security, etc.
- Verification and validation
- Inspections, audits, sign-off
- Metrics – defects, req coverage, code coverage, etc.
- Agile metrics - % tests automated, # new tests, # refactors

## Lean-agile

*shortest sustainable lead-time*

- Organize around value
- Apply cadence and synchronization
- Build quality in
- Deliver business value earlier and continuously
- Make work and progress visible

# Define scalable Definition of Done (DoD)

→ Testing and compliance are continuous, part of process

Story (within Sprint)	Feature (within Increment)	Increment/Release
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Acceptance passed (auto)</li><li>• DBT tests passed (auto)</li><li>• Standards met (SW, HW)</li><li>• Peer reviews (SW, HW)</li><li>• Accepted by PO</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deployed to V&amp;V/QA for end-end system testing</li><li>• QA/Customer/etc. review</li><li>• Included in build/deploy process</li><li>• Documentation updated</li><li>• Accepted by Prod Mgr</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deployed to IV&amp;V testing</li><li>• Customer signoff</li><li>• Assess compliance status via report generation (RPE)</li></ul>

→ Enforce DoD with process actions

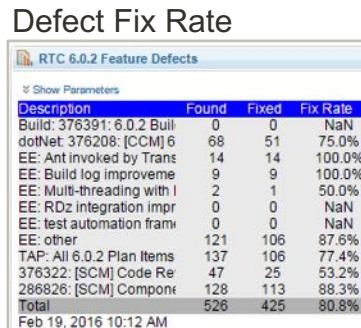
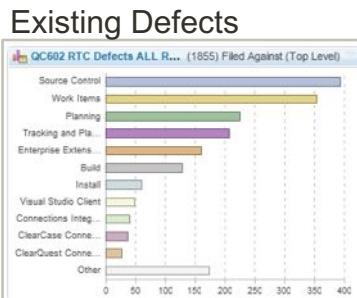


Preconditions & Follow-up	
What	When
Execute Test Case	Da
Execute Test Case	Ev



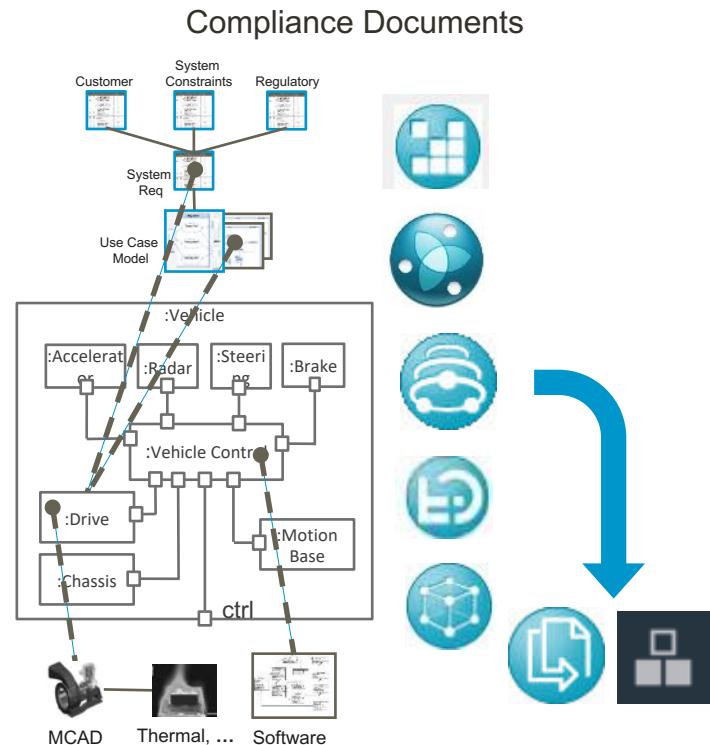
# Measure progress towards compliance

- Architect CE products with the end in mind – compliance
- Define and enforce overall schema (dashboard w/ anti-queries)
- Ensure signatures where necessary
- Automate – coverage, quality, etc.



### Requirements Coverage

System Requirement	System Requirement	Software Requirement		Test Case	
		Requirement	Requirement	ID	Test Case
178	Donor Dividend Allocation	188	Donation by Amount	13	Donation amount limit
		319	Dividend allocation by percent	18	Dividend Allocation by
				19	Allocate Dividends to
		74	Frequency of dividend transfer	1	Verify dividend transfe
181	Organizations can apply	238	Requests sent in form of hard	4	Process hard copy re



# Continuous review and approval process

- Reviews are part of the process (Definition of Done)
- Strive for lean process – attack delay, waste, WIP

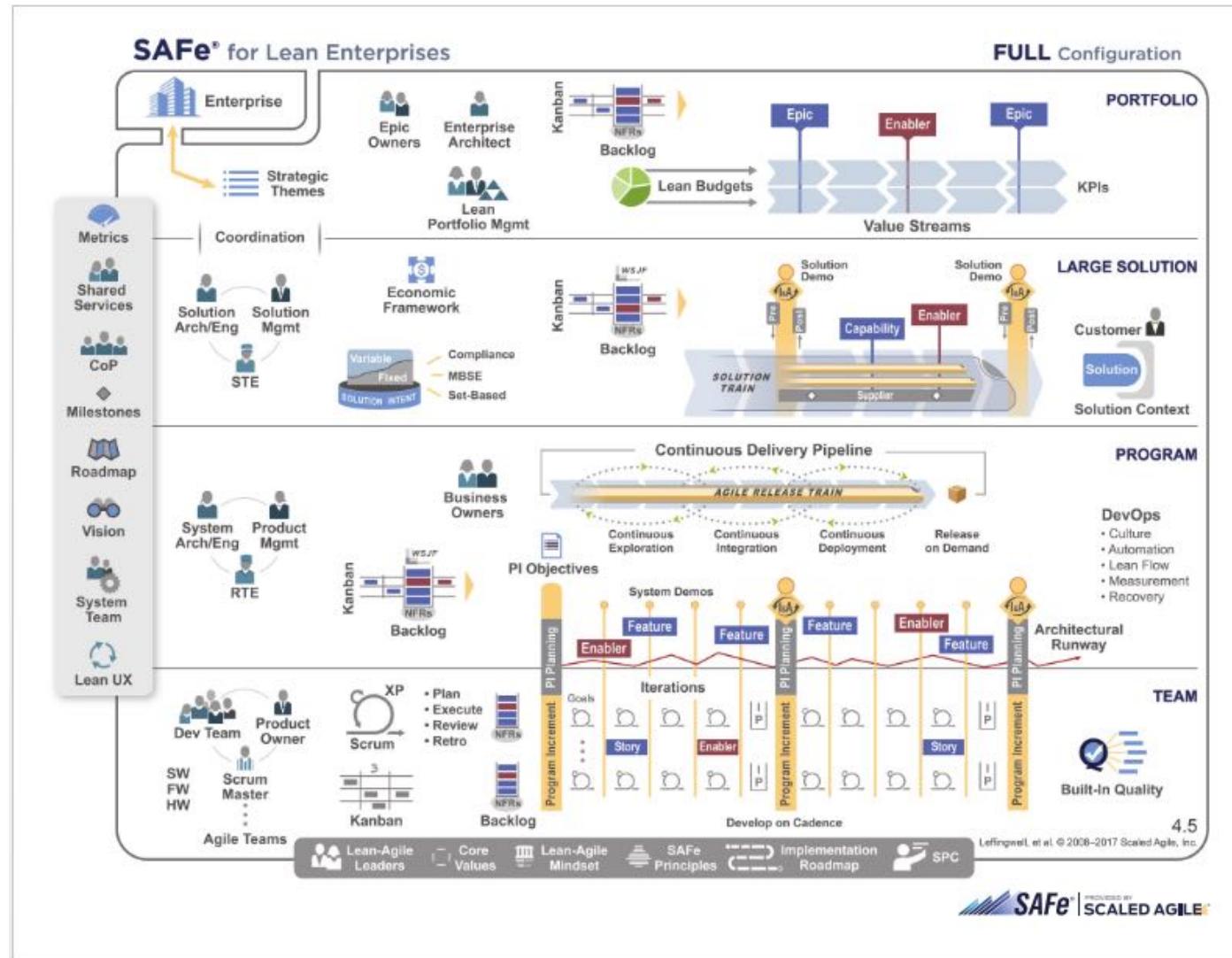


# Emergent design does not guarantee a stable architecture

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- The problem: Emergent design becomes brittle architecture without
  - a well communicated vision
  - A common structure to emerge in to

# Architectural Runway Provides Structure for Emergent Design



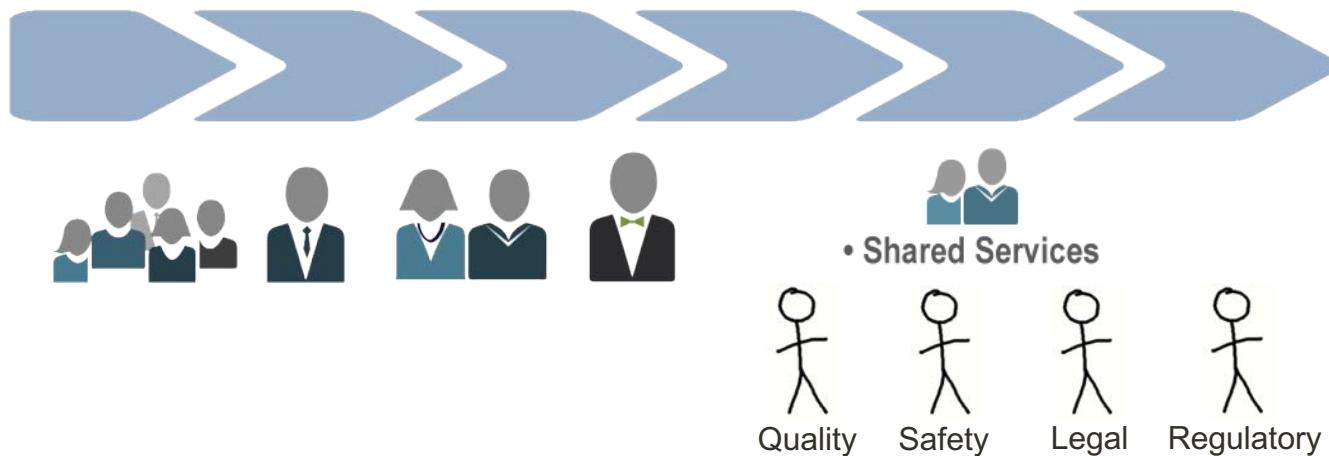
# Agile is Restricted to IT and Engineering

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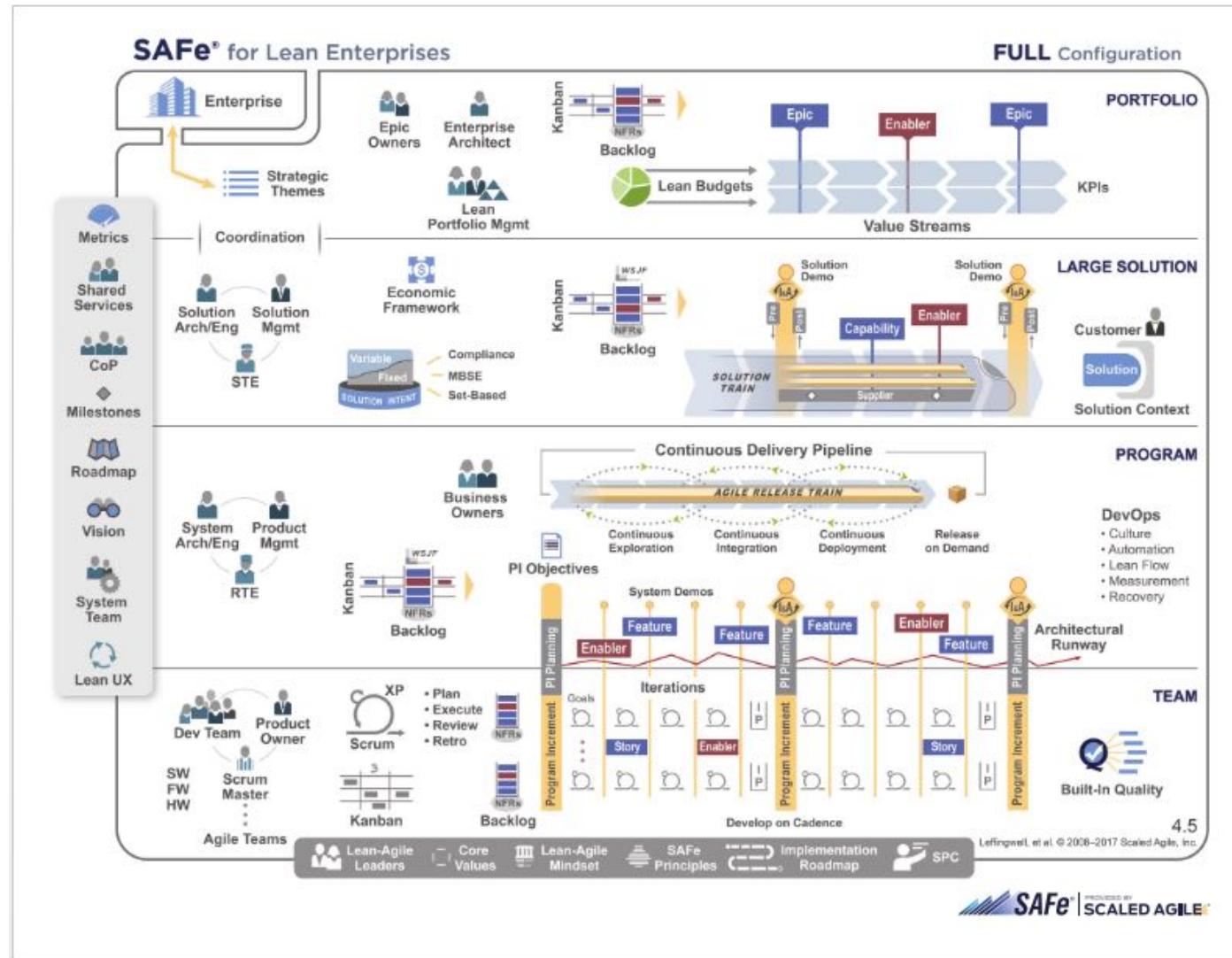
- ➔ The problem: Agile is seen as an IT or Engineering practice
  - Executives are learning Lean
  - Testing, Compliance, Business Controls, Finance think Waterfall

# Ensure EVERYONE is on the value stream

- Goal is reduced waste – waiting, delays, hand offs, batch sizes, WIP
- SAFe identifies stakeholders, customer, suppliers
- But, also includes anyone who reviews, approves, signs-off
  - QA, safety, customer, regulatory, legal, procurement, etc.



# A Place for Everyone in SAFe



- The problem: Businesses need commitments in order to operate
  - It is not enough to work in a priority backlog and to deliver capability as soon as possible, though it is essential
  - Product sales, market opportunities, contract funding require time-based commitments

# 1) Organize around value

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- Optimize around value delivery
- Deliver quickly by minimizing handoffs, delays, waiting, and eliminating waste
- Facilitate early and incremental verification and validation, reviews, sign-off, etc.

*“There is nothing so useless as doing efficiently that which should not be done at all.”*  
—Peter F. Drucker

## 2) Apply cadence and synchronization

- Align and focus on short term vision
- Make unpredictable events predictable
- Reduce delay and batch size for compliance activities
- Deliver value sooner; perform quality activities continually, not at end

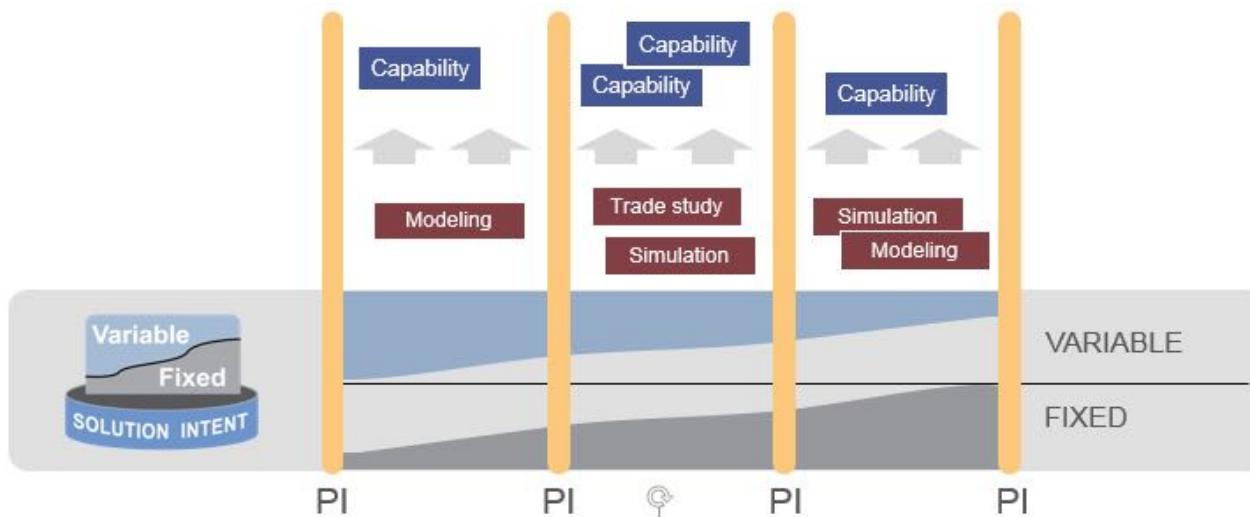
*“Cadence and synchronization limit the accumulation of variance”*  
—Don Reinertsen



## 4) Deliver business value earlier and continuously

- Exploration is continuous, not all up front
- Faster feedback on req and des decisions
- Everyone contributes to learning, not “leads”
- Specifications complete at end; evolve with learning

*“The more detailed we made our plans, the longer our cycle times became”*  
—Don Reinertsen,



*“The best architectures, requirements, and designs emerge”*  
-- Agile Manifesto

## 5) Make Work and Progress Visible

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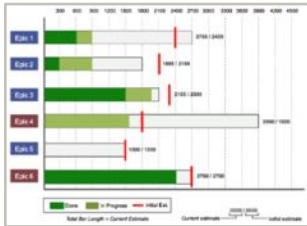
- Quality and compliance are continuous processes
  - Visualize progress towards completion
  - Generate compliance reports (don't bolt on at end)
- Encourages quality behavior and (eventually) culture
- Increase trust with business, customer, regulatory
- Do **NOT** plan to maximize utilization

*"All is visible. All is known."*  
— From SAFe Core Values

# Measure progress at each System Demo

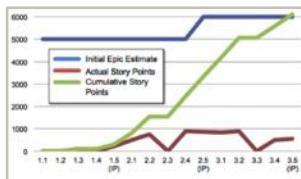
→ Towards release, improved process, and compliance

Epic Progress

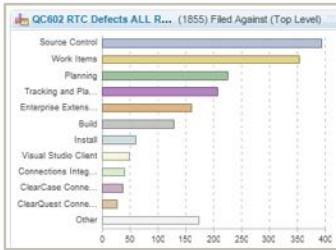


Progress towards release

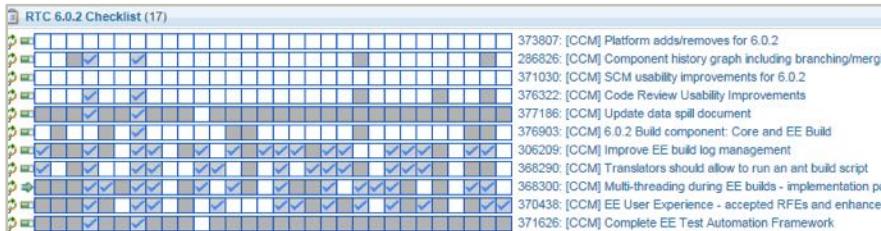
Epic Burnup



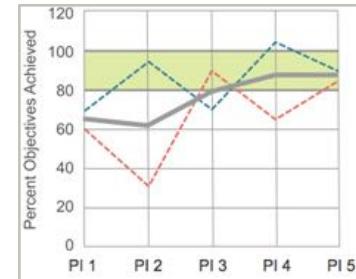
Defects



Team's Feature DoD

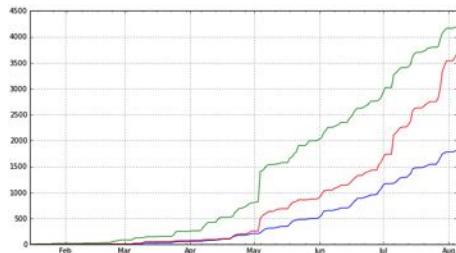


PI Predictability

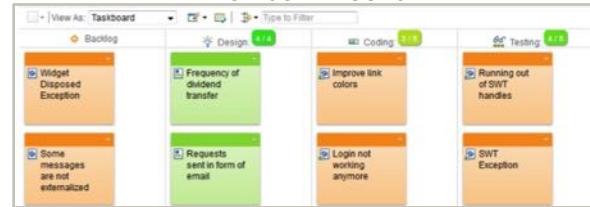


Progress following process (WIP constraints)

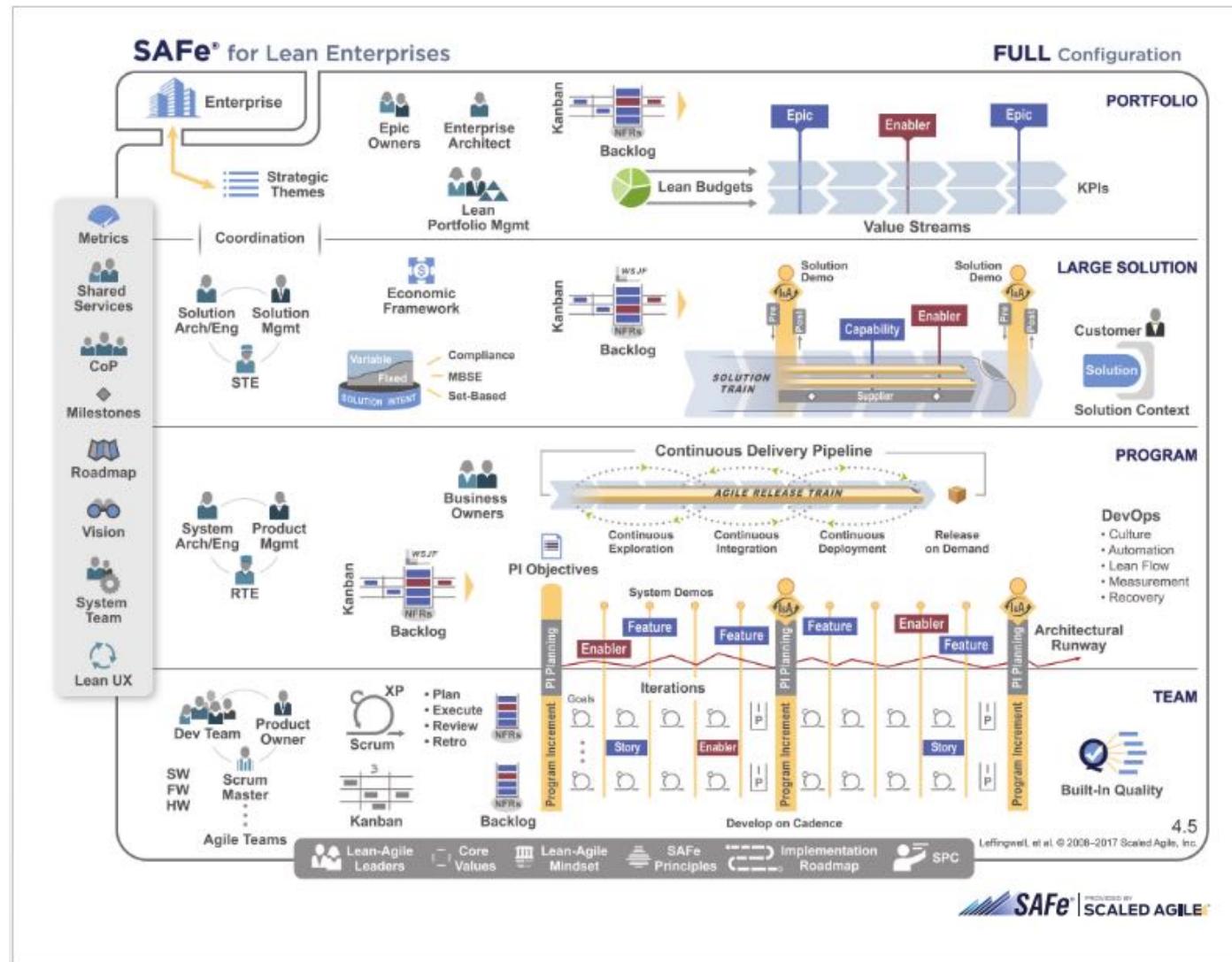
Cumulative Flow



Kanban Board



# Release Any Time

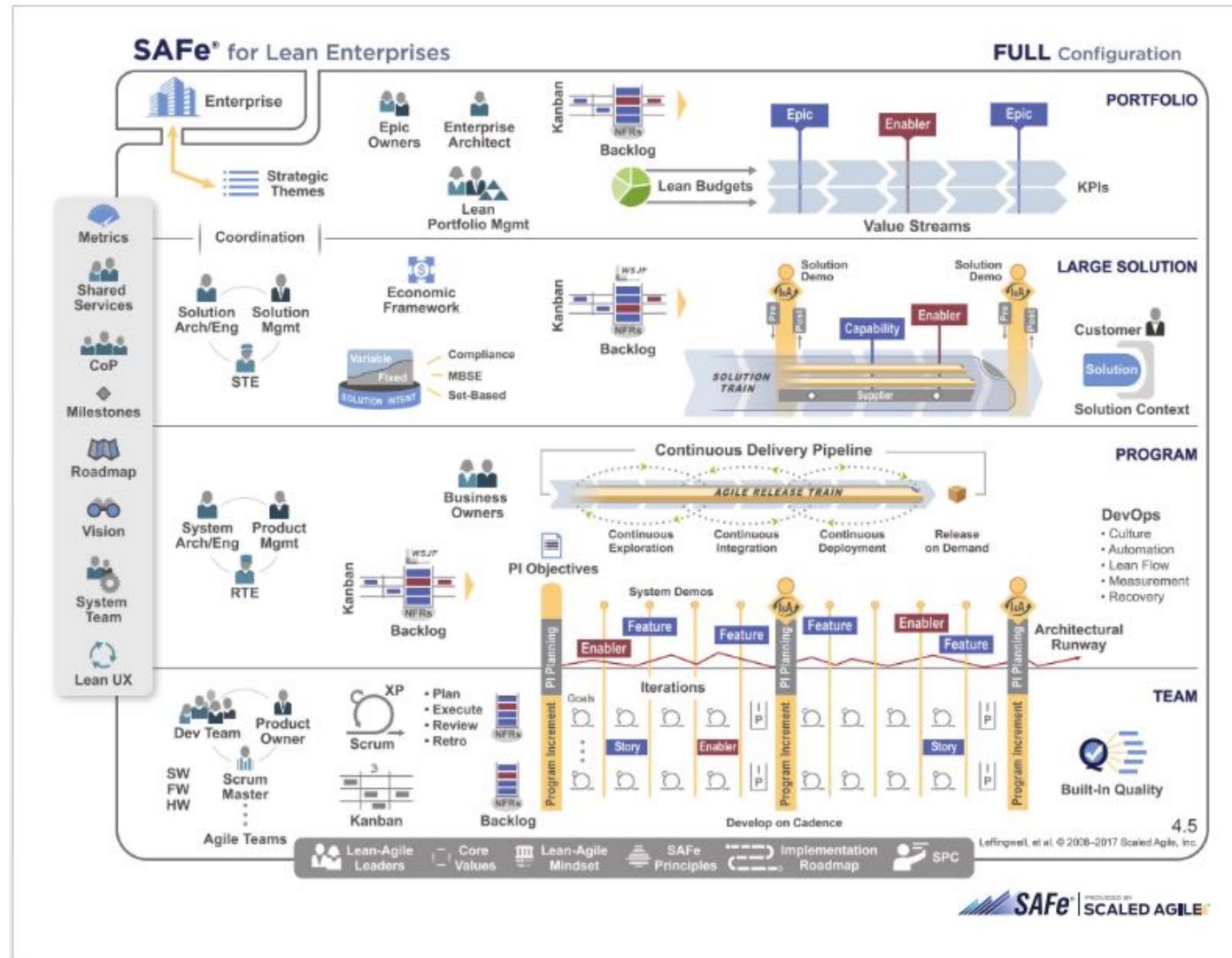


# No clear way to handle highly specialized roles

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- The problem: We often have specialized teams that do not fit well in a team-based agile cadence
  - System Team
  - DevOps
  - Formal Acceptance Testing
  - Release Management
  - User Experience
  - Database
  - Shared Services

# Specialized Roles

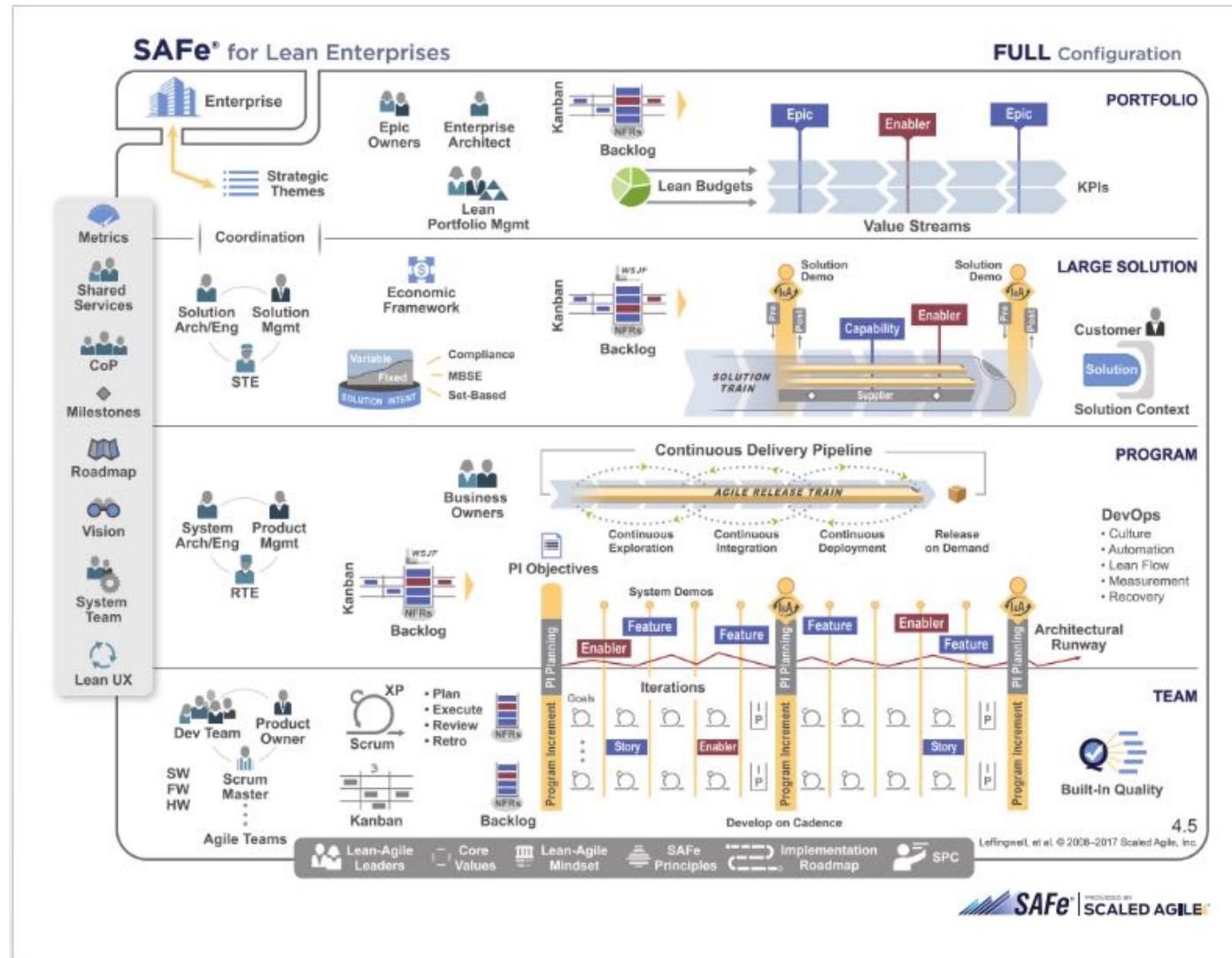


# Subcontractors and Vendors

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- ➔ The problem: Another group may be delivering part of the product being developed
  - Subcontracted company
  - Vendor packaged solution customization
  - Manufacturer, such as for hardware

# Subcontractor Release Trains





**Doug Stewart**  
**Director of Services**  
***doug@321gang.com***



#hwgsec @321gang



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