

Case Study: Embedding SAFe-Based Agile Through a 5-Day Workshop at a Fortune 500 Company

Client Context

A leading Fortune 500 enterprise, entrenched in complex, large-scale projects, was facing delays, siloed working, and slow validation cycles across its IT and business domains. To improve time-to-market and foster alignment between strategy and delivery, the organization enlisted ZetaMu Consulting to catalyze its Agile transformation via a focused, immersive workshop.

Objectives of the 5-Day Workshop

1. **Lay foundational understanding** of Agile and SAFe—why it matters and how it scales.
 2. **Identify projects well-suited for Agile**, assessing readiness and value streams.
 3. **Instill crucial SAFe ceremonies**, including daily standups, sprint planning, sprint demos, program-level planning (PI Planning), and business validation.
 4. **Enable stakeholders to run Agile Release Trains (ARTs)** and effectively collaborate within SAFe's structure.
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Day-by-Day Agenda

Day	Focus Area
Day 1	Why Agile & SAFe? Introduce Agile values, benefits, and the SAFe framework. Explore configuration levels (Essential, Portfolio, Large Solution) and core SAFe values: alignment, built-in quality, transparency, and program execution .
Day 2	Spotting Agile-Ready Projects: Use value stream mapping to identify high-impact initiatives. Foster understanding of organizing around value and aligning enterprise strategy with execution through Development Value Streams (DVSs) .
Day 3	Mastering SAFe Ceremonies: Introduce and simulate daily standups, sprint planning, sprint demos, and business validations. Reinforce how these drive inspection, adaptation, and stakeholder feedback loops. Deep Dive: PI Planning: Guide participants through the SAFe PI Planning
Day 4	process—preparation, event agenda, stakeholder roles, and facilitation by the Release Train Engineer (RTE). Emphasize setting context, objectives, managing dependencies, and the two-day planning rhythm .
Day 5	Hands-On Simulation & Wrap-Up: Run a condensed PI Planning exercise, simulate sprint execution, demo, and business validation. Facilitate reflection on workshop insights and draft a transformation roadmap for the client's first ART.

Key SAFe Principles Integrated

- **Alignment across layers:** Ensuring business and delivery teams operate with shared vision and goals .
 - **Value Stream Orientation:** Organizing around customer value to increase flow and reduce waste .
 - **PI Planning as a North Star:** Reinforcing transparency, collaboration, and strategic clarity every quarter .
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Outcomes & Benefits

- **Shared Language and Vision:** Leaders and team members uniformly understood Agile and SAFe values and ceremonies.
 - **Clear Project Horizons:** Agile-fitting candidates and ARTs were identified, accelerating transformation momentum.
 - **Better Engagement from Day One:** Simulation of SAFe ceremonies enabled hands-on learning, alignment, and confidence.
 - **Actionable Roadmap:** At workshop close, the company had defined its first ART, associated backlog, and stakeholder roles.
 - **Embedded Capabilities:** Participants, including RTEs, Scrum Masters, Product Owners, and Business Owners, gained practical experience that bolstered post-workshop adoption.
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Closing Reflection

This case demonstrates how a curated **5-day Agile + SAFe immersion** can ignite a Fortune 500 company's transformation. By marrying cornerstone SAFe elements—**shared vision, value stream orientation, and rigorous cadence via PI Planning**—with stakeholder-aligned simulations, the organization was poised for sustainable Agile execution.