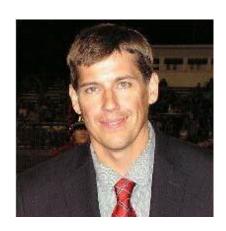


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Federal Forum 2022

The Future of [Government] Work: Agile, Efficient, Effective

Revolutionizing Service Delivery for USDA



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Agriculture



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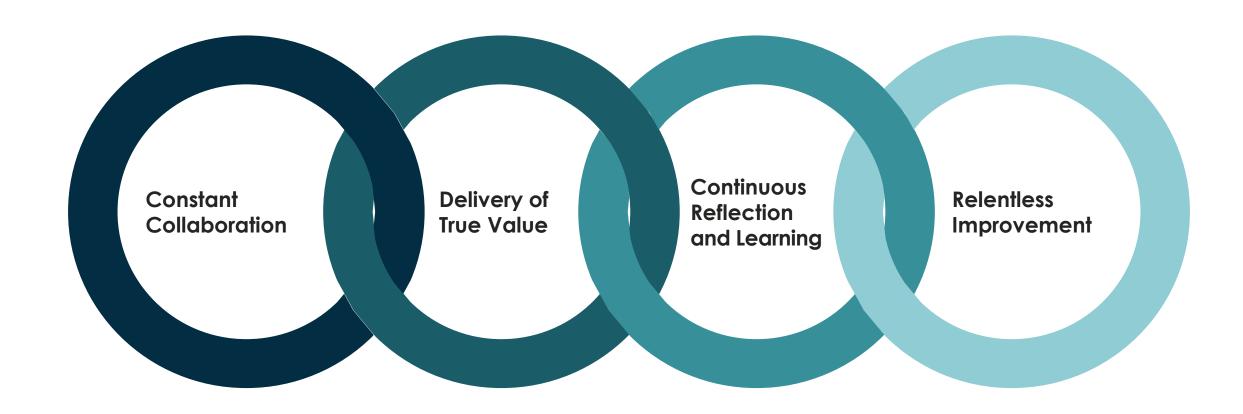
Dan Weiger Cask



If there's one thing government needs desperately, it's the ability to quickly try something, pivot when necessary, and build complex systems by starting with simple systems that work and evolve from there, not the other way around.

– Jennifer Pahlka, Founder, Code for America, Former U.S. Deputy CTO 2012

Agile in a Nutshell



Three steps

- Determine the problems you need to solve and what your anchoring goals are.
- Avoid "agile in name only" by focusing on the critical components of why agile works.
- **3** Apply the right framework.

WORKING DOCUMENT // DRAFT

CLEARED For Open Publication

DIB Guide: Detecting Agile BS

5

Version 0.4, last modified 3 Oct 2018 Department of Defense

Agile is a buzzword of software development, and so all DoD software development projects are, almost by default, now declared to be "agile." The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to DoD program executives and acquisition professionals on how to detect software projects that are really using agile development versus those that are simply waterfall or spiral development in agile clothing ("agile-scrum-fall").

Principles, Values, and Tools

Experts and devotees profess certain key "values" to characterize the culture and approach of agile development. In its work, the DIB has developed its own guiding maxims that roughly map to these true agile values:

Agile value	DIB maxim	
Individuals and interactions over processes and tools	"Competence trumps process"	
Working software over comprehensive documentation	"Minimize time from program launch to deployment of simplest useful functionality"	
Customer collaboration over contract negotiation	"Adopt a DevSecOps culture for software systems"	
Responding to change over following a plan	"Software programs should start small, be iterative, and build on success – or be terminated quickly"	

Key flags that a project is not really agile:

- Nobody on the software development team is talking with and observing the users of the software in action; we mean the actual users of the actual code.¹ (The Program Executive Office (PEO) does not count as an actual user, nor does the commanding officer, unless she uses the code.)
- Continuous feedback from users to the development team (bug reports, users assessments) is not available. Talking once at the beginning of a program to verify requirements doesn't count!
- Meeting requirements is treated as more important than getting something useful into the field as quickly as possible.

¹ Acceptable substitutes for talking to users: Observing users working, putting prototypes in front of them for feedback, and other aspects of user research that involve less talking.

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Flexible Service Delivery

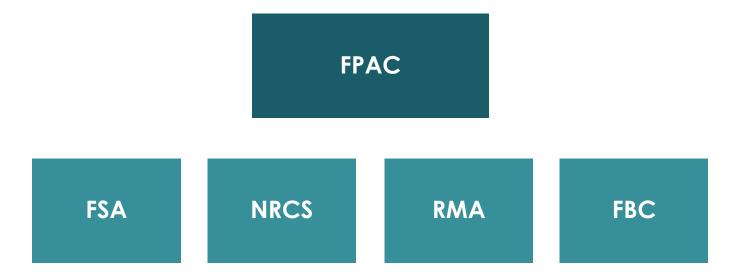
US Department of Agriculture (USDA)
Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC)

Kurt Benedict Section Chief **Pam Leith** Project Manager Dan Weiger
Sr Engagement & Program Mgr.



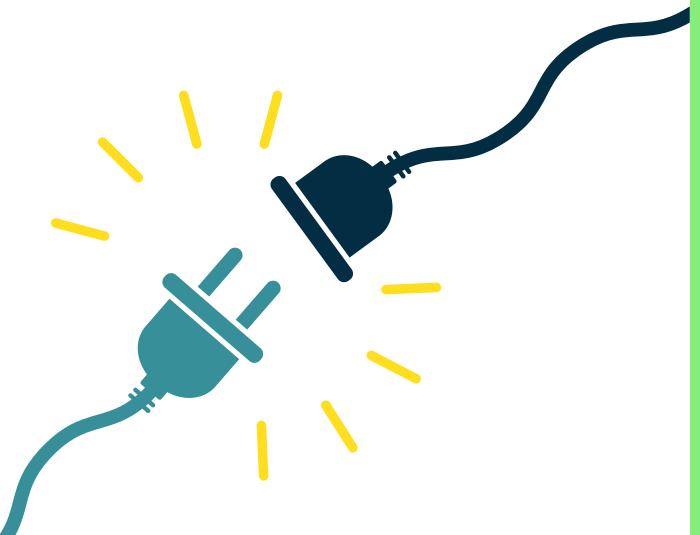
USDA FPAC-BC mission

The FPAC Business Center is a firstof-its-kind organization at USDA, combining the talent of employees from all three FPAC agencies into specialized teams that serve employees and customers across the Farm Service Agency (FSA), the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Risk Management Agency (RMA). This new business approach helps agencies improve operations and efficiency at USDA and boosts support for America's farmers, ranchers and foresters.

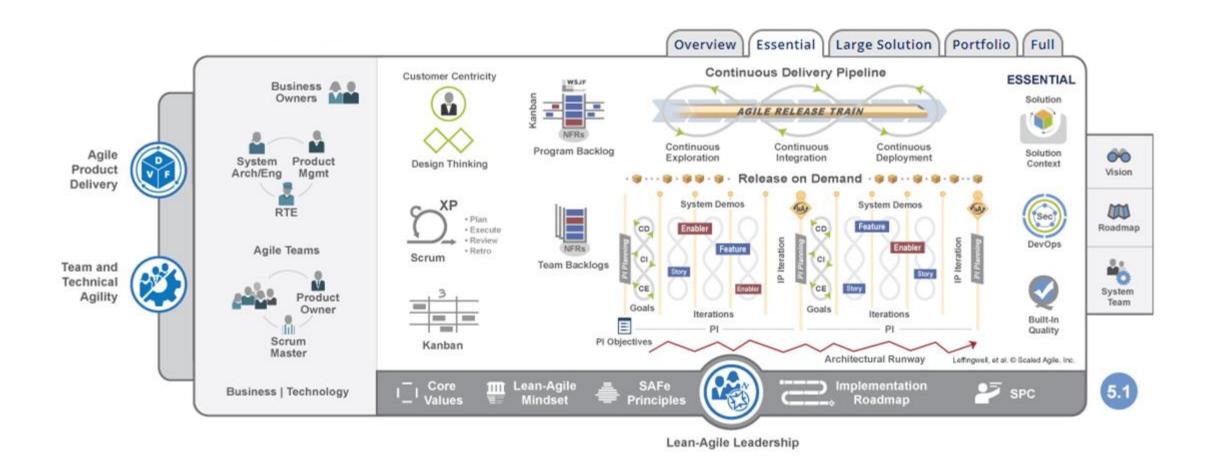


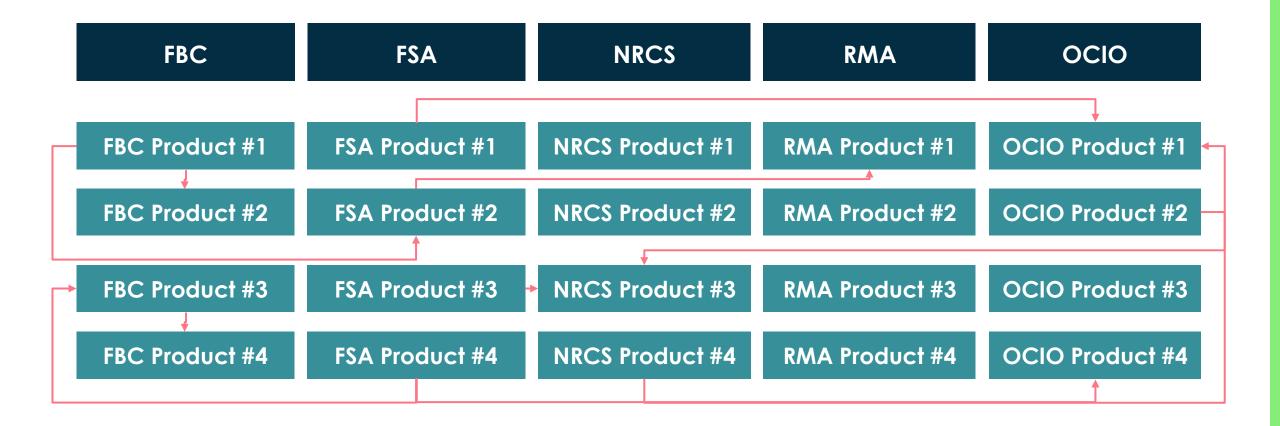
Before SAFe

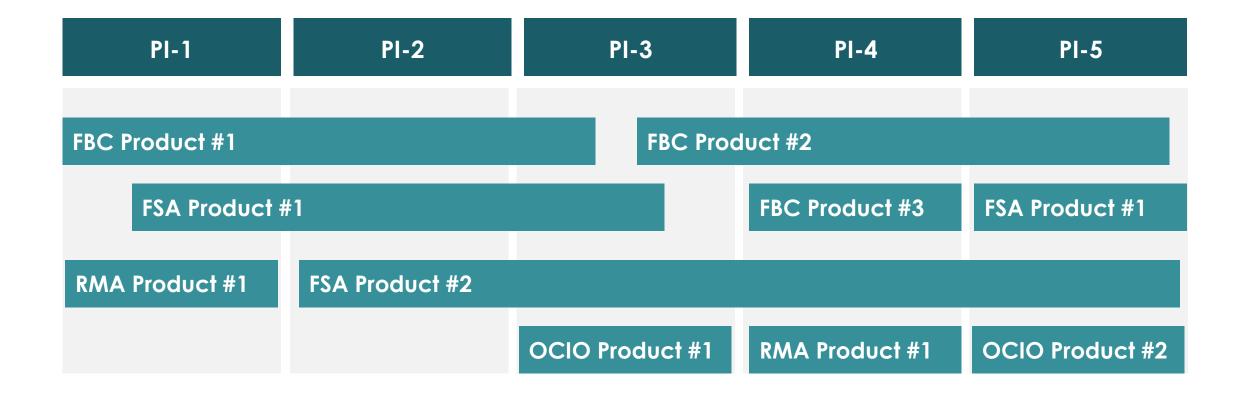
- No governance process
- Disparate development teams working
- Multiple tools utilized
- Lack of communication
- Inefficient and duplicative workflows
- Disconnect between development and support
- Low adoption and lack of buy-in from employees



Playing it "SAFe"







Our SAFe Feature Flow

Funnel	Analysis	Backlog	Development	Release
New Features submitted for consideration	Features reviewed and further refined to include: • A/C • WSJF • BH	Features ready for prioritization Submitted to Steering Committee for PI Development capacity	PI Planning Event Development Iteration Demo(s) User Acceptance Testing (UAT)	Production Deployment

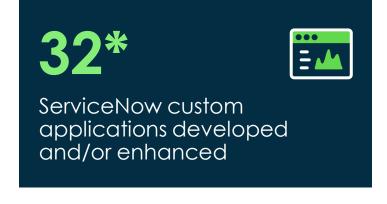
Program by the Numbers

(since using SAFe)

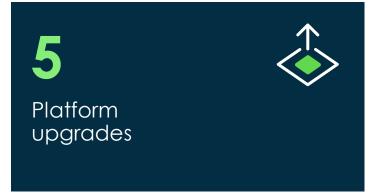












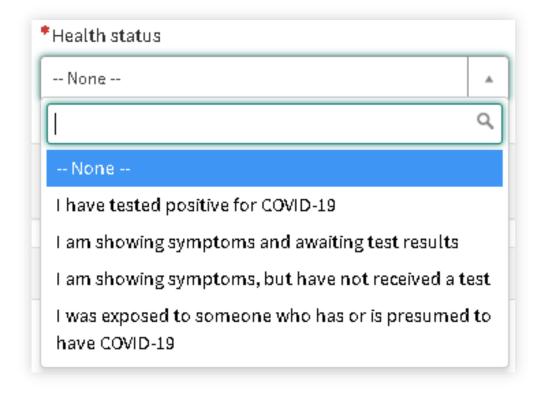
SAFe in the Pandemic

- Fully virtual workforce
- Leveraged Safe Application (ITBM)
- Completed incremental releases
- Continued virtual Stakeholder engagement in Platform
- Hybrid Reporting with ITBM & ITSM to manage development and support initiatives
- Enhanced Reporting & Performance Analytics
- Converted to Virtual PI Planning Events using:
 - Safe ART Board
 - Safe Team Board



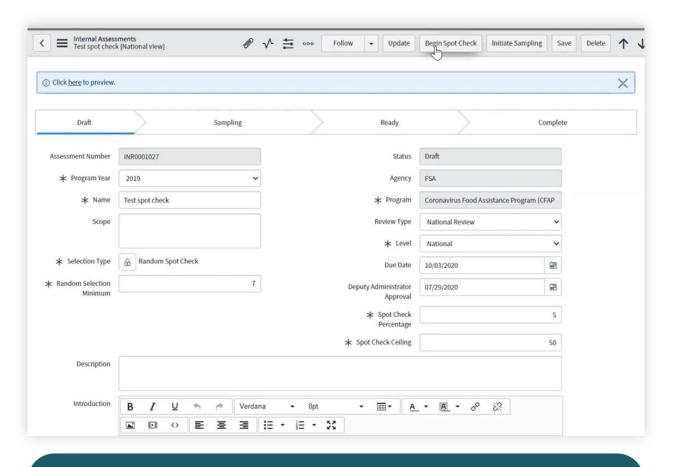
Emergency Self Report

- Provided by ServiceNow as part of COVID response
- Allowed employees and contractors to track their health status
- Used for management and executivelevel analytics and reporting
- Rapid configuration allowed release to production in only 3 days of effort



Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP)

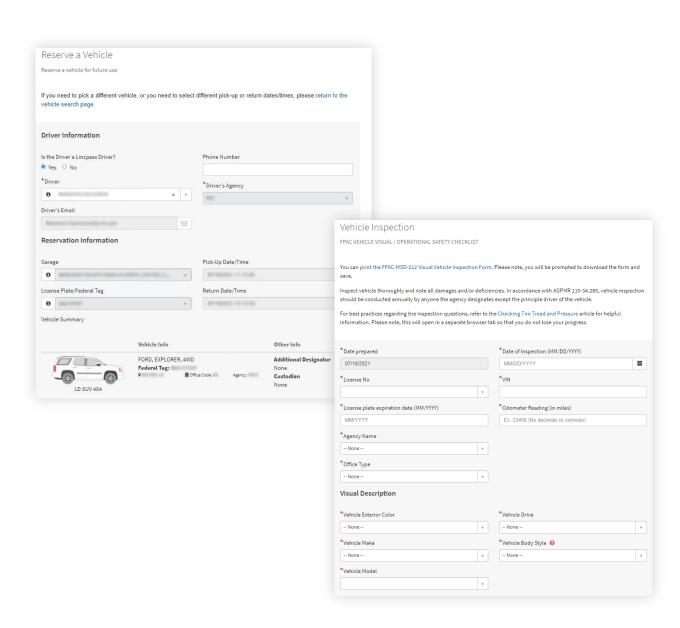
- Allowed District Directors to audit requests submitted by farmers and producers
- MVP development in parallel of other Pl objectives
- Processed 14,709 submitted applications within 5 months after release
- Farmers and producers requested \$203,899,612 funding in 5 months



ServiceNow Store: Assistance Program

Vehicle Management Tool

- Allows users to make reservations for vehicles across the country, modified reservations, return vehicles, and report accidents
- Report vehicle usage and have visibility into data
- National database to check realtime availability for all vehicles by geographic location
- Leverage metrics to anticipate future purchases and leverage buying power





Director, Application Services

Meri Talk

FAMIM

Fire and Aviation Management (FAM) Information Management manages the applications used to collect, maintain, and disseminate fire, weather, and allhazard data (current and historical) in support of the United State's response to wildfire. The applications and their products are designed for use by the interagency fire community, which includes the US Forest Service, Department of the Interior (DOI) Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service (NPS), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Department of Homeland Security—Federal Emergency Management Administration (DHS-FEMA), State Forestry Agencies (in all 50 states), and Municipal Agencies.



















Agile software development has the potential to save the federal government billions of dollars and significant time, allowing agencies to deliver software more efficiently and effectively for American taxpayers.

US Government Accountability Office

Three steps

- Invested the time upfront to build collaborative team relationships and defining our goals for the program.
- Ensured alignment to project goals with stakeholders and the agile team, and ensured everything we built aligned to those goals.
- Applied scrum cadence to ensure rapid feedback and relentless improvement.







If the plan doesn't work, change the plan. Never the goal.

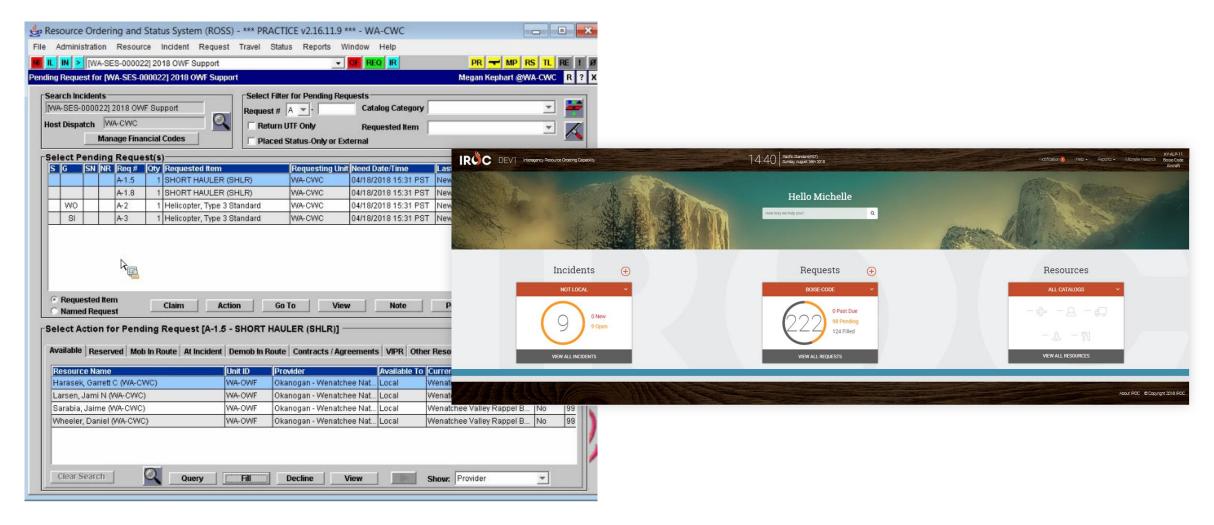


Interagency Resource Ordering Capability (IROC)

- Application modernization of a legacy application in use for almost 20 years allowing Federal, State and Local Agencies the ability to share resources in response to wildfires
- Developed using Scrum with daily collaboration with the US Forest Service, BLM, BIA and Calfire subject matter experts
- Production release on March 13, 2020, and immediately put into use as part of COVID response—Enhancements released into production weekly with no outages



Modern, Scalable, Agile







Stop by Booth #2, right across from ServiceNow!

Michelle Headrick

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Dan Weiger

Program Manager, Federal PMO dan.weiger@caskllc.com

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