Summary

There is little question that SAFe® provides value to large organizations. On closer inspection, however, the gains vary from minimal to dramatic. This variance is often attributed to how well the organizations adopting it follow SAFe’s guidelines. But it is often easier to say “adopt SAFe,” than to do it. Of course, could be said for the other large scale frameworks out there such as LeSS, DAD, and Nexus. Although this course is designed for anyone attempting a large scale implementation, it is primarily designed for those practitioners familiar with SAFe®.

Address the Challenges to Adopting Agile at Scale

SAFe® is described as a framework; however, too often, organizations try to implement it as a complete solution. One of its mantras is “all-in, all the way,” which is great if you can get a 100% buy-in, can adopt all of it at once without creating massive resistance, and if the prescribed practices are the correct ones for you. Rarely is this the case. More often, implementations of SAFe or other frameworks ignore three key challenges:

- The difficulty of establishing buy-in
- Whether the framework should be implemented all at once or transitioned to in order to adjust to the current situation and culture
- How to adapt the framework to meet your own needs

We have reviewed every case study of successful implementations of SAFe. The BMC case study was based on the work of two of our consultants: Dr. Israel Gat and Iqbal Singh. It effectively describes our general approach to SAFe and Agile at scale.

Building on this experience, our approach to implementing SAFe and Agile at scale specifically addresses these challenges. We have developed a set of patterns of success that incorporates what we have learned and that address the key challenges to implementing Agile at scale.

Description

Taking Agile at Scale to the Next Level: Improving Your SAFe® or Other Large-Scale Adoption provides a new perspective on how to make Agile at scale easier to implement and on how to improve and extend practices to make them more effective.

It begins with the understanding SAFe as a framework with embedded practices to provide a full solution for companies undertaking Agile at scale. This framework with embedded practices provides an ideal starting point with the ability to adjust to the organization adopting it. It describes how to apply frameworks to your own context and avoid treating them as one-size-fits-all solutions.

We are ideally suited to deliver this course

Net Objectives has been doing Agile at scale since 2004. We have pioneered dozens of practices that have now become commonplace in the Agile community. Some of have become integrated into the SAFe framework and other have not yet such as ATDD and architecture.

Al Shalloway, CEO and creator of this course, has incorporated our deep experience in Agile at scale, emergent design, and implementing SAFe to create this advanced course on SAFe.

Note: This course is neither authorized by Scaled Agile Inc., nor provides any certification related to SAFe.
**Course Objectives**

The objectives for this course include:

- Apply the Scaled Agile Framework® based on lecture, real-world examples, and insights by Scaled Agile experts.
- Develop a deeper understanding of Lean-Agile methods and product management using Minimum Business Increments and Lean-Startup concepts.
- Apply Lean, Agile and product development flow principles to improve productivity, employee engagement, time to market, and quality.
- Enhance the understanding of SAFe® Agilists and SPCs in how to do adopt SAFe in a more effective manner and avoid pitfalls of SAFe adoptions.
- Create a customized adoption plan for SAFe based on your organization’s culture and needs.
- Understand the skills necessary for an enterprise transformation based on the information and examples presented, and additional recommended readings and resources.
- Gain insights into leadership skills most needed to unlock the intrinsic motivation of software development knowledge workers and to begin applying them in your context.

**Course Outline**

This course extends the standard *Leading SAFe®* course with the following topics:

- Introducing Systems Thinking for Agile at scale
- Business-Value driven software development: The use of Minimal Business Increments and Lean-Startup concepts in SAFe
- Using Kanban to incorporate shared services and DevOps into SAFe
- Creating teams when it does not seem possible
- Going beyond practices to achieve outcomes
- The Enterprise Portfolio: Sequencing work across portfolios and when you should start with this
- When not to use SAFe
- Transitioning to SAFe rather than implementing it

**Course Level**

Intermediate

**Target Audience**

Transition agents considering adopting SAFe® or looking to improve their current SAFe adoption.

**Prerequisites**

Participants must be SPCs, SAFe® Agilists, or have equivalent experience with SAFe.

**Attendee materials**

Materials will be provided at the beginning of the class.

**Room Setup and Equipment**

Students need to sit at tables, 4-6 students per table. One flip chart per table. A flip chart or whiteboard for the instructor.

A projector with screen.

**Course Length**

1 day

**PDUs**

7 PDUs Category B

**Maximum Number in Class**

60

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**NET OBJECTIVES**

We are committed to delivering the principles, practices, and perspectives that businesses must know in order to maximize their return on their technology solution and software development efforts. We combine our experience and a time proven approach based on lean thinking to continuously extend the capability of what is possible in creating effective technology delivery organizations (IT or product). We provide these learned methods to our clients to assist them in achieving their goals and in assisting them in making their organizations more successful.

Full course descriptions may be found at [www.NetObjectives.com/training](http://www.NetObjectives.com/training)