



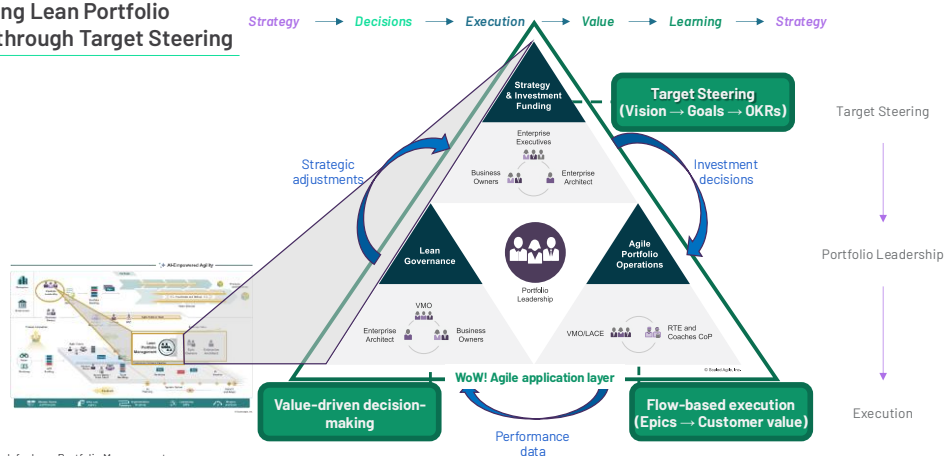
WoW! AGILE

Description – The WoW! Agile Toolbox applied to SAFe® Lean Portfolio Management

From strategy and funding to governed value delivery

The WoW! Agile Toolbox applied to SAFe® Lean Portfolio Management

Operationalising Lean Portfolio Management through Target Steering



- SAFe® provides the structural framework for Lean Portfolio Management.
- WoW! Agile enables alignment, decision-making, and value delivery through Target Steering.

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The WoW! Agile Toolbox applied to SAFe® Lean Portfolio Management

From strategy and funding to governed value delivery

Most organisations don't struggle with strategy—they struggle to control where the money goes.

SAFe® Lean Portfolio Management is part of the Scaled Agile Framework® by Scaled Agile, Inc. WoW! Agile applies and complements this framework in practical organisational contexts.

Executive Summary

Many organisations do not lack strategy, funding, or initiatives.

They lack a portfolio management approach that ensures investments consistently support strategic priorities and deliver measurable business outcomes.

The WoW! Agile Lean Portfolio Management approach provides a practical, executive-level way of connecting strategy, funding, governance, and value delivery. It builds on SAFe® Lean Portfolio Management and applies it through the WoW! Agile Toolbox, with a strong focus on Target Steering, value-driven decision-making, flow-based execution, and real-world multi-portfolio complexity. Where standard implementations often focus on structure, this approach focuses on making investment decisions work in practice.

It enables leadership to move from project-based funding and fragmented governance to a more adaptive portfolio approach—where investment decisions are transparent, strategically aligned, and continuously adjusted based on outcomes.

Investments continuously support strategic outcomes.

It is the **Governance & Investment layer** of the WoW! Agile Toolbox—ensuring that strategy is funded, governed, and realised through the right portfolio decisions.

Outcomes

When applied effectively, the WoW! Agile Lean Portfolio Management approach delivers:

- Stronger alignment between strategy, funding, and execution
- Clearer investment decisions and improved portfolio transparency
- Reduced initiative overload and better use of capacity
- Faster response to changing market, customer, and organisational needs
- Better balance between new development, maintenance, innovation, and technical debt



- Improved governance without slowing execution
 - Stronger return on investment from strategic initiatives
 - A scalable approach for managing one or many portfolios
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What it enables

The WoW! Agile Lean Portfolio Management approach enables organisations to:

- Align investment decisions with strategic priorities
- Establish clear portfolio guardrails and decision rights
- Shift from project funding to value stream-oriented funding where appropriate
- Improve transparency across portfolio initiatives, capacity, and outcomes
- Prioritise significant initiatives based on value, urgency, risk, and available capacity
- Balance short-term delivery, long-term innovation, technical debt, and regulatory demands
- Create faster, more informed portfolio decisions
- Govern multiple portfolios without losing strategic coherence

The outcome is not just better portfolio administration—but a portfolio system that actively steers investment towards measurable business value.

What challenges it addresses

Organisations commonly experience:

- Investment decisions disconnected from strategy
- Too many competing initiatives with unclear business value
- Project-based funding that locks capacity too early
- Portfolio governance focused on control rather than outcomes
- Slow decision-making due to centralised approval structures
- Limited transparency across portfolios, value streams, and strategic initiatives
- Difficulty managing several parallel or hierarchical portfolios
- Strategic initiatives starting without sufficient capacity, ownership, or economic rationale

The result is portfolio overload, weak strategic focus, delayed execution, and reduced return on investment.



The Lean Portfolio Management approach

The WoW! Agile Lean Portfolio Management approach is not a generic training concept or theoretical governance model.

It is a practical way of applying Lean Portfolio Management in complex organisations—supporting executive leaders, portfolio managers, business owners, enterprise architects, and transformation leaders in designing a portfolio approach that connects strategic direction with investment decisions and execution.

The approach builds on SAFe® Lean Portfolio Management, part of the Scaled Agile framework (SAFe®) by Scaled Agile, Inc., which aligns strategy and execution through strategy and investment funding, Agile portfolio operations, and Lean governance.

WoW! Agile complements this by operationalising Lean Portfolio Management through the wider Toolbox:

- Vision & Strategy defines direction
- Target Steering aligns objectives across levels
- Value Streams clarify how value is created
- Value-driven Requirements & Delivery supports value-based decisions
- Lean Portfolio Management governs funding and portfolio decisions

This creates a coherent system where strategy, decisions, funding, and execution are fully connected.

How it fits in the WoW! Agile Toolbox

Lean Portfolio Management establishes the **Governance & Investment layer** of the WoW! Agile Toolbox.

It builds on:

- **Vision & Strategy** – what the organisation wants to achieve
- **Target Steering** – how objectives are aligned across levels
- **Value Streams** – how value is created and where investments should flow
- **Value-driven Requirements & Delivery** – how decisions are made based on value

It provides:

- Funding logic
- Governance structure
- Portfolio decision-making
- Investment transparency



- Strategic adjustment based on outcomes

Without effective Lean Portfolio Management, strategy may be clear and execution may be active—but funding, governance, and prioritisation will still drift.

How it works

The tool establishes a practical Lean Portfolio Management approach through a structured sequence:

- Define or clarify the portfolio scope
- Connect the portfolio to strategic direction and objectives
- Identify relevant value streams and major investment areas
- Establish portfolio guardrails and decision principles
- Define the portfolio flow for strategic initiatives
- Create transparency around capacity, funding, and constraints
- Introduce portfolio-level prioritisation and governance routines
- Set up learning loops based on outcomes, performance data, and strategic change

The approach is designed for both single-portfolio and multi-portfolio environments. It can be applied to one portfolio, several parallel portfolios, or hierarchical portfolio structures where enterprise direction must be translated into portfolio-specific investment decisions.

The focus is not only to apply Lean Portfolio Management—but to make it work in real organisational complexity.

Typical use cases

Used when:

- Investment decisions are unclear or disconnected from strategy
 - Too many initiatives compete for the same capacity
 - Portfolio governance is slow, heavy, or inconsistent
 - The organisation wants to move from project funding to Lean Portfolio Management
 - Several portfolios need to be aligned under a common strategic direction
 - Existing SAFe® LPM practices need to be sharpened, adapted, or made operational
 - Leadership needs better transparency, prioritisation, and control of strategic investments
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Closing positioning

Lean Portfolio Management is where strategic intent becomes investment discipline.

The WoW! Agile Lean Portfolio Management approach helps organisations ensure that the right initiatives are funded, governed, prioritised, and adjusted based on measurable outcomes. By combining SAFe® Lean Portfolio Management with the WoW! Agile Toolbox, it creates a sharper, more practical, and more scalable approach for governing value delivery in complex organisations.
