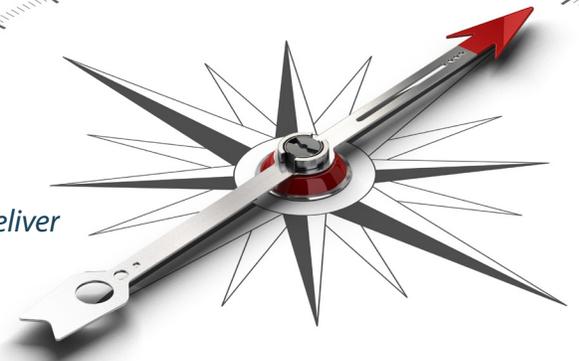




AGILE



Guiding clients to rapidly deliver mission-oriented results.



TRANSFORMATION

AGILE DELIVERS HIGH-QUALITY PROJECTS FASTER AND WITH REDUCED RISK

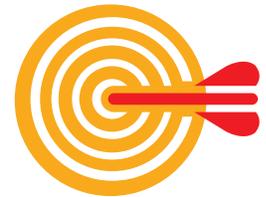
Technology, leadership, and program priorities are constantly evolving and changing within federal agencies.

As a result of shifting priorities and constant change, rigid processes characterized by multi-year strategic planning efforts are often obsolete before implementation even begins. At the same time, within a constrained budget environment, programs need to show results quickly to justify their existence. Recognizing that Agile has been shown to increase project delivery success while simultaneously reducing risk, federal chief information officers and the U.S. Government Accountability Office recommend an Agile, modular approach to software development projects.^{1,2}

NOBLIS DELIVERS ENTERPRISE-LEVEL AGILE

Bridging the gap between doing Agile and being Agile.

Agile development's short (two to six week) planning and delivery cycles necessitate close customer collaboration. It is an effective approach to prioritizing competing needs based on highest mission ROI, and to deploying and managing high-performing teams to effectively execute. At Noblis we understand that successful transition to an Agile mindset is often challenging for federal agencies since procurement practices, leadership structures, or even cultural barriers can impede the Agile transformation process. Through our work with different agencies on numerous projects, Noblis has identified the most common pitfalls to Agile adoption. Let us be your guide to avoid these hazards and bridge the gap to accelerate your organization's transformation.



INCREASE PROJECT DELIVERY SUCCESS WHILE REDUCING RISK



Rapid planning & delivery cycles



Constant stakeholder collaboration



Mission ROI drives needs and priorities



High-performing execution teams

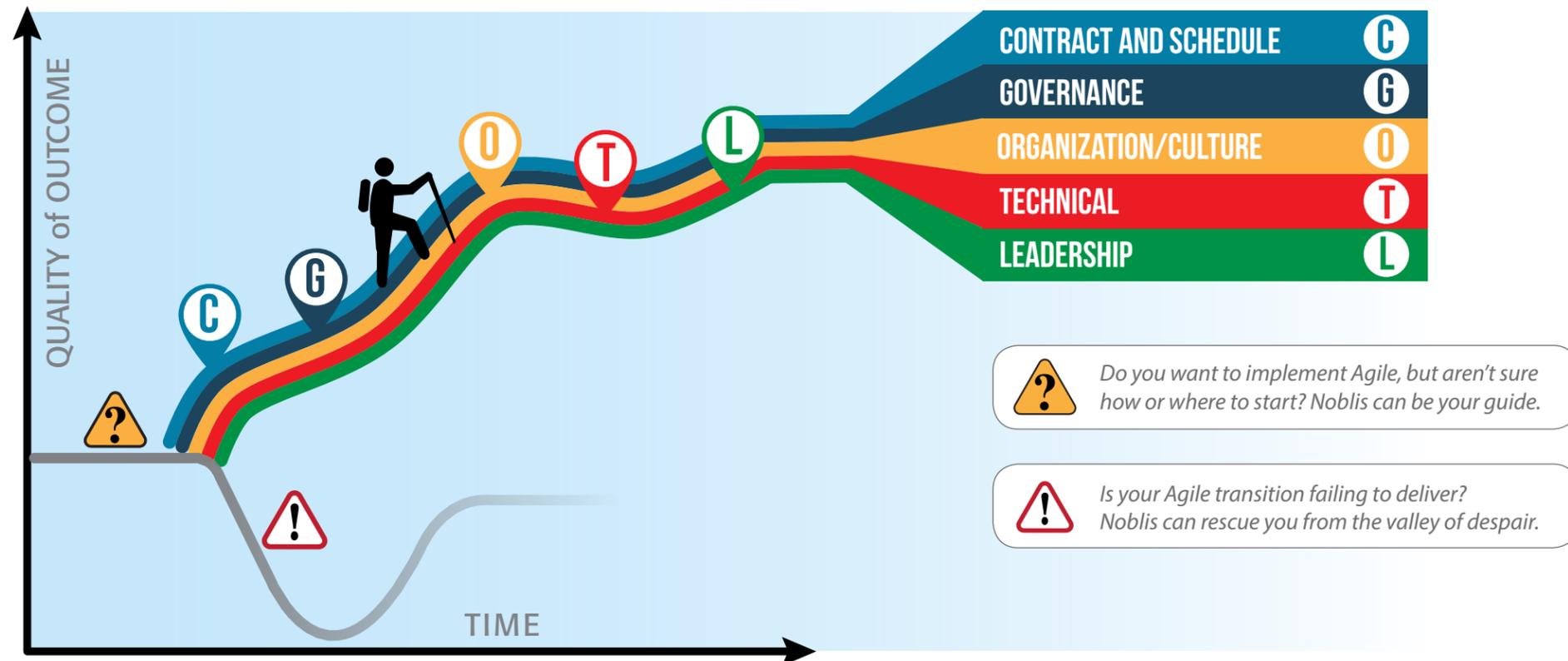
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¹ <https://cio.gov/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2012/09/25-Point-Implementation-Plan-to-Reform-Federal-IT.pdf>

² <http://www.gao.gov/assets/600/593091.pdf>

Noblis is Your Enterprise Agile Guide

WE HAVE IDENTIFIED THE MOST COMMON PITFALLS TO AGILE SUCCESS. LET US HELP ACCELERATE YOUR TRANSFORMATION.



C THREAD 1: CONTRACT AND SCHEDULE SET UP THE RIGHT ACQUISITION

Ensuring acquisition and contract vehicles are tailored to the unique needs of Agile helps set foundational contract structures that support success. Many organizations start with a prescriptive, detailed Statement of Work and then attempt to use Agile in the execution after the fact. Our approach helps your organization define program needs and execute an acquisition that supports Agile from the start.

G THREAD 2: GOVERNANCE ENGAGE THE RIGHT USERS THROUGHOUT

For enterprise efforts, governance and oversight cannot be avoided. Through focused tailoring of processes, Agile and oversight can coexist. When building or enhancing an enterprise system, it is challenging to balance true end-user needs with those of stakeholders and project sponsors. We incorporate representative governance structures, subject matter customer liaisons, ad hoc user groups, and ongoing application validation to ensure interaction directly with system end-users remains mission focused.

O THREAD 3: ORGANIZATION/CULTURE RALLY AROUND THE MISSION

A culture of collaboration is essential to Agile success. Multi-phase, multi-contractor teams can create mismatched incentives, undermining program success. Through facilitation techniques such as team covenants and project branding, Noblis' approach fosters a badgeless culture, characterized by collaboration and a singular focus—fulfilling end-user needs quickly.

T THREAD 4: TECHNICAL MAKE TIME FOR TECHNICAL DEBT

Successful, rapid, recurring deployments are impossible without a well-structured technical foundation. An immature technical infrastructure that is unable to support the needs of the team and the program can inhibit productivity and lead to a stagnant product. Ongoing attention to, and improvement of technical foundations ensures continuous delivery. We work to balance resources between the needs of mission operations and the needs of team delivery in order to ensure application stability and evolution.

L THREAD 5: LEADERSHIP TRAIN LEADERSHIP IN AGILE VALUES

A fundamental component of successful Agile programs is strong, committed, empowered leadership. As with any large-scale change initiative, momentum to support the effort begins at the top. Executive level sponsorship, stakeholders, users, and the product owner all need to operate from the same roadmap. Let us show your executive team how Agile delivery supports higher mission ROI. Through briefings and visual aids tailored to your organization, we focus on the key roles, behaviors, and expectations that drive high-performing execution and ensure that your program managers and other stakeholders are on board with the Agile approach.

Addressing the Needs of Our Clients

Through our work on numerous projects, Noblis has developed a keen understanding of federal agency client needs and the challenges they face with Agile adoption. Our approach takes these challenges into consideration.

CLIENT CHALLENGE	NOBLIS APPROACH
C How do you develop acquisition vehicles that balance accountability with the need for flexibility to support Agile practices?	Define the what, not the how along with a clear definition of what constitutes done. Describe, don't prescribe deliverable frequency and content.
G Enterprise systems serve many different types of users, how do you manage competing priorities?	Apply organizational analysis to define a tailored governance approach that prioritizes the needs of the stakeholders and the users to support the mission.
O Cultural barriers can inhibit contractor/government collaboration and trust, which are key components to successful Agile teams.	Assess the organization to identify key culture players, and frame success as a collaborative effort that supports the mission.
T Lack of commitment to implement measures that improve team velocity over time.	Dedicate sprints to implement tools and processes that support improving the cadence of the program, e.g., implementing automated testing or upgrading baseline tool sets.
L Leadership swirl and a traditional "all or nothing" product-delivery mentality can lead to scope creep, requirements churn, and delayed product delivery.	Train leadership in understanding the value of balancing executive-level sponsorship with empowered, delegated decision makers.

TALK TO A NOBLIS EXPERT TODAY: answers@noblis.org

PARTNERS WITH KEY AGILE EXPERTISE

Noblis is a partner in delivering solutions that provide positive, lasting impacts to our clients and their missions. Our experts shape strategies that best align with the client's environment, goals, and objectives.

AGILE COACH

Embedded expert drives Agile adoption and cultural transformation across every level of the enterprise.

PMO EXPERT

Assists with acquisition, enterprise performance metric tracking, and enterprise governance and strategic roadmap planning.

PRODUCT OWNER LIAISON

Interacts with business units to define, prioritize, refine, and validate end-user needs.

TRAINERS

Accelerates Agile delivery with training materials customized to your organization's needs, including briefings for senior leadership and persistent visuals for individual execution teams to reinforce Agile delivery over the long term.



USER EXPERIENCE ANALYST

Examines end-user processes, needs, and interactions. Finds points of friction and negative emotion, then provides solutions.

SCRUM MASTER

Serves as servant-leader and facilitator to actively remove barriers for delivery teams, while focusing on continuous improvement to accelerate Agile effectiveness.

CLIENT SUCCESS STORY: NOBLIS APPLIED AGILE DEVELOPMENT METHODS TO SUPPORT THE FBI'S SENTINEL PROJECT

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) needed an electronic case management system that would improve management of its investigative and intelligence information.

Noblis assisted with the Agile transition and successful deployment of the initial operating capability of Sentinel in July 2012. Since then, Noblis has continued our partnership with the FBI's government employees and other contract subject matter experts to mature Sentinel's Agile practices.

The new Sentinel case management system has transformed the way the FBI does business. With Noblis' assistance, the FBI has transitioned its primarily paper-based system to a robust electronic system that is accessed by over 30,000 agents, analysts, and support personnel.



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Noblis is a nonprofit science, technology, and strategy organization that brings the best of scientific thought, management, and engineering expertise in an environment of independence and objectivity. We work with a wide range of government and industry clients in the areas of national security and intelligence, transportation, health innovation, enterprise engineering, and environmental sustainability.