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Applied SAFe® Process Design Principles

For Applied SAFe, we use several guiding principles in our process design. In addition to the principles of SAFe (incl. Lean) also some of the technical principles of SpaceX, as well as some self-created principles from our experience.

Here is just a short description of what we train & discuss in our Applied SAFe Quality Management, and Applied SAFe Process Engineering Training.

1. Deliverables (value) first.
   The deliverables are the primary work products and are developed and documented in a domain model.
2. The process follows Deliverables.
   Processes, activities, phases and milestones, and roles are designed as a consequence of the work products to be created.
3. Processes, roles, phases, and milestones are stable elements.
   No 'invention' of new processes, roles, phases and milestones without prior coordination and modeling.
4. Deletion (tailoring) is the best way to add value.
   We eliminate all non-value-adding work products, and subsequently their related process elements (lists, reports, roles, metrics, processes...) and focus on the basic processes without much exception/variation handling.
   Reason: The volume of alternatives and variants often exceeds the volume of the basic organizational process.
5. Regulatory requirements are our friends.
   We see process requirements such as ISO 26262, ASPICE, CMMI, FAA, FDA as a tool to ensure that no important aspects are forgotten in our processes. This is a quality assurance measure, not a mandate to do something exactly as described in the requirements of the reference model.
6. Do not optimize unnecessary things.
   We reserve the right to eliminate existing process elements when they are not needed. In the area of regulated environments, this means that many known and loved artifacts will no longer exist in the same sense (e.g. 'Work Breakdown Structure' is split between roadmaps and backlogs with the corresponding content).
7. Do not automate until you have deleted the unnecessary.
   Tools, work products, milestones, phases, and roles are handled independently of existing structures. This means that e.g. no 'manager' placeholder roles are taken over just for the sake of it. Another example is that no '-List' work products shall exist; there are risks associated with an endeavor and if you name each one of them, you have a list.
8. Try it and see.
   All changes and new definitions are piloted before they are rolled out broadly.
9. Innovate rapidly.
   New versions of the processes are made available at least in the PI cycle or even faster.
10. Recognize 'residual capability'.
    Process content can be written directly by the specialists themselves, the process group serves as a facilitator to capture and organize the organization's know-how and make it available to all.
11. The 'What' is not the 'How'.
    Each activity leaves enough flexibility for the practitioner to choose how to do it in his own context. Possibilities of 'how' are shown with practices/methods.

Workflows and Activities

- Process Assessment
- Check Content
- Compile Improvement Opportunities
- Process Definition
- Elaborate Process Architecture
- Elaborate Process Requirements
- Decide Adoption or New Process/Activity
- Adopt existing Process/Activity
- Design new Processes and Activities
- Pilot Process Changes
- Changes acceptable?
- Approve Process
- Process Improvement Management
- Analyze Improvement and Change Requests
- Prioritize Improvements
- Implement Process Change
- Provide Trainings

Roles

- Applied SAFe Process Engineer
- Applied SAFe Quality Manager

Used for

- PEDCO Process Modeling Guideline
- Applied SAFe® Quality Management
- Applied SAFe® Engineering
- Applied SAFe® Practitioner