Scaled agile transformation case study
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A global financial services company had reinvented itself multiple times in the past... and it was time to do so again

The client engaged Deloitte to help with an agile transformation for its software delivery approach, including:

- 1500+ people across product and technology impacted by the change
- Multiple products supported, with the main focus on a digital banking alternative for under-served markets
- Multiple offices and locations across the US, Europe, and Asia
- An aspiration to become a leading innovative product technology company in a highly regulated industry

With innovation a priority, the client launched a new business division to drive disruption in the financial services market and grow revenue
## Transformation drivers

Deloitte worked with the client to initiate an end-to-end agile transformation, changing its cultural DNA and delivery capabilities.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drivers</th>
<th>Supported by agile</th>
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| Get features out to market faster           | - Increased speed to market through a two-week release engine  
                                            - Ability to design, develop, and test iteratively throughout the process                                                                                |
| Support decoupled component releases        | - Product-based agile teams that can innovate and deploy their products independently across the platform  
                                            - Feature toggling to reduce technical debt around code branches                                                                                     |
| Decrease hand-offs and coordination         | - Agile teams that think, act, and deliver as a single, fully integrated product and technology unit                                                                                                           |
| Improve quality of code base and platform   | - Product model to drive code ownership and service-based thinking to improve quality  
                                            - Testing at every step of the process to encourage quality through increased accountability                                                            |
| Enhance reusability and integrity of components | - A unified architectural vision to drive component integrity and reuse of common components                                                                                                               |
Agile transformation overview
The result was a broad-based transformation across the enterprise

New end-to-end agile method
- Intake, program, product, software, and release processes were all made agile
- Releases became "nonevents" occurring every two weeks

New platform componentization based on SOA
- Platform was refactored into a discrete set of platform services and applications
- Supported teams to focus on product stewardship and technical debt reduction to drive quality improvements

New organizational and team structure
- Product and technology were reorganized into 35+ cross-functional scrum teams
- Each scrum team has ownership of a platform service/application and is responsible for a set of platform key performance indicators

New agile management and automation tools
- New tools setup for managing programs and product backlogs
- New tools setup for automating continuous integration and deployment

Agile @ Scale
## Solutions

Deloitte delivered effective solutions to overcome common challenges tied to scaling agile

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<tr>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>Large programs</th>
<th>Prioritization</th>
<th>E2E experience</th>
<th>Risk and compliance</th>
<th>Engineering</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>• Broke large programs down into low-level business epics grouped into Minimum Viable Products (MVPs) using agile practices, such as story mapping to limit work in progress and increase speed</td>
<td>• Setup prioritized queues throughout the value stream to inform future work initiatives</td>
<td>• Setup E2E delivery managers to carry a program from inception to completion and to coordinate delivery dependencies</td>
<td>• Setup a series of controls check points, including an engagement review early in the program life cycle, a review of epics associated with each program, and a controls demo day to provide feedback/acceptance on delivered functionality</td>
<td>• Supported scrum teams in decoupling owned components from other teams to support independent releases</td>
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<td>• Setup a collaborative approach to MVP definition involving scrum teams, architects, and other support services, such as UAT</td>
<td>• Maintained global priorities for scrum teams to pull from based on capacity</td>
<td>• Engaged UAT group upfront in the definition of epics and authorized them to validate and accept E2E functionality delivered by scrum teams</td>
<td>• Setup governance mechanisms, such as an Impediment Removal Board to resolve global impediments and keep scrum teams moving</td>
<td>• Drived automation of new functionality to help with rigorous and fast regression testing</td>
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<td>• Empowered scrum teams to decompose epics together and to define user stories touching their product area</td>
<td>• Empowered scrum teams to prioritize their own product backlogs with dedicated product owners</td>
<td>• Setup a series of controls check points, including an engagement review early in the program life cycle, a review of epics associated with each program, and a controls demo day to provide feedback/acceptance on delivered functionality</td>
<td>• Coached teams on getting ‘code clean’ each sprint to help improve product quality</td>
<td>• Automated build and deploy processes for new functionality and defects</td>
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<td>• Established a two-week cadence for releasing software</td>
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By year-end, the business results were already apparent

**Increase in output**
Team output increased by 120% from the start of the transformation

**Shortened testing time**
Platform-level testing went from seven days to under three hours with automated testing

**300**

Teams are producing and releasing ~300 user stories every two weeks

**80th**

Platform-level testing went from seven days to under three hours with automated testing

**Reduced cycle time**

**3 hours**

Improved quality with no cost to performance, reducing production defects by 88%

**High predictability**

Scored in the 80th percentile for predictability according to an industry standard survey

**Reduced defects**

**88%**

Customer satisfaction ratings jumped from 19% to 46% for core financial services products

**Greater coordination**

Established agile as the new norm, with more than 50 stand-ups run in parallel each day

**Increase in satisfaction**

**27%**

Delivered 40 versus seven releases and nine versus two major initiatives from the previous year
Want to learn more?
Contact us for additional information

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