Agile Software Acquisition Guidebook

The Adaptive Acquisition Framework and its associated software pathway will allow program managers to tailor their acquisition strategy to the unique characteristics of the capabilities being acquired. To provide insights that can help shape that tailoring, a rich body of knowledge that harvests lessons learned from execution of the Sec 873 & 874 Agile software development pilot programs has been curated and assembled into a guidebook. This guidebook is intended for our software acquisition workforce and supporting ecosystem members. It shares Agile and iterative development lessons learned and provides helpful white papers that provide advice/guidance on topics that reflect typical software development organizational challenges during transition to more modern practices. This 48 page resource may help shape your thinking on how to successfully plan and execute your Agile software program. It can be found on the DAU IT Community of Practice site here.

Budget Activity (BA8) for Software

Recent software development reports, including the Defense Innovation Board’s Software Acquisition and Practices (SWAP) study and the report to Congress on the 2018 NDAA Sec 874 Agile pilots, have identified challenges related to the use of multiple appropriations in software acquisition. The reports found that the DoD appropriation categories and budgeting process - which presumes products are serially developed, tested, procured, then operated & sustained; and that these functions should be discretely resourced with different kinds of funding - is an anachronism when applied to modern software. The initiative allows nine Software Pilot Programs to realign funding from various appropriations for a new Software and Digital Technology Budget Activity (BA8) in the Components’ respective Research, Development, Test & Evaluation (RDT&E) appropriations. These FY21 pilot programs will test whether a single appropriation category for software acquisition can avoid traditional points of friction without compromising necessary oversight and reporting functions.

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**Ask an Expert**

Q: During a recent discussion, there was some chatter about a DevSecOps community of interest/practice that has monthly meetings. Do you have information about those meetings?

A: The March meeting is currently scheduled for Thursday, 12 March. To see the answer posted on line, please visit the Software Pathway Community of Interest site using the link [https://www.milsuite.mil/book/message/842727#842727](https://www.milsuite.mil/book/message/842727#842727)

**Software Pathway Community of Interest (COI)**

The Software Pathway COI is a forum in which OSD and DoD components can collaborate on the development and refinement of the Software Acquisition Pathway policy. Members can provide comments and recommendations for policy and guidance, identify aspects of the policy that work well and those that are not working. OSD will share draft policy as it evolves and encourage community input.


**Farewell to Gabe Leyva, Agile Pilot Program Lead**

We break from our traditional “Meet the PM” section to extend congratulation and a fond farewell to Gabe Leyva, the Sec 873 & 874 Agile Software Development Pilot Program Manager, on his well-deserved retirement from government this February. Gabe has made significant contributions to the warfighter and advanced technology over his entire military and civil servant career. As he rose through the ranks and handled increased responsibility from Army product manager to project manager, and more recently Office of the Secretary of Defense senior policy developer, a constant principle that guided his actions was to deliver significant warfighter value -- quickly. Vince Lombardi, the famous Green Bay Packers’ coach, is said to have said “The harder you work, the harder it is to surrender.” Despite the difficulty of hanging up his .mil email account, we expect Gabe will enjoy the absence of a long daily commute to spend time with family and pursue his other passions. The Department of Defense will miss the valuable and lasting contributions Gabe Leyva made to our military institution, including his work with many stakeholder communities in leading the overall Agile software development pilot program.

Carmela Rice will be taking over this role, in addition to her work on the Software Pathway, until a replacement can be brought on.

**Announcements & Events**

12 MAR – DevSecOps Community of Practice/Agile Town Hall

17 MAR – AAF & SW ACQ Pathway Briefing w/ Q&A (DAU webinar)

20 MAR – Air Force Chief Software Officer Ask Me Anything Webinar

**Questions or Comments?**

Contact: Crash Konwin

E: kenneth.c.konwin.ctr@mail.mil

P: 571-372-4746