

Neal Taylor

Agile Coach & Consultant / Technology Strategy Leader

E: neal@nealdtaylor.com M: 07848 994442 <https://www.linkedin.com/in/nealdtaylor/>

Technology Strategy Leader, certified Agile Coach/Consultant and Scaled Agile practitioner (Scrum@Scale & SAFe6) with 15+ years of delivering high value in the digital and technology space.

Engages with organisations from start-up to enterprise level, to help them become more agile and to deliver technology solutions that enable them to thrive and which delivers value to customers.

Passionate about helping businesses become adaptable and responsive, so that they can compete and succeed in today's complex and rapidly changing environment.

Has a background in business, economics and technology and a keen coaching stance. Regular speaker and writer on technology, strategy and agility.

KEY SKILLS

- **Consultancy & advisory** - shifting stances between coaching and consulting.
- **Strategy** - using problem solving heuristics to guide decision-making in the search space.
- **Commercial alignment** - composing objectives, road-mapping and measuring success.
- **Big room planning** - running Programme Increment Planning sessions for 120+ people.
- **Lift off!** - generates the momentum and direction to start and continue.
- **Technology advisory** - advising on agile tooling, cloud infrastructure and migration.
- **C-suite engagement** - trusted advisor for high-stakes technology decisions.
- **Coaching & mentoring** - kindhearted principle: 'tough on the problems, easy on the people'.
- **Teaching & speaking** - 'lightning talks' within businesses, speaking at global agile events
- **People Management** - recruitment, line-management and leadership.

CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS

Accenture : Agile Coach & Consultant

Sep 2021 - current

- Transforms businesses and IT organisations to achieve agility at scale, through new operating models, workforce strategies, and modern technology.
- Works with mindsets, language, culture, frameworks, and infrastructure to help change emerge within people, processes, and technology.
- Aligns with clients' business objectives, organisational culture, and funding imperatives.
- Advises on technology strategy, including architecture, data, cloud, and Artificial Intelligence.

Healthcare company (one of the largest in Europe) : Agile Coach & Delivery Lead

- Coached teams on developing a new SRE, DevSecOps, CI/CD capability.
- Brought in agile practices to provide greater transparency and predictability for a cloud migration to update the infrastructure and reduce technical debt.
- Completed the budgeting, reporting and accounts for £5m+ project.

Banking company : Agile Trainer

- Agile training of over 100 staff on the fundamentals of an agile mindset.

Media company : Agile coach & Atlassian software SME

- Implemented agile tooling and practices to lay the groundwork for a cloud migration.

Media company : Agile Coach & Tooling Lead

- Supported the full adoption of SAFe6 to Portfolio level, in a pilot value stream.
- Trusted advisor to c-suite regarding the agile tooling for the full enterprise

Cambridge University Press : Agile Coach

Dec 2017 – Sep 2021

- Agile coach for CambridgeOne.org - an ambitious £20m project to become the world's top destination for English language materials with 160 million users.
- Lifted off the project, set up all the artifacts and workflows, scrum master and trainer and lead the scaled agile transformation (scrum at scale).
- Recruited additional scrum masters, line-managed and mentored them.
- Completed an on-site full Agile investigation of the Indian development team, surfacing inefficiencies, coaching tech leads, streamlining the communication and resolving issues with the release management and operations.
- Demonstrated the value of Agile to the traditionally waterfall business.
- Based on this, secured extra funding to scale up to 12 scrum teams

Pendragon : Developer to Product Manager

Sep 2008 – Sep 2016

- Member of dynamic agile team, building educational software with funding from the EU. Clients included the World Bank, United Nations, British Council.
- Started as a software developer and progressed to scrum master for a remote team dispersed over five countries. Implemented all the metrics and experiments.
- Built up the eCommerce product and commercialized it. Took on client facing responsibilities, pitching to corporate and governmental clients.
- Won an EU award for most innovative language learning software.

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

ICAgile	Certified Professional Agile Coach (ICP-ACC)
Leading SAFe	Practitioner
Scrum Alliance	Certified Scrum Master (CSM)
Scrum Inc	Certified Scrum at Scale Practitioner (CS@SP)
Antifragile organisations	Practitioner
Non-Violent Communication	Practitioner
Agile at Scale Technical Delivery	Professional

EDUCATION

Post Graduate Certificate of Education	University of Exeter, UK
Economics	WHU School of Management, Germany
International Management & Language.	School of Management, University of Bath, UK

LANGUAGES

English (Native), German (Fluent), Spanish (Conversational), Arabic (Conversational)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Jira, Jira Align, Aha, Clarity, Confluence, Miro, Trello, Teams, Confluence, BI, Google Analytics

PERSONAL INTERESTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Competed at European and World Masters' Swimming Competitions.
- British Masters National Champion for 200m Freestyle.
- British Record holder for the Men's Masters 4X100 Freestyle team
- Grew up in India and Oman, and has lived and worked in the UK, Germany and Spain.
- Loves learning and trying new things out. Co-founded a community of practice support and challenge people to bring greater creativity into their lives.