

# Neal Taylor

Technology, Strategy and Agility Consultant | Delivery Lead

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Delivery Lead, Release Train Engineer, certified Agile Coach and Scaled Agile practitioner (Scrum@Scale & SAFe6 RTE) with 15+ years of delivering high value (apps, platforms, infrastructure) in the digital and technology space.

Has a background in business, economics and technology and a keen coaching stance. Regular speaker (Global Scrum Master Summit) and writer on technology, strategy, complexity and agility.

## KEY SKILLS

- **Strategy** - using problem-solving heuristics to guide decisions within the 'problem space'
- **Commercial alignment** – composing objectives, road-mapping and measuring success.
- **Agile pragmatism** - applying practices, artifacts and mindsets and using what works best.
- **Big room planning** - running PIs for 120+ people to visualise dependencies.
- **Jira 'Geek'** - Full Atlassian advisory and set up.
- **Coaching & mentoring** - kindhearted principle: "tough on the problems, easy on the people".
- **Reporting** - setting up live dashboards to help leaders make confident decisions.
- **Delivery** - setting up DevOps environments to give teams the best conditions to do great work.
- **People Management** – line-management, stakeholder management and servant-leadership.
- **Continuous improvement** - mining for 'golden nuggets' (blockers) and 'being the change'.

## CAREER ACHIEVEMENTS

### **Do It Agile : Consultant (Agile & delivery) and technology strategist Present**

- Automotive company: Release Train Engineer and Agile advisor for key cloud infrastructure.

### **Accenture : Technology Strategy Manager**

**Sep 2021 - July 2023**

- Transforms businesses and IT organisations to achieve agility at scale, through new operating models, trusted advice, workforce strategies, and modern technology.
- Works with mindsets, language, culture, frameworks, and infrastructure to help change emerge within people and towards the company's mission.
- Wrote successful bids, pitched to clients, set up a community of practice, gave seminars about strategy, and advisor to numerous companies as well as the following key engagements:

#### **Healthcare company (one of the largest in Europe) : Delivery Lead & RTE (10 months)**

- Led a programme of five teams (40 people) within a SRE, DevSecOps, CI/CD capability.
- Refactored programme for greater transparency and predictability for a cloud migration to update the infrastructure, set up an IDP, and reduce technical debt.
- Completed the budgeting, reporting to board, and accounts for £5m+ project.

#### **Banking company : Agile Trainer**

- Agile training of over 100 staff on the fundamentals of agile and lean thinking.

#### **Media company : Atlassian software SME (Jira Geek)**

- Investigation and clean up of an Enterprise's Agile tooling estate (Jira, Confluence, Advanced Roadmaps) for 1,000+ users and brought in structures. Led team of consultants.

#### **Media company : Technology Strategist**

- Supported the full adoption of SAFe6 to Portfolio level, in a pilot value stream. Set up all artefacts.
- Advised C-suite on a full enterprise-wide technology stack. Led team of consultants.

## **Cambridge University Press: Delivery Manager & 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.
- Full lift off, set up all the artifacts and workflows, scrum master and trainer and lead the scaled agile transformation (scrum at scale)
- Led multiple teams to deliver: 'Presentation+', 'Support' and the 'Back Office Builder'.
- Recruited scrum masters, line-managed and mentored them.
- Completed an on-site full Agile investigation of the off-shore 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 and led the transformation team to scale agile.
- Reported all metrics for the full programme to the board and set up dashboards.

## **Pendragon : Developer to Delivery 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 developer and progressed to delivery lead for a remote team dispersed over five countries. Implemented all the metrics and experiments.
- 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)
Atlassian	Agile at Scale Technical Delivery
Amazon Web Services	Certified AWS Cloud Practitioner

## **EDUCATION**

Post Graduate Certificate of Education	University of Exeter, UK
Technology Strategy	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, Clarity, Confluence, Miro, Teams, Confluence, BI, Google Analytics, Gitlab, AWS

## **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.
- Co-founder of a community of practice dedicated to creativity, AI and meaning-making.

**Portfolio** <https://cv.nealdtaylor.com>