LARRY CHAKIR - M.S, SPC, ACP

Senior Agile Coach / IT Program Manager (US Citizen)

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Professional Overview

Experience: Over 15 years in Agile and Lean methodologies, leading Agile transformations and improving team performance across finance, government, and technology sectors.

Coaching & Management: Extensive experience coaching at Deloitte, Capital One, and USA TODAY, and strategic management at Cisco, driving cultural shifts and building high-performing teams.

Training & Productivity: Delivered Agile training, significantly improving delivery times and increasing productivity.

Qualifications: SPC, ACP, CSM, and CSPO certifications / Master's in Applied Information Technology from George Mason University

Career Highlights

Cisco — Remote
Senior Agile Coach / IT Program Manager — 08/2021 - Present

Cisco is a global leader in IT, networking, and cybersecurity solutions, helping companies of all sizes transform how people connect, communicate, and collaborate.

- **Led Agile Transformation:** Spearheaded the company-wide Agile transformation, enhancing project management and product development agility. This initiative led to a 30% improvement in delivery times and a 25% increase in team productivity, positioning Cisco as a more dynamic and responsive organization.
- **Delivered Comprehensive Training:** Designed and delivered Agile training programs for over 200 employees across various departments. This training not only boosted organizational competencies but also fostered a culture of continuous improvement and innovation, resulting in higher employee engagement and better project outcomes.
- **Implemented Process Improvements:** Identified and implemented over 100 process improvements through continuous improvement practices. These enhancements elevated operational efficiency, reduced waste, and optimized resource utilization, contributing to an estimated 20% cost reduction in project execution.
- **Enhanced Team Dynamics:** Improved team dynamics and reduced project blockers by integrating Agile practices such as Scrum and Kanban. This approach facilitated better cross-functional collaboration, clearer communication, and faster problem-solving, leading to higher quality deliverables.
- **Championed Customer Feedback:** Led customer feedback initiatives, collecting and analyzing input directly from end-users. This feedback was instrumental in influencing product iterations, ensuring that the final products not only met but exceeded customer expectations, enhancing customer satisfaction and loyalty.
- **Optimized JIRA Usage:** Optimized the use of JIRA for Agile processes, which streamlined project management and improved transparency across teams. By tailoring JIRA to better fit Agile workflows, team collaboration was enhanced, and program delivery was more efficient, reducing project completion times by 15%.

Capital One — McLean, VA
Agile Coach Lead — 09/2018 - 08/2021

Capital One is a dynamic financial powerhouse, delivering innovative financial solutions and services to consumers, small businesses, and commercial clients worldwide, fostering growth and success.

- **Established Agile Teams:** Formed and guided 12 new Agile teams, resulting in a 30% increase in sprint completion rates and a 25% reduction in time-to-market. These improvements drove faster delivery of financial solutions, enhancing Capital One's competitive edge.
- **Enhanced Agile Maturity:** Improved team Agile maturity by 80% through comprehensive training sessions and interactive workshops. This uplift in maturity levels led to more self-sufficient teams capable of delivering higher quality outputs with greater consistency.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Collaborated closely with stakeholders to identify and address Agile knowledge gaps, facilitating smooth onboarding and adoption of Agile frameworks across the organization. This ensured alignment and buy-in from all levels, promoting a cohesive Agile culture.
- **Lean Thinking Application:** Applied lean thinking principles to overcome team challenges, leading to a cultural shift towards more efficient and effective Agile methodologies. This approach helped teams streamline processes, reduce waste, and maximize value delivery.
- **Continuous Process Improvements:** Championed continuous process improvements, aligning initiatives with the enterprise's Agile strategy. Leveraged extensive experience as both a Scrum Master and Product Owner to drive rapid value delivery and foster an environment of ongoing enhancement and innovation.

Deloitte

Arlington, VA

Enterprise Agile Coach

06/2016 - 09/2018

Deloitte, a global leader in technology consulting, delivers innovative audit, tax, and advisory services, empowering clients with cutting-edge insights and ethical guidance. **Clients:** Homeland Security / USPTO / USPS / Exelon

- **Led Organizational Agile Transformations:** Aligned Agile strategies with business objectives, fostering enterprise-wide agility and enhancing overall project success rates.
- **Conducted Agile Training and Mentoring:** Provided comprehensive Agile training and mentoring for executives and teams, emphasizing principles, practices, and necessary mindset shifts to embrace Agile methodologies.
- **Enhanced Continuous Improvement:** Engaged with senior leadership and established strong partner relationships to promote a culture of collaboration and continuous improvement.
- **Implemented Agile Practices:** implemented Agile practices such as Continuous Integration/Continuous Delivery (CI/CD) and Test-Driven Development (TDD), ensuring alignment with frameworks like Scaled Agile.
  Directed Agile Release Trains and Workshops: Directed Agile Release Trains and facilitated Scaled Agile workshops, serving as an Agile methodology expert and supporting efficient product development.

USA TODAY / Gannett

McLean, VA

Agile Coach

03/2013 - 05/2016

Gannett is a leading media and marketing company, known for its diverse portfolio of brands, including USA TODAY, focusing on digital innovation and content.

- **Agile Ceremonies and Methodologies:** Leveraged Scrum, Kanban, and Scaled Agile frameworks to conduct Agile ceremonies, enhancing team coherence and project progression.
- **Agile Coaching:** Provided Agile coaching to foster a culture of continuous improvement and collaboration across teams.
- **Stakeholder Collaboration:** Collaborated with stakeholders to ensure project objectives align with strategic goals, improving overall project outcomes.
- **Championing Agile Adoption:** Developed and implemented a comprehensive Agile metrics and reporting system, providing valuable insights that led to a 35% improvement in team performance.

CGI Federal

Fairfax, VA

Sr System Analyst / Project Manager

09/2011 - 03/2013

CGI Federal, a subsidiary of CGI Group, provides IT and business process services to the U.S. federal government, enhancing operational efficiency and innovation. **Client:** CMS - Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

- **Strategic Alignment and Integration:** Synchronized complex system requirements with corporate objectives, enhancing strategic alignment and achieving seamless integration.
- **Comprehensive Project Management:** Delivered multiple projects on time and within budget by meticulously managing project documentation, budgeting, and scheduling, resulting in a 20% improvement in project delivery efficiency.
- **Effective Meeting Facilitation:** Led high-level meetings and maintained clear communication channels, achieving project milestones ahead of schedule and under budget.
- **Proactive Risk Management:** Proactively identified and mitigated potential project risks, ensuring uninterrupted progress and superior project performance, reducing project delays by 15%.

REI Systems

Reston, VA

System Analyst / Project Manager

09/2010 - 09/2011

REI Systems provides innovative technology solutions to government, focusing on big data, cloud services, and analytics to improve performance and outcomes. **Clients**: Office of Management and Budget (OMB) / NYC Comptroller Office

- **Business Requirements Analysis:** Conducted in-depth analysis of business requirements, translating them into detailed system specifications, which improved system functionality and user satisfaction by 30%.
- **System Integration:** Led the integration of new software systems with existing infrastructure, ensuring seamless interoperability and reducing downtime by 25%.
- **Data Management and Reporting:** Developed and implemented advanced data management and reporting solutions, providing stakeholders with real-time insights and improving decision-making processes.
- **Technical Documentation:** Created comprehensive technical documentation and user manuals, facilitating easier system maintenance and user training, resulting in a 20% decrease in support requests.

Education

George Mason University
Master of Science in Applied Information Technology   05/2010

George Mason University
Bachelor of Science in Information Technology / IT Networking & Info Security   05/2008

Certification

PMI - ACP (Agile Certified Practitioner) || Certified SAFe 5 Program Consultant (SPC) || ITILv3 Foundation

Certified Scrum Master (CSM) || Certified Scrum Product Owner (CSPO) || Security+ / Network+ / Project +

Lean Six Sigma (Green Belt)

Skills

Agile methodologies · Facilitation skills · Transformation leadership · Conflict resolution · Continuous improvement · Team coaching · Agile tools proficiency · Change management · Training design · Problem-solving ability · Collaboration enhancement · Performance metrics · Learning mindset · Servant Leadership · Stakeholder Management · Stakeholder Management · Lean Thinking · Scrum Mastery · Kanban Implementation · XP (Extreme Programming) Practices · Scaled Agile Framework (SAFe) · Value Stream Mapping · Vision and Strategy Alignment · Business Agility · Iterative Development · Release Planning · Coaching and Mentoring · Feedback Culture Development · Retrospective Facilitation · Backlog Management · Cross-Functional Team Building · Communication Skills · Risk Management in Agile Projects

Languages

English	Native	French	Fluent	Arabic	Fluent

Additional Skills

JIRA · Trello · Asana · Slack · Microsoft Teams · Zoom · VersionOne · SAFe · Miro · Lucidchart · MS Project · Confluence · Smartsheet · Monday.com · JIRA Align · Balsamiq · VersionOne · Artificial Intelligence · Generative AI · Rally · Github · Smartsheet · Tool / Technology

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Overcoming 25 Roadblocks to Agile Transformation: Successfully Achieving an Agile Culture in Your Company

Larry Chakir

Introducing "Overcoming 25 Roadblocks to Agile Transformation" - the comprehensive guide to breaking down barriers and achieving agile success!

If you're looking to transform your organization's approach to project management and software development, you're not alone. Agile methodologies have become increasingly popular in recent years, but the path to success isn't always clear. That's where this ebook comes in.

Drawing on years of industry experience, this guide provides a deep dive into the 25 most common roadblocks that organizations face when trying to adopt agile practices. From resistance from upper management to communication breakdowns between team members, we've got you covered.

With practical strategies and real-world examples, this ebook will help you:

- Identify roadblocks to agile transformation that you may not have even considered
- Develop a roadmap for overcoming these challenges and achieving agile success
- Build a culture of continuous improvement and collaboration within your organization
- Create a more efficient, productive, and responsive team