

Don't

Fucking

Do

SAFe



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By
Erwin Verweij

Fucking

[**fuhk**-ing, -in]/ 'fʌk ɪŋ, -ɪn /

Also **fuckin'**,

Slang: Vulgar.

1. damned; confounded; awful; detestable; (used to express displeasure, anger, or contempt).

We'd been waiting an hour, and then this fucking guy just cut straight to the front of the line.

2. (used as an intensifier).

This is fucking awesome!

According to the **Oxford English Dictionary**.

Alright, now we know. Let's move on.



Years ago, I was introduced to the world of Scrum and Agile. A world of learning, experimenting, trying things, screwing things up, adjusting, and trying again. I worked with these ideas in different organizations and saw both the good and the bad. Scrum was never perfect. It still isn't. It is a simple framework with only a handful of rules and guidelines, and that simplicity is both its strength and its weakness.

Getting Scrum to work well is already hard enough. Getting it to work inside large corporations, with huge IT landscapes, endless dependencies, and multiple teams all pulling in different directions, is another beast entirely. It was difficult then, and it still is now. So naturally, the demand for something “bigger” started to grow.

The inventors of Scrum came up with early ideas to deal with this. Scrum of Scrums was one of them. It helped a bit with team coordination, but that was about it. It did not really solve the wider organizational mess. It had little to say about management, governance, or scaling beyond a few connected teams. So a lot of organizations were left stumbling around in the dark, trying to make things work with duct tape, hope, and a lot of sticky notes.

Then the scaling void was filled with something new: SAFe, the Scaled Agile Framework. Later it became the Scaled Agile Framework for enterprises, or maybe they just liked the fact that “SAFe” sounds reassuring. Smart marketing, I'll give them that.

So yes, I took the course. I went to see what this new religion was all about. I learned the model, the terminology, the layers, the roles, the ceremonies, the