

# Lean Portfolio Manager

Fact Sheet

## Can your portfolio adapt quickly in today's dynamic business environment?

Learn how Alfabet from Software AG helps Lean product managers engage business and IT stakeholders to create agile and aligned portfolio plans.

As a Lean portfolio manager, you are charged not only with aligning portfolio planning to business strategy, you also have to juggle resources and budget to ensure delivery of a reliable cadence of digital products and releases. On top of this, your business peers expect you to quickly adapt portfolio planning to keep in step with rapidly shifting business conditions and strategies. Unfortunately, the reality in many organizations is that the flexibility to change portfolio planning is blocked by lack of transparency over strategy, investments, and their impacts on business and IT architecture.

Help is here: In leading international companies, integrated IT portfolio management (ITPM) and enterprise architecture (EA) capabilities are supporting implementation of Enterprise Agile to provide Lean portfolio managers the transparency they need to align and flexibly adapt portfolio planning to continuously match business strategy. Interested in knowing how?



## The challenges of managing a Lean portfolio

As a Lean portfolio manager, you have the responsibility to align delivery of digital products and releases to enterprise strategy. You also need to manage resource and budget constraints, as well as provide portfolio planning that is reliable and agile. To be successful, you need the cooperation of diverse stakeholders, such as business and IT managers, product managers, and architects. You also need good governance, process and transparency to design, select and execute the portfolio. However, there are several challenges that need to be overcome.

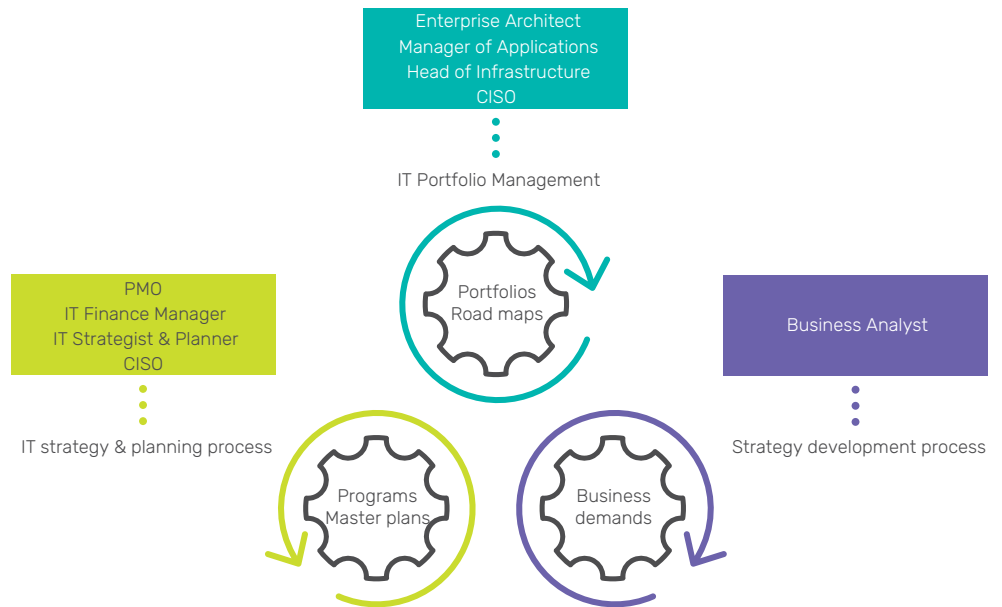
Do you have an overview of business strategy including an inventory of requested and approved strategic themes? Is there a transparent process for prioritizing strategic themes, and do they have approved Agile budgets? If not, your portfolio is hard to align.

Do you know the digital products, releases and tactical demands needed to deliver on a strategic theme? Can they be analyzed according to cost, business value and contribution to strategy? Can you monitor the state of delivery? If not, you cannot prioritize Agile budget spend.

Do you have an overview of the backlog of ideas, epics and features? Are Kanban boards available for backlog management? Can you assess the architectural impact and cost of backlog items? Is your backlog aligned to DevOps systems such as Jira? If not, you don't have the backlog under control.

Do you have the tools to implement Enterprise Agile frameworks such as SAFe®? Are your portfolio assessments being fed from a system of record such as ERP and do you have the analytical tools to identify insights? Can you include classic waterfall projects for hybrid portfolios? If not, you may be missing important information.

Alfabet, the market-leading solution for ITPM and EA, helps you reach your goals by aligning your Lean portfolio, and adapting it quickly to changes in strategy.



To overcome the challenges of harnessing IT's full potential, CIOs, Lean portfolio managers and business managers need to integrate people, processes and information to introduce the necessary governance and transparency into the business-IT relationship.

## Meeting these challenges with ITPM and EA

With ITPM and EA, best-in-class Lean portfolio managers can implement the necessary processes and governance for effective strategy management and portfolio planning. By doing so, they support different stakeholders with core capabilities to meet the challenges of Lean portfolio management. Is the investment portfolio aligned to business strategy? Are product and release plans reliable? Do you understand the impacts of your investments? Can you quickly adapt plans to accommodate strategy changes? These key questions are answered by the following essential capabilities.

### Business strategic planning

This gives Lean portfolio managers the tools they need to understand business strategy and priorities, and align Agile budgets. Further, business models, processes, and capabilities support assessment of the impact of strategy on the business.

### Business IT relationship management

This manages business demand, e.g. ideas and epics, along perspectives such as strategic theme, digital product and business capability for effective funnel management. Demands are associated with impacted business and IT architecture facilitating discovery of redundancy and consolidation before implementation.

### Enterprise architecture management

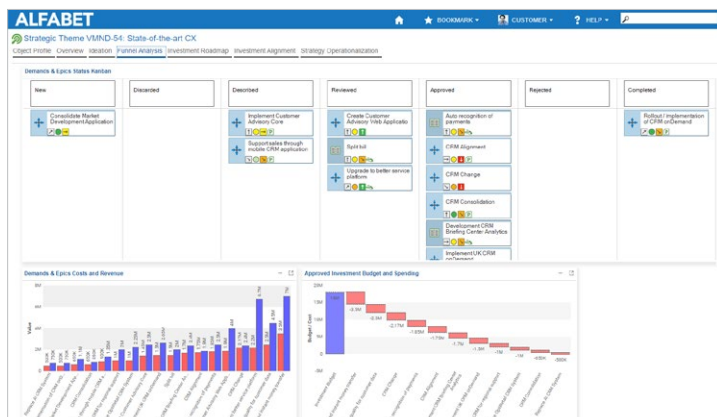
This supports the enterprise architecture and product teams by giving them transparency over the IT landscape and business dependencies. Having this information at their fingertips reduces effort and increases delivery velocity. It also helps identify conflicts and potential synchronization points. The technology standardization capability gives implementation teams information on the best technologies to use, reducing risk and costs.

### IT planning

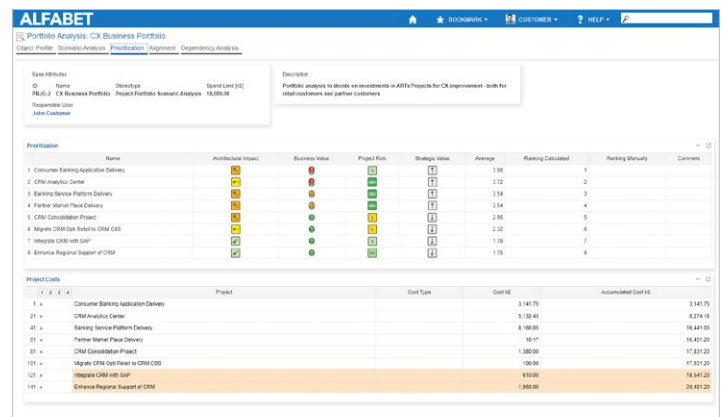
This enables planning of the Agile Release Trains (ARTs) for transparency over delivery of releases and features. It supports inclusion of traditional programs and projects to manage hybrid portfolios. Resource and financial planning are provided as well as portfolio analysis to support decision making. Synchronization points between ARTs can be defined and monitored. The feature backlog management is Kanban enabled and synchronized to DevOps systems, e.g. Jira, to support implementation governance.

### Process-based, intelligent platform

Standard reports, software and methodology are available out-of-the-box to kick-start Lean portfolio management. The workflow engine, event manager, and role-based access enable the necessary processes, e.g. ART approval. Generated visualizations, scenario analysis, and AI-enabled diagnostics provide portfolio insights.



Manage the funnel of ideas and demands for strategic themes



Prioritize investments for the Agile budget

“Enhanced by strategic boldness at the project level, organizations using Alfabet typically pursue their strategic goals more aggressively by putting more projects on their transformation roadmaps.”

– David O’Connell “Integrated Portfolio Management: A Source of Boldness and Tenacity”, Aite Group



**Take the next step**

Contact your Software AG representative today to see how Alfabet can help your enterprise transform into a successful digital business. Also visit [www.softwareag.com/alfabet](http://www.softwareag.com/alfabet).

## Leader in ITPM and EA

Internationally renowned companies across the globe use the market-leading solution for ITPM and EA—Alfabet. The platform provides a set of core capabilities to sustainably manage and ensure IT’s contribution to the business value. ITPM and EA aim at planning and monitoring the performance of IT support throughout its entire life cycle—ensuring that business strategy and demands are completely understood, prioritized and executed on and that the costs, quality and risks to IT support are known and considered during decision-making.

Alfabet is a leading enterprise platform with standard modules that support effective ITPM and EA, offering:

- Over 1,500 standard reports
- Best-practice ITPM and EA processes
- A single, central repository
- Role-based access
- Workflow engine
- Event-driven integration to other systems and repositories
- Support for federated enterprises
- Generated visualizations
- AI-enabled diagnostics

## About Alfabet

<p><b>Business strategic planning</b></p> <p>Business model definition</p> <p>Business strategy validation</p> <p>Business capability management</p> <p>Innovation management</p>	<p><b>Business IT relationship management</b></p> <p>Demand management</p> <p>Operating model planning</p> <p>Business IT synchronization</p>	<p><b>IT planning</b></p> <p>Target architecture design</p> <p>Scenario management</p> <p>Agile portfolio &amp; feature management</p> <p>Project &amp; release design</p> <p>Project portfolio governance</p>	<p><b>Enterprise architecture management</b></p> <p>Application portfolio governance</p> <p>Information portfolio governance</p> <p>Technology portfolio governance</p> <p>Service portfolio governance</p>
<p><b>IT financial management</b></p>	<p>Contract &amp; vendor management</p> <p>Cost driver analysis</p>	<p>Investment optimization</p> <p>OpEx optimization</p>	
<p><b>IT risk management</b></p>	<p>Application risk management</p> <p>Information risk management</p>	<p>Project risk management</p> <p>Compliance management</p>	

With Software AG’s Alfabet solution, essential EA and ITPM capabilities are integrated for optimal results.

### ABOUT SOFTWARE AG

Software AG began its journey in 1969, the year that technology helped put a man on the moon and the software industry was born. Today our infrastructure software makes a world of living connections possible. Every day, millions of lives around the world are connected by our technologies. A fluid flow of data fuels hybrid integration and the Industrial Internet of Things. By connecting applications on the ground and in cloud, businesses, governments and humanity can instantly see opportunities, make decisions and act immediately. Software AG connects the world to keep it living and thriving. For more information, visit [www.softwareag.com](http://www.softwareag.com).

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