

Product Roles in SAFe

Most organizations start with the 'Essential' configuration of SAFe.

In SAFe®, Product Roles are linked to the levels included in your SAFe configuration. Team and Program levels are 'Essential'. Portfolio and Large Solution levels are optional.

Product Owner

Team Level

- Represents the needs of the customer to the team
- Curates and sequences the Stories on the Team Backlog
- Agrees iteration goals with the rest of the Agile Team
- Accepts Stories as complete
- Works with the Product Manager and other Product Owners
- An Agile team has exactly one Product Owner

Product Manager

Program Level

- Focuses on the benefits to the customer and organization
- Sets the vision and maintains the roadmap for the Agile Release Train
- Curates and sequences the Features on the Program Backlog
- Accepts Features as complete
- Has authority to say 'No' to stakeholders, business owners, and leaders
- Works with Solution Manager and other Product Managers
- An Agile Release Train has exactly one Product Manager

Solution Manager

(Optional) 'Large Solution' Level

- Focuses on the benefits to the customer and organization
- Sets the vision and maintains the roadmap for the Solution Train
- Curates and sequences the Capabilities on the Solution Backlog
- Accepts Capabilities as complete
- Has authority to say 'No' to stakeholders, business owners, and leaders
- Works with Product Managers in the Solution Train
- A Solution Train has exactly one Solution Manager

Epic Owner

(Optional) Portfolio Level

- An advocate for a significant initiative or idea, (known as an Epic in SAFe)
- Responsible for writing business cases and obtaining approvals
- Could be anyone in the organization, but often quite senior
- Responsible for obtaining the necessary information so it can be converted to Features or Capabilities