

Targetprocess extends Microsoft Azure DevOps to support SAFe[®]

Microsoft Azure DevOps is a cloud-based platform for managing source code, builds, packages and CI/CD pipelines. It evolved from Microsoft's Visual Studio and Team Foundation Server and was rebranded as Azure DevOps Services in 2018. While it includes boards that are useful for managing team-level backlogs,

sprint planning and tactical execution, Azure DevOps was never intended to support enterprise-wide strategic planning based on large-scale agile frameworks like SAFe. The concepts of strategic themes, lean budgeting, portfolio epics, value streams and agile release trains are not natively supported by Azure DevOps.



Workarounds create more problems

Many organizations cobble together homegrown solutions in an attempt to get Azure DevOps to support SAFe. They may add functionality using third-party Azure DevOps extensions. They may build their own custom “levels” using Azure’s hierarchical Area Paths (similar to nested folders) to represent portfolios, programs or value streams. Or they may add text-based tags to group work items for querying and simulating roll ups.

The problem with these workarounds is that they are difficult to maintain, usually create more problems than they solve and do not address the underlying issue: Azure DevOps is a team-based tool that was not designed to handle large-scale agile portfolio planning based on the SAFe framework.

The good news is that **Targetprocess supports all of these concepts natively and can be integrated seamlessly with Azure DevOps** to solve the challenges of enterprise planning and tracking based on the SAFe framework.

Connect lean budgeting & planning with tactical execution →

Build roadmap, program and portfolio-level views →

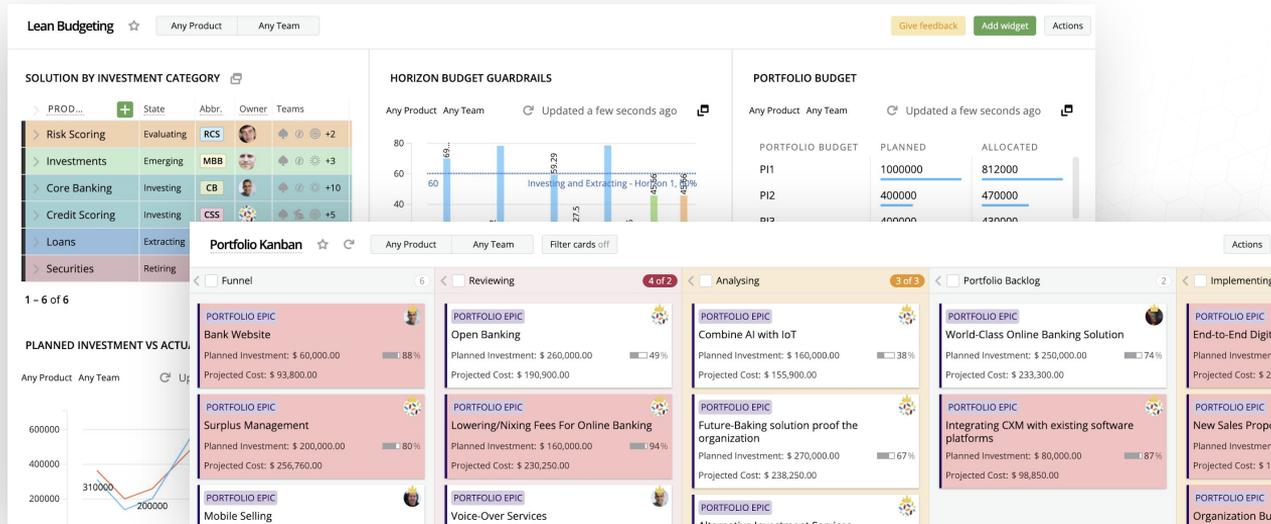
Gain visibility into relationships and dependencies →



Connect lean budgeting & planning with tactical execution

Azure DevOps was designed as a cloud-based platform tool to help teams manage their daily work. There is no native concept of strategic planning or portfolio epics or value streams in Azure DevOps. This means that there is no built-in mechanism for connecting enterprise-wide strategic plans and allocations to the tactical execution of Azure DevOps work items.

While work done at the team level may very well be tracked accurately in Azure DevOps, there is no automated way to roll up this team-level progress and status to verify that the tactical execution of work is aligned with the desired solution portfolio, value streams and lean budget allocation plans.



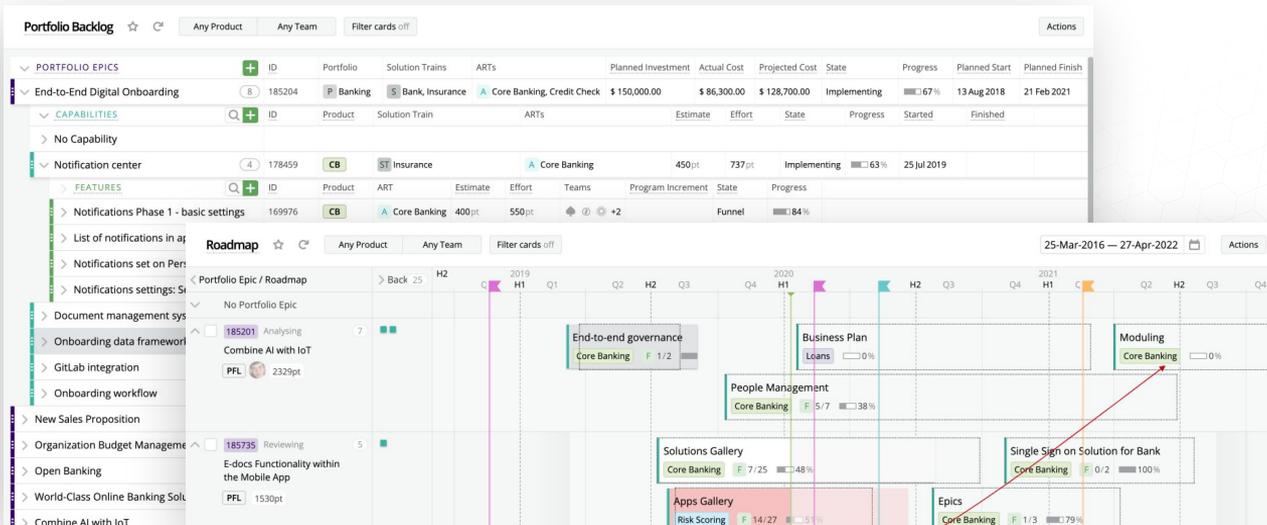
Targetprocess solves this challenge by rolling up Azure DevOps team-level data to Portfolio Epics and Agile Release Trains.



Build roadmap, program and portfolio views

With no automated way to aggregate program and portfolio level status updates from teams using Azure DevOps, release train engineers and portfolio managers often resort to building their status reports manually. They may use Microsoft Project, Powerpoint, or Excel spreadsheets, with data exported manually from Azure DevOps via queries based on text-based tags or Area Paths or by

manually aggregating multiple team-level reports. The problem with all of these methods is that there is no direct connection between the portfolio, program and roadmap views and the actual status of Features and User Stories within Azure DevOps. These portfolio and roadmap reports may be out of date before they are even distributed.



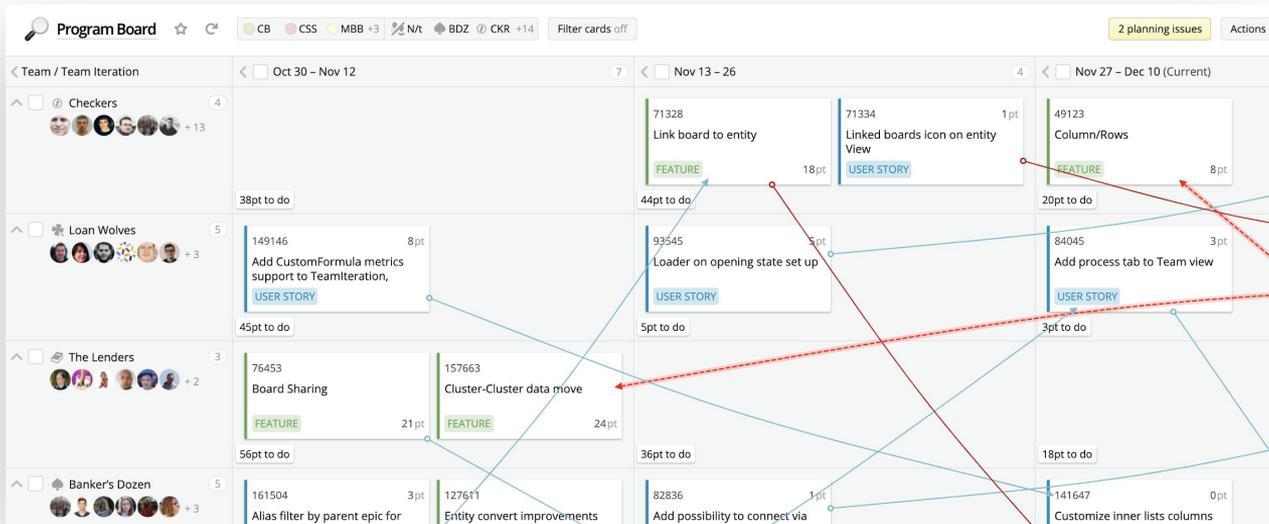
Targetprocess solves this challenge by maintaining a continuous connection between program and portfolio level plans with the progress and status of team-level execution of work items in Azure DevOps.



Gain visibility into relationships and dependencies

Before and during Program Increment (PI) planning, development teams refine high-level estimates, break work into manageable chunks and sequence it across multiple teams based on their capacity and expertise. During this process, teams need to understand, discuss and easily visualize relationships and dependencies across the planned work.

These dependencies need to be visible at multiple levels (portfolio, program and team) within the organization. Azure DevOps does not provide these live, interactive visualizations that depict dependencies spanning multiple programs, large solutions or complex portfolios of work.

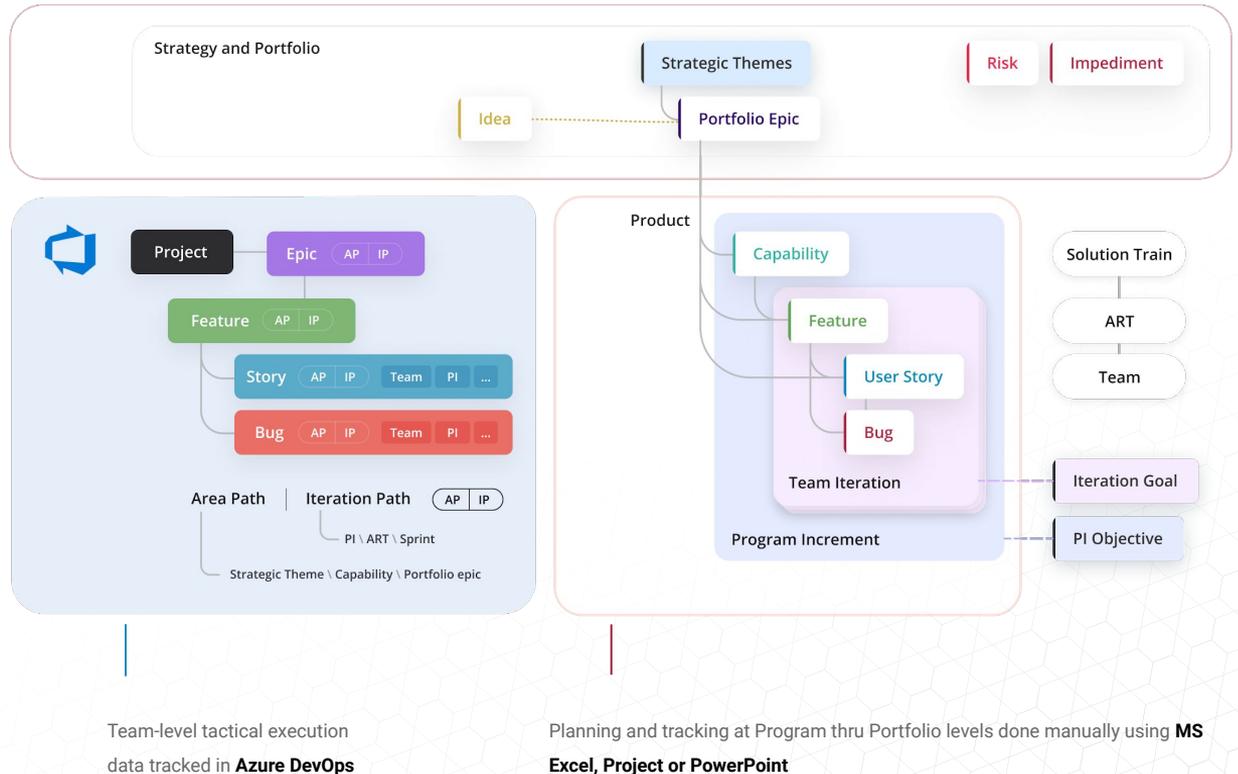


Targetprocess solves this challenge by having teams perform PI Planning at the Feature level in Targetprocess and then push these Features to Azure DevOps where refinement, grooming, and detailed planning of individual User Stories can be completed.

The Challenge

The tools used for strategic planning and lean budgeting are not updated automatically when team-level execution data in Azure DevOps changes.

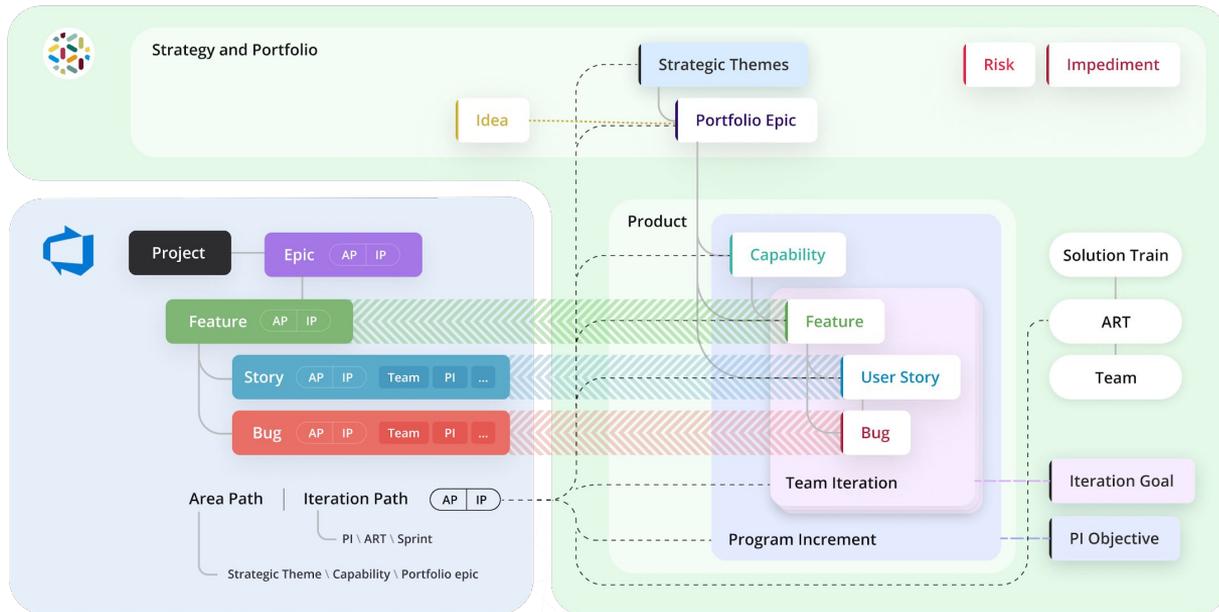
This challenge exists because **there is no ability to link the status** of tactical team-level execution data in Azure DevOps to the Program, Solution, Portfolio levels used for strategic planning and forecasting.



The Solution

Perform Lean Portfolio Management and PI Planning in Targetprocess.

When PI Planning is complete – the features and user stories are then pushed out to the corresponding epics, stories and teams within Azure DevOps.



Azure DevOps Features and User Stories are linked to corresponding entities in **Targetprocess**

Portfolio and program level demand management, lean budget allocations and PI Planning are done within **Targetprocess**

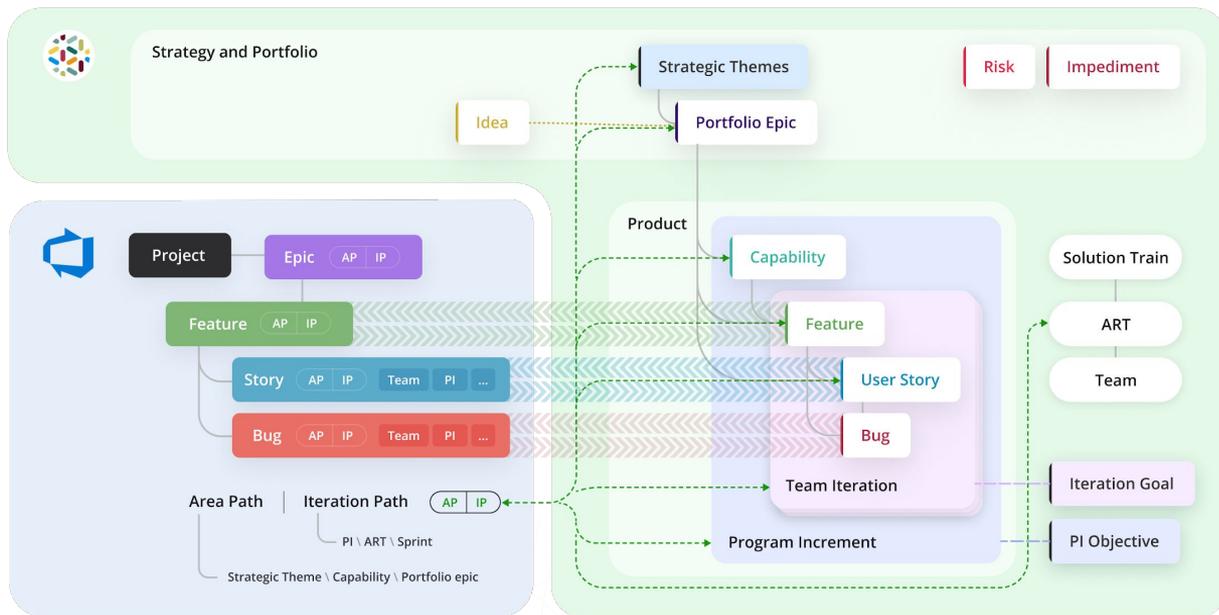
The Result

Enterprise-wide status and metrics are automatically rolled up from Azure DevOps so they are always up-to-date.

After PI Planning the teams can use Azure DevOps to assign the work to specific team members, adjust their initial estimates, and then execute and track the status of their work from within Azure DevOps.

As the work progresses, the status and progress of Azure DevOps work items automatically synchronize with the corresponding entities in Targetprocess.

This provides an ongoing, always up-to-date, enterprise-wide picture of status and progress across your entire organization - from team, to program to portfolio levels.



Team-level tactical execution data tracked in **Azure DevOps**

High-level visibility and up-to-date metrics are provided by **Targetprocess**



Benefits of connecting Azure DevOps team-level data to Targetprocess

Connecting Targetprocess to Azure DevOps allows you to visualize and manage dependencies, track estimates, and perform lean budgeting and strategic planning in Targetprocess, while managing team-level execution data in Azure DevOps.

This ensures that team-level execution data remains in-sync with strategic objectives, providing an accurate picture of plans, progress and execution status across the enterprise.

The screenshot displays the Targetprocess 'Epics Backlog' interface. On the left, a sidebar shows the 'Azure DevOps' integration menu with options like 'AdventureWorks Mobile', 'Overview', 'Boards', 'Work Items', 'Backlogs', 'Sprints', 'Queries', 'Plans', 'Repos', 'Pipelines', 'Test Plans', and 'Artifacts'. The main area shows a hierarchical view of project items under 'PORTFOLIO EPICS'. The items are organized into categories like 'SOLUTION CAPABILITIES', 'PROGRAM FEATURES', and 'USER STORIES'. Each item includes details such as ID, Solution, ARTs, Teams, Program Increment, Effort, State, and Progress. A 'Saved Filters' section is also visible, showing filters like 'Save current filter / Apply saved filter' and 'Migrate old filters'.

Category	ID	Solution	ARTs	Teams	Program Increment	Effort	State	Planned Start	Planned Finish	State	Progress
PORTFOLIO EPICS	11	Targetprocess, VtyDrop			Customer Service Excellence	5 Feb 2019	2 Aug 2019	Analyst			88% 88%
SOLUTION CAPABILITIES	90681	Visual Encoding	Visual Reports		Deploy						
SOLUTION CAPABILITIES	91845	Socialising & Communication	Visual Reports		Backlog						
SOLUTION CAPABILITIES	91845	Notifications and Alerts	Visual Reports		Funnel						
SOLUTION CAPABILITIES	146789	Notification center - more flexible settings	Visual Reports		Validating						
SOLUTION CAPABILITIES	178459	Notification center	Visual Reports		Funnel						
SOLUTION CAPABILITIES	185147	Capacity Management	Visual Reports		Innovation	14 Jan 2019					88% 85%
SOLUTION CAPABILITIES	90678	Dashboards	Visual Reports		State						
SOLUTION CAPABILITIES	88833	Complexity & Getting Started	Visual Reports		Deploy						
SOLUTION CAPABILITIES	88833	Portfolio / Allocation Management	Visual Reports		Validating						
SOLUTION CAPABILITIES	90684	GUI Filters	Visual Reports		Funnel						
PROGRAM FEATURES	99078	Save current filter / Apply saved filter	Visual Reports		Done	17 Jul					
PROGRAM FEATURES	99154	Migrate old filters	Visual Reports		Done						
PROGRAM FEATURES	100470	There is no saved filters' is shown for som...	Visual Reports		Done						
PROGRAM FEATURES	102999	GUI Filters preview	Visual Reports		Done	96 Jul					
PROGRAM FEATURES	102999	GUI Filters MVP	Visual Reports		Done	48 Jul					
PROGRAM FEATURES	100324	GUI Filters Improvements #1	Visual Reports		Funnel						
PROGRAM FEATURES	156096	Organizations Support	Visual Reports		Funnel						
PROGRAM FEATURES	185130	New Product Sales Proposition	Visual Reports		Funnel	2 Jan 2019	12 Jun 2019				88% 91%
PROGRAM FEATURES	185148	Increase Sales via Budgeting for Portfolio Manag...	Visual Reports		Backlog						88% 71%

Tactical execution is *always in-sync* 🎮 with strategic objectives

Using Targetprocess as the “single source of truth” in this fashion will allow development teams to use Azure DevOps to track their day-to-day work and manage code and releases.

And business leaders and RTE's can keep track of cross-team dependencies, Feature and Epic progress as well as steer the progress based on up-to-date portfolio metrics from within Targetprocess.



Thank you!

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with Targetprocess

[November 5, 10:00 CST](#)