

NISHANT PANCHOLI

Release Train Engineer | Technical Project Manager | Agile Program Delivery Leader

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Clearance: Public Trust

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Release Train Engineer and Technical Project Manager with 15+ years leading Agile program delivery across government, financial services, healthcare, and retail. Currently lead a 5-team, 52-person Agile Release Train on a mission-critical, regulated system — including a statewide Election Management System — with responsibility for PI Planning, release readiness, cross-team dependency management, budget and vendor oversight, and executive delivery reporting. Blends SAFe/Scrum delivery leadership with core project management disciplines: milestone and roadmap planning, RAID/risk management, resource planning, and financial tracking. Hands-on builder of AI-assisted delivery tooling and shipped SaaS products, bringing practical AI/LLM fluency to modern engineering organizations. Known for translating architect and product direction into predictable, measurable delivery.

CORE COMPETENCIES

PI Planning & ART Execution • Technical Project Management • Project Budgeting & Financial Tracking • Vendor & Contract Management • Release Management & Release Readiness • Milestone & Roadmap Planning • RAID / Risk & Issue Management • Resource & Capacity Planning • Scrum of Scrums • Dependency Management • Stakeholder & Executive Communication • Delivery Metrics & Status Reporting • Backlog Refinement & Prioritization • Agile Coaching & Team Development • SDLC Governance • Change Management • SAFe • Scrum • Kanban • Hybrid / Waterfall-to-Agile

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Agile & PM Tools: Jira, Confluence, Azure DevOps, Smartsheet, ServiceNow, Power BI, Mural, Lucidspark, AgilityHealth, Trello, Asana, Microsoft 365, Google Workspace

Cloud & DevSecOps: AWS (GovCloud, Fargate, EKS), Docker, GitLab CI/CD, Bamboo CI, SonarQube, NGINX, DoD DevSecOps practices, code vulnerability scanning

Data & APIs: Oracle, PostgreSQL, DynamoDB, SQL/NoSQL integration, XML/XSD, REST APIs, API gateways, Postman, Swagger

Engineering Context: React / Micro-Frontends, Java Spring Boot, Node.js, component library coordination

AI & Automation: Anthropic Claude API, Claude Code, AI agents & multi-agent workflows, Model Context Protocol (MCP), prompt engineering, AI-assisted (vibe) coding, Python automation, Next.js/Vercel, Stripe, Neon PostgreSQL

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

The Canton Group | Release Train Engineer / Agile Delivery Lead

Remote | Mar 2024 – Present

- Lead the Agile Release Train for a statewide Election Management System, coordinating 5 engineering teams (52 practitioners) across parallel workstreams — including state certification and legacy-system data migration — while keeping delivery aligned to PI objectives and stakeholder priorities.
- Facilitate PI Planning, ART Sync, Scrum of Scrums, system demos, and release-readiness reviews; own cross-team dependency management and impediment escalation for the full train.
- Partner with architects, product owners, DevOps, QA, and security to convert technical direction into prioritized backlogs, milestones, and risk-managed team commitments.
- Track and manage delivery budgets and resource allocation across the train; coordinate vendor relationships and contract deliverables in support of program milestones.
- Maintain program-level roadmaps, milestone plans, and RAID logs; run status reporting up to executive level including sprint demos, release notes, and Monthly Business Review presentations.
- Designed and built an AI-assisted Discrepancy Dashboard integrating live Azure DevOps and BambooHR data across the train's teams — 11 automated backlog-quality rules, daily hours/capacity tracking, committed-vs-injected scope trends, capacity forecasting, and auto-generated release notes — giving leadership and Delivery Leads a single live source of delivery truth.
- Mentor 4 Delivery Leads and multiple Scrum Masters; promoted into the ADL/RTE role based on delivery performance.

Freddie Mac | Senior Agile Coach (Program & Project Delivery)

McLean, VA | Nov 2022 – Mar 2024

- Led delivery for 2 Agile teams in the Single-Family organization, preparing loan-level mortgage data for external vendor analytics and risk-based loan pooling — enabling secondary-market investors to evaluate and purchase loans by risk profile.

- Owned project plans and delivery timelines across both teams, coordinating milestones, data-delivery commitments to vendors, and the handling of sensitive borrower data in a regulated GSE environment.
- Managed cross-team risks and dependencies; ran recurring status reporting to leadership covering progress, risk posture, and delivery forecasts.
- Coached teams through Scrum adoption and mentored Scrum Masters and Product Owners on estimation, story decomposition, and metrics-driven continuous improvement.

Capital One | Agile Delivery Lead

McLean, VA (Hybrid) | Feb 2021 – Nov 2022

- Led Agile delivery for credit policy technology teams in a high-visibility fintech environment — project planning, milestone tracking, risk escalation, and predictable sprint execution.
- Created 20+ themed retrospective formats adopted across the enterprise Agile community; improved remote collaboration, onboarding, and inspect-and-adapt behavior.
- Served as PI Demo champion, coaching teams to communicate released product value to business stakeholders; led Kanban-to-Scrum transitions where workstreams required it.

Softrams | Scrum Master — CMS / HPMS Modernization

Leesburg, VA | Sep 2019 – Feb 2021

- Supported 7 Agile teams modernizing the CMS Health Plan Management System (HPMS) — the federal platform used to administer Medicare health and drug plan data — revamping a legacy site with a modern front-end (React/Angular) and a new CI/CD DevSecOps pipeline.
- Coordinated delivery across parallel legacy-support and redesign workstreams, tracking dependencies, impediments, and release timelines against government stakeholder commitments.
- Built Jira boards and executive dashboards that gave CMS and Softrams leadership clear visibility into modernization progress, risk, and trends.
- Founded a Scrum Community of Practice and trained leadership on Agile processes, toolsets, and AgilityHealth feedback loops.

AmTote International | Scrum Master

Hunt Valley, MD | Jul 2018 – Sep 2019

- Supported game backend, DevOps, and enterprise teams: dependency coordination, impediment tracking, capacity assessment, effort estimation, and delivery forecasting.

EARLIER EXPERIENCE

Capital One — Scrum Master (2017–2018) • Anthem, Inc. — Scrum Master (2017–2018) • Ross Stores — Scrum Master (2015–2017) • Staples — Business Analyst / Scrum Master (2013–2015) • Bass Pro Shops — Business Analyst (2010–2013). Roles spanned Waterfall-to-Agile transformation, Jira process normalization, requirements analysis, JAD facilitation, UAT, and release forecasting.

AI & PRODUCT PROJECTS (INDEPENDENT)

Kensho Cards (kenshocards.com) | Founder — NFC/QR Smart Business Card SaaS Platform

2025 – Present

- Designed, built, and launched a production SaaS platform with live users using AI-assisted development (Claude Code): Next.js on Vercel, Neon PostgreSQL, Clerk auth, Stripe payments, Upstash Redis rate limiting, and transactional email.
- Ran end-to-end product delivery solo — 7-SKU product line, 1:1 QR-to-NFC variable-data encoding spec, bilingual manufacturing RFQ package, and international supplier negotiation.

Rankora | Founder — AI-Powered Local SEO Audit Platform (pre-launch)

2025 – Present

- Built a Python lead-generation pipeline that discovered 148+ qualified local business leads; integrated DataForSEO APIs and a custom Claude skill that auto-generates client-ready PDF audit reports with scoring and visual charts.

Claude Code Multi-Agent Delivery System | Personal AI Engineering Toolkit

2025 – Present

- Architected a 9-agent, 28-skill AI automation environment (Claude Code + MCP integrations) that automates sprint reporting, document generation, UI design, and analysis workflows — directly applying agentic AI to program delivery work.

CERTIFICATIONS

Certified Scrum Master (CSM) • SAFe Advanced Scrum Master (SASM) • SAFe Product Owner/Product Manager (POPM) • ICAgile Certified Professional – Agile Coaching (ICP-ACC) • Certified AgilityHealth Facilitator (AHF)

EDUCATION

Business Management (Marketing Major) — Lambton College, Ontario, Canada — 2008–2010

Bachelor's Degree, Computer Science — Dharmsinh Desai Institute of Technology (DDIT), Nadiad, India — 2005–2008