

The Algile Framework

Reference Guide · v1.6 · Salim Gomri · July 2026

Definition

The Algile framework organizes product development with AI. It defines the Algile cycle: a three-phase flow from need to delivery. It complements Scrum, Kanban and SAFe. It does not replace them.

The rule: the feature is the unit of steering, the story is the unit of execution. The feature carries the value, the trade-offs and the reporting. The story carries the work.

Theory

The cycle is a flow. Each feature moves through it at its own pace. Several features travel through it in parallel, at different stages. Every event is a point of inspection and adaptation.

Control happens up front: humans define a frame before AI produces anything, and AI produces within that frame, nothing more. The frame constrains scope, architecture, data and exclusions. It does not prescribe the solution.

Outcome beats output. Every feature carries a measurable benefit hypothesis. The benefit is measured after delivery.

The pace is sustainable. AI speeds up production, not people. Sprint cadence does not shrink just because AI is fast.

Four laws of decision. Business decides on value. IT informs feasibility. The team validates executability. AI declares, humans decide.

Artifacts

The feature: the unit of steering, inspired by the SAFe feature but sized to be deliverable within one sprint by a single team. With AI, SAFe's time horizons no longer hold. It carries a benefit hypothesis, a success metric, a measurement plan and acceptance criteria. It comes with its feature summary: the steering document, consolidated by AI at feature level and kept current at all times.

The story: a card, a conversation, a confirmation. AI drafts the card and the confirmation. The conversation is human and mandatory. Slicing is vertical and follows INVEST. Its Definition of Ready: impacted components named, data schema validated when touched, criteria automatically testable.

The frame: the scope, the architecture constraints, the sensitive points on data, the exclusions, and AI compliance: authorized models, personal-data rules, level of use. It is set before any AI production.

The WSJF score: Cost of Delay divided by job size. Cost of Delay aggregates three components: user-business value, time criticality, and risk reduction or opportunity enablement. Size starts as a t-shirt size, then becomes the sum of story points after AI analysis. The highest score gets built first: it is what decides the order in which features travel through the cycle.

The audit trail: every AI output is kept together with its prompt, the model version and the human verdict. Control is exercised by exception and by risk level.

Roles

The Scrum roles do not change.

The Product Owner remains solely accountable for the value of the product and for the Product Backlog.

The Scrum Master is the guardian of the framework. They facilitate the cycle, protect the team's sustainable pace and surface signals from the ground: a developer who cannot find their footing with AI, a status that stalls, a rule that does not survive contact with reality. The role does not change its name.

The team challenges and validates readiness, develops a share of the stories defined in its AI team agreement, and inspects the cycle in retrospectives. Any member may develop a story themselves, by choice. AI serves humans, never the other way around.

The framework adds two hats. They are not new positions: they are worn by people you already have.

The framing pair brings together, per feature, a business referent and an IT referent. The business referent is delegated by the Product Owner, or is the Product Owner in person: on a small team, everyone gets their hands dirty. The IT referent can be the enterprise architect or any other relevant IT profile. The hat rotates from one feature to the next. The business referent remains accountable for the feature from start to finish. The pair's work in progress is limited.

The feature steward is the team member who carries the feature through development. They may or may not be the IT referent from the framing pair. They drive the AI, review what it generates, own the status and present at the Review. Stories remain distributable. Features with no volunteer get assigned. There is no cap on how many features one steward takes in a row: the goal is to spread knowledge, while watching for one thing, never letting a single brain become a bottleneck.

And one particular role closes the list.

The AI analyzes, slices, estimates, synthesizes, reworks and develops within a predefined frame. It declares its work done. It decides

nothing.

The states of the Algile feature

Six states, one side exit. Each state has a Definition of Ready (entry conditions) and a Definition of Done (exit conditions). A status whose exit produces no new artifact is not a status: it is an exit criterion of the previous state. Declaration transitions are applied by AI, with an audit artifact, and are revocable. Decision transitions belong to humans.

Status	Who decides	DoR (entry)	DoD (exit)
Funnel	The PO or the BA	An idea, request or opportunity exists	Need articulated: problem, expected value, out of scope
Framed	The pair	Need articulated, pair named	Frame set (scope, architecture, data, exclusions), AI compliance checked, Cost of Delay and t-shirt size set: provisional WSJF
Analyzed	AI declares, the pair validates	Frame set, quality inputs available	Functional and technical analyses delivered, sliced into estimated stories, prioritization proposed, summary consolidated, audit trail complete, and pair validation closed: amendments handled, WSJF recalibrated, reservations documented
Ready	The team	Summary validated by the pair, pre-read sent before the session	Presented as a pair, story-by-story conversation held, per-story DoR satisfied, estimates voted, prioritization validated by the team
Doing	The steward	Steward named, feature in the Sprint Goal, capacity respected	Stories finished, criteria tests green, generated code reviewed, feature explainable by the steward without AI
Done	The Review	DoD met, feature demonstrated	Presented at the Review, benefit measured according to plan. Done does not mean benefit confirmed: measurement comes after
Cancelled	The business, at any time	Business decision documented	Impacts closed out, history preserved, clean exit from the flow

The framing loop plays out inside the Analyzed status: AI declares, the pair validates or sends back, AI reworks. The exit from the status is the pair's validation.

A feature that stalls beyond a threshold calibrated by the organization triggers a conversation.

Organizations with a heavyweight release process insert their technical statuses between Doing and Done. The core of the cycle does not change. Deploying and activating are two different decisions.

Events

The cycle is organized in three phases: Framing, Validation, Execution.

Framing (the pair, per feature). Set the frame, AI compliance included. Assess Cost of Delay and a t-shirt size: their ratio gives the provisional WSJF, the score that says which feature to build first. Invite the prospective steward for complex features.

AI analysis (autonomous, one pass). Functional and technical analyses, impacts, dependencies, slicing into stories estimated in points, proposed prioritization, summary. Job size becomes the sum of the points: the WSJF recalibrates.

The framing loop (per feature, inside the Analyzed status). The pair validates or amends: coherence, shape of the slicing, prioritization. AI reworks, the pair revalidates. After three rounds, the need goes back to expression or the feature splits in two. Business decides, IT reservations are documented.

Refinement (the team). Pre-read before the session. The pair presents together. The conversation happens story by story. Estimation is voted first, discussion focuses on divergences. Micro-adjustments are reworked by AI and revalidated in session. Scope, architecture and data go back through the framing loop. The team validates readiness.

Sprint Planning and the daily. The Sprint Goal is phrased at feature level. A team limits itself to one or two features in Doing. The daily remains a team synchronization: it happens at feature level, and everyone talks about whatever serves alignment on the Sprint Goal.

The Review. Stewards present the delivered features, what worked and what did not work with AI, and the measured benefit of features from previous sprints.

The Augmented Retro. It inspects the team and the cycle. Five measures: framing-loop rejection rate, AI-output revision rate, time per status, share of human development, deployments-to-CFR ratio.

At scale

Three mechanisms. Cross-feature dependencies, produced by AI analysis, roll up onto a transverse board. A weekly thirty-minute Feature Sync brings together the stewards and the pairs involved. Feature summaries aggregate upward for leadership. Coordination at scale is a by-product of the cycle.

SAFe mapping: Funnel = Funnel, Analysis = Framed then Analyzed, Backlog = Ready, Implementation = Doing, Done = Done, Cancelled =

Cancelled. The overlay is direct: you do not change your Kanban, you equip it.

Rules

1. The frame constrains, it does not prescribe.
2. The PO is one person, and business remains accountable for every feature. The PO delegates the framing or carries it in person, depending on team size.
3. AI declares, humans decide. Every AI transition carries its audit artifact and remains revocable.
4. The pair rotates, its work in progress is limited, minor decisions are delegated to the steward.
5. Story-by-story challenge belongs to the team, not to the pair.
6. Scope, architecture and data are never revalidated on the fly.
7. A feature that cannot be explained without AI is simulated. A feature with no benefit measurement is an output.
8. One to two features in Doing per team, distributable stories, knowledge of every feature carried by at least two people.
9. Every AI output is audited: prompt, model version, human verdict.
10. A feature dies cleanly: Cancelled is a status.
11. The pace stays sustainable. AI speeds up production, not people.
12. Nothing gets renamed. Scrum stays Scrum, the Scrum Master stays Scrum Master. The framework raises the granularity, not the vocabulary.

Version note

This guide is normative and deliberately short. The doctrine, the rationale and the examples live in the companion text and in Le Système S.A.L.I.M. (Salim Gomri, 2026). The Algile framework is grounded in the values of the Algile Manifesto (aigile.lu, May 2025). English edition of v1.6, adapted (not translated word for word) from the French reference version.

We do Algile, not agile.

aigile.lu/framework · [Le Système S.A.L.I.M.](#) · [contact via aigile.lu](#)