CA Agile Central vs GitLab

CA Agile Central is an agile project planning and management tool designed to help enterprise teams adopt and implement agile methodologies. Based on the acquisition of Rally Software, Agile Central enables teams to manage their backlog of user stories, estimate and plan the work to deliver the user stories and then manage the actual delivery. Rally supports multiple agile methodologies from sprints, where the delivery work is timeboxed to kanban, where the focus is on flow.

FEATURES		

Portfolio Planning

Establishing strategic priorities and direction in order to govern the allocation of corporate resources to support specific business/IT initiatives. Strategic planning evaluates in-flight projects and proposed future initiatves to shape and govern the ongoing investment in projects and discretionary work. Able to model and optimize different portfolio investment scenarios to determine the ideal funding combinations to meet strategic priorities. Specific features would include: Proposals, epics, backlog, strategic alignment, estimation, prioritization, what-if, monte-carlo simulation, optimization.

Resource/Team management

Tracks and manages the availability of team members by skill, experience, location, and cost, so they can support both planned and unplanned work. Specific features would include: individual capacity, individual skills, individual assignments, labor cost.

Financial management

Tracking, managing and reporting on the budget and actual spend of projects and programs within specific portfolios. Able to allocate costs to OPex or CAPex depending on specific organization reporting rules. Time tracking information used to determine labor cost allocations. Specific features would include: budget, spend, time, resource cost.

Portfolio status management

Tracks and reports on the overall status and health (scope, schedule, budget) of projects and programs within the portfolio to enable executives to support project execution. Specific features would include: forecasting, status tracking, release planning, roadmap, milestones, project/program hierarchy.

SAFe - Lean Portfolio

Provides support for the key elements of [Lean Portfolio Management(https://www.scaledagileframework.com/lean-portfolio-management/). Specific features would include: Release Train, Lean Portfolio Management.

Portfolio Management

Plan and track work at the project and portfolio level. Manage capacity and resources together with Portfolio Management.

Learn more about Portfolio Management

Product Roadmap

Establishing the **product** vision and strategy to organize, govern and shape the effort of the multi-disciplinary team building specific business services. The Product Roadmap is based on specific business goals and objectives, manages high level requirements, prioritizes future features, allocates resources, tracks progress and measures business results linked to the business strategy. Specific features would include: Product Strategy, Idea Gathering, Requirements Management, Resource Management, Feedback Collection, Milestone Tracking, Release Management, Workflow Management, Feature Tracking/Deviation, Roadmap Analytics, Centralized Notes, Report Generation, Imports, API/SDK, Conflict Management, and Customized Alerting.

Work Planning/ Management

Able to define, schedule and assign specific tasks to team members and manage the sequence and interdependency of tasks with each other. This form of structured planning is needed when tasks are clearly defined and sequence of execution is critical. Specific features would include: WBS, Gantt Chart, Task Assignment, Scheduling, task sequence, task relationships.

Backlog Management

Able to capture and track future features, capabilities and work in a consolodated and organized list which enables the team to organize, prioritize, accept, plan and start work on relevant items. The backlog is where future work is captured, defined, evaluated, and planned. Specific features would include: Backlog, user stories, issues, effort estimate, priority, backlog board.

Scrum

Able to support the time-boxed (sprint) approach of the Agile -Scrum software delivery. Specific features would include: Issues, scrum boards, burndown charts, burn up.

Kanban

Able to support the flow based approach of Agile - Kanban software delivery. Specific features would include: Issues, Kanban boards, burn up, cumulative flow diagram.

SAFe

Able to support the key principles and practices of the [Essential SAFe configuration.] (https://www.scaledagileframework.com/essential-safe/), Agile Release Train, (a combined CD pipeline where multiple projects allign to release), Planning Increment (PI) Planning (cadence driven project planning/ vision)

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Project Financial Management

Tracking, managing and reporting on the budget and acutal costs of the project. Able to allocate costs to OPex or CAPex depending on specific organization reporting rules. Time tracking information used to determine labor cost allocations. Specific features would include: budget, spend, time tracking, resource cost, Capex/Opex.

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Risk/Issue Management

Able to define and manage project RISK and ISSUE status and workflow to identify, track, mitigate and resolve potential risks and active issues facing the project. Risk/Issue status and resolution managed through online workfow that tracks assignment and actions to address the specific item. Specific features would include: workflow, risk severity, risk priority, Assigning Risk/Issue for action, Risk/Issue status.

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Project Time Tracking

Able to capture individual time reporting for specific assigned tasks and then to allocate labor costs to the appropriate project. Specific features would include: estimate, actual, cost, reporting.

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DevOps Pipeline

Able to establish visiblity into the end to end DevOps pipeline so the entire team is aware of pipeline status and can contribute to overall success. Specific features would include: visibility into status of pipeline

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Requirements Management

Able to gather, document, refine and track approval of business and system requirements. Managing and tracking the relationships between requirments and other requirements, requirements and code, requirements and test cases for each version of requirements. Specific features would include: definition, traceability, requirement hierarchy, dependency.

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Quality Management

Able to support test planning, definition of test cases, results of test execution and corresponding backlog of work resulting from failed tests. Specific features would include: Test case planning, test execution, defect tracking (backlog), severity, priority.

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Epics

Plan and track work at the feature level by collecting multiple issues together in the same group.

Learn more about Epics

Roadmaps

Visualize multiple epics across time in a roadmap view

Learn more about Roadmaps

Group Milestones

Create and manage milestones across projects, to work towards a target date from the group level. View all the issues for the milestone you're currently working on across multiple projects.

Learn more about Group Milestones

Powerful Issue Tracker

Quickly set the status, assignee or milestone for multiple issues at the same time or easily filter them on any properties. See milestones and issues across projects.

Learn more about the Issue Tracker

Issue Boards

GitLab has Issue Boards, each list of an Issue Board is based on a label that exists in your issue tracker. The Issue Board will therefore match the state of your issue tracker in a user-friendly way.

Learn more about GitLab Issue Boards

Burndown Charts

GitLab provides Burndown Charts as part of Milestones. This allows users to better track progress during a sprint or while working on a new version of their software.

Read our Burndown Chart Documentation

Issue Weights

GitLab lets you manage issues using Agile practices by setting the weight of an issue.

Read our Issue Weights documentation

Multiple Project Issue Boards

Large companies often have hundreds of different projects, all with different moving parts at the same time. GitLab Enterprise Edition allows for multiple Issue Boards for a single project so you can to plan, organize, and visualize a workflow for a feature or product release. Multiple Issue Boards are particularly useful for large projects with more than one team or in situations where a repository is used to host the code of multiple products.

Multiple Project Issue Boards

Related issues

Explicitly mark issues as related and track their status.

Learn more about Related Issues

Multiple assignees for issues

Assign more than one person to an issue at a time.

Read our Multiple Assignees Documentation

Time tracking

Time Tracking in GitLab lets your team add estimates and record time spent on issues and merge requests.

Learn more about Time Tracking

Service Desk

Allow external users to create issues in your GitLab instance without an account and without access to anything except their issue. Manage tickets from the GitLab interface.

Learn more about Service Desk

Due dates for individual issues

In GitLab, you can set a due date for individual issues. This is very convenient if you have small tasks with a specific deadline.

Due dates documentation

Move issues between projects

You can move issues between projects in GitLab. All links, history and comments will be copied and the original issue will reference the newly moved issue. This makes working with multiple issue trackers much easier.

Learn more about moving issues between projects

Issue board templates

Issue boards/dashboards reflect an organizations flow for processing work items. These boards can reflect individualized workflow or follow established patterns. Templates for established patterns (such as Scrum and Kanban) can make setup of new boards easier.

Learn more about GitLab Issue Boards

Issue Board Swimlanes

View horizontal swimlanes of issues in the issue board, separated by milestones or labels.

Issue Board Swimlanes

Create new issues from the Issue Board

With GitLab Issue Boards, you can create issues directly from the board and assign multiple labels allowing them to appear on multiple boards.

Learn how to create a new issue from the Issue Board

Construct Issue Boards around issue labels

An Issue Board is based on its project's label structure, therefore, it applies the same descriptive labels to indicate placement on the board. GitLab issues can appear on multiple issues and they still have meaning without the context of a particular board.

Learn more about labels and Issue Boards

Add multiple issues to the board

From an Issue Board, you can add multiple issues to lists in the board by selecting one or more existing issues.

Learn how to add multiple issues to your Issue Board.

Configurable Issue Boards

Associate a board with a milestone, labels, an assignee, and a weight

Learn more about configurable Issue Boards

Issue Board Focus Mode

Get more information at a time with the Issue Board focus mode, which removes all unnecessary elements from the screen to show your Issue Boards.

Learn more about Issue Board focus mode

Create issue from email

Create an issue from email by sending in the issue title and description.

Create issue from email

Confidential Issues

Keep your information secure with Confidential Issues. With GitLab, you can create confidential issues visible only for project members with Reporter access level or above.

Learn more about Confidential Issues

Out-of-the-box Agile reporting

Teams have access to more than a dozen out-of-the-box reports with real-time, actionable insights into how their team is performing sprint over sprint. Example reports are sprint burndown, epic burndown, cumulative flow diagram, velocity chart, burn up chart, and sprint report.

Read our Burndown Chart Documentation

Issue Boards based on application specific query language

Define what issues show in an issue board using an application specific query language

Learn more about Configuring GitLab Issue Boards

Create, search and view issues from chat

Quickly create, view and search for issues straight from chat.

Read the documentation on Slash commands

Mattermost integration

Mattermost can be automatically installed and integrated using GitLab Omnibus

Read the documentation on Mattermost integration

Multiple Group Issue Boards

Multiple Group Issue Boards, similar to Multiple Project Issue Boards

Multiple Groject Issue Boards

Multiple integrations

GitLab can integrate with Authentication and Authorization (LDAP / AD) mechanisms, multiple 3rd party services, CI/CD, and other tools such as ALM, PLM, Agile and Automation tools.

Learn more about GitLab's integrations

Labels

Labels provide an easy way to categorize issues or merge requests based on descriptive titles as 'bug', or 'documentation'.

Learn more about GitLab Labels

Automatically close issue(s) when a merge request is merged

With GitLab, you can use specific keywords to close one or more issues as soon as a merge request is merged.

Learn more about automatically closing issues

Configurable issue closing pattern

Define your own specific keywords to close one or more issues as soon as a merge request is merged.

Learn more about automatically closing issues

Issues and merge requests templates

By adding a description template to your MRs, users who create a new issue or merge request can select a template to help them to communicate effectively.

Learn more about GitLab Description Templates