



FASTER, BETTER RESEARCH LAB REPORTING AND INSIGHTS WITH AUTOMATED QUADS

BACKGROUND

A US DoD agency faced significant challenges with their traditional PowerPoint work management reporting. These static, manual reports not only hindered dynamic insights but also created a heavy administrative burden due to constant updates and data management. This lack of agility and responsiveness severely impacted their ability to conduct effective research and development.

CLIENT CHALLENGE




The agency identified several reporting pain points:

- Excessive Toil: Time-consuming updates drained valuable resources, with heavy reliance on specific personnel, creating potential delays.
- Collaboration Barriers: Static formats and department silos obstructed teamwork and easy access to data.
- Automation Gaps: The lack of real-time data and automation resulted in siloed, outdated information.
- Scalability Issues: Existing systems struggled to adapt, grow, and evolve with the organization's needs.

WHAT WE DID

The agency needed a solution that was effective and realistic to implement – without waiting for approval for new, specialized data mining tools. To help deliver fast outcomes LSA Digital tailored the widely available, IT-approved Atlassian toolset to build a working solution: Automated Quads. This solution integrated Confluence and Jira to create a dynamic, real-time reporting platform, leveraging quality data that teams were starting to put into Jira (see our case study, [Effective Agility – Starting Small and Scaling Up with Micro-Learning & Hands-on Tooling](#)). This led to significantly reduced administrative overhead while enhancing data visibility and collaboration.

SNAPSHOT

-  Application / IT Portfolio Rationalization
-  Department of Defense
-  Confluence, Jira

PAIN POINTS

- Excessive Toil
- Collaboration barriers
- Automation gaps
- Scalability issues

RESULTS

- Empowered, real-time decision-making
- Reduced manual labor
- Enhanced collaboration with simple tools
- Automated dashboard reporting

Key Objectives

Summary	Status
Develop, schedule, and facilitate training to support DMM WG and pilot teams	IN PROGRESS
ID DMM Transformation End State and Assist in Roadmap Dev	IN PROGRESS
DMM WG and Pilot Teams Epic and Feature Decomp Work	DONE
Common Terminology and Agility Sca	IN PROGRESS

4 issues Refresh

Drill Down to Jira Issue Details

Key Players

Role / Resources
Agility-at-Scale Product Manager:
Agility-at-Scale Product Owner:
Agile Coach / Scrum Master:
Agility-at-Scale Contractor Coordinator:
Agility-at-Scale Contractors:

Roadmap

Month	July 23	August 23	September 23
Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prep for Jira / Confluence FOG Support Pilot Team Epic Identification Workshop Prep 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pilot Team Epic Identification Workshop Delivery DMM WG Deliver Feature Decomp Workshop Finalize JIRA Baseline Slides with Leads JIRA/Conf Hands On Training Delivery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision on DMM WG - Pre-Pi Planning Event DMM WG - Pre-Pi Planning Event- Prep

8 issues Refresh

Drill Down to Jira Issue Details

Risks

Summary	Status	Risk Level
IF the time between discussion and action with the Government product managers / key stakeholders is not shorted THEN the ability to deliver assistance on recommendations will cause delays	OPEN	ART
IF the Lack of key team leaders engaged with LSA Coaches is not resolved, THEN capture of the work needed for digital transformation will not be possible	OPEN	ART
IF we have Onsite agile coaching for 2wks a month, THEN we will lack staff to maintain other work required for LSA.	OPEN	Team
IF more Collaboration between Government product manager and key stakeholders is not established, THEN some or all digital transformation Objectives will not be achieved.	OPEN	ART
IF Alignment on a shared understanding of key terminology across the organization is not established, THEN it will have a significant impact on the time it takes to complete digital transformation.	OPEN	ART
IF Pre-Pi Planning schedule is not set and agreed upon, THEN we will not be able to coordinate individual schedules for F personnel	OPEN	ART

6 issues Refresh

Drill Down to Risk Information

KEY BENEFITS

The Automated Quads solution had several benefits for the agency:

- **Dynamic Insights for Teams and Leadership:** Teams and leadership gain direct, real-time transparency to understand team progress against goals
- **Reduced Administrative Burden:** Teams to spend more “bench time” on research, development and engineering.
- **Enhanced Agility for Teams:** Consistent transparency and faster, “trusted” metrics allow teams to make faster course corrections, adapting quickly and optimizing resources.
- **Improved Decision-Making for Leadership:** Real-time insights into objectives, status, and risks empower leadership to adjust goals and priorities based on more realistic “ground conditions”.

WORDS OF ADVICE

Automated Quads provide key benefits for both teams and leadership, replacing outdated manual methods with a dynamic, real-time reporting and metrics. However, tool configuration is the easiest part -- getting quality data is a more difficult journey. For the reporting to be accurate, timely and trusted, people have to change their behaviors to consistently follow the lean agile practices and tools. When that happens, the outcomes are fast and visible: reduced time-to-insight, faster research learning cycles, and significantly enhanced mission effectiveness.