

White Paper



Navigating the Digital Landscape:

Modern Assurance Methods for Program and Project Success



Both public and private sector organisations continue to be asked to implement their transformational programs and projects and change faster, better and for less.

They are meeting this challenge by adopting more agile approaches to transform front and back office services.

Australia's digital landscape is undergoing a dynamic transformation. Organisations are embracing innovative technologies and agile methodologies to deliver customer-centric solutions at an unprecedented pace. However, this rapid evolution necessitates a paradigm shift in program and project assurance practices. Traditional, gated approaches like the *OGC Gateway* (over 20 years old) struggle to keep pace with the fluidity and speed of modern digital delivery.

This white paper explores the limitations of outdated assurance methods and introduces emerging practices that empower organisations to navigate the complexities of the digital landscape. Here, we delve into *Assurance PLUS™* for SAP® solutions implementation, referencing insights from the *Global Digital Assurance™* (GDA) modernised Gateway Assurance™ and *Agile Assurance™*, all designed to provide robust and adaptable assurance in a modern context.

/// **The Challenge: Assurance in a Digital Age**

The well-known United Kingdom developed *OGC Gateway* approach, while well-established, is no longer sufficient for today's digital environment. Here's why:

Limited agility:

Gated reviews create bottlenecks, hindering the rapid iteration and course correction inherent in agile methodologies.

Focus on compliance over value:

The emphasis on adherence to pre-defined criteria can overshadow the project's true purpose – *delivering value to the customer*.

Lack of continuous monitoring:

Gated reviews provide a snapshot in time, failing to capture the dynamic nature of digital projects.

Reactive approach:

Issues are often identified too late, leading to costly rework and delays.

/// **The Solution: Modern Assurance Methods**

Modern assurance methods offer a data-driven and collaborative approach, fostering successful program and project delivery in a digital world. Here are three key solutions gaining traction in Australia:

Assurance PLUS™

A holistic customer centric SAP® implementation assurance methodology - built on global best practice agile, modern gated assurance whilst aligning to the SAP® best practice *SAP Activate®* methodology.

Modernised Gateway Assurance™

Reinvented best practice gated assurance built on learnings from 6 countries, 19 agencies and 16 bespoke gated assurance methods, delivering a more holistic assurance methodology supported by comprehensive gate guides, targeted reviewer techniques and training materials.

Agile Assurance™

The world's only best practice assurance for agile delivered projects and over arching transformational programs in modern fast-paced environments. Customer centric assurance, focusing on effective assurance in high velocity delivery environments.

Assurance PLUS™ - for SAP® Solutions Implementations

Assurance PLUS™ offers a holistic and end-to-end approach to assurance for SAP® implementations. Unlike traditional methods, it evaluates both the technical delivery and the customer's readiness for the digital transformation. By incorporating these key elements, Assurance PLUS™ empowers organisations to achieve successful SAP® implementations with increased confidence, reduced risk, and a smoother digital transformation journey.

Customer assurance:

Assurance PLUS™ emphasises the customer's organisational readiness to embrace the changes associated with SAP® SaaS solutions. This assurance focuses on agility and capability in managing technologies, people, and processes. It ensures the organisation can successfully adapt and thrive in the new digital landscape.

Technical assurance:

This facet of Assurance PLUS™ verifies that an implementation adheres to the SAP Activate® methodology. This adherence not only prevents unnecessary expenditure but also avoids the need to redevelop best-practice delivery tools and methods. Following a well-established methodology fosters efficiency and reduces project risk.

Modern and streamlined for agility:

Assurance PLUS™ is specifically designed to function seamlessly within high-velocity project environments with minimal disruption. Reviews are conducted with a *low-impact* approach, focusing on the critical aspects that contribute the most to successful implementations and effective transformations.

Targeted roles and responsibilities:

The delivery of Assurance PLUS™ leverages a streamlined team structure with well-defined roles and responsibilities. This focus on agility and rapid assessments ensures efficient execution of the assurance process, keeping pace with the dynamic nature of modern projects.

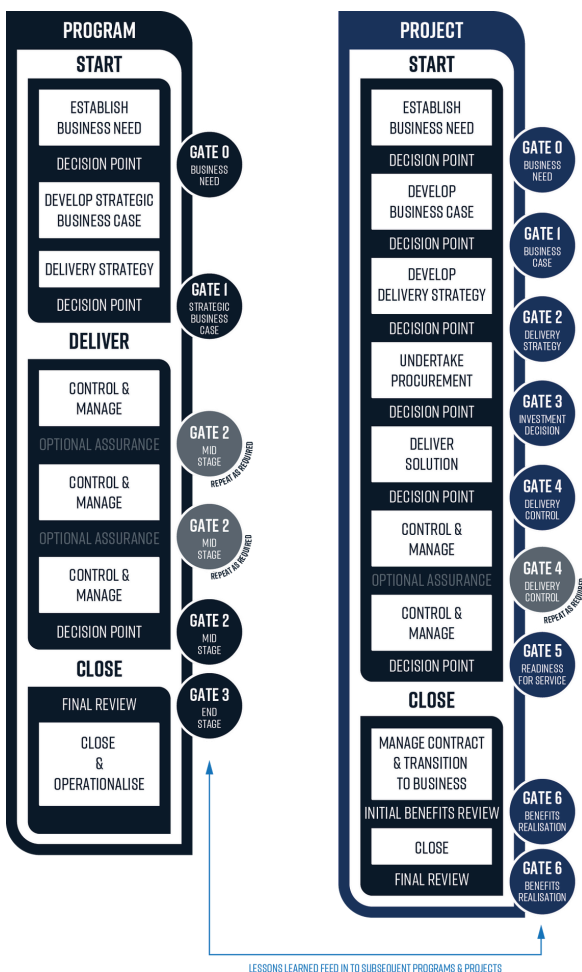


Model 3. Assurance PLUS™

Gateway Assurance™ - Gated Assurance for the Digital Age

Gateway Assurance™, owned by Global Digital Assurance®, is a modernised approach to project assurance used for major programs and projects. It involves a series of independent reviews conducted at key decision points throughout the project lifecycle, typically referred to as gates. The modernised Gateway Assurance™ approach, allows programs and their projects to unlock a range of benefits that empower them to navigate the complexities of the digital landscape with confidence.

Gateway Assurance™ is an evolution that equips organisations with the necessary agility and responsiveness to thrive in the digital age. By leveraging continuous monitoring, data-driven decision making, and a collaborative environment, modern Gateway Assurance™ empowers organizations to deliver successful programs and projects that meet the ever-evolving needs of stakeholders and customers.



Model 2. Global Digital Assurance® Gateway Assurance™

Customer assurance:

Integrates continuous monitoring practices, allowing for real-time insights into project health. This fosters a more iterative and responsive approach, enabling early identification and resolution of issues, and promoting continuous improvement throughout the project lifecycle.

Technical assurance:

Equips stakeholders with real-time assurance data, empowering them to make informed decisions that prioritise value creation for the customer. Gateway Assurance™ reviews can be aligned with user stories and project sprints, ensuring project activities directly contribute to delivering value.

Modern and streamlined for agility:

Replacing cumbersome, conventional stage-gated reviews with frequent, lightweight reviews significantly reduces bottlenecks and streamlines the assurance process. This allows for faster issue resolution and keeps projects moving forward efficiently.

Targeted roles and responsibilities:

Modernised Gateway Assurance™ approach fosters a collaborative environment where project teams and assurance professionals work together as partners. This fosters trust, transparency, and a shared focus on achieving project goals while maintaining robust project governance and control.

Agile Assurance™ - for Fast-paced and Customer Centric Environments

Agile methodologies have revolutionised project delivery in the digital age. The global best practice Agile Assurance™ methodology by *Global Digital Assurance®*, bridges the ever-expanding gap between traditional assurance practices and the iterative nature of agile development.

The Agile Assurance™ methods offer a paradigm shift from a compliance-driven, gated approach to a collaborative, data-driven, and value-focused framework. By adopting Agile Assurance™, organisations can more freely and confidently navigate the modern digital landscape and ensure the successful delivery of programs and projects that meet the ever-evolving needs of their stakeholders and customers. Agile Assurance™ empowers organisations to reap the benefits of agile methodologies while maintaining robust project governance and control.

Focus on value delivery:

Agile Assurance™ activities align with user stories and project sprints, ensuring continuous value creation for the customer.

Adaptability and continuous learning:

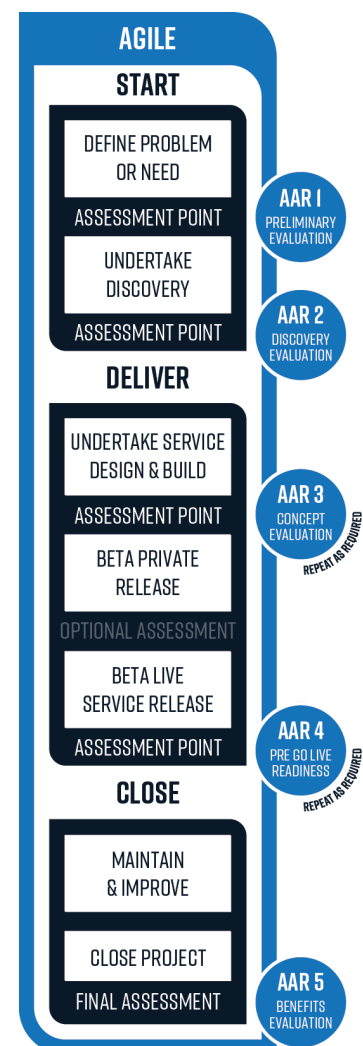
Agile Assurance™ embraces a culture of continuous learning and adaptation. Assurance practices can be continuously refined based on project needs and lessons learned.

Lightweight reviews:

Frequent, lightweight reviews replace heavy-handed, stage-gate reviews, promoting continuous improvement, and integrated seamlessly into the agile workflow.

Collaboration equals success:

Agile Assurance™ fosters a collaborative environment where project teams and assurance professionals work together to achieve shared goals.



Model 3. Global Digital Assurance® Agile Assurance™

Australia's leading assurance specialists

As an accredited best practice partner, we are at the forefront of portfolio, program, and project assurance expertise in Australia. Our track record speaks for itself, as we consistently provide exceptional assurance services and reviews to a diverse clientele comprising of governments, agencies, and organisations spanning a wide spectrum of industries.



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