Decentralizing development with cross-functional, autonomous teams enables a long-term focus on a single product or service. When those autonomous teams are centered around value streams they can become passionate about their work and experts in customer’s needs to deliver higher quality features faster.
Decentralization improves software quality and accelerates time to value

Cross-functional, autonomous teams centered around value streams break down operational silos. This improves collaboration as well as the alignment of business, IT, and governance needs. Value stream centric teams not only include product and development members, but also representatives from all departments that support a product or service, including security-based teams such as Governance, Risk, and Compliance (GRC) or Information Security (InfoSec).

**Value stream:**
Any workflow that delivers a service or product
The challenges of decentralized development @Scale

Regulation and governance requirements don’t go away

Enterprises face an increasing number of regulations. Whether its PCI, SOX, GDPR and now CCPA, it is imperative that software practices meet governance requirements across a portfolio. As development decentralizes it becomes more difficult to track each team’s actions to ensure compliance, potentially increasing the risk to the enterprise.

Collaboration across teams is still necessary

The move to decentralization does not remove the need for collaboration among teams. In fact, it requires communication to be easier. Interdependencies are still present among value streams even after teams decouple. This means that each autonomous team needs a frictionless method for alignment and communication across the IT organization.

Managing the risk of delivery

Traditionally, delivery risks were managed by release managers and change advisory boards (CAB). As teams become autonomous, centralized release risk mitigation strategies such as CABs no longer make sense. However, release management that balances business and IT needs throughout the development process is still needed for a successful deployment. This is why autonomous, value stream oriented teams should include a release manager. This helps ensure that releases are kept on schedule, properly scoped, and any risks are mitigated proactively.

@Scale: An initiative expanded across an enterprise
Value stream management is the answer

Measuring the success of decentralization

Development is often a black box. Additionally, the move to autonomous teams only complicates work visibility and information sharing. Value stream management platforms (VSMPs), however, make work visible from idea to realization, eliminating black box development and breaking down operational silos. With these development barriers eliminated, autonomous teams will be able to deliver increased value to the organization with higher quality software at greater frequencies. Using VSMPs, organizations can view this increasing value delivery through DORA DevOps metrics of throughput and stability, value stream total cost of ownership (TCO), and flow of work at every level.

Value stream management is:
“A combination of people, process, and technology that maps, optimizes, visualizes, and governs business value flow (including epics, stories, work items) through heterogeneous enterprise software delivery pipelines.”

Forrester Research: Elevate Agile-Plus-DevOps with Value Stream Management
The Plutora value stream management platform

Governance @Scale enables continuous compliance

Risk is still present in decentralized development so governance strategies need to adapt. Previous rigid, centralized governance cannot meet the needs of autonomous teams and is not scalable to decentralization. Adaptive governance, however, is similarly decentralized and meets the needs of autonomous teams while ensuring continuous compliance. Adaptive governance achieves governance @Scale by ensuring that each team’s unique workflow meets requirements, removing the need to manually document their activities. Further, adaptive governance makes all activities traceable, taking the process of release audits from days to minutes. All together, these capabilities give developers back the freedom to code.

“Maximize flow in DevOps value streams by using DevOps value stream management platforms for integration, orchestration, automated compliance and value stream mapping.”

Gartner: The future of DevOps Toolchains
Workflows automation & orchestration supports adaptive governance

When governance is embedded into team workflows, it can adapt to each team’s needs. Plutora delivers governance @Scale through workflow automation & orchestration that places enterprise and team-specific governance policies into their standard workflow or release template. As each team moves toward decentralized development, Plutora is able to manage teams and provide insight at every stage of their transformation, simplifying decentralized development initiatives enterprise-wide.

Business intelligence delivers work transparency for easy collaboration

Plutora provides end-to-end work visibility of the development process from idea to realization. This enables GRC, product, and other teams to quickly view the status of features, releases, and environments. Through smart, role-based dashboards each team member can quickly view contextual information that allows them to collaborate and work more efficiently.