

CS352 Project Management for Computer Scientists

Project Initiation

The Balancing Act:

- The iron triangle - quality constrained by cost (budget), time (deadlines) and scope (features)

“You can have any two”

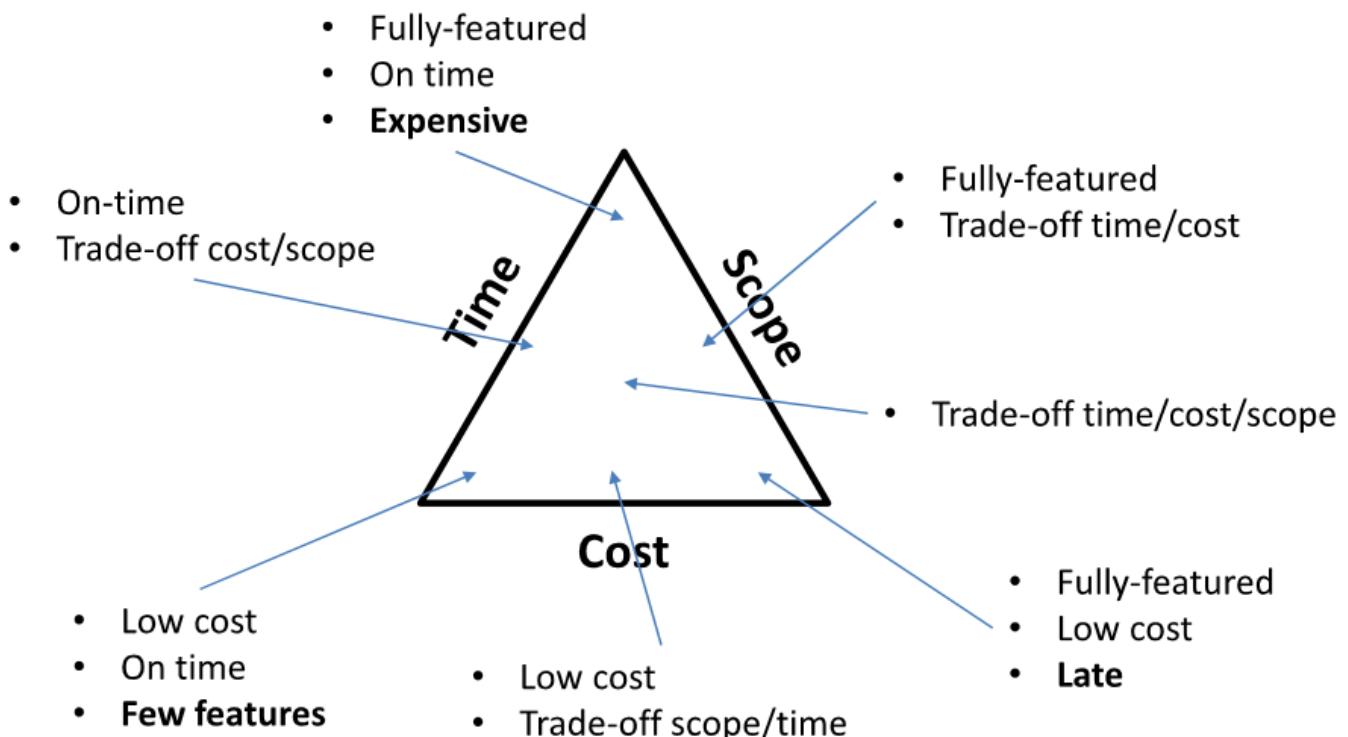


Figure 1: iron-triangle

- Management is a balancing act between these competing constraints
- PMBOK:
 - 10 knowledge areas:
 1. Integration
 2. Scope
 3. Time
 4. Cost
 5. Quality
 6. Resources/HR
 7. Communication
 8. Risk
 9. Procurement
 10. Stakeholder
 - 5 process groups:
 1. Initiation: business case - why do the project?

- 2. Planning: balance time, cost, scope, risk...
- 3. Execution: the real work
- 4. Monitoring and Controlling: monitor and review progress
- 5. Closing: delivery, audits and lessons learned
- 49 individual processes, for each:
 - * Inputs
 - * Tools, techniques, best practices
 - * Outputs

	Initiating	Planning	Executing	Monitoring/Controlling	Closing
Integration	Develop Project Charter	Develop Project Management Plan	Direct and Manage Project Work Manage Project Knowledge	Monitor and Control Project Work Perform Integrated Change Control	Close Project or Phase
Scope		Plan Scope Management Collect Requirements Define Scope Create WBS		Validate Scope Control Scope	
Time		Plan Schedule Management Define Activities Sequence Activities Estimate Activity Durations Develop Schedule		Control Schedule	
Cost		Plan Cost Management Estimate Costs Determine Budget		Control Costs	
Quality		Plan Quality Management	Manage Quality	Control Quality	
HR/Resources		Plan Resource Management Estimate Activity Resources	Acquired Resources Develop Team Manage Team	Control Resources	
Communication		Plan Communications Management	Manage Communications	Monitor Communications	
Risk		Plan Risk Management Identify Risks Perform Qualitative Risk Analysis Perform Quantitative Risk Analysis Plan Risk Responses	Implement Risk Responses	Monitor Risks	
Procurement		Plan Procurement Management	Conduct Procurements	Control Procurements	Close Procurements
Stakeholder	Identify Stakeholders	Plan Stakeholder Engagement	Manage Stakeholder Engagement	Monitor Stakeholder Engagement	

Figure 2: process-groups

Project Mandate:

- Also referred to as Statement of Work (SOW)
- What exactly is the project?
- What is included and excluded (scope)?
- Constraints (time, money)
- Assumptions
- Known risks/issues

Business Case:

- Why do we want to build it?
- Project must deliver real, tangible value to the business
 - Is it worth the effort?
 - Who cares if we make it?
- Other competing projects
 - Overarching strategic plan of organisation
- Start of project - sets out ultimate goals for stakeholders
- During project - guides key project decisions
- End of project - learning linchpin for business

Project Charter:

- Project mandate + business case -> project charter
- Formally authorises the existence of the project and provides the PM with the authority to apply resources
- Inputs:
 - Project mandate
 - Business case
 - Agreements
 - Enterprise environmental factors such as quality standards
 - Organisational process assets: standard processes, lessons learned (from previous projects)
- Outputs:
 - Project purpose or justification
 - Measurable objectives and success criteria
 - High-level requirements, boundaries, risks, constraints
 - Summary milestone schedule and budget
 - Stakeholder list, authority of sponsor, assigned PM, signing off authority

Stakeholders:

- Sponsor
- Customers and users,
- Sellers (of components or services necessary for project)
- Partners (provide expertise or service)
- Internal groups (marketing, manufacturing, sales, customer service)
- Functional managers (HR, finance, accounting, procurement)
- Others (e.g. regulators, the public)

Power/Interest grid:

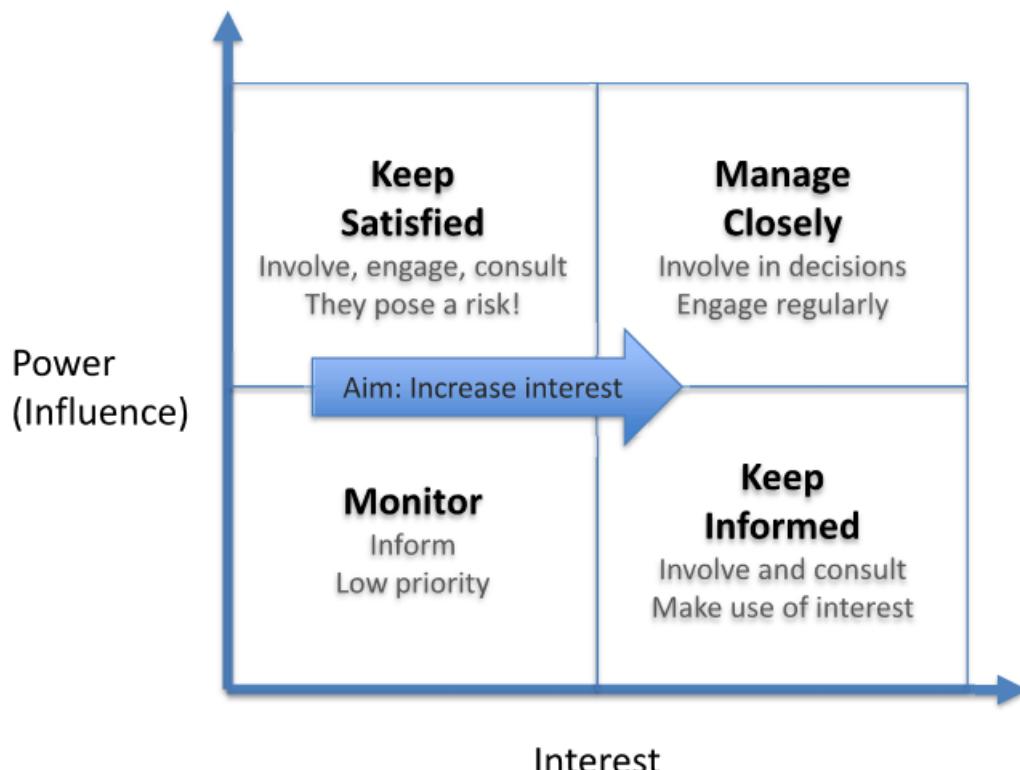


Figure 3: power-interest-grid

SMART Objectives:

- Output - the ‘what’
- Outcomes - the result of using the output
- Benefits - the positive outcomes (the ‘why’)
- Objectives - desired benefits, outcomes or improvements
 - ‘To [improve/increase/enhance] something by [amount] by [date]’
- SMART - Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound

Scope and Time Management

Work Breakdown Structure (WBS):

- Hierarchical decomposition of the work
 - Organises and defines total scope of the project
- Each level represents and increasingly detailed definition of the work to be completed
- Work package - smallest unit of WBS
 - Set of related tasks and deliverables
 - Self-contained, clearly defined interactions with other WPs
 - Clear identification of inputs, outputs, internal activities
 - Clear estimation of cost, duration, resources
- Milestones - points of control that separate WPs

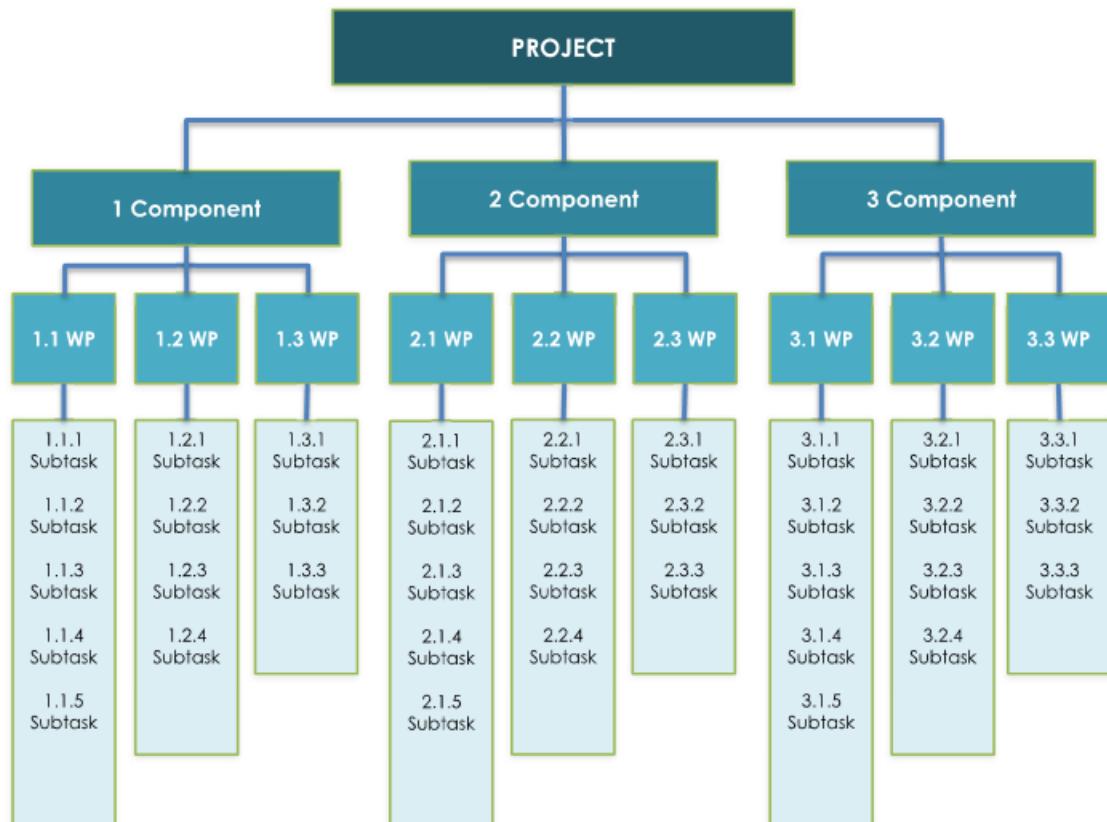


Figure 4: wbs-example

Deliverable-oriented WBS:

- Objectives - relate to purpose (why are we going to build it?)
- Deliverables - relate to scope (what are we going to build?)
 - Estimable, parallelisable, purchasable
- WBS should be deliverable-oriented (what) not objective-oriented (why) or process-oriented (how)
- Pros:
 - Deliverables easier to estimate than objectives
 - Makes us focus on the essentials
 - Once scope is defined, the ‘what’ is fixed but the ‘how’ remains fluid
 - Allows us to manage scope
- Cons:
 - Loses sight of objectives
 - * We don’t have to - if we break the rules
 - * Forget deliverables, break it down logically working backwards
 - * Fine as long as we get to the deliverables
 - Restricts further scope changes and creativity from developers
 - * Creativity is at the discretion of the PM - WBS is a tool to fix the scope
 - May overlook costly processes that consume time and resources
 - * We can still use it to plan the schedule and budget - we will decide how to do the work after we have decided the what

Estimating Durations:

- Analogous - how long it took last time, adjusted to this project
- Parametric - as above, but with a statistical model
- Team-based - by the people doing the work
- Three point - triangular/beta
- Useful to have a measure of uncertainty

Sequence Activities:

- Relationships
- Dependencies
 - Try to do as much in parallel as possible
- Resource constraints
- Milestones
 - Key points between work packages

Gantt Charts:

- Graphical visualisation of project, showing:
 - Temporal schedule of activities
 - Dependencies between activities
 - Progress of activities

Project Network Diagram (PND) and Critical Path Method (CPM):

- A graphical way to view a project’s tasks, dependencies and critical path
- Can be activity on node or activity on arrow
- Critical path - a sequence of activities such that none can be delayed without extending the project duration
- Definitions:
 - Duration D
 - Earliest start $ES = \max EF_{predecessors}$
 - Earliest finish $EF = ES + D$
 - Latest finish $LF = \min LS_{successors}$

- Latest start $LS = LF - D$
- Total float (amount of time activity can be delayed without delaying project) $TF = LS - ES = LF - EF$
- Forward pass - calculate ES and EF , starting from start node
- Backward pass - calculate LF and LS , starting from finish node
- Then can calculate TF

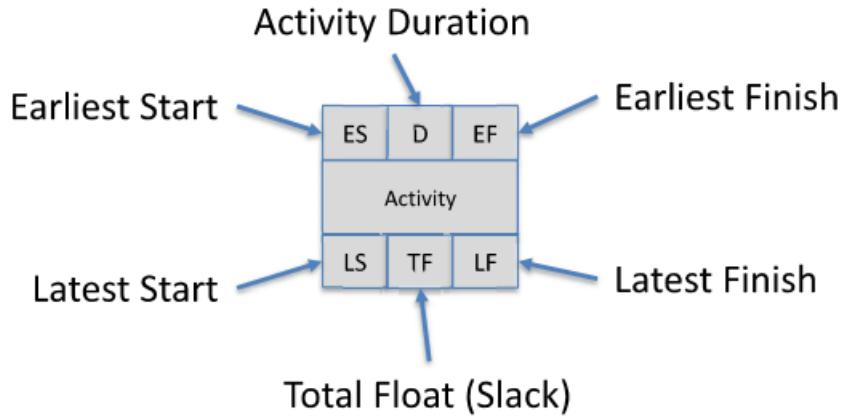


Figure 5: activity-node

- Drag time - the amount of time a critical task adds to the project duration, i.e. the amount of time it would need to be shortened by to no longer be critical
 - $Drag = \min\{D, \min TF_{parallel}\}$
- Crash duration - shortest possible time for which an activity can be scheduled, to speed up the whole project
 - $Crash = D - Drag$
- Free float - the amount of time that an activity can be delayed without delaying the start of any subsequent activities
 - $FF = ES_{next} - EF$
 - $FF \leq TF$

Program Evaluation and Review Technique (PERT):

- Variation on CPM using three-point estimation
 - Shortest possible time a , most likely length of time m , longest expected time b
 - Uses a probability distribution, not a fixed estimate
 - Allows us to make statistical inferences, not promises we are likely to break
- But:
 - Makes assumptions of normality
 - Requires uncertainty estimation
 - Gives a false sense of precision
- Beta and triangular distribution (equations given in exam, here for reference only):
 - $t_{beta} = \frac{a+4m+b}{6}$
 - $\sigma_{beta}^2 = (\frac{b-a}{6})^2$
 - $t_{triangular} = \frac{a+b+m}{3}$
 - $\sigma_{triangular}^2 = \frac{a^2+b^2+m^2-ab-am-bm}{18}$

PRINCE2

PRINCE2 definition of a project:

1. Change - we use projects to introduce change to the business

2. Uncertainty - a project changes one or more things or develops something new. These are steps into the unknown, and introduce uncertainty
3. Temporary - a project team comes together, does a job and is then disbanded
4. Unique - in some major or minor way every project is unique
5. Cross-functional - a project needs different people with different skills - some to define what is required, others to develop the required products. These people may work for several different line managers or different companies

When/Why PRINCE2 is useful:

- IT projects
- Generic projects
 - Method highly versatile
 - Suited to all types of project
- Smaller projects
 - Focus on tailoring

Pros and cons of the PRINCE2 approach in a balanced way:

Opponents say	Proponents say
Only for large projects	Fully scalable, tailored
Constrained approach	Step-by-step, by stages
Inflexible, not “agile”	Iterative stages, change theme
Mountains of paperwork	Needn’t be, audit trail useful
Not solution-oriented	Product oriented
Bureaucratic	Maintains control, by exception

PRINCE2 Principles:

1. Continuous business justification
 - Is there a business benefit?
 - Is it feasible, viable and economical?
2. Learn from experience
 - Don’t make the same mistake twice
 - E.g. choice of supplier, expertise of team
3. Defined roles and responsibilities
 - Who’s responsible
 - Who’s held accountable
4. Manage by stages
 - Break a project into manageable chunks
5. Manage by exception
 - Set limits
 - Let people get on with their job within those limits
6. Focus on products
 - Think about outcomes and outputs
 - The what, not the how or the why
7. Tailor to suit the project environment
 - Customise approach to suit the problem
 - Don’t follow PRINCE2 to the letter

PRINCE2 Processes:

- Starting up (SU)
- Directing a project (DP)
- Initiating a project (IP)
- Managing a stage boundary (SB)

- Controlling a stage (CS)
- Managing product delivery (MP)
- Closing a project (CP)

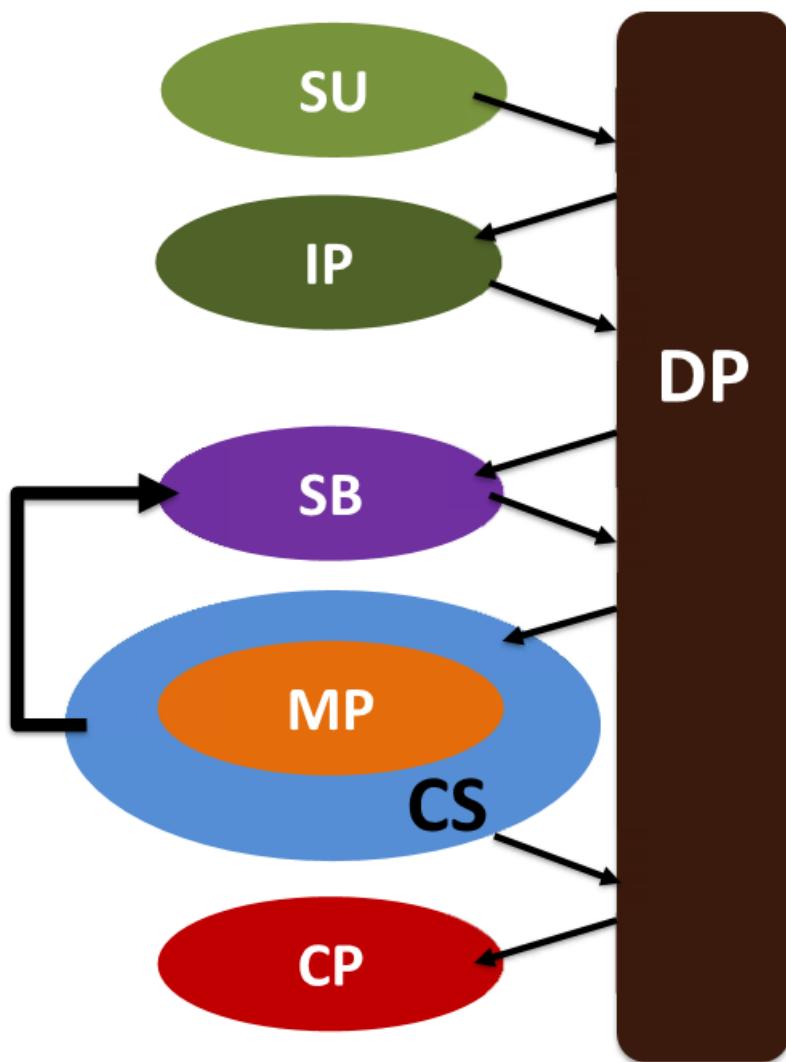


Figure 6: prince2-process-groups

- Project mandate comes from corporate or programme management
- Board agrees to go ahead after SU process
- Project is planned in IP process
- Board needs to approve stages
- Plan stage in SB process, board has to approve stage plan
- When stage is authorised, CS and MP processes take place
- If something goes wrong, consult board
- Plan next stage and get it approved while current one is taking place
- Board authorises the closing of a project (CP process)

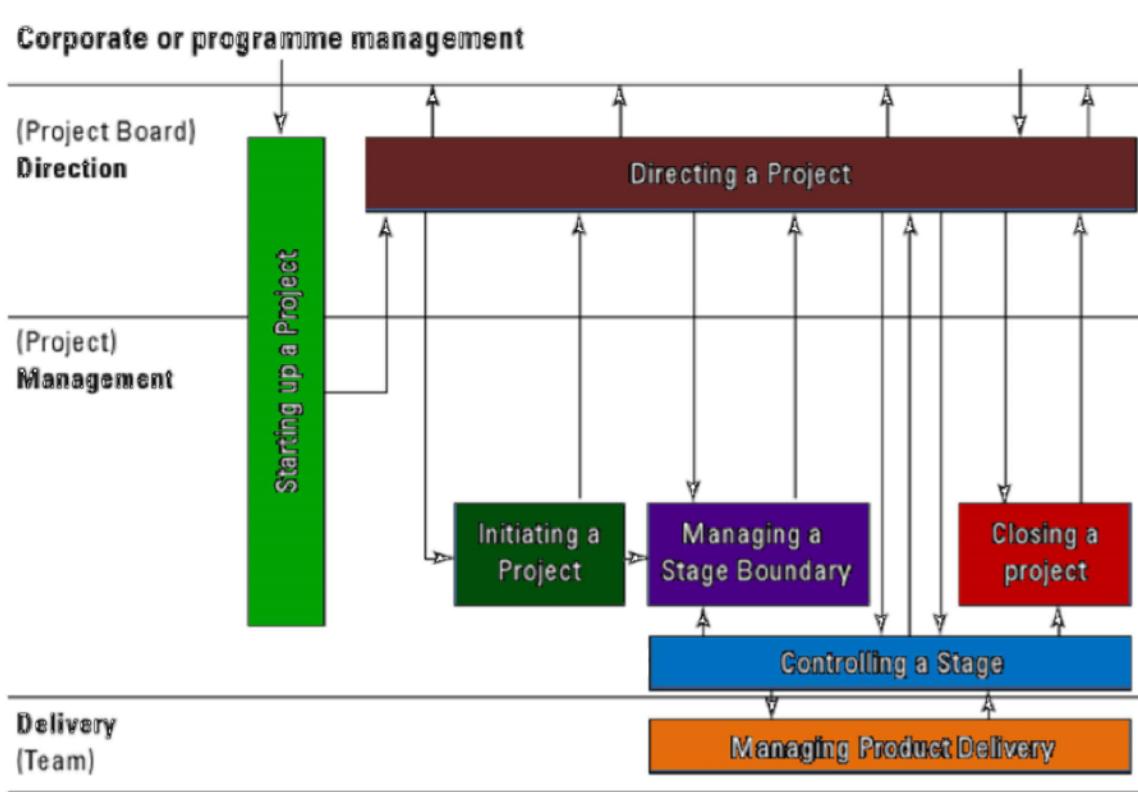


Figure 7: prince2-stages

PRINCE2 Roles:

- Project team comprises, at least:
- Project board:
 - Panel to represent stakeholders, e.g. business, end user and people doing the work
 - Have to care about and be invested in the project
 - Responsible and held accountable for the project's success
 - Executive - ultimately responsible, business-oriented, focuses on objectives and business case
 - Senior user - specifying and monitoring needs of users
 - Senior supplier - implementation, technical integrity
- Project manager
 - Day-to-day management
 - Granted authorisation from the board
 - Needs approval from the board to change the plan beyond agreed limits



PRINCE2® Roles

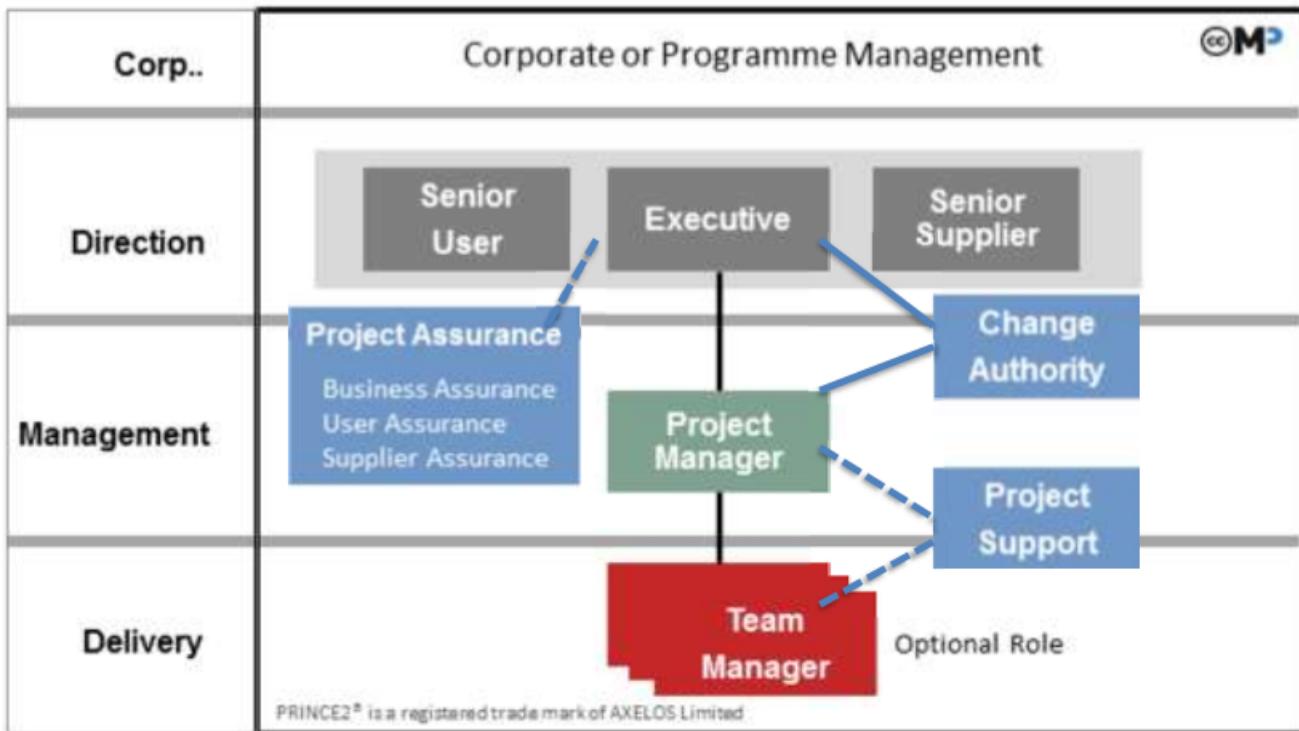


Figure 8: prince2-roles

PRINCE2 Themes:

- Business case - feasible, desirable, achievable?
- Organisation - responsibilities, accountabilities
- Quality - meeting requirements
- Risks - identify, assess, control risks
- Plan - what, when, who, how
- Change - reacting and adapting
- Progress - is it going to plan?

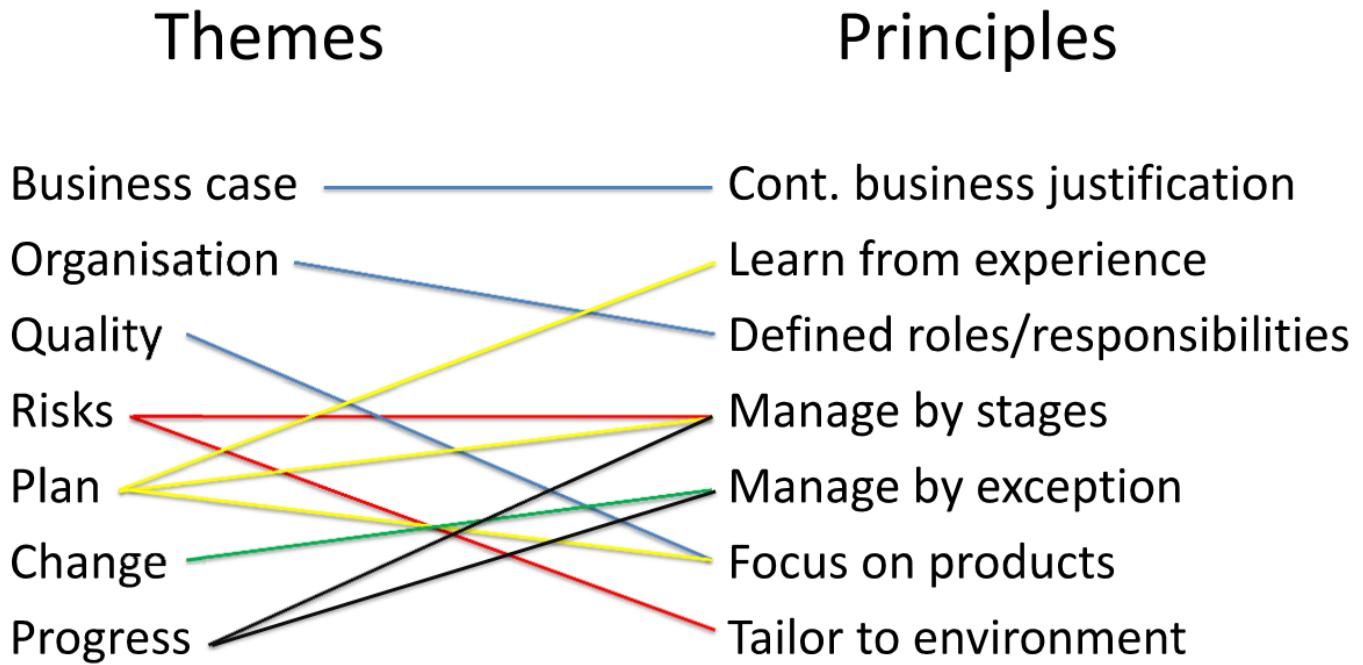


Figure 9: prince2-themes-principles

PMBOK vs PRINCE2:

	PMBOK	PRINCE2
What is it	Framework	Methodology
Focus	Activities	Deliverables
Driver	Customer requirements	Business Case
Process 'groups'	5 process groups	7 processes
Knowledge areas	10 knowledge areas	7 themes
Process 'steps'	49 processes	40 steps

PMBOK® Process Groups

PRINCE2® Processes

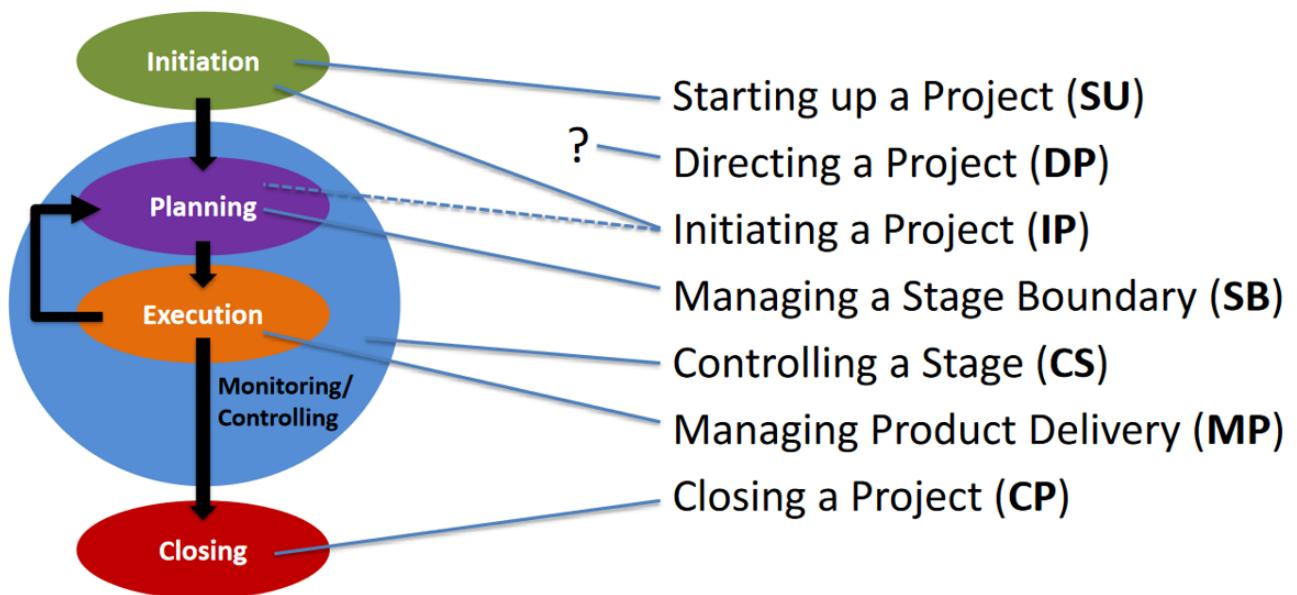


Figure 10: PMBOK-vs-PRINCE2

Product-based Planning:

- Why?
 - A project delivers products, not activities
 - We can write a product specification
 - We can measure the quality of a product
- How?
 - Deliverable-oriented WBS
 - Product descriptions - a specification (especially quality criteria)
 - Product flow diagram - a network diagram of product dependencies

Management Products:

- Records:
 - Lessons Log
 - Risk Register
 - * For each risk:
 1. Identify threats and opportunities
 2. Assess probability, impact and proximity
 3. Plan appropriate responses
 4. Implement the planned responses
 5. Communicate to interested parties
 - Quality Register
 - * Holds details of all quality events planned and undertaken
- Baselines (versioned):
 - Project Brief
 - Project Initiation Document (PID)
 - Business Case
 - * Formally verified by board at each key decision point
 - * Centre of impact assessment of risks, benefits, issues and changes

- * If project no longer justified, shut it down
- Reports:
 - Exception Report
 - * Exception raised to board if tolerances exceeded for deviations from progress against plan

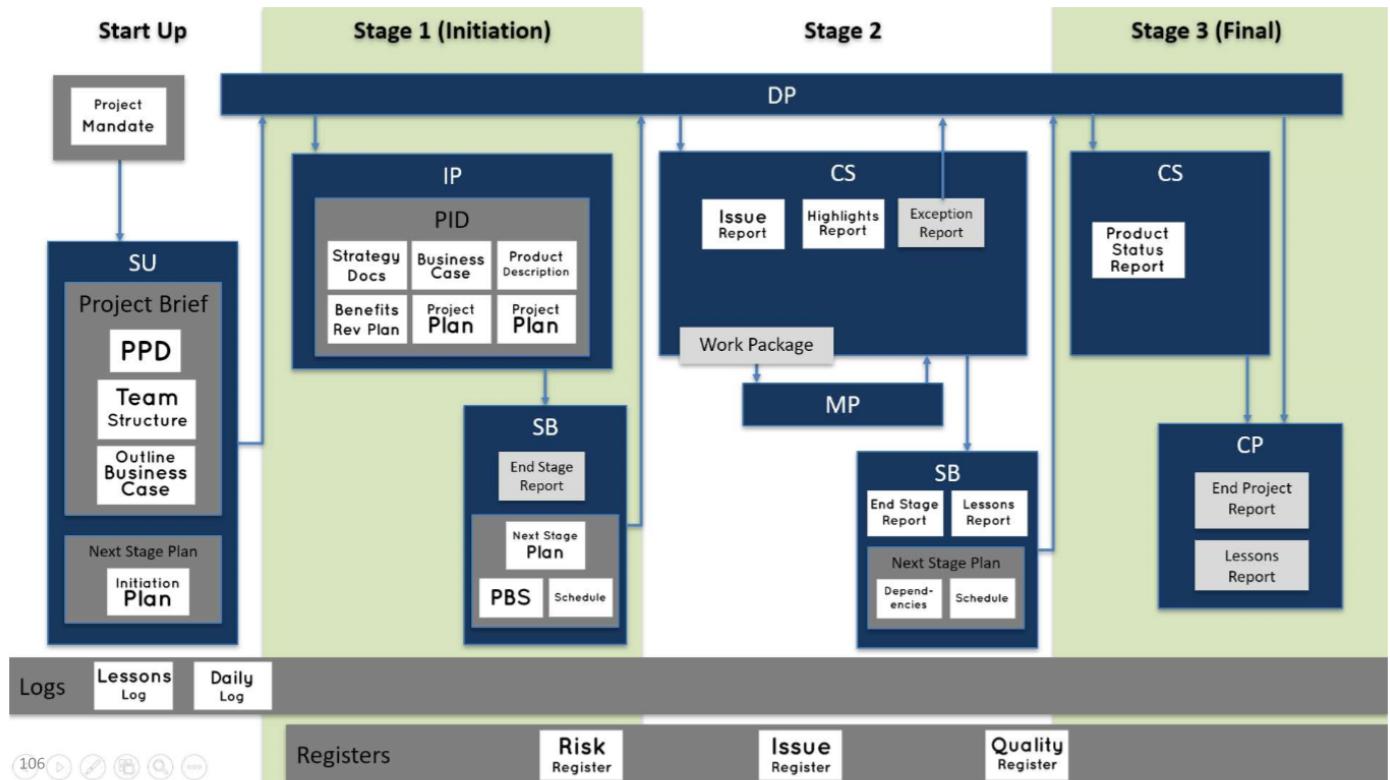


Figure 11: prince2-reports

Managing people/personalities (guest lecture):

Projects mostly fail due to:

- A failure to understand the 'Why?'
- A failure to understand the 'What?'
- Ego
- Lack of common sense

Budgeting and Forecasting

Cost per X:

- Three types:
 1. Cost per time unit - typically used to budget HR
 2. Cost per use - e.g. use of a venue for a meeting, cost of a cleaning after a party
 3. Cost per material consumption - e.g. food and beverages provided at a conference, bricks to build a house

Estimating activity costs:

- As with estimating time: analogous, parametric, team-based, three-point (triangular/beta)

- Vendor bids - compare competitive bids from vendors
- Cost of (poor) quality - compare for different quality levels

Reserves:

- Management reserve:
 - For unidentified risks
 - Not controlled by PM
 - Fixed % (based on risk appetite of business)
- Contingency reserve:
 - For identified risks
 - Controlled by PM
 - Estimated, based on perceived risk

Cash Flow:

- Cash is not always as liquid as we think
- Important to know not only how much but when:
 - Staggered funds
 - Invoice periods
 - Consideration for slack in schedule
- Cash can be scheduled like any other resource, e.g. Gantt chart
- We can anticipate cash flow issues by summing the daily/weekly/monthly planned activity costs
- Either:
 - Ensure resources are in place to cover anticipated expenditure
 - Reschedule activities to smooth out spikes
- Performance Measurement Baseline (PMB) of a work package or project - a time-phased plan of costs (budget) against which actual performance can be measured
- Planned Value (PV) - how much of the authorised budget has been assigned to the work at a given point in time?
- Actual Cost (AC) - how much of the authorised budget has been spent on the work at a given point in time?
- Earned Value (EV) - how much of the planned value has been achieved by doing the work so far
 - A measure that lets us compare the budget to the work done - an indicator of progress
- S-curve reflects phases of project - initiate, plan, execute, close

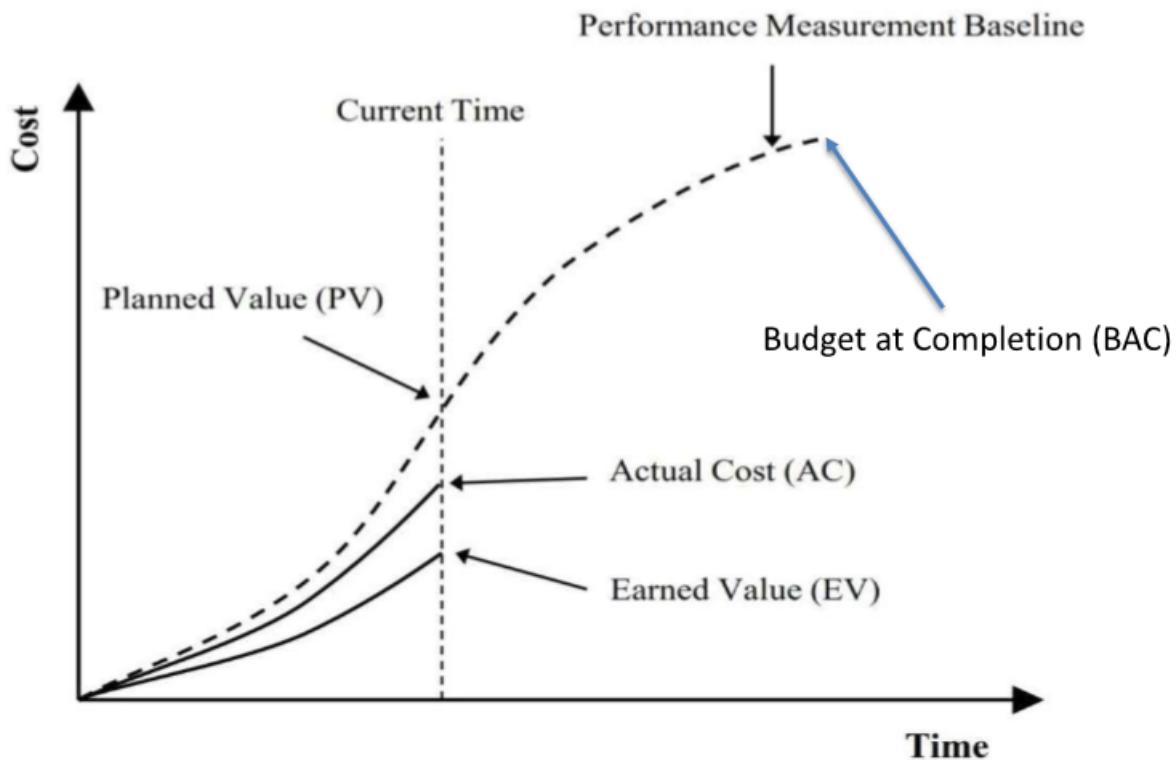


Figure 12: pmb-curve

- Budget at Completion (BAC) - total planned value

Earned Value Analysis (EVA):

- Schedule Variance $SV = EV - PV$
- Cost Variance $CV = EV - AC$
- Schedule Performance Index $SPI = EV \div PV$
- Cost Performance Index $CPI = EV \div AC$
- Cost Schedule Index $CSI = CPI \times SPI$
 - Overall measure of efficiency

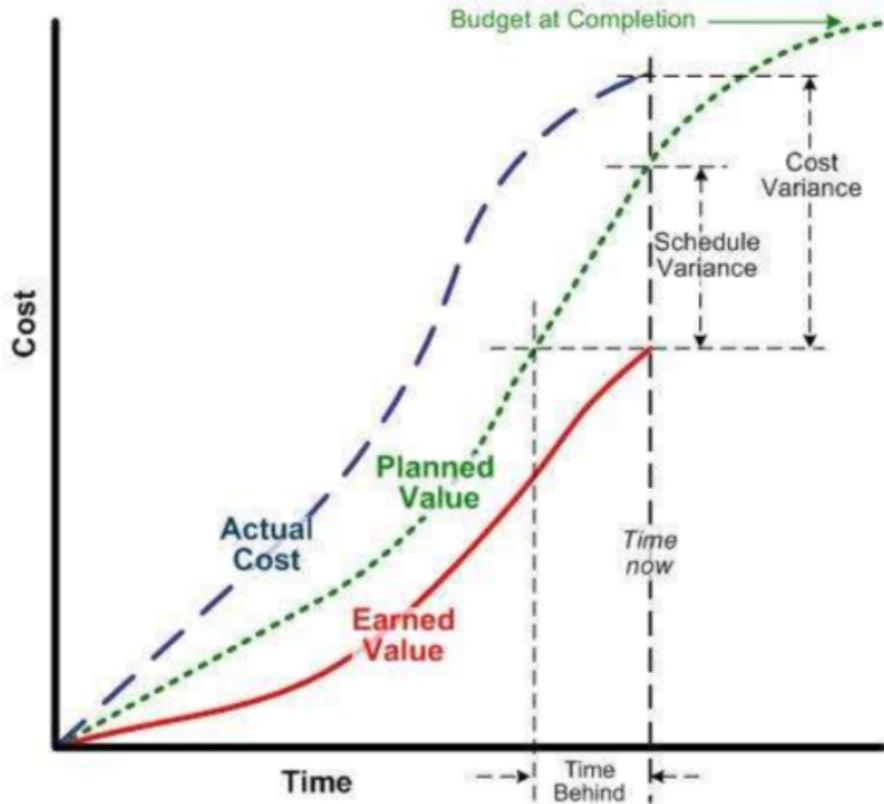


Figure 13: eva-curve

Forecasting:

- We want to:
 - Estimate end date
 - Estimate project cost
- Estimate at Completion (EAC) - estimated final total cost of project
 1. Trust original estimate, i.e. assume remaining work will take as long as originally planned
– $EAC = AC + (BAC - EV)$
 2. Assume performance (cost-efficiency) to date is a good indication of how the rest of the project will perform
– $EAC = BAC \div CPI$
 3. Assume both cost and schedule-efficiency are a good indication of how the rest of the project will perform
– $EAC = AC + (BAC - EV) \div CSI$
- Estimate to Complete (ETC) - how much will we need to spend to finish the work?
 1. Difference between estimate at completion and actual spend to date
– $ETC = EAC - AC$
 2. Bottom-up, when original estimation fundamentally flawed
- Variance at Completion (VAC) - expected over or under spending
 1. Difference between what the project was originally expected to cost and what it is currently expected to cost
– $VAC = BAC - EAC$
- To-Complete Performance Index ($TCPI$) - future cost-efficiency required
 1. To achieve the original budget
– $TCPI = (BAC - EV) \div (EAC - AC)$
 2. To achieve the estimated budget
– $TCPI = (BAC - EV) \div (BAC - AC)$

Measuring Success:

- Common objectives: budget targets, schedule targets, scope targets
 - No point delivering on time/within budget if no actual benefits!
- High quality product
- Product is utilised
- Business objectives are achieved
- Resources used effectively
- Team is able to support solution in the future
- Participants have pride in ownership
- Adhered to standards and best practices
- Methods in place to evaluate benefit realisation

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):

- High-level indicators:
 - Simple, measurable metrics
 - Correlated to stakeholder objectives
 - Agreed between PM and stakeholders
- Metrics of success and a measure of progress
- Benefits of metrics management:
 - Metrics tell us if we are hitting targets, getting better or getting worse
 - Early identification of mistakes or issues
 - Informed decision making and proactive management

Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP):

- Business analytics
- Central database with interfaces to every part of the company
 - E.g. stock control, production line, sales, marketing, finance, HR, customer service
 - Track various metrics, in real time
- Data-driven management
 - Visualise metrics on a dashboard
 - Quickly spot issues
 - Manage the management
 - May spend too much time trying to optimise metrics without doing actual work
 - Takes away the human element

Lean and Agile

7 Lean Manufacturing Principles:

1. Eliminate waste
2. Amplify learning
3. Defer commitment (leave to the last minute)
4. Deliver fast
5. Empower the team
6. Build integrity in
7. See the whole

3 Wastes:

- Muri - overburden, excessiveness, unreasonableness
 - People can't work at an unsustainable pace
 - Machines can't work at an unsustainable pace

- Muda - wastefulness, uselessness, no added value
 - An activity that consumes resources without creating value for the customer
- Mura - unevenness, irregularity, inequality
 - Working hard in the runup to a deadline and then doing nothing after
 - Uneven schedule
 - Variability in ‘flow’

Sources of Waste:

1. Transport - in excess of what is required to meet customer demand
2. Inventory - materials, products or resources in excess of customer demand
3. Motion - movements between process steps
4. Waiting - waiting on product, people or machines
5. Over processing - processing in excess of what is required
6. Overproduction - producing in excess of customer demand
7. Defects - passing poor quality down the supply chain
8. Skills - not seeking out the expertise or creativity of your own people

‘Eliminate waste’ and ‘Build integrity in’ principles

Kanban

- Push - make all we can just in case
- Pull - make what’s needed when we want it
- Kanban like a fast food restaurant (a pull system)
- As work completed, taken from regulator for testing
- Work done on-demand (JIT) by programmers
- Not made to a requirements document and pushed at the customer

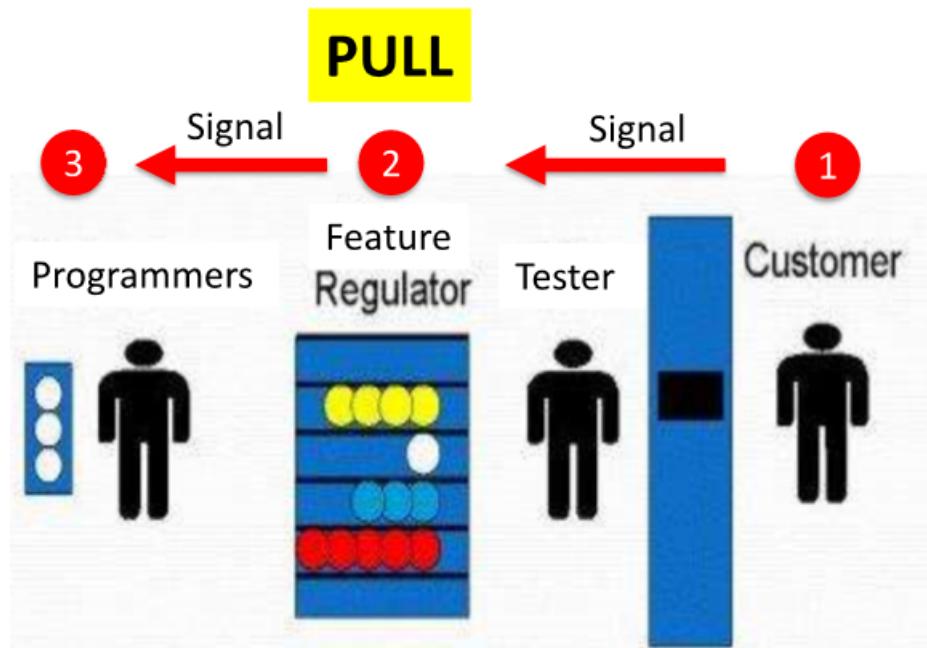


Figure 14: kanban-burgers

‘Defer commitment’ and ‘Deliver fast’ principles

Minimum Viable Product (MVP):

- No more than necessary, no waste
- Lower cost and faster delivery
- Valuable, useful and beneficial
- A ‘deliverable’ - focus on the customer
 - Maximise flow of value to the customer

‘Amplify learning’ and ‘Deliver fast’ principles

Waterfall:

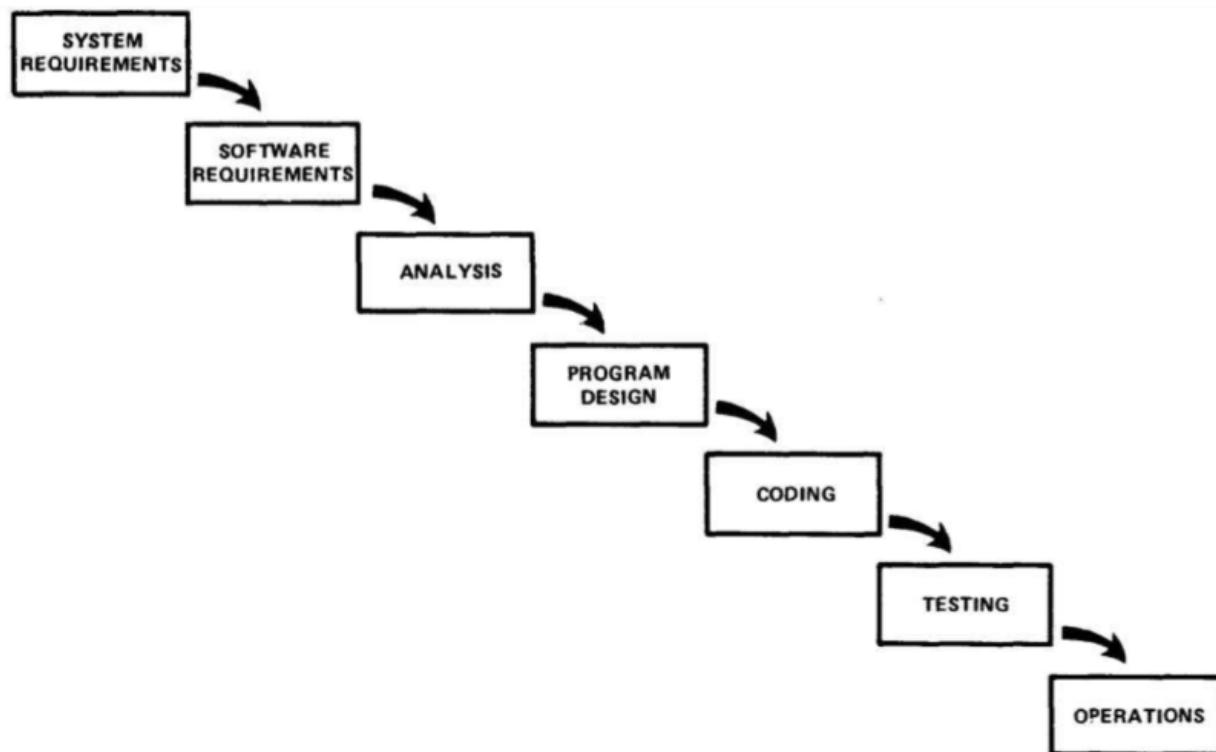


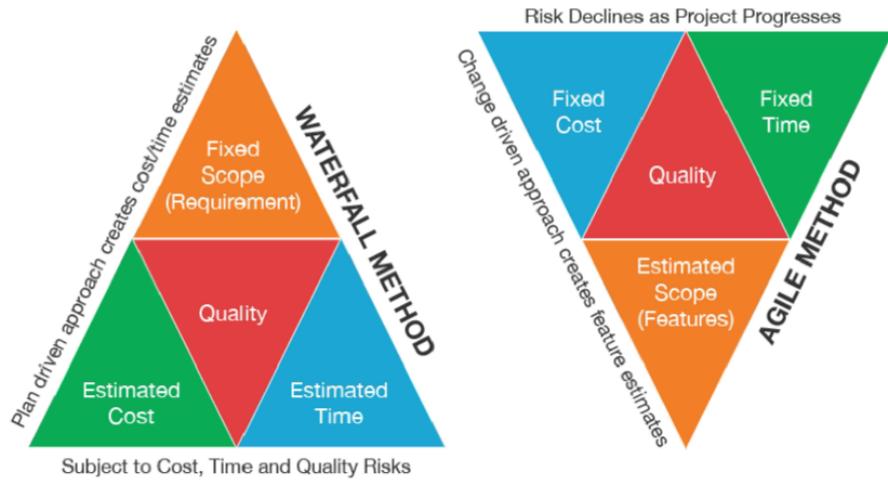
Figure 15: waterfall

- Pros:
 - Repeatable - low management overhead
 - Clear about expectations - explicitly collected
 - Clear responsibilities and interfaces
- Cons:
 - High risk - late detection of problems leads to major redesign
 - One long critical path
 - Lots of documentation required
 - * Analysis done by people who will neither write nor use the software
 - No support for change
- Often popular with CEOs and CTOs, less so with developers
- Nobody ever thought naive waterfall was a good method - not even its creator
- Often called ‘traditional’, but was invented before computing really had any traditions
- For all its faults, it’s simple, logical and easy to communicate

Agile:

- Traditional:
 - Plan-driven
 - Fix scope, estimate cost and time
 - Solve it all in one go
 - Progress is binary
 - Cost, time and quality are at risk
 - Risky until the end
- Agile:
 - Value-driven (prioritise requirements, focus on what the customer wants)
 - Fix cost and time, estimate scope (no more useless calculations)
 - Solve iteratively
 - Progress is gradual
 - Scope at risk
 - Risk declines with progress

“Iron Triangle paradigm shift”



“Turned the iron triangle on its head!”

Figure 16: paradigm-shift

- Agile Manifesto:

The Agile Manifesto (2001)

We are uncovering better ways of developing software by doing it and helping others do it.

Through this work we have come to value:

- ✓ **Individuals and interactions** over processes and tools
- ✓ **Working software** over comprehensive documentation
- ✓ **Customer collaboration** over contract negotiation
- ✓ **Responding to change** over following a plan

That is, while there is value in the items on the right, we value the items on the left more.

Figure 17: agile-manifesto

Scrum:

- User stories:
 - As a <type of user>, I want <some goal> so that <some reason>.
 - Epic - a group of related user stories
 - Theme - top-level objective of the project
 - Captures scope/requirements
 - * The who, what, why (not how)
- Select user stories from the product backlog (which come from product owner on input from customers, end-users, team and other stakeholders) to complete during a sprint
- During a sprint planning meeting, team selects how much to commit to do by the end of the sprint and tasks added to sprint backlog
- Product backlog may be refined during sprint
- Sprint lasts 1-4 weeks
- Daily scrum meeting
- At the end, should have a potentially shippable product increment
 - Demo increment and present to stakeholders
- Retrospective meeting - review how things are going
- Roles:
 - Product Owner:
 - * Represents stakeholders' view
 - * Communicates the vision (user stories) to the team
 - * Prioritises user stories, and accepts/rejects them at the end of a sprint
 - * Secures funding, manages the ROI
 - Development Team:
 - * Developers, testers, designers, analysts
 - * 3 to 9 members (when more than 9, split into 2)
 - Scrum Master:
 - * Not a manager, but a 'servant leader' - removes impediments
 - * Works across teams to improve communication
 - * Hosts meetings (sprint planning, daily scrum, retrospective)
- Scrum Values:
 - Commitment (to goals in the sprint)
 - Courage (to do what you think is right)
 - * E.g. telling a coworker when they've made a mistake, also admitting that you made a mistake
 - Focus (on the work items in the current sprint)
 - Openness (about any challenges faced)

- Respect (trust that everyone is doing their best)
- Burndown Chart:
 - Displays remaining effort for the sprint
 - Allows estimation of velocity of the team (how quickly working towards goal)
 - Scrum Master must:
 - * Get the team to fix estimation
 - * Ensure additional stories ready to be added to the sprint

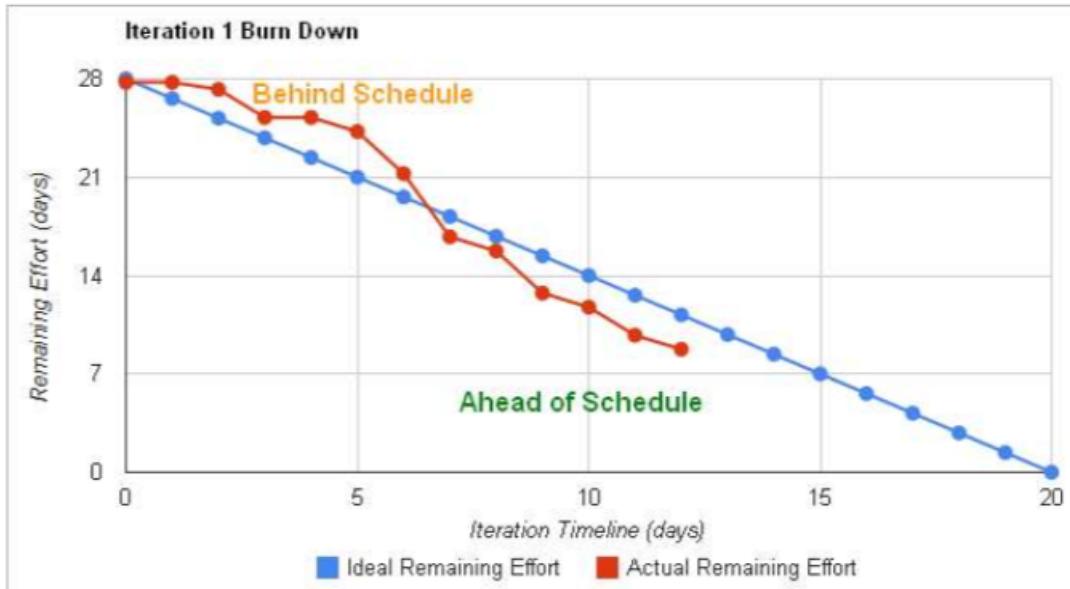


Figure 18: burndown-chart

- Daily Stand-Up:
 - If each person says what they did yesterday, what they will do today and what potential blockers there are: next person will be focused on what they want to say rather than what their colleagues are saying, wanting to impress colleagues and avoid embarrassment
 - * Leads to stress
 - * Doesn't work unless team is a relaxed environment
 - Person who went previously may also be bored and uninterested in what their colleagues have to say
 - Solution: use Kanban boards
 - * Tasks not started, in progress and done
 - * Each person says what tasks they have in each category, and tasks are moved between categories

Lean ‘House’ (Toyota):

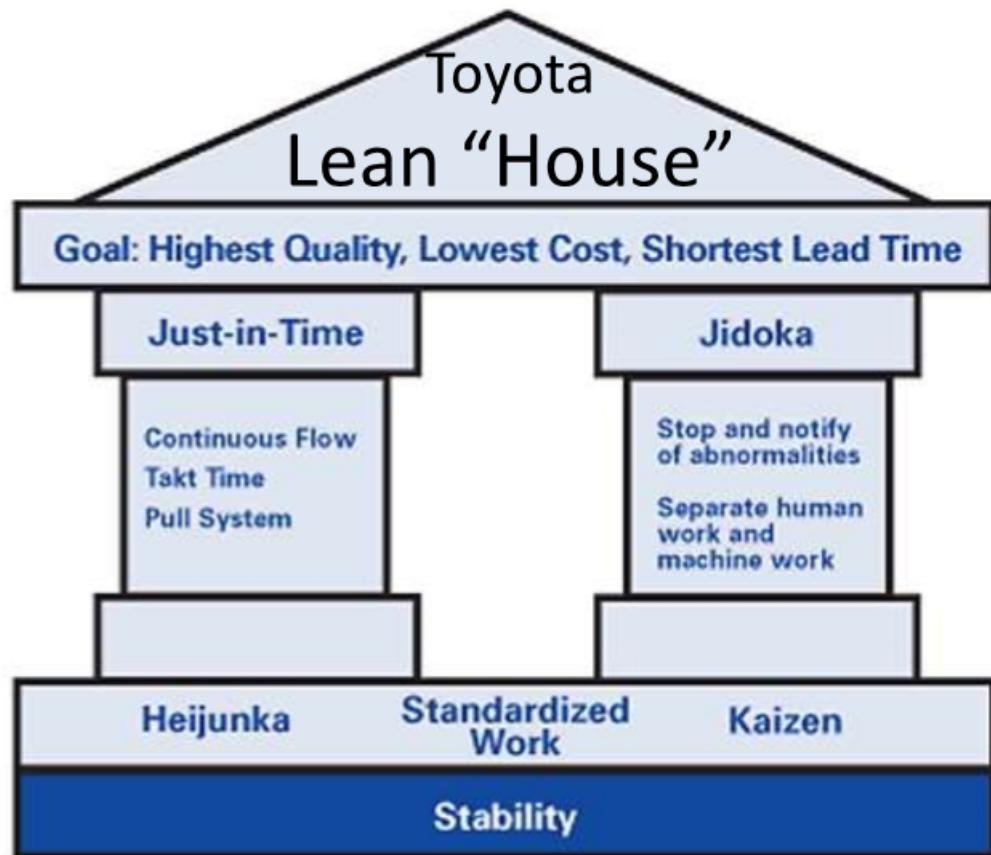


Figure 19: lean-house

- Just-in-Time (JIT):
 - Keep value flowing
 - Meet rate of demand
 - ‘Pull’ not ‘plan’
- Jidoka (Intelligent Automation):
 - Stop on faults
 - Automate as much as possible
 - Intelligent intervention
 - * The ability to self-monitor and stop production in case of a problem
- Heijunka (Production Levelling):
 - Smaller, more regular batches achieves:
 - * Steady flow to the next stage
 - * Greater predictability
 - * Flexibility to changing demand
 - Reduces mura (unevenness)
 - Comes at a price of mass production
 - E.g. one person works on a big work package while another person has finished theirs
- Kaizen (Continuous Improvement):
 - Regular, incremental improvements
 - * To all functions/processes (of the business)
 - * From employees at all levels
 - Philosophy: a culture where everyone is actively engaged in suggesting and implementing improvements
 - Strategy: trust, respect and empower people. Events focused on improving the company, involving teams of employees at all levels
 - Reduces muri, muda and mura

- Just-in-Case vs Just-in-Time:
 - Just-in-Case (make all we need just in case):
 - * Production approximation
 - * Anticipated usage
 - * Large lots
 - * High inventories
 - * Waste
 - * Management by firefighting
 - * Poor communication
 - Just-in-Time (make what's needed when we need it)
 - * Production precision
 - * Actual consumption
 - * Small lots
 - * Low inventories
 - * Waste reduction
 - * Management by sight
 - * Better communication

5 Pillars of Lean Thinking (maximising flow of value):

1. Identify Value
 - Value is created by the producer
 - Value can only be defined by the ultimate customer
2. Map the value stream
 - The complete life-cycle of a product: from raw materials to customer use
 - Some steps create value unambiguously
 - Some create no value but currently unavoidable (type 1 muda)
 - Others should be eliminated immediately (type 2 muda)
3. Create flow
 - Value stream keeps moving forward, with each step in sync
4. Establish pull
 - Don't make things ahead of time, make them just in time
5. Seek perfection
 - Repeat, making continuous improvement, seeking perfection

Kanban Software Development:

- ‘WIP-limited pull system’
- WIP:
 - Work in Progress
 - Forces team/individual to only work on a limited number of tasks
 - Reduced overburden and reduces overhead of task-switching (reducing productivity, which is therefore wasteful)
 - ‘It’s leaner to finish all of one thing than get two things to 50%’
- Pull System:
 - Start new work only when there is demand for it
 - No to-do list, no work overload, complete one thing then pull the next
 - Team focuses on prioritising, not estimating/planning
 - ‘It’s leaner to focus on completing only what is required’
- Kanban Methodology:
 - Kanban board - visualises work
 - Pull system - pull highest priority item from backlog
 - * Avoids overburden
 - Flow management:
 - * Identify blockers and dependencies

- * Feedback and experimental evolution
- No fixed length iterations
- Blockers and Idleness:
 - Sometimes, can't finish work because of being blocked waiting on someone else
 - Most people would just start working on something else, but this is against the rules
 - Taking on work to improve **your** output efficiency isn't in the team's best interest
 - * Won't maximise value through system
 - * Priority is completion of the highest priority work
 - Being 'blocked' forces team to collaborate
 - * Forced to ask: how to solve the bottleneck?
 - * Work as a team to get the flow going again
 - * Improve the process (kaizen) to achieve more even-flow (heijunka)
 - What about idle time? It's a pull system - no requirement to be in sync
 - Each team focuses on getting value through their flow. Yet:
 - * Kanban doesn't magically solve resource utilisation
 - * Teams need to adapt to improve end-to-end flow efficiency
 - When 'idle', a bottleneck has been created
 - * Improve the whole workflow
 - * Reorganise the teams
 - * Forces the question: 'do we really need separate developers and testers?'
- Software as a production line:
 - Lean methodology designed for manufacturing, but software development is not a production or manufacturing activity
 - Software engineers create different things every time, whereas manufacturing produces the same things over and over again
 - How do we design a Kanban board for software projects?
- Kanban Example 1 (typical of an agile team):
 -

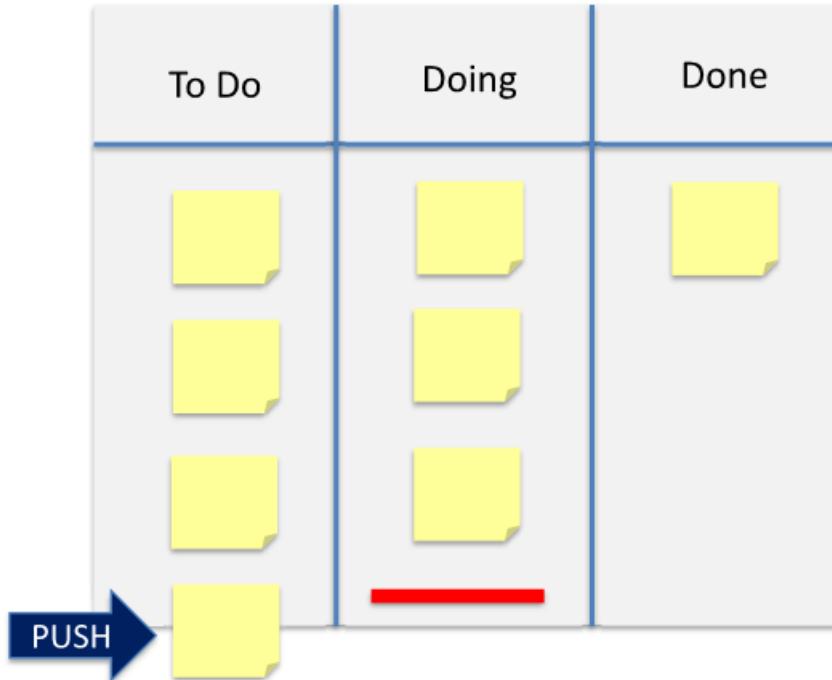


Figure 20: kanban-example-1

- Limits WIP

- Pull from To Do list
 - Helps visualise flow
 - Work pushed onto To Do list (backlog)
 - No mapping of processes (flow of work)
 - Hard to achieve a rhythm
- Kanban Example 2 (for a waterfall-based workflow):

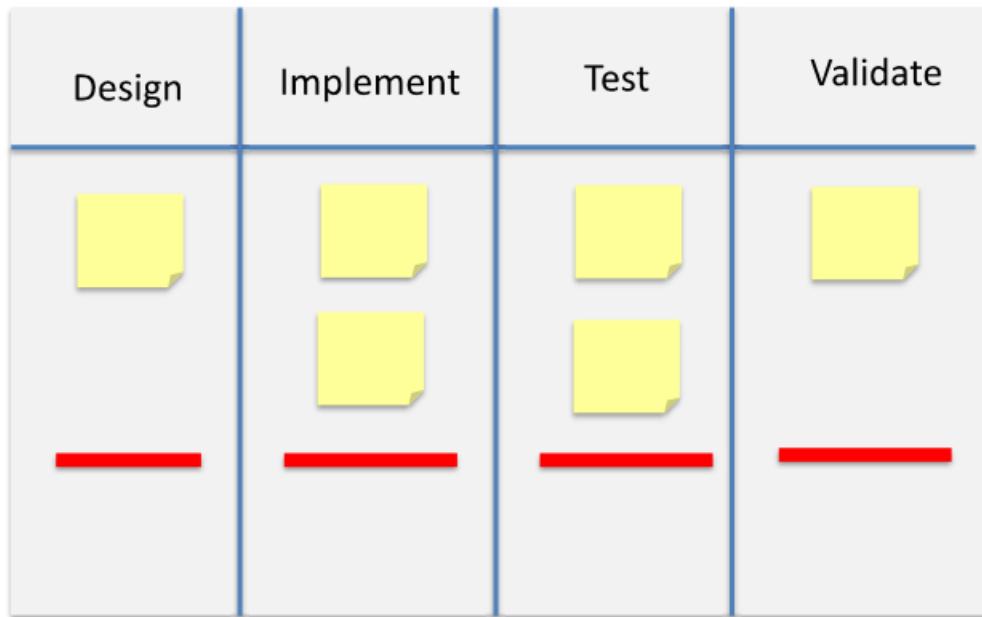


Figure 21: kanban-example-2

- Limits WIP
 - Helps visualise flow
 - Maps flow of work (processes)
 - Who moves the cards?
 - Is it push or pull?
 - How do we do signalling?
- Kanban Example 3 (for a waterfall-based workflow):

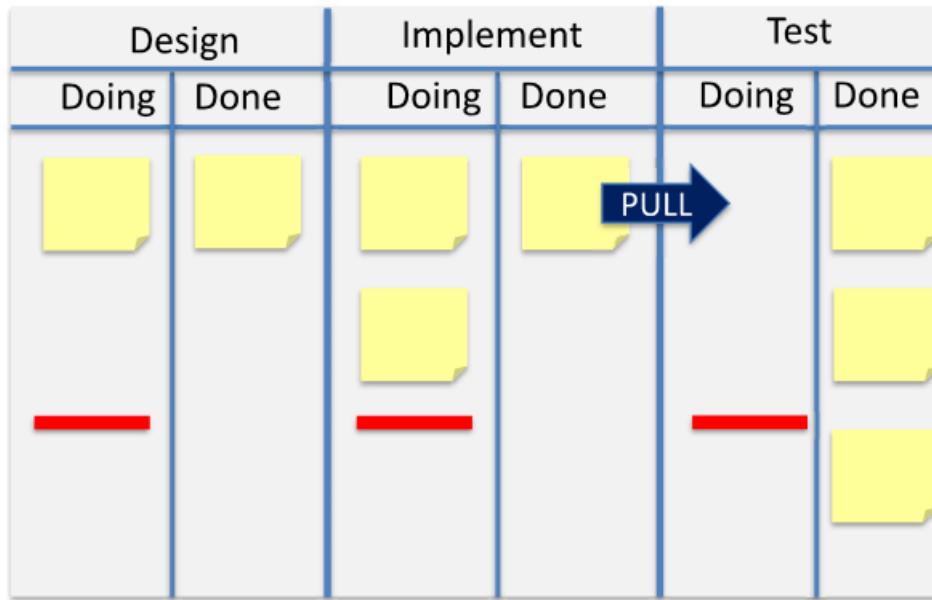


Figure 22: kanban-example-3

- Limits WIP
 - Helps visualise flow
 - Maps flow of work (processes)
 - Pull from upstream
 - Work done on demand (no over-production)
 - How do we balance load?
- Kanban Example 4 (swimlanes prioritise work):

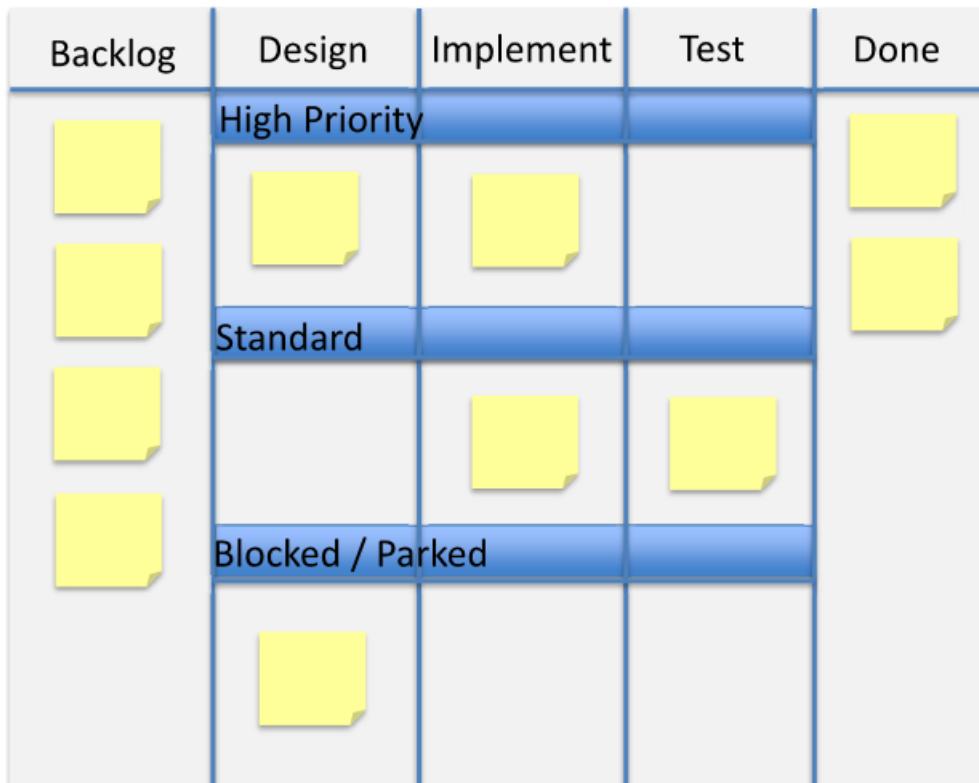


Figure 23: kanban-example-4

- Limits WIP
- Helps visualise flow
- Maps flow of work (processes)
- Work can be prioritised and expedited

Conditions for Agile:

Conditions	Favourable	Unfavourable
Market Environment	Customer preferences and solution options change frequently .	Market conditions are stable and predictable.
Customer Involvement	Close collaboration and rapid feedback are feasible . Customers know better what they want as the process progresses.	Requirements are clear at the outset and will remain stable. Customers are unavailable for constant collaboration.
Innovation Type	Problems are complex, solutions are unknown , and the scope isn't clearly defined . Product specifications may change . Creative breakthroughs and time to market are important. Cross-functional collaboration is vital.	Similar work has been done before , and innovators believe the solutions are clear. Detailed specifications and work plans can be forecast with confidence and should be adhered to. Problems can be solved sequentially in functional silos.
Modularity of Work	Incremental developments have value, and customers can use them. Work can be broken into parts and conducted in rapid, iterative cycles. Late changes are manageable.	Customers cannot start testing parts of the product until everything is complete . Late changes are impossible or expensive.
Impact of Interim Mistakes	They provide valuable learning.	They may be catastrophic.

Figure 24: conditions-for-agile

Scrum vs Kanban:

	Scrum	Kanban
Iterations	Timeboxed iterations prescribed.	Continuous delivery, typically event-driven.
	Can have separate cadences for planning, release, and process improvement.	Timeboxing optional.
Commitment	Team commits to a specific amount of work for this iteration.	Commitment optional.
Scope alteration	Cannot add items to ongoing iteration.	Can add new items whenever capacity is available
Visualisation	Optional. Often a Kanban board	A Kanban board
Persistence	Kanban board is reset between each sprint	Kanban board is persistent
Work size	Items must be broken down so they can be completed within 1 sprint.	No particular item size is prescribed (but smaller is leaner)
WIP Limits	WIP limited indirectly (per sprint)	WIP limited directly (per workflow state)
Estimation	Estimation prescribed	Estimation optional
Prioritisation	Prescribes a prioritized product backlog	Prioritization is optional.
Roles	Prescribes 3 roles (PO/SM/Team)	Doesn't prescribe any roles
Ownership	A sprint backlog is owned by one specific team	Kanban board may be shared by multiple teams or individuals
Cross-functionality	Cross-functional teams prescribed. Specialist teams allowed.	Cross-functional teams optional.
Planning tools	Burndown chart prescribed	No particular type of diagram is prescribed
Default metric	Velocity (for planning and process improvement).	Lead time (for planning and process improvement).

Figure 25: scrum-vs-kanban

When to use Scrum or Kanban?

- Scrum:
 - The work is in large vague chunks that you can then break down into smaller chunks
 - The work forms part of an even bigger series of long-term goals ('releases' or 'horizons')
 - Regular fixed timeboxes let you measure your rate of progress
 - Fixed timeboxes and a rate of progress mean you can plan towards the big long-term goals
- Kanban:
 - The work pops up in front of the team (i.e. event-based)
 - The work is in small discrete pieces
 - There is no overall long-term objective or goal to reach
 - Planning is unimportant or irrelevant
 - Where new work activities arrive continuously (e.g. a 'support' environment)

Agile Approaches:

- Different agile approaches exist
- Each will prioritise some part of the agile manifesto more
- Some more geared towards corporate project management

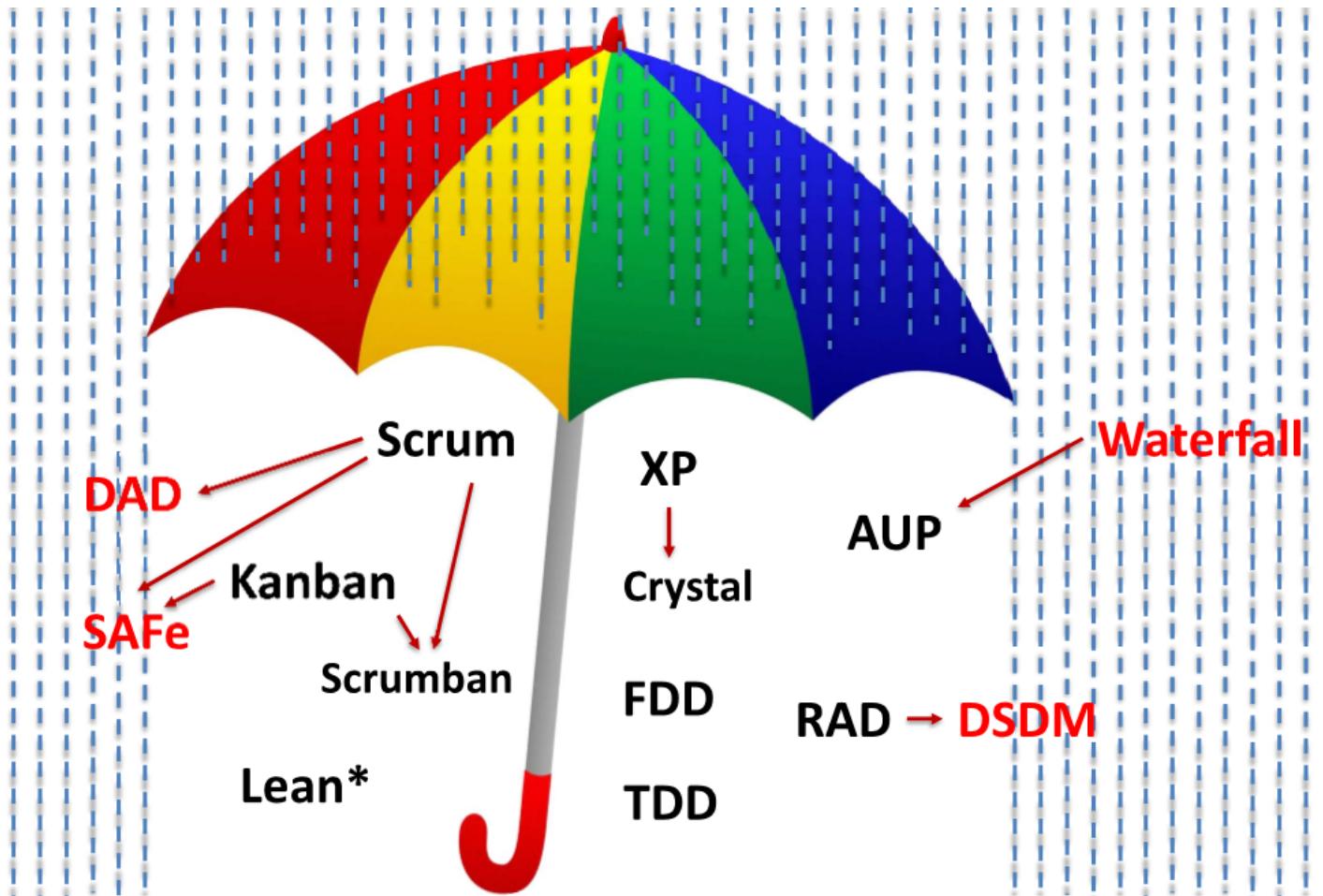


Figure 26: agile-approaches

- Extreme Programming (XP):
 - A series of core practices
 - Agile planning
 - Collaboration
 - Pair programming
 - Test-oriented
 - Quality code
 - Continuous feedback

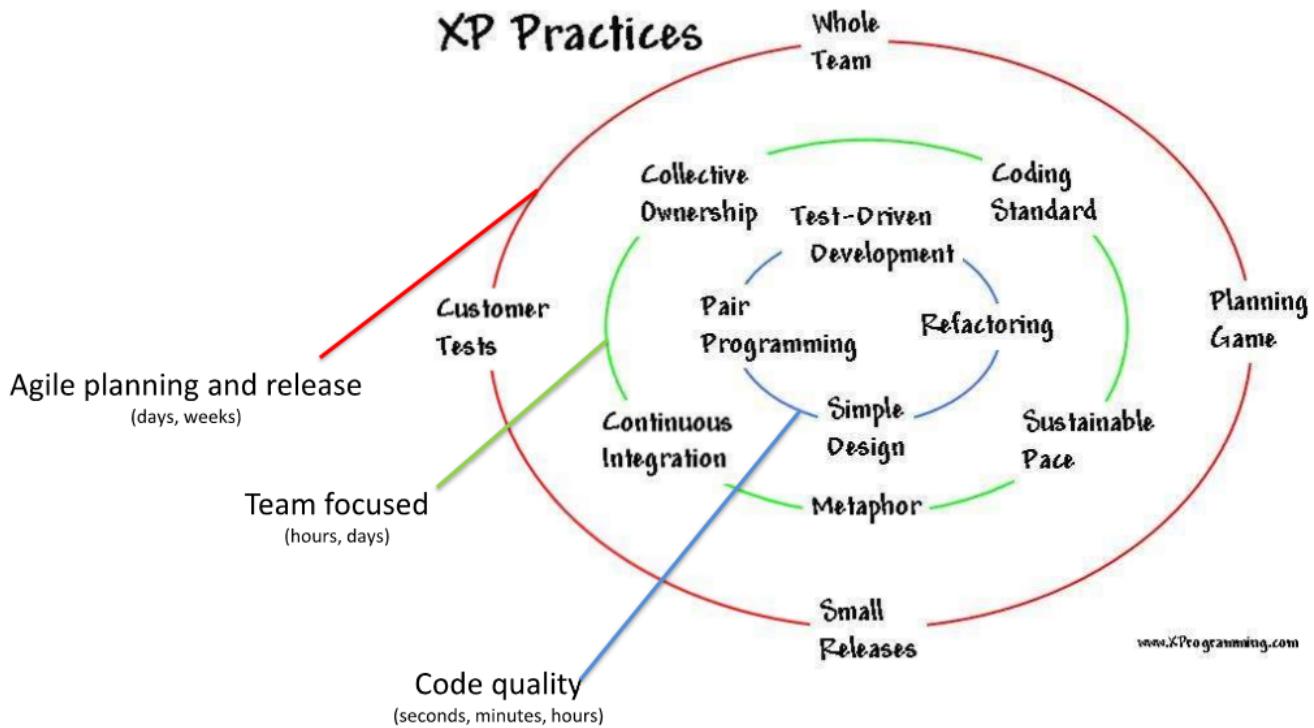


Figure 27: xp

Scaling Agile:

- Disciplined Agile Delivery (DAD):
 - Moving beyond Scrum, a hybrid-agile framework that not only streamlines agile development, but more importantly, enables scaling
 - Adds a PRINCE2/PMBOK approach

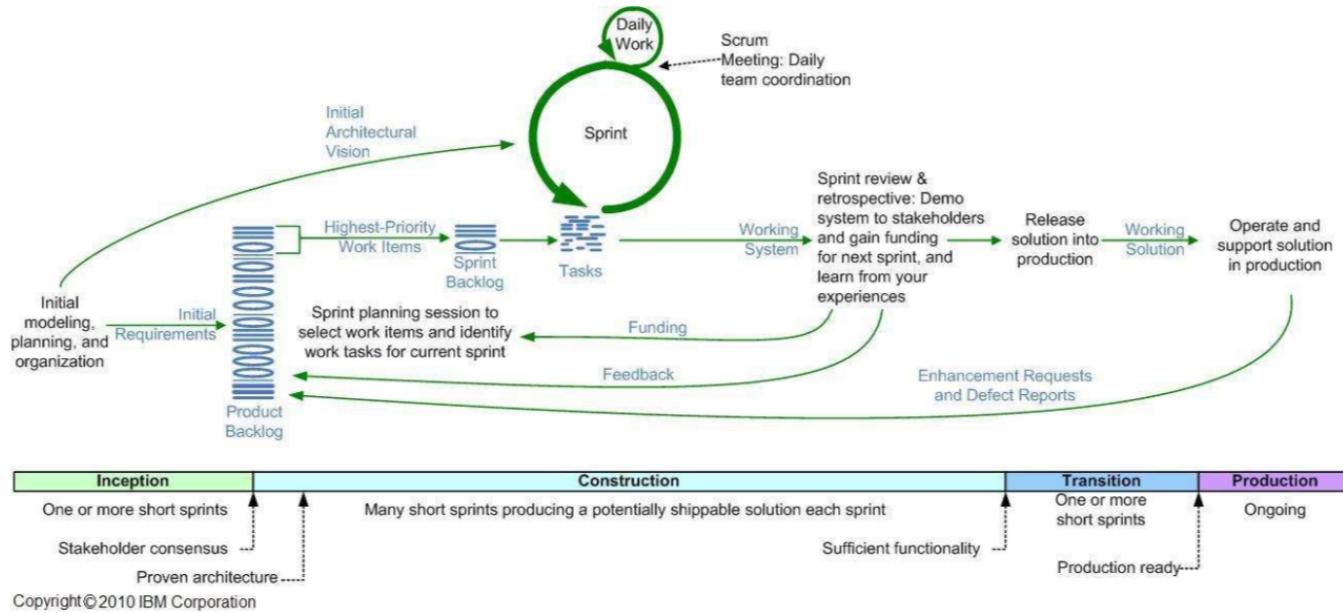


Figure 28: dad

- Scaled Agile Framework (SAFe):
 - Set of organization and workflow patterns intended to guide enterprises in scaling lean and agile practices

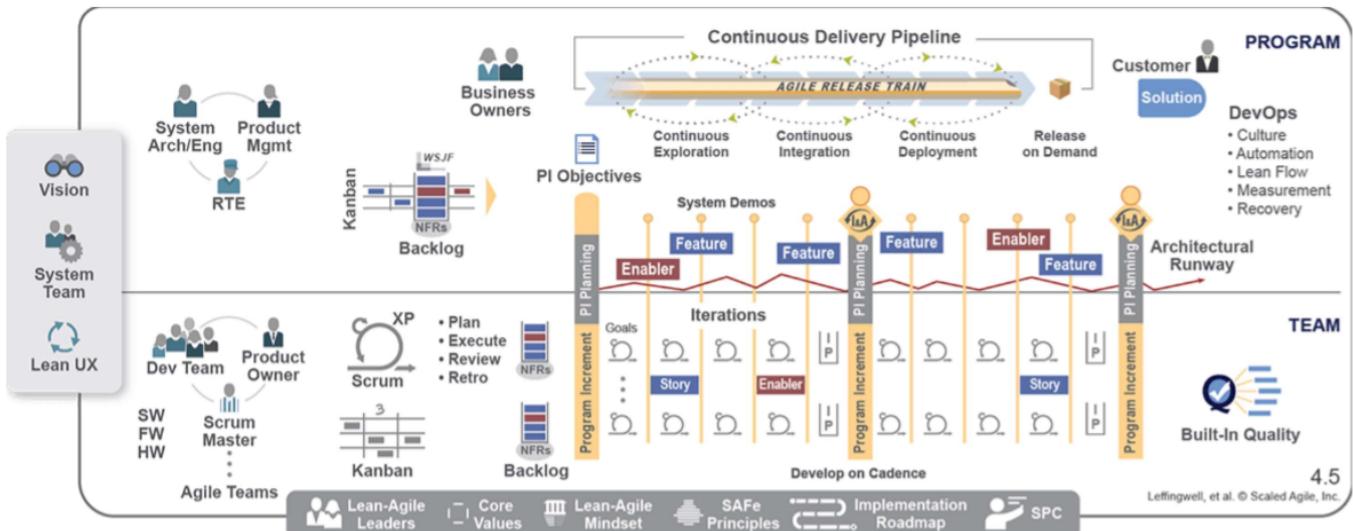


Figure 29: safe

Agile vs Lean

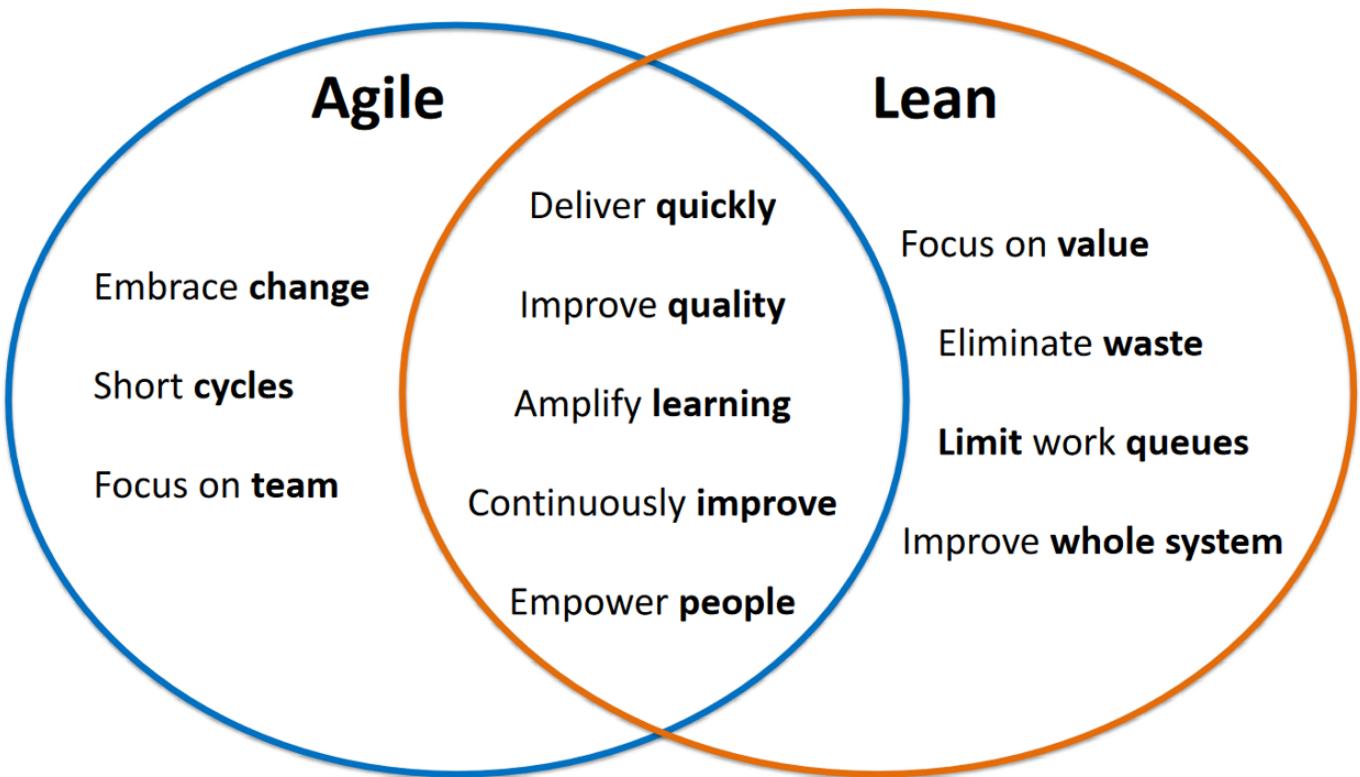


Figure 30: Agile vs Lean

Risk Management

Terminology:

- Uncertainty: something that is not definite, i.e. has a probability of occurrence
 - Types of uncertainty: events that may or may not happen, lack of information...
 - Areas of uncertainty: time, cost, quality, health and safety, legality...
- Risk: effect of uncertainty on objectives
- Tolerance to risk: person/organisation can be risk-averse, risk-neutral or risk-seeking
- Threats vs Opportunities: risk not necessarily negative - may be unexpected benefits
- Known risks: identified ones, under control of PM (paid for from contingency reserve)
- Unknown risks: not anticipated, under control of senior management (paid for out of management reserve)
- Issue: if the event that caused the risk occurs, it becomes an issue

How to deal with risk?

- Avoid - discontinue activity that gives rise to risk
- Remove the risk source
- Change the likelihood
- Change the consequences
- Share the risk with another party or parties
- Retain the risk by informed decision
- Accept
- Increase the risk in order to pursue an opportunity

Different approaches to risk management:

- PMBOK:
 - Systematic breakdown into KAs and PGs - avoid the risk of missing something
 - Risk KA: explicitly plan to avoid risk
- PRINCE2:
 - Board of Directors: avoid the risk of losing control of the project
 - Board roles: avoid the risk of failure to meet stakeholder expectations
 - Business case: avoid the risk of failing to meet business needs
- Agile:
 - Iterative: to avoid the risk of delivering the wrong thing
 - Customer collaboration: to benefit from the opportunities of regular customer engagement
- Lean:
 - Mudas: avoid risk of overproduction, overburden, etc.
 - Value: to benefit the customer by taking all opportunities to maximise value

PRINCE2 Risk Planning Cycle:

1. Identify risks
2. Assess probability and occurrence
 - What is the likelihood of the risk occurring?
 - How severe will the risk impact be?
3. Plan strategies and responses
 - How can we detect risks?
 - What can we do to reduce impact?
 - What actions should we take if risk occurs?
4. Monitor/implement responses
 - When identified risk occurs, execute plan
 - When unidentified risk occurs,
5. Communicate
 - Inform interested parties

Assigned Responsibilities:

- Need to have clear and unique accountability decided beforehand
 - If people aren't responsible for things, they won't get done
- Responsibility Assignment Matrix (RACI Matrix):
 - Clarifies roles and responsibilities for each item in the WBS
 - Records who is Responsible, Accountable, Consulted and Informed
 - All tasks should have at least one person responsible (who should actually complete the task)
 - All tasks should have one and only one accountable (the individual who is ultimately answerable for the task)

ROLE	Project Deliverable (or Activity)									
	Project Leadership		Project Team Members			Project Sub-Teams			External Resources	
Initiate Phase Activities										
Request Review by PMO	A/C	R/A			R/A	A/C		C		
Submit Project Request					R					A
Research Solution	I				R/A	A/C	A/C	C		C
Develop Business Case	I	A/C	I	I	R/A	C	C	C		C C
Plan Phase Activities										
Create Project Charter	C	C			R/A	C	C	C		C
Create Schedule	I	I	I	I	R/A	C	C	C	C	C I
Create Additional Plans as Required	I	I	I		R/A			I I I I		C I
Execute Phase Activities										
Build Deliverables	C/I	C/I	C/I	C/I		R/A	R/A	R/A	R/A	A/C
Create Status Report	I	I	I	I	R/A	R/A	R/A	R/A		C I
Control Phase Activities										
Perform Change Management	C	C	C		A	A	A	A		C I
Close Phase Activities										
Create Lessons Learned	C	C	C	C	R/A	C	C	C	C	C C
Create Project Closure Report	I	I	I	I	R/A	I	I	I	I	I

Figure 31: raci-matrix

Identifying Risks:

- SWOT Analysis:
 - Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats



Figure 32: swot-analysis

- Risk Breakdown Structure (RBS):
 - Breaking down risks into small units

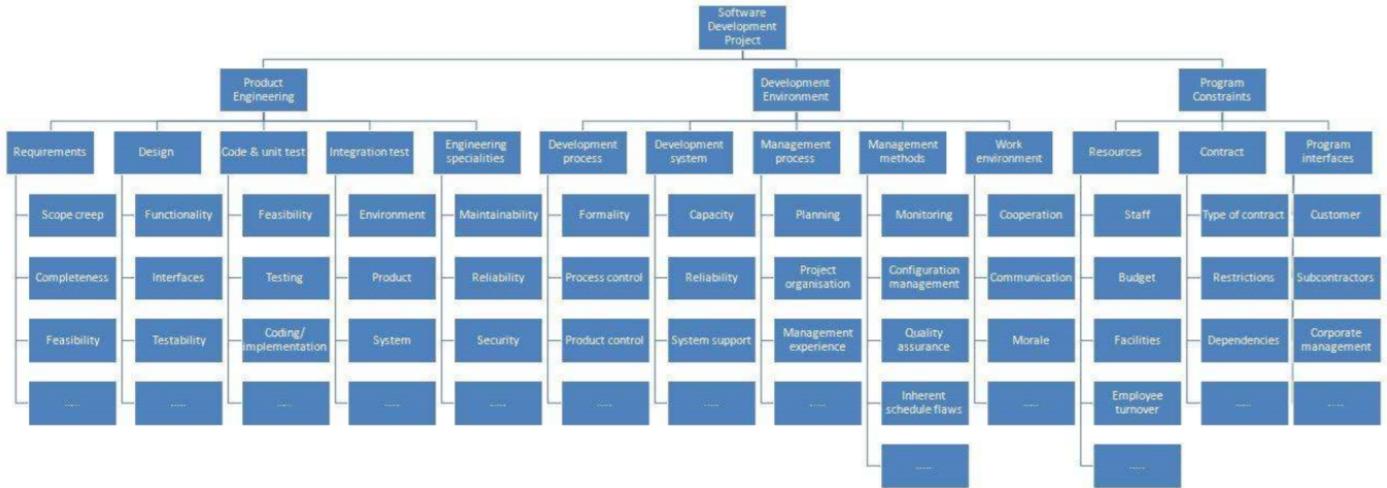


Figure 33: rbs

- Delphi Technique:
 - Experts who participate anonymously and iterate until a consensus is reached
- Decision Tree Analysis:
 - Model of decisions, chance and possible outcomes, costs and utility

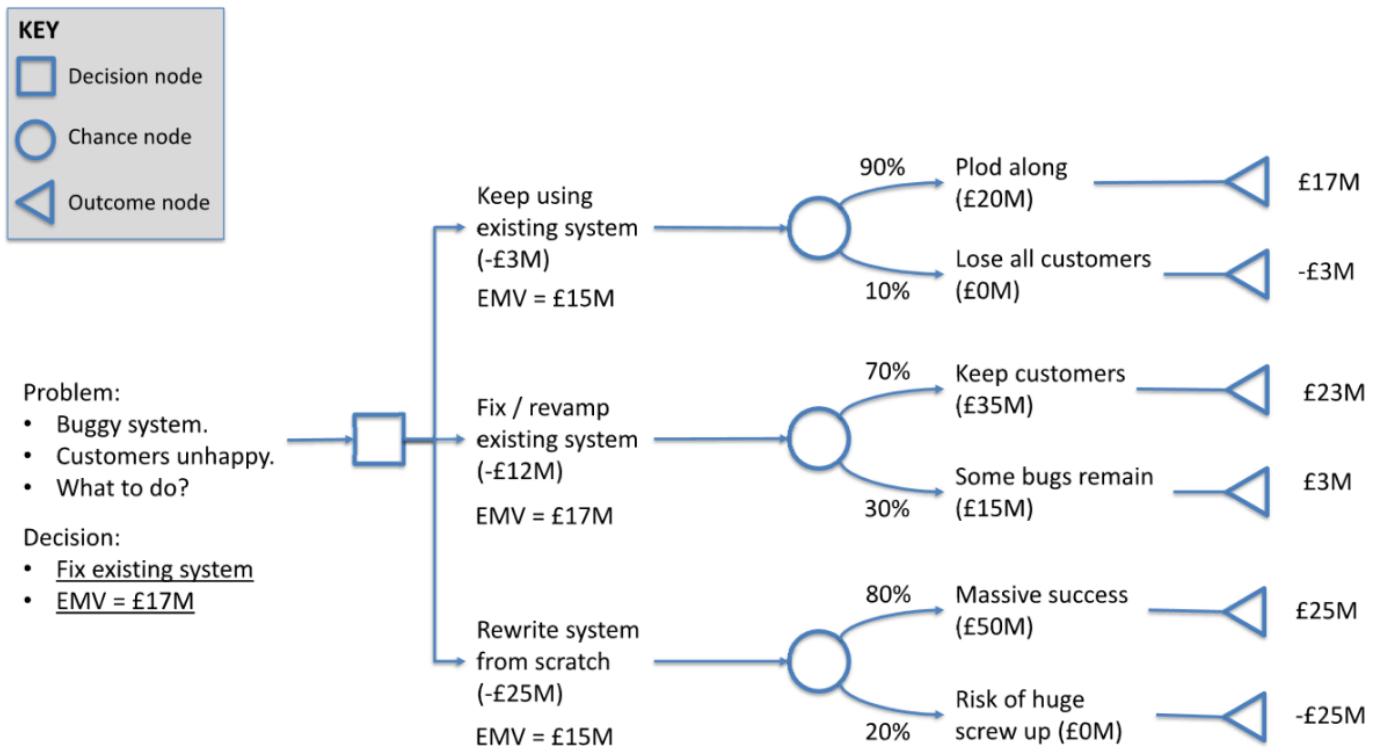


Figure 34: decision-tree

Identifying Causes:

- Ishikawa (Fishbone) Diagram:
 - Represents cause and effect
 - Work backwards from a risk to think about how it can be mitigated

- Originally developed for manufacturing
- Can be used with the 4 Ps:
 - * Policies
 - * Procedure
 - * People
 - * Plant (Technology)

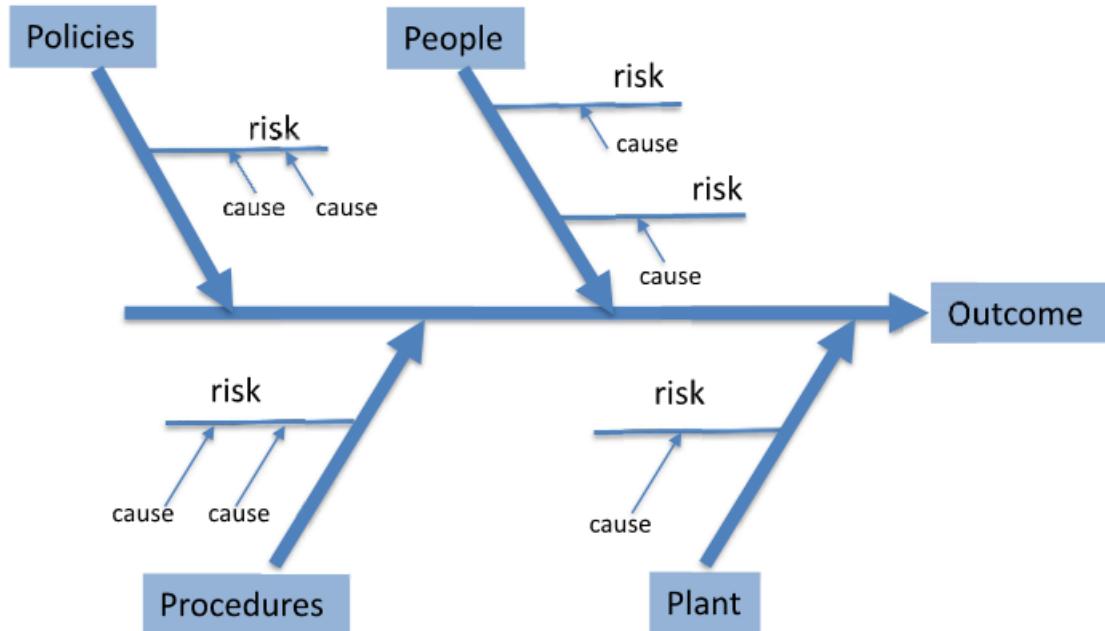


Figure 35: ishikawa-diagram

- Sensitivity Analysis:
 - To determine how different values of an independent variable impact a particular dependent variable under a given set of assumptions
 - * Simple estimate - estimate a range of values, e.g. low/med/high
 - * Simulation - model the system to measure the effects of a variable
 - * Empirical data - correlate risk factors with outcome
 - Spider graph: plots the dependent variable against deviations of the independent variable from a baseline

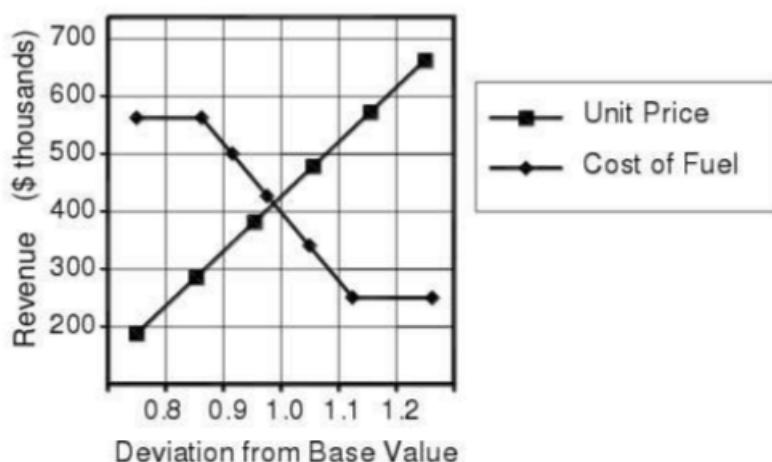


Figure 36: spider-graph

- * Centre is the baseline - what happens if we do nothing
- * Sensitivity curve can be determined using one (or multiple) of the methods described above
- Tornado diagram: shows how the dependent variable would change if the independent variable changed by + or - 25%

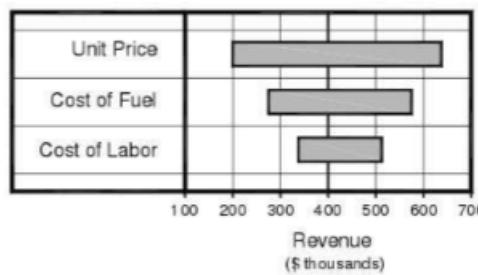


Figure 37: tornado-diagram

Planning Risk Responses:

- Risk response depends on probability and impact
- Risk matrix:

		Impact →				
		Negligible	Minor	Moderate	Significant	Severe
↑ Likelihood	Very Likely	Low Med	Medium	Med Hi	High	High
	Likely	Low	Low Med	Medium	Med Hi	High
	Possible	Low	Low Med	Medium	Med Hi	Med Hi
	Unlikely	Low	Low Med	Low Med	Medium	Med Hi
	Very Unlikely	Low	Low	Low Med	Medium	Medium

Figure 38: risk-matrix

- Categorise risks according to their probability and impact
 - * Simple to use and understand
 - * Different risk response for each category
 - * Asymmetric matrix reflects attitude to risk
- Replaces detailed quantification (false sense of precision)
- Subjective (prone to bias, may underestimate/overestimate true risk)
- Failure Mode Effects Analysis (FMEA):
 - A table of:
 - * Failure modes (what might go wrong)

- * Failure effects (damaged caused)
- * Possible causes
- * Detection measures
- Assign a score from 1-10 to:
 - * Severity S
 - * Occurrence Probability O
 - * Detection Rate D
- Calculate:
 - * Criticality $C = S \times O$
 - * Risk Priority Number $RPN = C \times D$
- Bigger numbers indicate a worse outcome
- Highest RPN: failure is not detectable by inspection, very severe and the occurrence is almost certain

Process Step	Potential Failure Mode	Potential Failure Effect	SEV ¹	Potential Causes	OCC ²	Current Process Controls	DET ³	RPN ⁴	Action Recommended
What is the step?	In what ways can the step go wrong?	What is the impact on the customer if the failure mode is not prevented or corrected?	How severe is the effect on the customer?	What causes the step to go wrong (i.e., how could the failure mode occur)?	How frequently is the cause likely to occur?	What are the existing controls that either prevent the failure mode from occurring or detect it should it occur?	How probable is detection of the failure mode or its cause?	Risk priority number calculated as SEV x OCC x DET	What are the actions for reducing the occurrence of the cause or for improving its detection? Provide actions on all high RPNs and on severity ratings of 9 or 10.
ATM Pin Authentication	Unauthorized access	• Unauthorized cash withdrawal • Very dissatisfied customer	8	Lost or stolen ATM card	3	Block ATM card after three failed authentication attempts	3 (easy)	72	Set withdrawal limit (reduce SEV) 2-factor Authentication (reduce OCC)
	Authentication failure	Annoyed customer	3	Network failure	5	Install load balancer to distribute workload across network links	5	75	Redundant network connection (reduce OCC) Handshaking protocol (reduce DET)

Figure 39: fmea

- Extended Failure Mode Effects Analysis (E-FMEA):
 - Extends FMEA by:
 - * Adding corrective actions
 - * Deciding the feasibility of the action
 - * Choosing the corrective action which gives the most feasible reduction in risk
 - For each corrective action:
 - * Reevaluate S , O , D and RPN
 - * Assign a score from 1-10 for feasibility F
 - * Compute $\Delta RPN/F$, the reduction in RPN scaled by F
 - Highest $\Delta RPN/F$: greatest reduction in risk for least amount of effort. This action should take the highest priority

SEV ¹	Potential Causes	OCC ²	Current Process Controls	DET ³	RPN ⁴	Action Recommended	SEV	OCC	DET	RPN	F	ΔRPN/F
How severe is the effect on the customer?	What causes the step to go wrong (i.e., how could the failure mode occur?)?	How frequently is the cause likely to occur?	What are the existing controls that either prevent the failure mode or detect it should it occur?	How probable is detection of the failure mode or its cause?	Risk priority number calculated as SEV x OCC x DET	What are the actions for reducing the occurrence of the cause or for improving its detection? Provide actions on all high RPNs and on severity ratings of 9 or 10.	Severity after action taken	How likely to occur after action taken	How hard to detect after action taken	New RPN	How feasible is this action (or how hard will it be to implement?)	Reduction in RPN divided by feasibility
8	Lost or stolen ATM card	3	Block ATM card after three failed authentication attempts	3 (easy)	72	Set withdrawal limit (reduce SEV)	7	3	3	63	1 (easy)	9
						2-factor Authentication (reduce OCC)	8	1	3	24	6	8
3	Network failure	5	Install load balancer to distribute workload across network links	5	75	Redundant network connection (reduce OCC)	3	4	5	60	3	5
						Handshaking protocol (reduce DET)	3	5	3	45	2	15
7	ATM out of cash	7	Internal alert of low cash in ATM	4	196	Use historical data to predict demand (reduce OCC)	7	4	4	112	7 (hard)	12
8	• Transaction failure • Network issue	3	Install load balancer to distribute workload across network links	4	96	Use transactional database (reduce OCC)	8	1	4	32	1	64
8	• Bills stuck to each other • Bills stacked incorrectly	2	Verification while loading cash in ATM	8	12 ₈	Weigh cash on dispense (reduce DET)	8	2	5	80	6	8

Leadership and Teamwork

Decision Making:

- PrOACT Decision Making Model:
 1. Define the Problem: What is the problem? How big is the problem? Why does it matter?
 2. Specify Objectives of the solution: Prioritise aims. How can they be measured?
 3. Imagine Alternatives: A decision is only as good as the next-best alternative
 4. Tabulate Consequences: Compare the consequences of each alternative
 5. Claiify Trade-offs: If no obvious winner, weigh up the objectives. Why is one more important than another?
- Important to consider uncertainty, risk tolerance and linked decisions. Also beware of cognitive biases
- Example Cognitive Biases:
 - Availability heuristic: people overestimate the importance of information that is available to them
 - Confirmation bias: we tend to listen to information that confirms our preconceptions
 - Survivorship bias: an error that comes from focusing only on surviving/successful examples
- A good leader is decisive and makes good decisions quickly
 - Not reckless/impulsive ones
 - Measured, reasoned, risk-aware
 - Beware of biases
- We learn more from mistakes than by idling
 - Why waste time planning when we could be learning?
- Self-confidence is infectious
 - Motivates team
 - Fear of failure diminishes team's confidence

Team Building:

- Most important thing is trust
 - Openness, honesty, sharing
- Without trust we avoid conflict - artificial harmony
 - People don't feel confident enough to express their opinion
- With artificial consensus there is no real agreement

- Decisions are ambiguous
- No commitment means no ownership and responsibility
 - Standards drop
- Team members become accountable only to themselves, so they become selfish
 - Egos take over
- Conflict is good!



Figure 40: trust-pyramid

Example characteristics of productive teams:

- Trust:
 - Can speak openly and freely, can tell the truth even if it's uncomfortable
 - Team members can count on each other and are reliable
- Respect:
 - Team members empowered to contribute their best
- Values diversity:
 - The team is open-minded and benefits from differences in ideas, perspectives, backgrounds, personalities and approaches
- Team leadership:
 - Team members feel confident and empowered to lead
 - The team leader's role is clear and supportive
- Decision making:
 - The team has transparent and efficient decision-making processes, which are proven to be effective
- Proactive:
 - The team takes the initiative
 - The team is flexible in addressing opportunities, responding positively and creatively
- Accountability:

- There is clarity of roles and responsibilities
- Team members hold each other accountable for team results and side agreements

Stages of Group Development:

- Forming:
 - Team acquaints and establishes ground rules
 - Formalities are preserved and members are treated as strangers
 - Someone (often the loudest person) usually takes the lead
- Storming:
 - Members start to communicate their feelings but still view themselves as individuals rather than part of the team
 - They resist control by group leaders and show hostility
- Norming:
 - People feel part of the team and realise that they can achieve work if they accept other viewpoints
 - Can get things done to a decent degree
 - Many teams get this far and no further
- Performing:
 - The team works in an open and trusting atmosphere where flexibility is key and hierarchy is of little importance
- Adjourning:
 - The team conducts an assessment of the work done and implements a plan for transitioning roles and recognising members' contributions
- Graph:

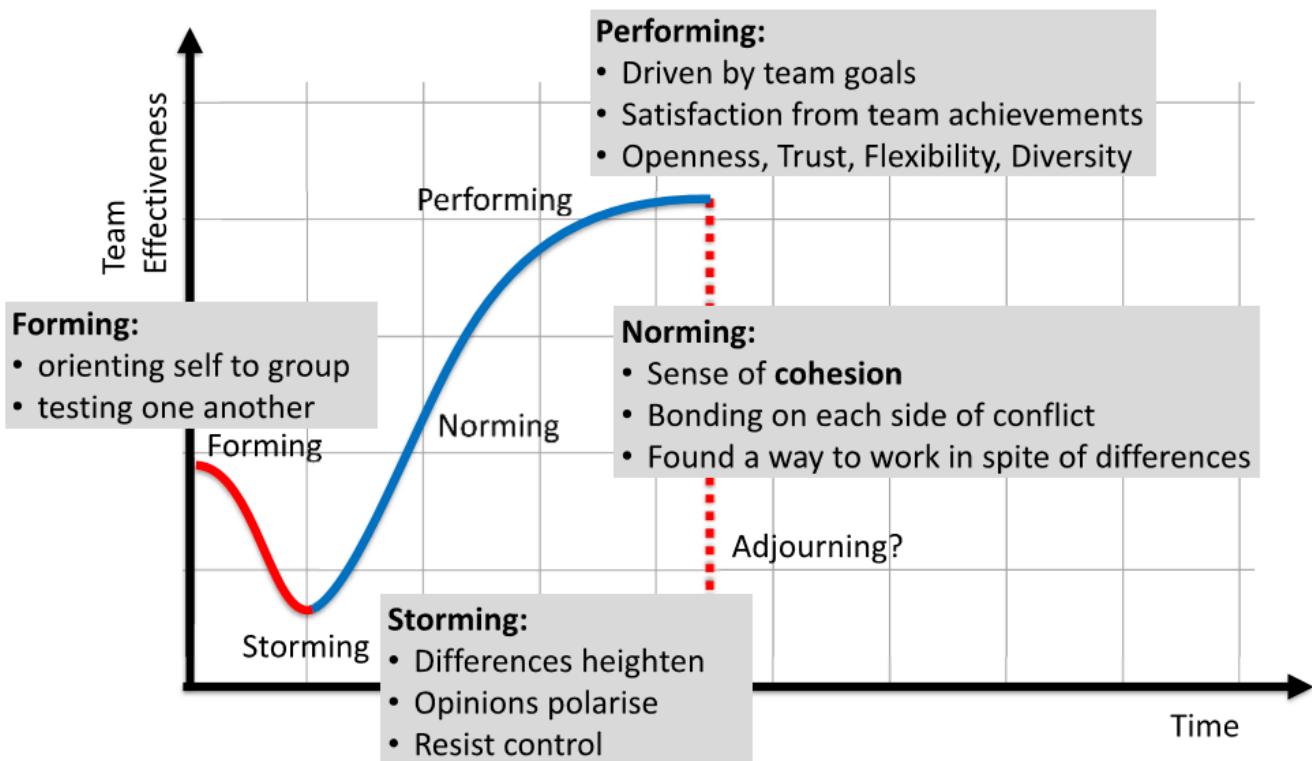


Figure 41: group-development-original

- Can it be sustained?

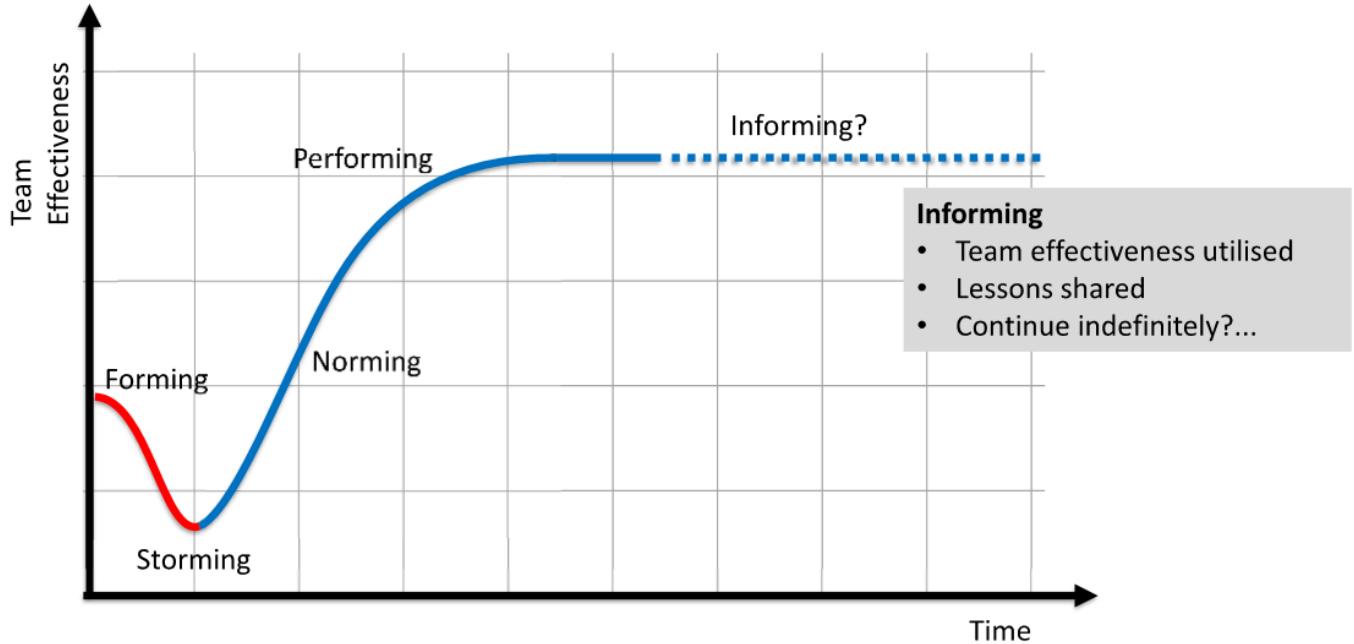


Figure 42: group-development-informing

- May eventually lose independent thought, may as well just be a team of one

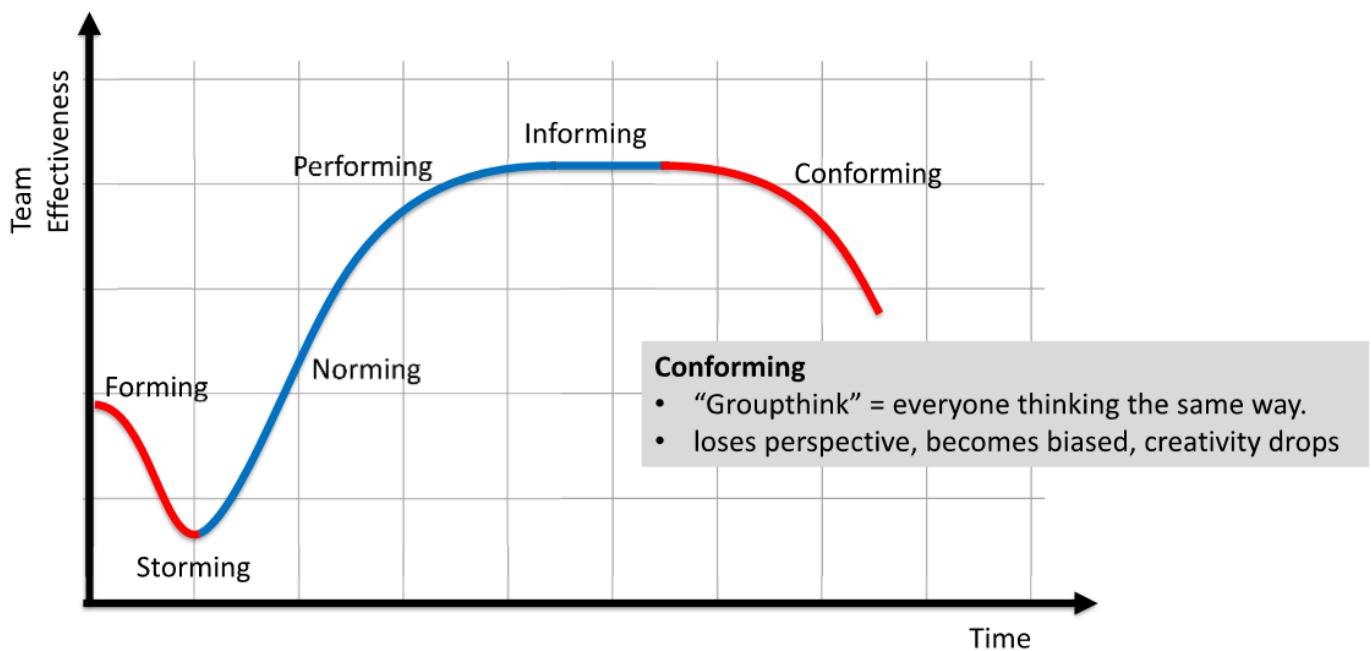


Figure 43: group-development-conforming

- Which then may lead to the end of the team

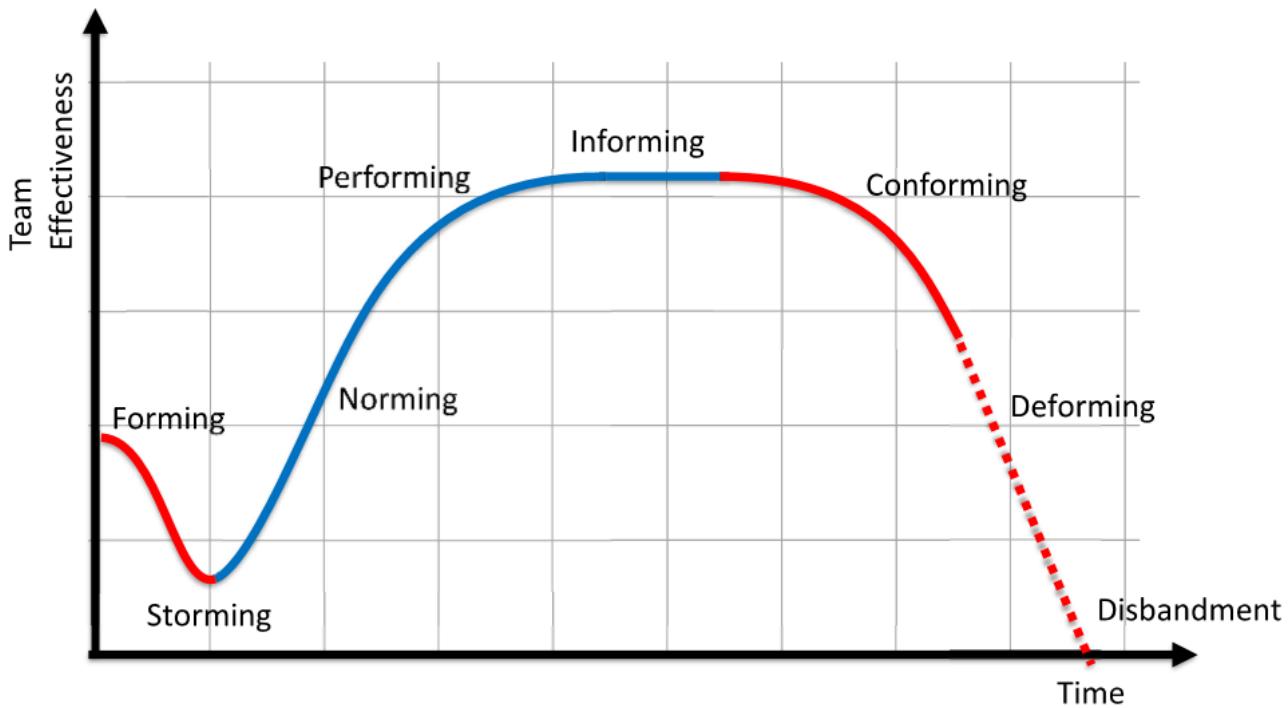


Figure 44: group-development-deforming

- Sometimes need PM to intervene and shake things up - need to get back to norming stage

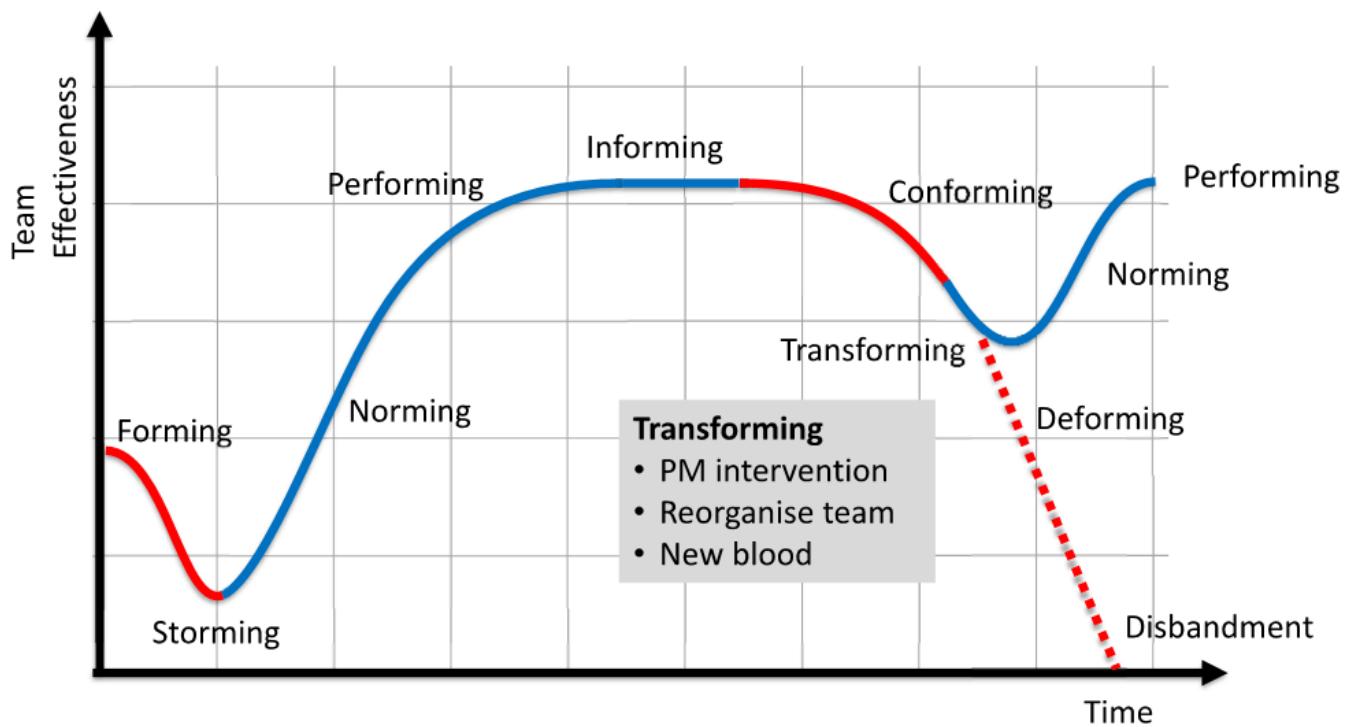


Figure 45: group-development-transforming

- Leadership interventions:

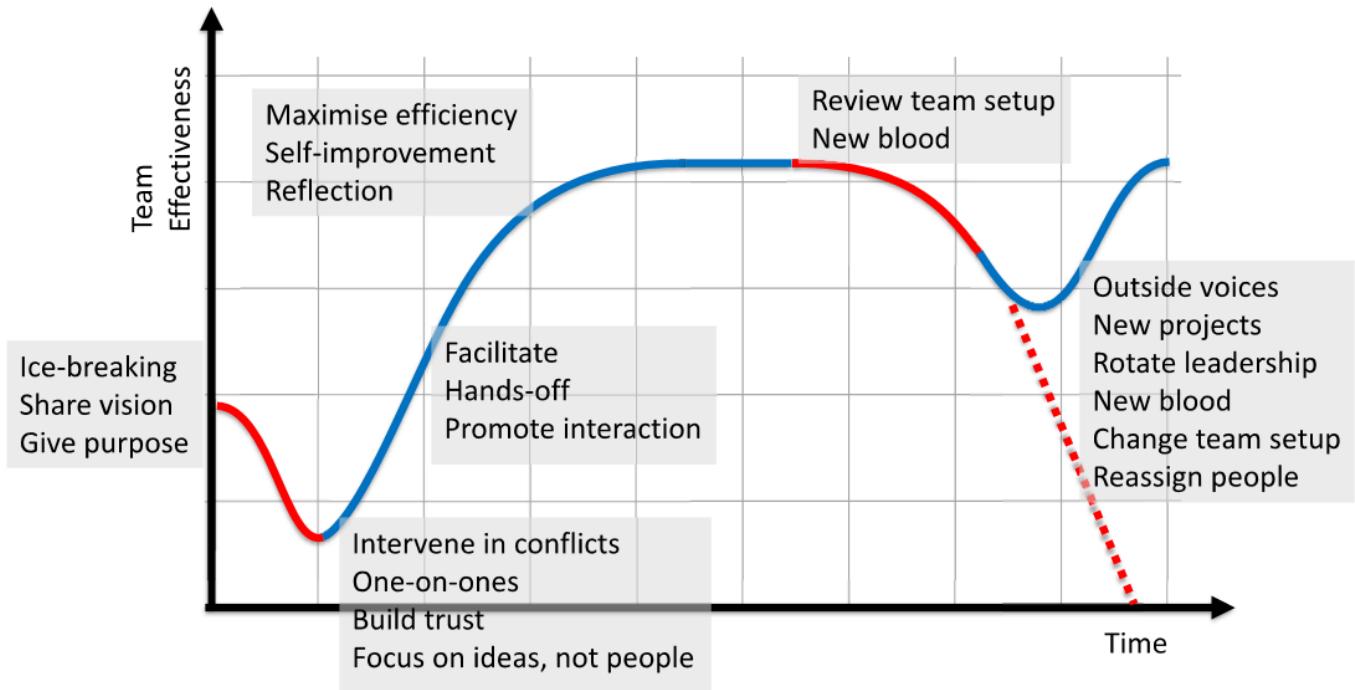


Figure 46: group-development-interventions

Motivating People:

- People can often motivate themselves in the right environment
- Remove:
 - Threats to their basic needs
 - Threats to self-esteem/self-motivation
- Understand:
 - What drives them?
 - What is the benefit to them?
- Maslow Hierarchy of Needs:

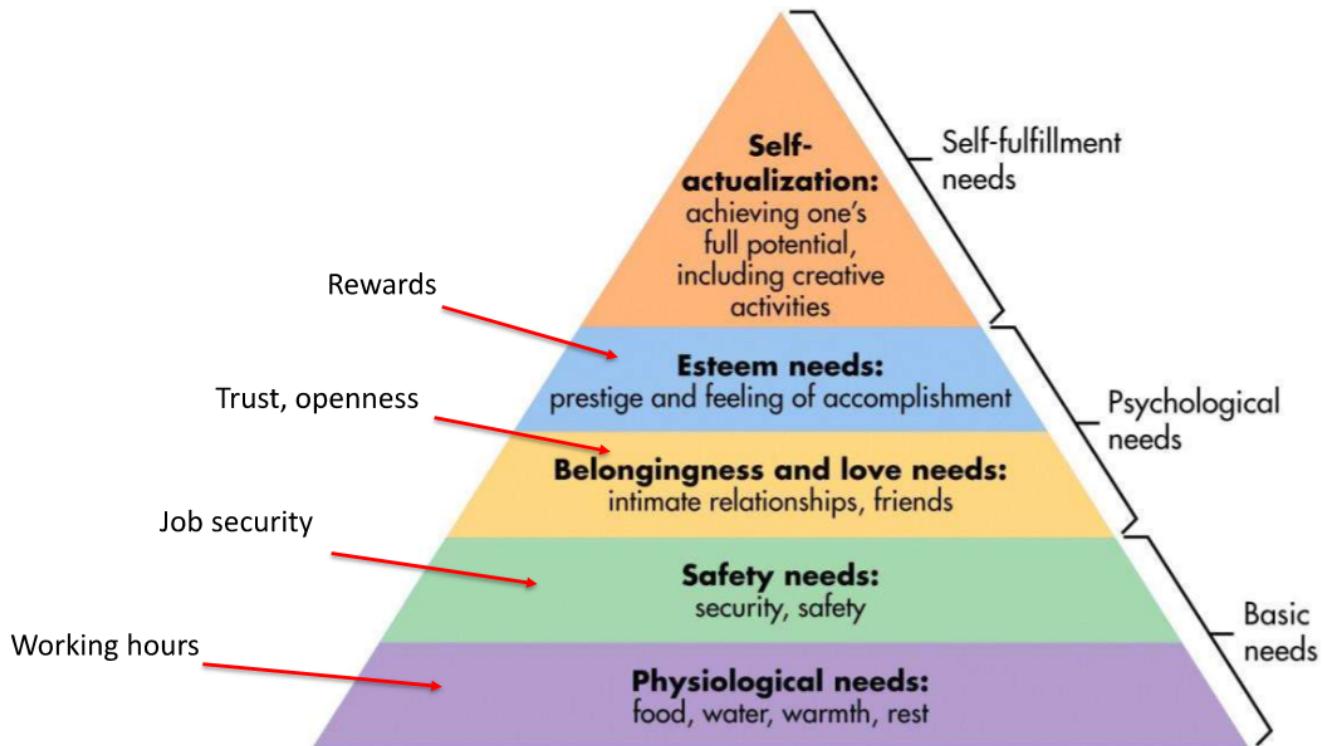


Figure 47: maslow-hierarchy

- Common reasons for a decrease in motivation:
 - Lack of management support
 - * Lack of trust, resources or encouragement
 - * To increase management support:
 - Align project to organisation's strategic goals
 - Keep top management informed of status
 - Divide project into phases and deliver frequently
 - Personal conflicts (between team members or with managers)
 - * To resolve conflicts:
 - Gather information from all sides and come to a mutual agreement on what the problem actually is
 - Involve everyone in brainstorming potential solutions
 - Facilitate a negotiated agreement
 - Overburden
 - * Unrealistic or unreasonable expectations
 - * To reduce overburden:
 - Define project scope early on and agree with all of the key stakeholders
 - Implement a change management process, evaluating impact to minimise scope creep

Understanding Personalities:

- We all have different skills, but also:
 - Different needs
 - Different preferences
 - Different ways of seeing the world
 - Different ways of interacting
 - Different ways of making decisions
- Understand, appreciate and utilise these differences to get the most out of the team

- Belbin's Team Roles:

Belbin's Team Roles

	Strengths	Allowable Weaknesses	Don't be surprised if they	Team Function
	Resource Investigator Outgoing, enthusiastic. Explores opportunities and develops contacts	Might be over-optimistic, and can lose interest once the initial enthusiasm has passed	Forget to follow up on a lead.	Uses their inquisitive nature to find ideas to bring back to the team.
	Team-worker Co-operative, perceptive and diplomatic. Listens and averts friction	Can be indecisive in crunch situations and tends to avoid confrontation	Hesitant to make unpopular decisions.	Helps team to gel, does work on behalf of the team.
	Co-ordinator Mature, confident, identifies talent. Clarifies goals	Can be seen as manipulative and might offload their own share of the work	Over-delegate, leaving themselves little to do.	Needed to focus on team's objectives, draw people out and delegate work
	Plant Creative, imaginative, free-thinking, generates ideas, solves difficult problems	Might ignore incidentals, and may be too preoccupied to communicate effectively	Absent-minded or forgetful	Highly creative and good at solving problems in unconventional ways.
	Monitor Evaluator Sober, strategic and discerning. Sees all options and judges accurately	Sometimes lacks the drive and ability to inspire others and can be overly critical	Slow to come to decisions	Provides a logical eye, impartial and objective where required
	Specialist Single-minded, self-starting and dedicated. They provide specialist knowledge and skills	Tends to contribute on a narrow front and can dwell on the technicalities	Overload you with information	Brings in-depth knowledge of a key area to the team.
	Shaper Challenging, dynamic, thrives on pressure. Drive and courage to overcome obstacles	Can be prone to provocation, and may sometimes offend people's feelings	Be aggressive in attempt to get things done	Necessary drive to ensure that the team does not lose focus or momentum
	Implementer Practical, reliable, efficient. Turns ideas into actions, organises what needs to be done	Can be a bit inflexible and slow to respond to new possibilities	Slow to relinquish their plans in favour of positive changes	Needed to plan a workable strategy and carry it out as efficiently as possible.
	Completer Finisher Painstaking, conscientious, anxious. Searches out errors. Polishes and perfects	Can be inclined to worry unduly, and reluctant to delegate	They could be accused of taking their perfectionism to extremes	Scrutinises work for errors, achieves the highest standards of quality control.

Figure 48: belbin-team-roles

- Each has strengths and weaknesses, but equal importance
- A team needs all roles to become a 'high performing team'
- Most people comfortable in 2 or 3 roles

- Myers-Briggs Personality Preferences:

- Based on the theory of 'psychological types'
 - * How we perceive and judge
- A way for people to identify their 'type'
- All types are equal, no 'best type'
- How do you get your energy? **E**xtroverts/**I**ntroverts
- How do you see the world and gather information? **S**ensors/**iNtuitives**
- How do you make decisions? **T**hinkers/**F
- How much do you like to plan ahead? **J**udgers/**Perceivers****