Masterclass: success patterns fast flow and Team Topologies

Domain-Driven Design Europe - 29/5/24



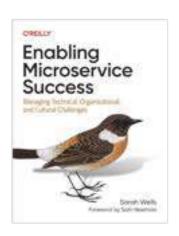


About the facilitators



Sarah Wells
Associate Principal
at Conflux

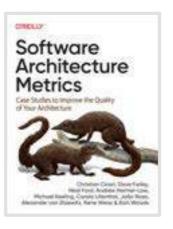
Technology consultant and author





João Rosa Associate Principal at Conflux

Co-author of *Software Architecture Metrics*



Masterclass - outline

Duration	Details
90 minutes	Part 1: The importance of the evolution of team interactions and team boundaries
	Break (30 mins)
90 minutes	Part 2: Success with platforms and platform thinking for fast flow
	Lunch (13:00 - 14:00)
90 minutes	Part 3: Finding good boundaries for flow using Independent Service Heuristics
	Break (30 mins)
90 minutes	Part 4: Skills paths and aptitudes for fast flow + wrap-up
	<pre>@conflux</pre>

Objective of this masterclass

Accelerate the adoption and evolution of fast flow and Team Topologies within your organization through deep insights into the key ideas and techniques that work well "on the ground". Put into practice the ideas and techniques through guided exercises and discussions.



Results of this masterclass

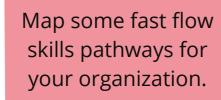
Outcomes

Deep insights into fast flow and Team Topologies.

Confidence in explaining the nuances of fast flow and Team Topologies.

Gain advanced awareness of platform dynamics for fast flow.

Activities



Develop the skills to facilitate an Independent Service Heuristics session within your organization. Use the Team
Topologies modeling
shapes to explore
organization dynamics.

Hands-on experience of tools and techniques, guided by a Conflux practitioner.



Part 1 - The evolution of team interactions and team boundaries



Outline of part 1

- We begin Part 1 by a group critique of some team interaction diagrams based on different industry contexts to help embed the learning.
- We then revisit Chapters 7 and 8 of the Team Topologies (TT) book and the implications of the team interaction modes, and how Team APIs can help cross-team communication.
- We finally use the open-access TT team modeling shapes to become familiar with thinking in terms of the evolution of teams and interactions, not simply a target design.



Rules and guidelines for Team Interaction Modeling



https://teamtopologies.com/tin

When using the team shapes to create your own diagrams, there are a number of constraints that should be applied:

- 1. There is always an implied flow of change from left to right in the diagram (with apologies to people more familiar with a right-to-left flow!).
- 2. A key aspect of Stream-aligned teams is that they have end-to-end responsibility for a flow of change to the live services/systems, with no hand-offs to other teams. There should therefore be no other team between a Stream-aligned team and their customers/users (on the right of the diagram).
- 3. Team shapes should be solid to represent their long-lived nature.
- 4. Interaction Mode shapes should be 50% transparent to represent the interaction's short-lived nature.
- 5. Stream-aligned teams should generally never provide an X-as-a-Service directly. Instead, data or services from the Stream-aligned team should be made available 'as a Service' via a platform.
- 6. If an X-as-a-Service or Collaboration interaction crosses over multiple teams, it may be appropriate to use a black asterisk, '*', to clarify which teams are interacting.

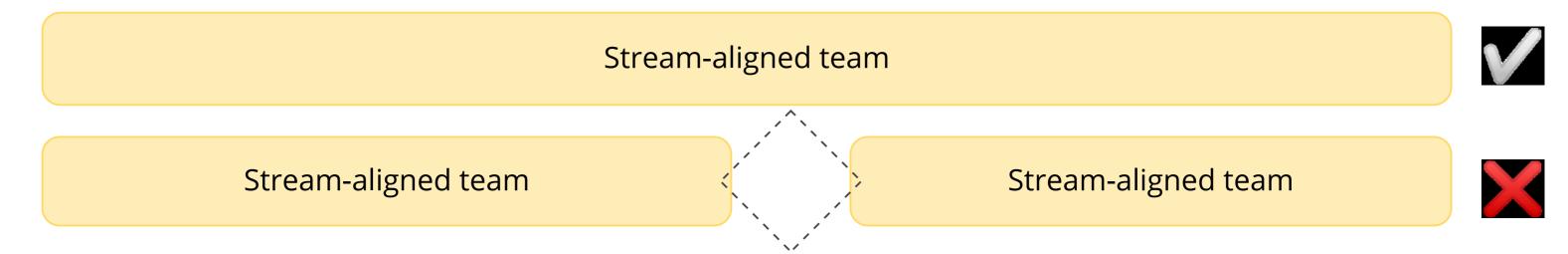


Rules and guidelines for Team Interaction Modeling - 1 & 2

1 - There is always an implied flow of change from left to right in the diagram (with apologies to people more familiar with a right-to-left flow!).



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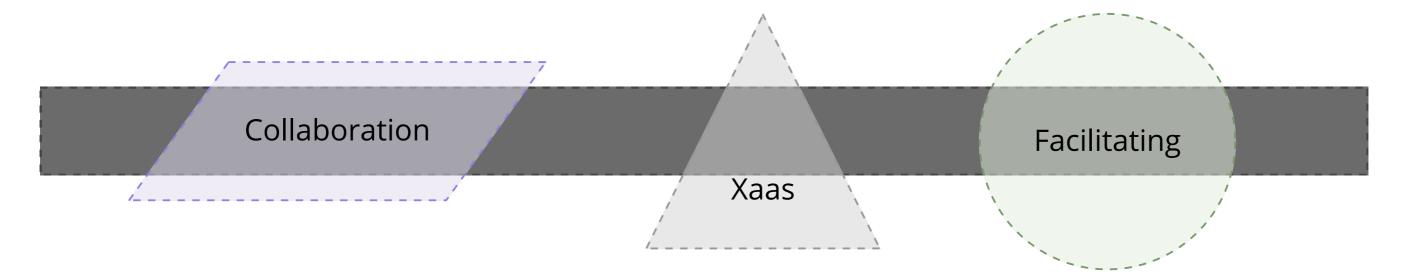
Rules and guidelines for Team Interaction Modeling - 3 & 4

3 - Team shapes should be solid to represent their long-lived nature.

Stream-aligned team

Platform grouping

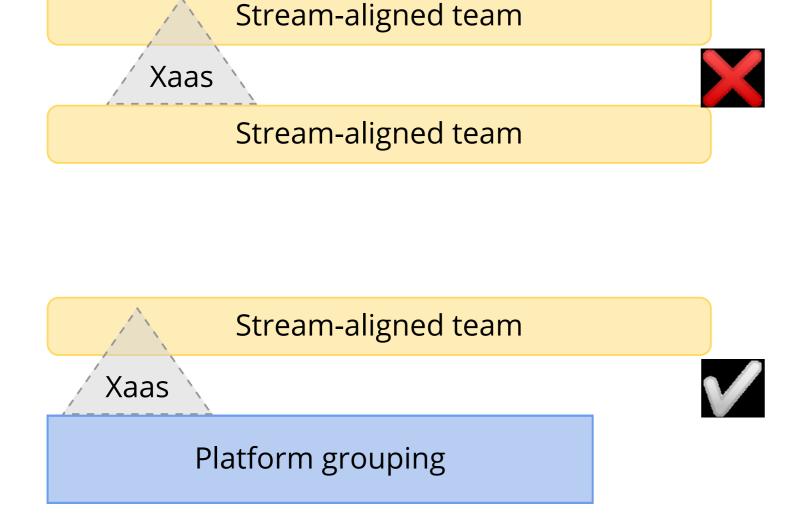
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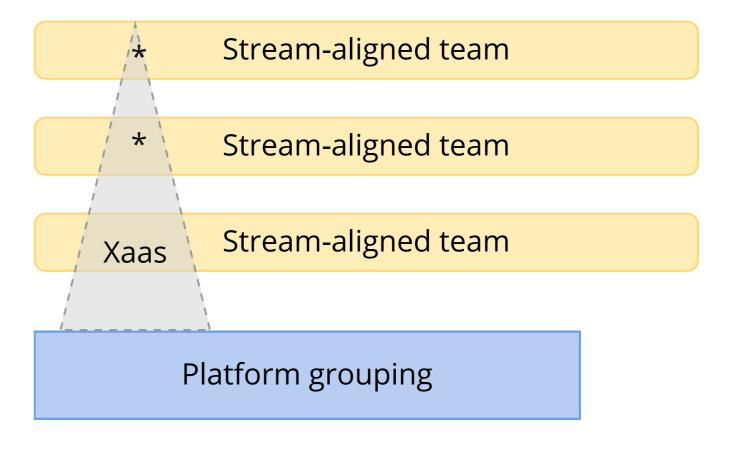


Rules and guidelines for Team Interaction Modeling - 5 & 6

5 - Stream-aligned teams should generally never provide an X-as-a-Service directly. Instead, data or services from the Stream-aligned team should be made available 'as a Service' via a platform.

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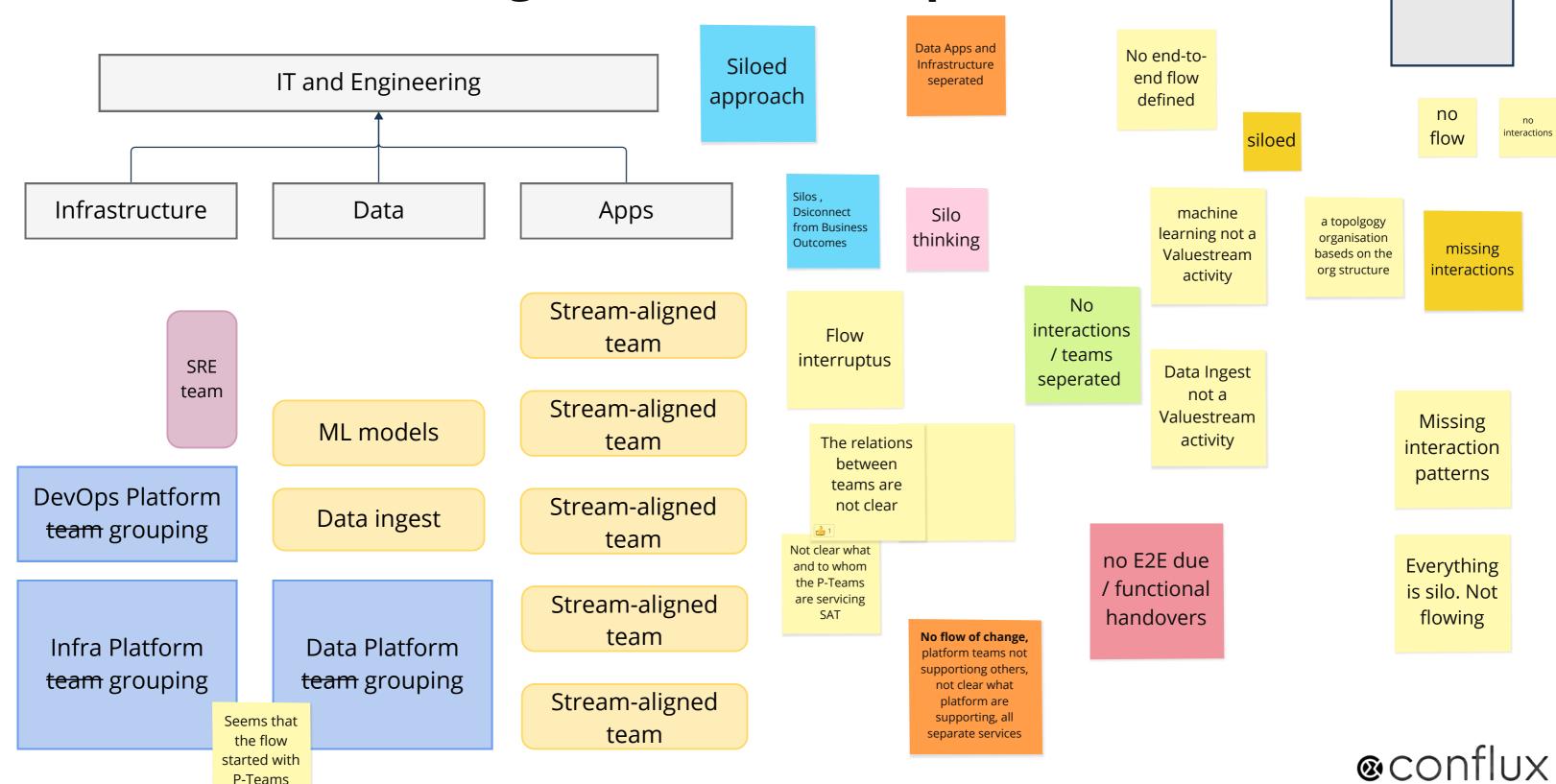




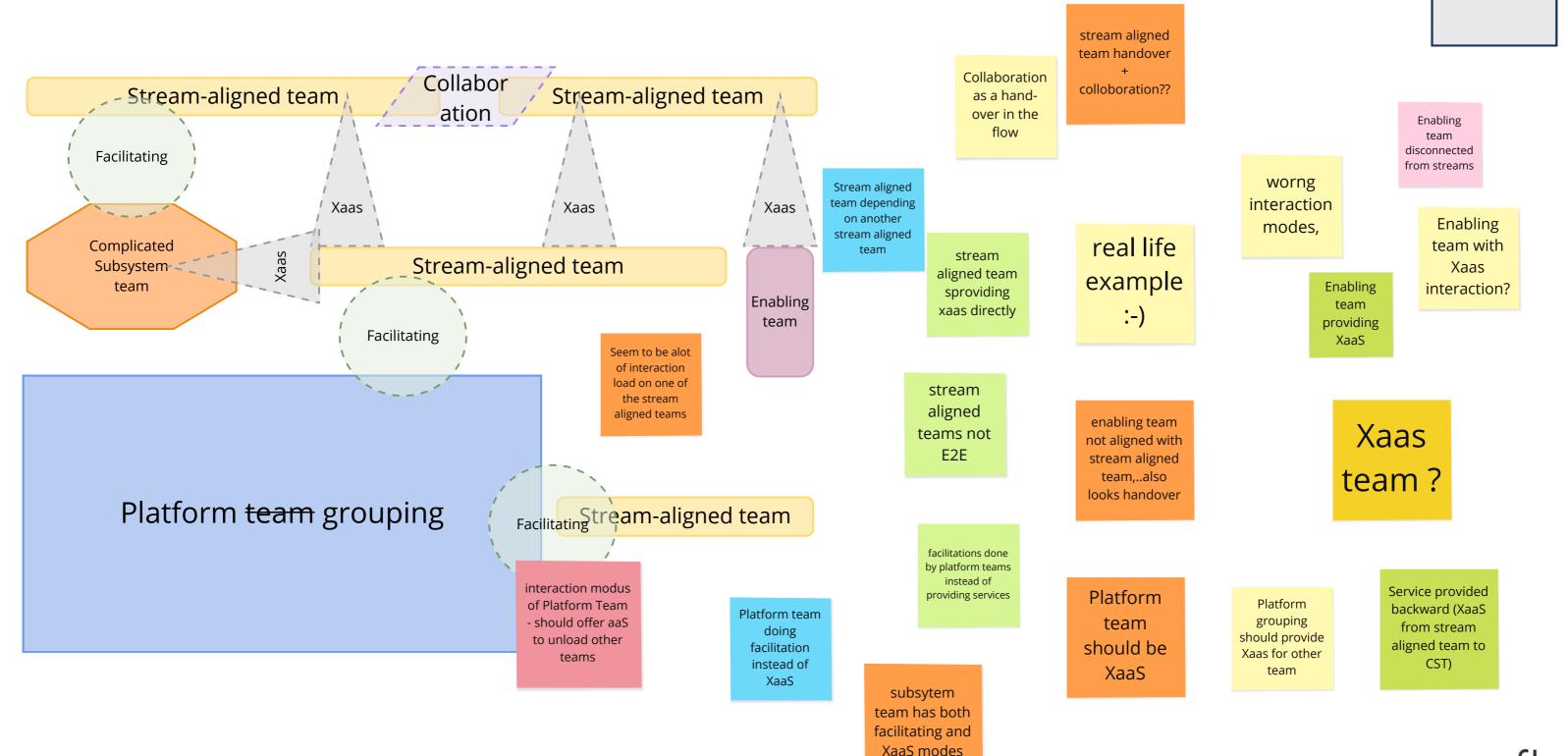
Team interaction diagrams - bad example 1 Hand over from a streamaligned team to Information not another streamgets Lost aligned team ownership E2E Interactions not entire are not Not Not end to responsable defined Stream-aligned team Stream-aligned team hand-over, E2E responsibility imlying Platform infers not E2E handover Looks like team not multiple totally not E2E XAAS to independent enabling deliveries SAT(s) team acting handovers to other as a stream teams in flow of aligned team Enabling Stream-aligned team Stream-aligned team enabling team in flow **Enabling team** of change, they should team doesn't be facilitating. enabling "enable" any Is the Stream team is not aligned team team enabling delivering to other teams **SATs** the enabling team? handing over Stream-aligned team **Enabling** Platform team grouping team in a Changes flow not Position of should be Stream-aligned team with SAT made from platform Cannot handover not at the end of to platform team, platform Platform team Platform team platform, others interaction grouping teams use getting somthing from Plateform Platform team Streamplatform team doesn't should not be aligned team? in the end of interact with Flow of change not the flow a handover enabling in @conflux the flow

Team interaction diagrams - bad example 2

P-Teams

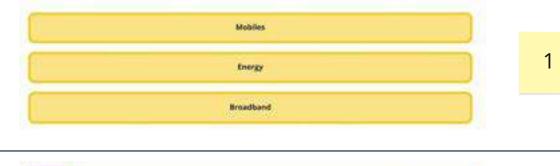


Team interaction diagrams - bad example 3

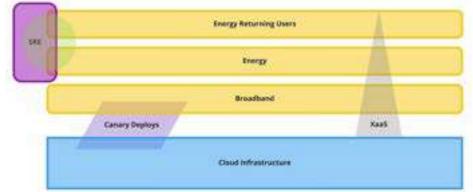


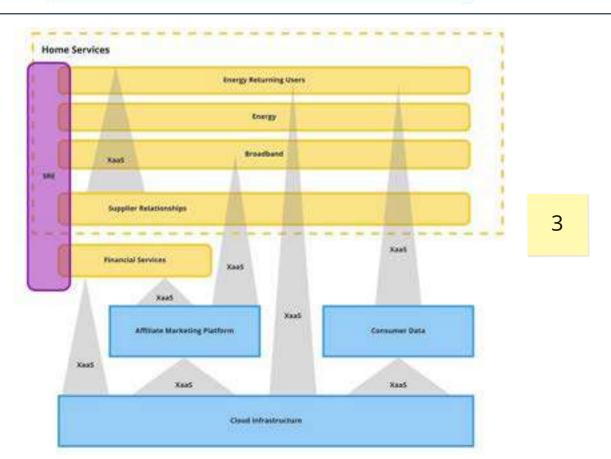


Team interaction diagrams - 1: Uswitch











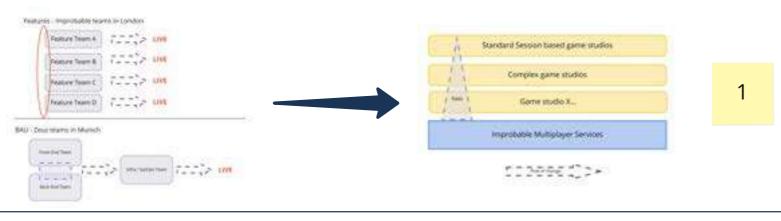
Organizational evolution for accelerating delivery of comparison services at Uswitch - Team Topologies

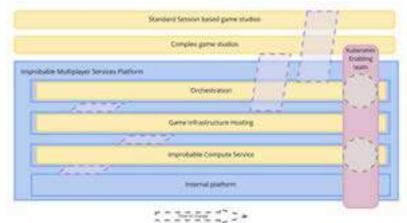
We spoke with Paul Ingles , CTO at RVU which operates the UK's leading home services price comparison site Uswitch , to understand their approach to teams and practices for accelerating the flow of software delivery and operations across a growing numbe...

https://teamtopologies.com/industryexamples/organizational-evolutionaccelerating-delivery-of-comparisonservices-uswitch

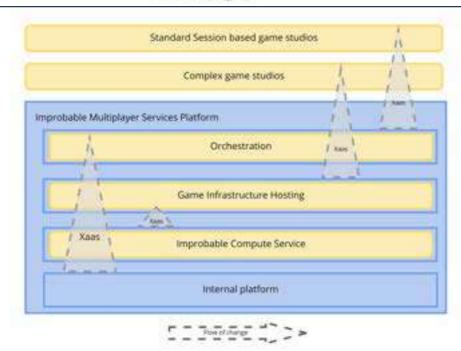


Team interaction diagrams - 2: Improbable (VR)





2



3





Virtual Worlds: using Team Topologies at Improbable to transform teams, technology, reliability, and customer satisfaction - Team Topologies

Founded in 2012, Improbable is a British technology company, dedicated to solving the challenges of building rich virtual worlds and pioneering the path to the metaverse. ... In 2020 Improbable acquired Munich-based video games company Zeuz, a managed h...

https://teamtopologies.com/industryexamples/virtual-worlds-using-teamtopologies-at-improbable-totransform-teams-technologyreliability-and-customer-satisfaction



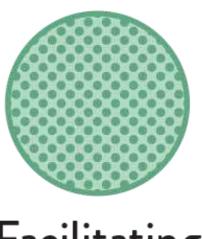
Team interaction modes



Collaboration



X-as-a-Service



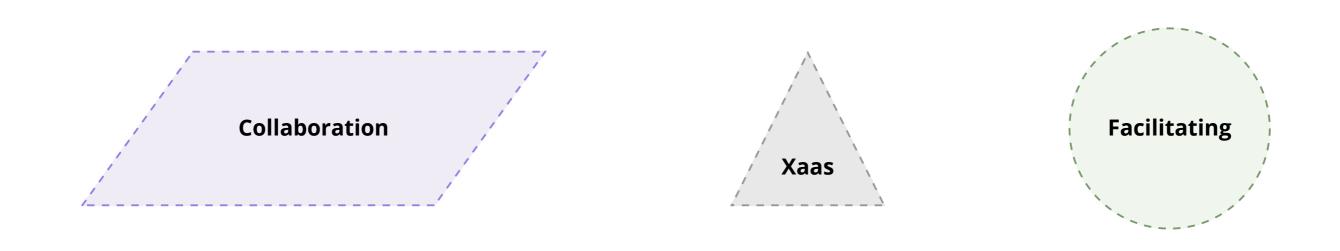
Facilitating

Taken from *Team Topologies* (2019). Figure 7.2



Team interaction modes 2

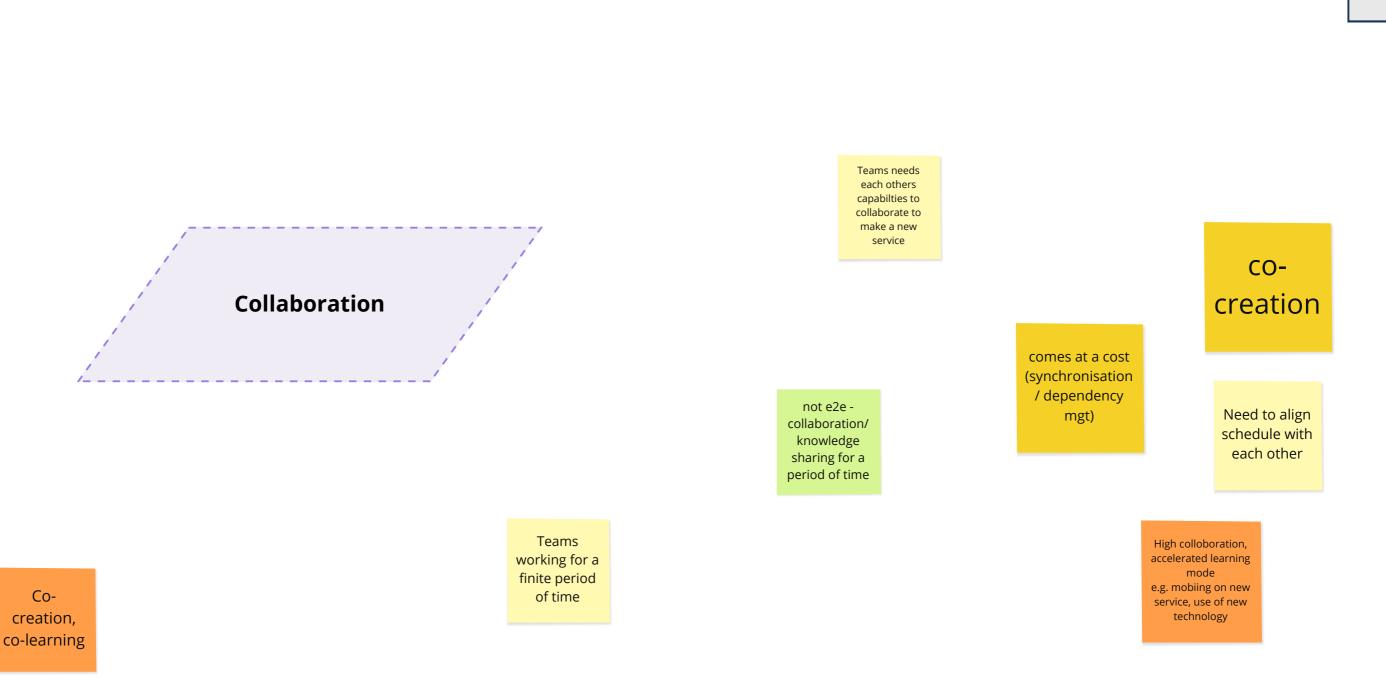
Using the digital TT team modeling shapes



https://shapes.teamtopologies.com/



Purpose of the team interaction modes - Collaboration





Collaboration - suggested points

Agreeing the interface Finding the right boundary for flow

Purpose of the team interaction modes - XaaS

XaaS, is about consuming a service without any collaboration

needed.

unload Stream Aligned teams allow faster flow

consume service with minimal interaction

Provide selfservice to others. Onboard others to the Platform or service

Xaas

Unblock Stream Aligned. Inject Knowledge Lower cognitive load

> Enable stream aligned teams to use the service/capability in an efficient way e.g reduce cognitive load

Limit the number of people thinking about specific implementation details

Minimal interaction

Reduce cognitive load

Simplify way of

working for common/"com modity"

capabilities

better way to collaborate on a extended time frame Escapsulate the permission for management of specfic resources

Provide service for other team.
Therefore, they don't need to care about the detail

reduce cognitive load of Stream Aligned Team



XaaS - suggested points

Minimise handoffs Limit team cognitive load in the teams using the service

Allow teams to self-serve

Purpose of the team interaction modes - Facilitating

other

domains

knowledge

sharing for a shorter period

of time

Reducing Catalyse provide cognitive where skills load needed Facilitation upskill, Helping to had end learning grow and Not full-time date **Facilitating** learn and be collaboration independent make Bridging a yourself knowledge help teams **Temporary** redundant? gap with new / upskill capabilities bridging a knowledge gab **Teaching** Cross learning to



Facilitating - suggested points

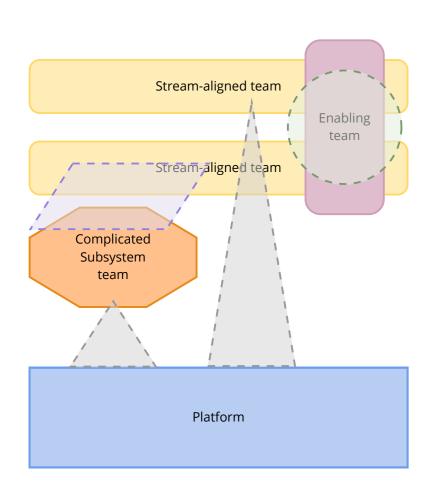
Skill up teams

Identify gaps in knowledge across teams

Act as a multiplier

Implications of the team interaction modes

Think about: ways of working, evolution over time, team mindsets for success



Some persons of Enabling team can be also in the Platform Team?

enabling team facilitating mode defined period

Clear goal, sucess criteria ie: why will teams want to move to XaaS

how do we move subsystem team to XaaS

team

Careful to not bottlenecks because of building up dependencies

introduce new

focus on flow mindset of continuous improvement Willing to adapt to change

We should (must?) train the teams on interactions

> Teams should be ready for their preferred interaction mode

Change collabaration of Compicate subsystem

team into Xaas

Merge compicated subsystem team into Platform Grouping or create new platgorm grouping for them

Principles

Collaboration and Facilitating are brief (temporary) interactions

The goal typically is XaaS

learning curve (as an organistaion) drives evolution in interaction

Enabling: Pull not push

> clarity on interactions across teams

Expectation management about interaction duration

clearly target

the goal &

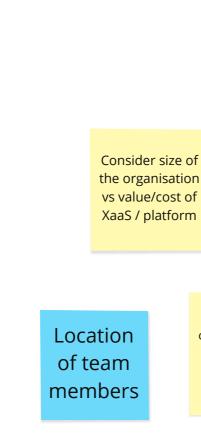
area you want

to improve

to Xaas

How to move from current collaboration

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Investigate certain if tasks are really different or need to be different

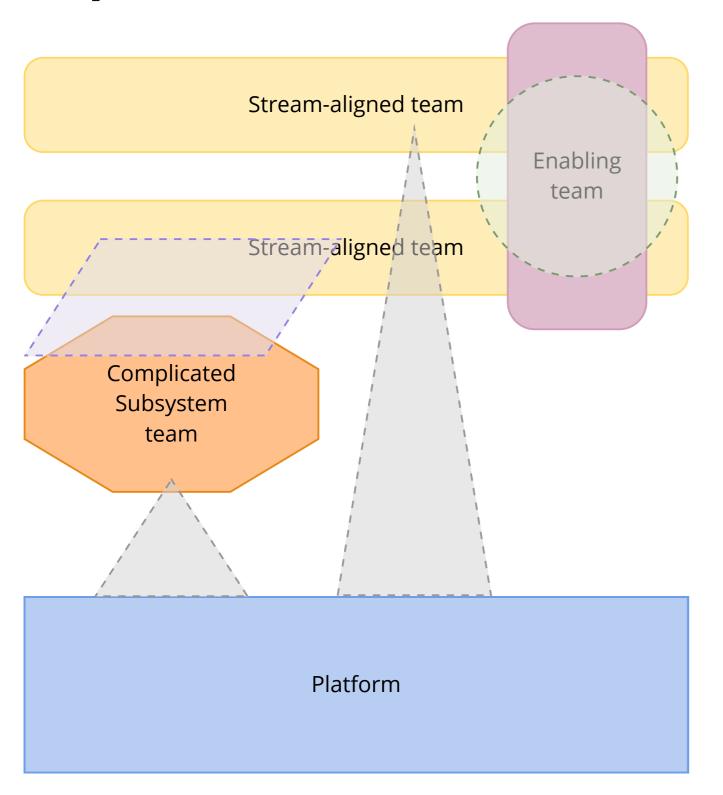
Enabling:

Clarity about communication

Mindset more teaching, not

doing for you

Implications of the team interaction modes



All TT
diagrams are a
snapshot in
time, not a
fixed end state

XaaS *must* be preceded by Collaboration

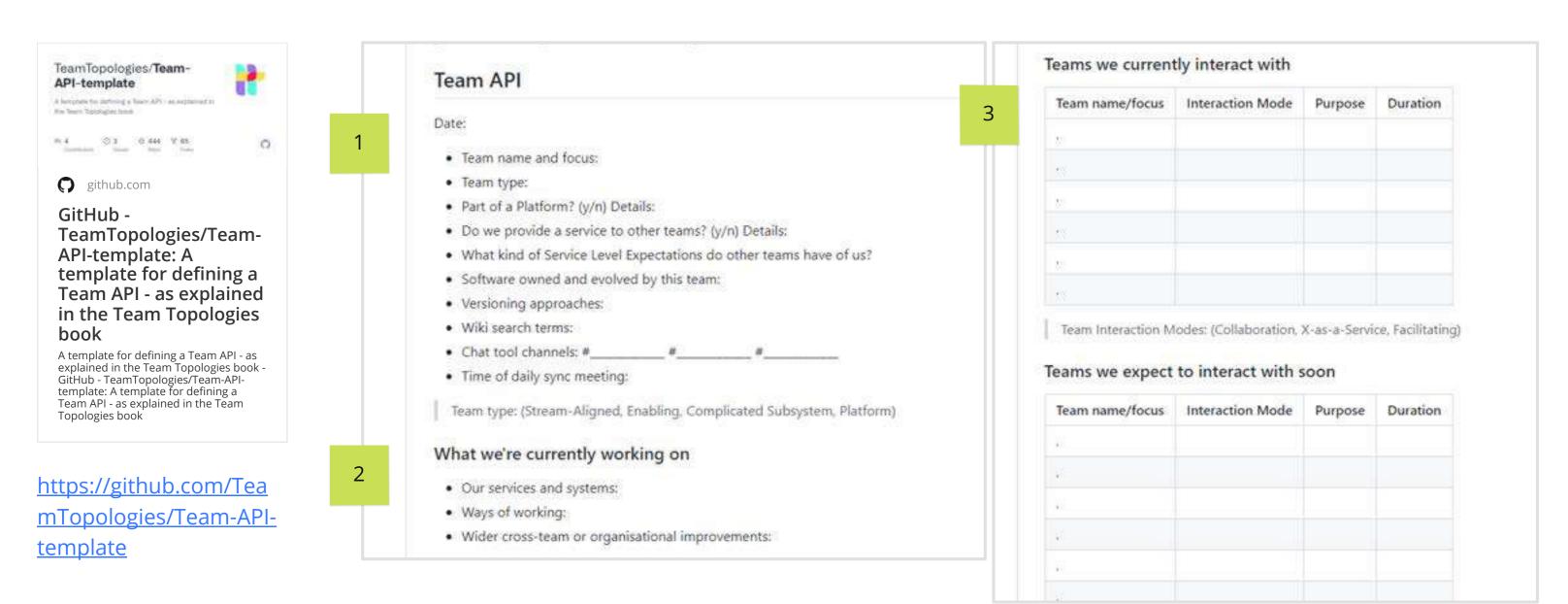
We need to ask
"what is the
purpose of the
Collaboration /
Facilitating
interaction?"

... and "how long will this interaction last?"



Team API - overview

"a Team API ... is a description and specification for how to interact ... with the team."



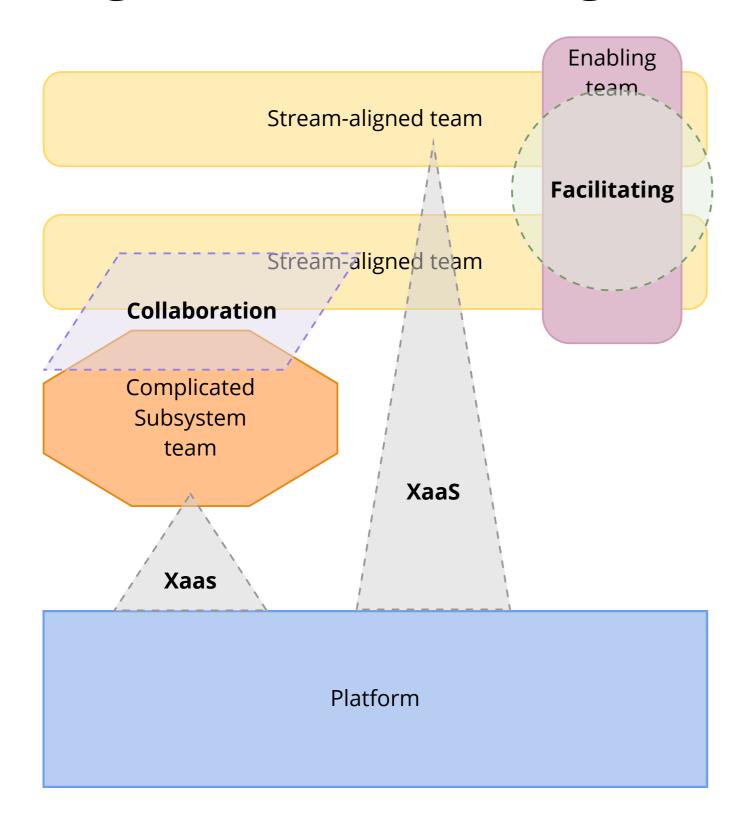
Focus on the intent of these questions

Ignore the specific format of this tool

This is not about documentation



Organizational sensing: awkward interactions - overview

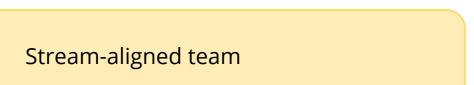


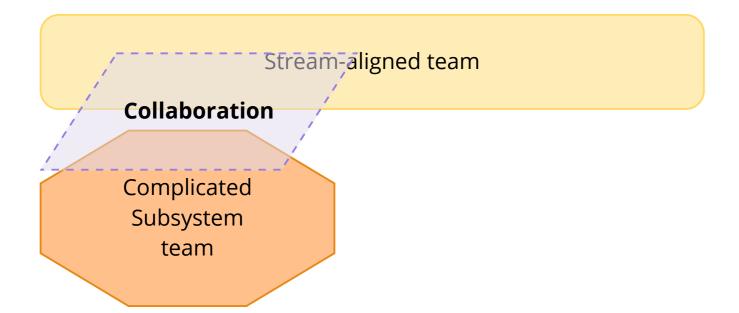
How could you detect that there is something wrong with a current team interaction?

Derive some heuristics (clues) for using team interaction modes for organizational sensing



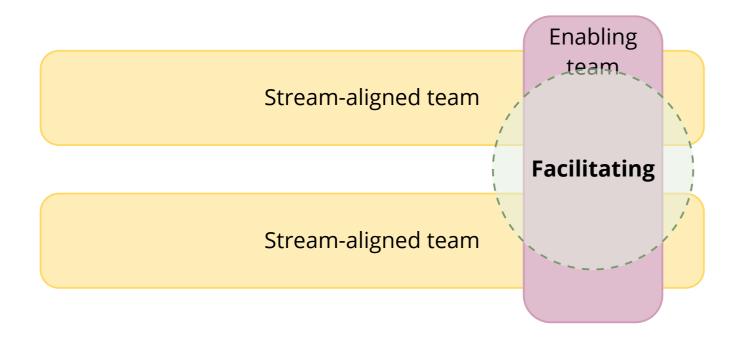
Organizational sensing: awkward interactions 2





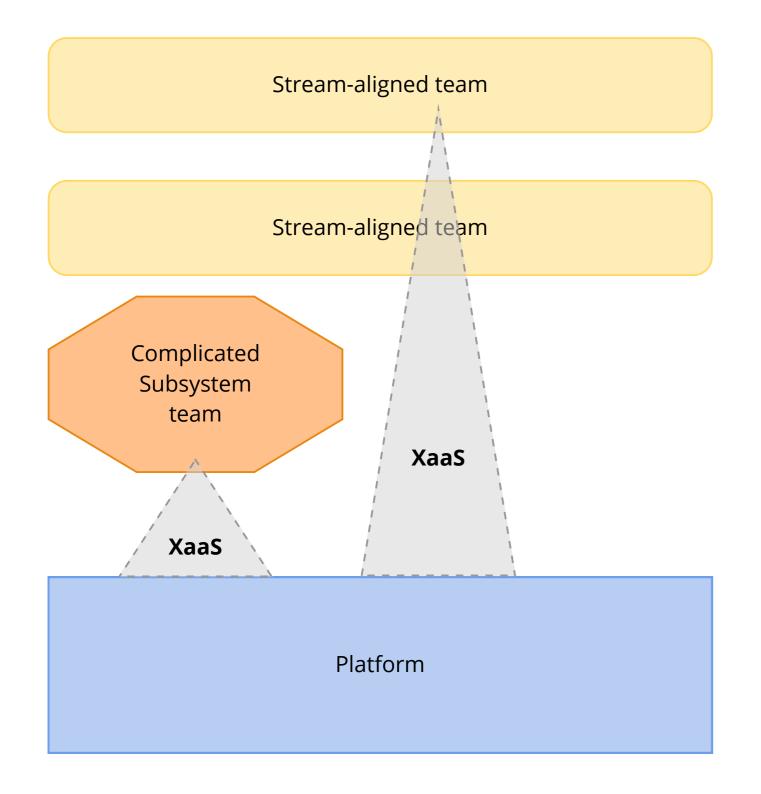


Organizational sensing: awkward interactions 3



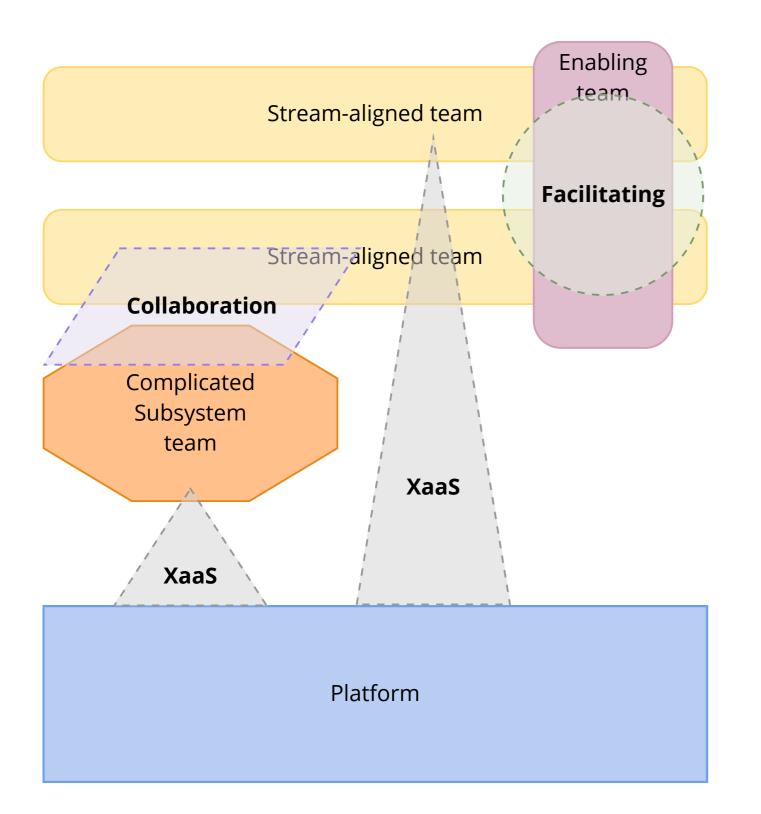


Organizational sensing: awkward interactions 4





Organizational sensing: heuristics

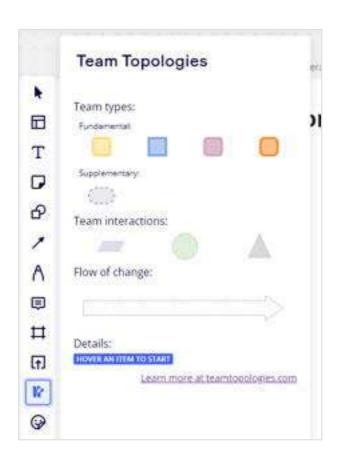


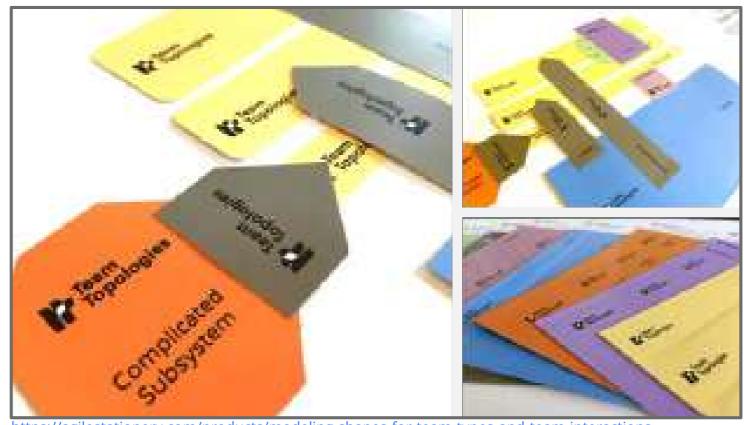
PROBLEMS TO LOOK FOR

HEURISTICS TO RECOGNIZE AWKWARD INTERACTIONS



Evolution of teams and interactions





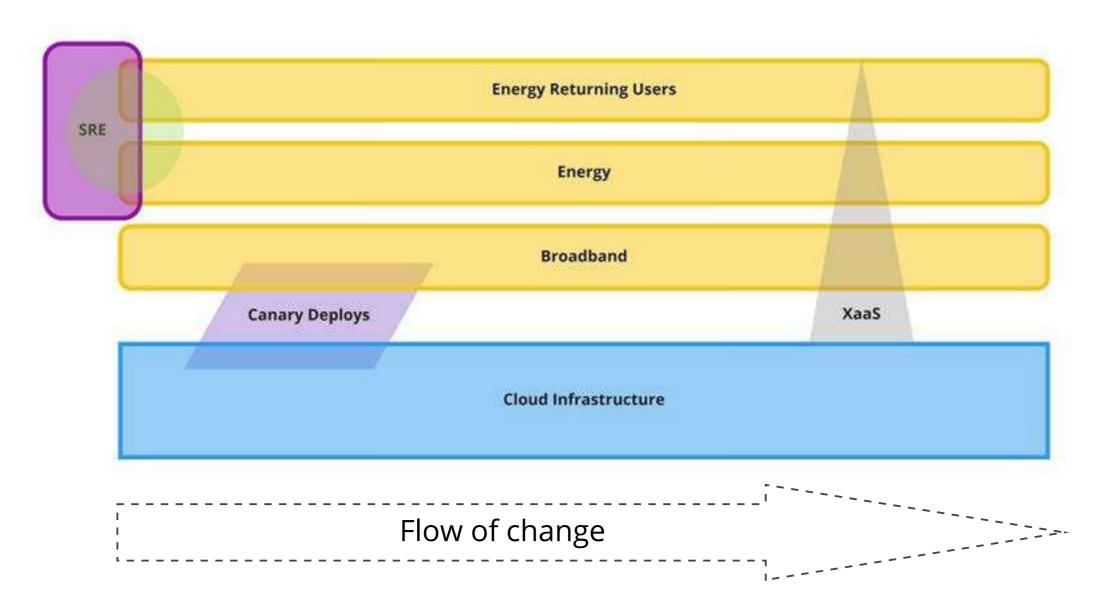
https://agilestationery.com/products/modeling-shapes-for-team-types-and-team-interactions



https://teamtopologies.com/tim



TT team modeling shapes - key points



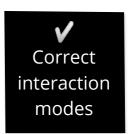
https://teamtopologies.com/industry-examples/organizational-evolution-accelerating-delivery-of-comparison-services-uswitch

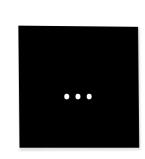








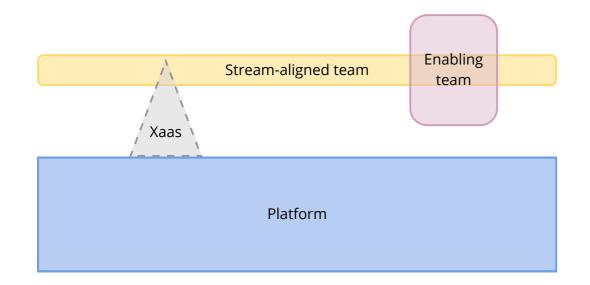






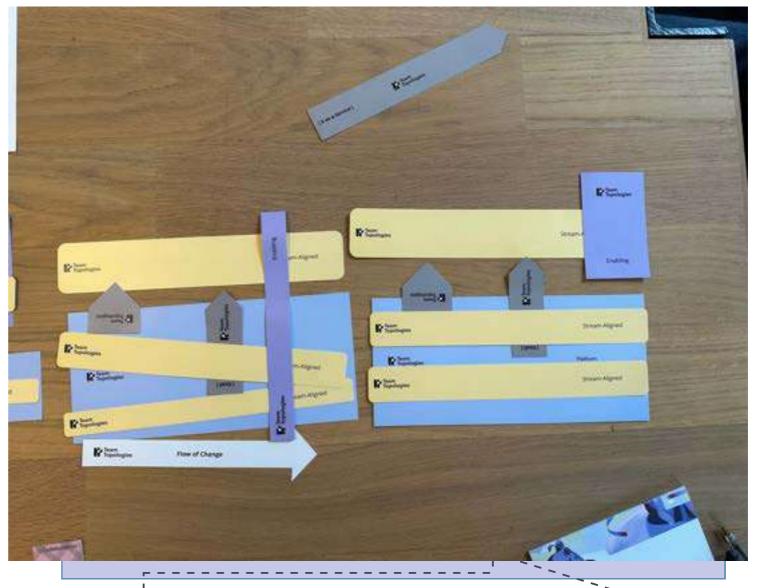
Evolution scenario 1 - meet compliance requirements

Stage 1 - minimal compliance requirements



Flow of change

Stage 2 - compliance needed for customerfacing services and underlying data



2- Maturity, offers compliance validation as a service

1 - Urgency,

implement compliance

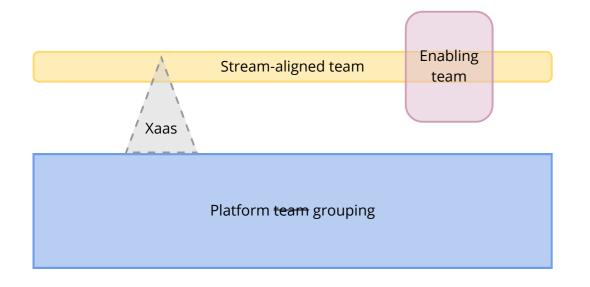
quickly

Flow of change

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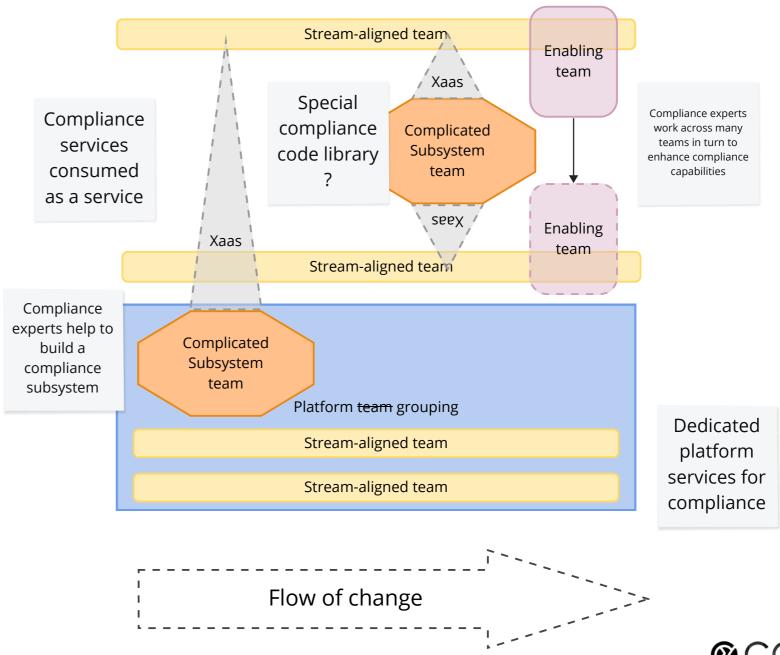
Evolution scenario 1 - compliance requirements - expert

Stage 1 - minimal compliance requirements



Flow of change

Stage 2 - compliance needed for customerfacing services and underlying data





Part 2 - Platform thinking for fast flow



Outline of part 2

- We begin by reviewing the purpose of a platform from a TT perspective and establish some useful metrics and attitudes for platform success.
- We take a deep dive into the implications of "fractal" (self-similar, nested) platforms as defined by TT.
- We then explore some advanced patterns for platforms around multiple parallel product/service offerings, sharing or "harvesting" proven solutions, horizon scanning using Core Domain Charts, data consumption (touching on techniques like Data Mesh) and product composition.
- We finish Part 2 by looking at an emerging approach that we call Desynchronous that helps organizations to scale without the slow-downs associated with large internal platforms of the past.



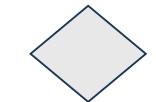
The purpose of a platform + attitudes for success

"The purpose of a platform ... is to enable stream-aligned teams to deliver work with substantial autonomy."

Team Topologies (2019), page 92



The purpose of a platform



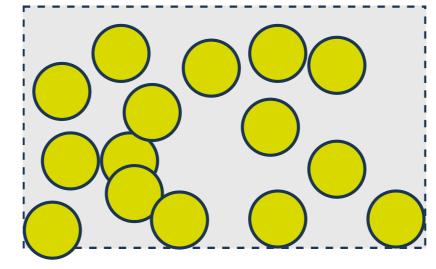
How does a TT platform actually enable Stream-aligned teams to deliver with substantial autonomy?

Choose the *best* answer

Provide shared services

Improve flow by reducing team cognitive load

Run services for Stream-aligned teams





Metrics for a TT platform

by the Stream

Aligned team

What metrics should a flow-centric platform track in order to be true to its mission?

score

Flow Nbr of None. Introduce "The purpose of a platform ... ditribution diagnostic metrics service Features, is to enable stream-aligned as needed in Defects, Risks consumers response to actual and Debts teams to deliver work with Amount of NPS on problems. substantial autonomy." consumers Nr of stream used cycle aligned teams per service onboarded on DORA services the platfrom time Backlog compared tto all Dev size (> not fit for happines cycle 4KM purpose) DORA time effort score cycle time SLO's on using flow in Stream Number of average metrics, Aligned uses of the cycle, lead their team cycle platform services time time team couldn't Cycle time of Ease of use consume the service of their ease in autonomy (nb of the request Vol of services (time tickets opened on a "custoemer Ease of from streamperiod ?) satisfaction" / knowledge) interactions of use work

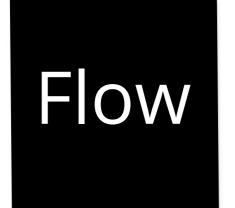
align team

with platform

team

@contlux

Metrics for a TT platform - recommended



Adoption

UX

Technical

Flow in teams that use the platform Adoption patterns and barriers

User Experience of "customer" teams: UX, DevEx, NPS, etc. Reliability, SLO/SLA, response time, etc.

[Flow in teams internal to the platform]

Mindset for a TT platform

Serving the users/customers of the platform

Product management mindset

Enabling flow

Thinnest Viable Platform - example

A TVP is the smallest set of APIs, documentation, and tools needed to accelerate the teams developing modern software services and systems.



We use the <u>Serverless Framework</u> to simplify access to AWS serverless services. Use these AWS services via Serverless to build apps for ABC Corp:

- AWS DynamoDB
- AWS Lambda
- AWS S3
- AWS SQS

Use these events to trigger Lambda function execution:

- Application Load Balancer
- DynamoDB
- HTTP API
- S3
- Schedule
- SOS

Use these services to monitor Lambda function execution:

AWS CloudWatch

Use our credentials setup tool, credible, to set up your credentials for the Serverless framework, including all AWS IAM roles and access keys:

[Link to credible tool]



github.com GitHub -TeamTopologies/Thinnest-Viable-Platformexamples: Examples of a Thinnest Viable Platform (TVP) as defined in the book **Team Topologies** Examples of a Thinnest Viable Platform (TVP) as defined in the book Team

TeamTopologies/Thinnest Viable-Platform-

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Topologies - GitHub -

TeamTopologies/Thinnest-Viable Platform-examples: Examples of a Thinnest Viable Platform (TVP) as defi...



TVP example at Trade Me





medium.com

Our Journey to a Thinnest Viable Platform

Trade Me engineering is a medium size team-about 200 engineers-spread across predominantly platform and stream-aligned agile squads...

https://medium.com/trade-me/our-journey-to-a-thinnest-viable-platform-ca3e57986eb9

"It started with a series of wiki pages highlighting the characteristics of a production-ready application and the definitive list of must-haves we expect applications to have to fulfil our stream-aligned teams' needs. We used user story-mapping to identify the Musts.

Subsequently, it evolved into a templated infrastructure-as-code project with almost fully automated provisioning pipelines."

"Our main measures of success (MoS) are:

- Reducing developers' cognitive load (qualitative MoS)
- Time to First Hello World (TTFHW)"

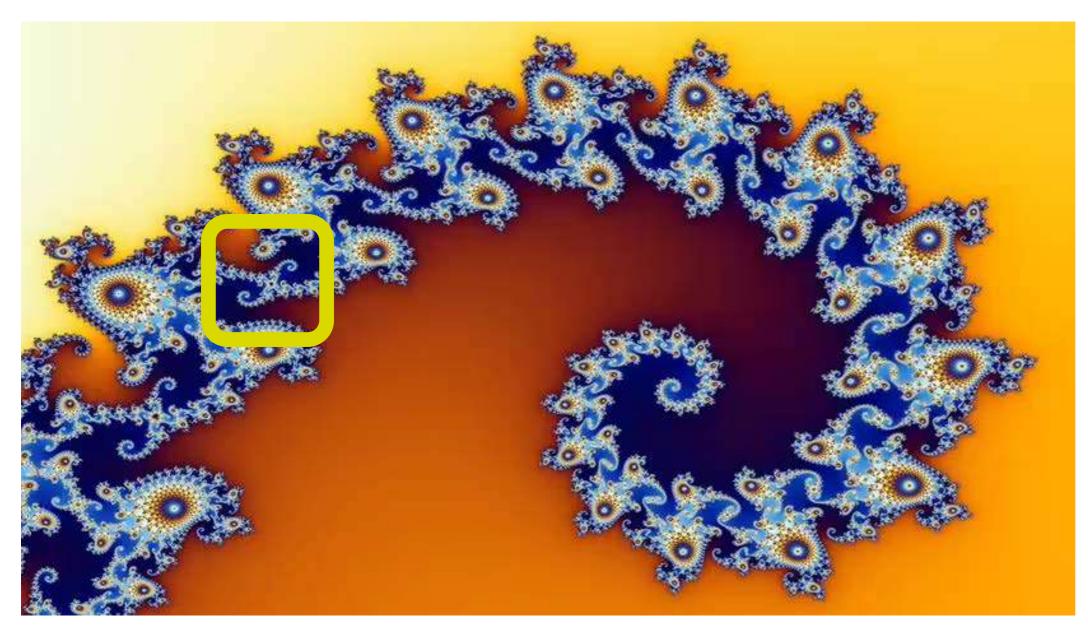
"The intention behind this is to keep the platform as simple as possible to cater to one of its primary purposes: reducing developer cognitive load."





Fractal platforms

Fractal: self-similar at different "zoom levels"



This partial view of the Mandelbrot set, possibly the world's most famous fractal, shows step four of a zoom sequence: The central endpoint of the "seahorse tail" is also a Misiurewicz point. WOLFGANG BEYER/(CC BY-SA 3.0)

https://science.howstuffworks.com/math-concepts/fractals.htm



Explainer: what are fractals?

Fractals are exquisite structures produced by nature, hiding in plain sight all around us. They are tricky to define precisely, though most are linked by a set of four common fractal features: infinite...

https://theconversation.com/ explainer-what-are-fractals-10865

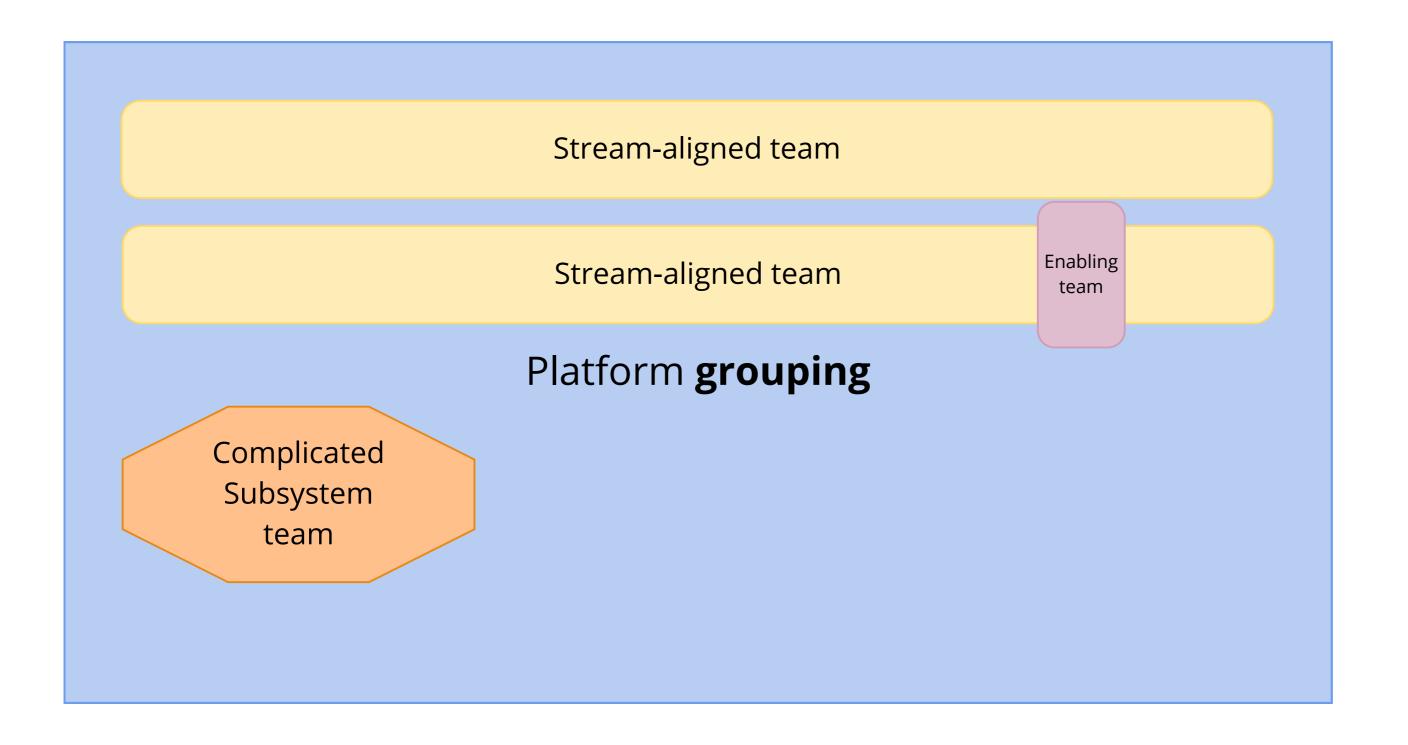


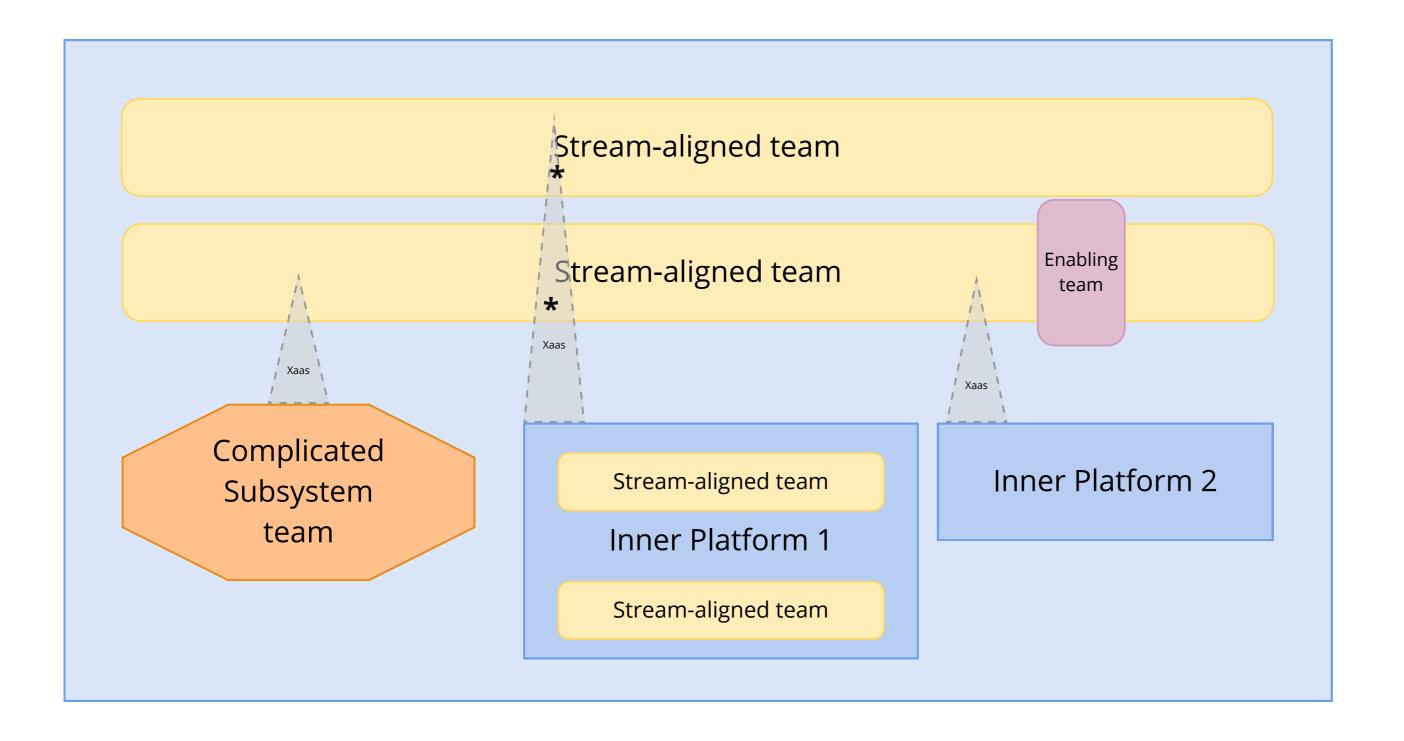
Fractal platforms: self-similar at different "zoom levels"

Platform team grouping

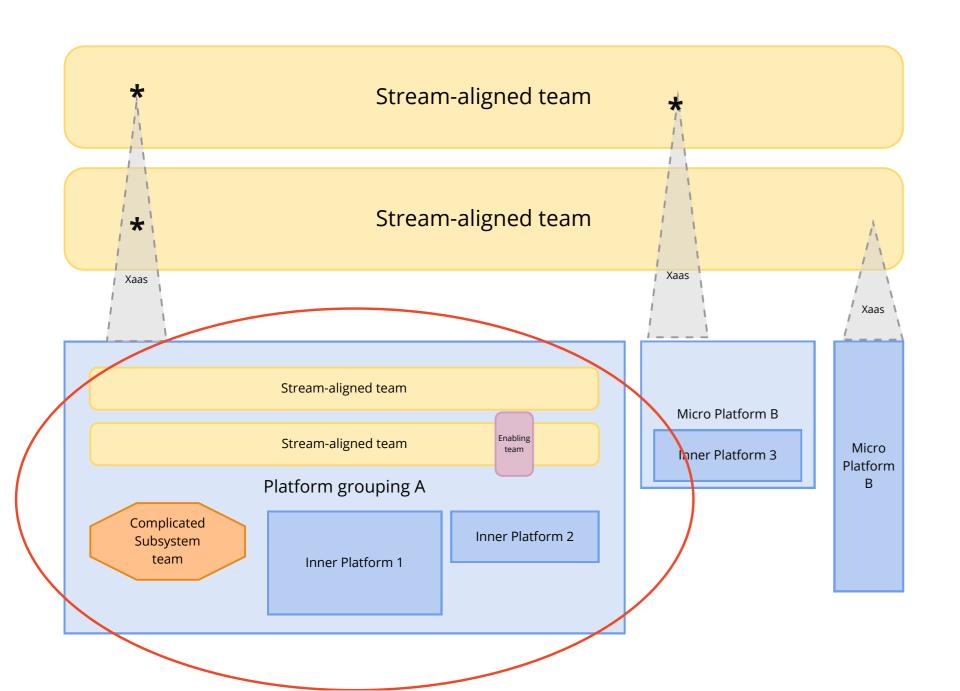
A platform acts as a "container" for other teams

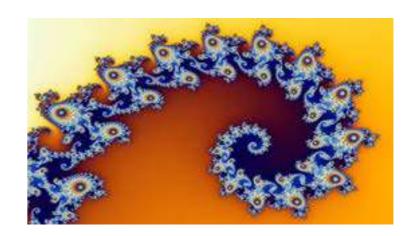










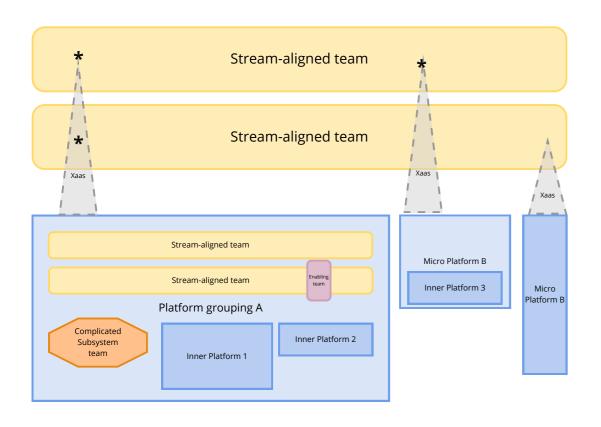


The organization itself is like a fractal



Fractal platforms - implications

What are the implications for platform product management of fractal platforms? Think about: users/customers, perspectives in different teams, multiple platforms, etc.



Customer persona(s) per platform

Each platform needs a coherent focus Multiple purposes might need multiple platforms

Platform discipline: aim to replace with SaaS/cloud option

Platform
discipline:
advertise platform
capabilities and
advocate for use

An ecosystem of providers



Fractal platforms - real example - Improbable

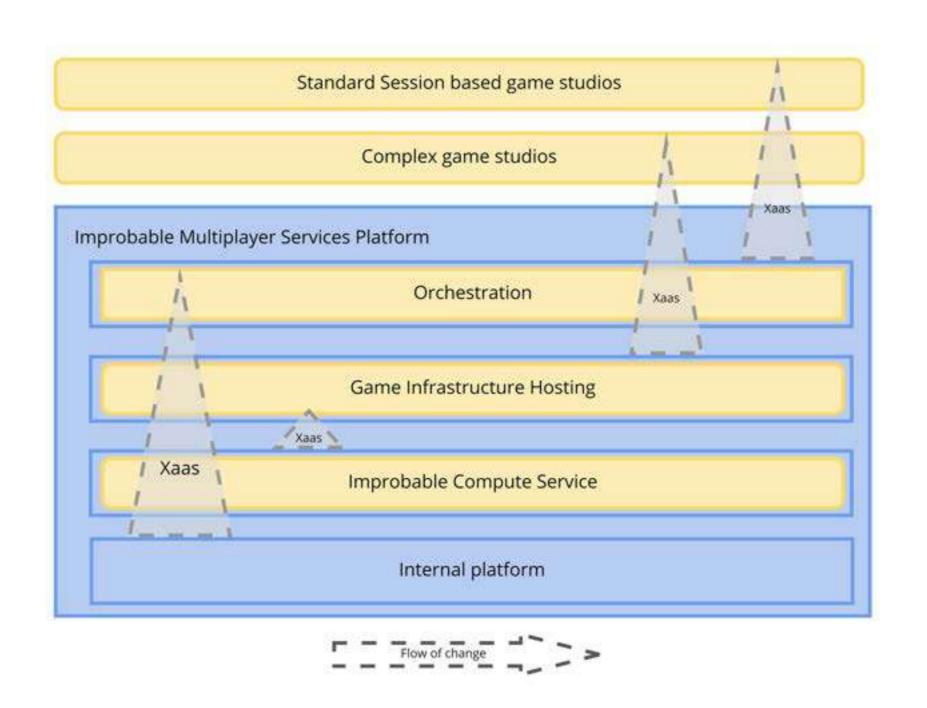


teamtopologies.com

Virtual Worlds: using Team Topologies at Improbable to transform teams, technology, reliability, and customer satisfaction - Team Topologies

Founded in 2012, Improbable is a British technology company, dedicated to solving the challenges of building rich virtual worlds and pioneering the path to the metaverse. ... In 2020 Improbable acquired Munich-based video games company Zeuz, a managed h...

https://teamtopologies.com/industry-examples/virtualworlds-using-team-topologies-at-improbable-to-transformteams-technology-reliability-and-customer-satisfaction





Advanced patterns for platforms



Parallel services



Harvesting



Horizon scanning



Composite



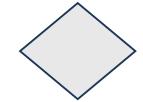
Patterns based on parallel product or service offerings

"Duplication is waste"

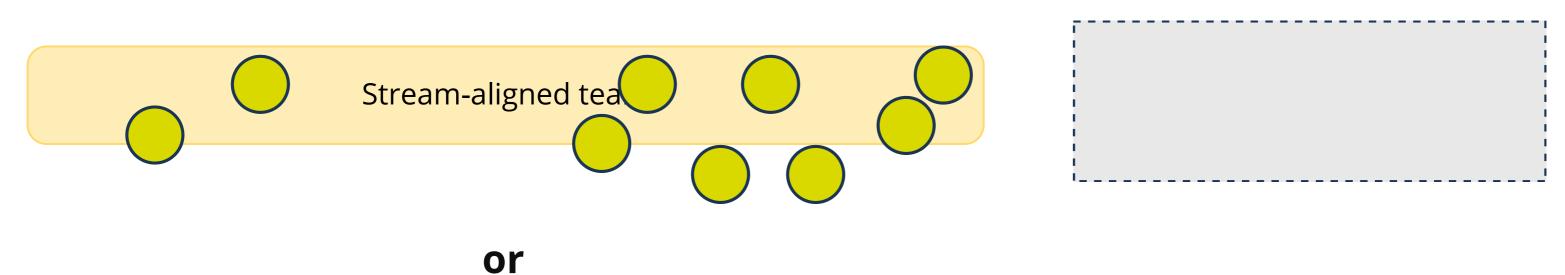
IT departments everywhere, failing hard at navigating fast flow



An early-stage "project" is simply a bet or a gamble



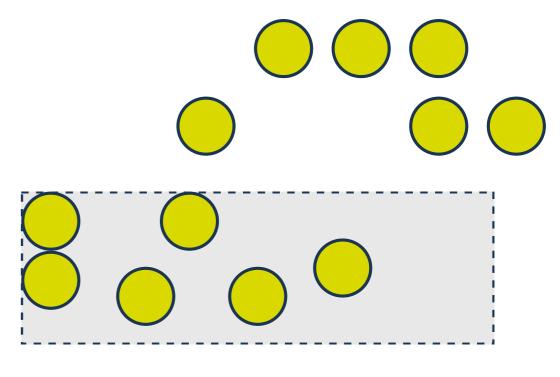
Which set of options would you bet on? The challenge and landscape are both changing rapidly



Stream-aligned team A

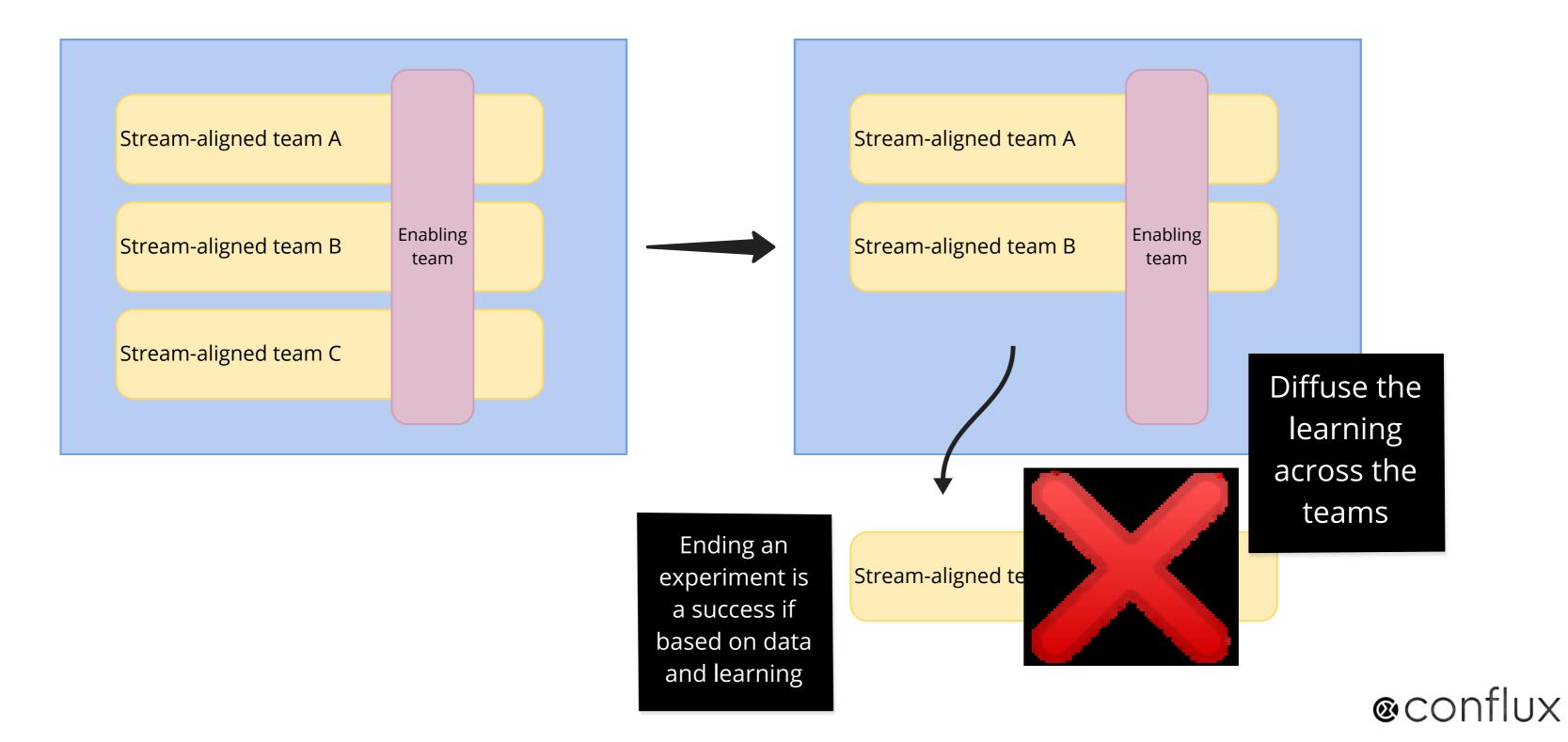
Stream-aligned team B

Stream-aligned team C

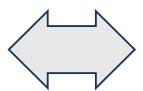




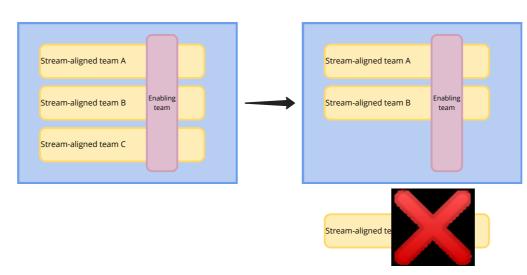
Parallel service offerings for rapid discovery and learning



Guidelines for parallel service offerings



Duplicate a sticky if you disagree with someone's choice of position!



Probably bad



Make an

example of

Team C as a

"failure" 😂

Maximum of ~

20 parallel

efforts per

"problem"

20

Make the teams compete for a prize \mathbf{Y}

> Reward Team C for ending early 🐰

Diffuse the learning across the teams 🔀

> Make the teams compete for a prize lacksquare

Make the teams compete for a prize \mathbf{Y}

Reward Team A and Team B as "successful" **V**

> Reward Team C for ending early 🐰

Diffuse the learning across the teams 🔀

Make the

teams

compete for a

prize

Deciding to cancel one of the approaches early based on data and learning - is a success 🔌

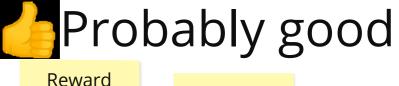
Make the teams compete for a prize

Reward Team C for sharing their learning 🔄

Reward Diffuse the

Team C for learning ending across the early 🐰 teams 🔀

Maximum o Make the 3 parallel teams efforts per compete for a "problem' prize

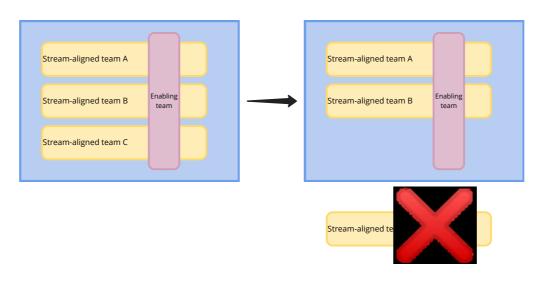


@conflux

Guidelines for parallel service offerings - expert view

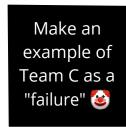
Duplicate a sticky if you disagree with someone's choice of position!

Probably bad



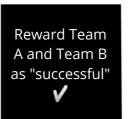


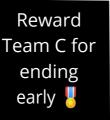
















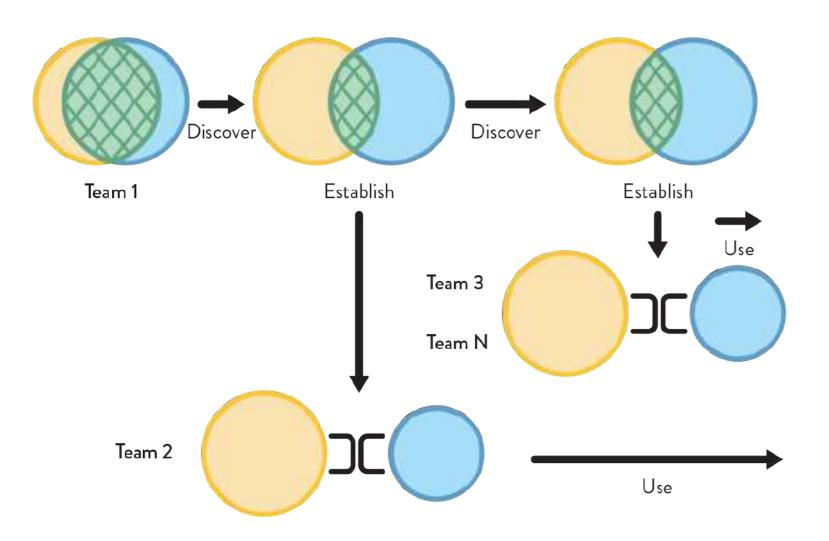








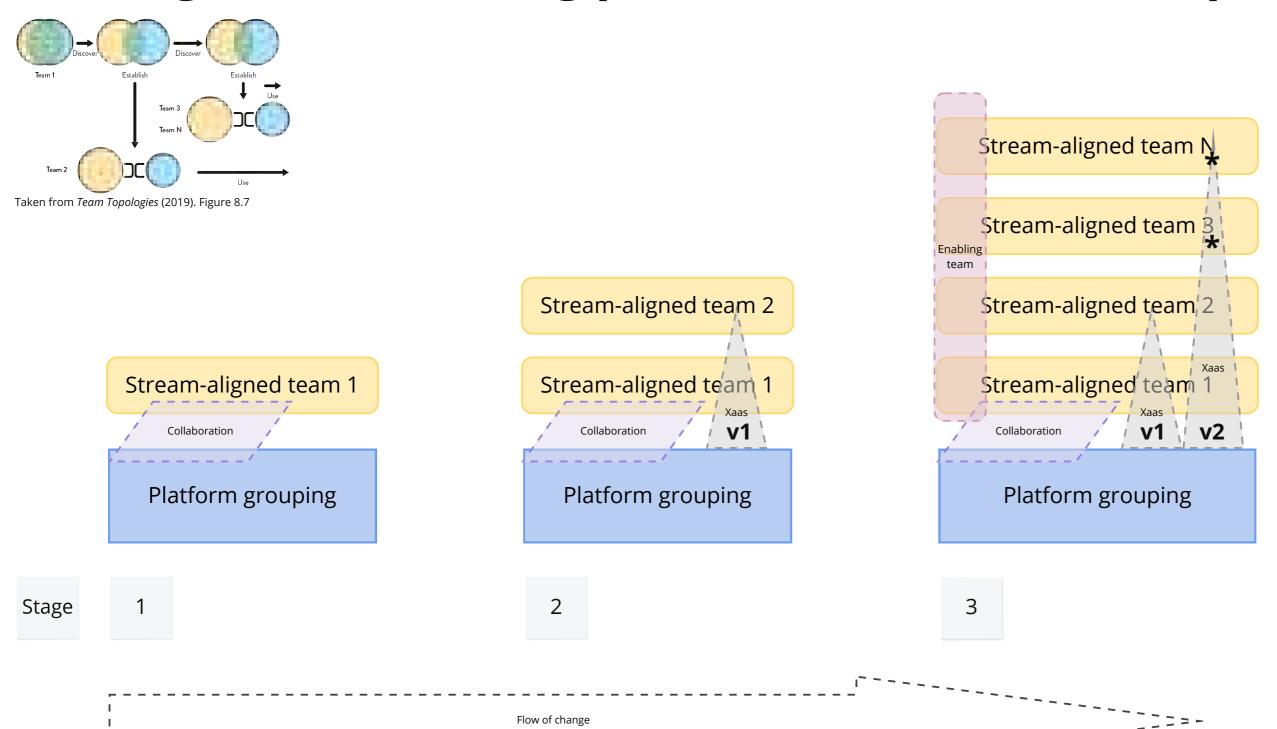
Sharing and harvesting proven solutions



Taken from *Team Topologies* (2019). Figure 8.7

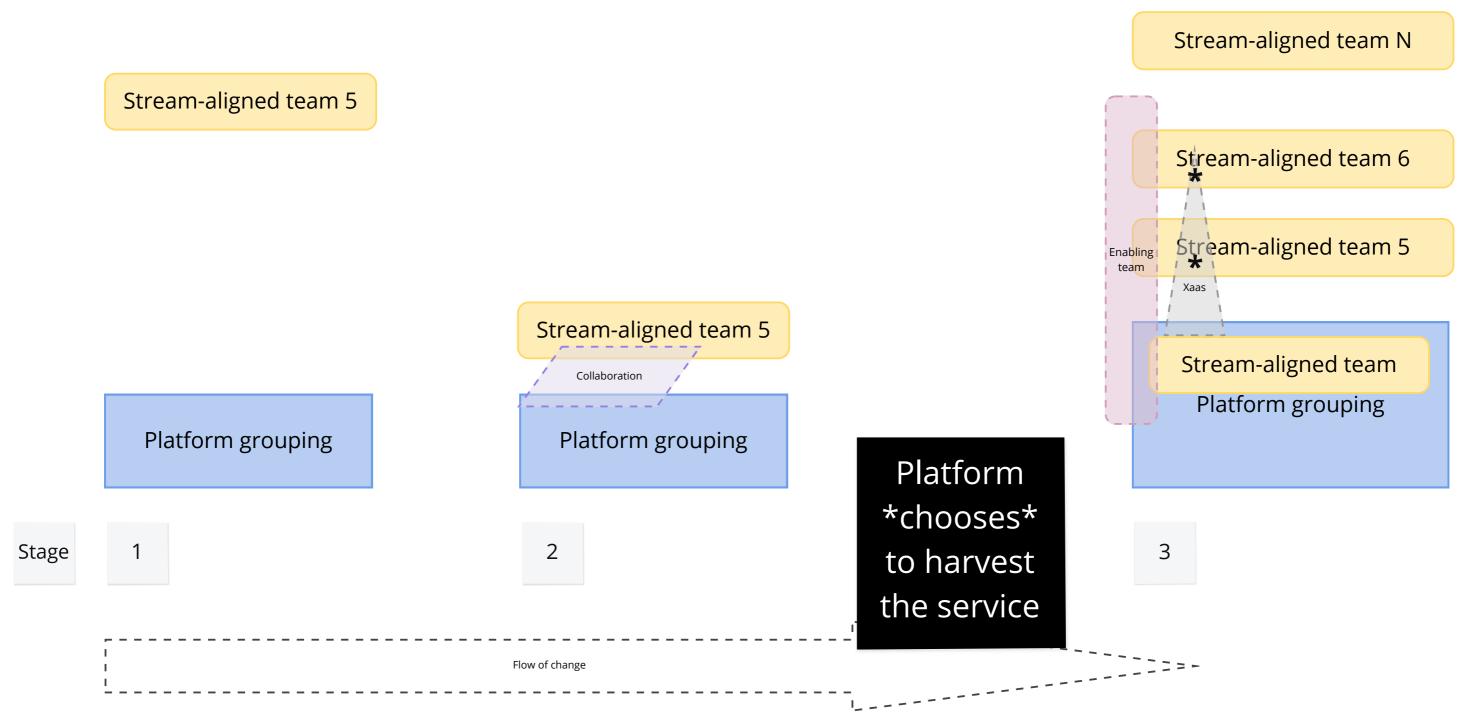


Sharing and harvesting proven solutions - TT shapes





Platforms choose what to harvest





Freedom of choice in two directions for platforms

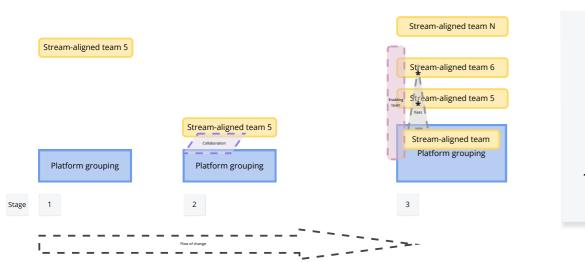
Using the platform

Steam-aligned teams *choose* to use one or more platform services

Evolving the platform

Platform
chooses
to harvest
the service

What's needed for a platform to *choose* to harvest? - expert



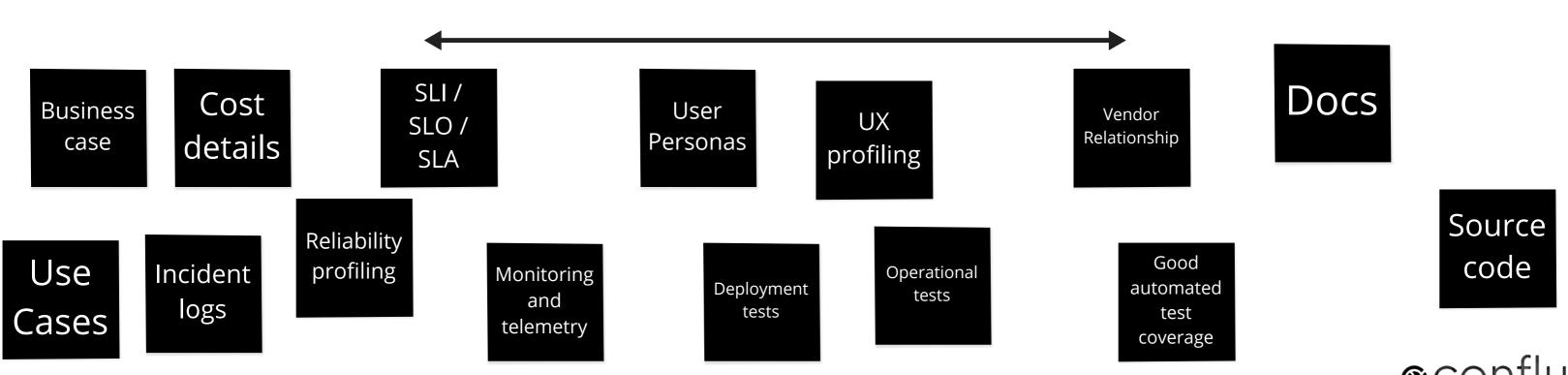
Platform *chooses* to harvest the service



https://techbeacon.com/enterprise-it/sre-practice-5-insights-googles-experience

Stream-aligned team wants to "offload" the service

Platform group wants to "adopt" the service



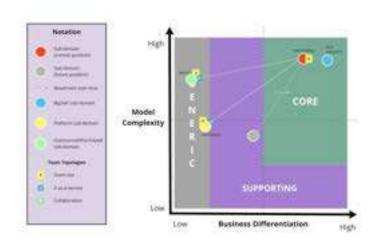
@conflux

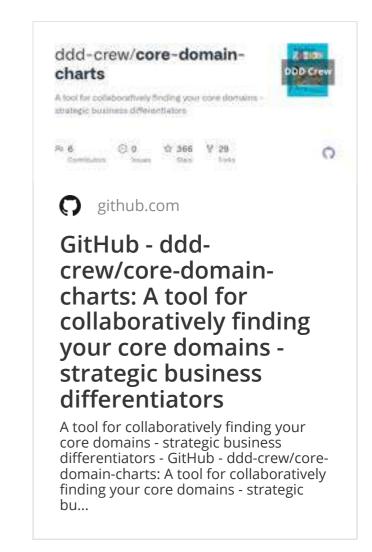
Horizon scanning using Core Domain Charts

Core Domain Charts help you to visualise the strategic importance of each (sub)domain or business capability in your architecture allowing you to make business model-aligned architectural decisions.

<u>Core Domains</u> are the parts of your domain where the expected <u>ROI</u> is greatest, and deserve the highest focus.

The true power of this technique is the conversations that it triggers, especially cross-discipline. Complexity is something that engineers can gauge whereas business differentiation is provided by product managers or business stakeholders.



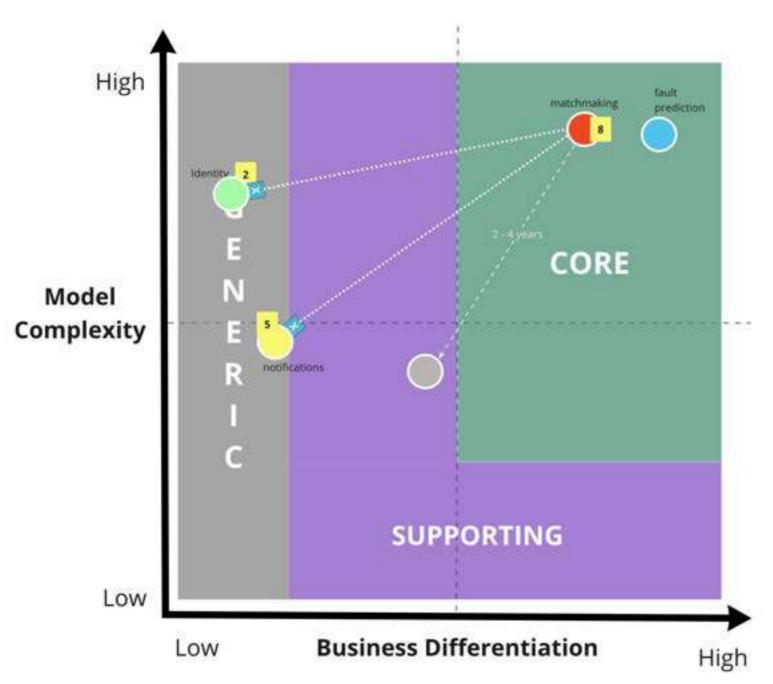


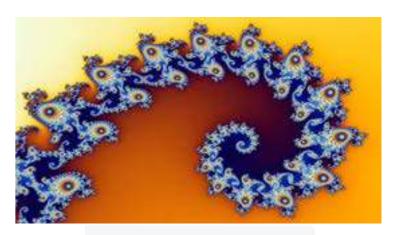
https://github.com/ddd-crew/core-domain-charts



Core Domain Charts - rapid overview

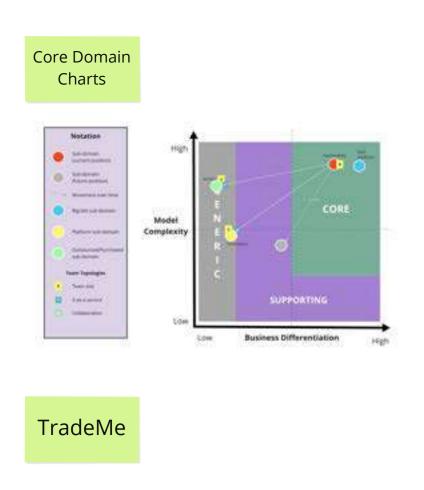




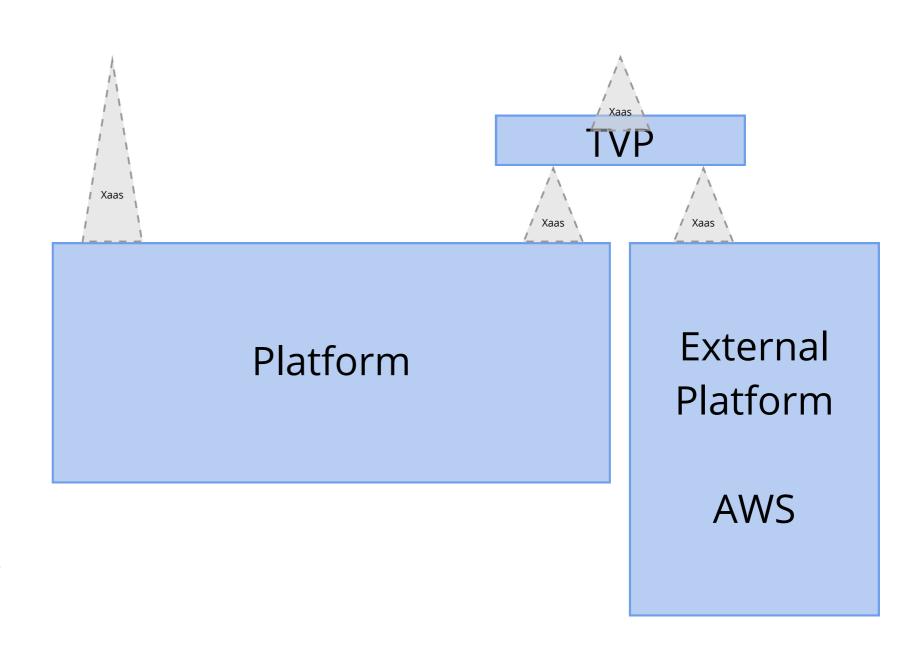


Because the organization is fractal, we can use Core Domain Charts inside a platform

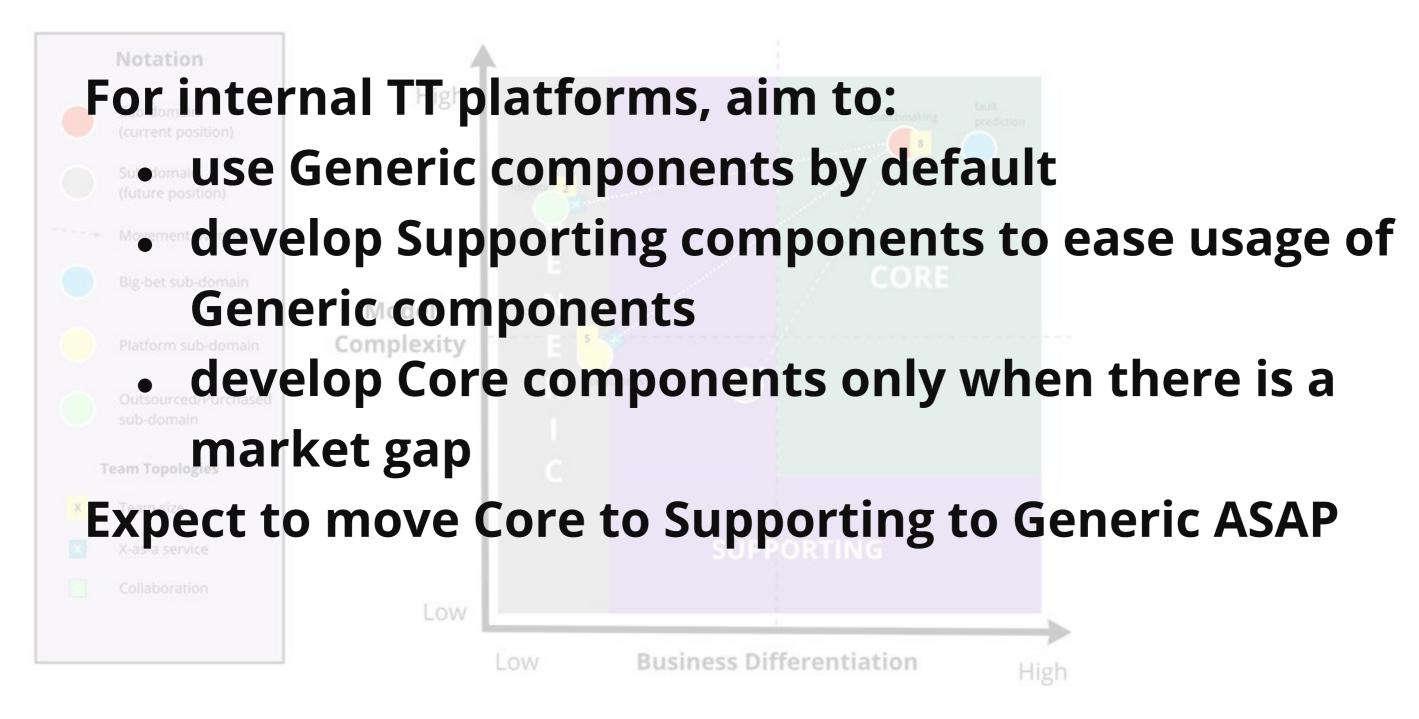
What happens if we have an existing platform already?



"TVP follows the Platform-as-Product mindset. As a product, the main customers of TVP are our developers. The main goal of this product is to improve DevEx (Developer Experience)."



Horizon Scanning for TT platforms using Core Domain Charts

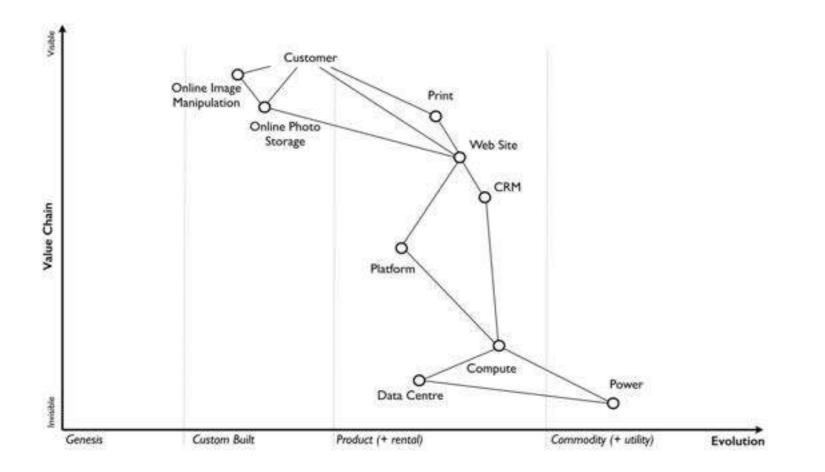


Horizon Scanning for TT platforms - Wardley Mapping?

Q: Is this Wardley Mapping by stealth?

A: Yes, but don't worry about it



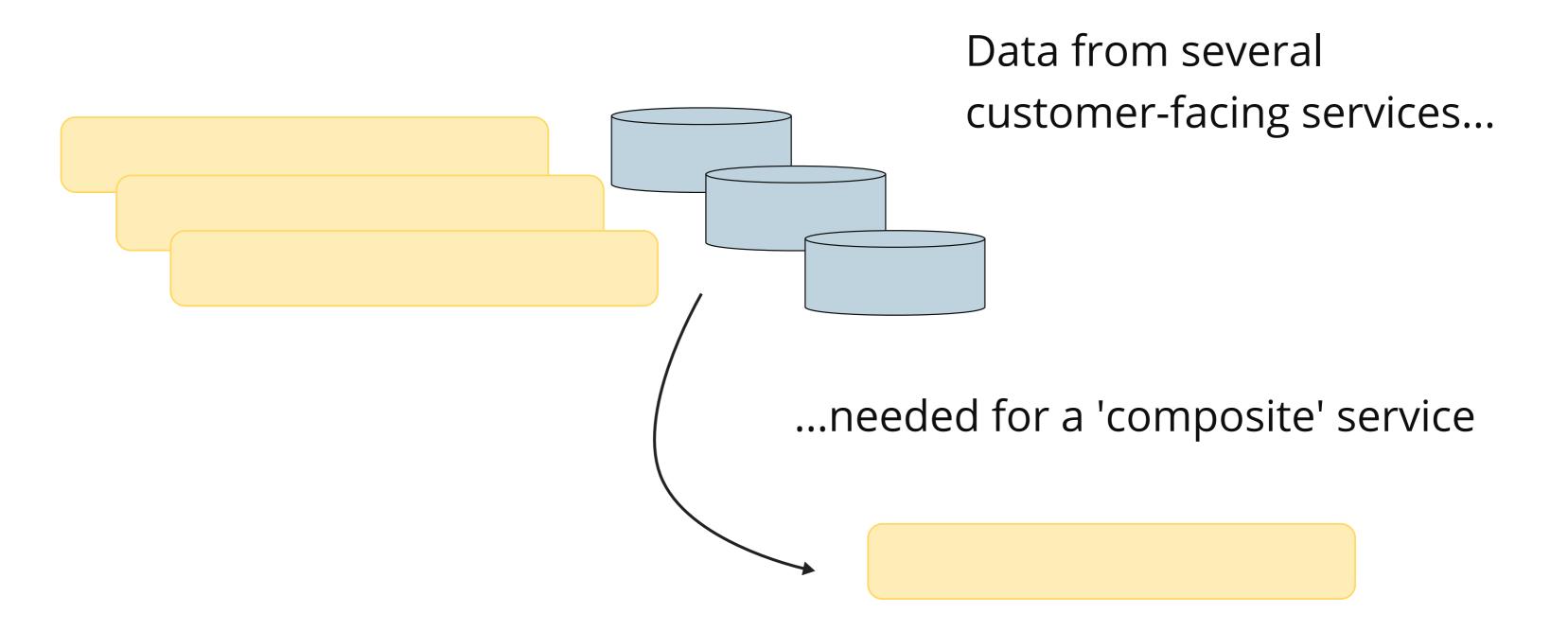




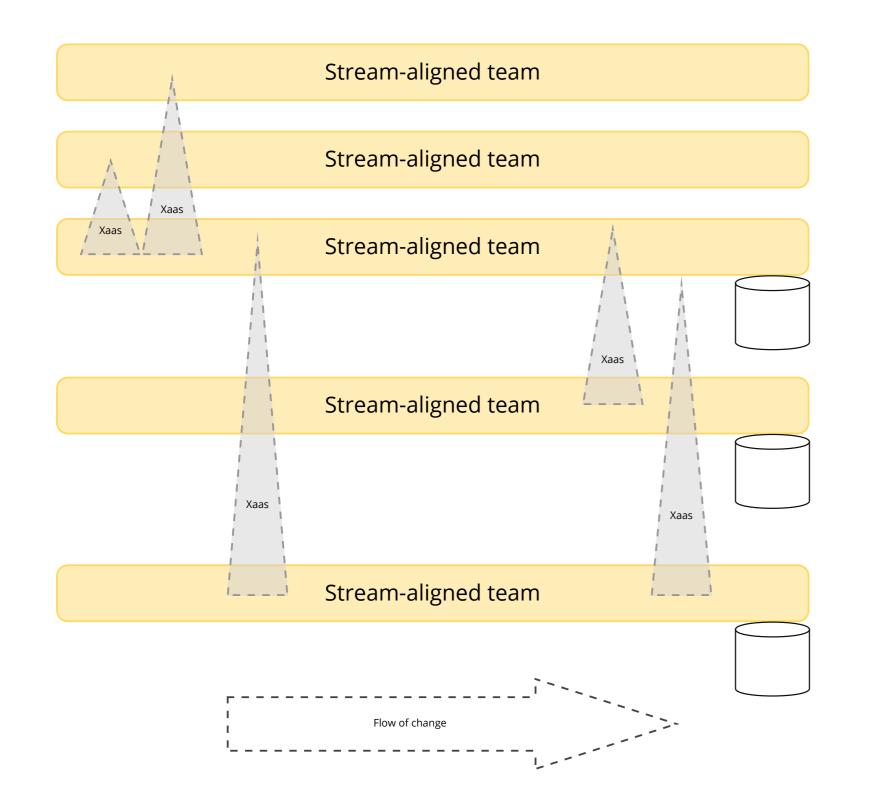
https://learnwardleymapping.com/

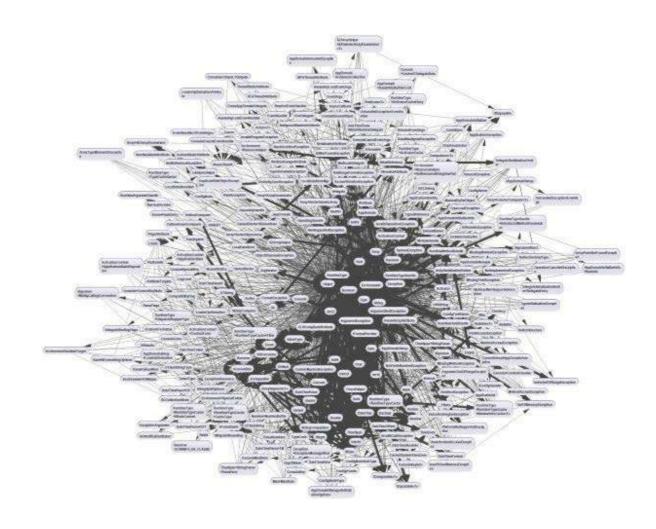


Composite Services



Anti-pattern: a web of data requests



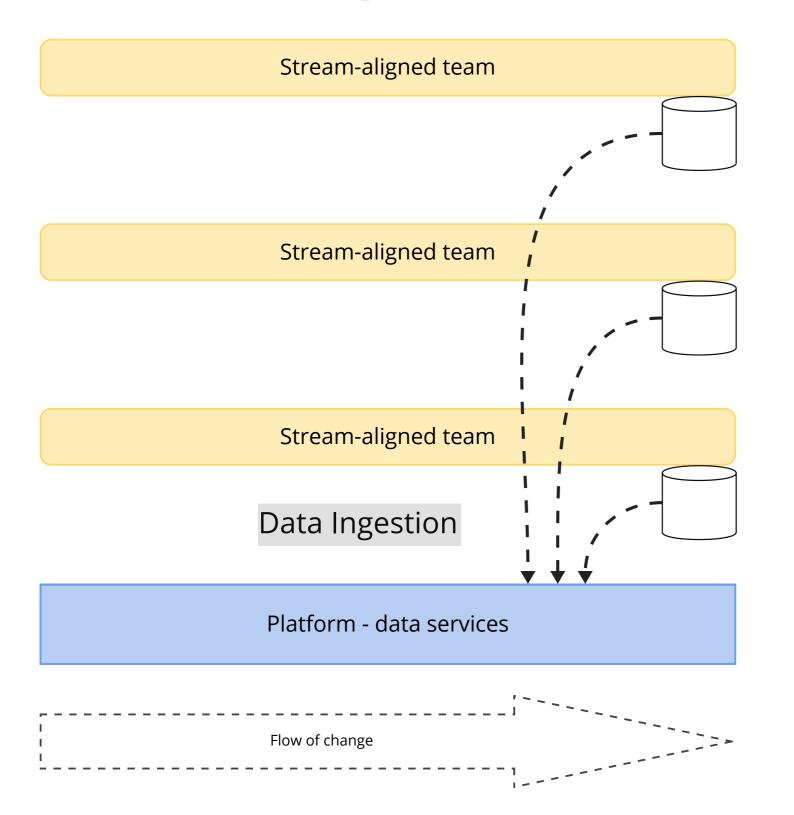


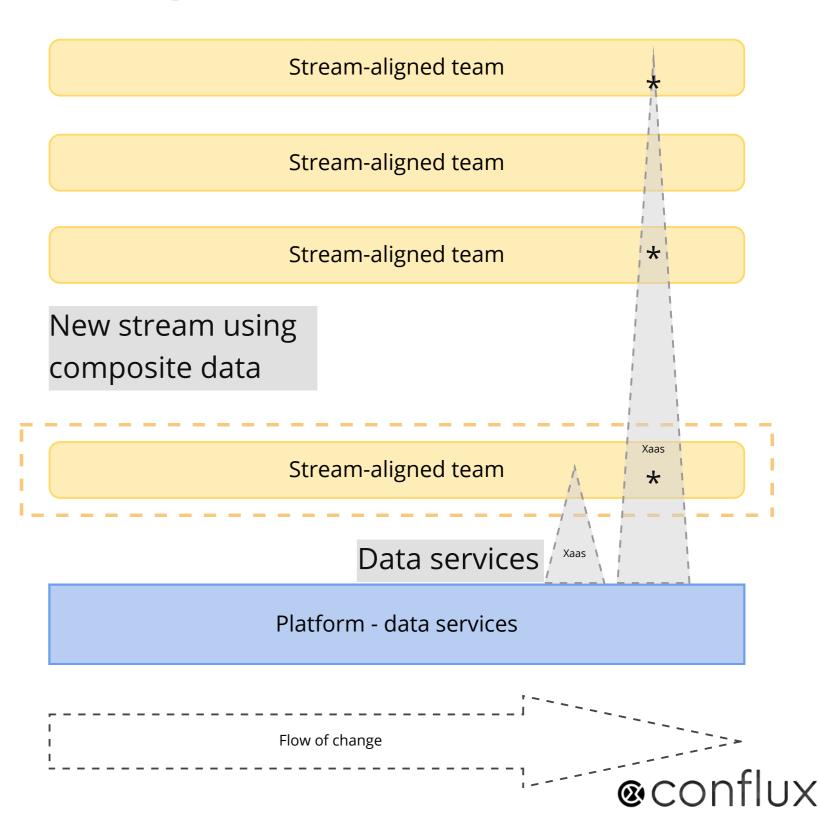
"...the fact that you're doing microservices doesn't automatically save you from that. Likely you just have a distributed big ball of mud" - Mario Fusco

https://twitter.com/mariofusco/status/1112332826861547520



Pattern: composite services via a data platform





Data Mesh

Data Mesh is an analytical data architecture and operating model where data is treated as a product and owned by teams that most intimately know and consume the data.

Four principles of Data Mesh

Domain ownership

Data as a product

Self-service data platforms

Federated governance

Desynchronous



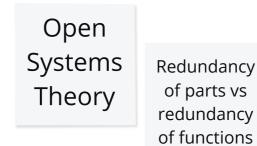
Avoid temporal dependencies

Desynchronous - key rules

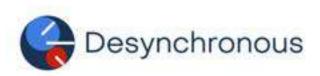


- 1. No team is allowed to *force* or coerce another team to change an API or service or module within a particular timescale.
- 2. No more than two teams may work in a synchronized way (with synchronized changes) in the same timescale.
- 3. The value of an underlying API or service or module increases as more APIs or services or modules depend on that thing at runtime.

Desynchronous - implications







Imagine each team MUST work with what's actually available already, as if internal teams were external providers, rather than creating time-based dependencies on other teams.



Part 3 - Finding good boundaries for flow using Independent Service Heuristics



Outline of part 3

- Independent Service Heuristics (ISH) as a technique for finding good boundaries for fast flow
- Three different lenses: fracture planes, user needs, micro-enterprises
- Using ISH to find good boundaries using these lenses



How can we find good boundaries for flow?

Good team and service boundaries work well for **flow**. But how can we find good boundaries for flow?

One technique is **Independent Service Heuristics**. We look for services that could (if we wanted) be run as a separate cloud service, and then critique the candidate service against various criteria. [CC BY-SA license]

https://github.com/TeamTopologies/Independent-Service-Heuristics



The end-goal from using Independent Service Heuristics

Loosely-coupled, independent services and teams, aligned to viable streams of value



Real-world Software-Enriched Services

Inspiration:

- 1. Clothes laundering https://www.laundryheap.co.uk/ simplifies the tasks
- 2. Buy a car https://www.cinch.co.uk/ delivered to your door and 14-day money back
- 3. Run a business https://www.odoo.com/ an opinionated "platform" of tools
- 4. Try on clothes digitally https://www.zyler.com/ saves time in stores
- 5. ID verification https://www.id-pal.com/ uses features of a mobile app
- 6. Transcription https://rev.com/ automated or human, but all 'As a Service'
- 7. Vaccination notification and booking: https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-app/ location specific
- 8. Website monitoring https://uptimerobot.com/ no installed software just a focus on what is public
- 9. International money transfers https://wise.com/ no actual bank accounts, but much of the hassle removed
- 10. Try on glasses virtually https://luna.io/virtual-try-on/ no need to visit a store





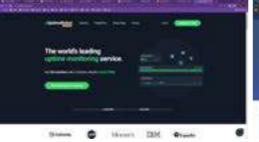
















ISH - 3 different lenses

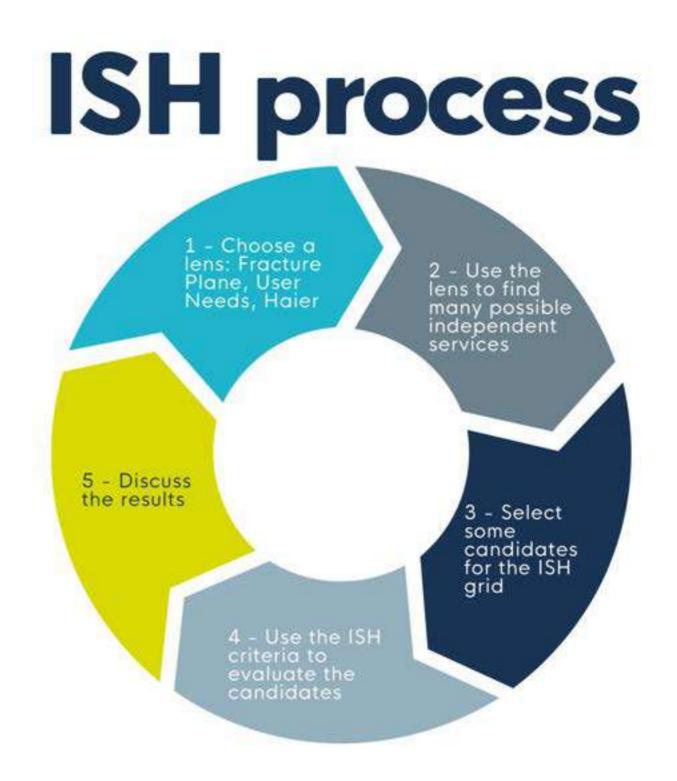
Fracture planes

User needs

Microenterprises

ISH process

- Choose a lens: Fracture Plane,
 User Needs, Haier
- 2. Use the lens to find many possible independent services
- 3. Select some candidates for the ISH grid
- 4. Use the ISH criteria to evaluate the candidates
- 5. Discuss the results



ISH Checklist: 1 - As-a-Service

Could it make any logical sense to offer this thing "as a service"?

Is this thing independent enough?

Would consumers understand or value it?

Would it simplify execution?



ISH Checklist: 2 - Brand

Can you imagine this thing branded as a public cloud service? (For example, like AvocadoOnline.com)

Would it be a compelling offering?

Would it be a viable business (or "microbusiness") or service?

Could a marketing campaign be convincing?



ISH Checklist: 3 - Revenue / Customers

Could this thing be managed as a viable cloud service in terms of revenue and customers?

Would it be a viable service with a paid offering?

Would it bring recurring revenue with subscription plans?

Is there a clearlydefined customer base or segment?



ISH Checklist: 4 - Cost tracking

Could the organization currently track costs and investment in this thing separately from similar things?

Are the full costs of running this thing transparent or possible to discover?

Is this thing fairly separate, disconnected from other things in the organization?

Does the organization track this separately?

ISH Checklist: 5 - Data

Is it possible to define clearly the input data (from other sources) that this thing needs?

Is the thing fairly independent from any data sources?

Are the sources internal?

Is the input data clean (not messy)?

Is the input data provided in a self-service way?



ISH Checklist: 6 - User personas

Could this thing have a small/well-defined set of user types or customers (user personas)?

Is the thing meeting specific user needs?

Do we know (or can we easily articulate) these user types and their needs?



ISH Checklist: 7 - Teams

Could a team or set of teams effectively build and operate a service based on this thing?

Would the cognitive load (breadth of topics/context switching) be bounded to help the team focus and succeed?

Would significant infrastructure or other platform abstractions be unnecessary?



ISH Checklist: 8 - Dependencies

Would this team be able to act independently of other teams for the majority of the time to achieve their objectives?

Is this thing logically independent from other things?

Could the team "self-serve" dependencies in a nob-blocking manner from a platform?



ISH Checklist: 9 - Impact / Value

Would the scope of this thing provide a team with an impactful and engaging challenge?

Is the scope big enough to provide an impact? Would the scope be engaging for talented people?

Is there sufficient value to customers and the organization that the value would be clearly recognized?



ISH Checklist: 10 - Product decisions

Would the team working on this thing be able to "own" their own product roadmap and the product direction?

Does this thing provide discrete value in a well-defined sphere of execution?

Can the team define their own roadmap based on what they discover is best for the product and its users?



Fracture Planes

Business Domain	"Order" Lead Customer
Regulatory Compliance	70000
Change Cadence	_
Technology	
Risk	2
Performance Isolation	
User Personas	
Team Location	



techbeacon.com

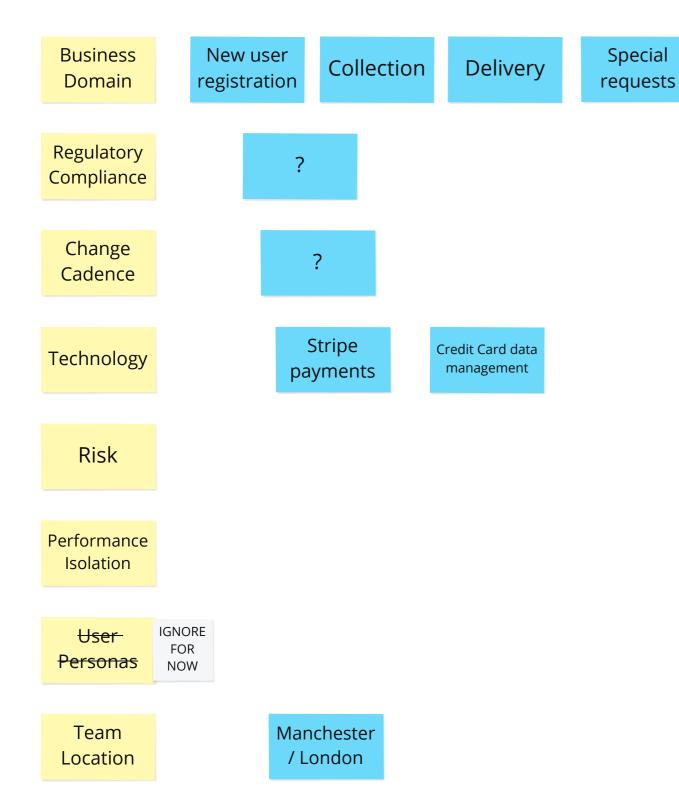
How to break apart a monolith without destroying your team | TechBeacon

How will breaking apart a monolith affect the teams involved in building your software? Start with the needs of your team.

Candidate streams using the fracture planes lens

Affiliate

referral





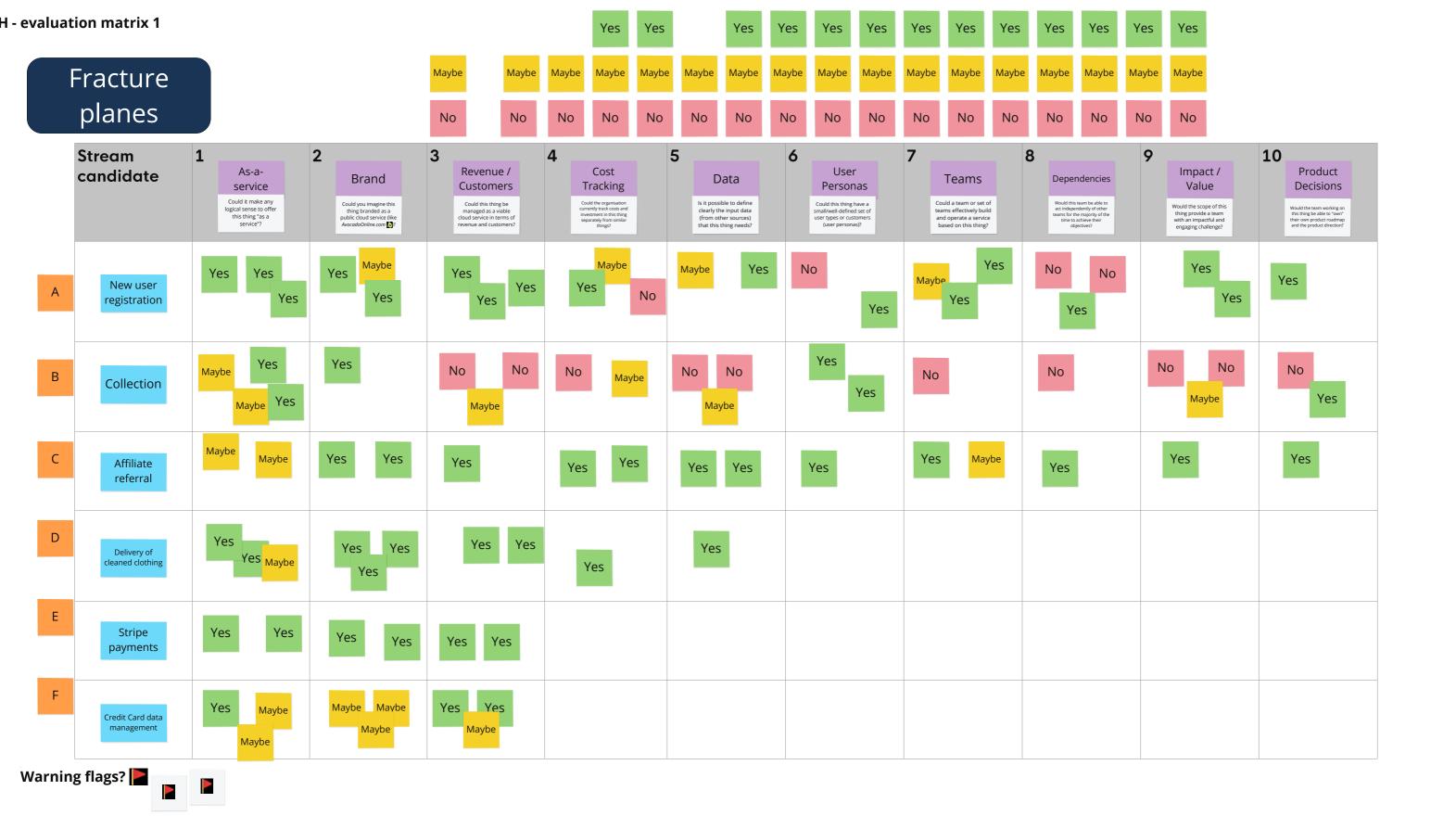
https://www.laundryheap.co.uk/

Independent Service Heuristics (ISH)

Start by asking "Could this thing be run as a cloud-hosted (SaaS) service or product?"

- Ask the team to think about, and write down aspects of the business, relevant tasks, software applications, and customer journeys which could become an independent domain, service, or value stream.
- Remove duplicates and cluster similar ideas.
- Use this checklist to confirm, or discard areas of focus.
- 1. Sense-check: Could it make any logical sense to offer this thing "as a service"?
 - Is this thing independent enough?
 - Would consumers understand or value it?
 - · Would it simplify execution?
- 2. **Brand**: Could you imagine this thing branded as a public cloud service (like *AvocadoOnline.com* ??
 - Would it be a viable business (or "micro-business") or service?
 - Would it be a compelling offering?
 - · Could a marketing campaign be convincing?
- 3. **Revenue/Customers**: Could this thing be managed as a viable cloud service in terms of revenue and customers?
 - Would it be viable service with a paid offering?
 - Would it bring recurring revenue with subscription plans?
 - Is there a clearly-defined customer base or segment?
- 4. **Cost tracking**: Could the organisation currently track costs and investment in this thing separately from similar things?
 - Are the full costs of running this thing transparent or possible to discover considering infrastructure costs, data storage costs, data transfer costs, licence costs, etc.?
 - Is this thing fairly separate, disconnected from other things in the organisation?
 - Does the organisation track this separately?
- 5. Data: Is it possible to define clearly the input data (from other sources) that this thing needs?
 - Is the thing fairly independent from any data sources?
 - Are the sources internal (under our control, not external)?
 - Is the input data clean (not messy)?
 - Is the input data provided in a self-service way? Can the team consume the input data "as a service"?
- 6. User Personas: Could this thing have a small/well-defined set of user types or customers (user personas)?
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 - Could the team "self-serve" dependencies in a non-blocking manner from a platform?
- 9. **Impact/Value**: Would the scope of this thing provide a team with an impactful and engaging challenge?
 - Is the scope big enough to provide an impact? Would the scope be engaging for talented people?
 - Is there sufficient value to customers and the organization that the value would be clearly recognized?
- 10. **Product Decisions**: Would the team working on this thing be able to "own" their own product roadmap and the product direction?
 - Does this thing provide discrete value in a well-defined sphere of execution?
 - Can the team define their own roadmap based on what they discover is best for the product and its users (so that the team is not driven by the requirements and priorities of other teams)?

Answer these questions for each of the candidate streams you have identified. The more 'yes' or 'maybe' answers a possible stream has, the greater the chance that you have found a good candidate for being a separate stream of change.



UX London: Leading Service Design

The test of a good user need

- ✓ If you showed it to a user, would they recognise it as their need?
- ✓ Is it written with words real users use?
- ✓ Does it describe the problem rather than the solution?
- ✓ Will it stay the same regardless of changes to technology, policy and existing services?
- ✓ Does it help you organise and prioritise work?

Inspired by Leisa Reichelt @leisa



https://benholliday.com/2017/07/14/leading-service-design-user-needs/

- **explicit needs**: derived from how our users describe what they are trying to do
- implicit needs: those that are not expressed and that users are sometimes not aware of, but that are evident from our observation
- created needs: where a user has to do something because it is required by the service

riceas to a fairing.

Candidate streams using the user needs lens

business family professional **EXAMPLES** Whole Service Track specific Check a items of clothing status Set up a Money-Direct Debit related Order-Book and Order some more QR code labels for manage related laundry bags collections Discover Information Trigger an action

• • •

care worker

Manage multiple

collections for

different people



https://www.laundryheap.co.uk/

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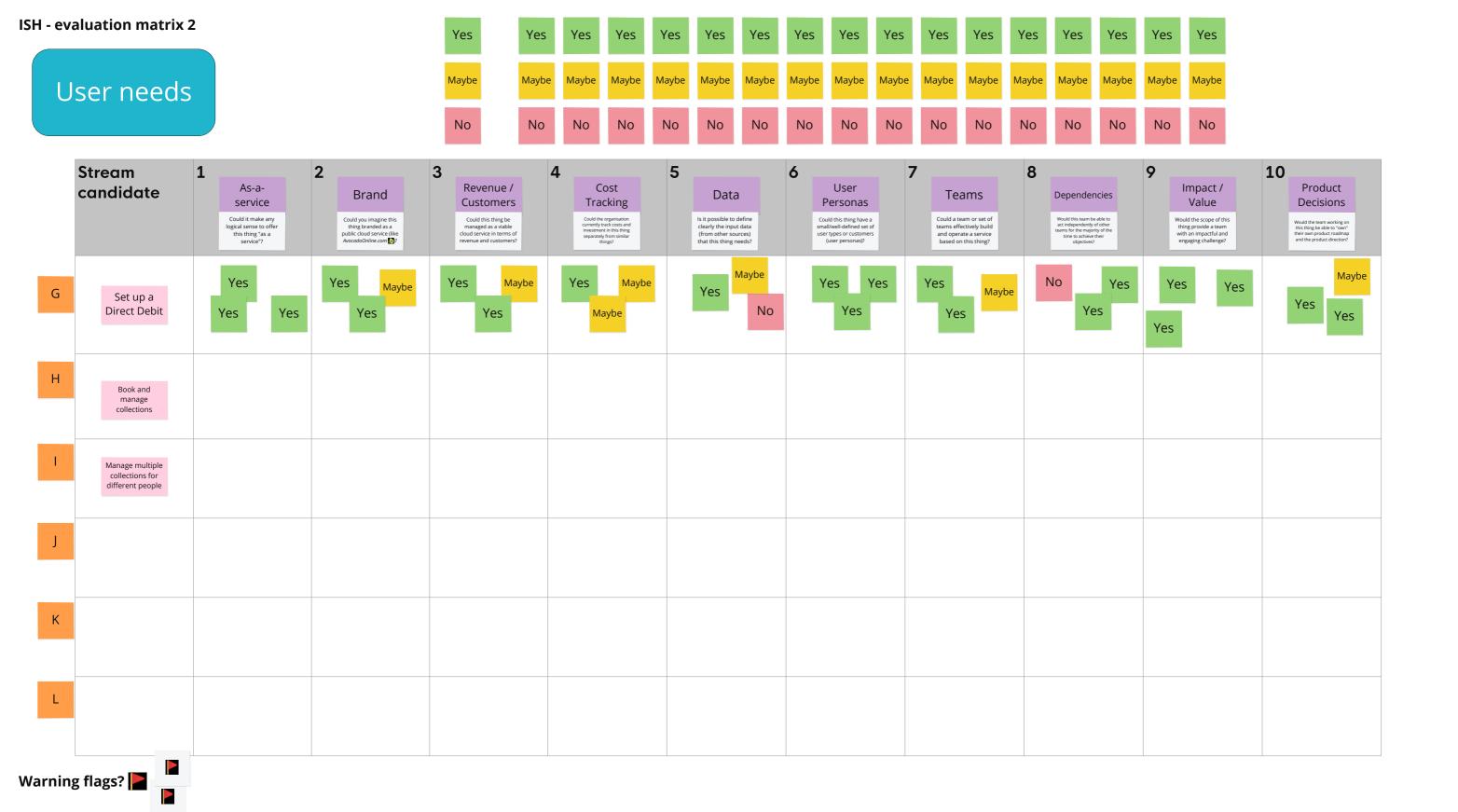
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Independent Service Heuristics

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Selected candidates 2

Haier Microenterprise



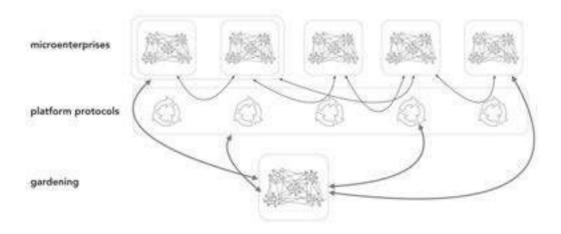
medium.com

Evolution of the Platform Organization: 3 Haier, Rendanheyi, and Zhang Ruimin's Vision

Haier's Chairman, Zhang Ruimin, is one of the world's most well-known management thinkers, at least in the rarefied world of business...

 $\frac{https://medium.com/work-futures/evolution-of-the-platform-organization-3-haier-rendanheyi-and-zhang-ruimins-vision-d8afceef7f5e}{$

To Ecosystem



Candidate streams using micro-enterprise lens





https://www.laundryheap.co.uk/



Independent Service Heuristics

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ISH - eva	aluation matrix	3			Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
	Micro- enterprise				Maybe	Maybe	Maybe	Maybe	Maybe	Maybe	Maybe	Maybe	Maybe	Maybe	Maybe	Maybe	Maybe	Maybe	Maybe	Maybe	Maybe		
E	enterprise	S			No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No		
	Stream candidate	Sense- check Could it make any logical sense to offer this thing "as a service"?	Co t pub	Brand Juld you imagine this hing branded as a lic cloud service (like code Online.com	Reven Custor Could this ti managed as cloud service it revenue and co	ning be a viable of terms of	Coul curre inves	Cost Fracking Jet the organisation ently track costs and statent in this thing arately from similar things?	5	Is it possibl clearly the (from other that this th	le to define input data er sources)	C Sr U:	User Persona Could this thing hav mall/well-defined se ser types or custom (user personas)?	ee a eet of	Could teams and o	eams a team or set of effectively build operate a service of on this thing?	8	Dependo Would this team act independen teams for the ms time to achie objective	n be able to tly of other ajority of the eve their	9	Impact / Value Would the scope of this thing provide a team with an impactful and engaging challenge?	Wo	Product Decisions Id the team working on thing be able to "own" own product roadmap the product direction?
М	White glove service for High Net Worth clients																						
N																							
0																							
Р																							
Q																							
R																							
Warning	Warning flags?																						

Selected candidates 3

Selected candidate streams for further investigation

Fracture planes

User needs

Microenterprises

What to do next with these candidates?

Learn how to apply Independent Service Heuristics in more depth

Domain-Driven Design

Use EventStorming

Deep Dive into 1 or 2 domains

e.g. better define the data or interfaces in one area

End-to-End
"walking
skeleton"



Part 4 - Skill paths and aptitudes for fast flow

@conflux

Outline of part 4

- We begin by exploring the skills pathways needed for typical roles in IT and software delivery when embarking on a fast flow transition.
- We then discuss challenges and opportunities around skills gaps and aptitudes and how we can use market sensing techniques to help avoid skills stagnation.
- We finish Part 4 by reviewing the success patterns covered throughout the Masterclass and answering any remaining questions.



Flows of change

Almost ALL roles and teams should be focused on either:

A flow of change



Supporting flows of change



A flow of change

- Software changes to a service or application
- Configuration changes to commercial offthe-shelf (COTS) software
- Onboarding a new employee
- Reviewing legal contracts
- Installing audio-visual equipment



Supporting flows of change

- An infrastructure platform for clouds services or applications
- A data platform for analytics
- A wiki or How-To guide
- Real-time data for decision making



What do we aim for in the context of fast flow?

Continuously
'untangle' business
concepts

Minimize hands-offs

Avoid blocking dependencies

Find and adjust team and system boundaries for flow

Move some decisionmaking to teams



What do we aim for in the context of fast flow?

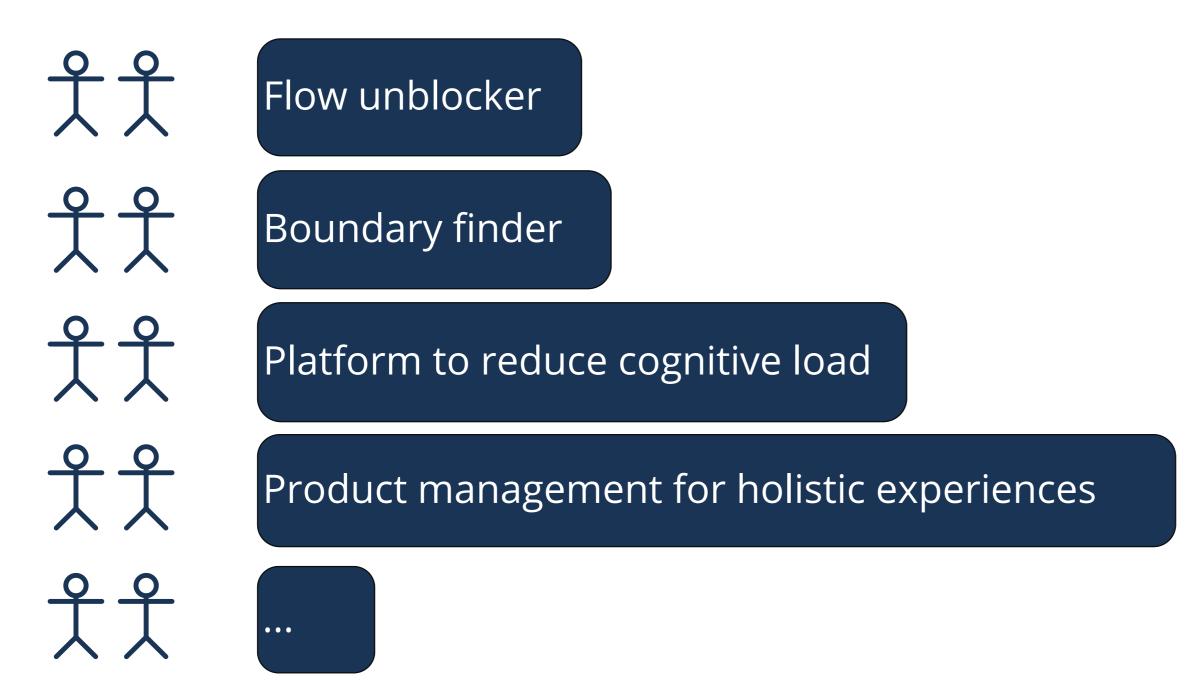
Long-lived, autonomous teams

Ownership and curation

Modern, digital product management

Consider team cognitive load

Implications of fast flow for teams and roles



Mindset shifts for 3 example roles

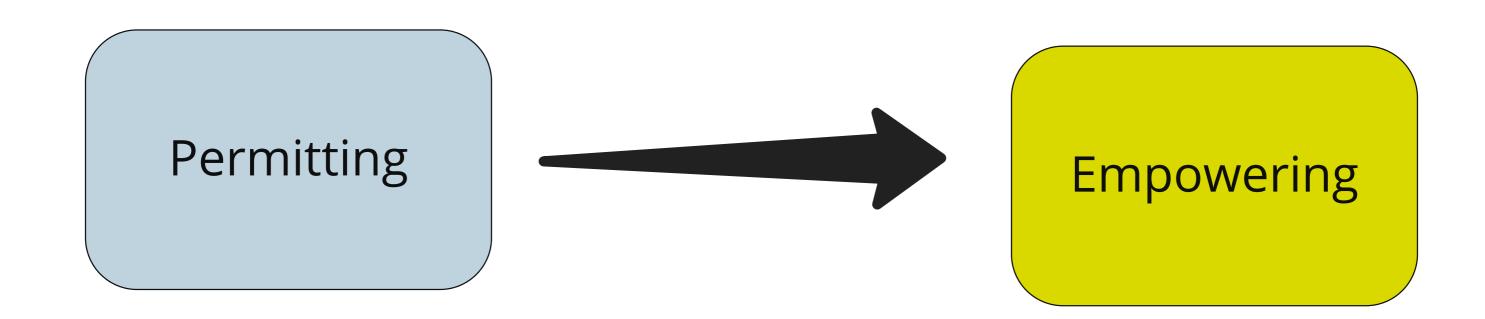
Compliance expert

Architect

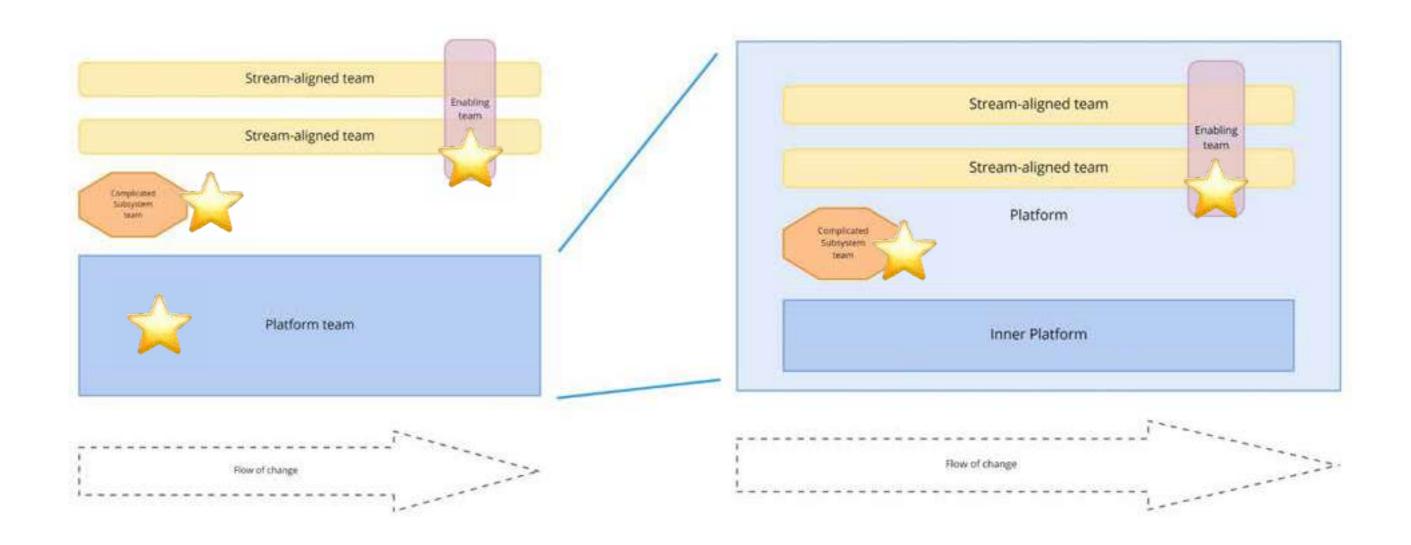
Manager

Compliance mindset shift





Example: compliance expert (empowering)



- Part of an enabling team working across many stream-aligned teams
- Part of a platform, advising on the evolution of platform services
- Part of a complicated sub-system team, building a compliance service



Mindset shift for compliance expert - expert view

Individual / team Working as part of a team

♠ Working as part of an Enabling team specifically

Working in a facilitating way

Understanding the importance of fast flow in general

Understanding the importance of APIs for fast flow

Organization

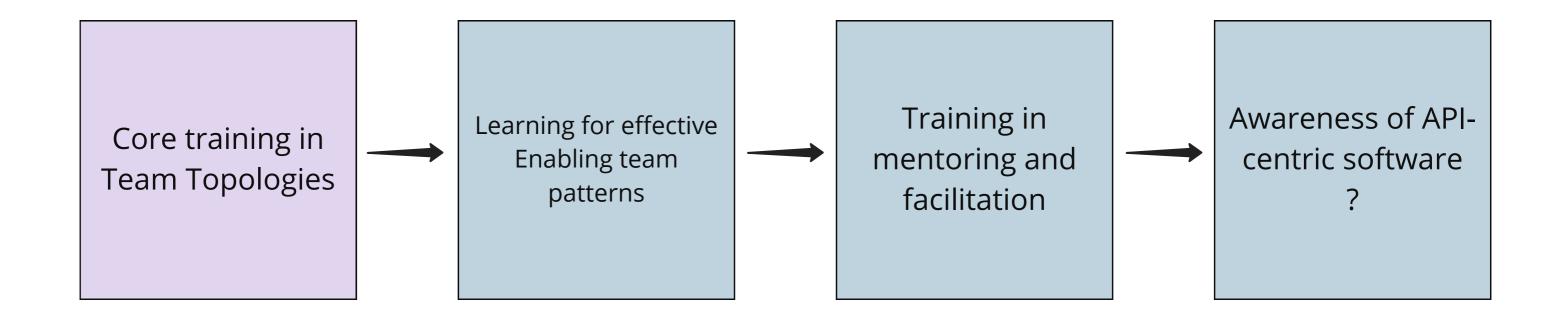
Aligning incentives and compliance responsibilities

⚠ Building trust across departments / divisions



Empowering other teams

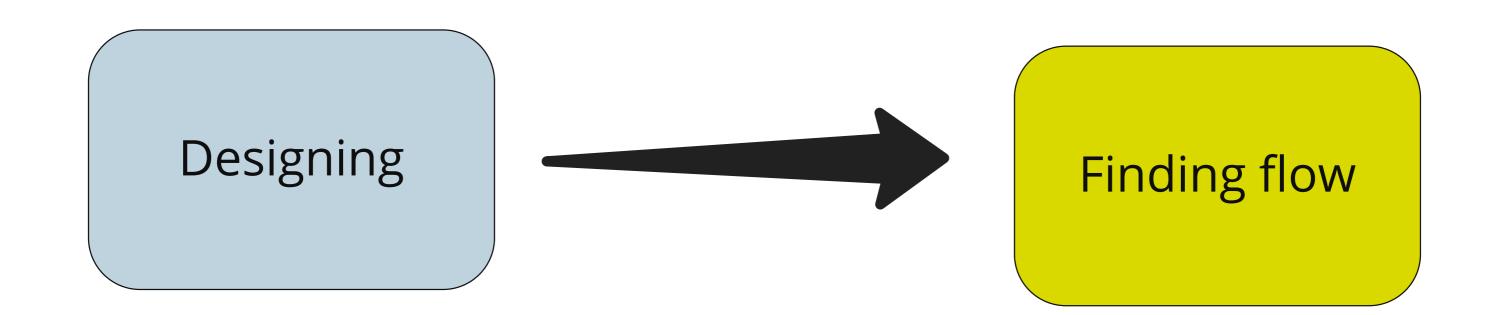
Example skill path for financial compliance expert



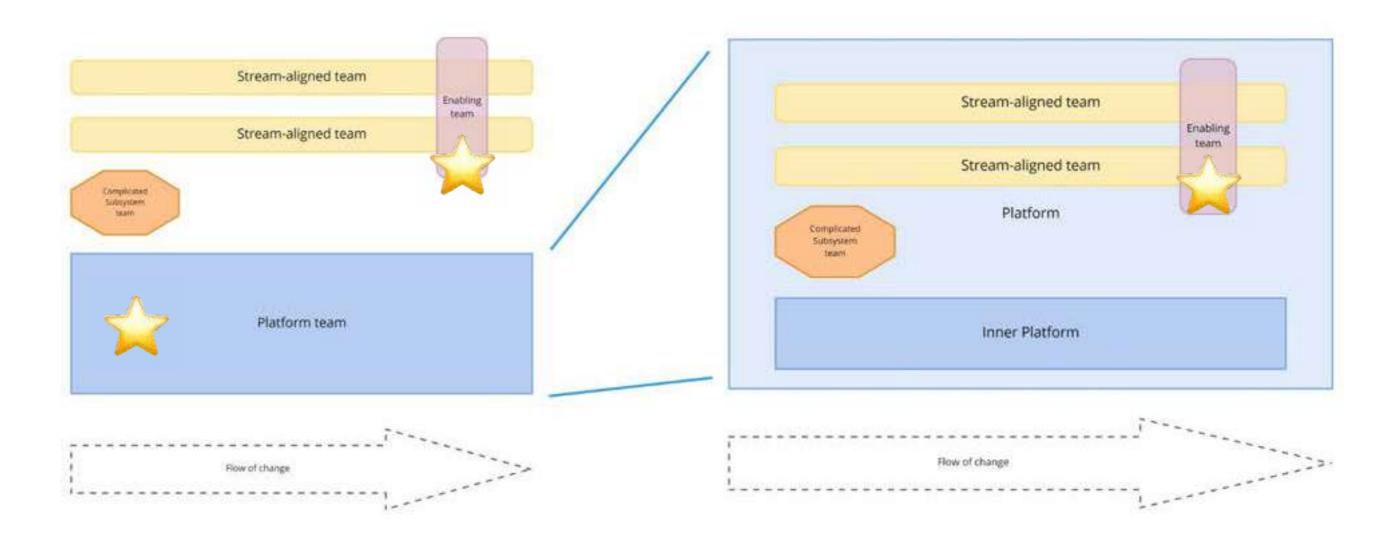


Architect mindset shift





Example: enterprise architect (finding flow)



- Part of an Enabling team working across many Stream aligned teams
- Part of a Platform, guiding the platform evolution



Mindset shift for enterprise architect - expert view

Individual / team Working as part of a team

♠ Working as part of an Enabling team specifically

Working in a facilitating way

Working as part of a product platform



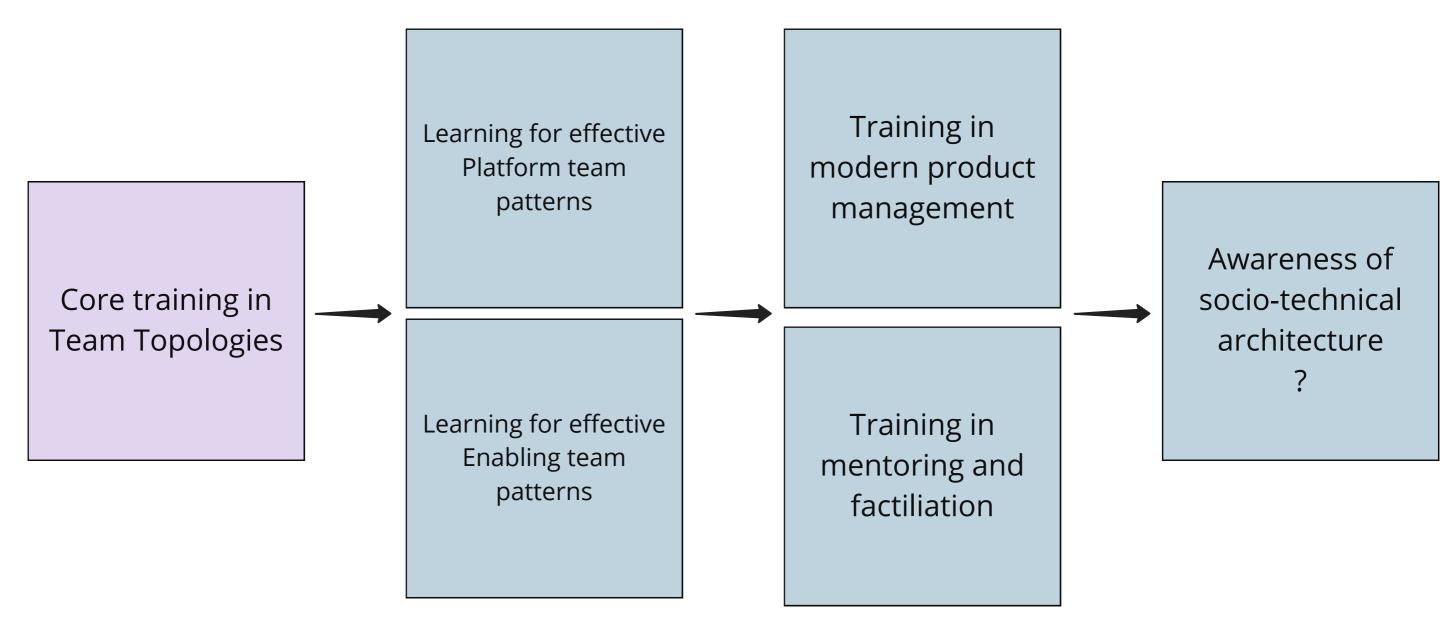
Organization

Seeing architecture as sociotechnical - bridging departments / divisions

Building trust across departments / divisions



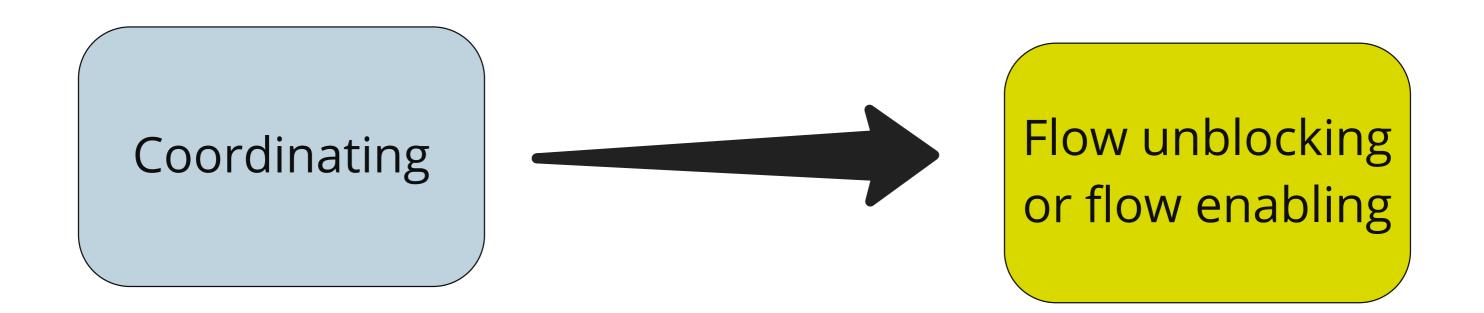
Example skill path for enterprise architect





Manager mindset shift





Mindset shift for manager - expert view

Individual / team Working as part of a team

♠ Working as part of an Enabling team specifically

Working in a facilitating way

Working as part of a product platform



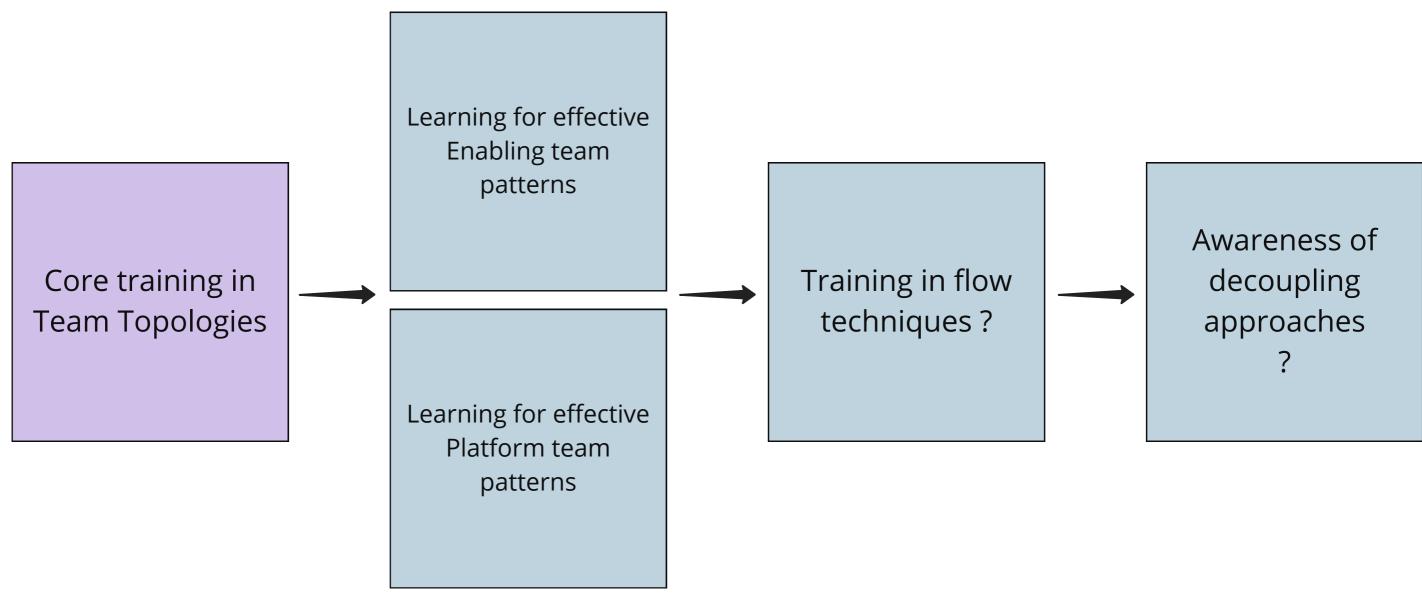
Organization

Seeing
"management"
as mostly about
flow, not
coordination

⚠ Building trust across departments / divisions



Example skill path for manager



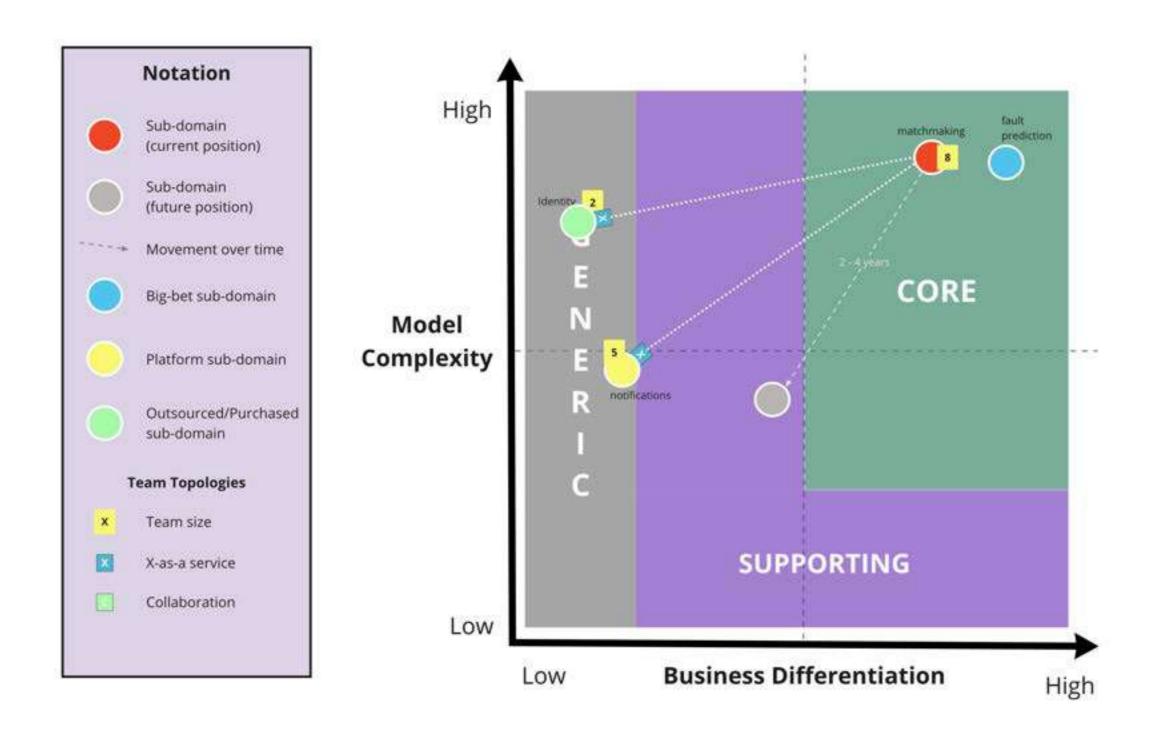


Skills gaps as an advantage - market sensing

Use skills gaps and aptitudes as a strategic advantage to avoid stagnation



Core Domain Charts - skills

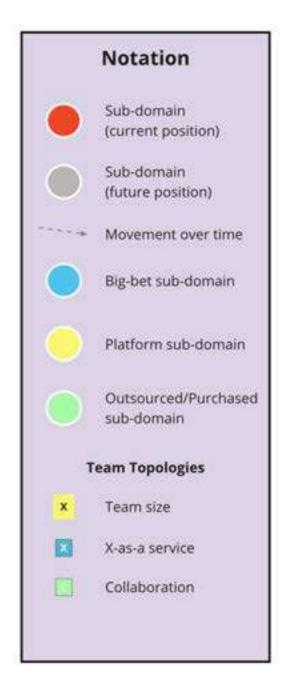


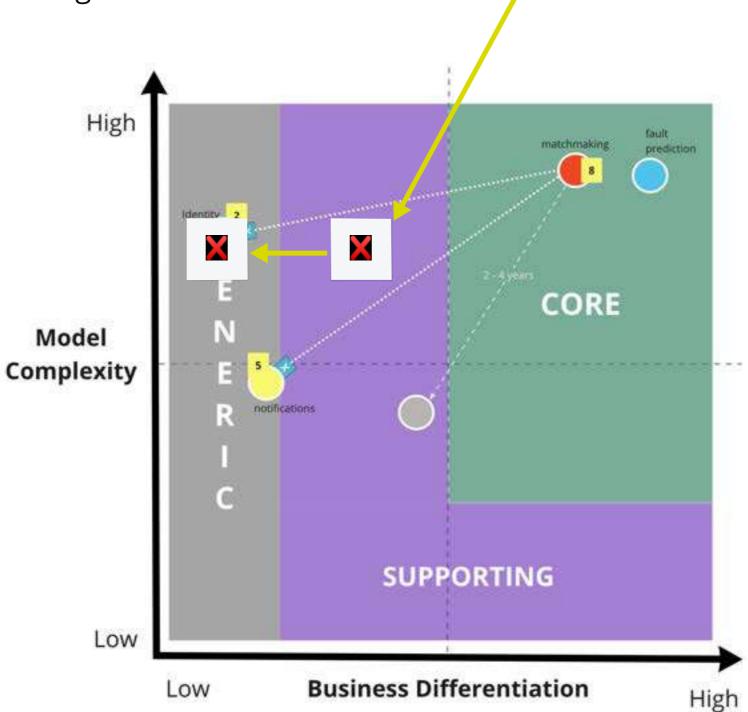


Core Domain Charts - skills adaptability

What should a smart organization do around skills and capabilities if it





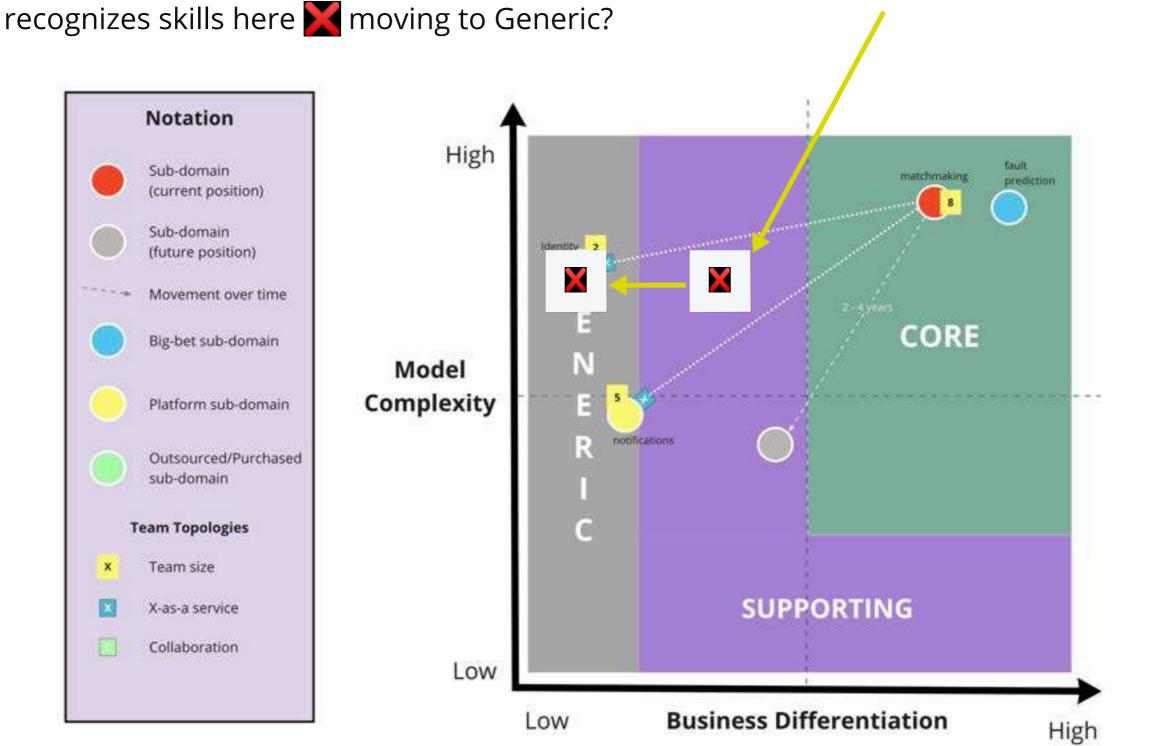


Example: Capacity planning for data centers --> cloud



Core Domain Charts - skills adaptability - expert opinion

What should a smart organization do around skills and capabilities if it



Prefer external Generic to internal Generic

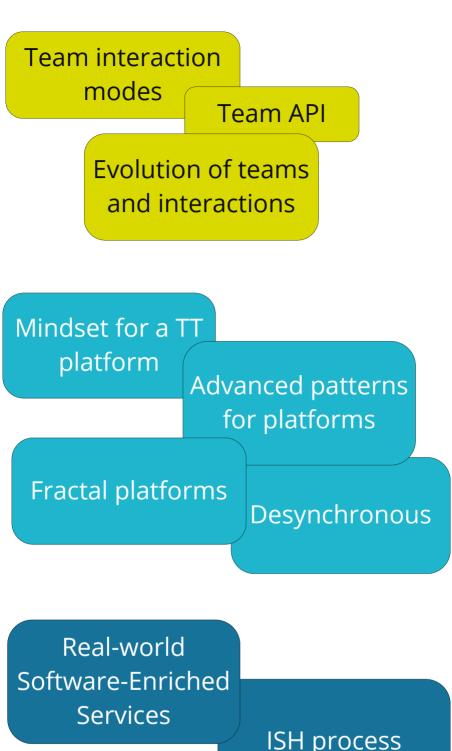
Cross-train people ASAP

Adaptability is perhaps the most important skill

Move from "this is who I am" to "this is what I do now"

HR: Make job descriptions and titles more generic: "engineer", "manager", "coach", etc.





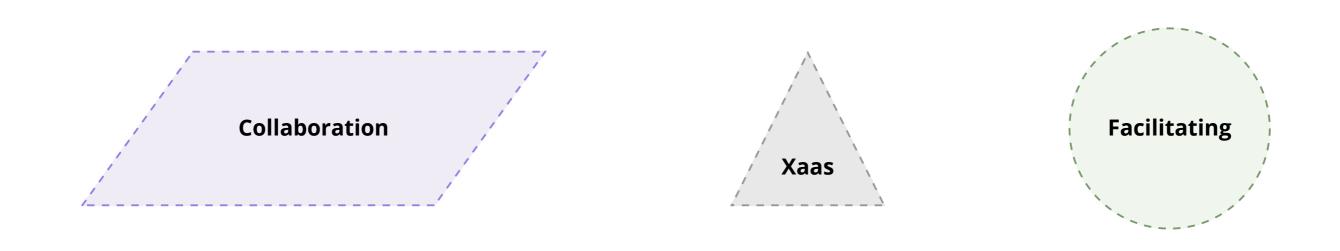
Software-Enriched
Services

ISH process

Core Domain
Charts - skills
adaptability

Team interaction modes 2

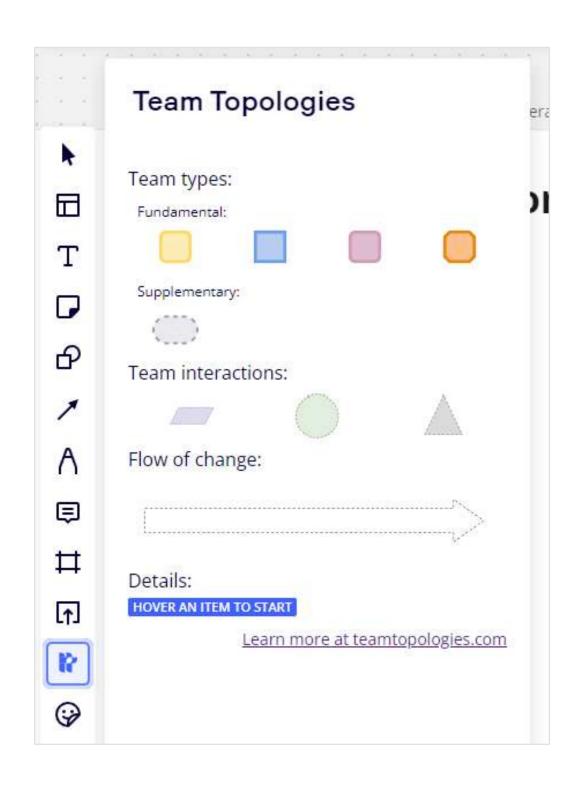
Using the digital TT team modeling shapes



https://shapes.teamtopologies.com/



Evolution of teams and interactions

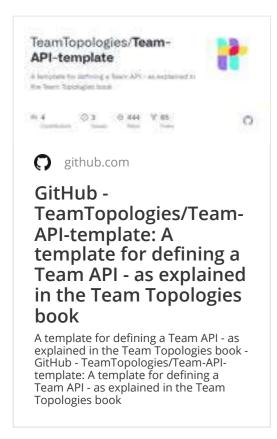




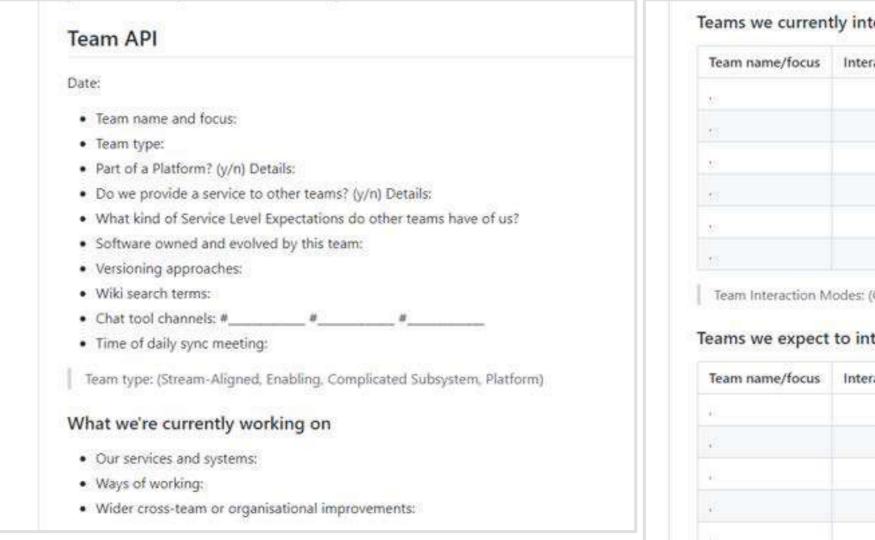
https://agilestationery.com/products/modeling-shapes-for-team-types-and-team-interactions

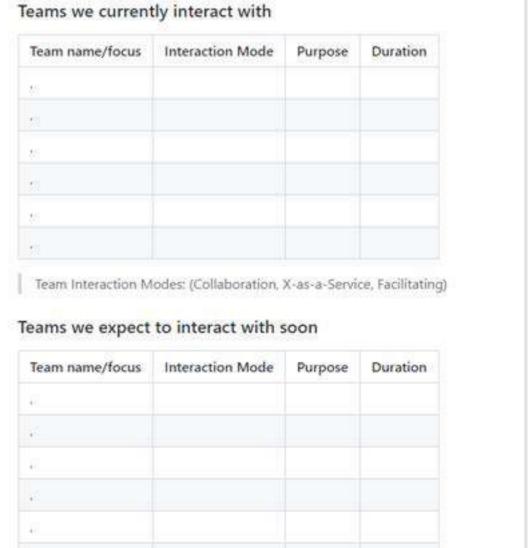


Team API - overview



https://github.com/Tea mTopologies/Team-APItemplate





TVP example at Trade Me





medium.com

Our Journey to a Thinnest Viable Platform

Trade Me engineering is a medium size team-about 200 engineers-spread across predominantly platform and stream-aligned agile squads...

https://medium.com/trade-me/our-journey-to-a-thinnest-viable-platform-ca3e57986eb9

"It started with a series of wiki pages highlighting the characteristics of a production-ready application and the definitive list of must-haves we expect applications to have to fulfil our stream-aligned teams' needs. We used user story-mapping to identify the Musts.

Subsequently, it evolved into a templated infrastructure-as-code project with almost fully automated provisioning pipelines."

"Our main measures of success (MoS) are:

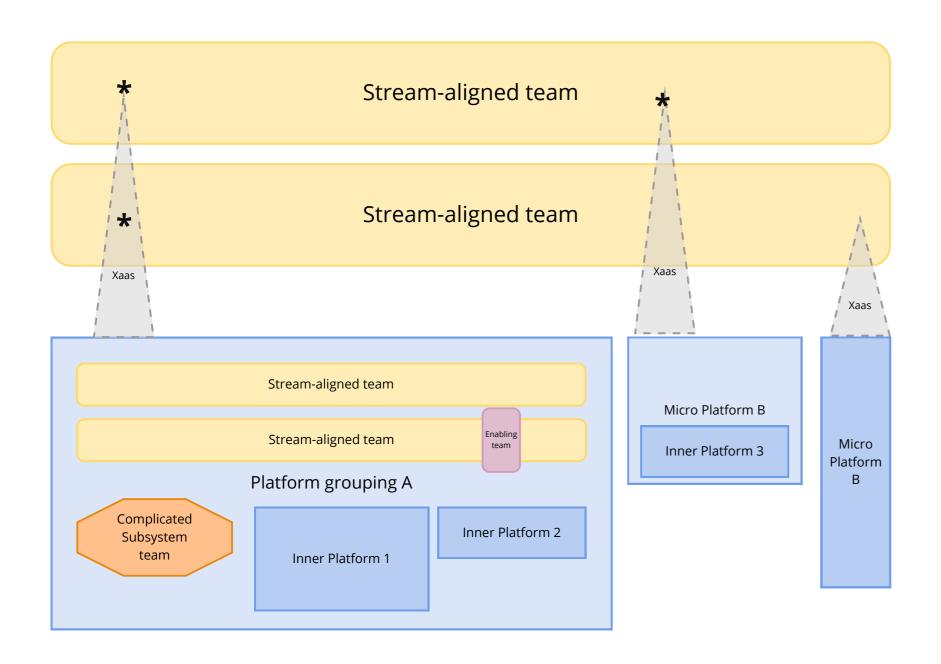
- Reducing developers' cognitive load (qualitative MoS)
- Time to First Hello World (TTFHW)"

"The intention behind this is to keep the platform as simple as possible to cater to one of its primary purposes: reducing developer cognitive load."





Fractal platforms - platform groupings 4





Advanced patterns for platforms



Parallel services



Harvesting



Horizon scanning



Composite



Desynchronous



Avoid temporal dependencies

Real-world Software-Enriched Services

- 1. Clothes laundering https://laundrapp.com/en/ simplifies the tasks
- 2. Buy a car https://www.cinch.co.uk/ delivered to your door and 14-day money back
- 3. Run a business https://www.odoo.com/ an opinionated "platform" of tools
- 4. Try on clothes digitally https://www.zyler.com/ saves time in stores
- 5. ID verification https://www.id-pal.com/ uses features of a mobile app
- 6. Transcription https://rev.com/ automated or human, but all 'As a Service'
- 7. Vaccination notification and booking: https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-app/ location specific
- 8. Website monitoring https://uptimerobot.com/ no installed software just a focus on what is public
- 9. International money transfers https://wise.com/ no actual bank accounts, but much of the hassle removed
- 10. Try on glasses virtually https://luna.io/virtual-try-on/ no need to visit a store



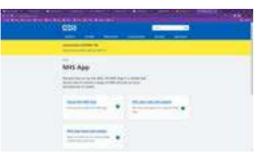












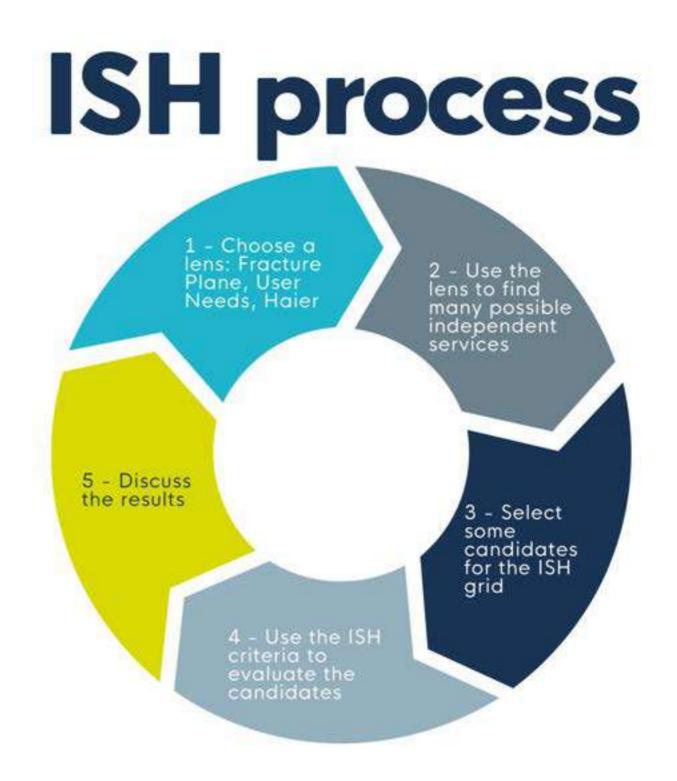






ISH process

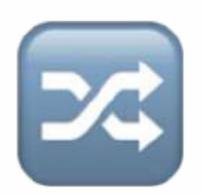
- Choose a lens: Fracture Plane,
 User Needs, Haier
- 2. Use the lens to find many possible independent services
- 3. Select some candidates for the ISH grid
- 4. Use the ISH criteria to evaluate the candidates
- 5. Discuss the results



Flows of change

Almost ALL roles and teams should be focused on either:

A flow of change

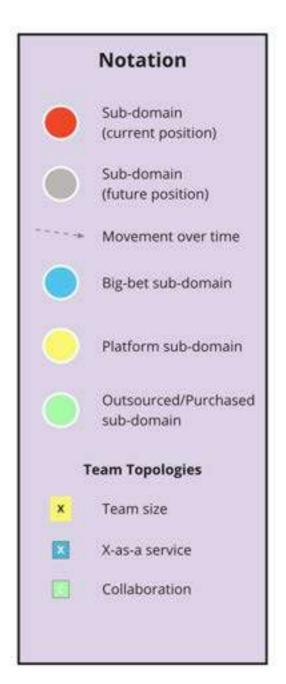


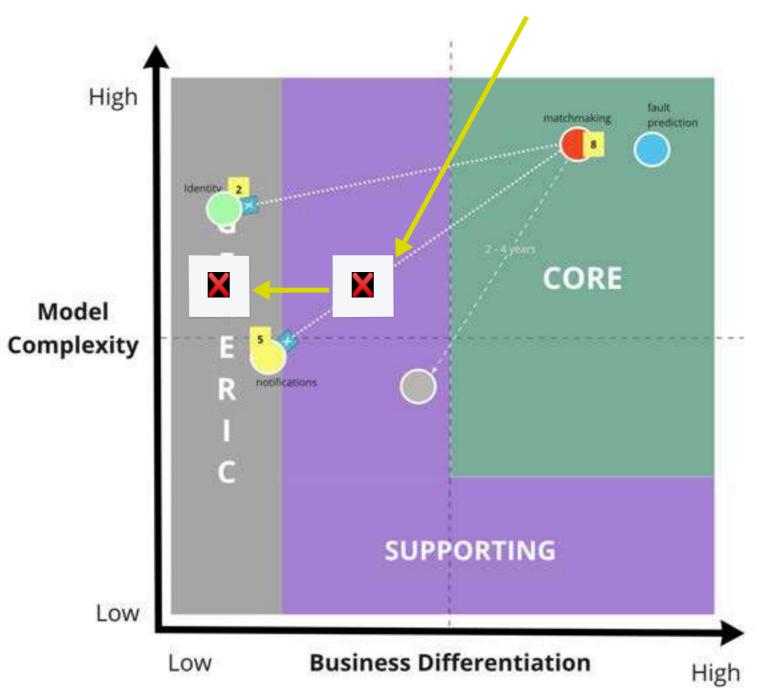
Supporting flows of change



Core Domain Charts - skills adaptability

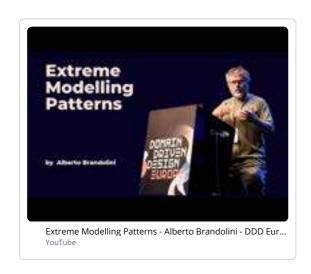
What should a smart organization do if it recognizes skills here moving to Generic?





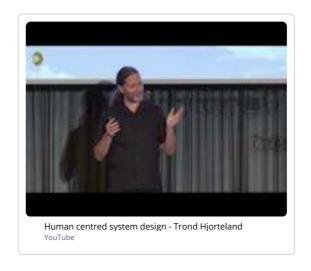


Core Domain Charts - skills adaptability



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jv1-ohCWbE0

Example of Composite pattern



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KSWylZevgHc

Open systems and related to environment