

Lingering Decisions & Stakeholders

We're going to start off by pretending you're in a meeting, right? And in this meeting, there's been a big decision that's been put off. You want to move on, but the rest of the team is too busy being esoteric for you to make sense out of it. And man, if we could just move on and make a decision, ANY decision, the whole team could work on something and actually DO something.

Well Team BirdFeedr did have this issue. We had it several times. And today, we're going to tell you how we got out of it. Sometimes we need help, so who could you depend on?

The answer is a stakeholder. But what puts them in a position where they can help?

Well, they have key stakes in the project - they want to ensure the team's success (define stakeholder's position relative to the team.)

Okay, so let's go back to one of our major roadblocks and decisions. We had two subprojects completed: chirp & git. We had to make the decision on if we wanted to keep git or not. And it was intense - chirp wanted to put git away. And git wanted to keep it. And we looked at it from every possible angle - pros and cons, etc. What were we going to do?

We talked to our key stakeholders, JP. So in this case, we got feedback that we weren't unified and need a single goal. The idea was that that maybe we needed a vision statement. And we created a vision statement, there it is if you guys want to know, and we all as a single group decided it together, and then we checked if project git would satisfy it. and we said no. we agreed to the fact that a lot of hard work was put into git, but it didn't fit our statement so we moved on.

Okay, so this situation worked because we had a primary stakeholder intimately involved. But if they're not available or they have other things? Then what?

So imagine a ton of ideas. A ton of ideas. We were deciding what to do for our final project. And all of them fit our vision statement but geez, there were ten choices! So what could we do?

now we talked to some secondary stakeholders: teachers, students, people just beginning to learn CS and veterans of CS. And we looked at the results: student survivors used tutors to pass classes, and attributed their success solely to tutors. That idea was referenced to another stakeholder and suggested this idea that became scoped down.

But we still hadn't learned our lesson. We had ambiguity that wasn't defined until now, because we didn't know our own process model. We couldn't build our project and looked at our process model. And what a waste of time that was. It wasn't about doing it better, it was about labeling it better. It's not about the name, but defining it better.

So what's the big lesson here? Stakeholders are important. By knowing what the key stakeholder wants, we know they will be invested into it.

We want you to leave today talking to your stakeholders, or leaste someone you believe to your stakeholder. And form there maybe you can find the answers to the problem you had.

Git

- two seperate groups: group a wanted to keep it in cuz they worked hard; b wanted to dump it as an exprolation projcet
- made protocol & formally defined way to make a dicesion to be unanimous about the decision: pros l cons with explanlaiton.
- idea of a vision statement suggested.
- vision statement, uniform goal and then asked if side projcet fit goal. Answer was no.
- Could've been handled by other stakeholders.

Final Project

- we were stuck figuring out project - analysis paralysis - this seemed good, this seemed good.
- Too many options, overwhelmed
- We started talking to key stakeholders in the cs community, teachers, high schools, etc., surveyed and asked about things. Answers became 'syntax was hard' & professors diagreed; structru efo languages was harder.
- What made it easier? Tutors. For some, the only reason why they passed?
- A program that helped me learn, a tutoring progrma, would help new students learn
- Jody responded with Codingbat integrated into blueJ, scoped down

Process Model

- Build wasn't working as intended; what was our process, XP.
- Uncertainty of a concrete process model.
- 2 weeks trying to define a new process model that would
- we THOUGHT we needed a process model. Didn't have concrete answers to concrete questions, so we tried to make a concretes olution.
- We tried to fit our old pocesses in a new thing.
- After our stakeholder talked to us about 'why do you actually need this,' we went back on track.