Who has heard about the 5 monkeys’ experiment? Well, if you have, this story is a slightly modified version of it. If you haven’t, the story goes a little something like this.

There were 5 monkeys. They were tasked with creating a platform to reach hanging bananas in a tree. They all worked together, built the platform, and got the bananas. The end.

Simple. Right?

Well… no. You see, the monkeys got tired of eating bananas. They wanted to try the pineapples on the other side of the yard. So, they all worked together, moved the platform to that side of the yard, and reached the pineapples.

Simple. Right?

Well… no. You see, the platform wasn’t built for that side of the yard and after the move, the platform became brittle and boards needed to be replaced. They all began to work together, but then one monkey spoke up and said, “You know… some of these boards aren’t treated and bugs have eaten into them and that’s what caused the brittleness. Before we cut them, pass the boards to me and I’ll approve or deny them.”

Simple. Right?

Well… no. Another monkey spoke up, “You know… we aren’t using the right types of boards. These boards aren’t high performant and can’t handle the stress of moving. Before we use them, pass the boards to me and I’ll approve or deny them.”

Simple. Right?

Well… no. Yet another monkey spoke up, “You know… the real reason we have these problems is because we didn’t plan each section of the platform. Before we begin to think about cutting the boards, pass your plans to me and I’ll approve or deny them.”

Simple. Right?

Well…no. Yet another monkey spoke up, “You know… the problem is we are too free to place the boards how each of us see fit. We need a process of placing these boards. Before we place them, pass the boards and your plans to me, and I’ll approve or deny them.”

Simple. Right?

Well… not exactly. The monkeys ***were*** able to reach the pineapples. But we all know what happens when you don’t have pizza with pineapples. You eat the pizza, right? Because pineapple pizza is only acceptable in Hawaii and that’s only because they pepperonis don’t grow on trees. Anyways, back to the monkeys.

Months had gone by and weather had really taken its toll on the platform. By this time, one of the monkeys was replaced. The new monkey saw how the other monkeys were using wood and hand tools to build and maintain the platform.

He spoke up, “You know… we could use steel beams instead of w—". “We can’t risk it!” shouted the other monkeys. Taken back, he stayed silent after that. Weeks went by. Another monkey was replaced. This monkey saw how labor intensive it was to quality check each and every board before using it.

She spoke up, “You know… we could use a scanner to scan the b--”. “We can’t risk it!” shouted the other monkeys, including the last monkey that had just joined not too long ago. Taken back, she stayed silent after that. Before you know it, all the original monkeys had been replaced.

They decided the next fruit they would attempt to get were the apples on the other side of the yard. Every monkey worked diligently on the platform with the tools and processes they were given. They showed up, cut the boards, and followed the process. When they went to move the platform over to reach the apples, they realized the apples were much lower. In fact, they could have just used small ladder to reach them. Since they had spent so much time and energy building and maintaining the platform, they decided to continue using the platform and the process.

It is said to this day; the monkeys continue to build and maintain their platform using the original wood and original process. Each time a new monkey is cycled in, they are quickly acclimated to the way things are done. The monkeys work hard, incur little to no risk, and are extremely comfortable with the process they’ve built.

And they all lived happily ever after…