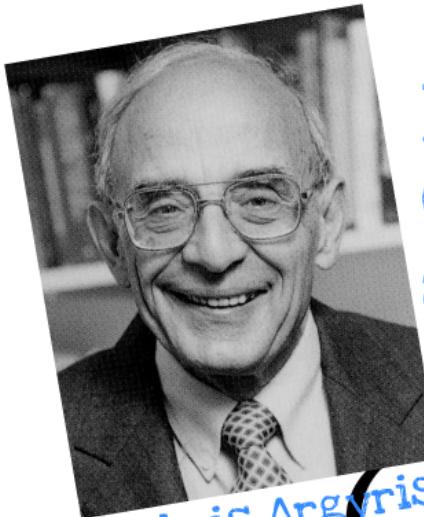
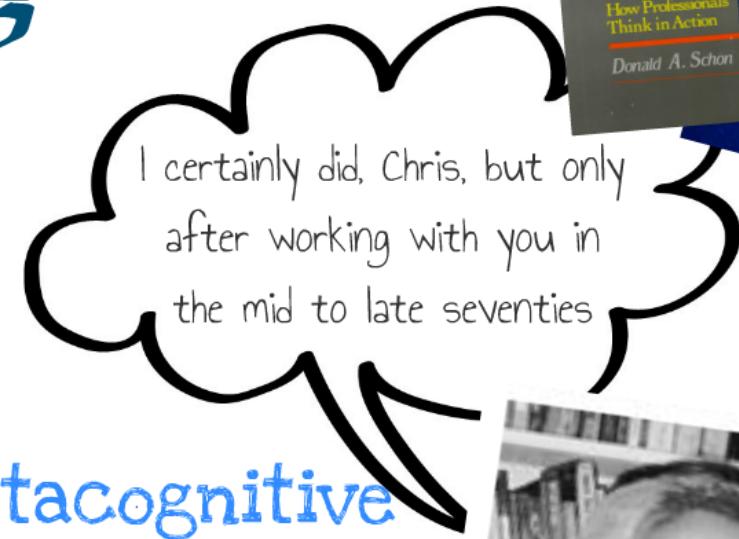


# Reflective Practice



Chris Argyris

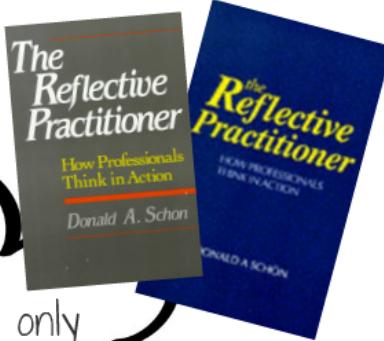
What is it then? Come on Don,  
you should know, didnn't you write  
a book on it in the early eighties?



I certainly did, Chris, but only  
after working with you in  
the mid to late seventies

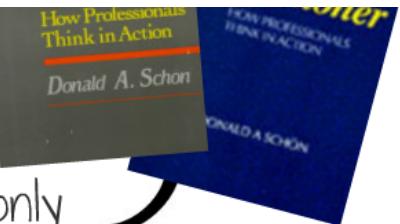


Donald Schon



Sch

Chris, but only  
with you in  
the seventies



Donald Schon

So, you could say  
**reflection** is thinking  
about the thinking that  
got us doing what we  
did

Schon's ideas have been highly influential. He distinguished between

This is illustrated by the example of the skilled crafts person.

As they apply their skills to the task in hand they **monitor** their practice in order to

**detect** any errors that they may be making and so **correct** for these in order to improve the outcome.

Reflection **In** Action



Schon says reflection in action is in the present tense and takes place "on the hoof"

Schon describes this approach as

Reflection On Action

Retrospective or backward looking

When we reflect on our practice we can identify the things that caused problems

So, we can plan to avoid them or at least have the tools and strategies for dealing with them ready at hand in future.





Think about it like this - a carpenter is sawing planks of wood. He monitors his accuracy as he works. As the plank starts to slide with the saw he changes position and holds it still with his knee. This is what we mean by reflection in action

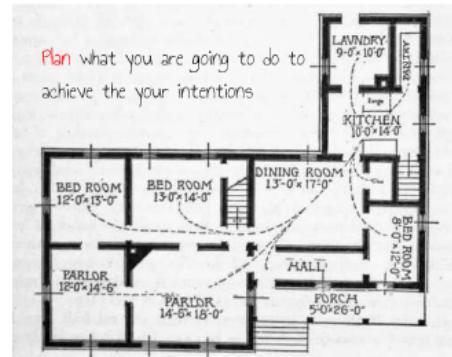
Later on, someone points out that our carpenter has worn a hole in the knee of his jeans. He realises what the cause is and decides to make sure he's got a saw bench and clamps next time he needs to cut planks - this is what we mean by reflecting on action.

According to Schon and Argyris effective learning and development transforms the tacit knowledge and understanding implied by reflection in action into something explicit through reflection on action.



Schon uses the image of learning in loops to illustrate these processes of reflection

Do the things you planned



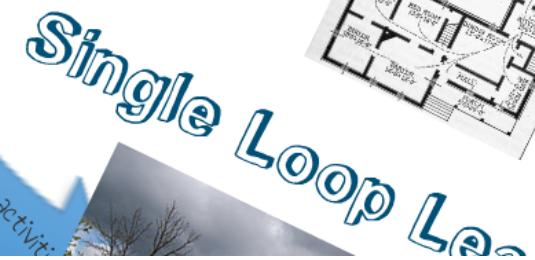
Revise your plans

## Single Loop Learning

Monitor your activities



Do the things you planned

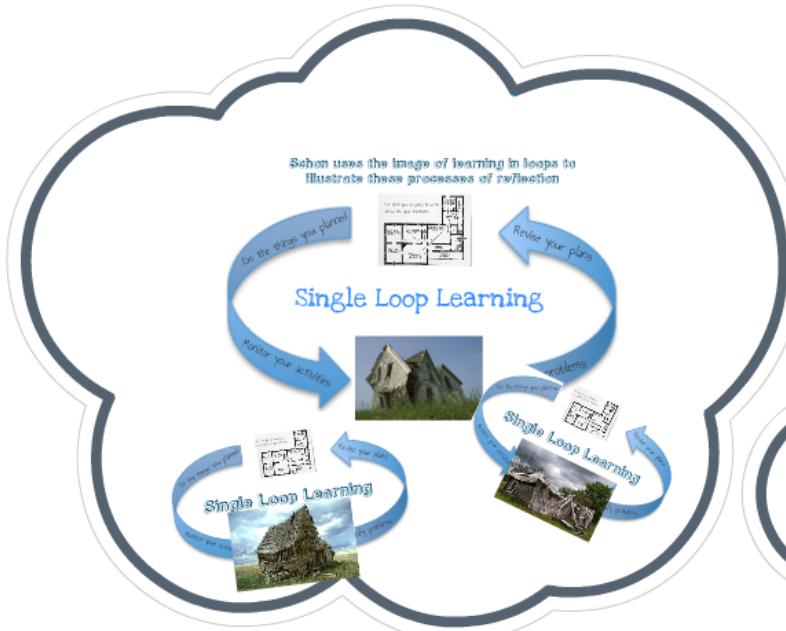


Monitor your activities

planned



Revise your plans



# Double



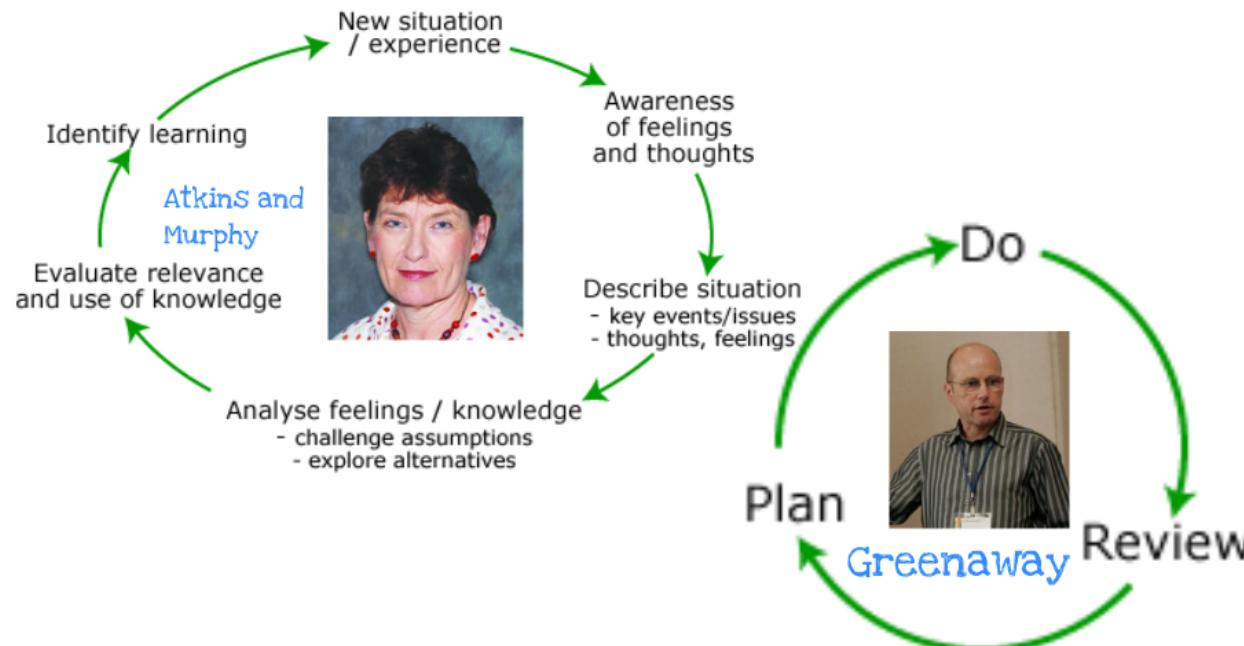
You know, now that I come  
to think of it . . .

. . . may be it's not such a  
good idea to keep building  
these houses out of single  
skin wooden walls . . .

. . . especially in such  
exposed locations.

Loop

This notion



This notion of loops or cycles is found in many other models of reflective practice.

