Playbook Methods Repository

# **External Technology Exploration**

Determine what interfaces (such as APIs and SDKs), components (such as libraries), and development environments (or frameworks) are available from a particular technology or for a particular use-case. Inspect the feature set and test capabilities; document and communicate findings.

### Remote Agility: **•** High

### Linked Tactic(s): Technical Research

## Why we do it:

Gain an understanding of the current state of a technology in the market, including opportunities and limitations. This can help:

1. Generate Product Concepts
   * Explore a new or unfamiliar technology to understand what new capabilities and features it supports and how these could be used in a product. For example, what product opportunities might Google’s Vision AI unlock?
2. Evaluate Product Concepts
   * Given a specific use-case, determine which, if any, technologies support it. Document relevant trade-offs, including the implementation scope.

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## When to apply it:

* Concept Generation: Get inspired by the current state of technologies and the opportunities they unlock.
* Concept Evaluation: Explore technologies to better understand the scope and feasibility of concepts.

## Best Practices & Considerations:

* Often with ideation, you want to start with a blue sky, “anything is possible” approach. If using technologies for inspiration, focus on what they can do instead of what they can’t; that can come later in an evaluation phase.
* Define clear objectives so you know what to focus on and when to stop.
  + Use a list of specific questions to guide the exploration. The questions can also be prioritized.
* Exploration can be divided amongst team members by assigning specific questions, areas, or technologies. Have team members work in the same doc so information and structure can be shared.
* Time box exploration
* For Concept Evaluation, after initial exploration, you can further evaluate a technology using a [Feasibility Prototype](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KOhsKNdBWPxNUGcwbZFJE6r6rCTdWLNqFEEwVWusxAA/edit#).

## Responsible roles:

* Software Engineers will be responsible by default since this is a technical exploration. They should be responsible for Concept Evaluation since this will require detailed technical knowledge.
* However, anyone can contribute to Technology Exploration for Concept Generation. Do some searches, read the intro page, explore tech blogs, watch conference videos, etc.

## Tools:

### Online tools/platforms/services

* + xx

### Websites

* + xx

### Databases

* + xx
* Other
  + xx

## 

## Thoughtworks Examples - Linked

### Client working docs, airtable, miro/mural boards

* + Meta - Wombat Messenger
    - [Messenger API Investigation Summary](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Kg1VyE1S6PD5cx8ktm0vfIfHVtDRsjID/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=102340424014431027512&rtpof=true&sd=true)
  + Meta - Hiro
    - [Technologies to support Schedule a Meeting functionality](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Uj-QHr2ePTN4Yys_fTQAMPGNXwQlQvsun5XwwGidaCs/edit?usp=sharing)

### Client polished presentations/deliverables

* + Meta - Wombat WhatsApp
    - [Readout to WhatsApp team](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ixLqyAos9JXKJ10mPHSBQK0Vgnb2QoQy/view?usp=sharing)

### Internal assets - clinic materials / guild docs

* + xx

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## Learn more: How we do this?

### Templates (docs, decks, sheets, miro, etc.)

* + xx

### How-To Resources (external or internal)

* + xx

### Outside References (articles, books, etc.)

* + xx

### Sub-set Activities

* + xx

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