



DEVOPS

THE TWO PIZZA RULE

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TOPICS

- What is the Two Pizza Rule?
- History
- Common issues with bigger teams
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- Benefits of the Two Pizza rule
- Science Backs It

WHAT IS THE TWO PIZZA RULE?

The Two Pizza rule is a guideline for deciding how many people should be involved in a given project.

- The rule says that teams should be small enough that they can be fed with two pizzas.
- Used to establish how many people are involved
- The rule can be used to dictate how many people attend a meeting or the size of a team
- Based in science.
- Often adopted in Agile teams

HISTORY?

The two pizza rule was originally coined by Amazon's CEO, Jeff Bezos.

- Bezos first used this rule when Amazon was just a start up
- Used it to foster a “decentralized, creative working environment” (Rouse)
- Has been adopted by many organizations today
- Hackman’s study is where the concept came from.

COMMON ISSUES WITH BIGGER TEAM

- It is easy for everyone to not be on the same page, in terms of understanding something.
- Egos can clash
- Communication gaps
- Changes happen very slowly
- Members may feel unimportant.

BENEFITS

The main concept of having smaller teams brings the following benefits

Increased quality of communication (not as many opinions to filter through)

Less time is spent on communication and more time is spent on producing work.

Coordination is quick

Better relationships.

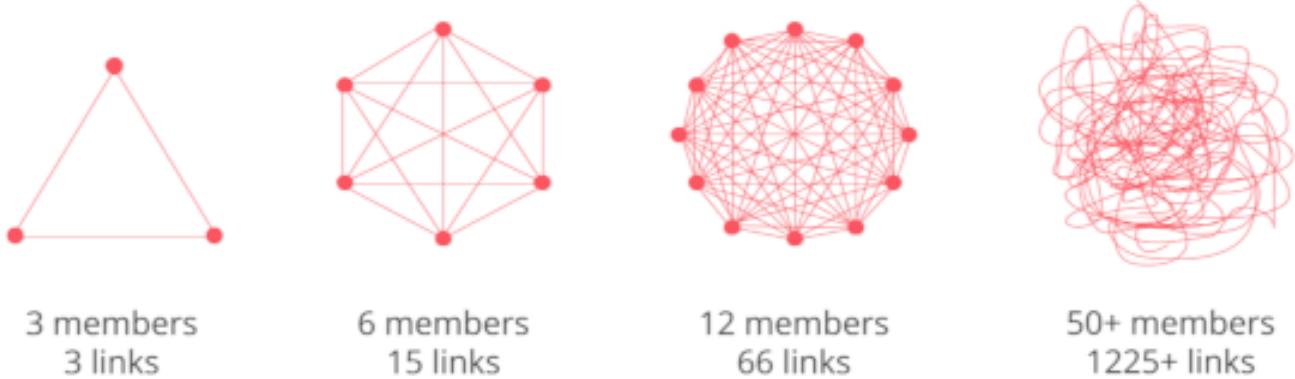
Teammates are often more united.

SCIENCE BACKS IT

Harvard researcher, J. Richard Hackman spent over 50 years studying team performance.

- The theory behind the two pizza rule is based on the results from this study.
- The study focuses on the number of links between each people on a team.
- As the number of links increases, the more inefficient a team becomes.
- The formula $n(n-1)/2$, can be used to determine links between people.

LINKS IN PERSPECTIVE



SOURCE

Rouse, M. (2020, February 25). What is two pizza rule? - Definition from WhatIs.com. Retrieved July 20, 2020, from <https://whatis.techtarget.com/definition/two-pizza-rule>