

From Days to Hours: How EventStorming Transformed Our Domain Modeling Process

Trainitek



This talk is NOT about...


- How to learn EventStorming in 30 minutes

Because...

We run training in EventStorming, Architecture, DDD, and TDD



20 years of professional experience

Co-owner and instructor at  trainitek

Hands-on architect at 

Vadzim Prudnikau

 vadim-prudnikov

Because...

We run training in EventStorming, Architecture, DDD, and TDD



17 years of professional experience

Co-owner and instructor at  trainitek

Hands-on architect and Team Lead at

The MINTRA logo, featuring the word "MINTRA" in white capital letters on a dark blue rectangular background.

Marek Dominiak

 marekdominiak

Let Us give You some Context



How many of you agree that...

- “Many people work on projects they actually don’t understand”?
(Sergey Baranov)
- “Products often contain wrong assumptions about functions and dependencies rather than knowledge of domain experts”?
(Alberto Brandolini)

Did You experience the following?

- One person (architect/analyst) spends a lot of time on gathering information from different people and then assumes that the team will quickly understand what they will implement.



... and that person disappears :)

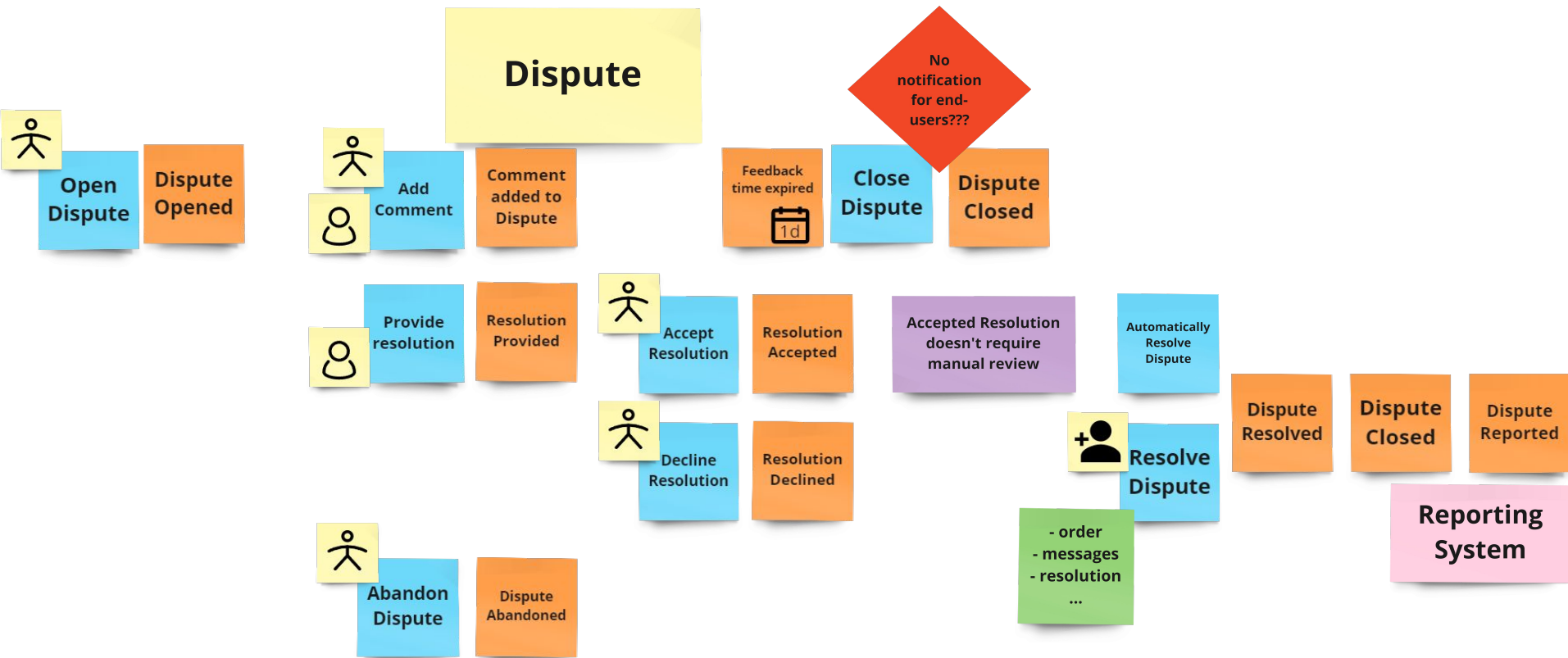


What helps?

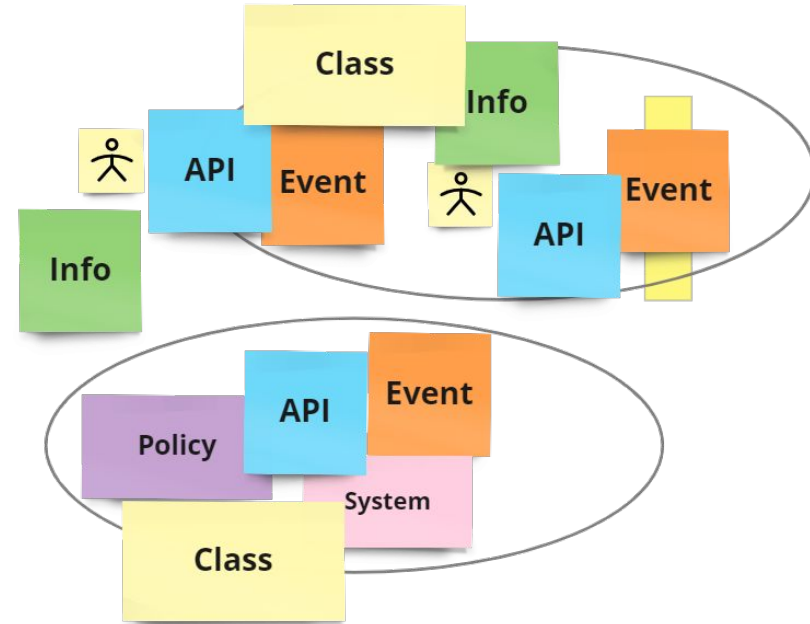
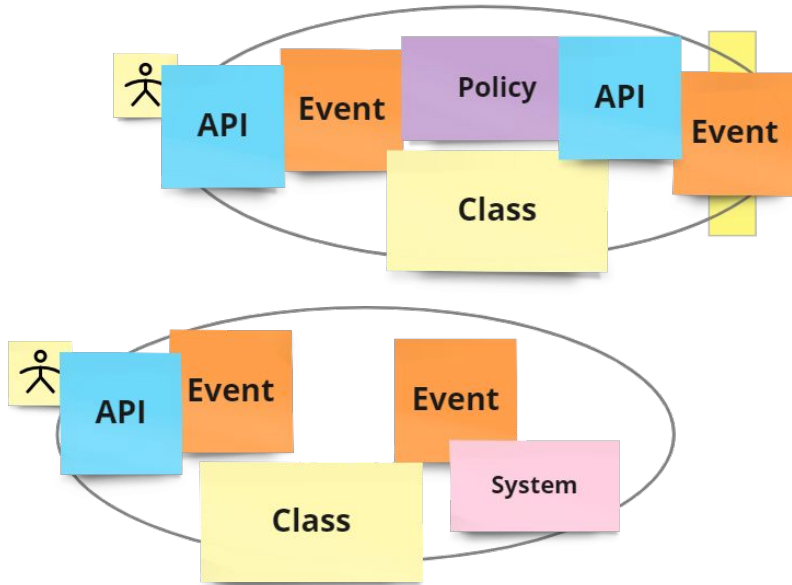
- Discovering implicit dependencies on the business level
- Transferring the knowledge between important people (domain experts, developers, etc.)
- Discovering the most important events and problems (bottlenecks, legal restrictions, etc.)
- Solving business problems rather than blindly implementing “requirements”

Maybe it's too abstract...
Could it be closer to the reality?

What if the Team had...

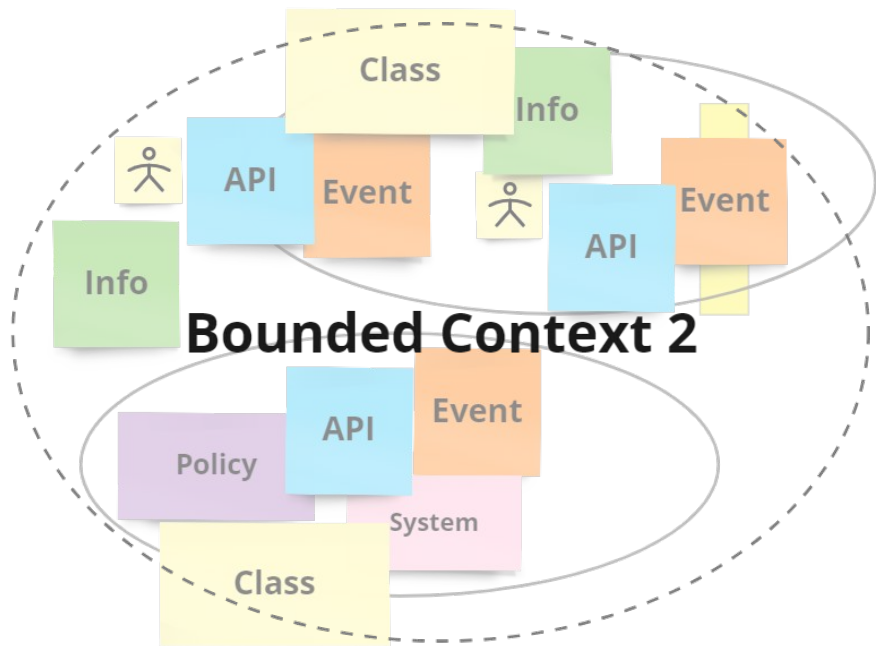
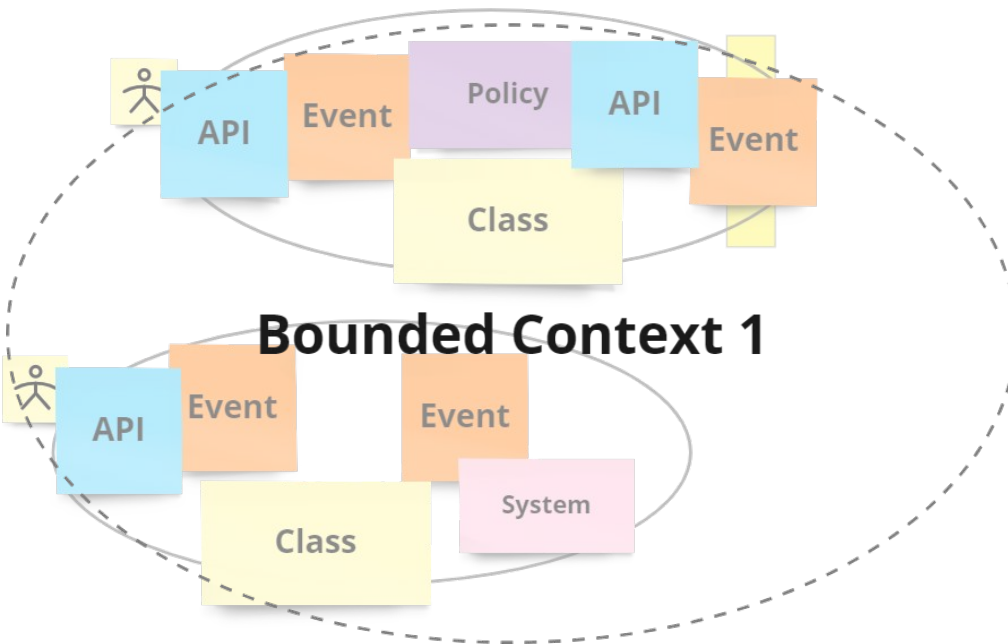


What if the Team had...

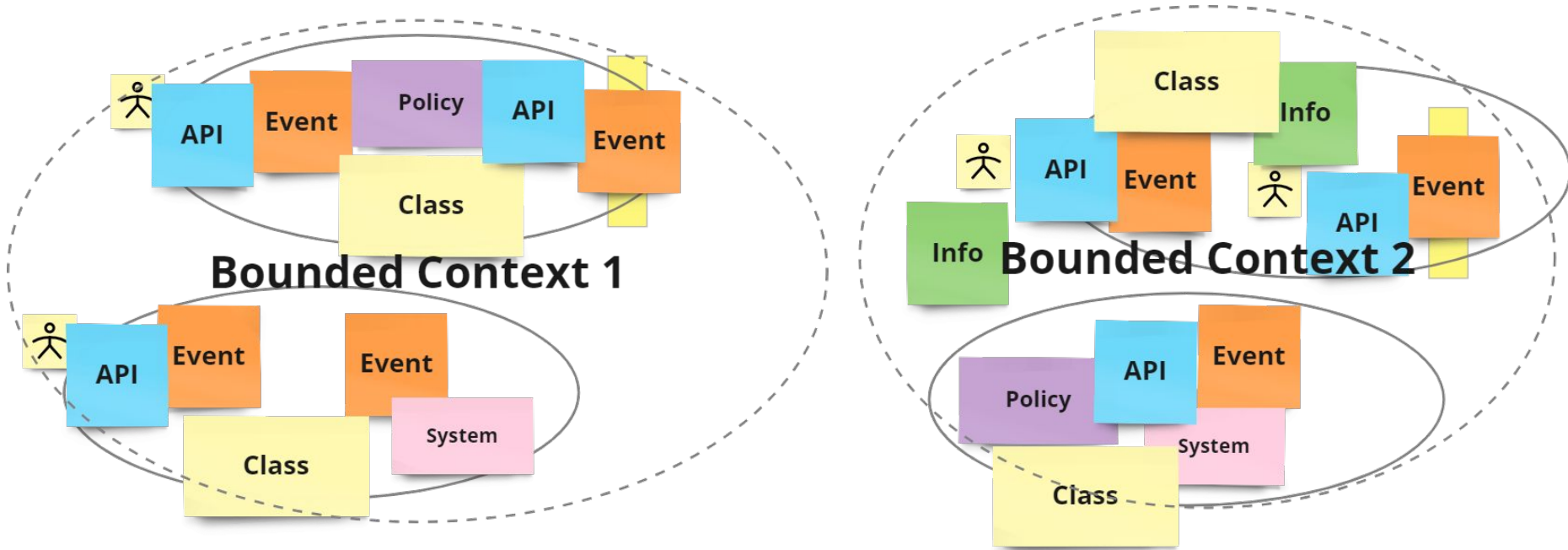




What if the Team had...



Wouldn't it be nice to have it BEFORE development?



... and this can be done in hours!

Let's understand EventStorming a bit better!

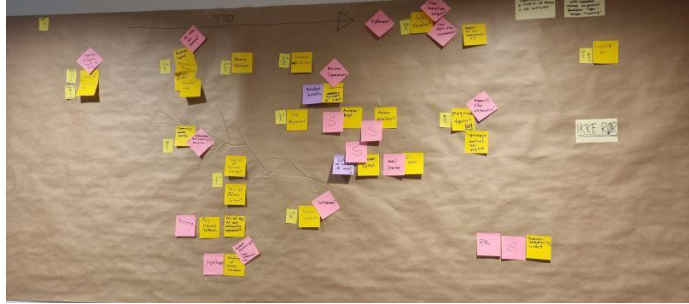


What is EventStorming?

EventStorming is a flexible **workshop** format that brings **together** IT specialists, business experts, and other interested parties to perform a **massive collaborative exploration** of complex domains.

It runs for **hours instead of days, weeks, or months.**

Some examples...



WHY EventStorming?

- **Faster and more enjoyable** than traditional methods
- Helps technical and business people **get know each other**
- Helps find a **common language** between developers and business people
- Helps discover important questions **before writing the code** (i.e. spending the budget)
- Helps **get a strategic design**, i.e. define boundaries and their dependencies

How to Run EventStorming?

(I will omit some details because of the limited time)



1. Invitations

- Try to find as many **people** as you can who are **important** for the exploration:
 - The ones who have the knowledge (domain experts, real users, management, etc.), i.e. those **who have answers**
 - The ones **who ask questions** (developers, testers, etc.)
- Some of them won't show up, therefore think about **backups**
- There should be clear who will be a **Facilitator**:
 - Workshop preparation
 - Explanation of what to do
 - Management of long conversations
 - Being full of energy
 - ...etc.
- Give the context to the audience

2. Room Setup

Timer
visible to
everyone

A flip chart
or anything
else as a
legend

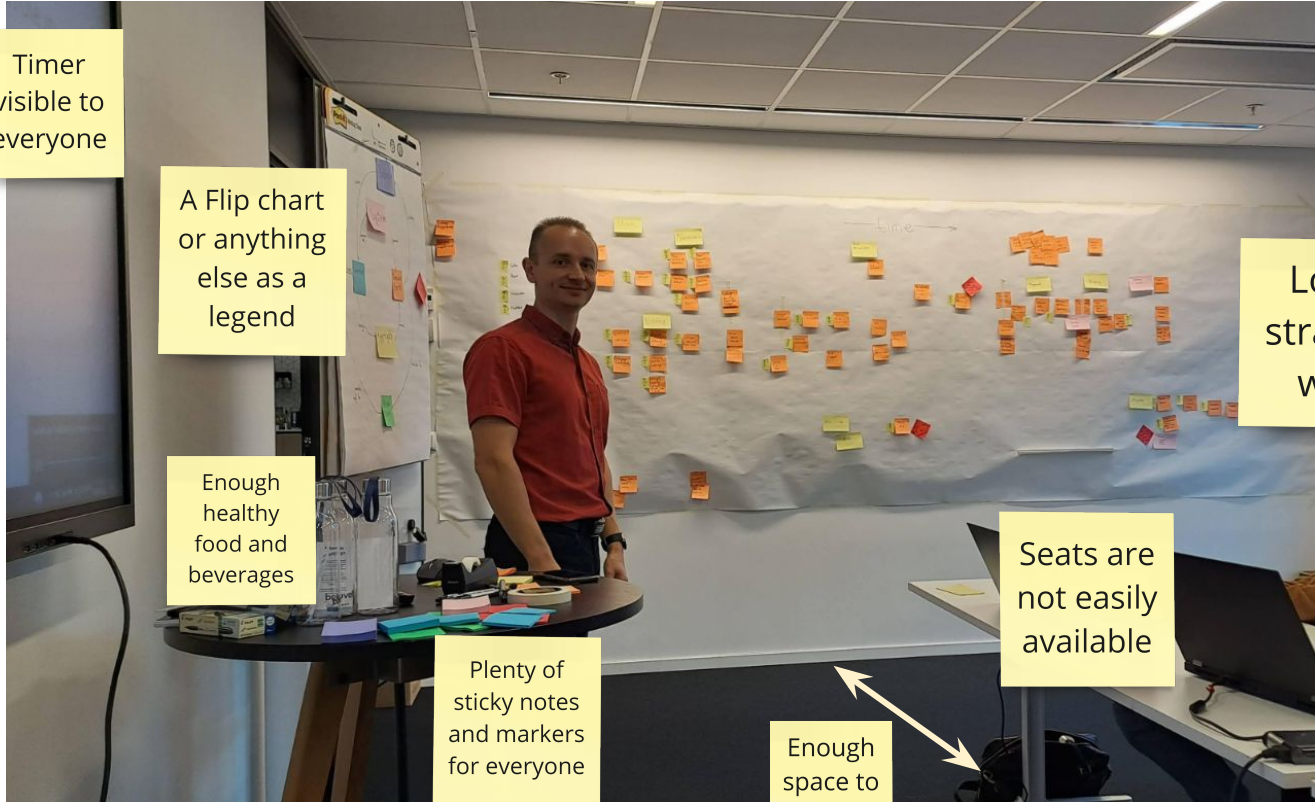
Enough
healthy
food and
beverages

Plenty of
sticky notes
and markers
for everyone

Enough
space to
move

Seats are
not easily
available

Long
straight
wall

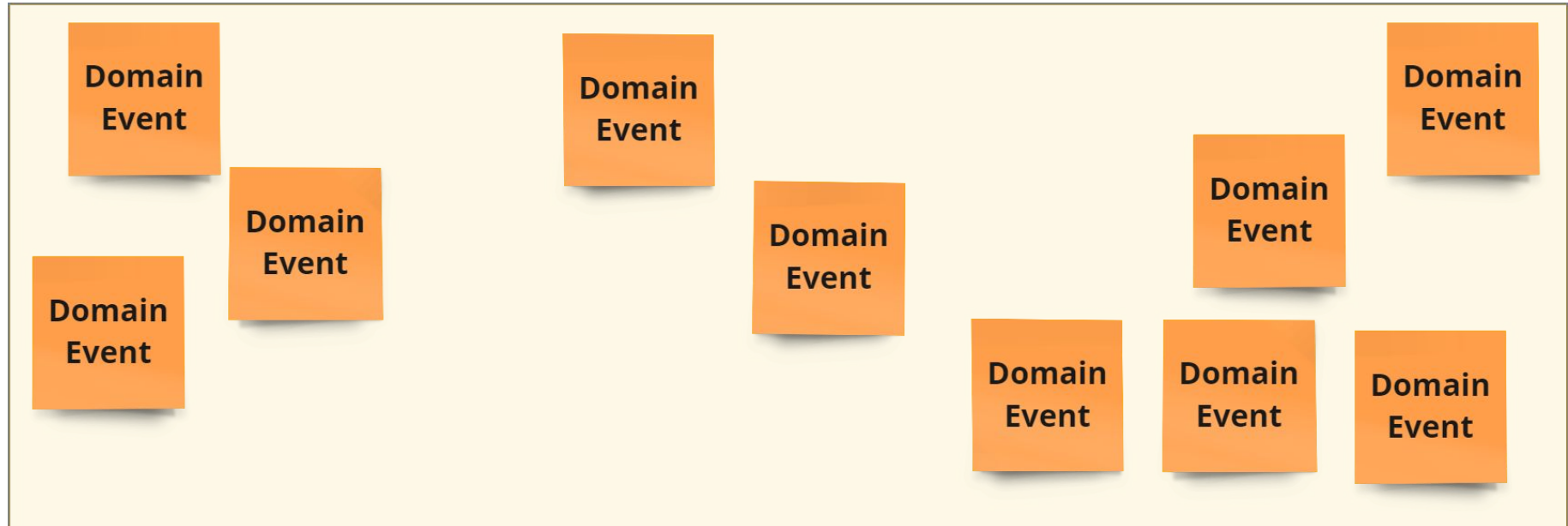


3. Chaotic Exploration (Big Picture ES starts)

Find Domain Events and place them along timeline to represent the whole business flow



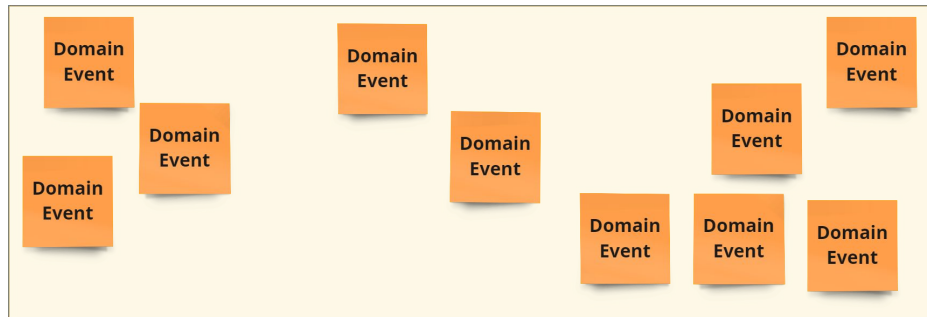
10-15 minutes



Why is it useful?

- It's the first step to find the “common” vocabulary for the participants
- Everyone's knowledge starts to be visible to others
- Most of the Events will be events in the codebase

Tip: write domain events so others can read

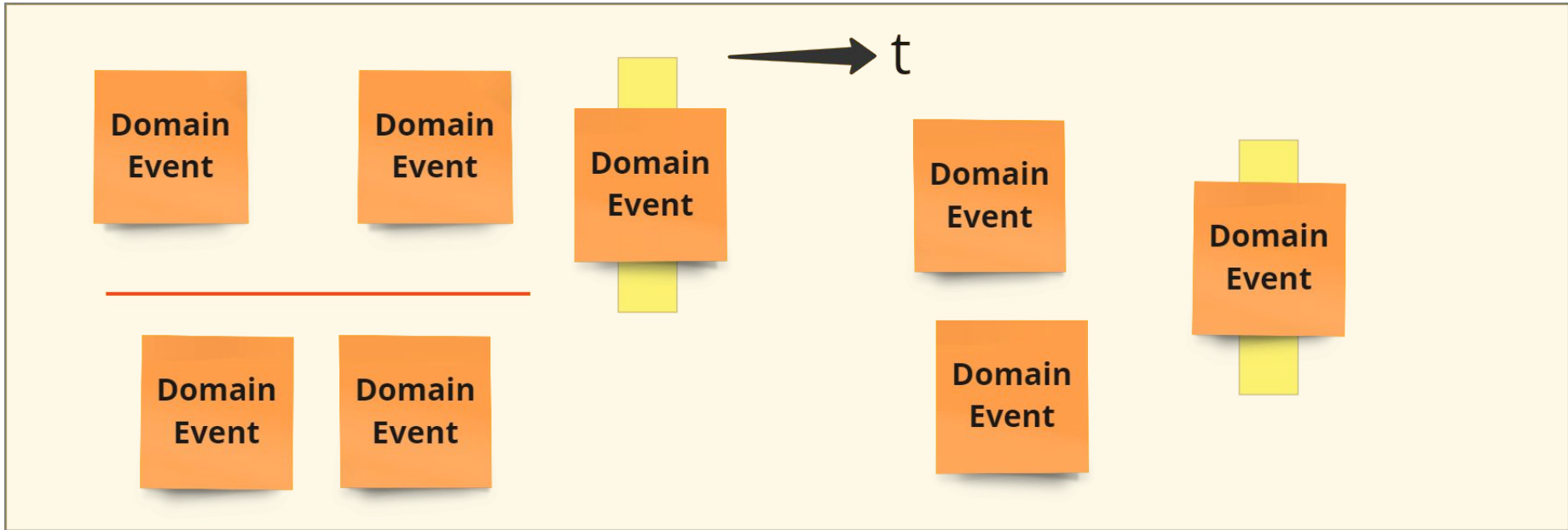


4. Enforcing Timeline

Order the events according to the time, employing different strategies.



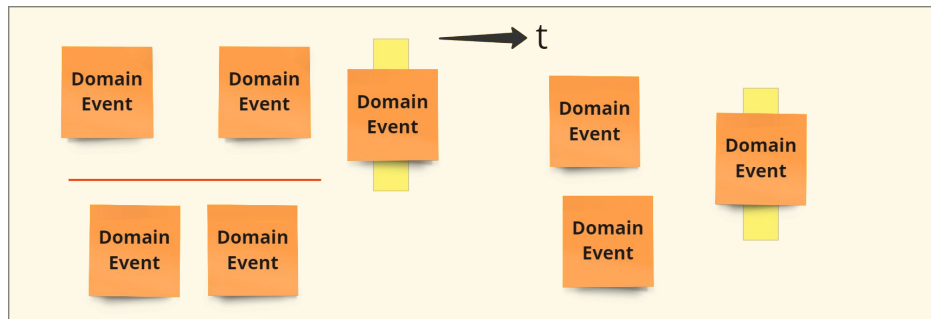
20-60 minutes



Why is it useful?

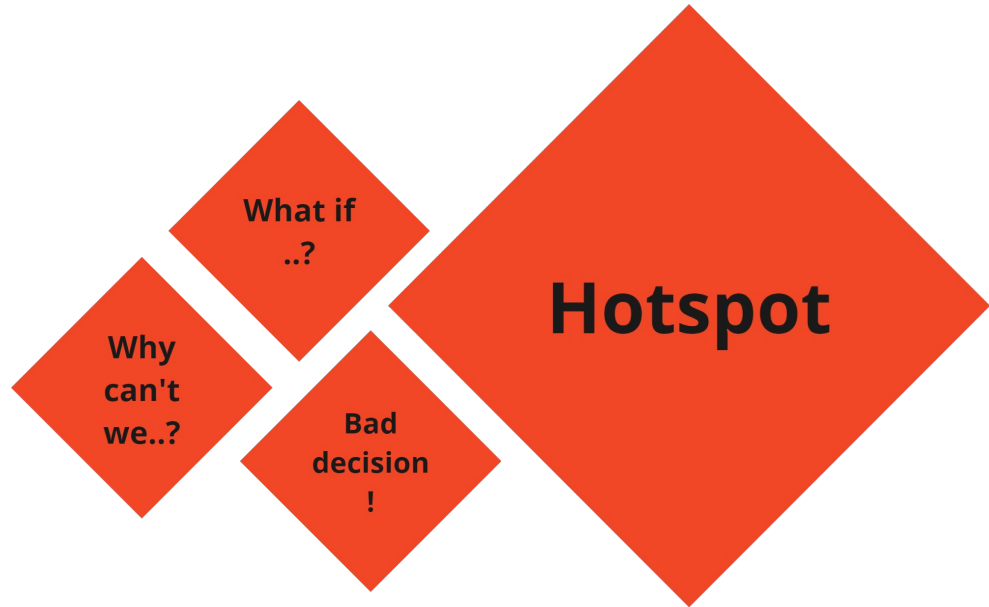
- Pivotal Events and Swimlanes can help you identify services in the future
- Understanding of the system gets better. Many questions arise. Some of them cannot be answered and turn to Hotspots.

Tip: work in dynamic groups



Feel free to add Hotspots

- Represents unclear topics or questions that cannot be easily resolved just at the very moment.

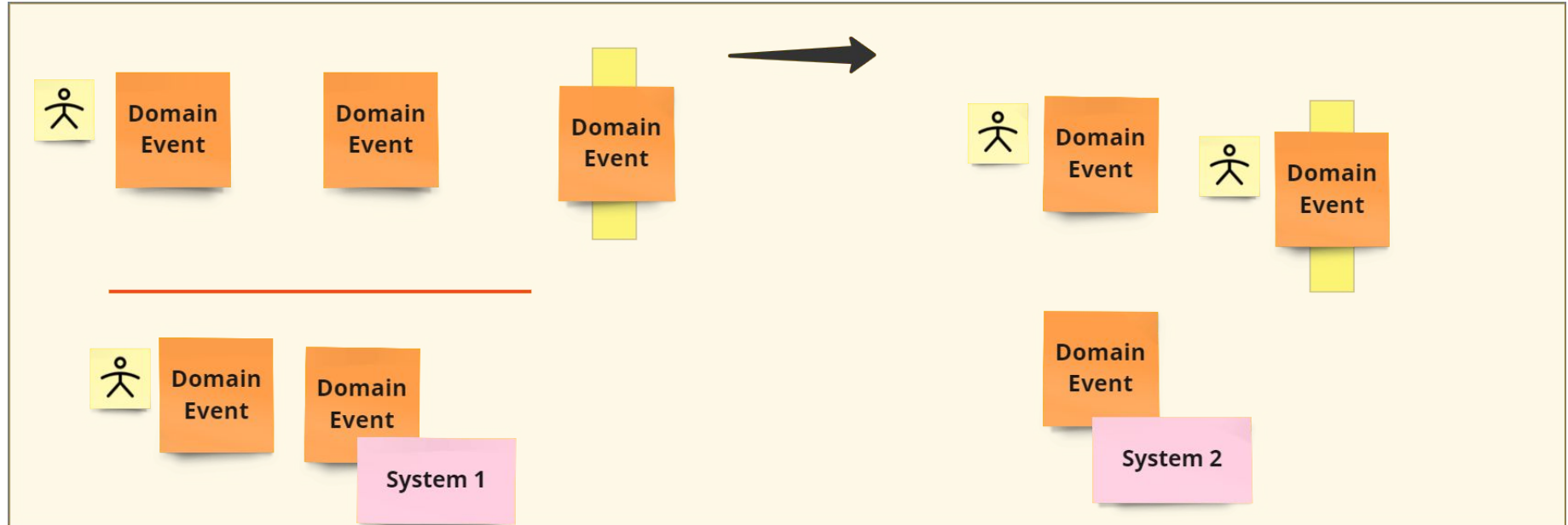


5. Actors and Systems

Find Roles (People, Actors) and Systems that participate in the business flow.



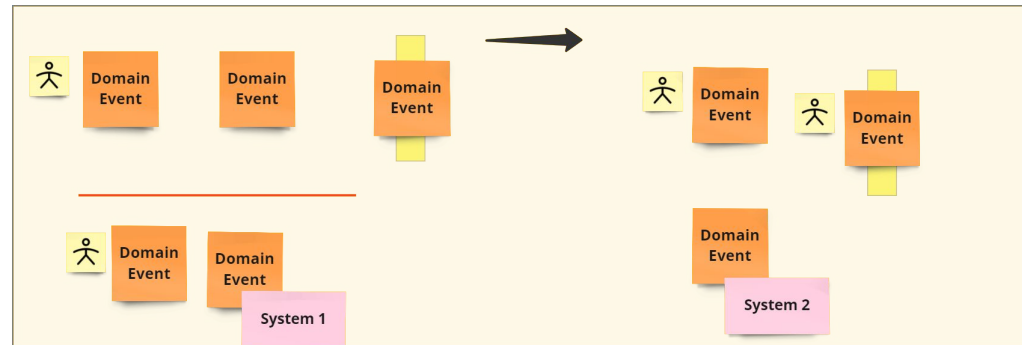
20-60 minutes



Why is it useful?

- You get more knowledge about who will use your system
- External systems show the integrations the team will implement
- This part usually leads to even more “unanswered questions” (Hotspots)

Tip: don't force participants to draw humans

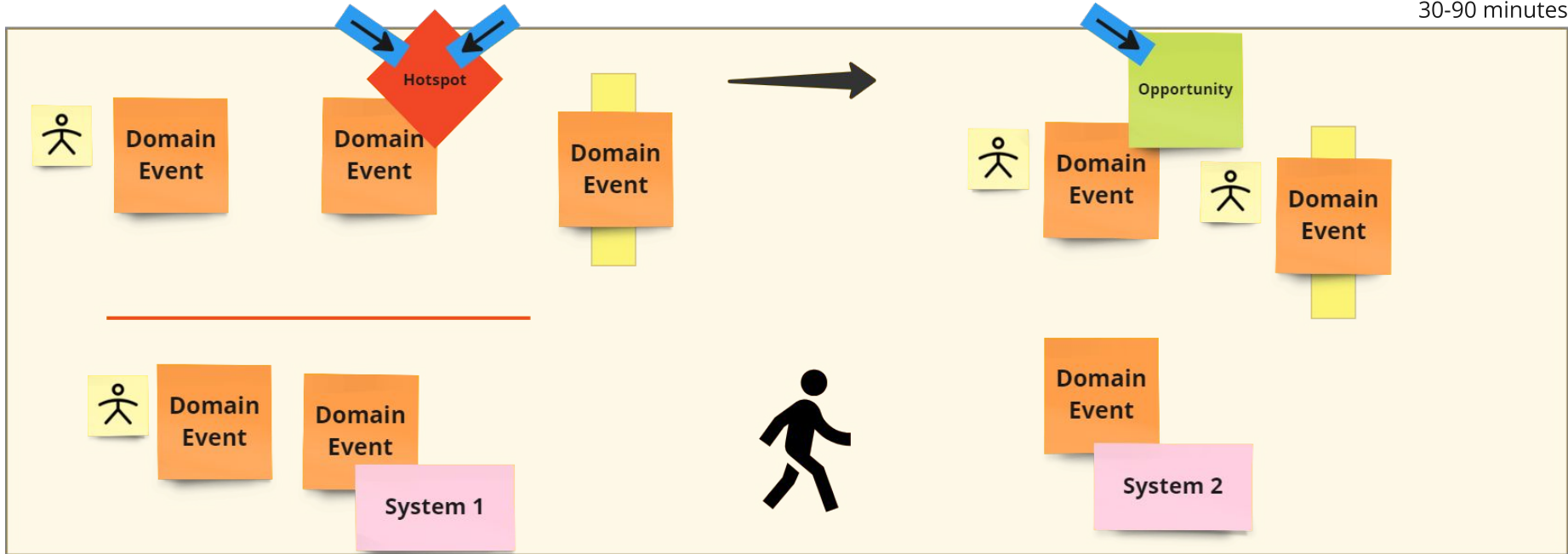


6. Explicit Walk-Through, Problems and Opportunities

A narrator tells the story from the beginning to the end, and/or vice-versa.
Placing Hotspots and Opportunities. [Optional] Arrow voting.



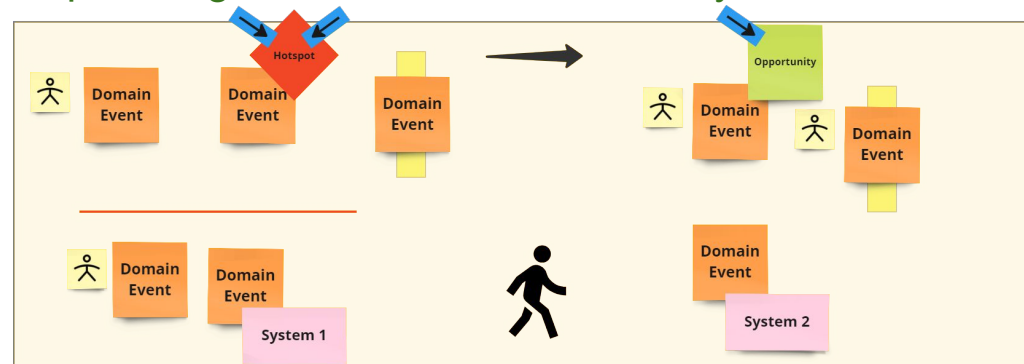
30-90 minutes



Why is it useful?

- The whole group can verify the truthfulness of the entire story
- Common understanding becomes even better
- This part usually results in more sticky notes like Domain Events, Hotspots, and Opportunities

Tip: change the narrator, if necessary



Big Picture EventStorming Done!

Some Useful Tips:

- All the phases should be time-boxed
- Not all domain events with the same text are duplicates
- Long conversations should be politely interrupted and replaced by hotspots
- Avoid using technical terms ("aggregate root", "bounded context", etc.) while talking with domain experts
- Prepare for “personal” issues (long discussions, a person dominating others, etc.)
- Discuss only visible things



Next Steps

- Process Modeling, Finding Bounded Contexts, and Discovering Aggregates sessions
- Digitize the result (photos, Miro, etc.) or keep the paper version
- Keep it in a place accessible to the team
- Plan technical-related work (system architecture, backlog, etc.)

That's it!

However, you may still have the following questions...



Does EventStorming work only for new projects?

- EventStorming also helps understand the current systems and processes.

How to run EventStorming in my company?

- The very first suggestion is to “start small”. You will learn a lot during your first session.



Can I run EventStorming online?

- Yes, however, there are some caveats like:
 - Technical challenges
 - Distractions and multitasking
 - Interpersonal Interactions

In short words, what is EventStorming?

- For us, EventStorming is the **best starting point** we can get...
- ... in **hours**

Thank You!

[EventStorming at Bouvet](#)

TODO: link to
slides. Sure?

