

Refactory

# Being Agile About Architecture

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## JOE YODER

teaches & mentors  
on agile/lean practices,  
architecture, flexible systems,  
clean design, patterns, refactoring,  
& testing.



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# Disclaimer

The **views** and **opinions** expressed in this talk are **mine** and **do not** necessarily **reflect** the official **policy** or position of any organization I might reference. **My opinions are my own!** Any **examples** or numbers **discussed** are used as examples only and **do not** necessarily **represent** real **scenarios**.

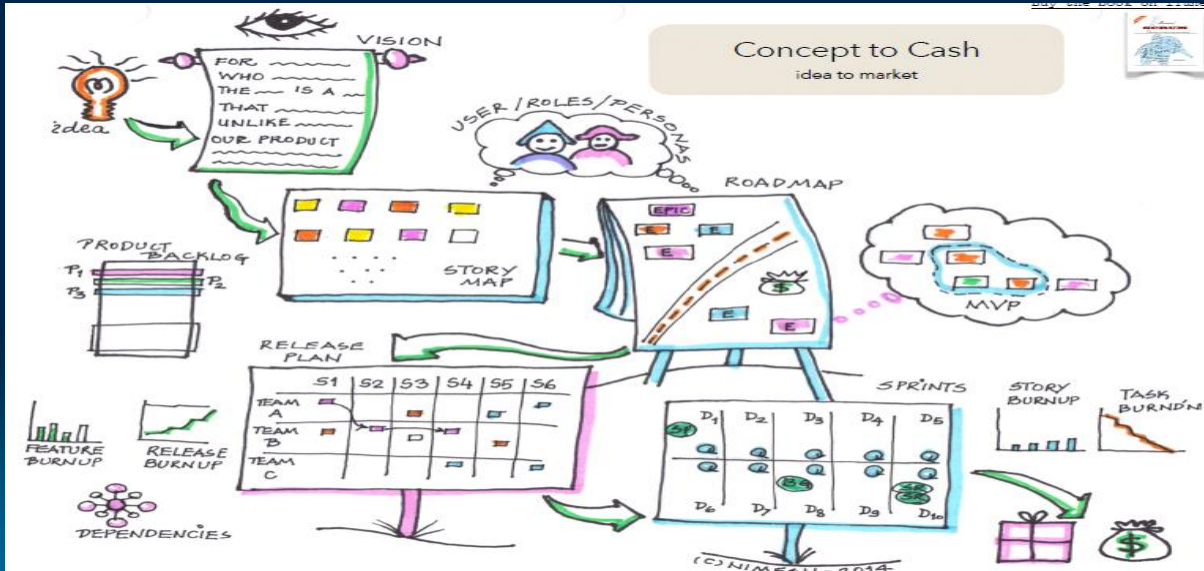
I am a **critically-thinking** human being, **my views** are always **subject to change**, **revision**, and **rethinking** at **anytime**. **Do not hold** me to them in **perpetuity**.

## Agile Architecture Practices



**Collaborated with  
Eduardo Guerra**

# Agile/Lean Processes



# Agile Principles and Practices

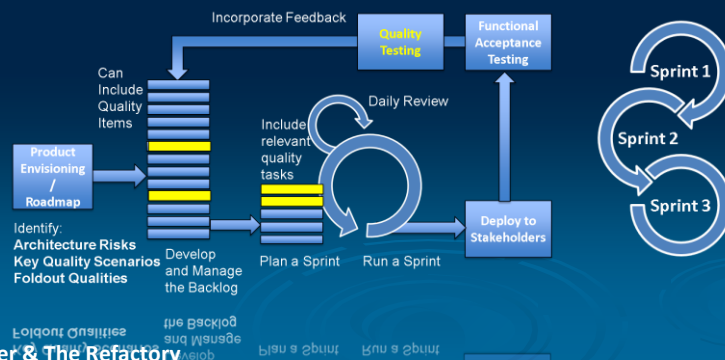






# Agile/Lean Myths

**KISS  
Simple  
is Best**



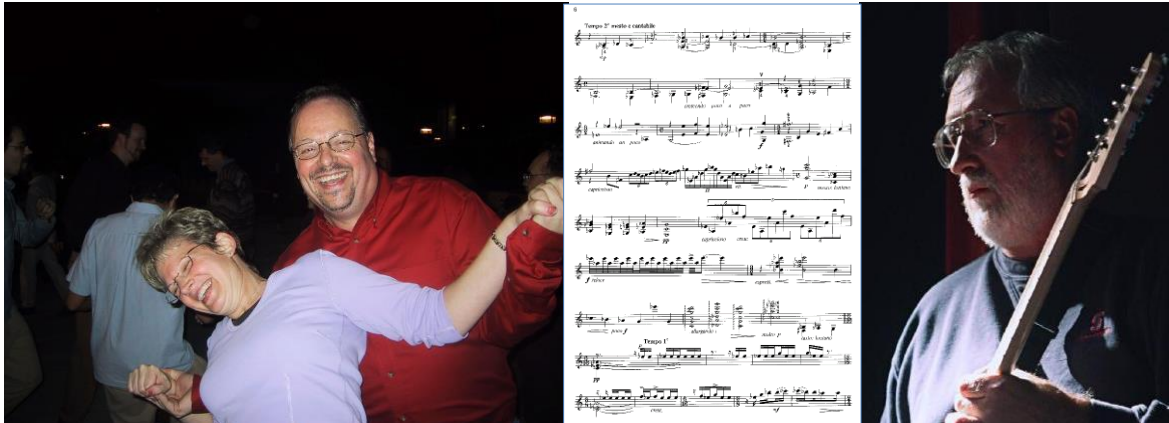
**MYTHBUSTERS**

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[www.agilemyths.com](http://www.agilemyths.com)



# Values Drive Practices



## Agile/Lean Design Values

- Core values:
  - Design Simplicity
  - Quick Feedback
  - Communication
  - **Continuous Improvement**
  - Teamwork/Trust
  - Satisfying stakeholder needs
  - **Building Quality Software**
- **Keep Learning**
- **Lots of Testing!!!**



# Patterns!



## What is a Pattern?

Patterns can be thought of “**Good Practices**”

**Proven Solutions to Repeating Problems**

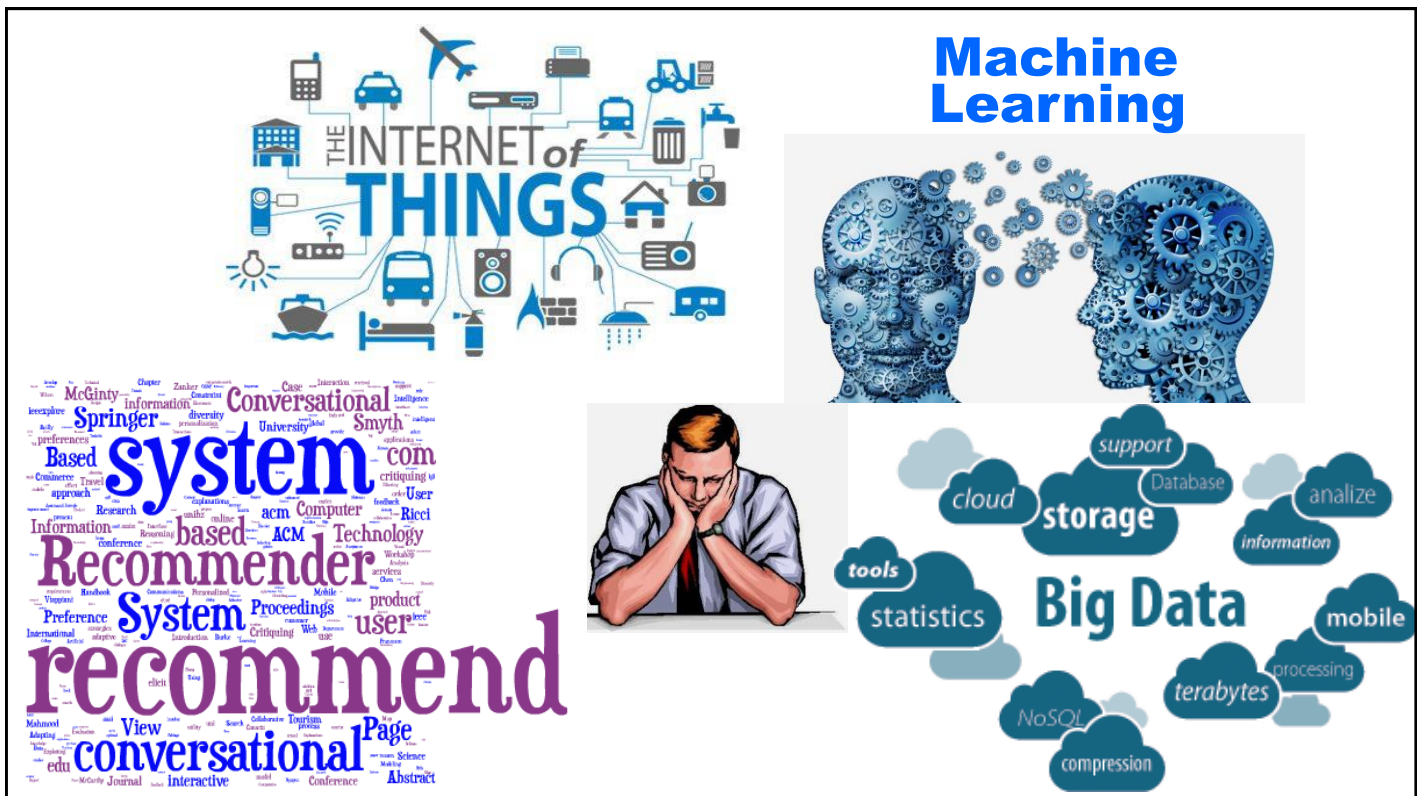
**Proven Practices to Repeating Situations**

Embody Experiences of What Works...

...and What Doesn't Work

Captures or Describes Knowledge of Experts

Embody “Quality” Attributes for  
Solutions to specific Designs



**Have a sustainable architecture**  
**Start the project fast, being agile**

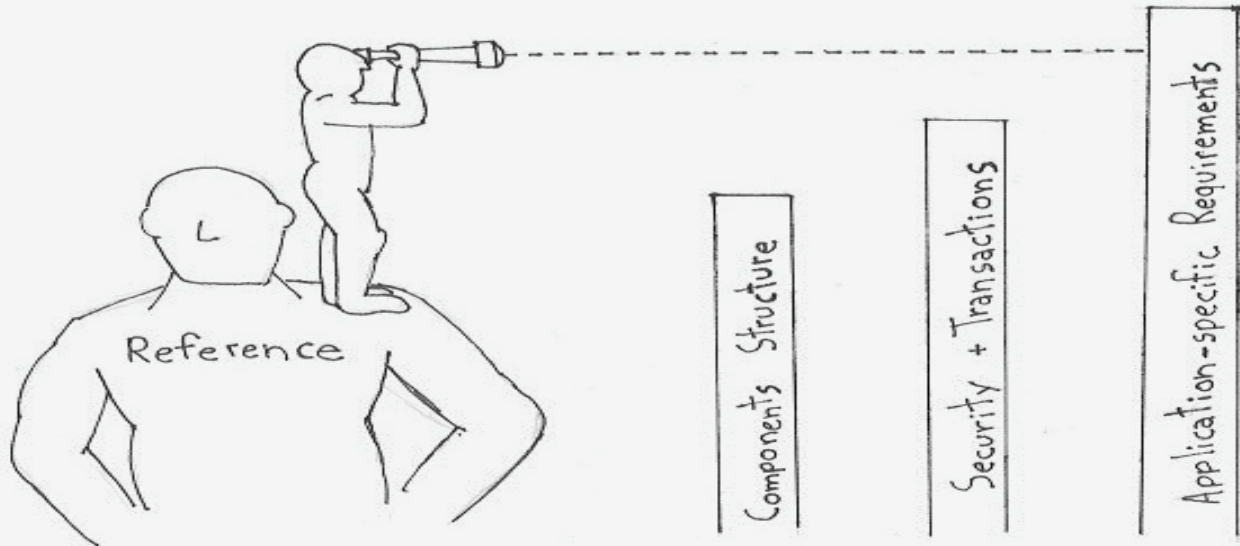


to start the  
architecture

**Climbing on the  
Shoulders of Giants**



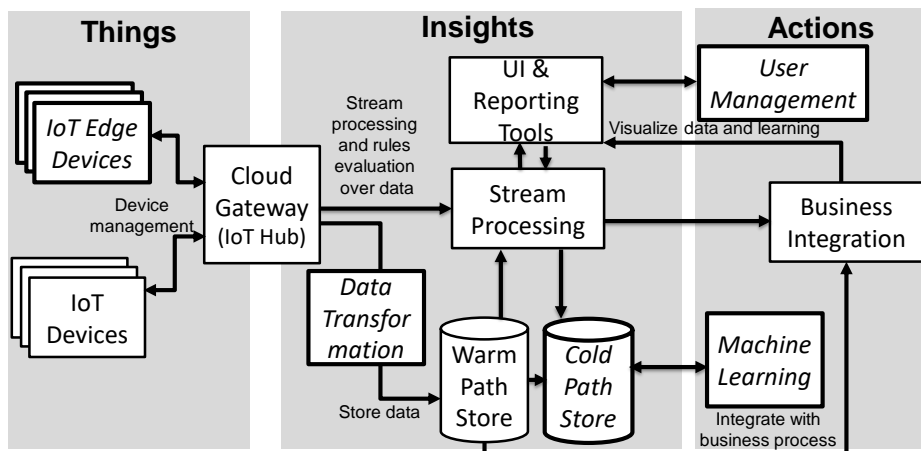
# Climbing on the Shoulders of Giants



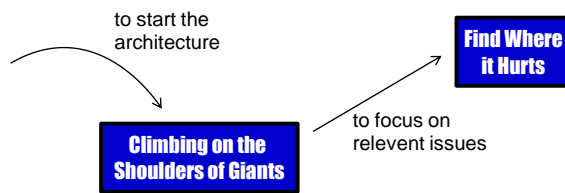
*Build on a Reference Architecture*

## IoT Reference Architecture

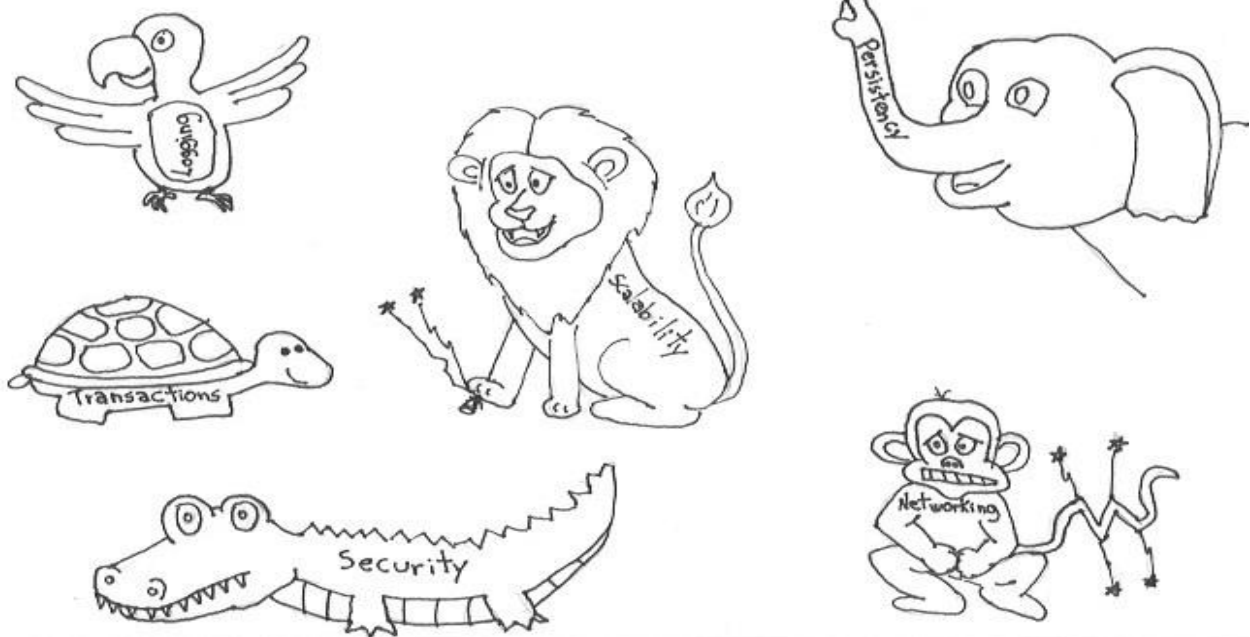
[Azure IoT]

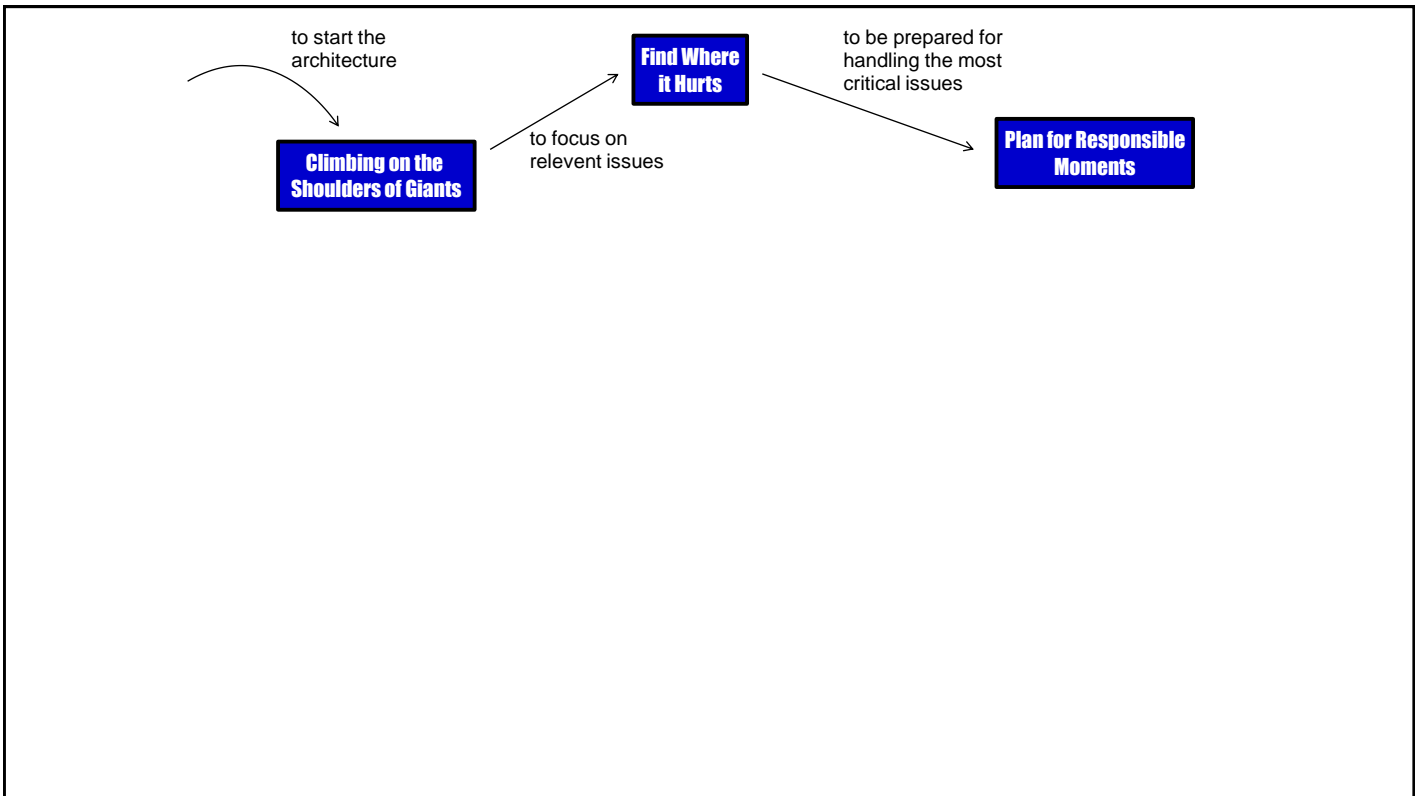


Microsoft, Azure IoT Reference Architecture, <https://aka.ms/iotrefarchitecture> — 2018

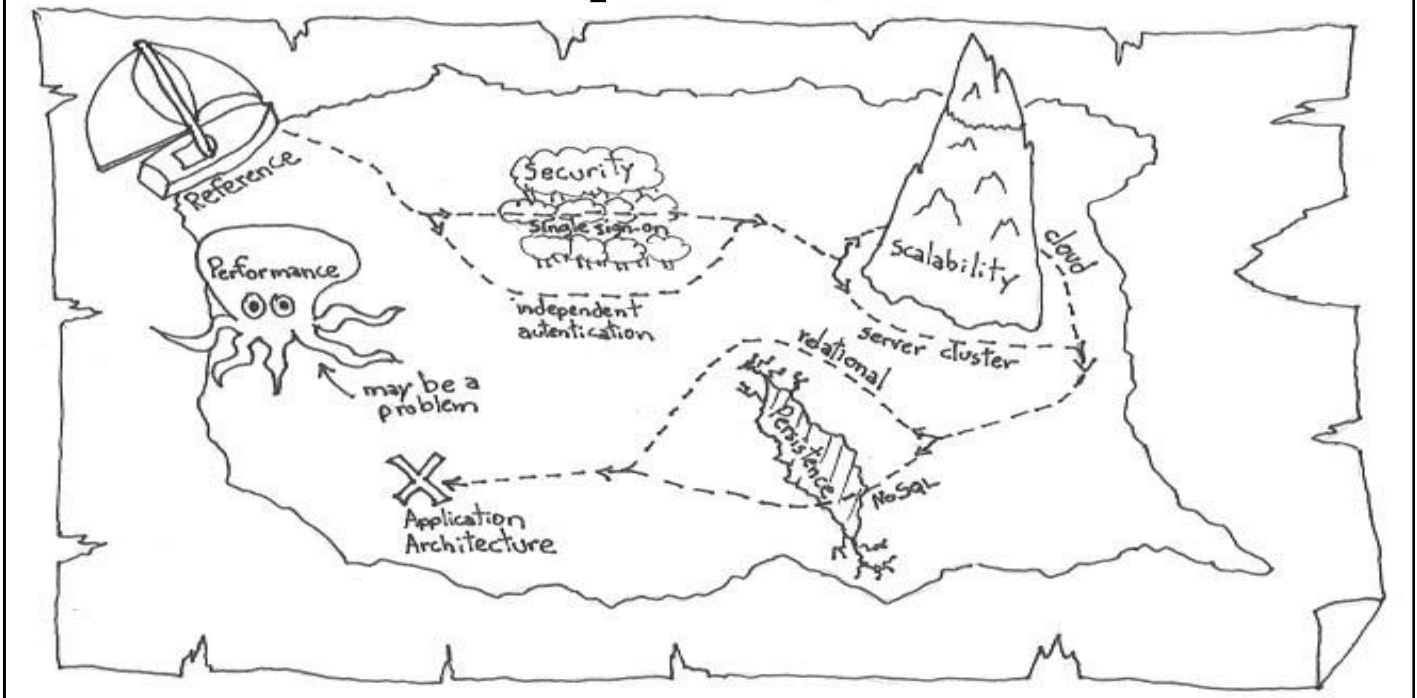


# Find Where It Hurts





## Plan for Responsible Moments



Some decisions and actions are too important  
to leave until The Last Responsible Moment

so

## Choose the Most Responsible Moment

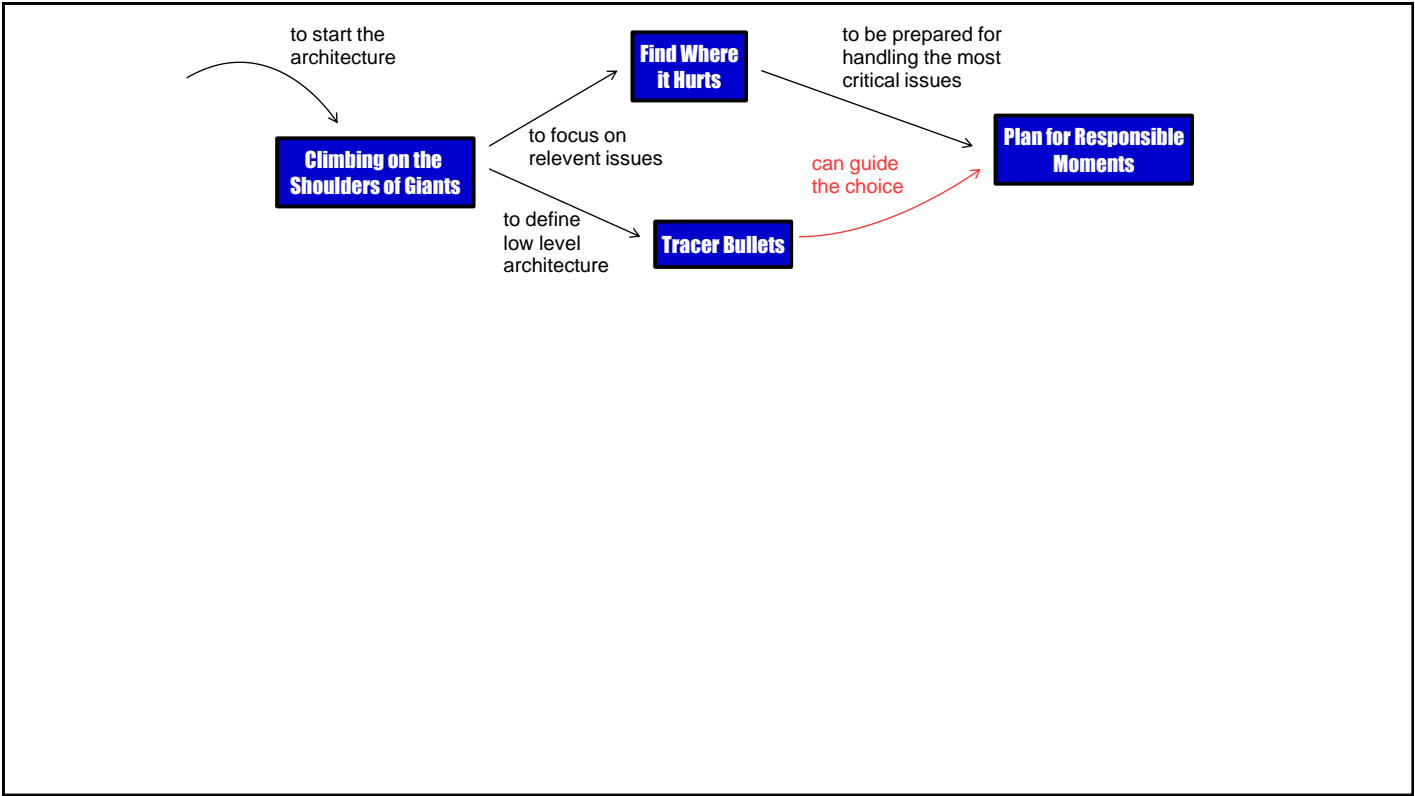
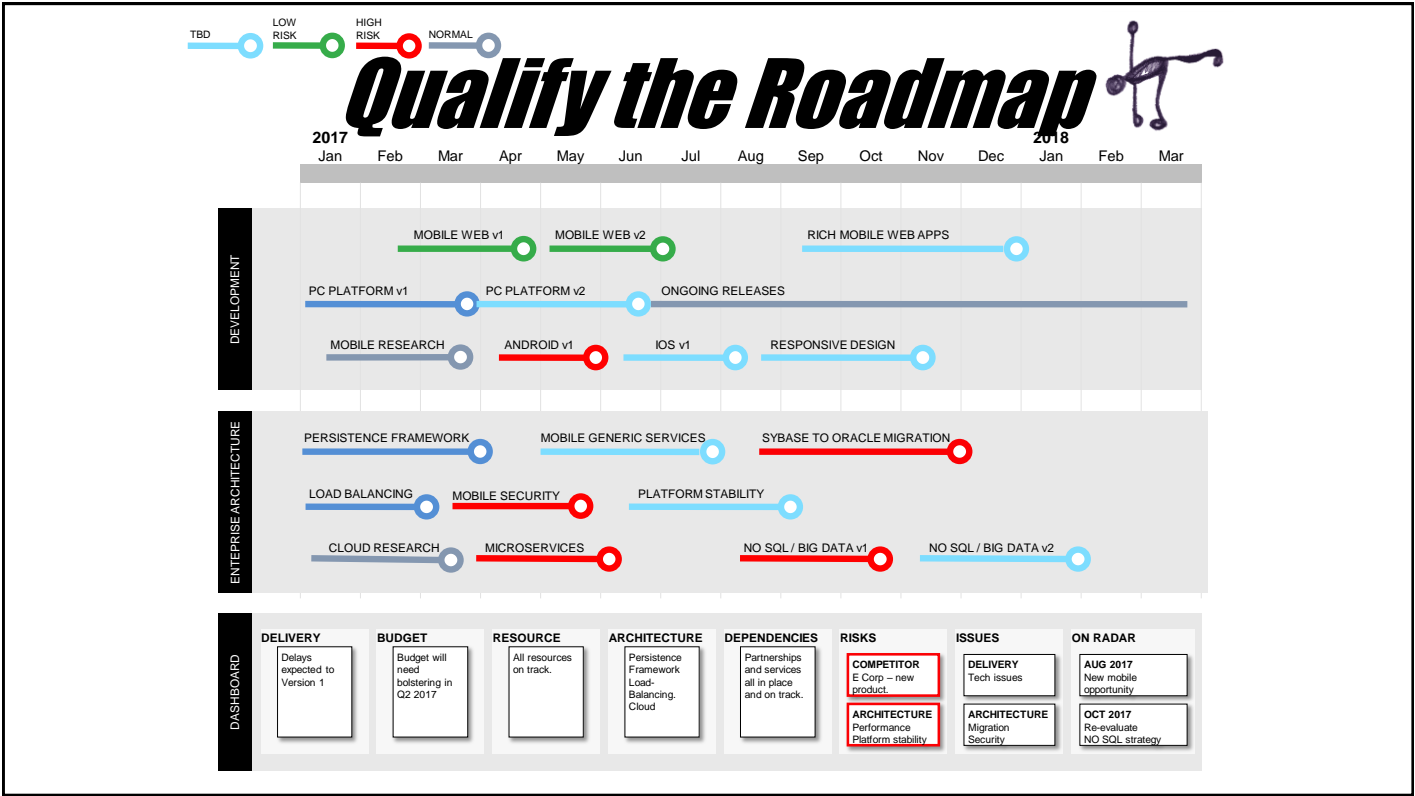
## Qualify the Roadmap with Architecture Decisions

*"All you need is the plan, the roadmap, and  
the courage to press on to your destination"*

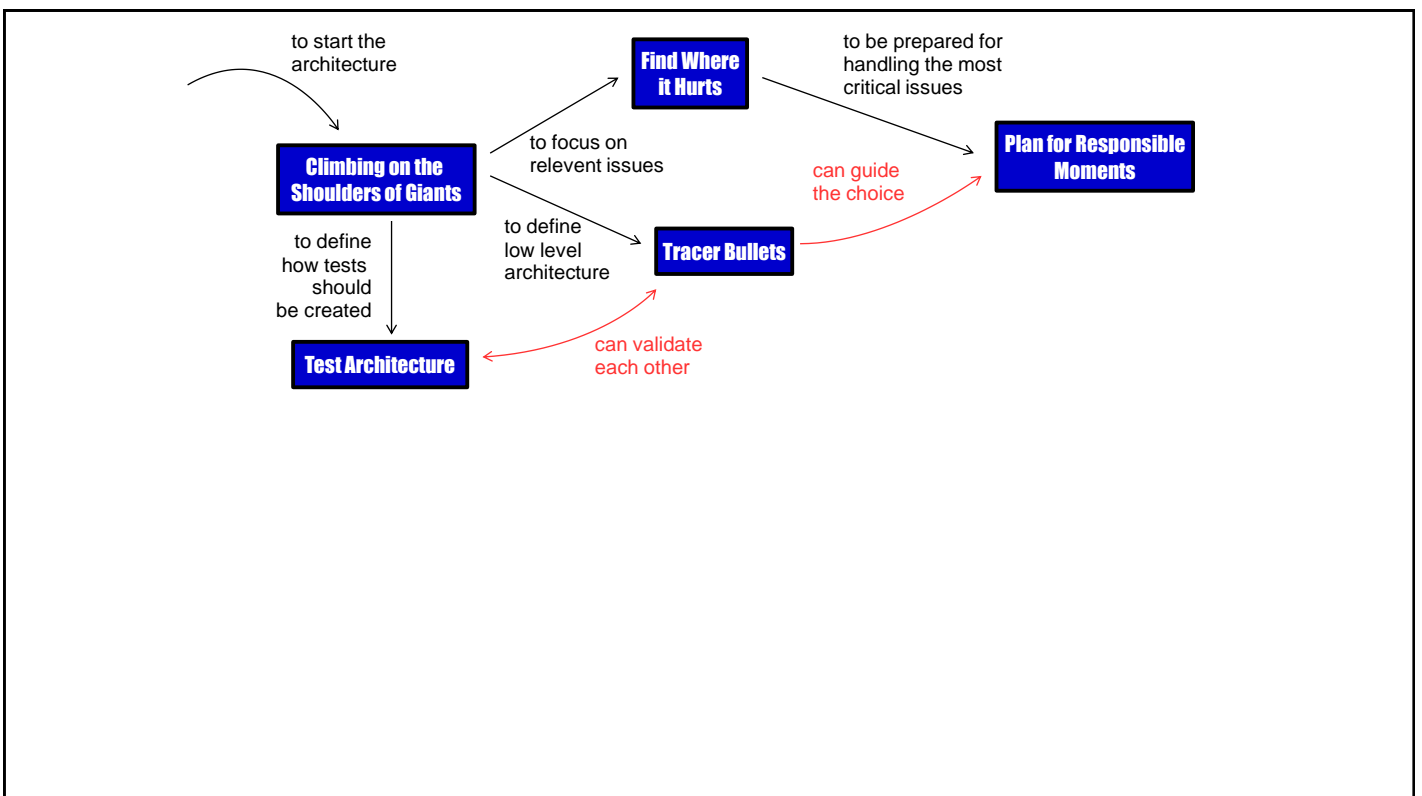
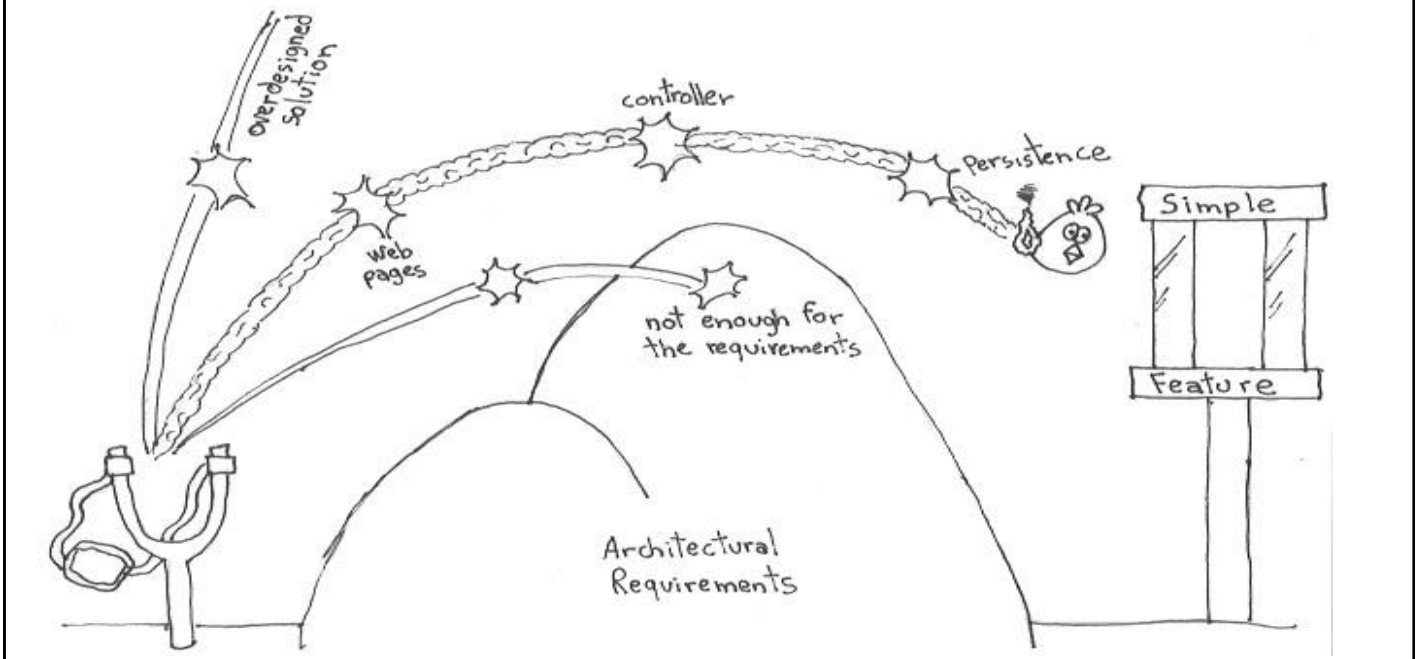
— Earl Nightingale



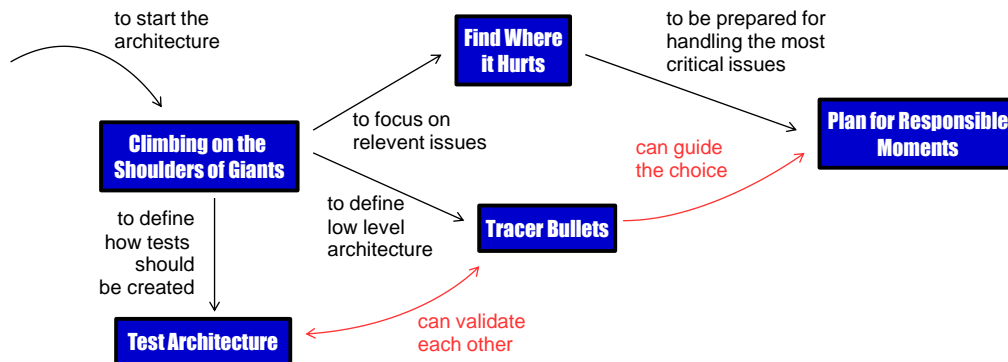
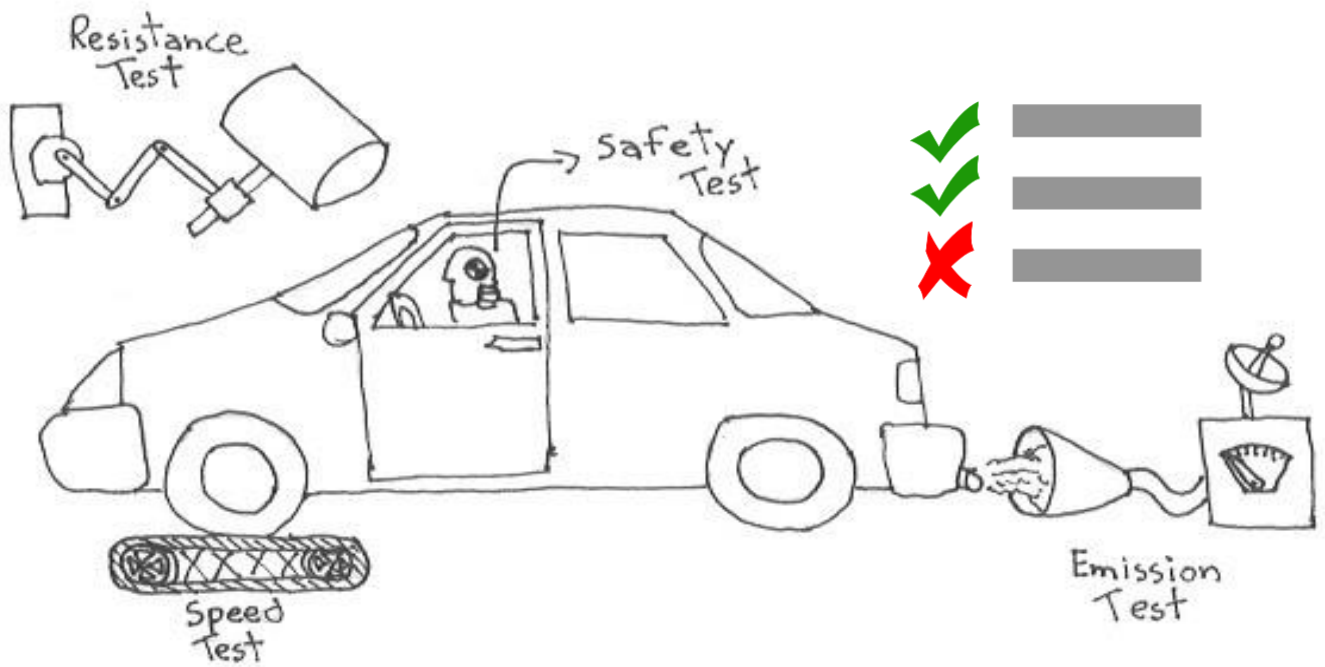




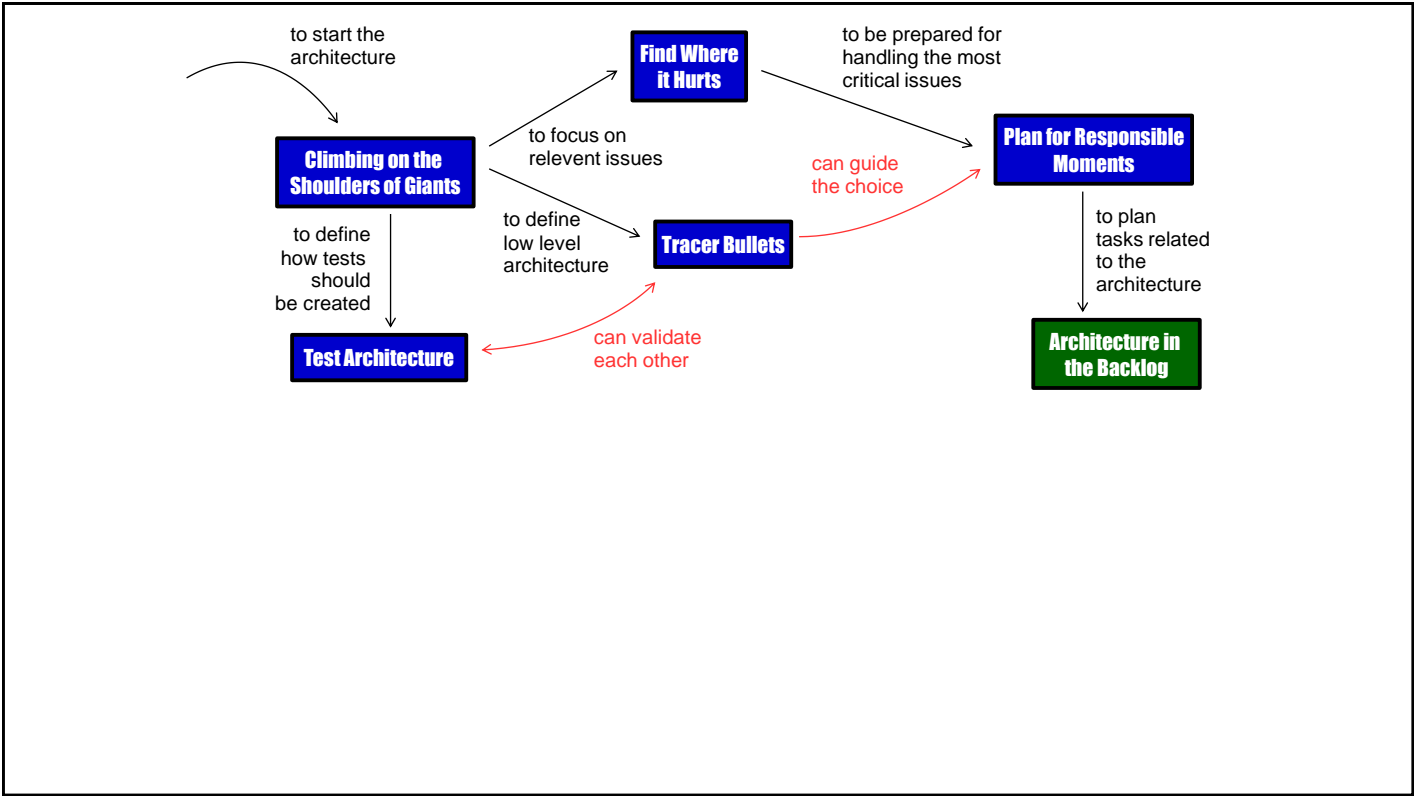
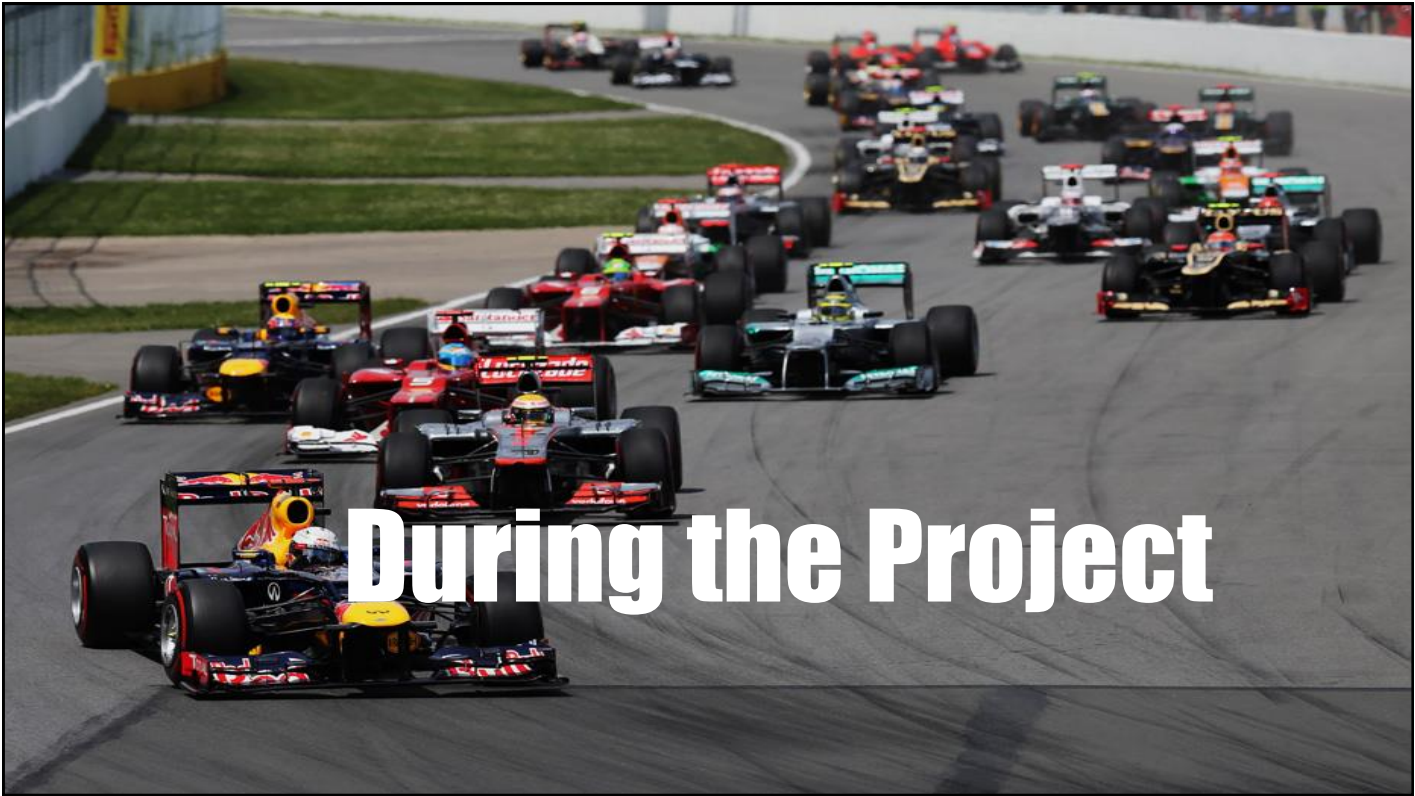
# Tracer Bullets



# Test Architecture

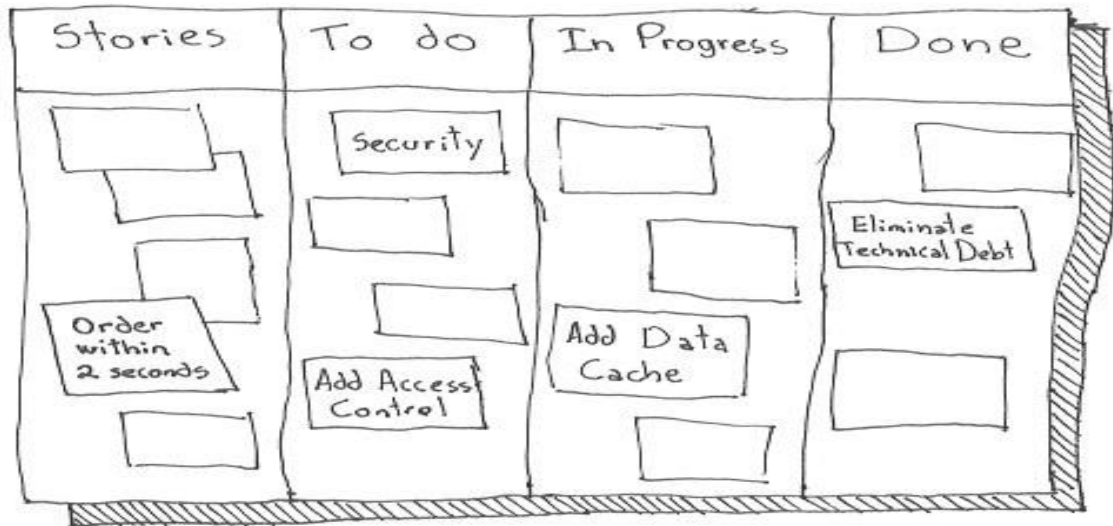


**Note these can be done throughout the project...**

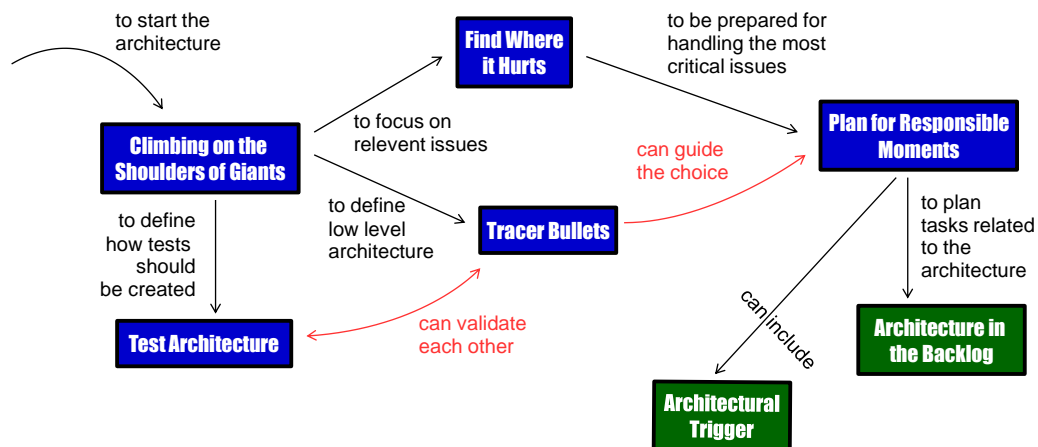




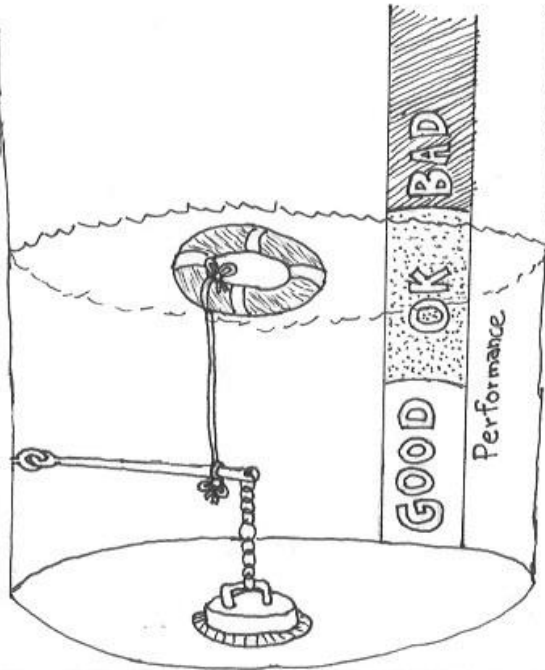
# Architecture in the Backlog



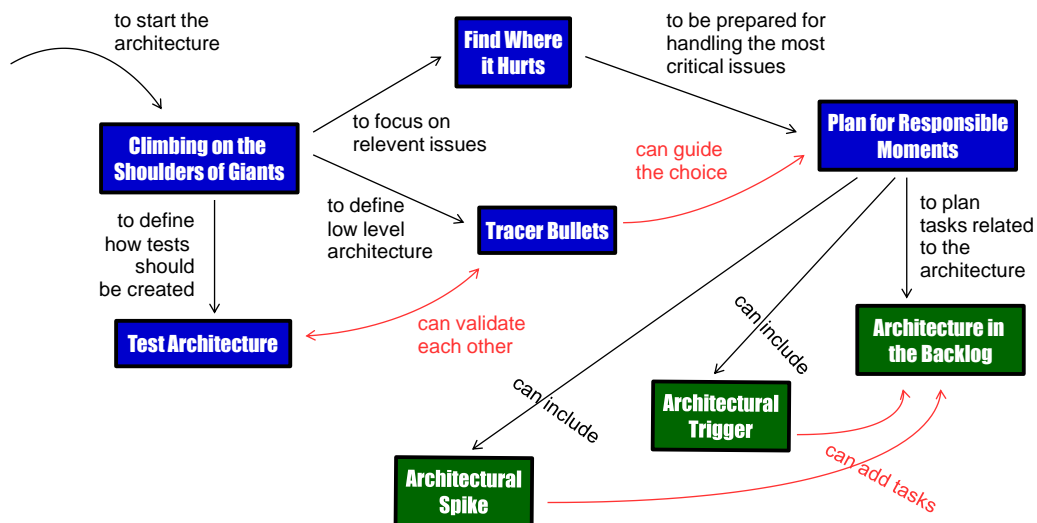
You can add backlog items for technical debt and quality-related architecture work... "yes, you can"



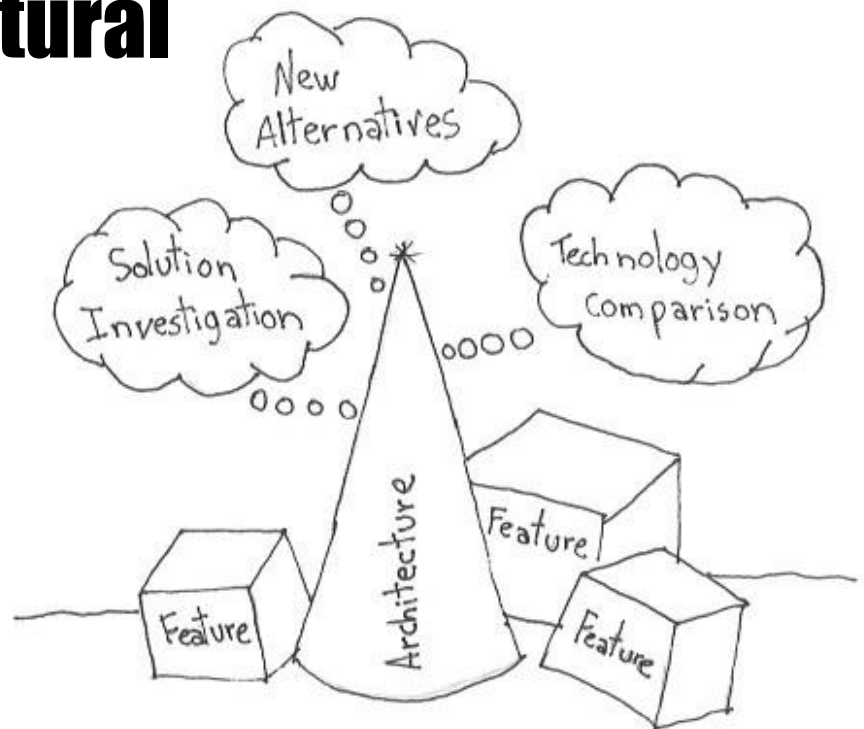
# Architectural Trigger



- Conditions that cause architecture investigation/ tasks
  - Quality target no longer met
  - Code quality metrics violations
  - ...
- Have broad system impact



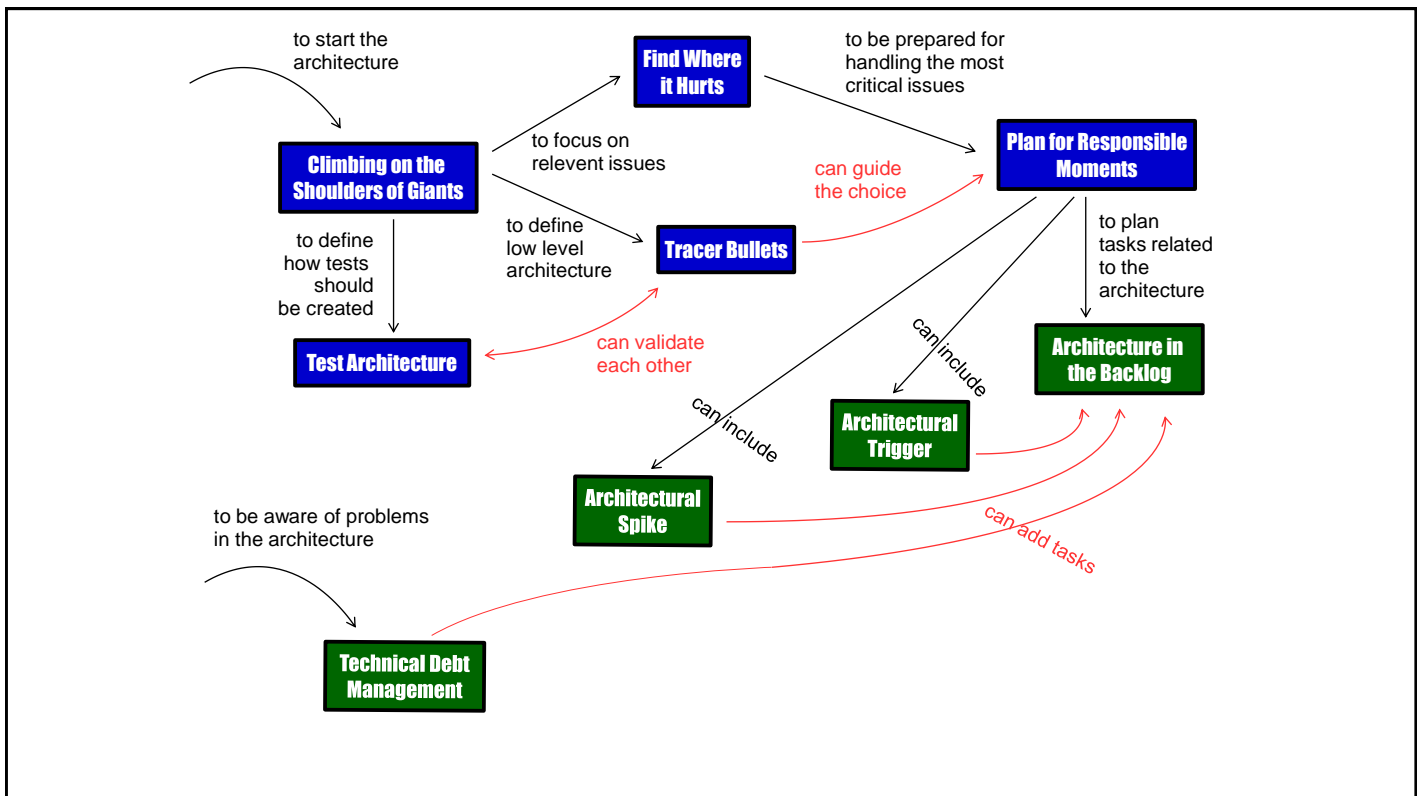
# Architectural Spike



## Architecture Spikes & Explorations

- Answer deep questions / offers potential architecture solutions
- Not as tactical as an XP Design Spike
- Visible and bounded
- Can be a Sprint!!!





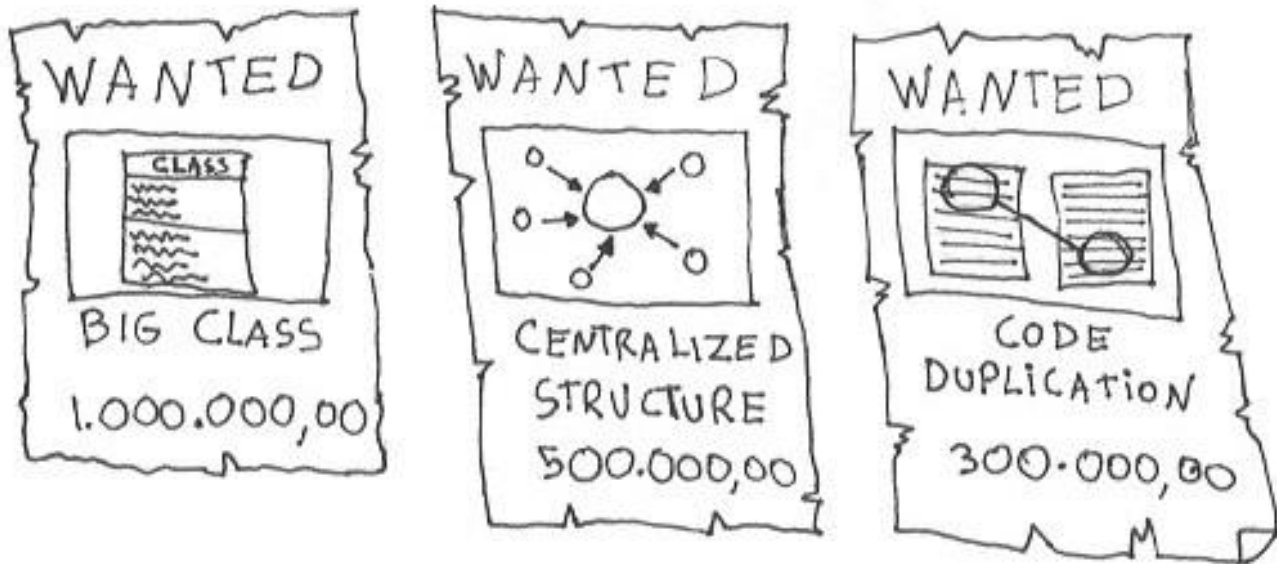
Some dirt becomes  
very hard to clean  
if you do not clean  
it right away!

Architecture Debt,  
Quality Debt, Test Debt, ...

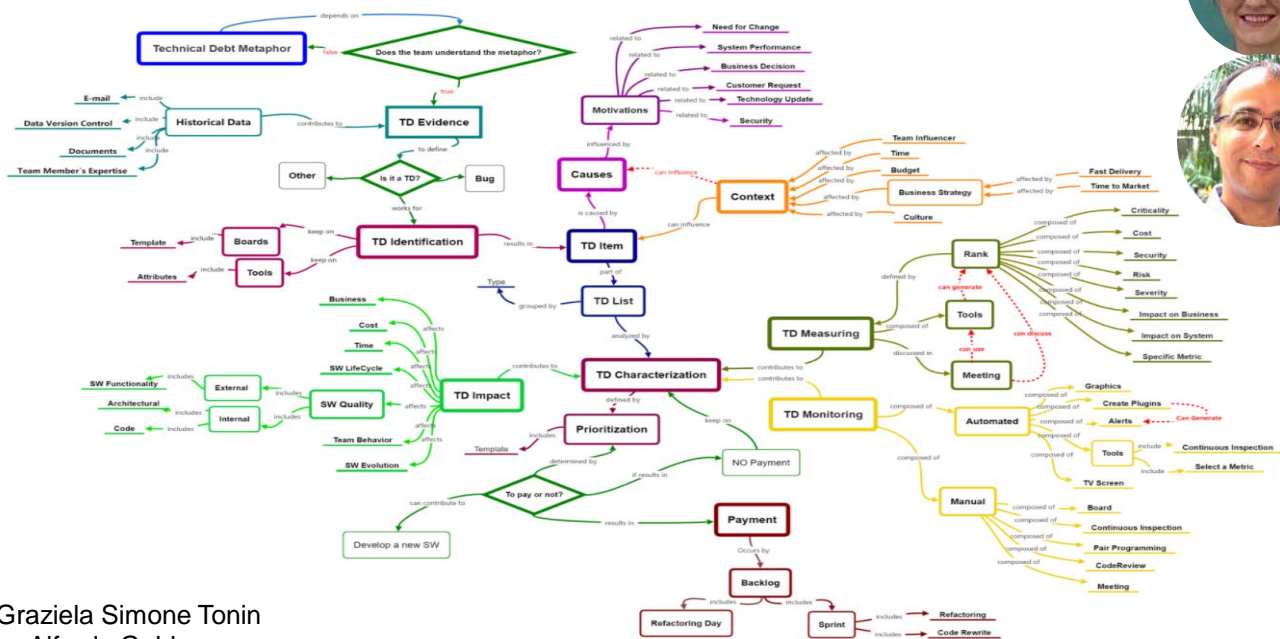
**Technical Debt?**



# Technical Debt Management

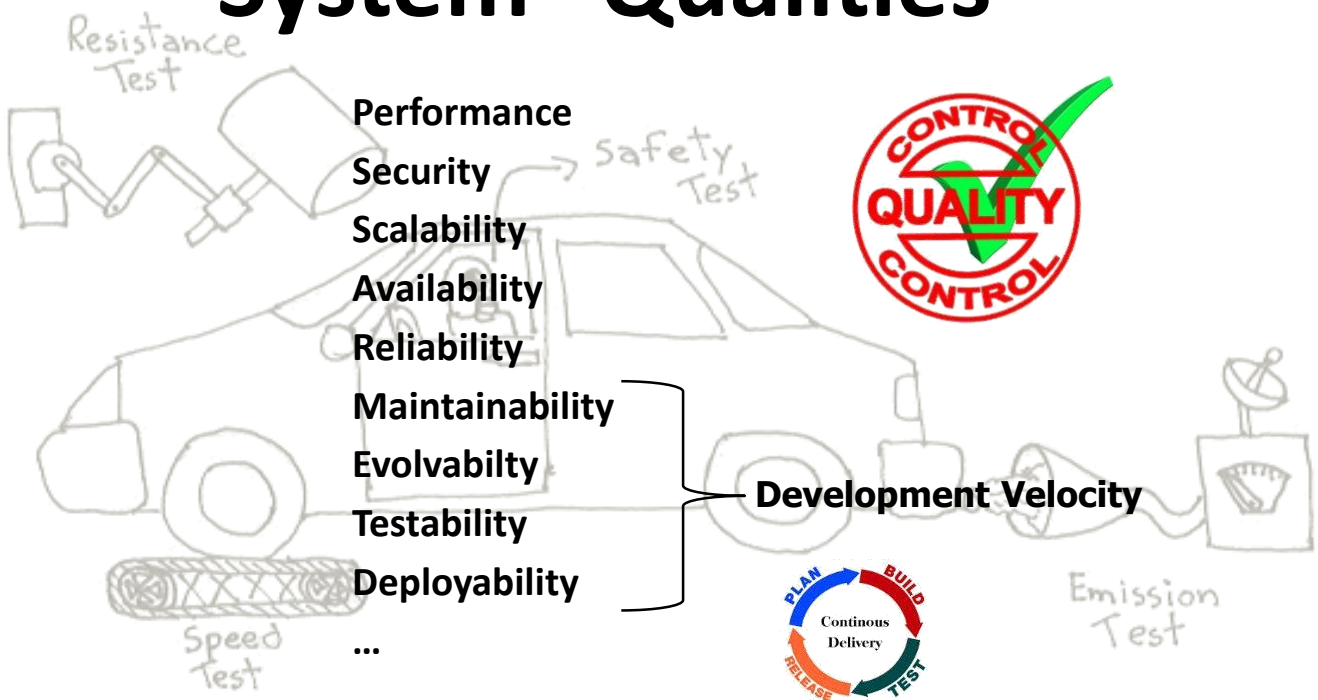


## Technical Debt Management



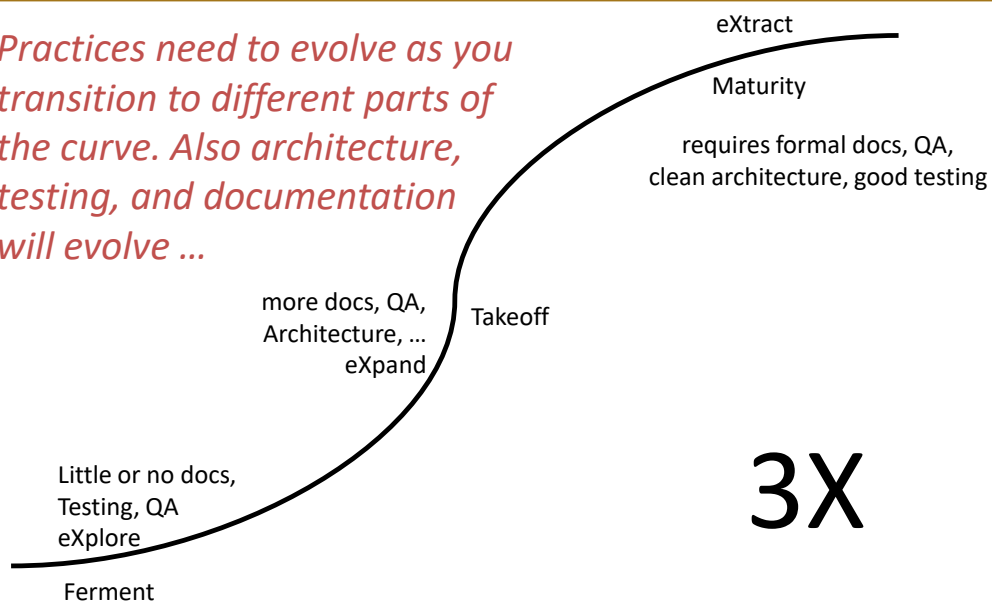
Graziela Simone Tonin  
Alfredo Goldman

# System “Qualities”



## The Business ‘S’ Curve

*Practices need to evolve as you transition to different parts of the curve. Also architecture, testing, and documentation will evolve ...*





**HOW CAN WE IMPROVE  
WHAT WE CANNOT SEE?**

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# Visibility is Key “Radiators”

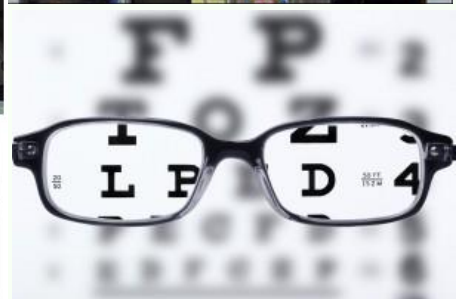
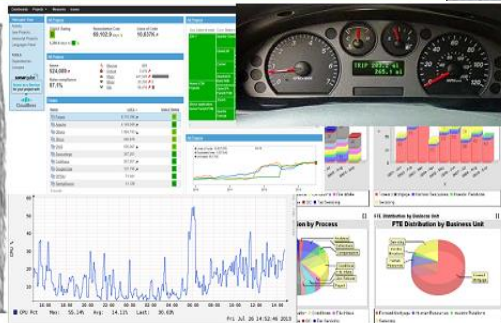
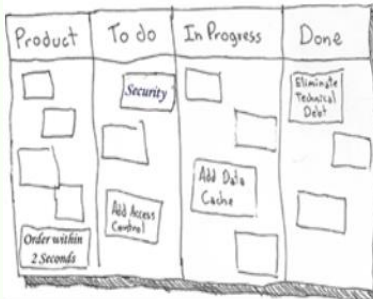


Performance Indicators

GREEN WHITE YELLOW RED  
INCREASING SAFETY SIGNIFICANCE →

Inspection Findings

GREEN WHITE YELLOW RED  
INCREASING SAFETY SIGNIFICANCE →



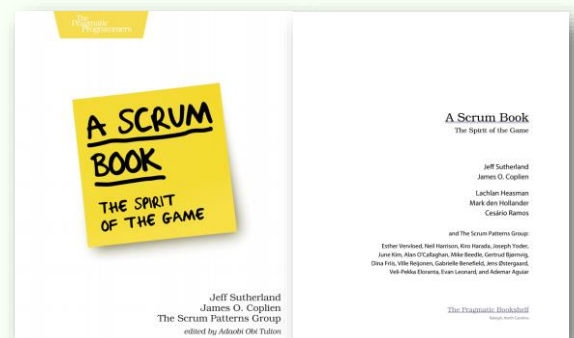
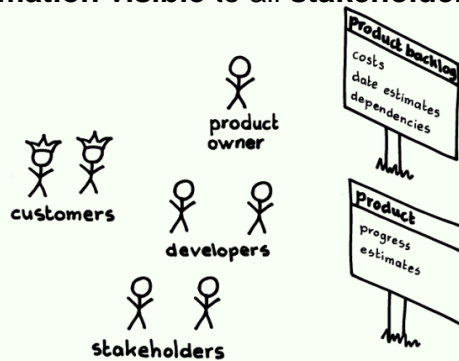


## ¶56 Information Radiator

Without valuable and timely information, the organization dies.

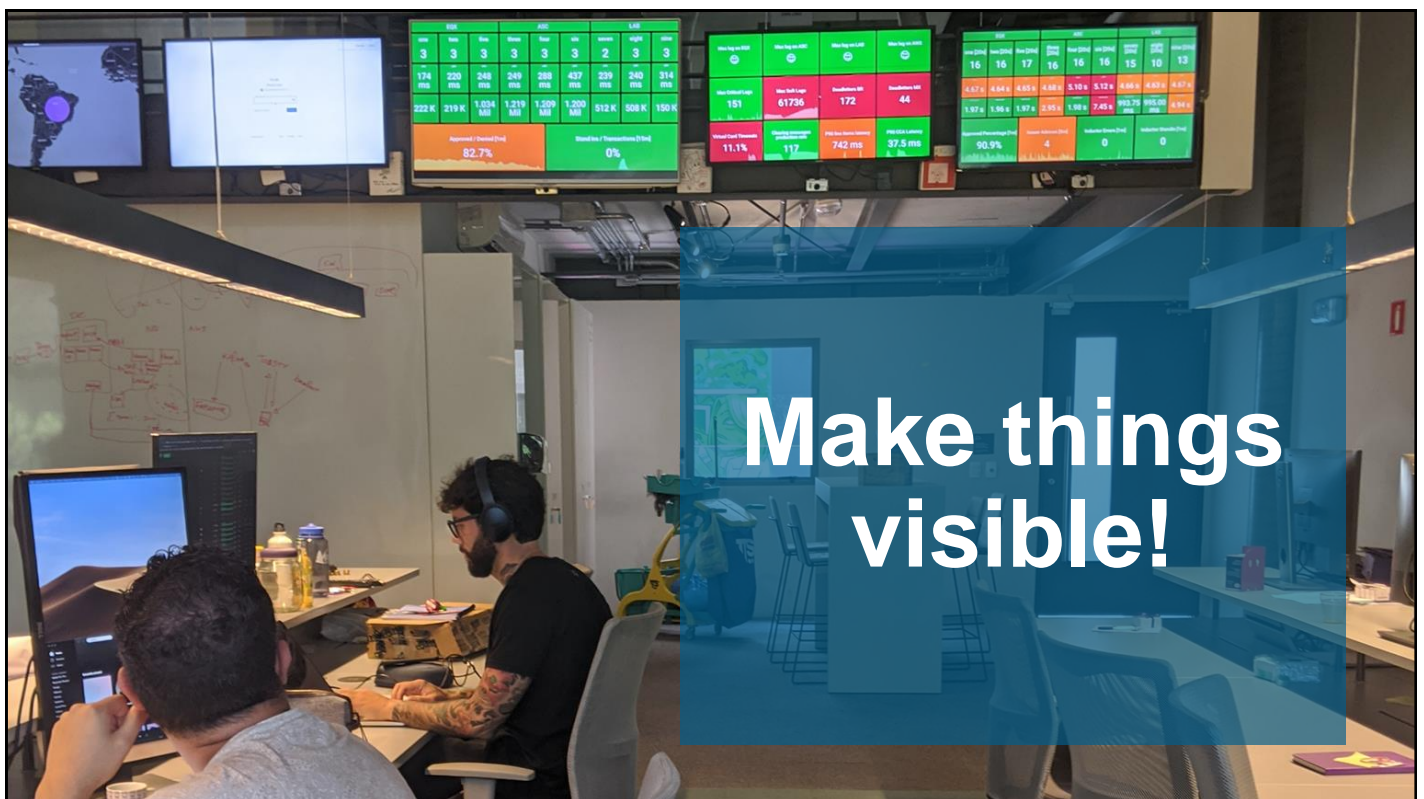
*Therefore:*

Collaboratively maintain **physical artifacts** that keep **information visible** to all **stakeholders**.






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<https://pragprog.com/book/jcscrum/a-scrum-boc>





# Know your audience!

## Define Metrics that add Value for the Team, Project and Business



## Make Visible

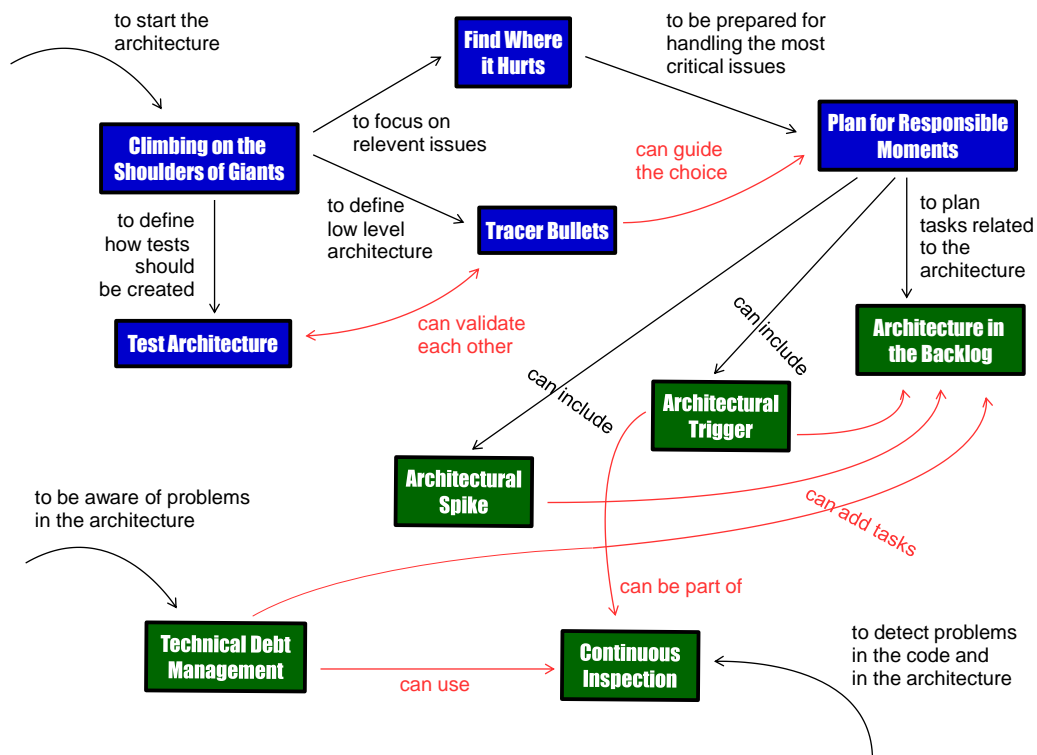
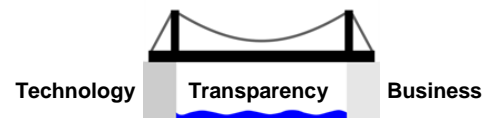
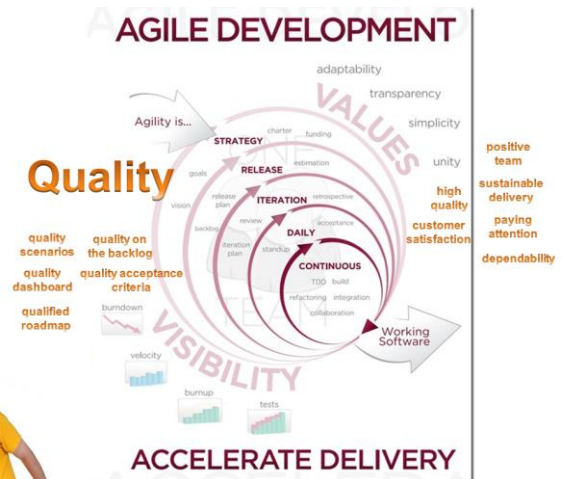


# Transparency

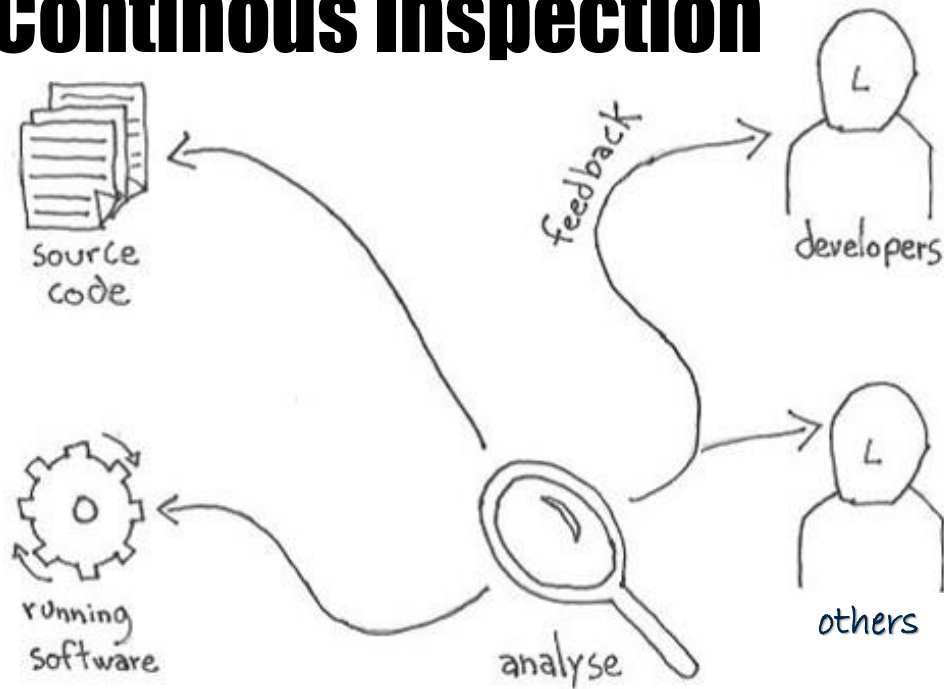
Agile Lean Core values:

- Learning
- **Visibility/Sharing**
- Quick Feedback
- **Communication**
- **Teamwork/Trust**
- **Continuous Improvement**
- Satisfying stakeholder needs

Tech Backlog ties into business values  
“Part of the Business Backlog???”



# Continuous Inspection



## Automate As You Go

*“The first rule of any technology used in a business is that automation applied to an efficient operation will magnify the efficiency. The second is that automation applied to an inefficient operation will magnify the inefficiency” — Bill Gates*

### Things to Script or Automate

Repetitive Tasks  
(builds, integration, tests, ...)

Involves Waiting

Error Prone and/or Tedious

Setup of Environments ...

Quality Metrics  
(performance, reliability, security, ...)

Code Smell Detection

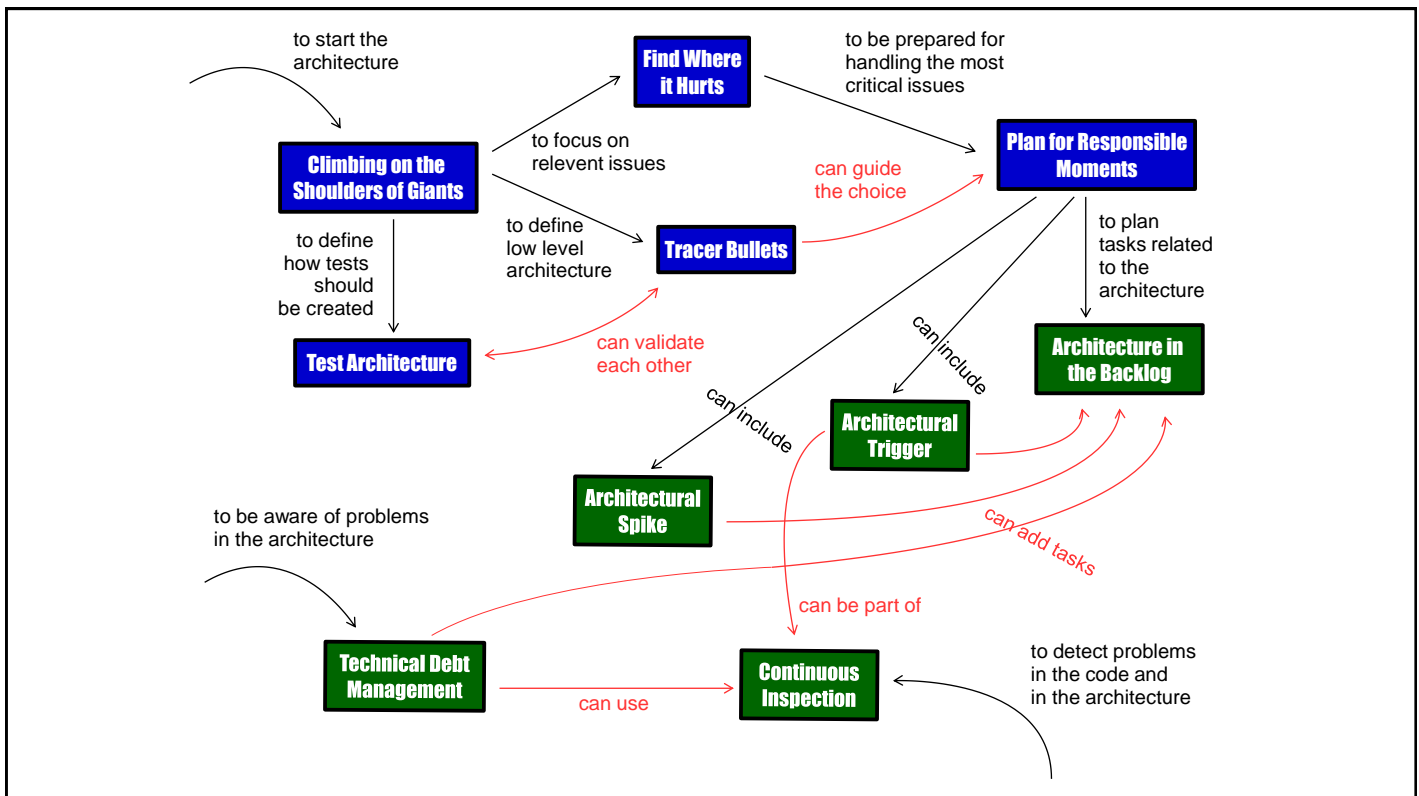
Architecture Conformance

Things that take a lot of time

#### Notes/checklists

- Less frequent, but important
- Harder to automate  
→ inconsistent  
→ requires thought



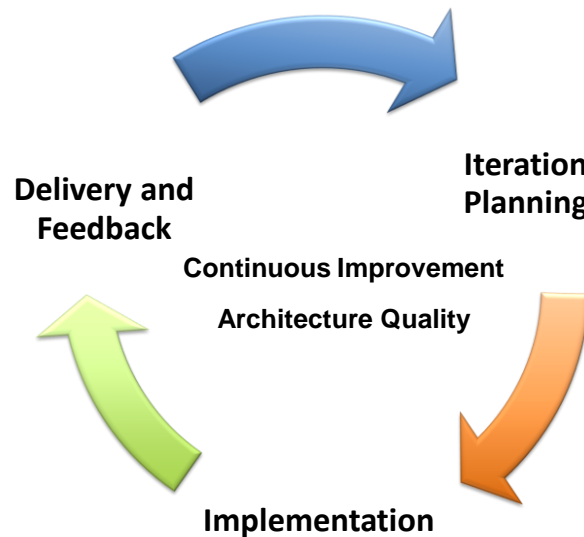


**Have a sustainable architecture**



**Start the project fast**

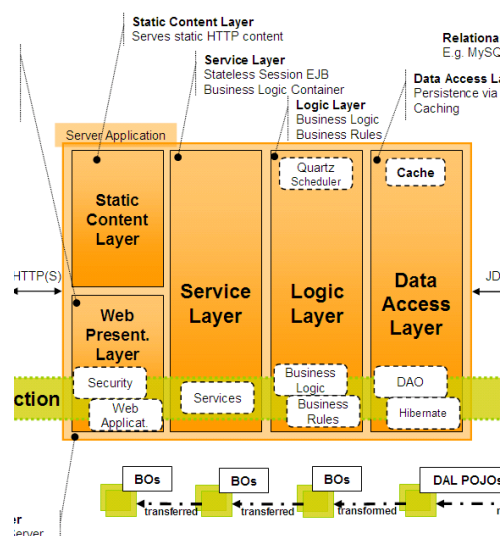
## Periodically Re-Evaluate Architecture Risks



## Incrementally Test Key Components' Performance



- Identify key pathways and critical components
- Test components as they arrive to access performance
- Use mocks, stubs, and auto-responders to simulate missing components

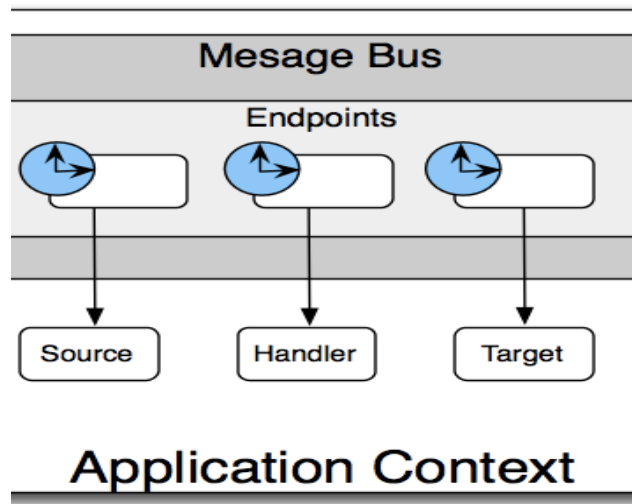




# Test Infrastructure To Verify Architecture Assumptions



- Benchmark early, then track
- Example:
  - Push/pull response times
  - Msg creation rates with >1 publisher
  - Consumption rates
  - Effects of adding msg dispatchers



Example: Message Bus Performance

## Pause Points Help



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# Slack Time

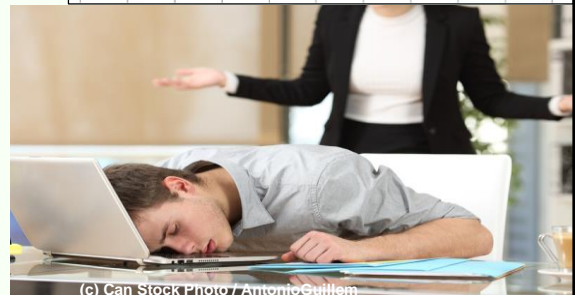
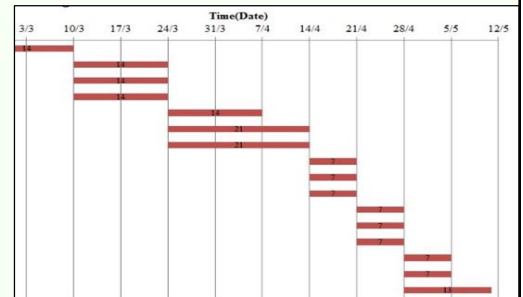
*Need Slack time to improve  
and to ensure quality*

Ways to get slack time...

- Monitor and Make Visible
- Reduce Waste (Muda)
- Inject time into process  
(retros, daily cleanup, ...)



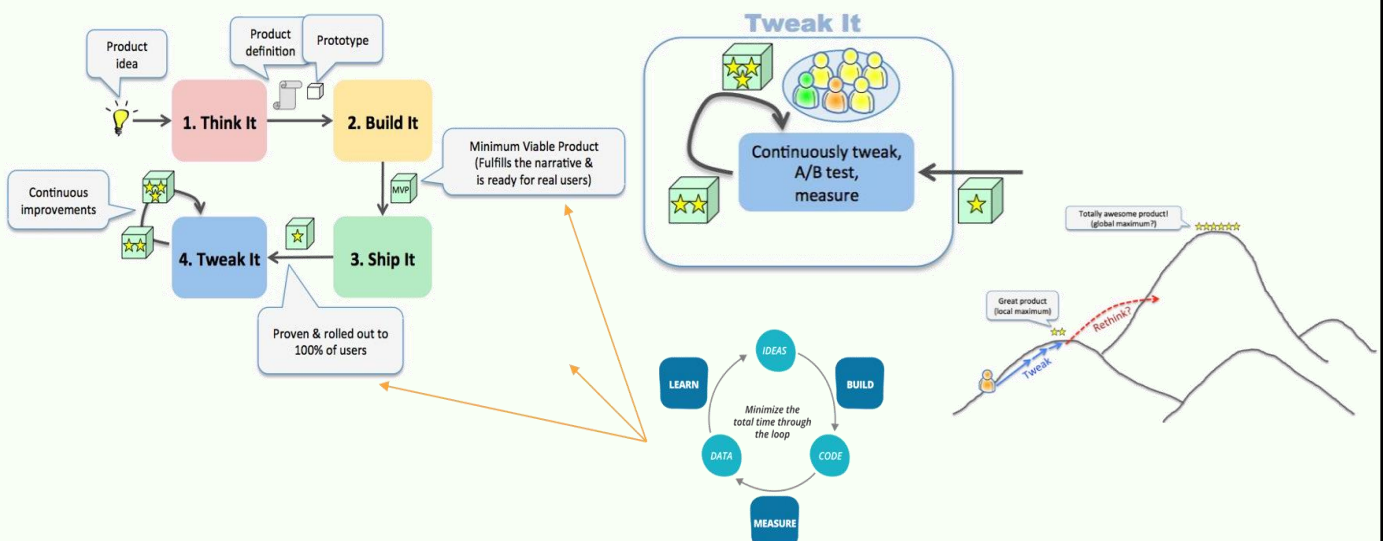
Try little experiments...



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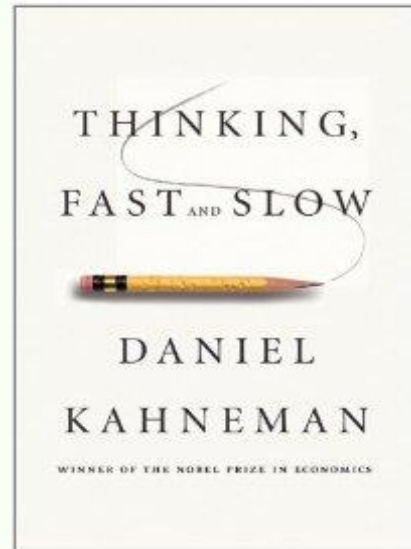
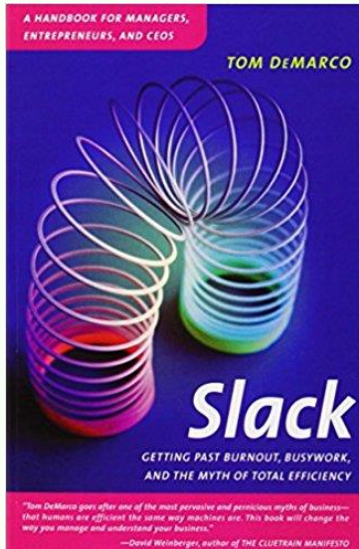
(c) Can Stock Photo / AntonioGuillen

## Spotify: Innovation



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# Slack Time



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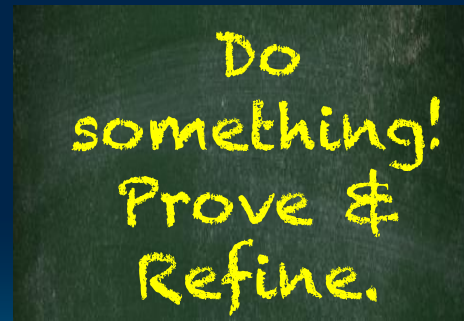
## Velocity $\neq$ Productivity

## Velocity $\neq$ Value

## Going Fast isn't always good!!!

# Agile Values Can Drive Architectural Practices

- Do something. Don't debate or discuss architecture too long
- Do something that buys you information
- Prove your architecture ideas
- Reduce risks
- Make it testable
- Prototype realistic scenarios that answer specific questions
- Incrementally refine your architecture
- Defer architectural decisions that don't need to be immediately made



## Patterns for Evolving Agile Architecture

to start working with the architecture

**Climbing on the Shoulders of Giants**

How can you quickly define the basic application architecture and the main component types that will satisfy the requirements?

Use an existing reference compatible with the application platform and suitable to its needs as a starting point.

to know how tests should be created

**Test Architecture**

How can you define how architectural components should be tested?

Define the test approach for each kind of component, considering its scope, technique, and kind of tests and tools that are going to be used.

can validate each other

**Find Where it Hurts**

How can you identify relevant points where the architectural design should focus?

Early on, identify the challenging technical requirements that are important for the project, so they can be handled at the optimal time.

can guide the choice of...

**Tracer Bullets**

How can you define low-level details about the architecture without spending a lot of time upfront on a detailed investigation?

Select the smallest set of architectural relevant user stories and implement them as references for upcoming functionality. Use this implementation to face technical challenges that were planned to be targeted before the project iterations.

can include



Asian PLoP 2015

to prepare to handle the most critical issues

**Plan for Responsible Moments**

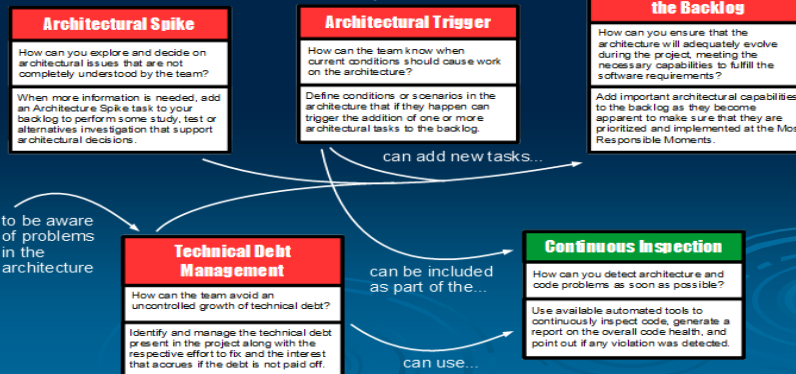
How can you handle the technical challenges in the beginning of the project without a full architectural design upfront?

Create a technical plan for how and when to handle each of the technical challenges and evolve it throughout the project. This plan needs to define how to identify these important responsible moments and circumstances when it is appropriate to address these technical challenges.

# Patterns for Evolving Agile Architecture



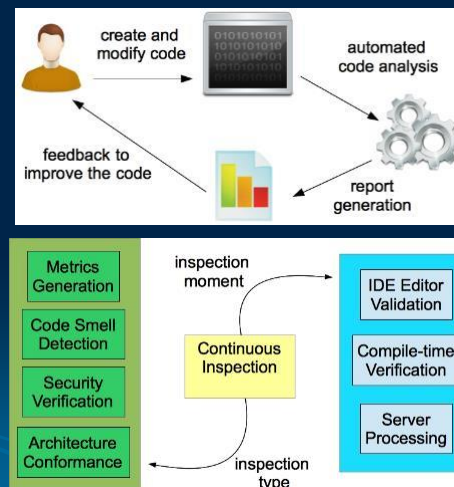
USA PLoP 2015



# Continuous Inspection



Asian PLoP 2014 Paper



**CODE SMELL DETECTION**  
**METRICS (TEST COVERAGE, CYCLOMATIC COMPLEXITY, TECHNICAL DEBT, SIZES, ...)**  
**APPLICATION SECURITY CHECKS**  
**ARCHITECTURAL CONFORMANCE**

**AUTOMATE WHERE YOU CAN!!!**

Sustaining Your Architecture



# Patterns for Being Agile at Quality



**Core Patterns**  
Breaking Down Barriers  
Integrate Quality



**Becoming Agile at Quality**  
Whole Team  
Quality Focused Sprints  
Product Quality Champion  
Agile Quality Specialist  
Spread the Quality Workload  
Shadow the Quality Expert  
Pair with a Quality Advocate

**Identifying Qualities**  
Finding the Qualities  
Agile Quality Scenarios  
Quality Stories  
Measureable System Qualities  
Fold-out Qualities  
Agile Landing Zone  
Recalibrate the Landing Zone  
Agree on Quality Targets

**Making Qualities Visible**  
System Quality Dashboard  
System Quality Radiator  
Qualify the Roadmap  
Qualify the Backlog  
Automate As You Go  
Quality Checklists

<https://bit.ly/2sDX6FS>

## QA to AQ

Patterns about transitioning from  
Quality Assurance to Agile Quality

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<sup>1</sup>The Refactory, Inc.,

<sup>2</sup>Wirfs-Brock Associates, Inc.

<sup>3</sup>FEUP

joe@refactory.com, rebecca@wirfs-brock.com, ademar.aguiar@fe.up.pt

**Abstract.** As organizations transition from waterfall to agile processes, Quality Assurance (QA) activities and roles need to evolve. Traditionally, QA activities have occurred late in the process, after the software is fully functioning. As a consequence, QA departments have been “quality gatekeepers” rather than actively engaged in the ongoing development and delivery of quality software. Agile teams incrementally deliver working software. Incremental delivery provides an opportunity to engage in QA activities much earlier, ensuring that both functionality and important system qualities are addressed just in time, rather than too late. Agile teams embrace a “whole team” approach. Even though special skills may be required to perform certain development and Quality Assurance tasks, everyone on the team is focused on the delivery of quality software. This paper outlines 21 patterns for transitioning from a traditional QA practice to a more agile process. Six of the patterns are completely presented that focus on where quality is addressed earlier in the process and QA plays a more integral role.

Continuation and Subject Descriptors

# ...PATTERNS FOR TRANSITIONING FROM TRADITIONAL TO AGILE QA AND AGILE ARCHITECTURE

Copies available  
off our websites

QA to AQ: Patterns about transitioning from Quality Assurance to Agile Quality, AsianPLOP 2014

QA to AQ Part Two: Shifting from Quality Assurance to Agile Quality, PLoP 2014

QA to AQ Part Three: Shifting from Quality Assurance to Agile Quality “Tearing Down the Walls”, SugarLoafPLOP 2014

QA to AQ Part Four: Shifting from Quality Assurance to Agile Quality “Prioritizing Qualities and Making them Visible”, PLoP 2015

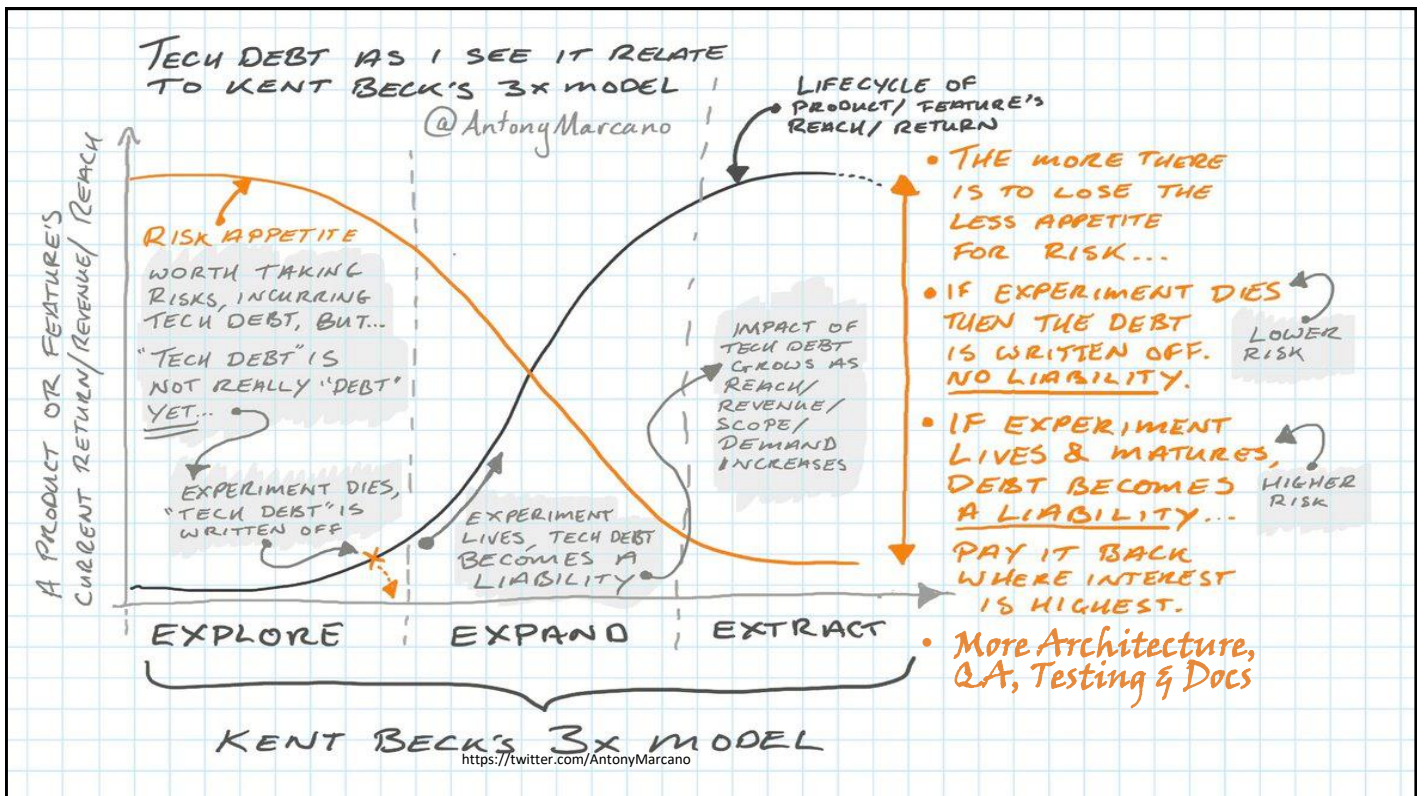
QA to AQ Part Five: Being Agile At Quality “Growing Quality Awareness and Expertise”, AsianPLOP 2016

QA to AQ Part Six: Shifting from Quality Assurance to Agile Quality “Enabling and Infusing Quality”, To appear at PLoP 2016

Continuous Inspection: A Pattern for Keeping your Code Healthy and Aligned to the Architecture, AsianPLOP 2014

Patterns for Initial Architecture Design on Agile Projects AsianPLOP 2015

Patterns to Develop and Evolve Architecture in an Agile Project, PLoP 2016



# Agile/Lean



## Being Pragmatic





# In Memory to Mike Beedle



Mike Beedle

March 21 at 11:48am · Twitter ·

✓ Agile doesn't cure INCOMPETENCE.

You can coach teams to be more engaged and collaborative, but NO Agile framework, method, or mindset can save you from BLATANT FAILURE if your development team is INCOMPETENT in basic engineering practices.

Technical excellence is a MUST!

## Architecture and Agility







```
@Test
public void presentationEnd(){
    Presentation p = new Presentation();
    Audience a = new Audience();
    p.setAudience(a);
    p.perform();
    p.end();
    p.thanksEveryone();
    assertTrue(a.isApplauding());
}
```

# Arigato!



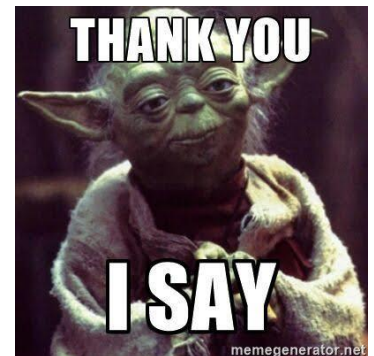
yodamann



joe@refactory.com



@metayoda



“You can’t fix what you can’t see”

“If you think good architecture is expensive, try bad architecture”

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