

The System Behind the Software



A group of men are gathered in what appears to be a conference or workshop setting. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. Several of the men are wearing lanyards with identification badges. The man in the foreground, slightly to the left of center, is wearing a teal t-shirt and a lanyard. To his right, a man in a red and grey striped polo shirt is also wearing a lanyard. Further right, a man in a dark blue polo shirt is holding a yellow cup and wearing a lanyard. In the background, other men are visible, some wearing lanyards. The overall atmosphere is positive and collaborative.

Conversation

Participation



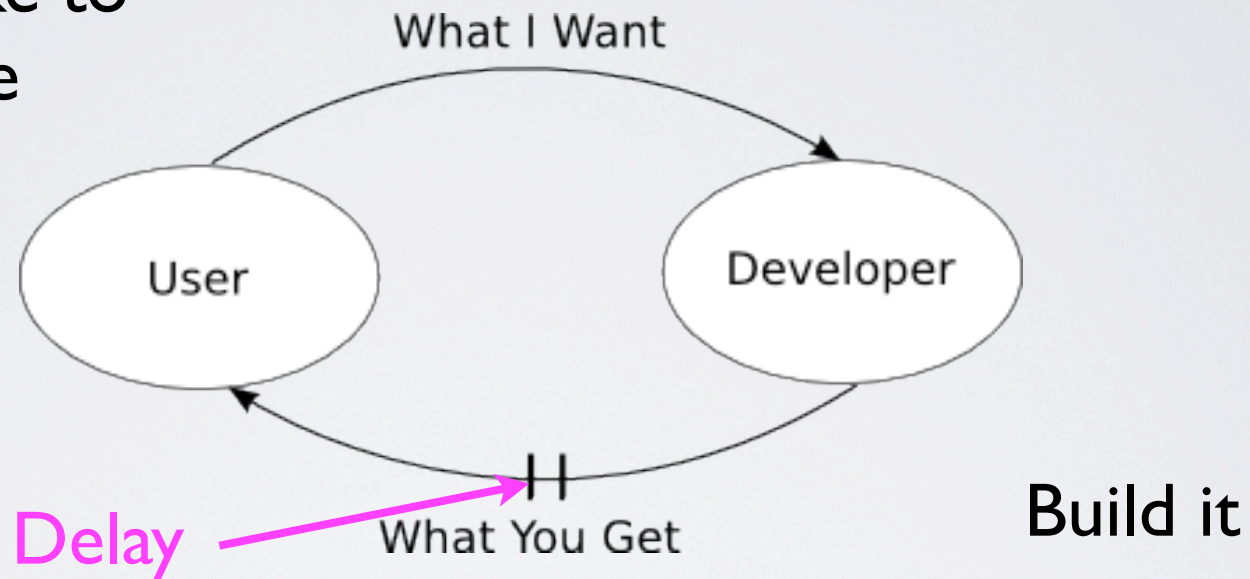
A bad system will defeat a good person every time.

W. Edward Deming



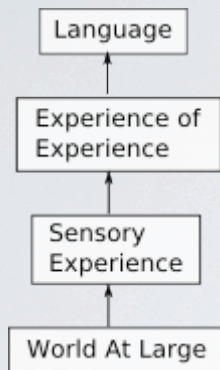
What's So Hard?

Find out what the
user would like to
experience



Say What?

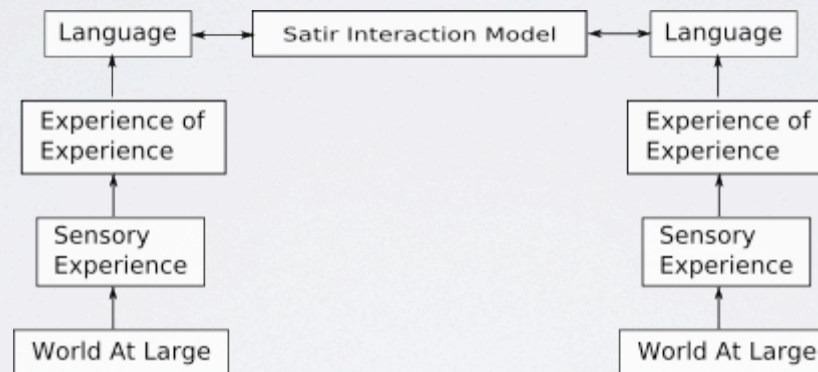
Modeling Levels



Satir Interaction Model



Altogether now!



“A map is not the territory it represents, but, if correct, it has a similar structure to the territory, which accounts for its usefulness.” Alfred Korzybski



Essential / Accidental Difficulties

- How we abstract information from the environment
- Our preference about the type of information we abstract
- How we operate on our model of the world
- Time lags - co-workers in different time zones
- Language / translation difficulties
- Cultural differences

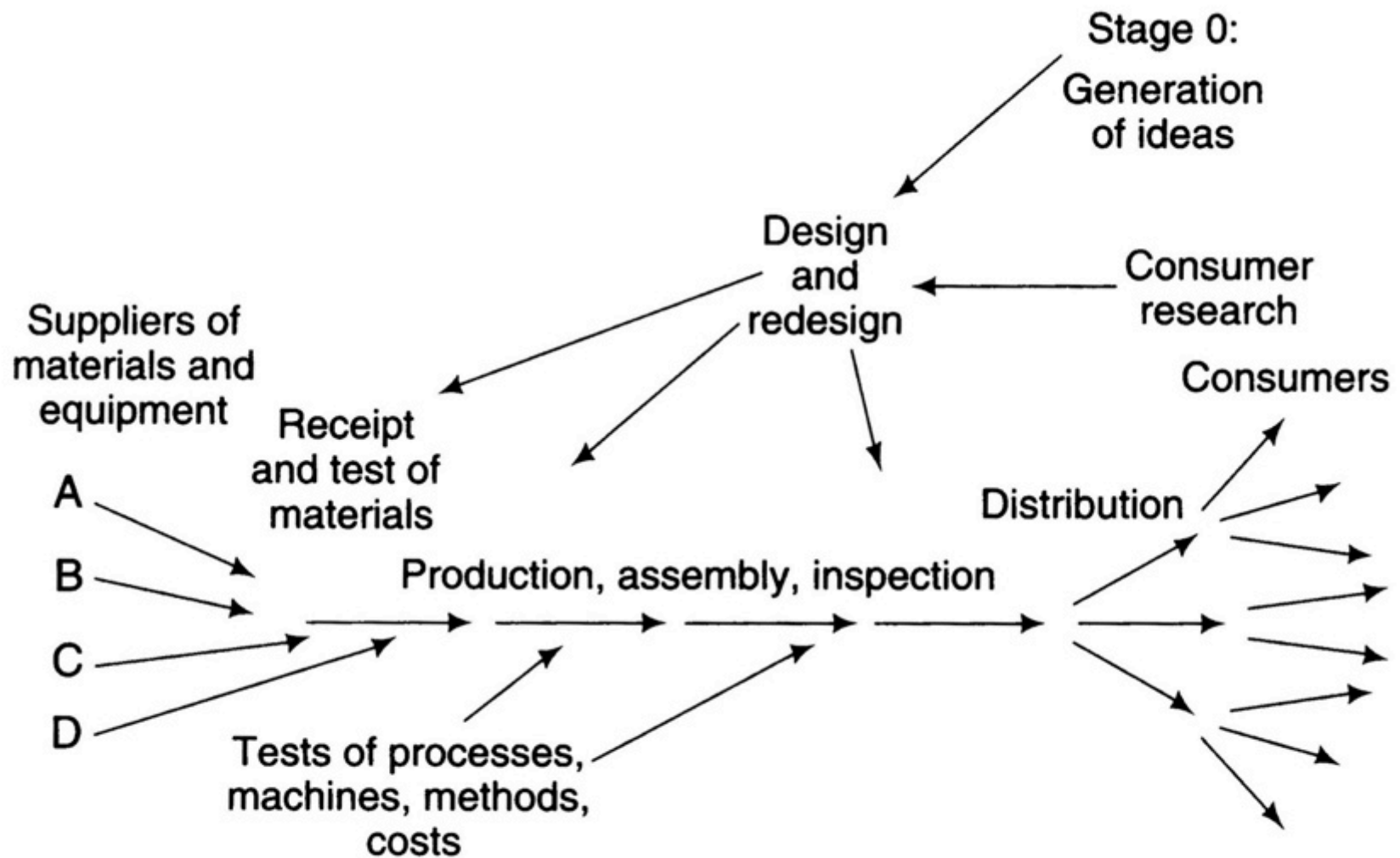




Joan M. Mas 2/2007

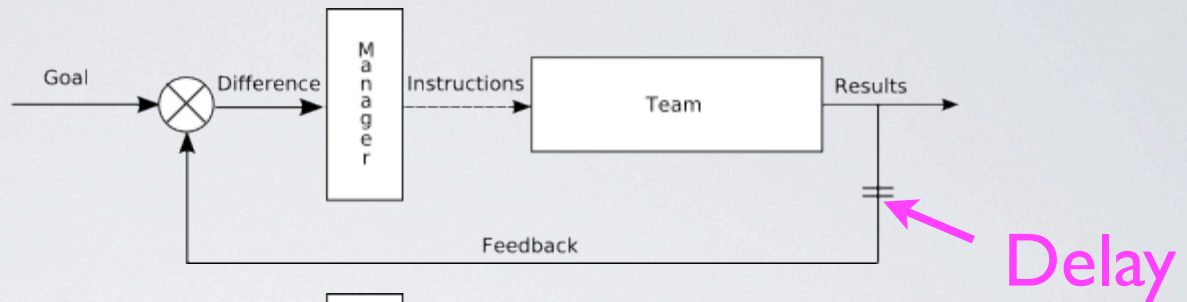




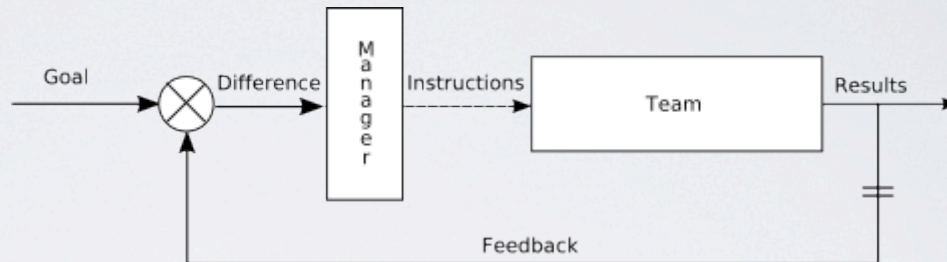


Systems of Systems

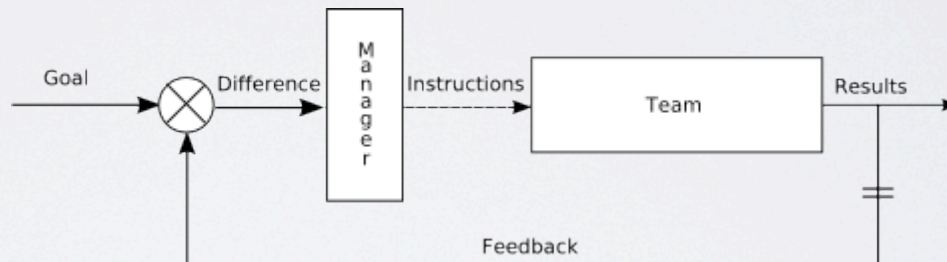
Development



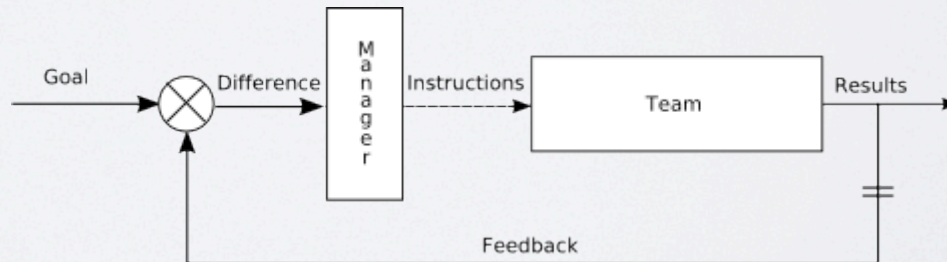
External Dependencies



QAT



IT

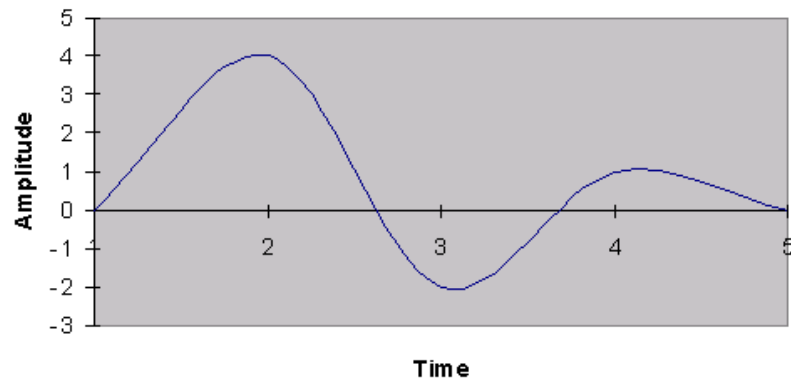


Systems of Systems

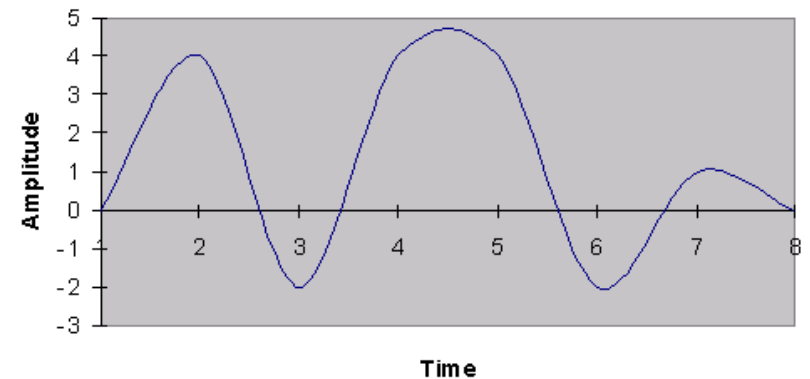


Time Response in Bounded Linear Systems

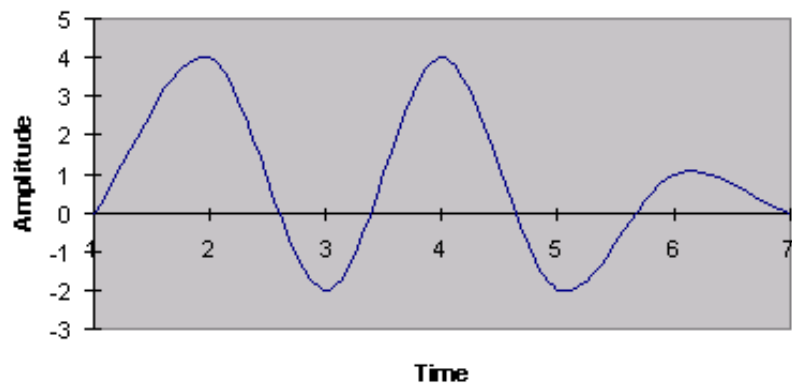
Quarter Wave Decay



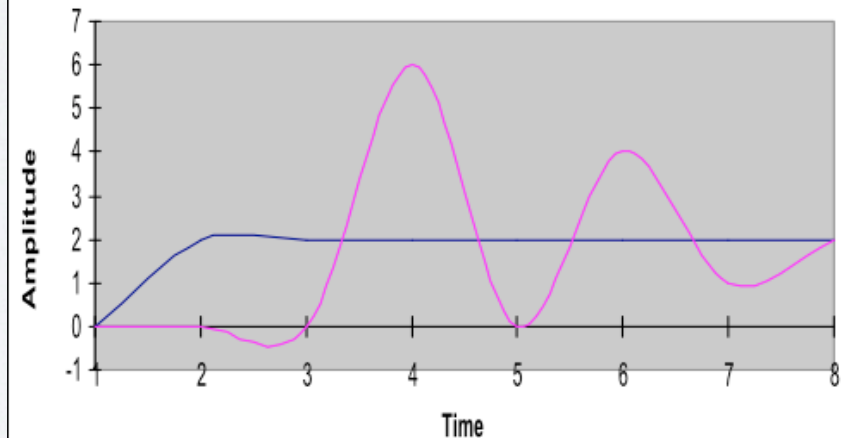
Step Change at t=5



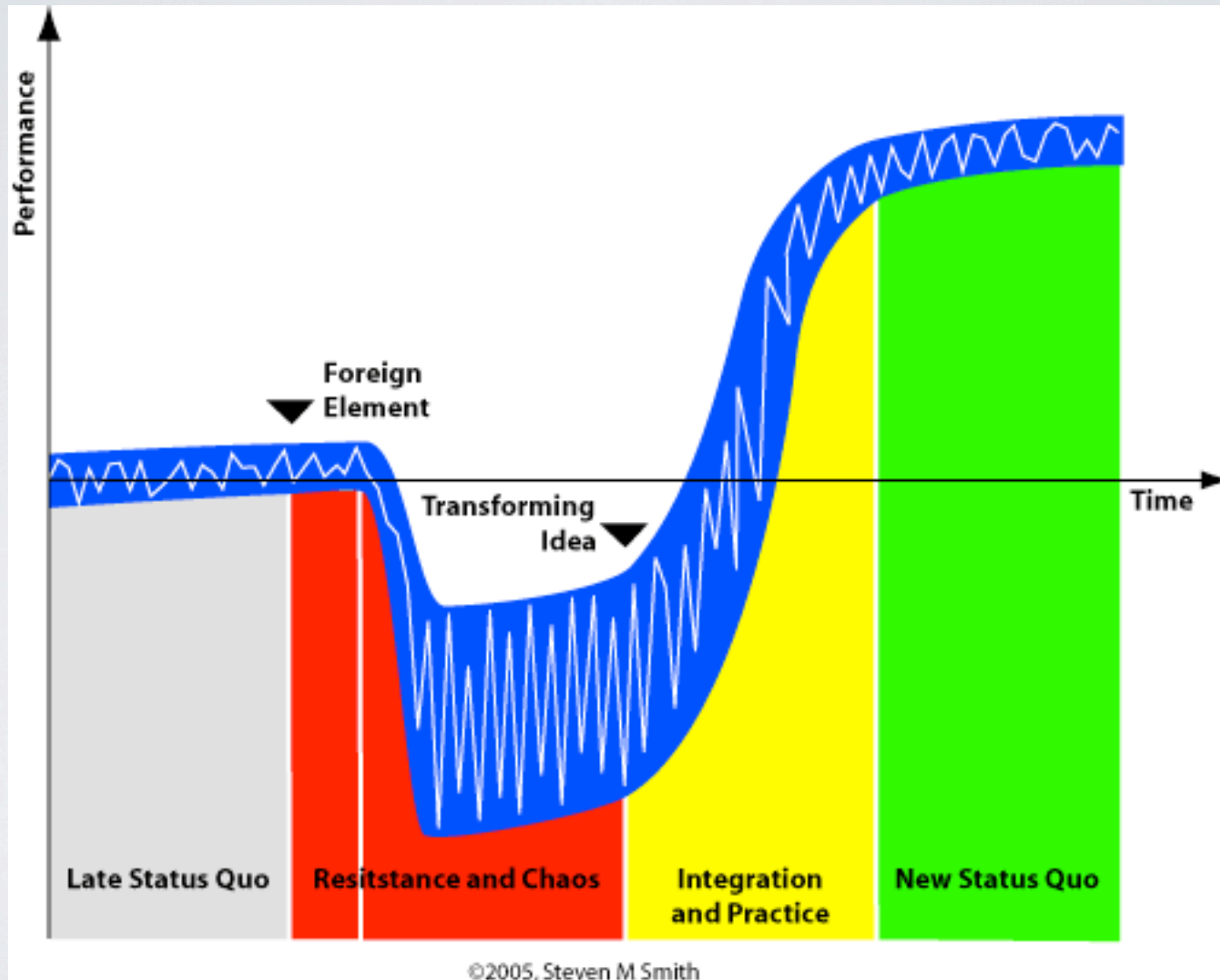
Step Change at t=4



Time Lag



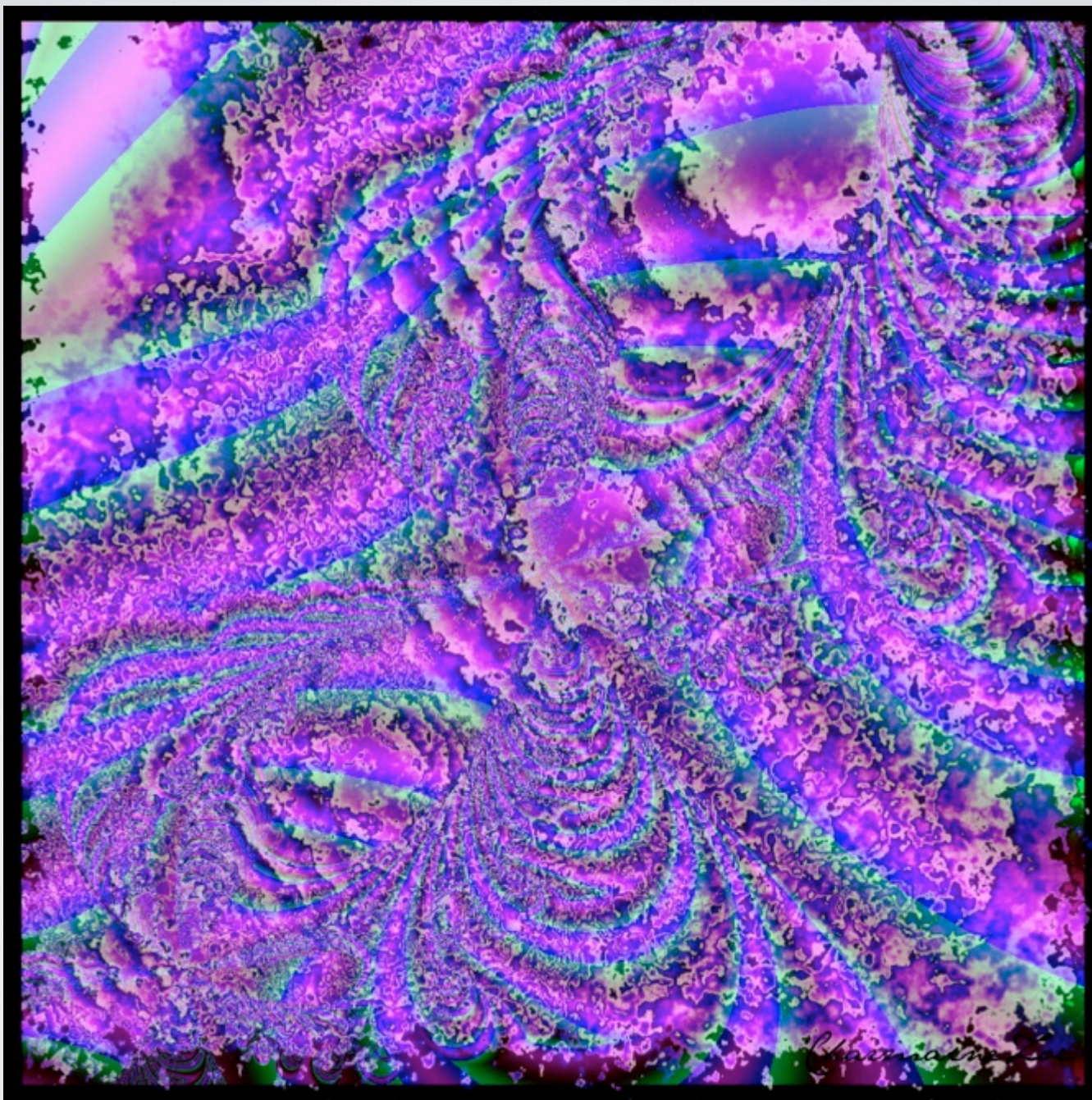
And when you add people



Essential / Accidental Difficulties

- Complexity (internal)
- Conformity (external)
- Changeability (thought stuff, infinitely malleable)
- Invisibility (no representation in space)
- (Programming) Languages
- Time-Sharing
- Unified Programming Environments (IDEs)





© Don Gray 2010

www.donaldegray.com

[@donaldegray](https://twitter.com/donaldegray)

don@donaldegray.com

12 Agile Principles

1. Our highest priority is to satisfy the customer through early and continuous delivery of valuable software.
2. Welcome changing requirements, even late in development. Agile processes harness change for the customer's competitive advantage.
3. Deliver working software frequently, from a couple of weeks to a couple of months, with a preference to the shorter time scale.
4. Business people and developers must work together daily throughout the project.



12 Agile Principles

- 5. Build projects around motivated individuals. Give them the environment and support they need, and trust them to get the job done.
- 6. The most efficient and effective method of conveying information to and within a development team is face-to-face conversation.
- 7. Working software is the primary measure of progress.
- 8. Agile processes promote sustainable development. The sponsors, developers, and users should be able to maintain a constant pace indefinitely.



12 Agile Principles

- 9. Continuous attention to technical excellence and good design enhances agility.
- 10. Simplicity - the art of maximizing the amount of work not done - is essential.
- 11. The best architectures, requirements and designs emerge from self-organizing teams.
- 12. At regular intervals, the team reflects on how to become more effective, then tunes and adjusts its behavior accordingly.



For More Information

- Talking So People Can Hear - Agile CoachCampNC - 2010 <http://wiki.agilecoachcamp.org/tiki-index.php?page=TalkingSoPeopleCanHear&bl>
- Communications Disconnects: <http://www.donaldegray.com/communications-disconnects/>
- A Multi-Use Model: <http://www.donaldegray.com/a-multi-use-model/>
- Top Down Change: <http://www.estherderby.com/2010/10/successful-top-down-change-starts-with-change-at-the-top.html>
- Measuring and Managing Performance in Organizations ©1996 Robert D.Austin, ISBN 0-932633-36-6
- Systems thinking, teams, communication, and models:
 - Articles: <http://www.donaldegray.com/category/article/>
 - Blog posts: <http://www.donaldegray.com/category/blog/>



Credits

1. Rube Goldberg <http://www.flickr.com/photos/freshwater2006/693945631/sizes/z/>
2. Communication <http://www.flickr.com/photos/dailypic/1459055735/sizes/z/in/photostream/>
3. Tacoma Narrows Bridge (aka “Galloping Gertie”) http://www.flickr.com/photos/uw_digital_images/4861196144/in/pool-972605@N21/
4. Production viewed as a system: The New Economics - W. Edward Deming page 58
5. Software Essential and Accidental Difficulties from No Silver Bullet by Frederick P. Brooks, Jr
6. Fractal system picture <http://www.flickr.com/photos/charmainezoe/3635914107/sizes/o/>

