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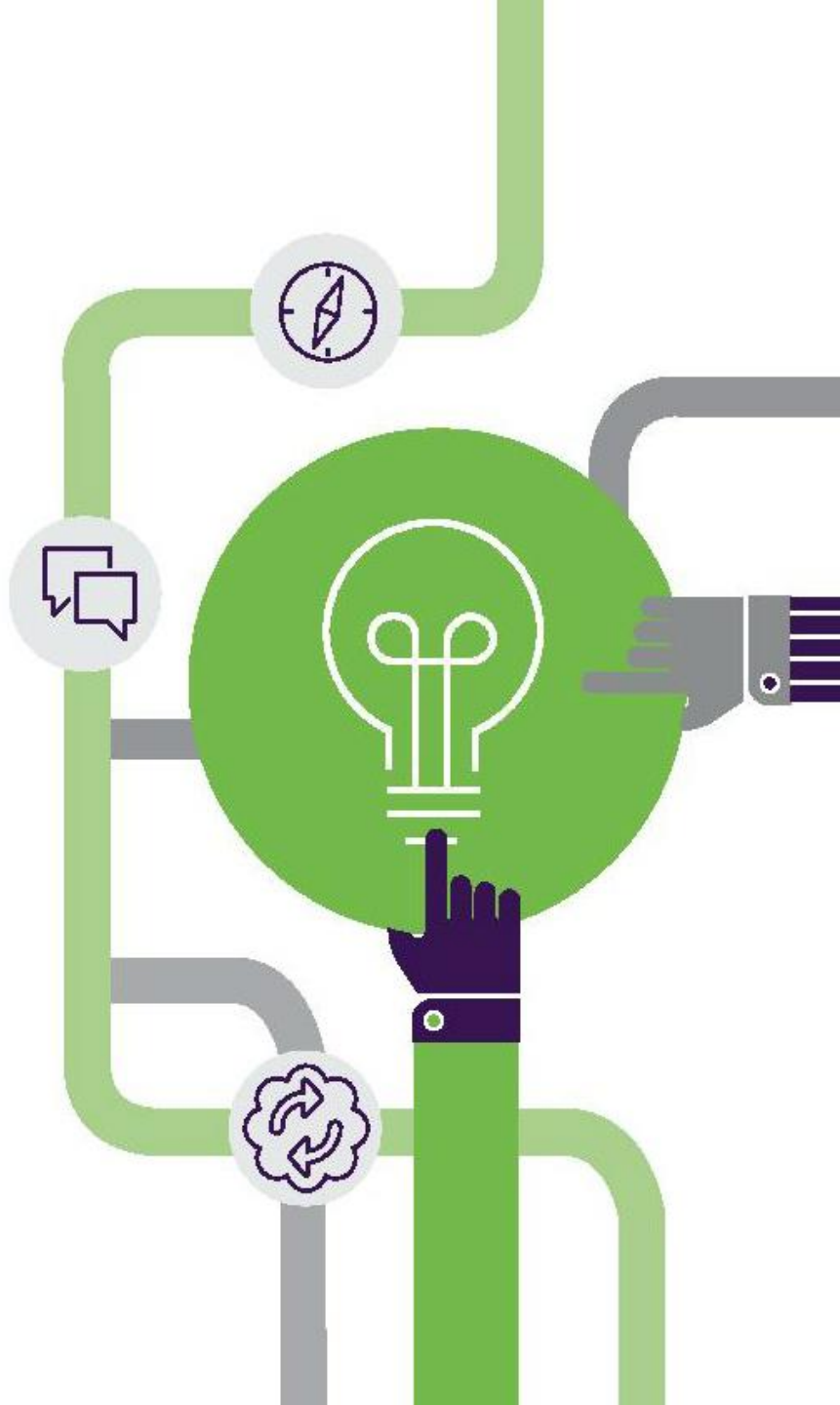
Embedded Software Specialists

The Perfect Marriage of Design Thinking and Lean Agile



Take what you think you know and then blow it up before trying to narrow it back down again so you can ensure you see the whole picture and understand how what you are working on will provide value.

How design thinking mixed with lean and agile practices can help produce better outcomes for everyone...

Hello!

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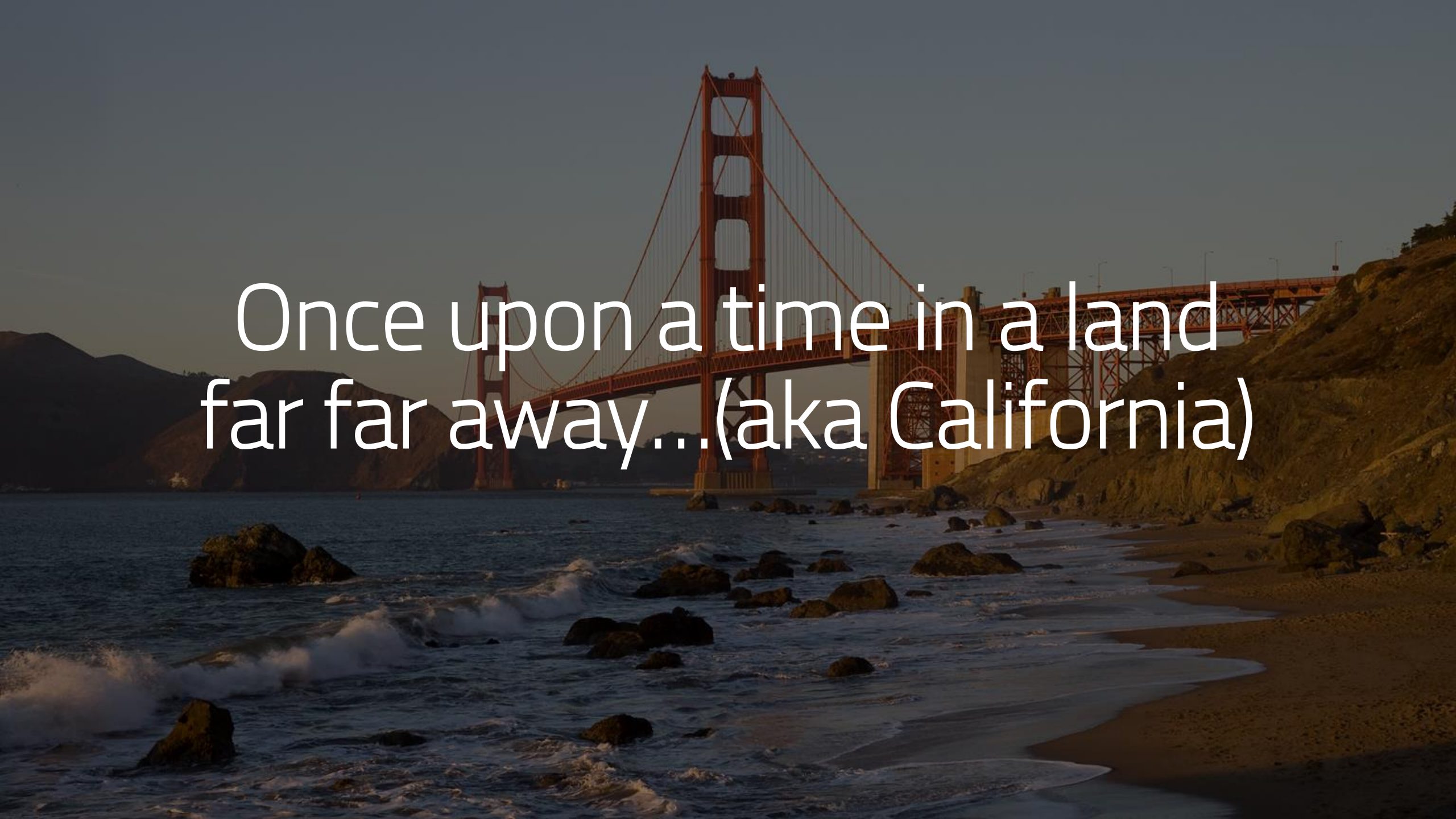
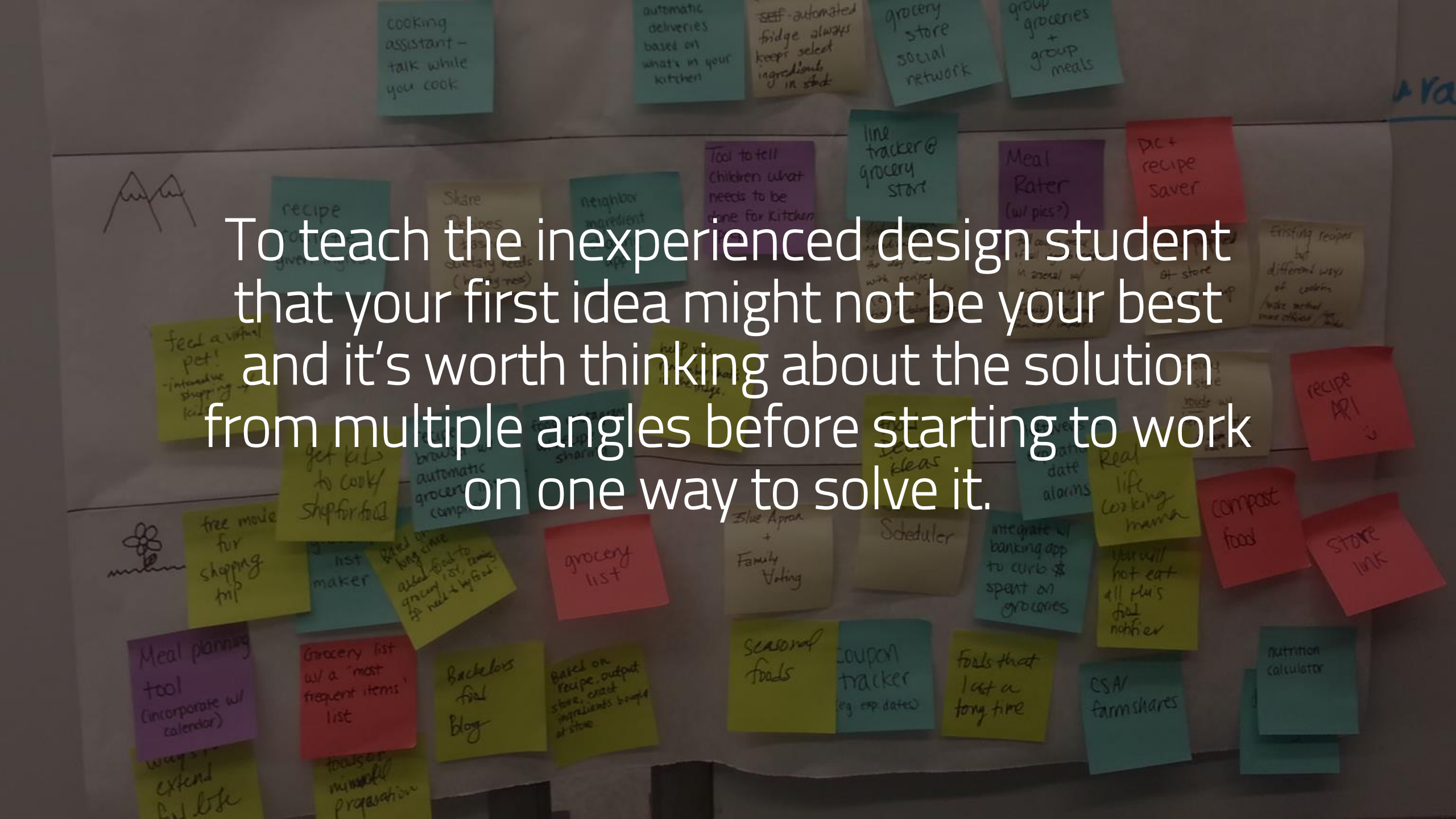

Once upon a time in a land
far far away…(aka California)

I was a graphic design student with evil design teachers who forced me to do quick sketches of 20 different ideas before they would let me touch a computer...

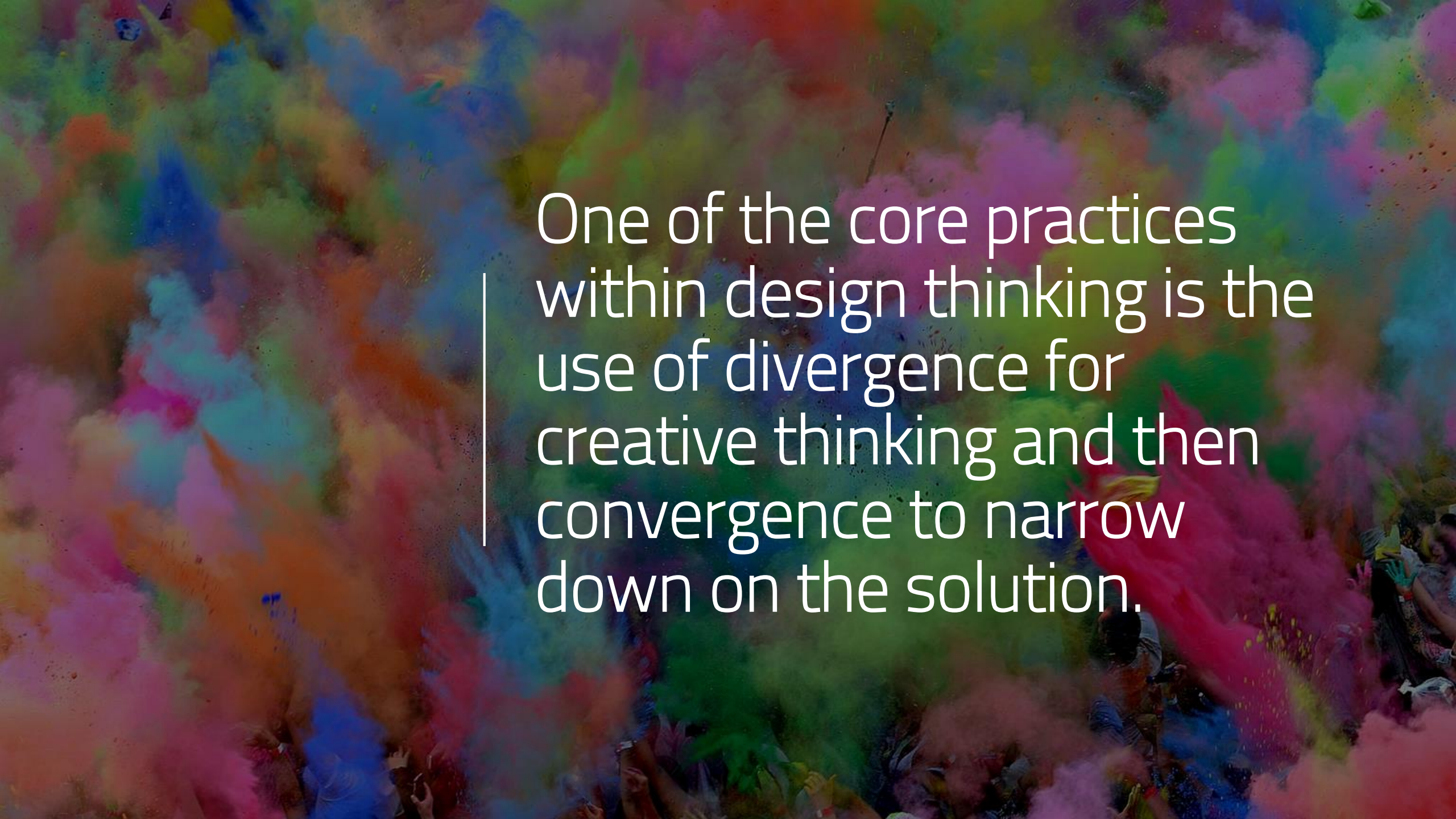
Why?



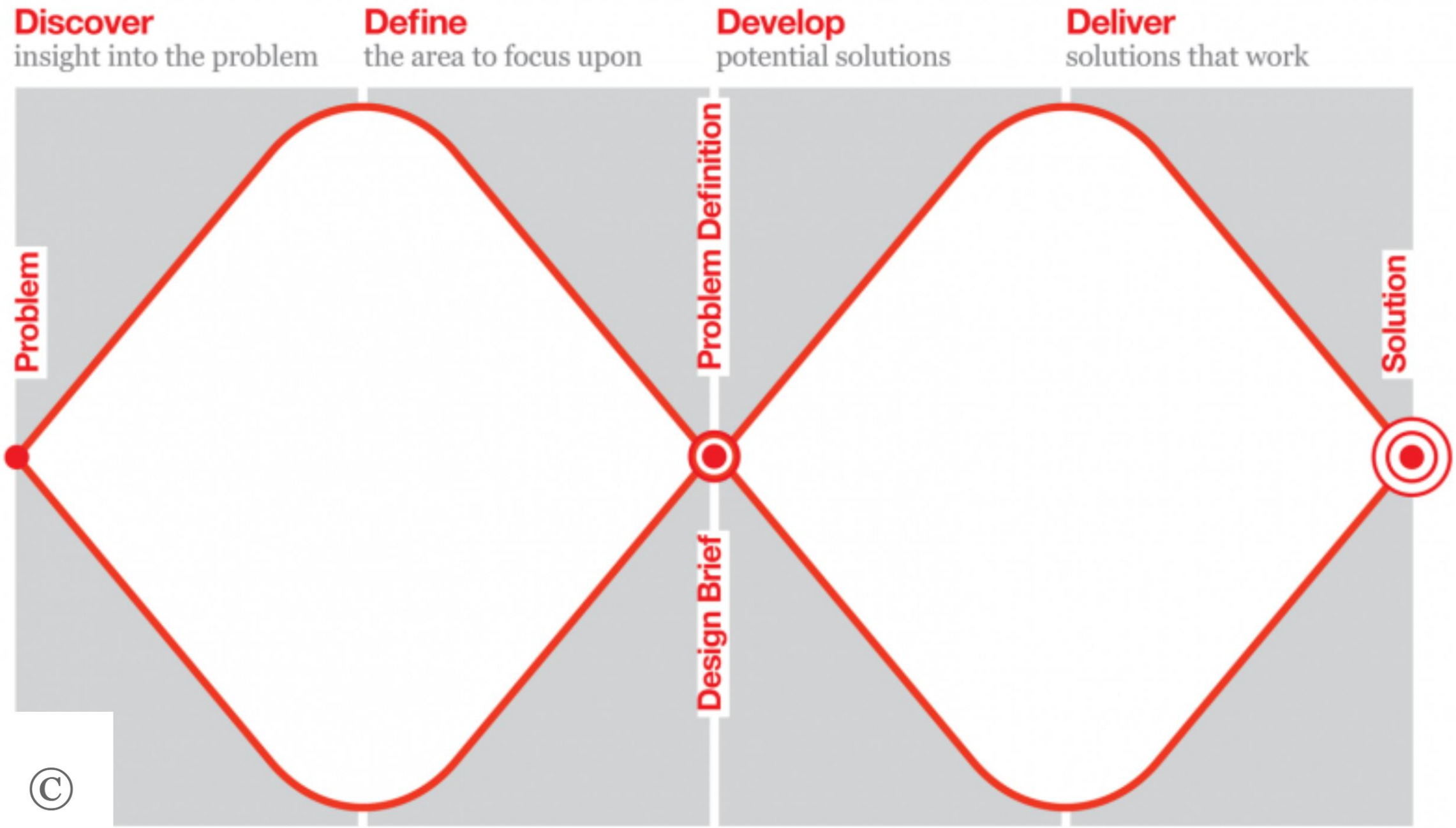
To teach the inexperienced design student that your first idea might not be your best and it's worth thinking about the solution from multiple angles before starting to work on one way to solve it.

Design Thinking

The Design Thinking mindset is all about understanding constraints, seeing opportunity and exploring possibilities. It's a quest toward finding opportunities and exploring solutions that create value for customers or the organization.



One of the core practices within design thinking is the use of divergence for creative thinking and then convergence to narrow down on the solution.


Discover
insight into the problem
Define
the area to focus upon
Develop
potential solutions
Deliver
solutions that work
Problem
Problem Definition
Design Brief
Solution
©

Why do we need design thinking in our lives?

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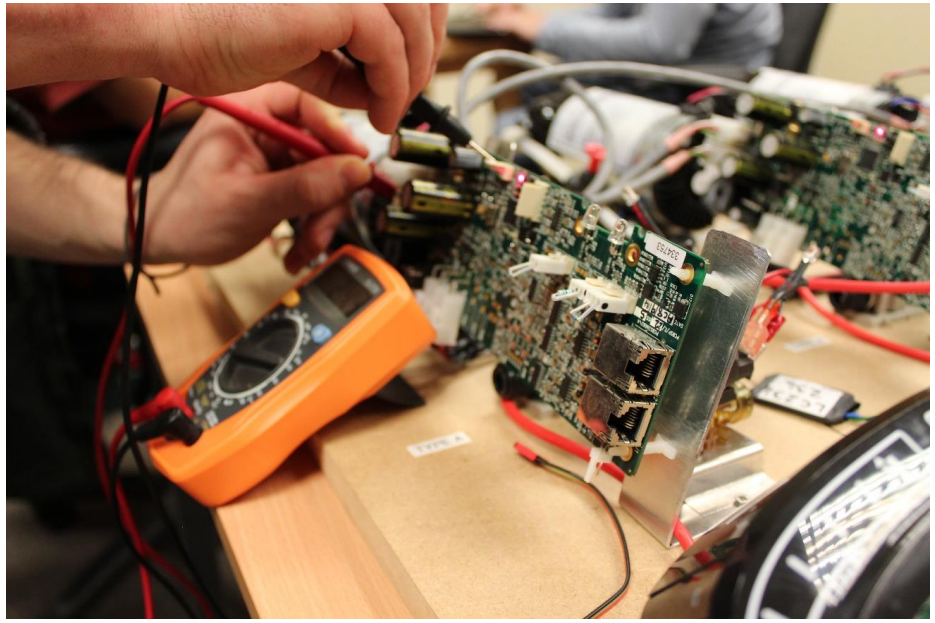
Quality software for intelligent products



Bluefruit's love of Lean Agile:

We work in small iterations (sprints) with clients to try to solve their problems in a way that allows for natural product and project evolution, while also empowering our engineers to respond effectively to emergent knowledge or unknown challenges.

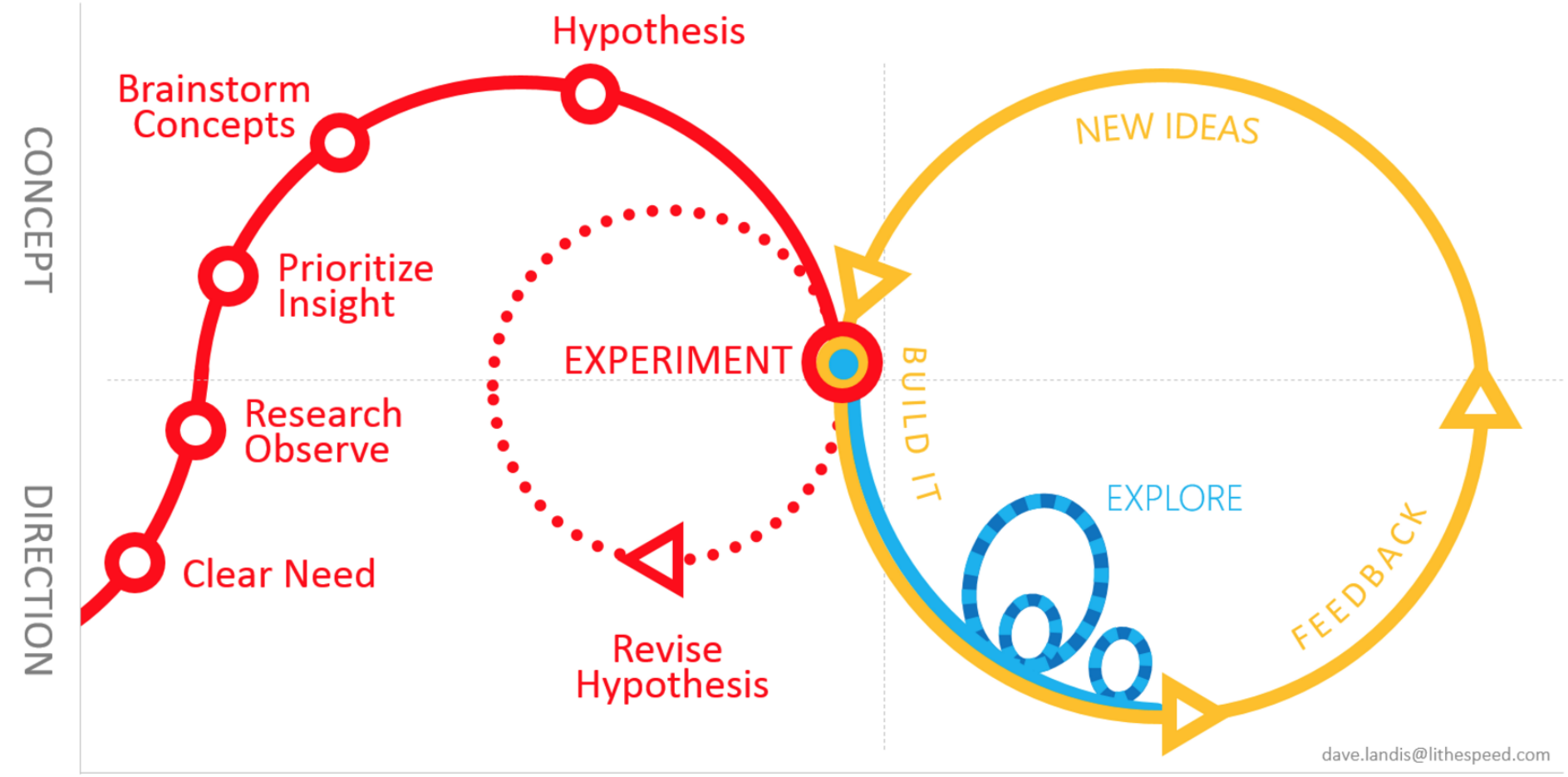
Lean agile processes are great for solving the problem, but they don't always address the source of it, which could limit the solutions we offer to clients.

Although agile practices can help understand the problem that needs to be solved, we rely on a single source of information for requirements gathering process defined by a single Product Owner (PO) who might represent the view of different project stakeholders but not necessarily the end-users needs, desires and aspirations. Under these conditions, the developer team implements a limited solution for the problem described at the Product Backlog

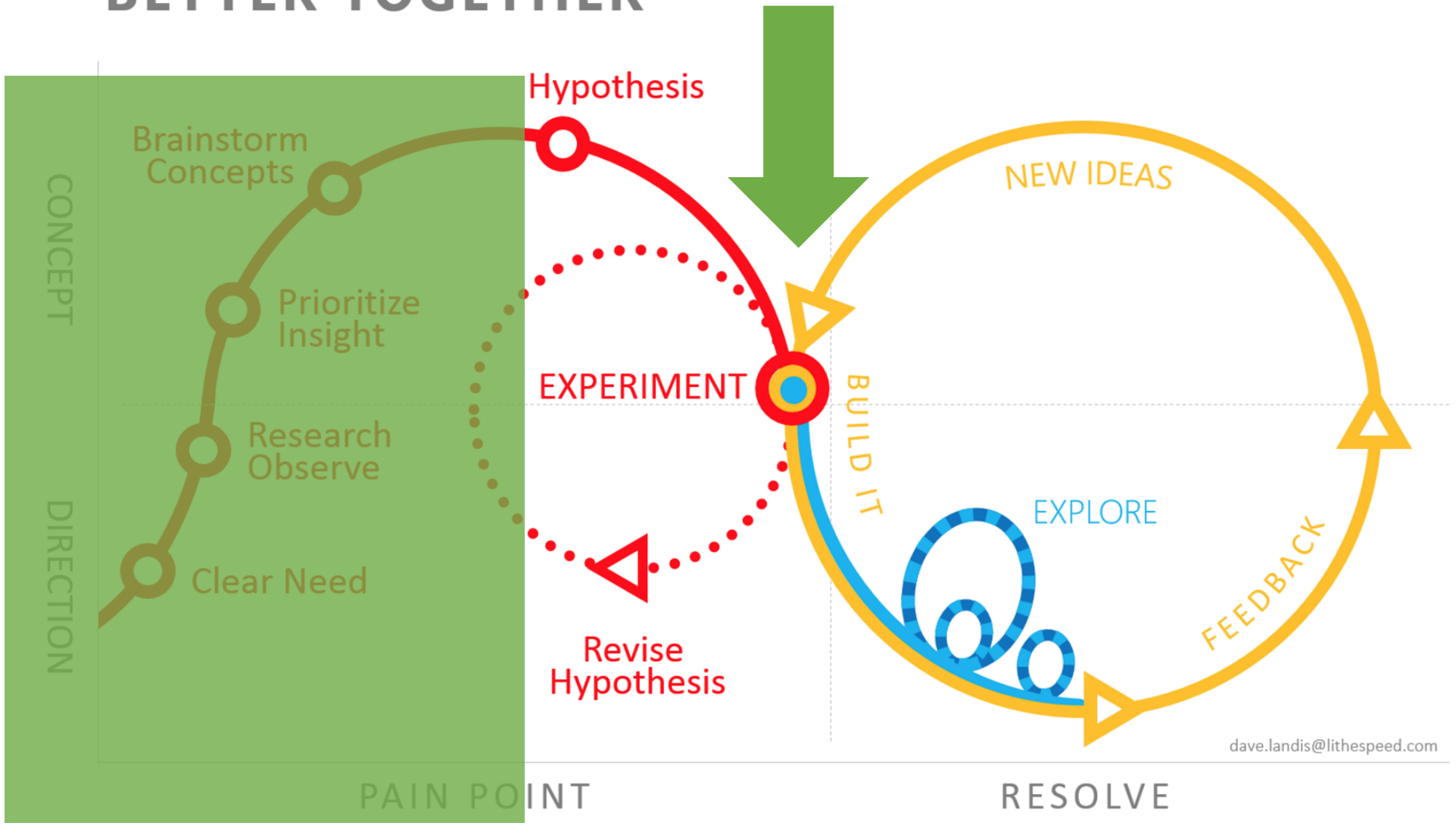
IBM Design Thinking Software Development Framework (PDF Free Download). Available from: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/308995849_IBM_Design_Thinking_Software_Development_Framework

Understanding Design Thinking, Lean, and Agile
by Jonny Schneider

BETTER TOGETHER



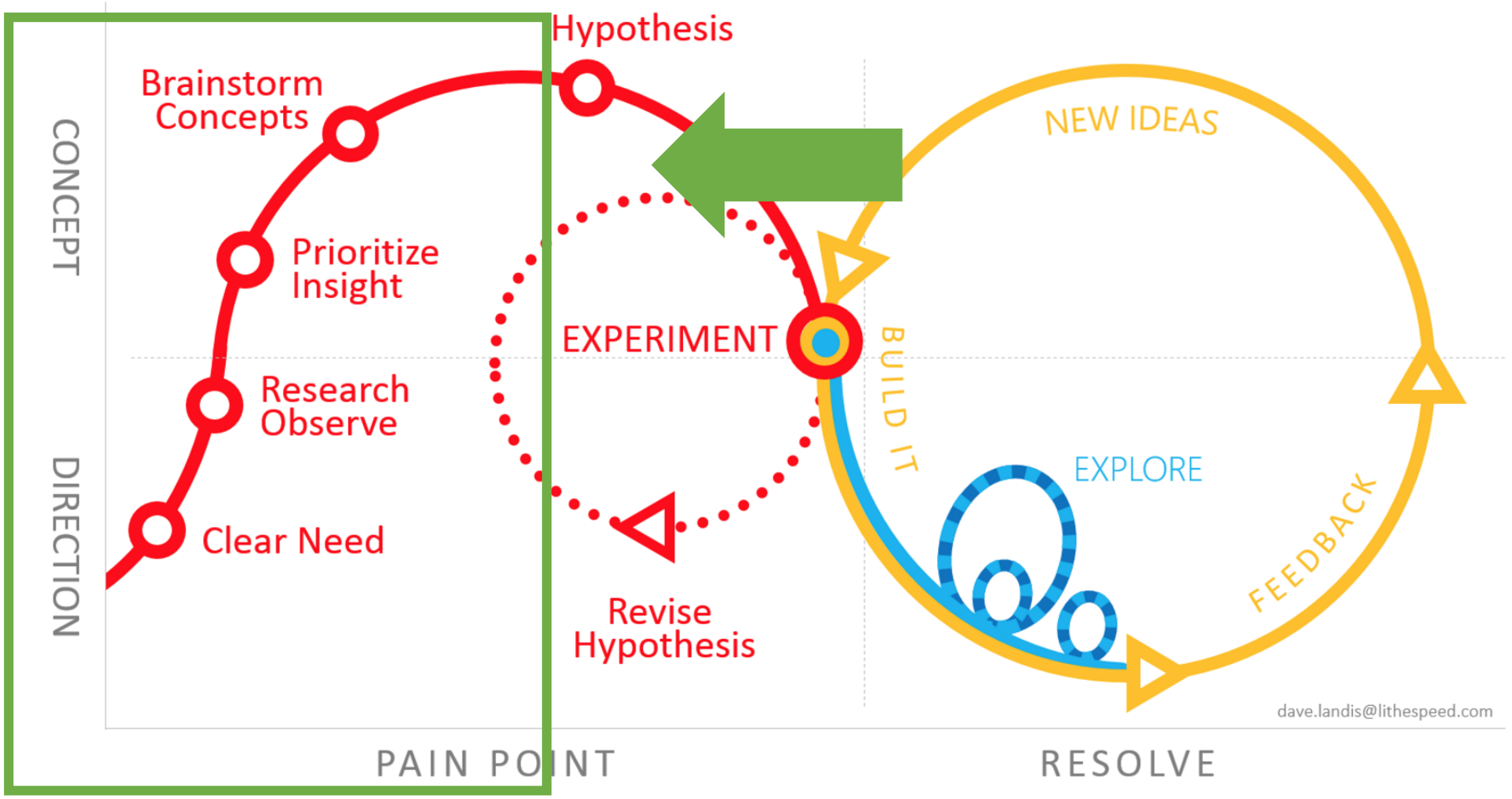
BETTER TOGETHER



1 Design Thinking tactic to try

Discovery: What problem are we trying to solve?

BETTER TOGETHER

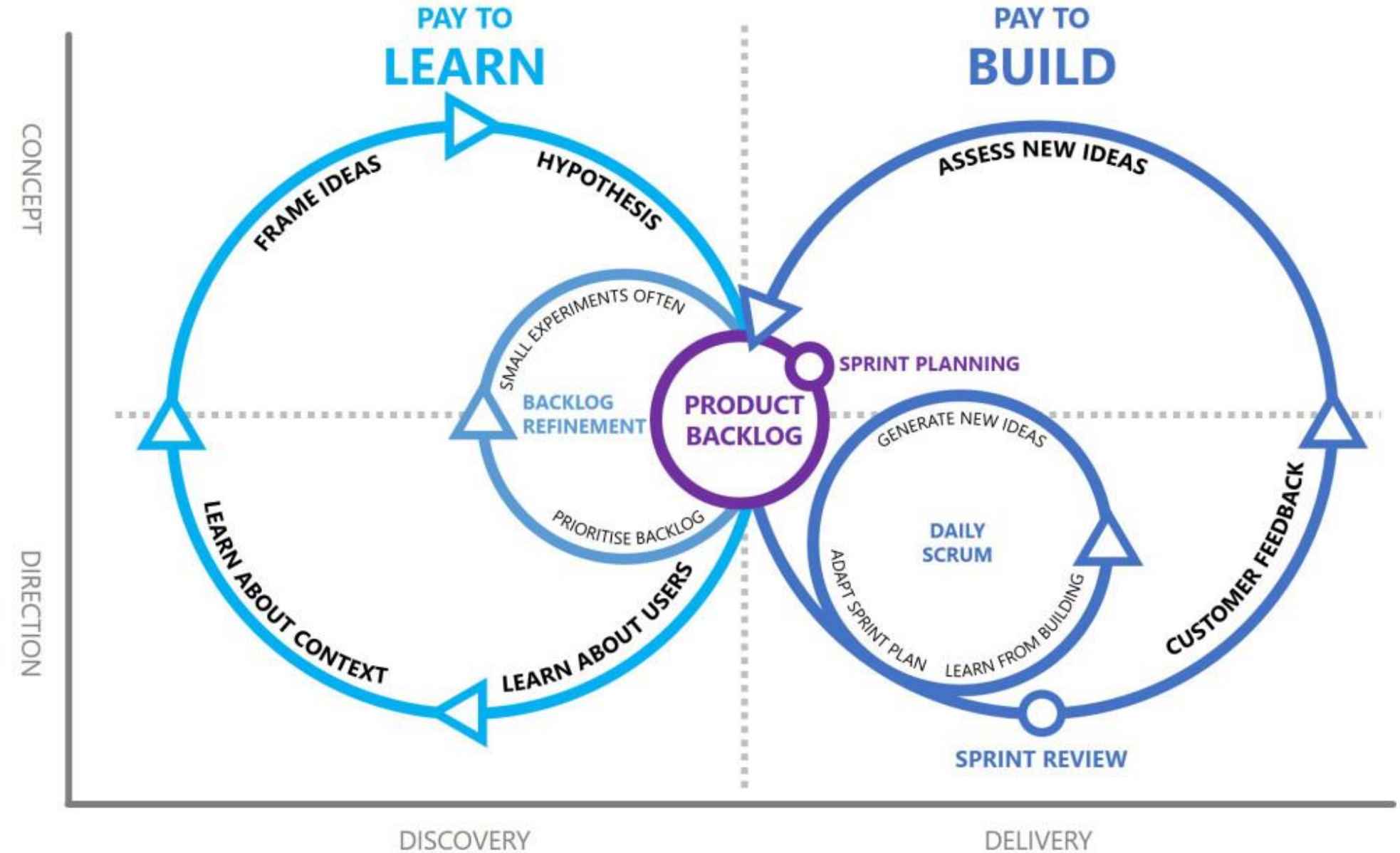


No, really, what is the actual problem?

1. Where did the problem come from?
2. Who cares about it?
3. Why does it matter?
4. What is the impact of solving this problem?

AGILE PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

ZEN EX MACHINA
together, we can make the complex simple



Adapted from Dave.Landis @ Lithespeed.com

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Takeaway Time

Before you start solving the problem, take a little bit of time to ensure you understand it.

- Ask Questions
- Explode the idea
- Converge back onto a solution

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