How Design Thinking Became a Buzzword at School
At a recent teaching conference in Richmond, Virginia, a session on “design thinking” in education drew a capacity crowd. Two middle-school teachers demonstrated how they had used the concept to plan and execute an urban-design project in which students were asked to develop a hypothetical city or town given factors such as population, geography, the environment, and financial resources. Read More

Minimum Viable Product (MVP) and Design - Balancing Risk to Gain Reward
The idea of the minimum viable product (MVP) has been around for some time. The term itself was coined by Frank Robinson but was made popular by two influential names in product design – Steve Blank, a serial-entrepreneur and academic, and Eric Ries, the pioneer of the Lean Startup movement. Read More
Bootstrapping a Working Agreement for the Agile Team

I suspect that running a session with a team to help them bootstrap a Working Agreement, is the single most common workshop I’ve been facilitating the last couple of years. And I’ve learned a lot of what works for me (and what doesn’t work). In my experience, this approach works equally well for the agile team, the department management group and the steering board team. This blog is me documenting how I ended up facilitating these sessions. Read More

SAFe® Explained in 3 Minutes

Ever wish you had a short video to help you explain SAFe? Wish granted. This 3-minute video provides a high-level overview of SAFe and leads the viewer to resources to help them on their SAFe journey of learning. Watch Video

How to Capture and Manage Technical Debt in Agile Development

If you’re concerned about the technical debt accumulated by your organization, then consider developing ways to capture and measure it. Read More
Capturing Technical Debt in the Agile Backlog

**Sprint Planning**
- Do new stories -
  - Fix existing technical debt?
  - Add new technical debt?

**Commitment**
- When stories address debt -> adjust priority
- When stories add debt -> adjust story points

**Demo**
- Discuss and capture
  - New technical debt?
  - Stabilized in backlog?
  - Discuss impact

---

**UPCOMING TRAININGS**

None