

# Agility and Architecture *or: What colours is your backlog?*

Philippe Kruchten

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**Co founder and past-chair**

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## Outline

1. The frog and the octopus
2. Architecture and agility
3. Release planning
4. Technical debt
5. Architecture, agility,... revisited

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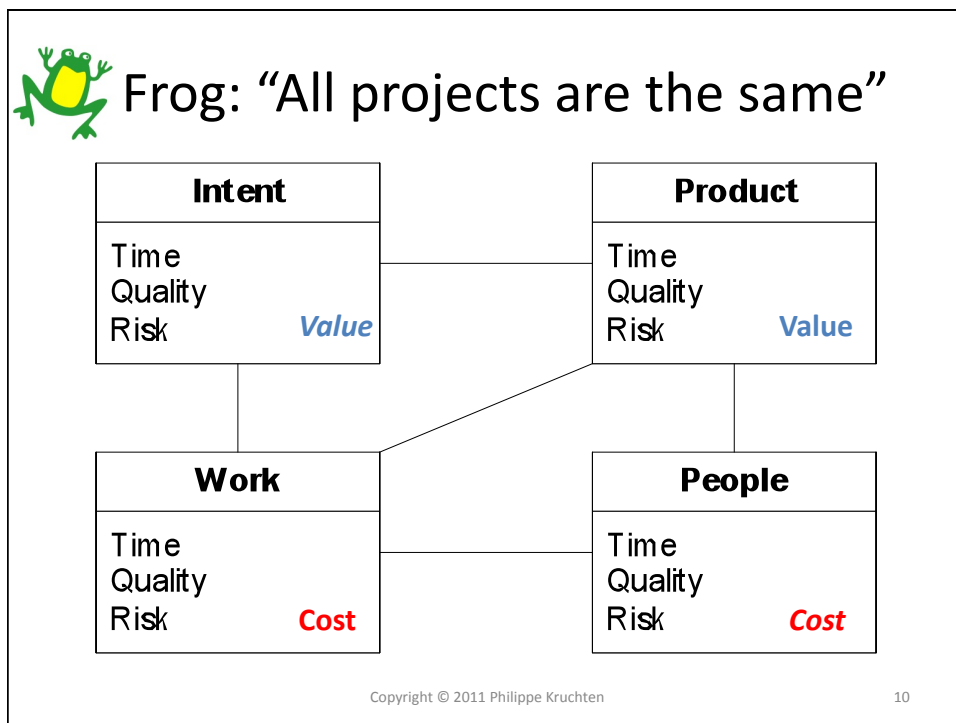
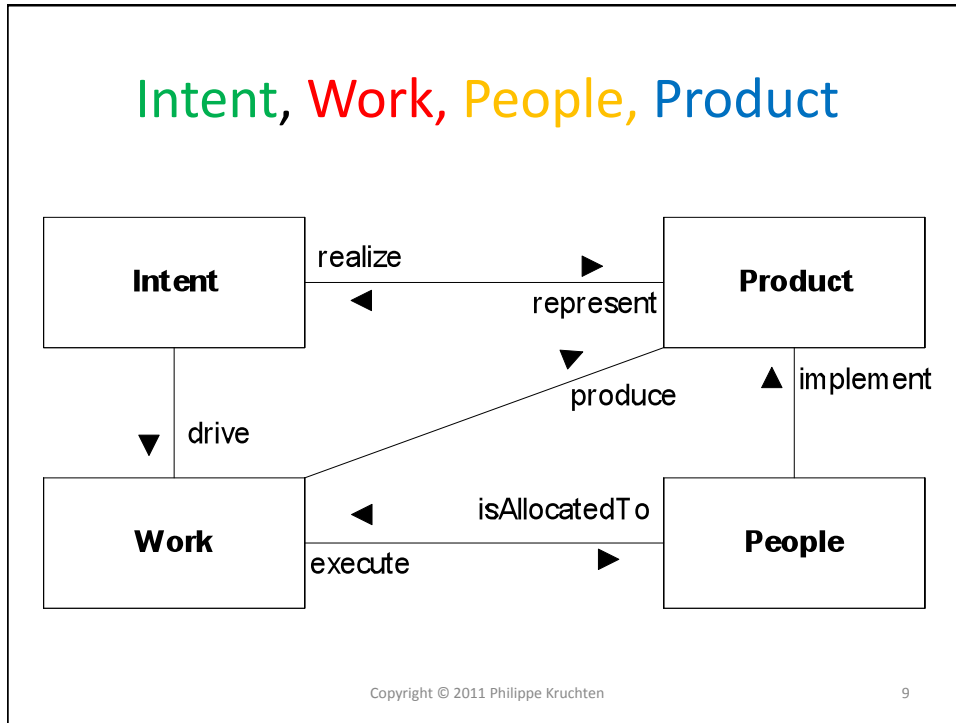
## A Conceptual Model of Software Development

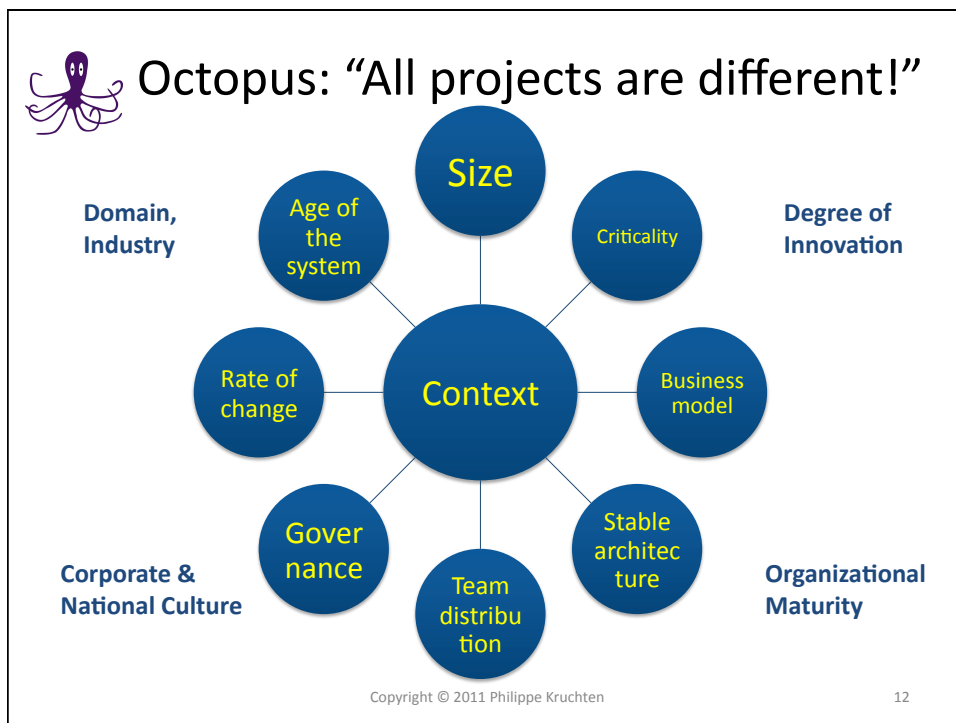
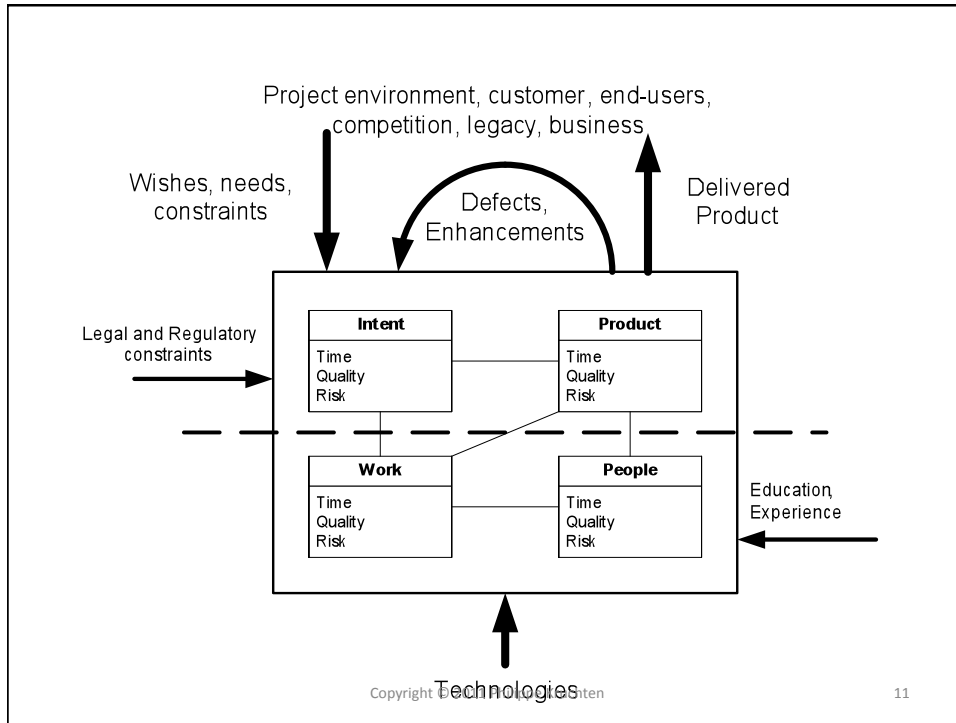
4 key concepts, 5 key attributes

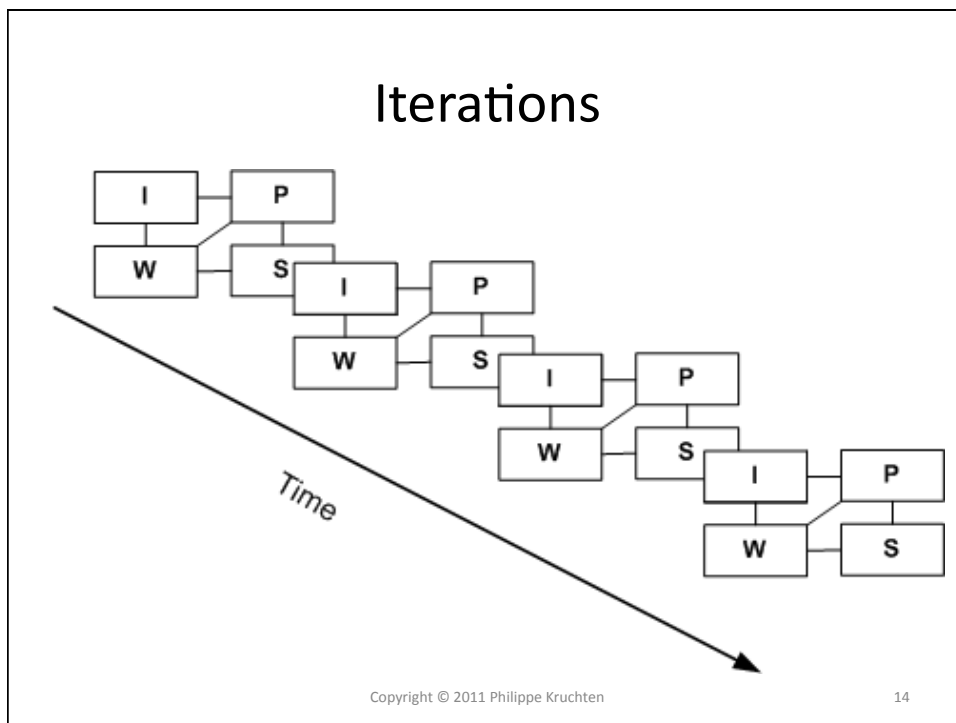
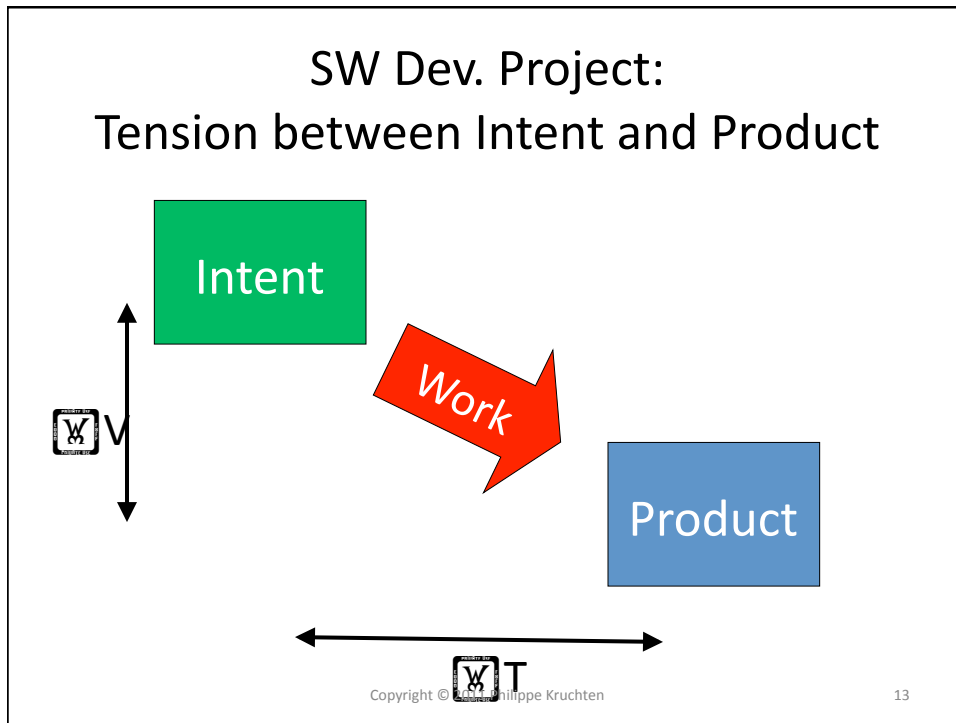
- Intent
- Product
- Work
- People
- Time
- Quality
- Risk
- Value
- Cost

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## Agile & Architecture? Oil & Water?

- Paradox
- Oxymoron
- Conflict
- Incompatibility



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## What is Agility?

- Jim Highsmith (2002):
  - Agility is the ability to both create and respond to change in order to profit in a turbulent business environment.
- Sanjiv Augustine (2004):
  - Iterative and incremental
  - Small release
  - Collocation
  - Release plan/ feature backlog
  - Iteration plan/task backlog



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## Getting at the Essence of Agility

- Software development is a knowledge activity
  - Not production, manufacturing, administration...
- The “machines” are humans
- Dealing with uncertainty, unknowns, fear, distrust
- Feedback loops →
  - reflect on business, requirements, risks, process, people, technology
- Communication and collaboration
  - Building trust → rely on tacit information → reduce waste

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## Software Architecture: A Definition

“It’s the hard stuff.”  
“It’s the stuff that will be hard to change”

*M.Fowler, cited by J. Highsmith*

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ISO/IEC 42010



**Architecture:** the fundamental concepts or properties of a system in its environment embodied in its elements, their relationships, and in the principles of its design and evolution

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## Software Architecture



Software architecture encompasses the set of **significant decisions** about

- the **organization** of a software system,
- the selection of the **structural** elements and their **interfaces** by which the system is composed together with their **behavior** as specified in the collaboration among those elements,
- the **composition** of these elements into progressively larger **subsystems**,

*Grady Booch, Philippe Kruchten, Rich Reitman, Kurt Bittner; Rational, circa 1995  
(derived from Mary Shaw)*

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## Software Architecture (cont.)



...

- the architectural **style** that guides this organization, these elements and their interfaces, their collaborations, and their composition.
- Software architecture is not only concerned with structure and behavior, but also with usage, functionality, performance, resilience, reuse, comprehensibility, economic and technological constraints and tradeoffs, and aesthetics.

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## Perceived Tensions Agility- Architecture

- Architecture = Big Up-Front Design
- Architecture = massive documentation
- Architects dictate from their ivory tower
  
- Low perceived or visible value of architecture
- Loss of rigour, focus on details
- Disenfranchisement
- Quality attribute not reducible to stories

Hazrati, 2008  
Rendell, 2009  
Blair et al. 2010, etc.

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## Perceived Tensions Agility- Architecture

**Adaptation** versus **Anticipation**



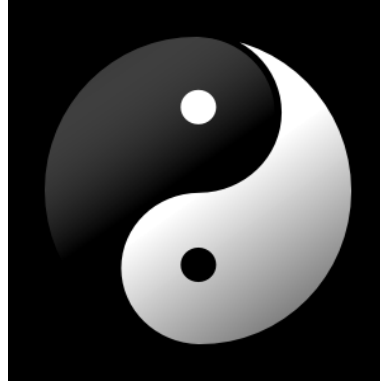
Highsmith 2000

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## Issues

1. Semantics
2. Scope
3. Lifecycle
4. Role
5. Description
6. Methods
7. Value & cost



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## Semantics

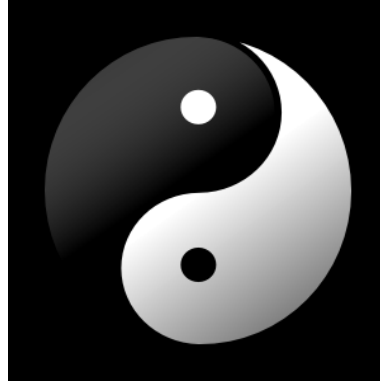
- What do we mean by “architecture”?
- What do we mean by “software architecture”?

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## Scope

- How much architecture “stuff” do you really need?
- It depends...
- It depends on your context

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## Context attributes

1. Size
2. Criticality
3. Age of system
4. Rate of change
5. Business model
6. Domain
7. Team distribution
8. Governance

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## All software-intensive systems have an architecture

- How much effort should you put into it varies greatly
- 75% of the time, the architecture is implicit
  - Choice of technology, platform
  - Still need to understand the architecture
- Novel systems:
  - Much more effort in creating and validating an architecture
- Key drivers are mostly non-functional:
  - Runtime: Capacity, performance, availability, security
  - Non runtime: evolvability, regulatory, i18n/L10n...

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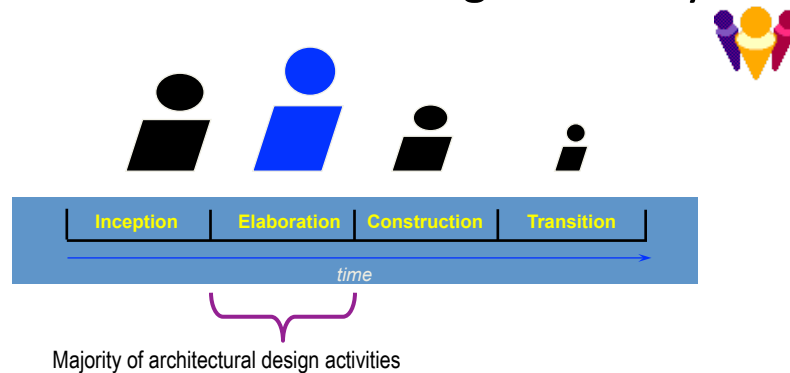
## Lifecycle

- When does architectural activities take place?
- The evil of “BUFD” = Big Up-Front Design
- “Defer decisions to the last responsible moment”
- YAGNI = You Ain’t Gonna Need It
- Refactor!

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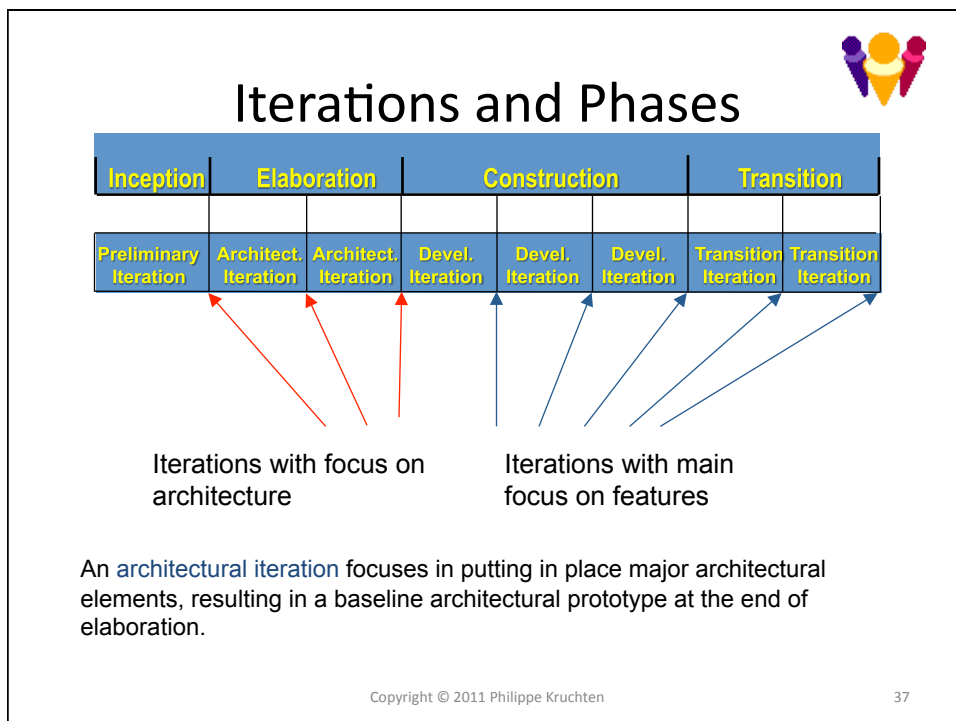
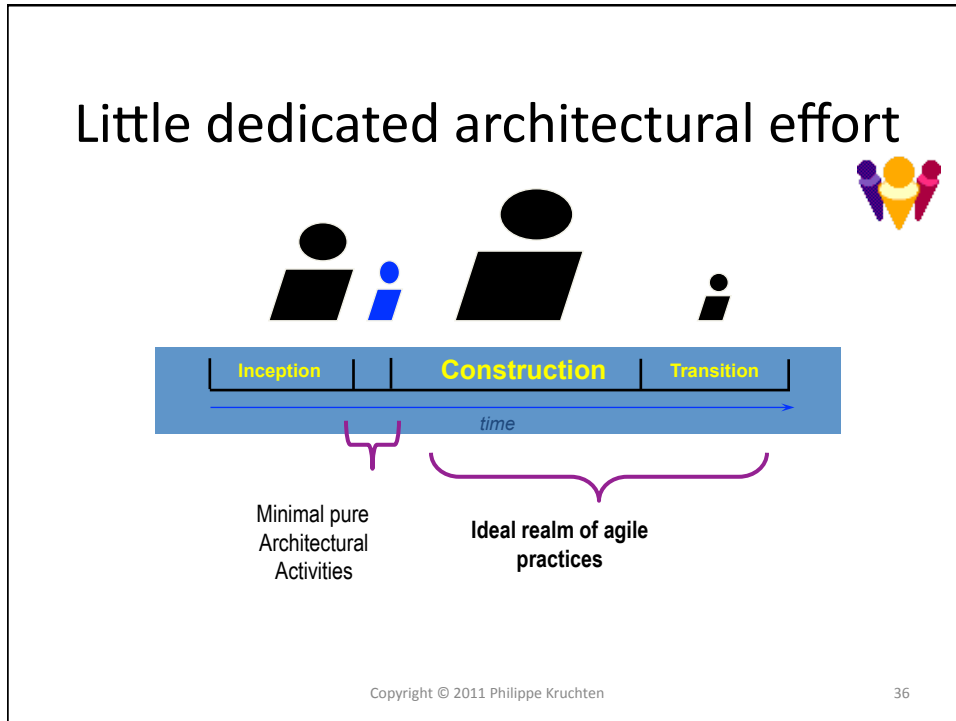
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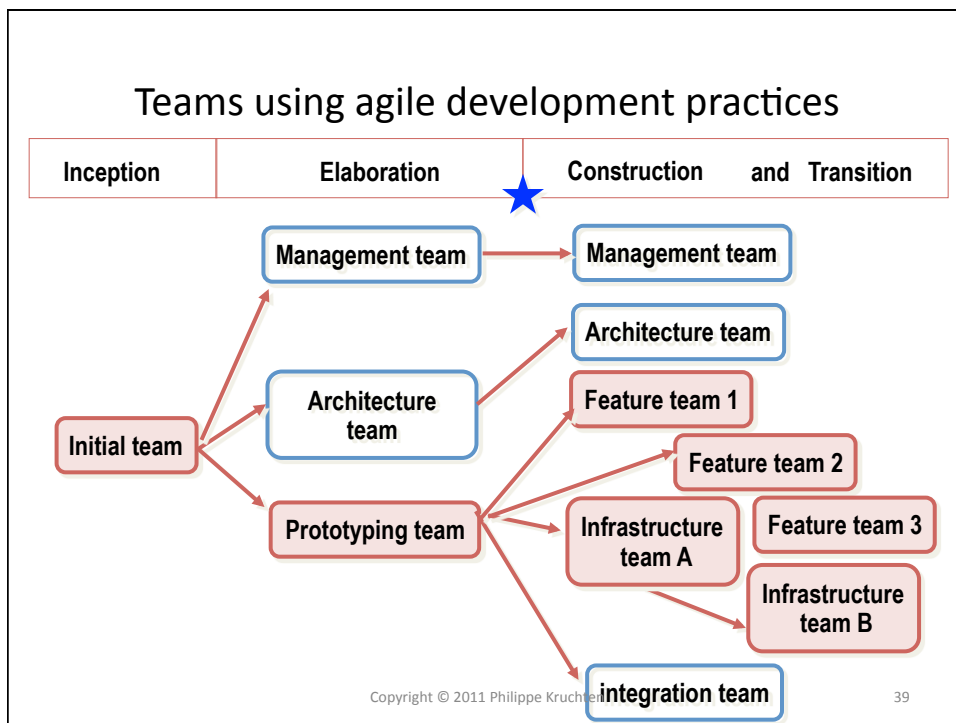
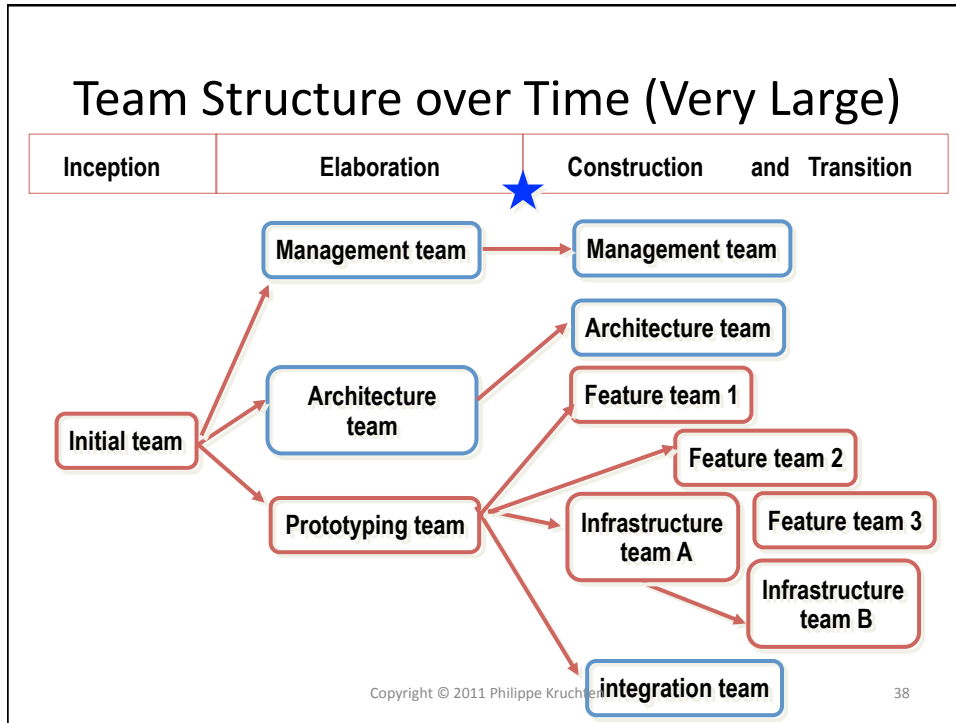
## Architectural Effort During the Lifecycle



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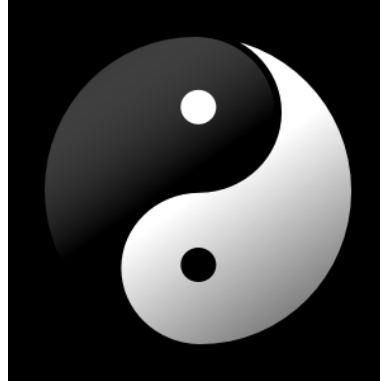






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## New Role – Agile Architect ?

- A. Johnston defines the agile architect, but it does not seem to be any different from a software architect before agile methods came in.
- Combination of
  - Visionary - Shaper
  - Designer – making choices
  - Communicator – between multiple parties
  - Troubleshooter
  - Herald – window of the project
  - Janitor – cleaning up behind the PM and the developers

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## Functions of the software architect

### Definition of the architecture

- Architecture definition
- Technology selection
- Architectural evaluation
- Management of non functional requirements
- Architecture collaboration

### Delivery of the architecture

- *Ownership of the big picture*
- *Leadership*
- *Coaching and mentoring*
- Design, development and Testing
- Quality assurance

Brown 2010

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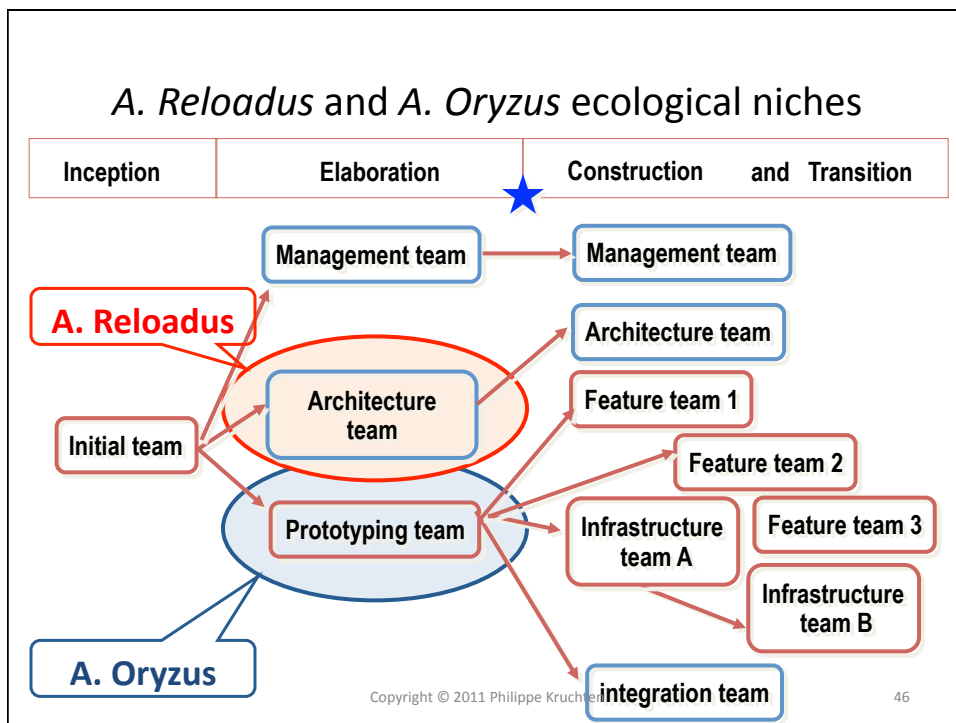
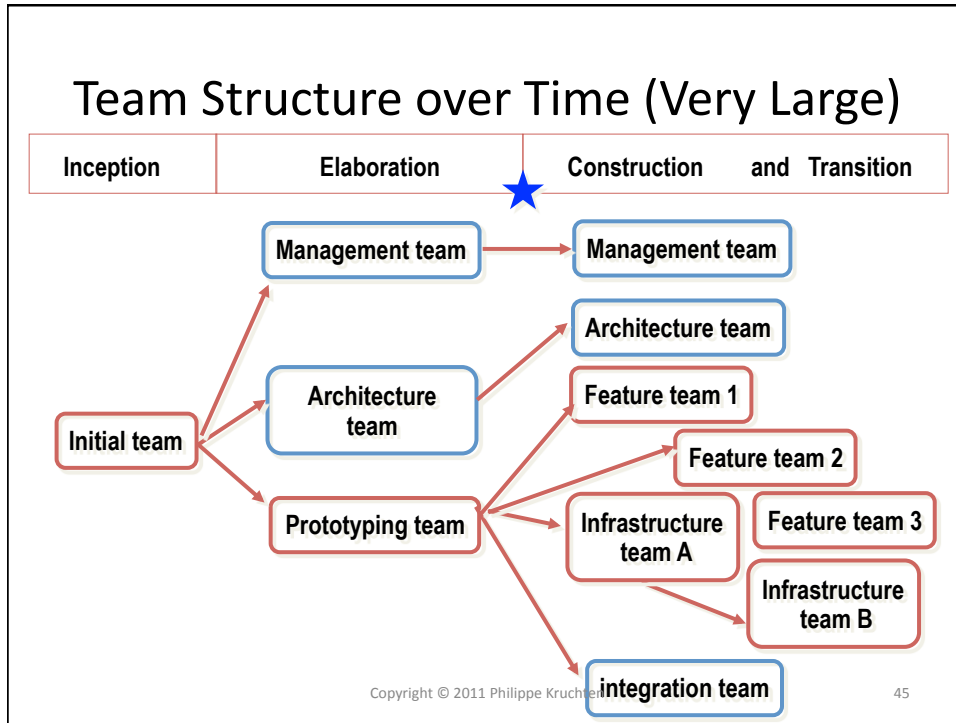
## Two styles of software/system architects

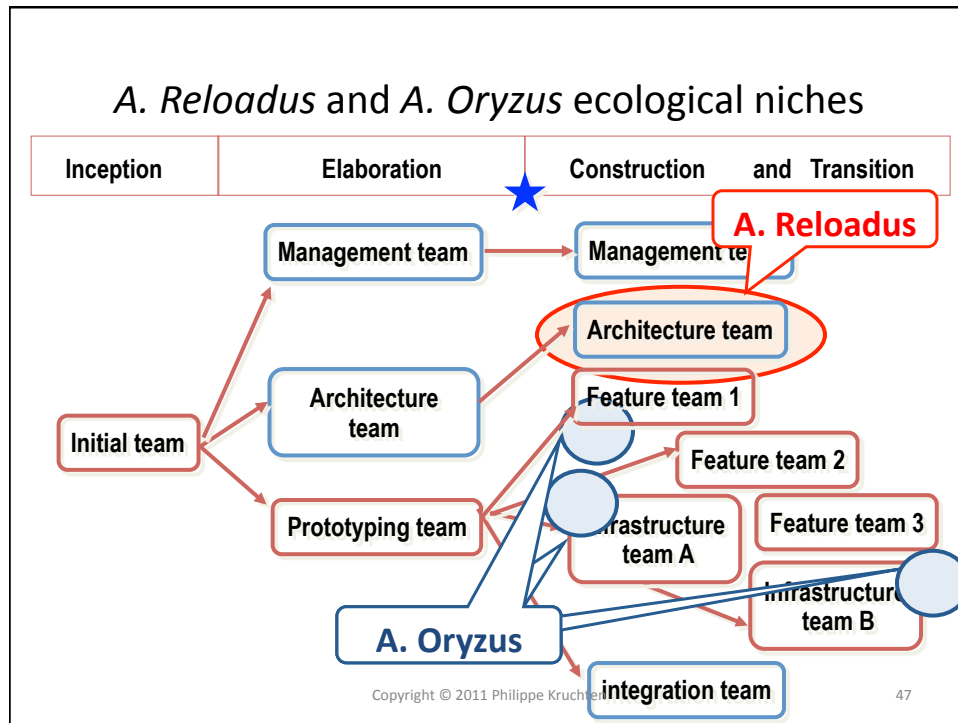
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Maker and Keeper of Big decisions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Bring in technological changes</li> <li>– External collaboration</li> <li>– More requirements-facing</li> <li>– Gatekeeper</li> <li>– <b>Fowler: <i>Architectus reloadus</i></b></li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mentor, Troubleshooter, and Prototyper</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Implements and try architecture</li> <li>– Intense internal collaboration</li> <li>– More code-facing</li> <li>– <b>Fowler: <i>Architectus oryzus</i></b></li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
|--|--|

Only big new projects need both or separate people

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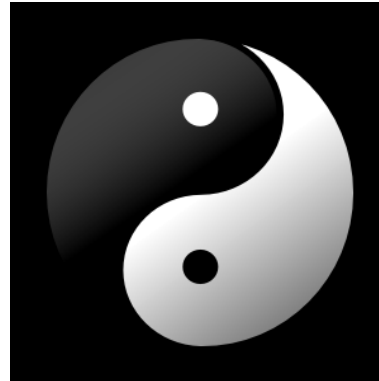
Role

Architecture owner

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## Issues

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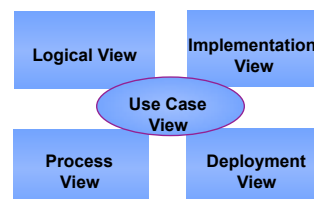
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## Architectural description

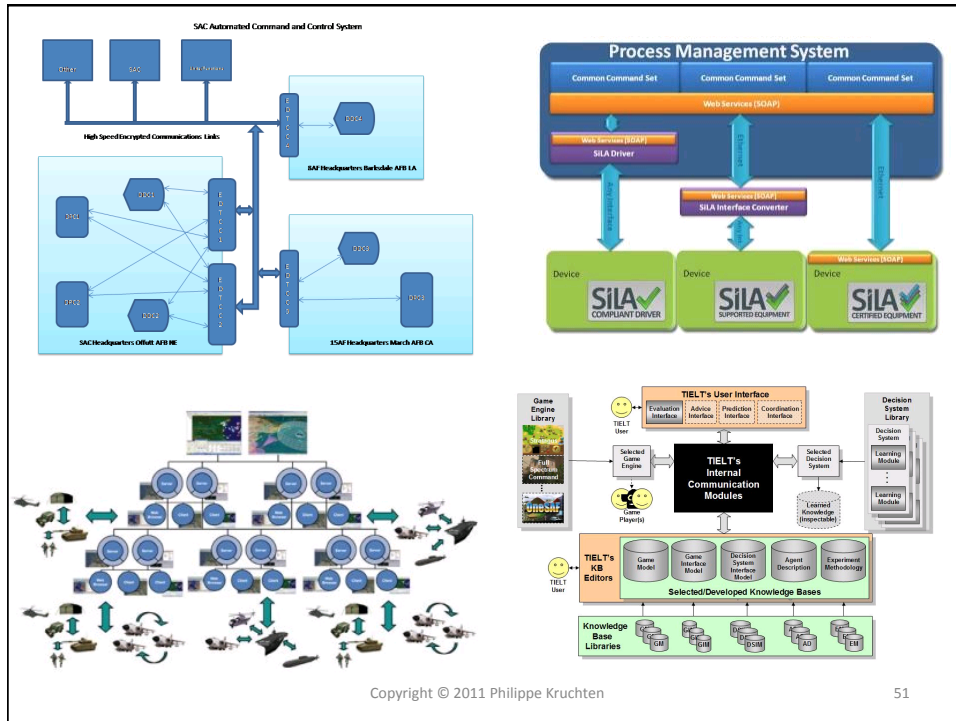
- Metaphor (XP)
- Prototype
- Software architecture document

- Use of UML?
- UML-based tools?
- Code?



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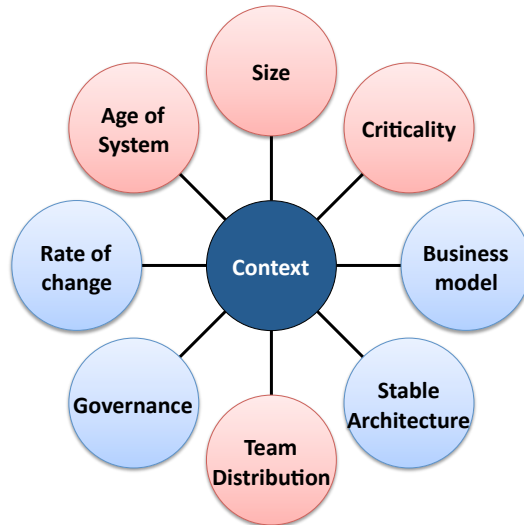
## UML 2.0

- A notation
- Better “box and arrows”
- Crisper semantics
- Almost an ADL ?
- Model-driven design,
- Model-driven architecture.



## Again, it depends on the context

1. Size
2. Criticality
3. Age of system
4. Rate of change
5. Business model
6. Stable architecture
7. Team distribution
8. Governance



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**Adaptation** versus **Anticipation**



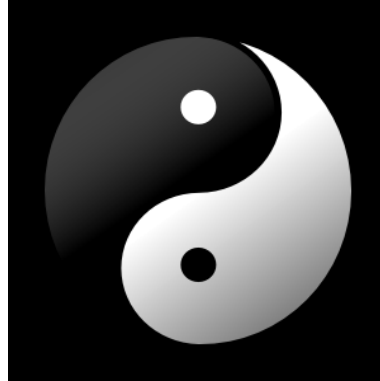
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## Architectural design methods

- Many agile developers do not know (much) about architectural design
- Agile methods have no explicit guidance for architecture
  - Metaphor in XP
  - Technical activities in scrum
- Relate this to Semantics and Scope issue
- May have to get above the code level

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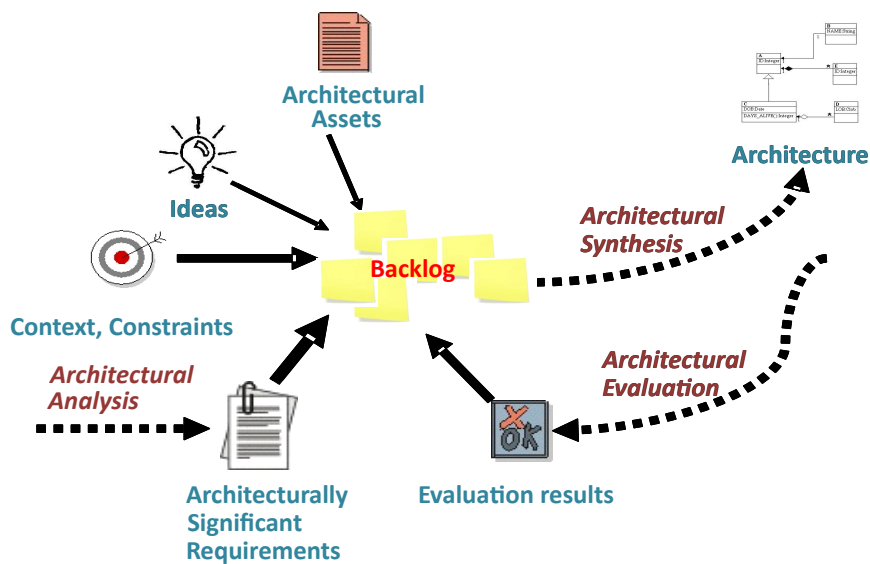
## Architectural Methods

- ADD, ATAM, QAW (SEI)
- RUP (IBM)
- SAV,... (Siemens)
- BAPO/CAFR (Philips)
- Etc. ....
- Software Architecture Review and Assessment (SARA) handbook

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## Architectural Design



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Source: Hofmeister, Kruchten, et al., 2005, 2007 58

### Iterative Architecture Refinement

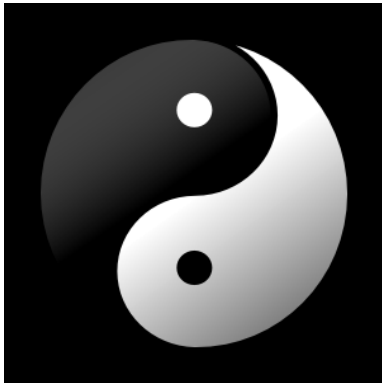
- There are no fixed prescriptions for systematically deriving architecture from requirements; there are only guidelines.
- Architecture designs can be reviewed.
- Architectural prototypes can be thoroughly tested.
- Iterative refinement is the only feasible approach to developing architectures for complex systems.

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### Issues

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## Value and Cost

- Value: to the business (the users, the customers, the public, etc.)
- Cost: to design, develop, manufacture, deploy, maintain
- Simple system, stable architecture, many small features:
  - Statistically value aligns to cost
- Large, complex, novel systems ?

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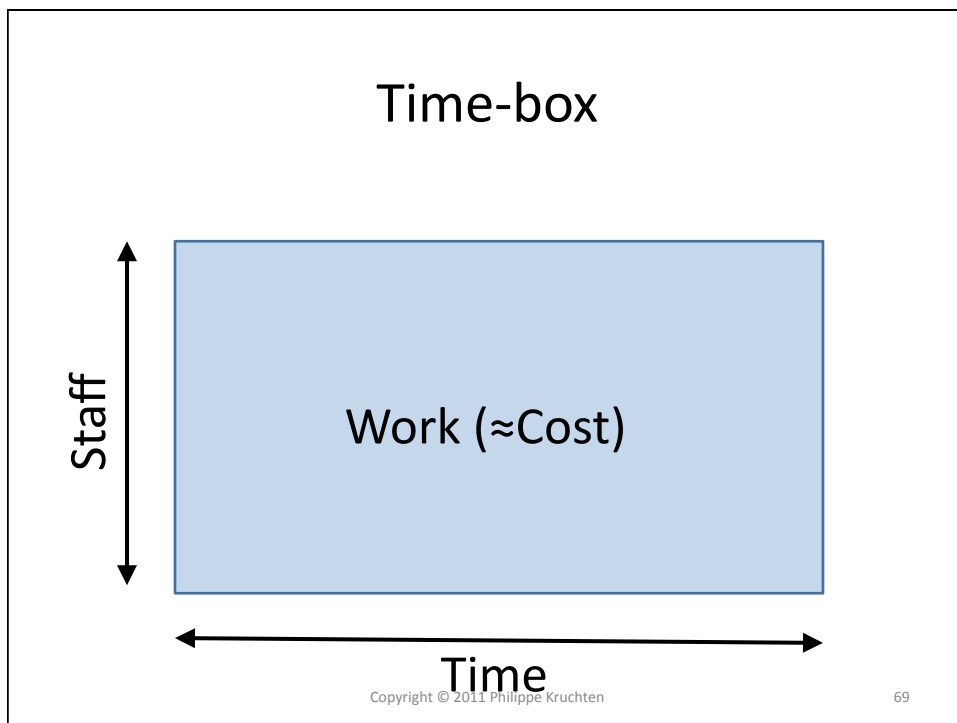
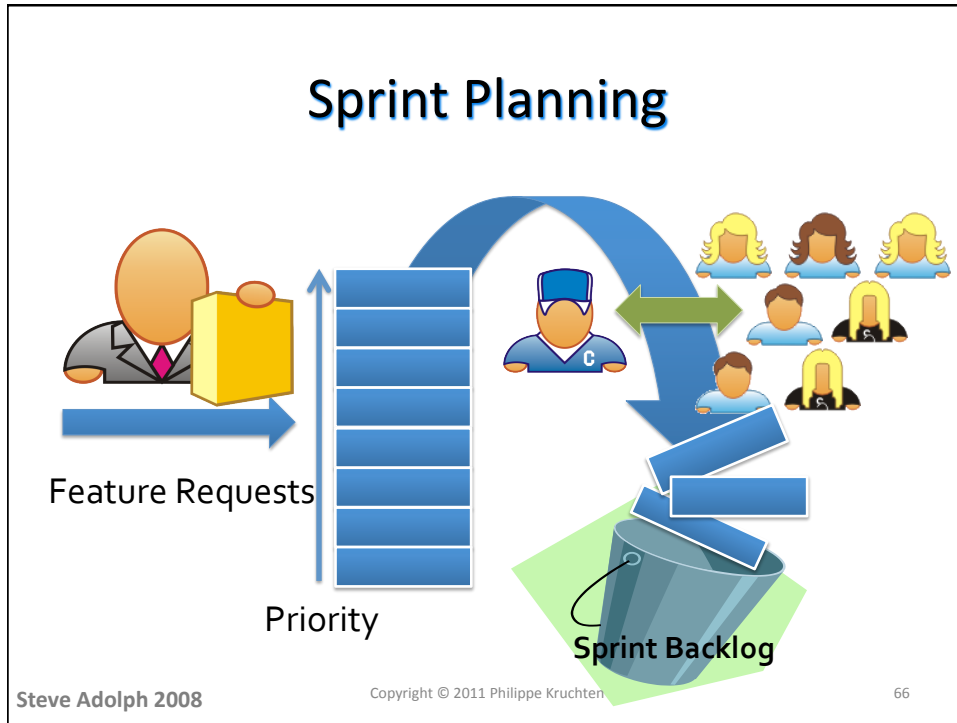


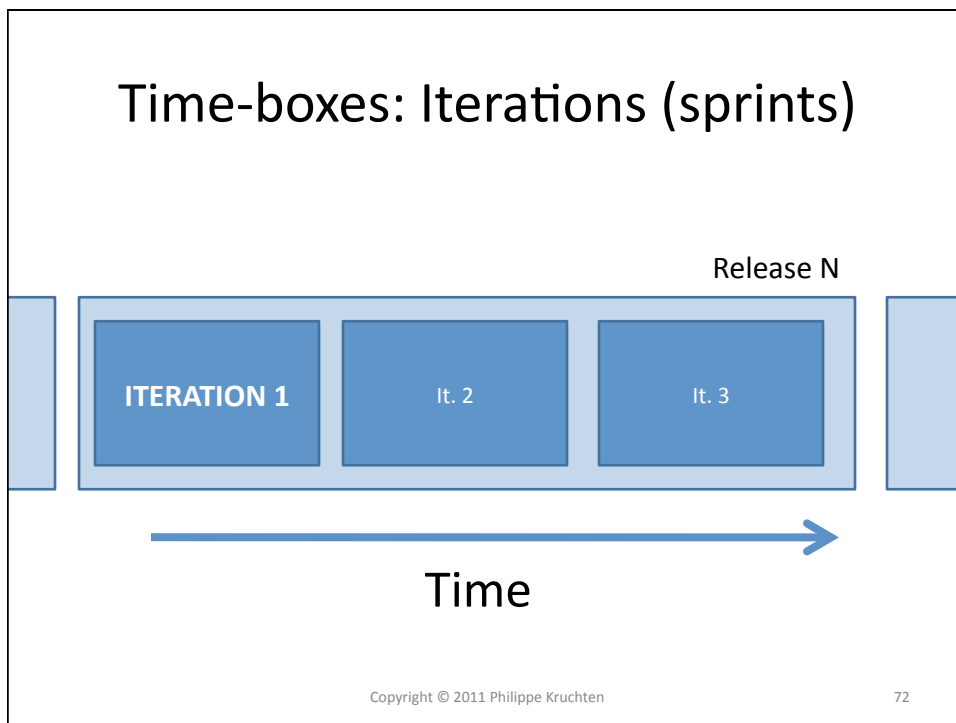
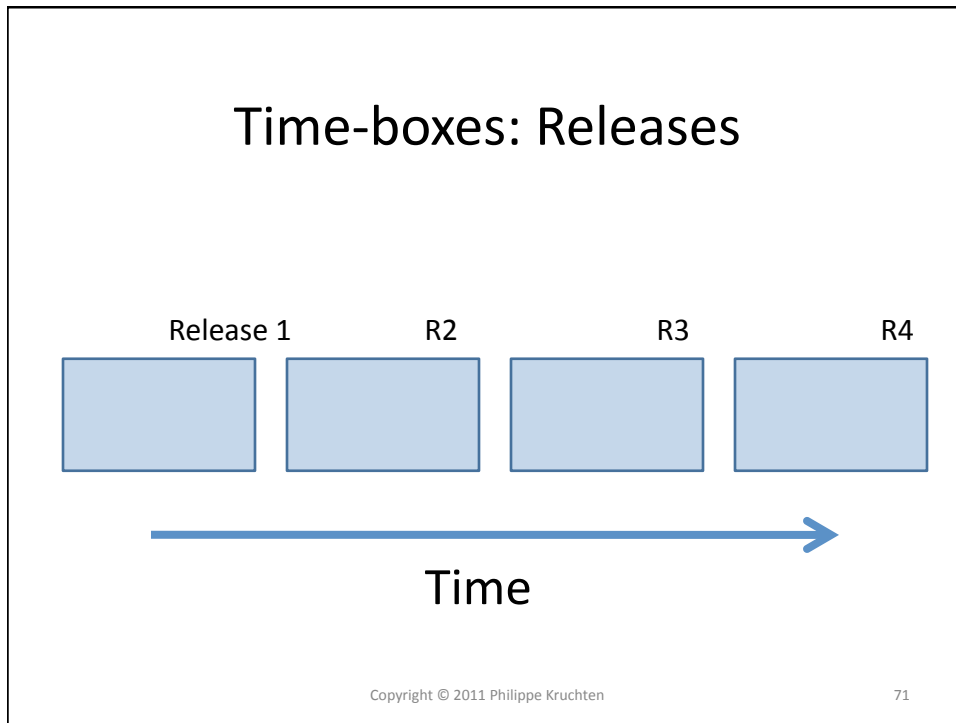
## Outline

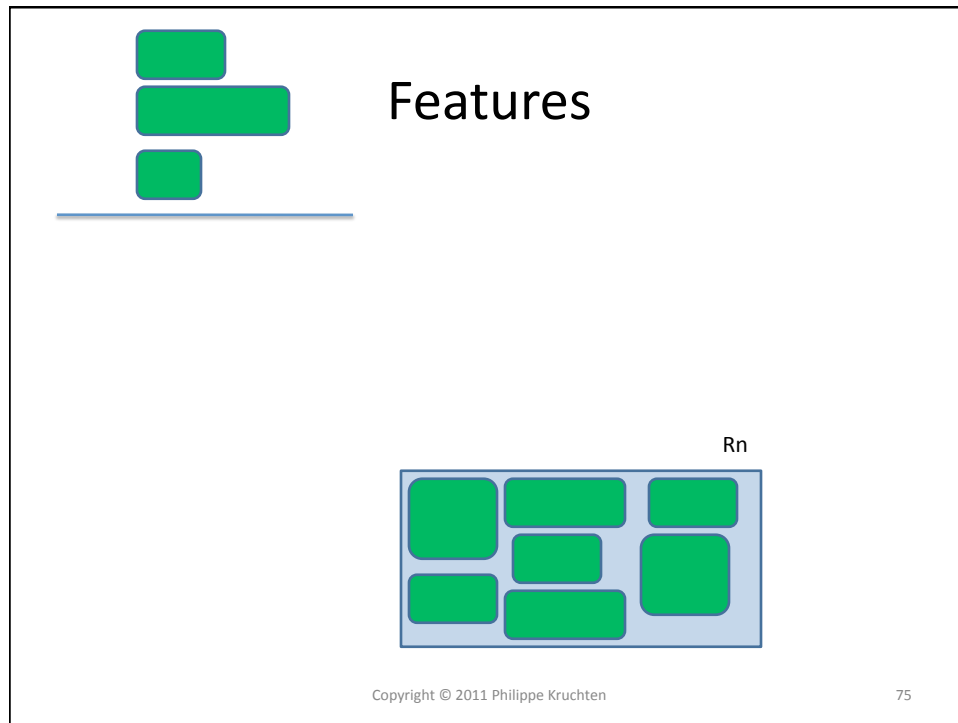
1. The frog and the octopus
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## Work and Cost

- How much *work* is associated to a feature?
- Work is strongly related to cost in software development (a human-intensive activity)
- Overall budget is roughly the size of the time-box(es)
- Time-box = budget
- Features must fit in budget
- Q: How do we select what goes in the box?

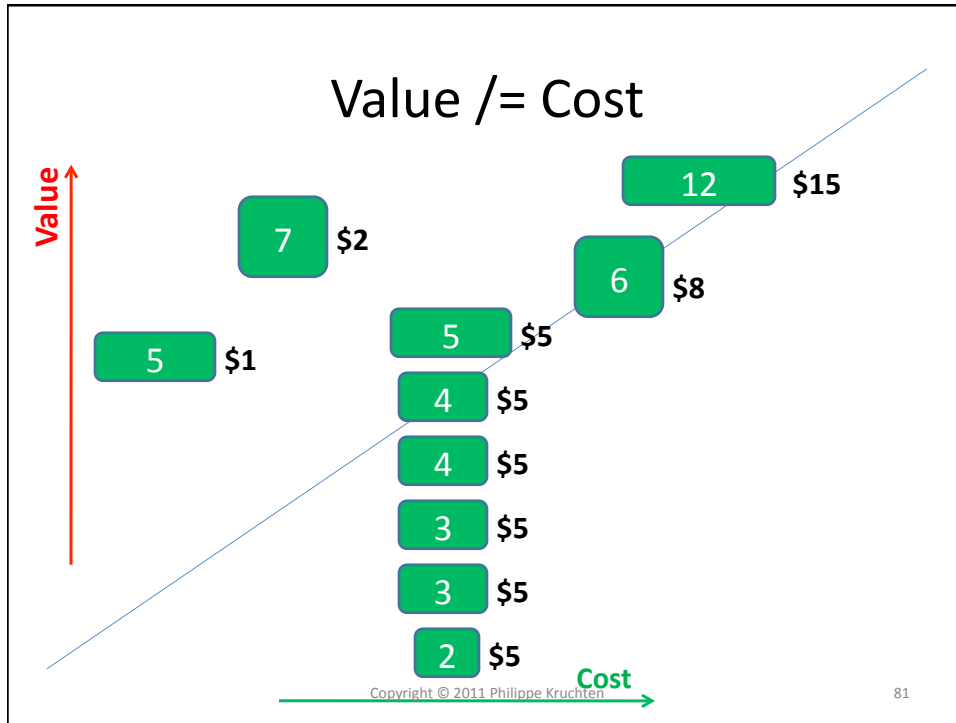
### Maximizing value

Highest value first  
Ignore time

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### Value = Cost?

Only for simplest cases  
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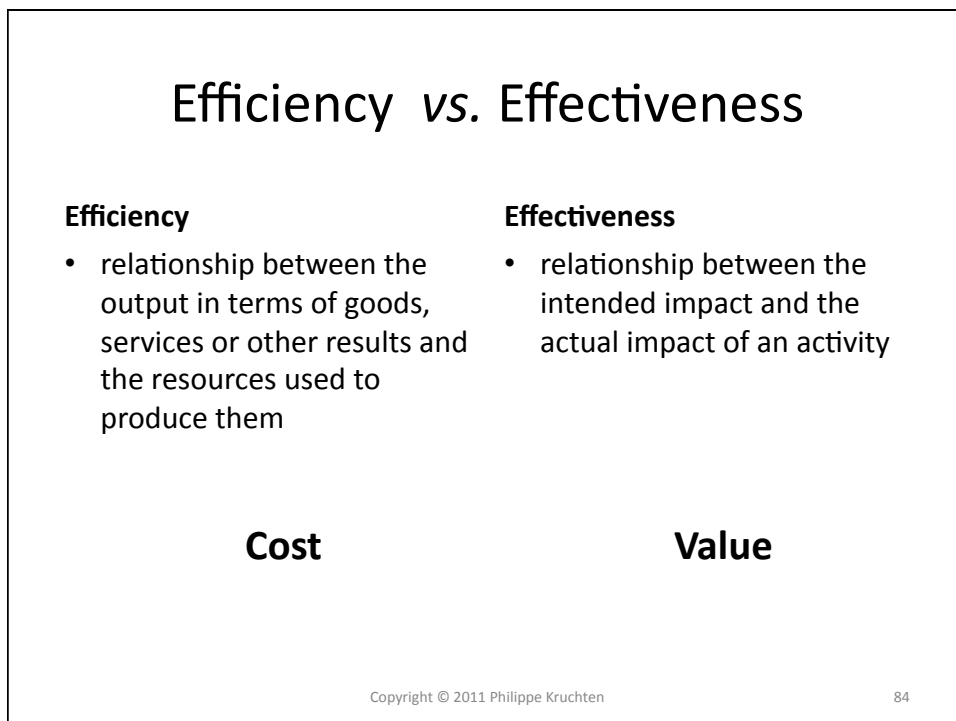
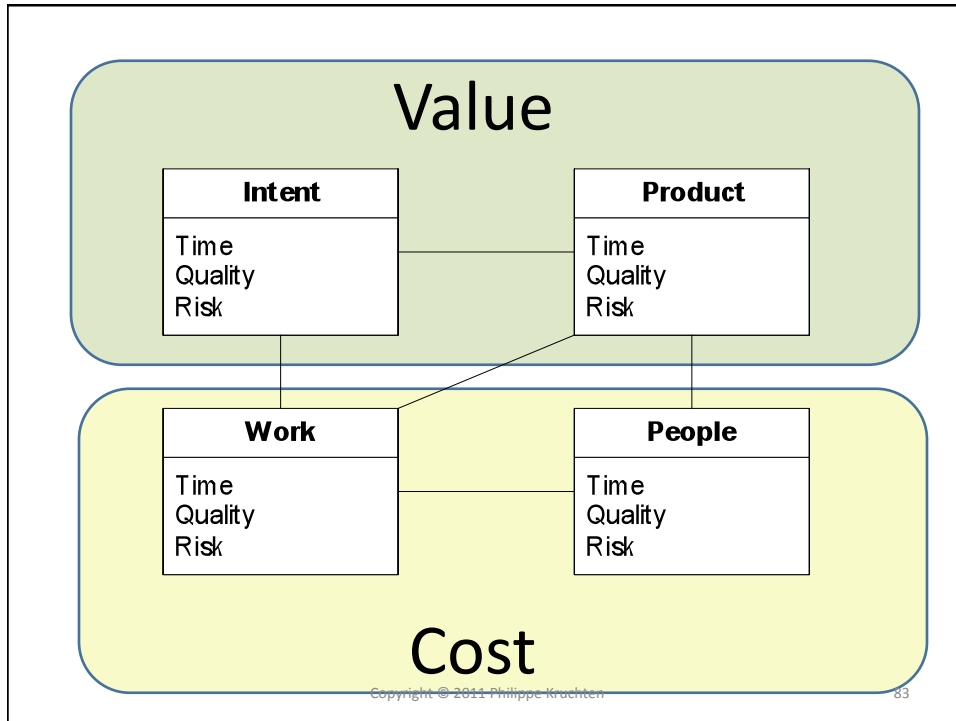
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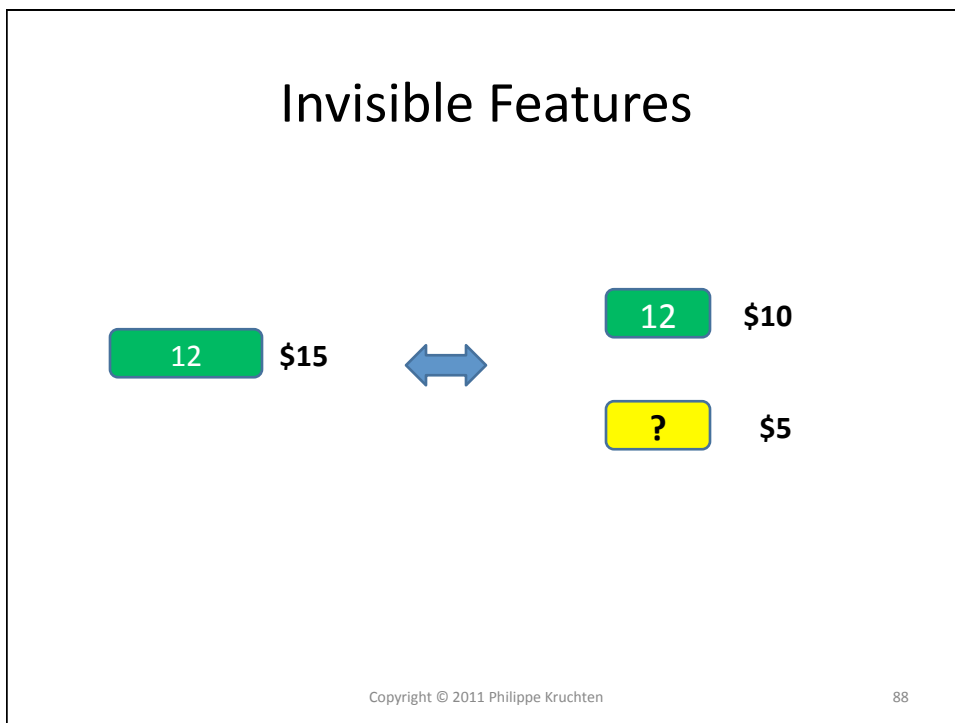
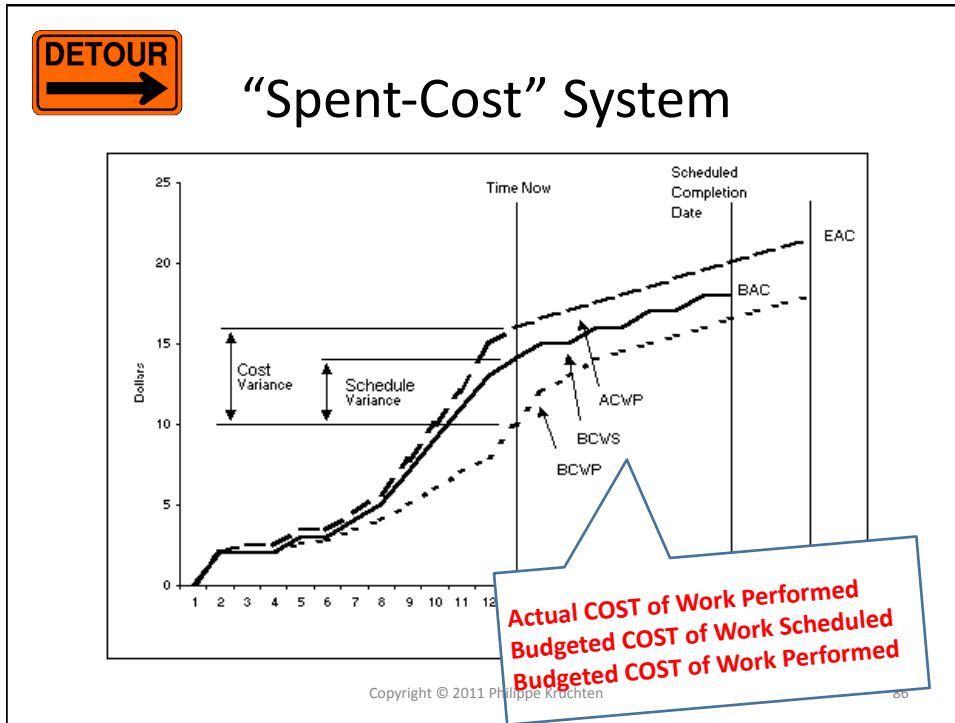
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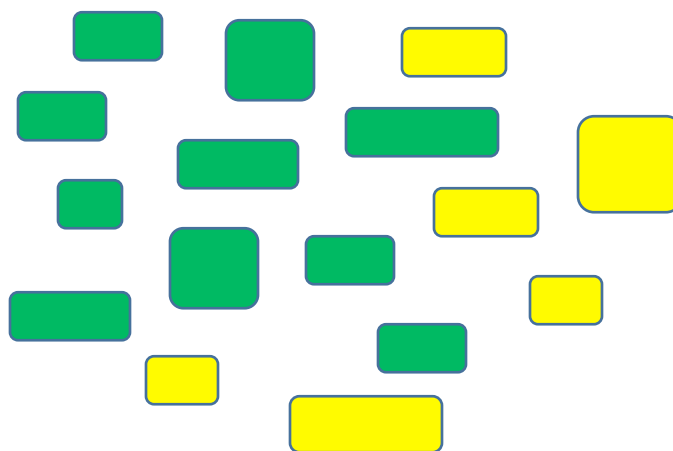
## Invisible Features

- **Architecture**
- Infrastructure
- Common elements
- Framework
- Libraries
- Reuse
- DSL
- *Product line*

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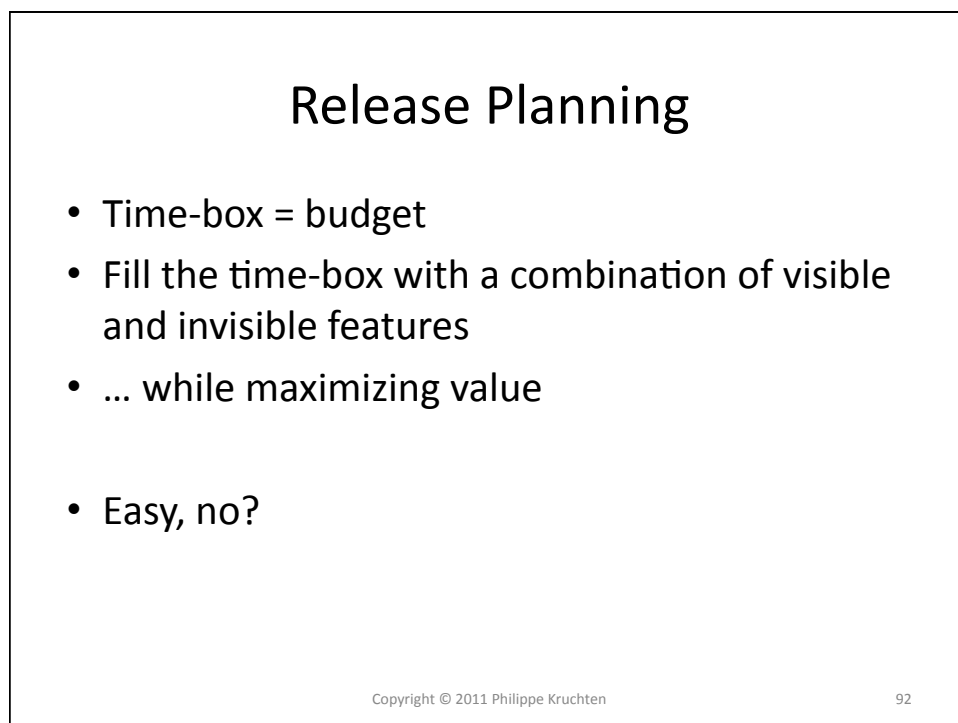
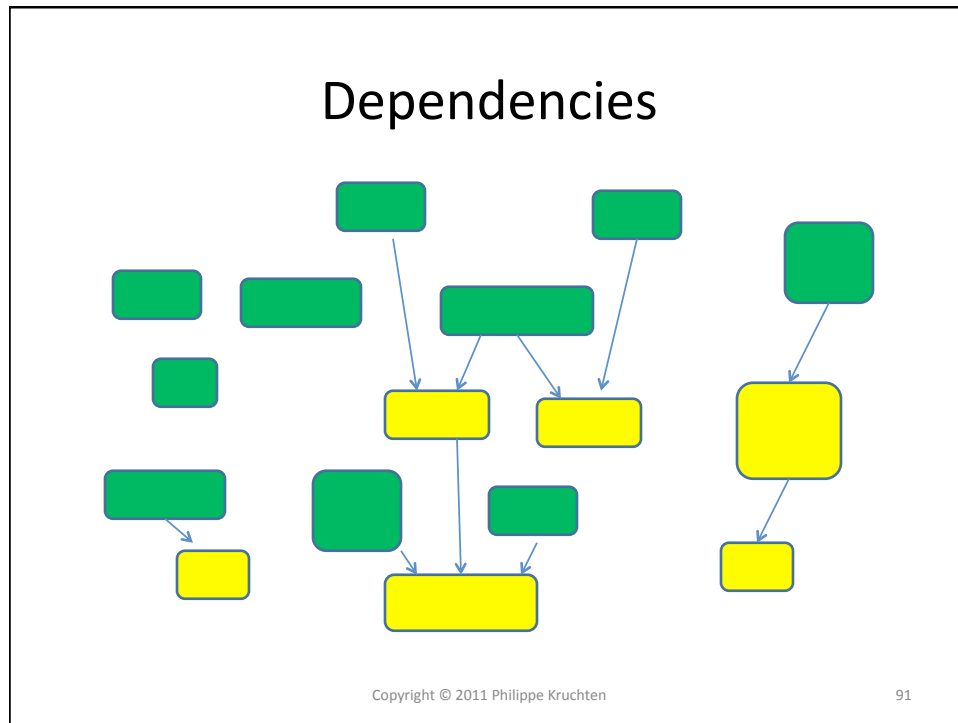
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## Features



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## Tension

- Product manager: maximize value (green stuff)
- Project manager: maximize budget utilization  
– i.e., minimize cost
- Techie: maximize the fun stuff (yellow) ?

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## Value for the yellow stuff: Heuristics

- Value of invisible feature = Max (value of all dependents)
  - Value of invisible feature = Max + f(number of dependents)
  - Value of invisible feature = total value achievable **if** implementing it – total value achievable **without** implementing it
  - ...
- (Not there yet, more research need to happen)

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## More on value & cost

- CBAM = Cost Benefit Analysis Method
  - Chap 12 in Bass, Clements, Kazman 2003
- IMF: Incremental Funding Method
  - Denne & Cleland-Huang, 2004
  - Software by numbers*
- Analytic Hierarchy Process (AHP) Saaty, 1990
- Evolve\* - Hybrid
  - Günther Ruhe & D. Greer 2003, etc...

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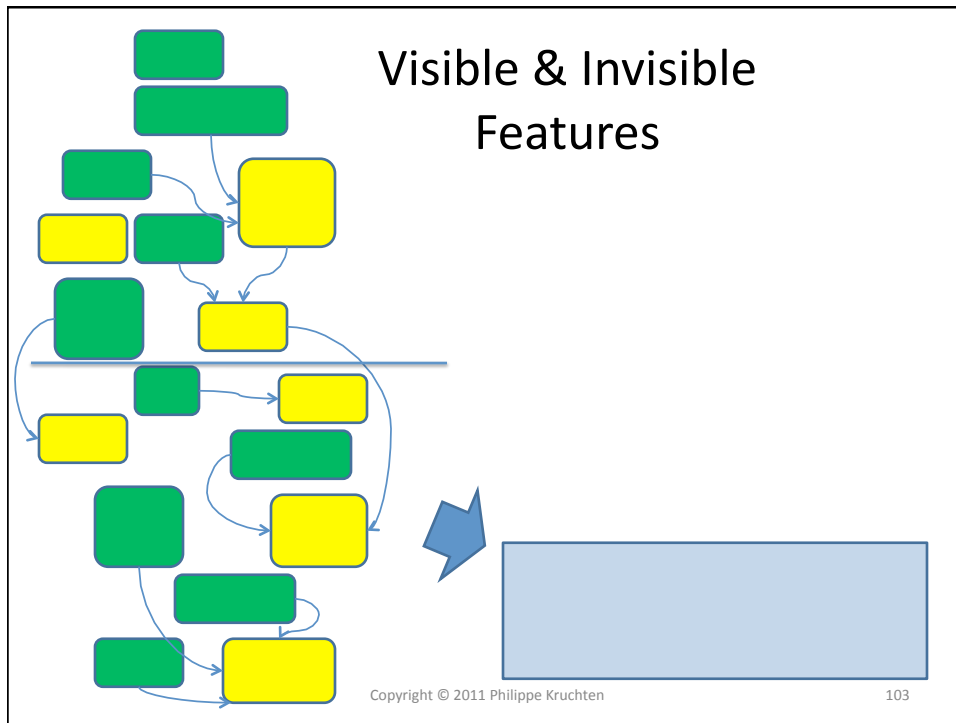
## IFM: Incremental Funding Method

- MMF = Minimum Marketable Features
- AE = Architectural elements
- Cost
- MMF depends on AE
- Time and NPV = Net Present Value
- Strands = Sequences of dependent MMFs
- Heuristic

Denne & Huang, [www.softwarebynumbers.org](http://www.softwarebynumbers.org)

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### Estimation

- Cost estimation
- Work
- Estimate
  - Ideal case?
    - Things go wrong
  - Worse case?
    - $\Sigma$  all worse cases = impossible implementation

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## Buffers

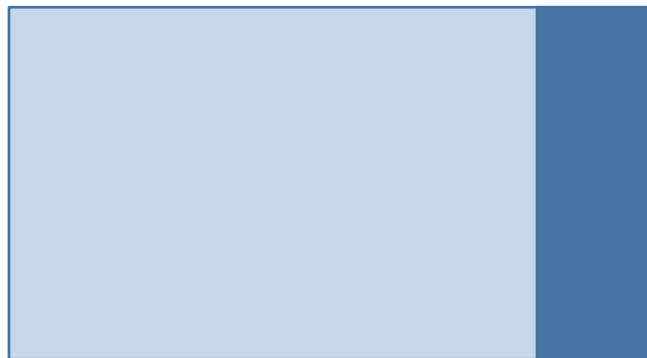
- E. Goldratt: *Theory of constraints*
- D. Anderson: *Agile Project Management*
  
- Buffer: unallocated effort (work)
- Shared by all staff members and all explicit work

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## Time-box with Buffer



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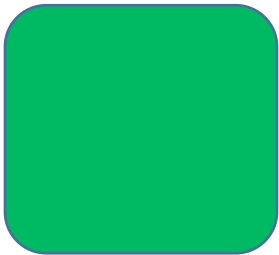


## Defects


- Defect = Feature with negative value
- Fixing a defect has a positive cost (work)
- Time/place of discovery
  - Inside development (in-house, in process)
  - Outside development (out-house?) in a released product (escaped defects)

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## Escaped Defect has Value




**Perfect product**



**Imperfect product**





**Defect**

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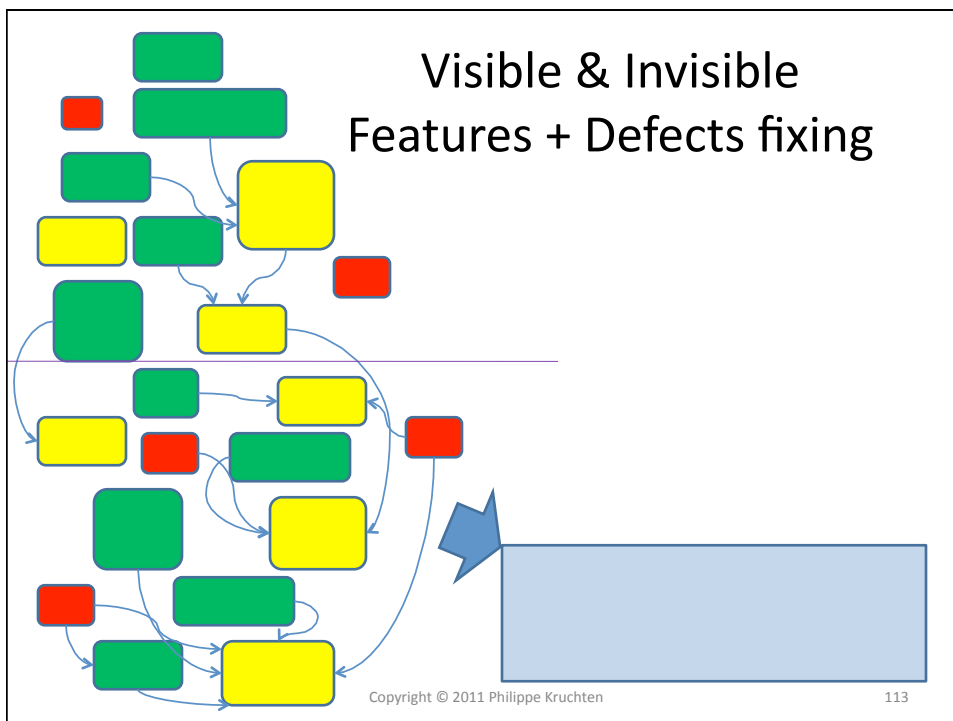
## Fixing a Defect has a Cost

- Defects have both value and cost
- Value of fixing a defect = -Value of the defect
- Cost of fixing a defect (estimated, actual)
  
- Defects have dependencies
  - Defect fix depend on invisible feature
  - Visible feature depending on a fix

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## Visible & Invisible Features + Defects fixing



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5. Architecture, agility,... revisited

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## Technical Debt

- Concept introduced by Ward Cunningham
- Often mentioned, rarely studied
- All experienced SW developers “feel” it.
- Drags long-lived projects and products down

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## Origin of the metaphor

- Ward Cunningham, at OOPSLA 1992

“Shipping first time code is like going into debt. A little debt speeds development so long as it is paid back promptly with a rewrite...”

The danger occurs when the debt is not repaid. Every minute spent on not-quite-right code counts as interest on that debt. Entire engineering organizations can be brought to a stand-still under the debt load of an unconsolidated implementation, object-oriented or otherwise.”



Cunningham, OOPSLA 1992

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## Technical Debt (S. McConnell)

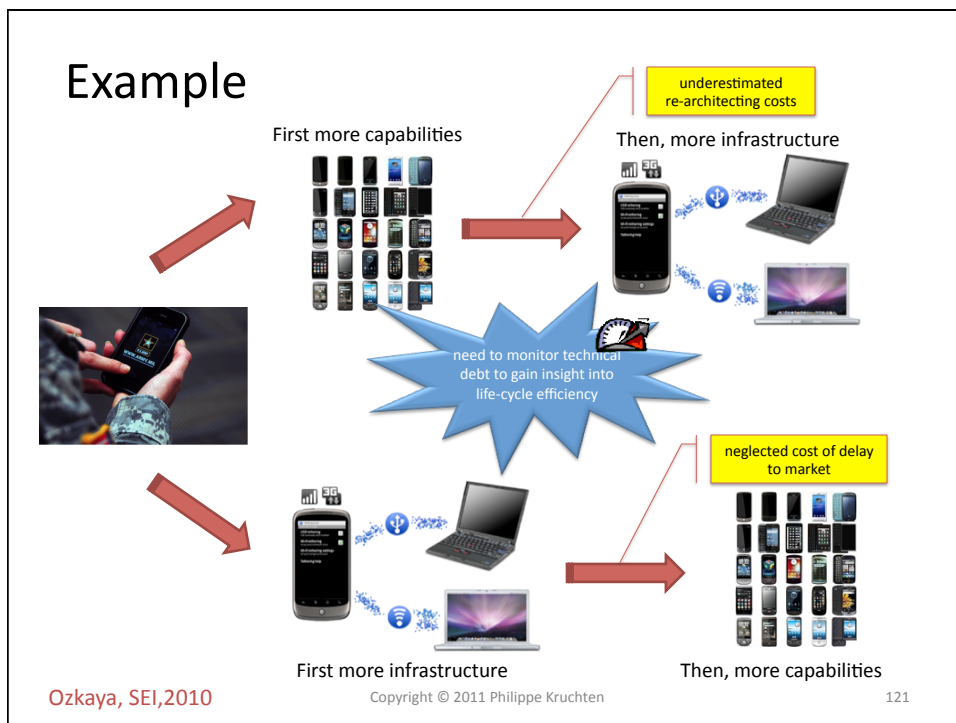
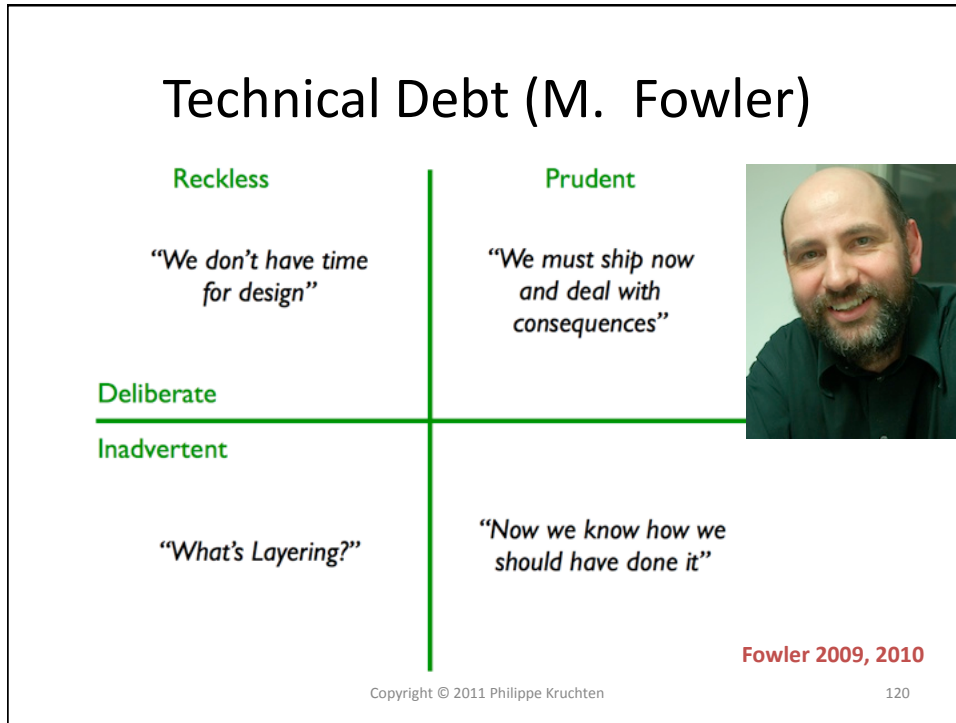
- Implemented features (visible and invisible) = assets = non-debt
- Type 1: unintentional, non-strategic; poor design decisions, poor coding
- Type 2: intentional and strategic: optimize for the present, not for the future.
  - 2.A short-term: paid off quickly (refactorings, etc.)
    - Large chunks: easy to track
    - Many small bits: cannot track
  - 2.B long-term



McConnell 2007

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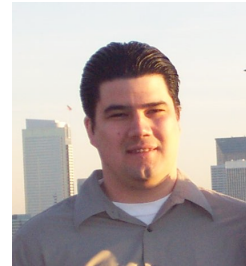


## Technical Debt (Chris Sterling)

- Technical Debt: issues found in the code that will affect future development but not those dealing with feature completeness.

*Or*

- Technical Debt is the decay of component and intercomponent behaviour when the application functionality meets a minimum standard of satisfaction for the customer.



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## Time is Money (I. Gat)

- Time is money:  
Think of the amount of money the borrowed time represents – the grand total required to eliminate all issues found in the code



Gat 2010

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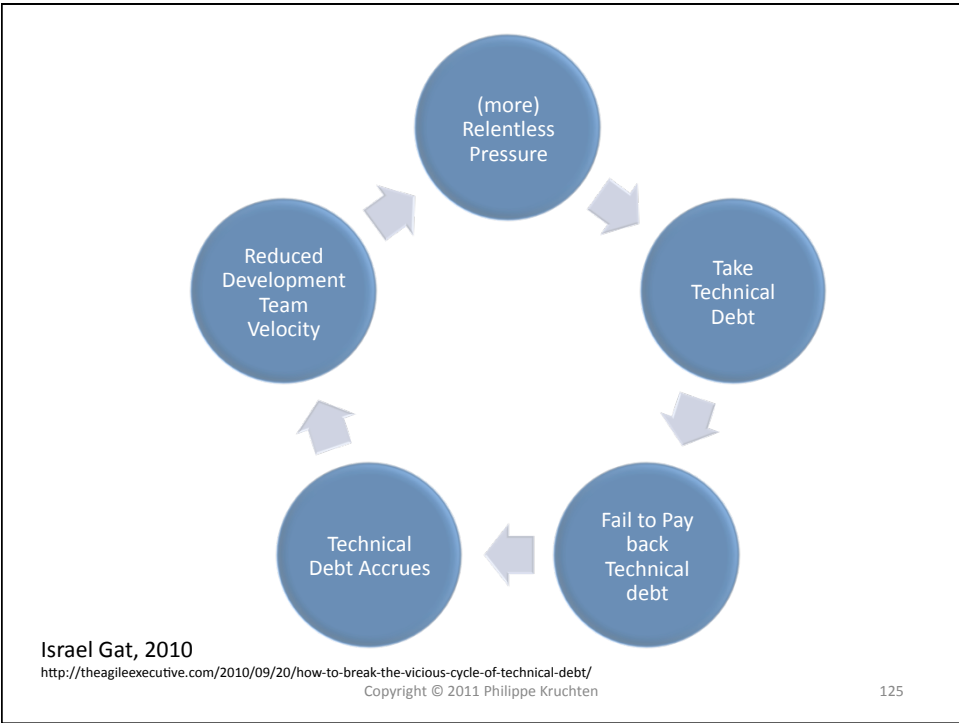
### TD is the sum of...

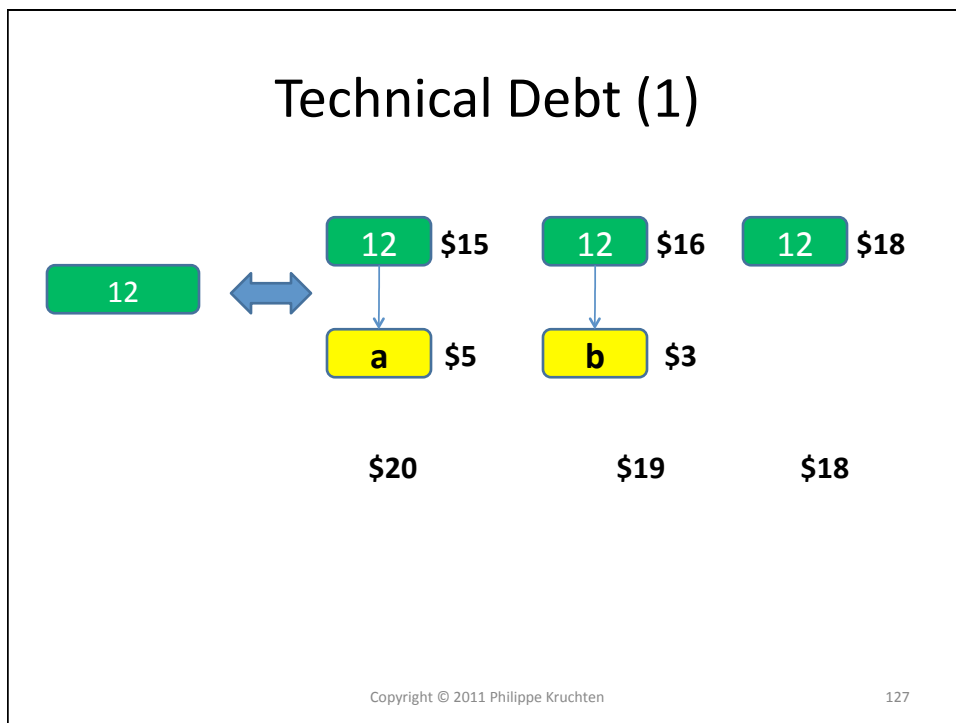
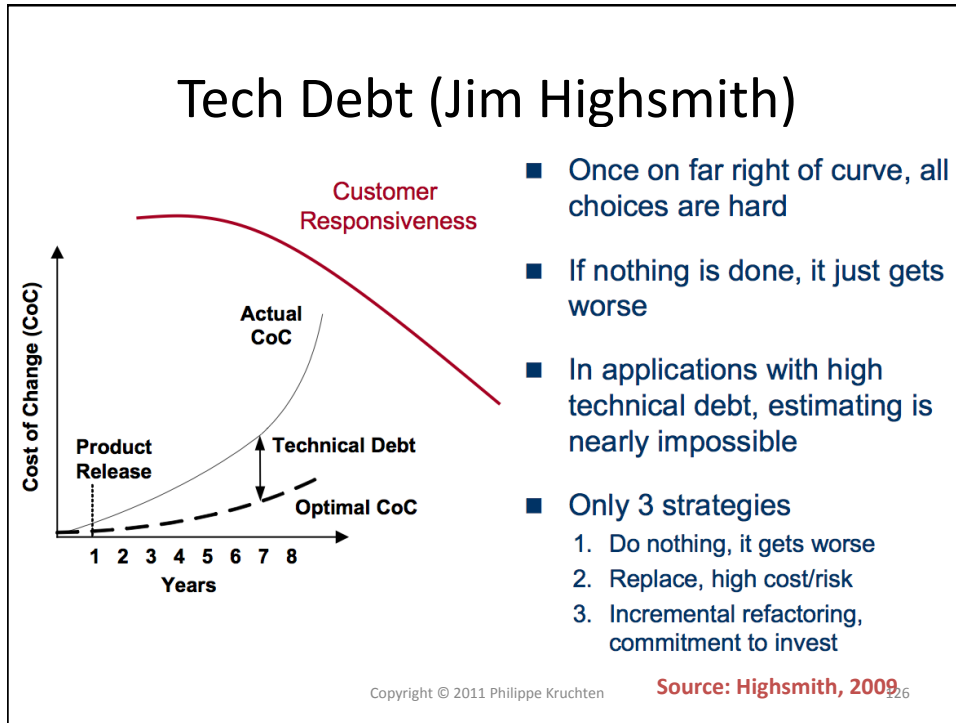
- Code smells            167 person days
- Missing test           298 person days
- Design                 670 person days
- Documentation        67 person days

*Totals*

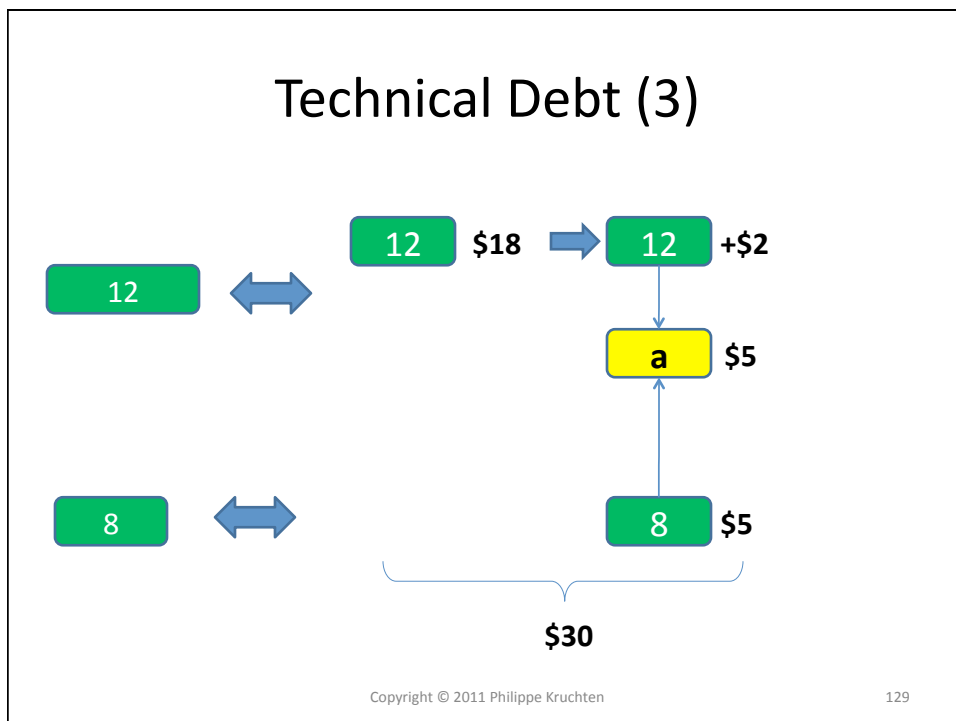
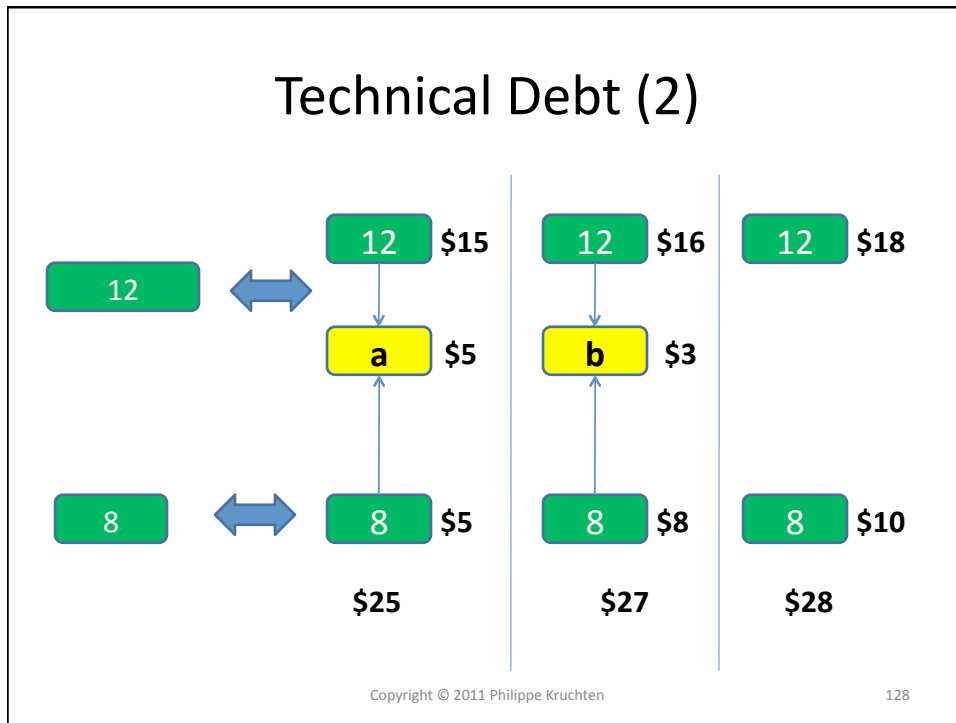
Work	1,202 person x days
Cost	\$577,000

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## Technical Debt

- Defect = Visible feature with negative value
- Technical debt = Invisible “feature” with negative value
  
- Cost .... of fixing
- Value .... of repaying technical debt ???

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## “Interests” ?

- In presence of technical debt:  
Cost of adding new features is higher
  
- When repaying (fixing), additional cost for retrofitting already implemented features
  
- Technical debt not repaid => lead to increased cost, forever
- Cost of fixing increases over time

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M. Fowler

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**DETOUR**

## TD and Real Options

NPV (P<sub>1</sub>) = -2M + 0.5x4M + 0.5x1M = 0.5M

Source: K. Sullivan, 2010  
at TD Workshop SEI 6/2-3

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## TD and Real Options (2)

NPV (P<sub>2</sub>) = -1M + 0.5x3M + 0.5x1M = 1M

Taking Technical Debt has increased system value.

Source: K. Sullivan, 2010

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### TD and Real Options (3)

$NPV (P_3) = -1M + 0.67 \times 2.5M + 0.33 \times 1M = 1M$

More realistically:  
 Debt + interest  
 High chances of success

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### TD and Real Options (4)

**Not debt really, but options with different values...**  
**Do we want to invest in architecture, in test, etc...**

Source: K. Sullivan, 2010

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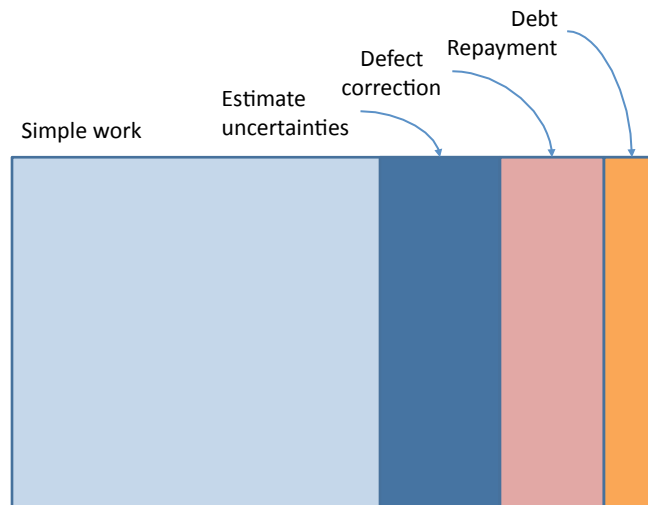
- Technical debt is more a rhetorical category than a technical or ontological category.
  - The concept resonates well with the development community and the business community
  - Both sides “get” the metaphor.
  
- Technical debt is a concept that bridges the gap between:
  - Business decisions makers
  - Software designers/developers

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## Buffer for debt repayment



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## Colours in your Backlog

	Visible	Invisible
Positive Value	<b>Visible Feature</b>	<b>Hidden, architectural feature</b>
Negative Value	<b>Visible defect</b>	<b>Technical Debt</b>

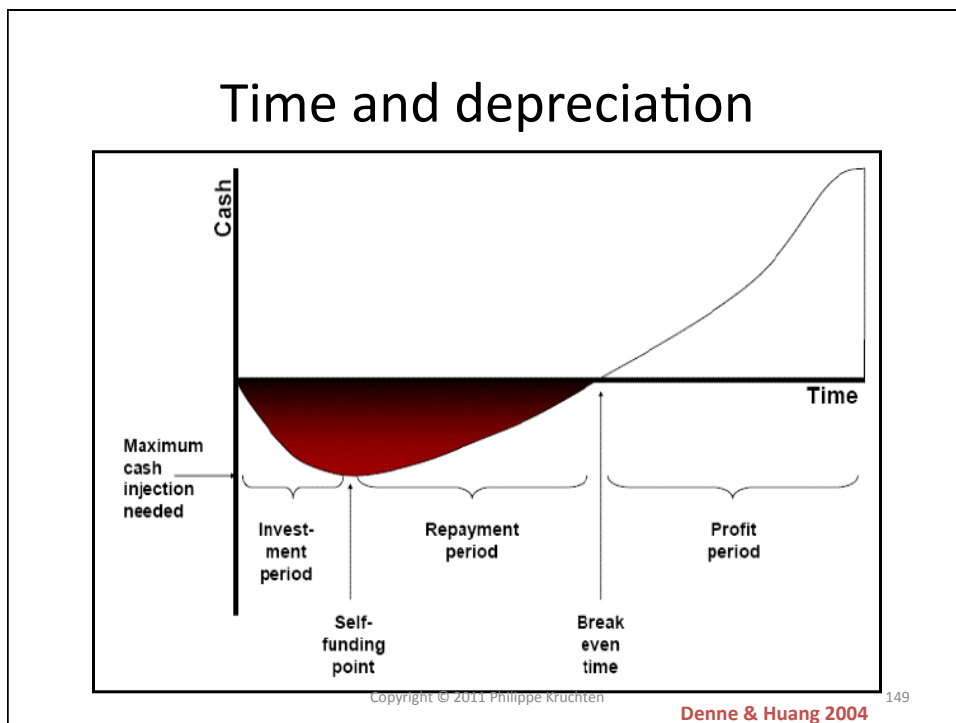
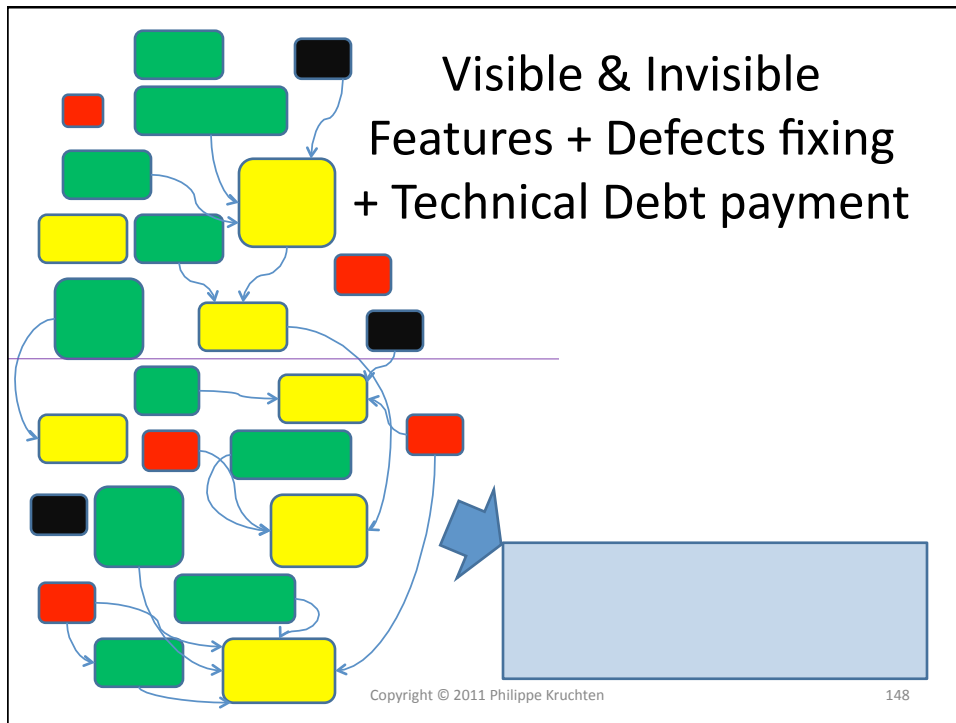
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- YAGNI = You Ain't Gonna Need It
  - But when you do, it is technical debt
  - Technical debt often is the accumulation of too many YAGNI decisions
- Again the tension between the yellow stuff and the green stuff.

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# Net Present Value

Net Present Value (NPV)

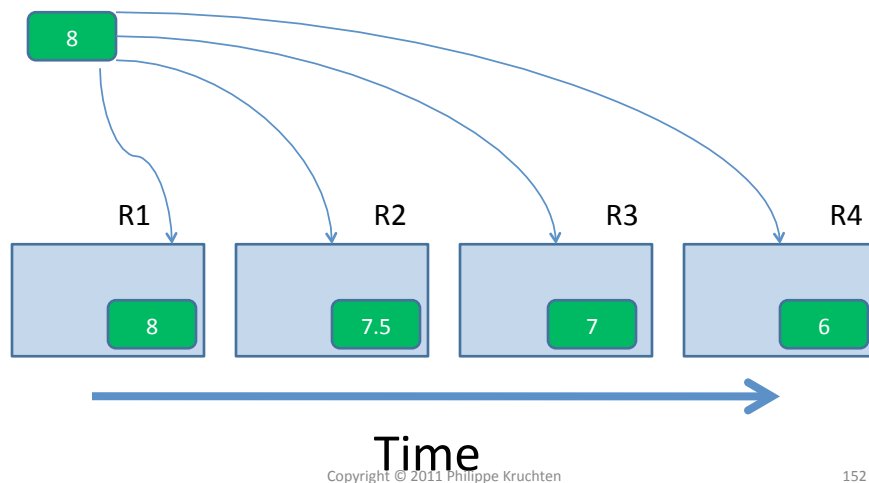
$$NPV = \sum_{t=1}^T \frac{\text{Cash Flow } t}{(1+i)^t} - \text{Initial Cash Investment}$$

*t = Cash Flow Period*  
*i = Interest Rate Assumption*

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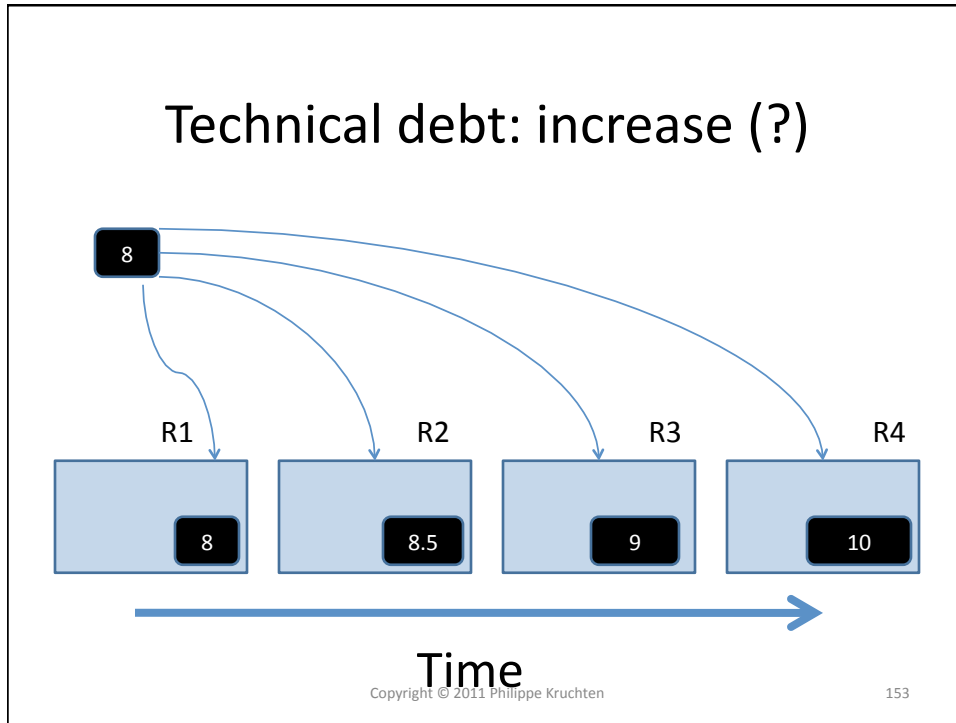
# Value decreases



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#94	Tell AnonymousUsers the benefits of registering	Low Cost	High Value	
#103	Attachments should be possible for all comments, including threaded replies	Medium Cost	High Value	
#97	Legal notices	Low Cost	Medium Value	
#100	Per-list unsubscribe for mailing-list-only users	Medium Cost	Medium Value	
#50	Group member list: "edit details" for someone's membership	Low Cost	Medium Value	
#96	Chapters (possibly networks?) map	Medium Cost	Low Value	
#102	Topics should show icon of some sort to indicate attachments	Low Cost	Low Value	

**1.0 RC1 - Release Candidate 1** (14 matches)

BASED on **trac** POWERED by Nicolas Kruchten & co

Ticket	Summary	Cost	Value	Owner
#49	switch to email-based usernames	High Cost	High Value	joshuagorner
#54	Who's Online listing	Medium Cost	High Value	francis
#55	National Office content	Medium Cost	High Value	
#58	chapter vs network	Medium Cost	High Value	joshuagorner
#61	Intuitive combinations of group visibility / privacy in UI	Medium Cost	High Value	
#93	Individual anonymous users should be able to sign up to mailing lists	Medium Cost	High Value	
#48	network_new_member cannot use dropdown to list members	Medium Cost	High Value	
#81	Prevent "private" networks	Medium Cost	High Value	
#98	Group creator (particularly networks) need not also be a member	Medium Cost	High Value	
#21	Verify email accounts automatically	Medium Cost	Medium Value	
#22	Multiple levels of membership in a group	High Cost	Medium Value	
#23	Groups should have "former members" to handle involvement history	Medium Cost	Medium Value	
#56	Suggested communities	Medium Cost	Medium Value	
#60	Notifications for group invitations / requests	Low Cost	Medium Value	

None (39 matches)

Ticket	Summary	Cost	Value	Owner
#64	fire and forget URL for signing up email addresses to the main list	Medium Cost	High Value	
#67	topic-creation preview	Medium Cost	High Value	
#99	feedback system	Low Cost	High Value	
#68	too many notices!	Low Cost	High Value	
#78	Clicking on a tag causes an error	Low Cost	High Value	
#90	private-messaging 'to' input very rough	Medium Cost	High Value	benbest
#91	password strength issue	Low Cost	High Value	

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Nicola Wealth Management Issue Tracking - Mozilla Firefox

Each list is a pane of issues. The issues can be dragged and dropped onto other panes based on Roles and Permissions settings.

Incoming	Quick Tasks	Active	Testing																										
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>#10 - Feature - ISM Data Adapter - Add Can Buy/Sell Filter</li> <li>#22 - Feature - Accounting Manager - Remaining requires on account reconciliation view</li> <li>#24 - Feature - Accounting Manager - Incomplete of memo field</li> <li>#25 - Feature - Accounting Manager - Load memo/view/memo on demand</li> <li>#26 - Feature - Accounting Manager - Improve initial state selection management</li> <li>#30 - Feature - Messaging - Implement push format message queue</li> <li>#37 - Feature - General Tasks - Build Scripts</li> </ul>	<p>(No issues)</p> <p>Selected Requests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>#44 - Feature - Insurance Manager - Add UI to add notes for UI actions</li> <li>#35 - Feature - ISM Data Adapter - FDP Gateway: Can add buy and sell transactions for holidays</li> </ul>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>User</th> <th>Active</th> <th>Testing</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Chris Nicola</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>#30 - Feature - Accounting Manager - David's changes to commission report</li> <li>#13 - Feature - ISM Data Adapter - Create UI for loading cash transactions</li> <li>#27 - Feature - General Tasks - Environment setup</li> <li>#15 - Feature - Insurance Manager - Display truncate field in policy list</li> </ul> </td> <td>(No issues)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adam Dimitruk</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>#46 - Feature - Diminish CRM - Evaluate Some of CRM - CRM data migration</li> </ul> </td> <td>(No issues)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Admin Istrator</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>#47 - Bug - Unsorted - Test Bug for Kanban Board</li> </ul> </td> <td>(No issues)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jennifer Keates</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>#49 - Technical Debt - Unsorted - Test Technical Debt for Kanban Board</li> </ul> </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>#27 - Feature - ISM Data Adapter - Add Transactions</li> </ul> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lee Tippetts-Aylmer</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>#48 - Architecture - Unsorted - Test Architecture for Kanban Board</li> </ul> </td> <td>(No issues)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Paul Newton</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>#28 - Feature - Database - Client List Table</li> </ul> </td> <td>(No issues)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Richard Hasinger</td> <td>(No issues)</td> <td>(No issues)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Philippe Kruchten</td> <td>(No issues)</td> <td>(No issues)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	User	Active	Testing	Chris Nicola	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>#30 - Feature - Accounting Manager - David's changes to commission report</li> <li>#13 - Feature - ISM Data Adapter - Create UI for loading cash transactions</li> <li>#27 - Feature - General Tasks - Environment setup</li> <li>#15 - Feature - Insurance Manager - Display truncate field in policy list</li> </ul>	(No issues)	Adam Dimitruk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>#46 - Feature - Diminish CRM - Evaluate Some of CRM - CRM data migration</li> </ul>	(No issues)	Admin Istrator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>#47 - Bug - Unsorted - Test Bug for Kanban Board</li> </ul>	(No issues)	Jennifer Keates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>#49 - Technical Debt - Unsorted - Test Technical Debt for Kanban Board</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>#27 - Feature - ISM Data Adapter - Add Transactions</li> </ul>	Lee Tippetts-Aylmer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>#48 - Architecture - Unsorted - Test Architecture for Kanban Board</li> </ul>	(No issues)	Paul Newton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>#28 - Feature - Database - Client List Table</li> </ul>	(No issues)	Richard Hasinger	(No issues)	(No issues)	Philippe Kruchten	(No issues)	(No issues)
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Richard Hasinger	(No issues)	(No issues)																											
Philippe Kruchten	(No issues)	(No issues)																											

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## Risks & Uncertainties

Rule of thumb:

- Green stuff: move up – defer
- Yellow stuff: move down – Experiment now

Karl Wieggers, 1999  
RUP, 1998

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## Outline

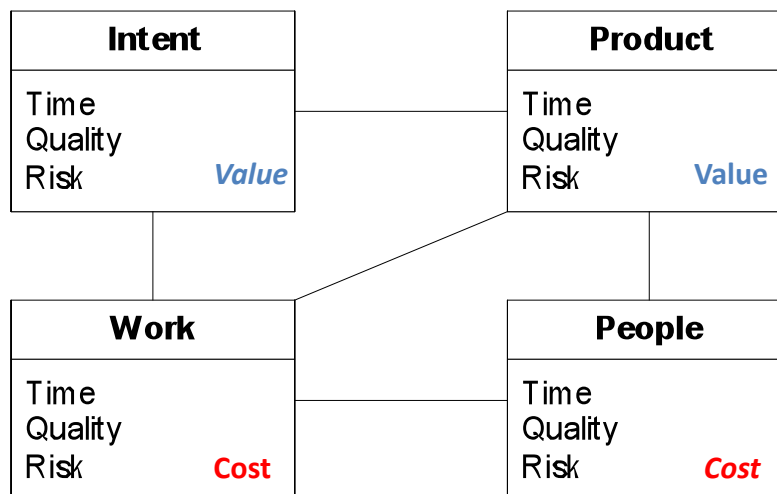
1. *The frog and the octopus*
2. *Architecture and agility*
3. *Release planning*
4. *Technical debt*
5. **Architecture, agility,... revisited**

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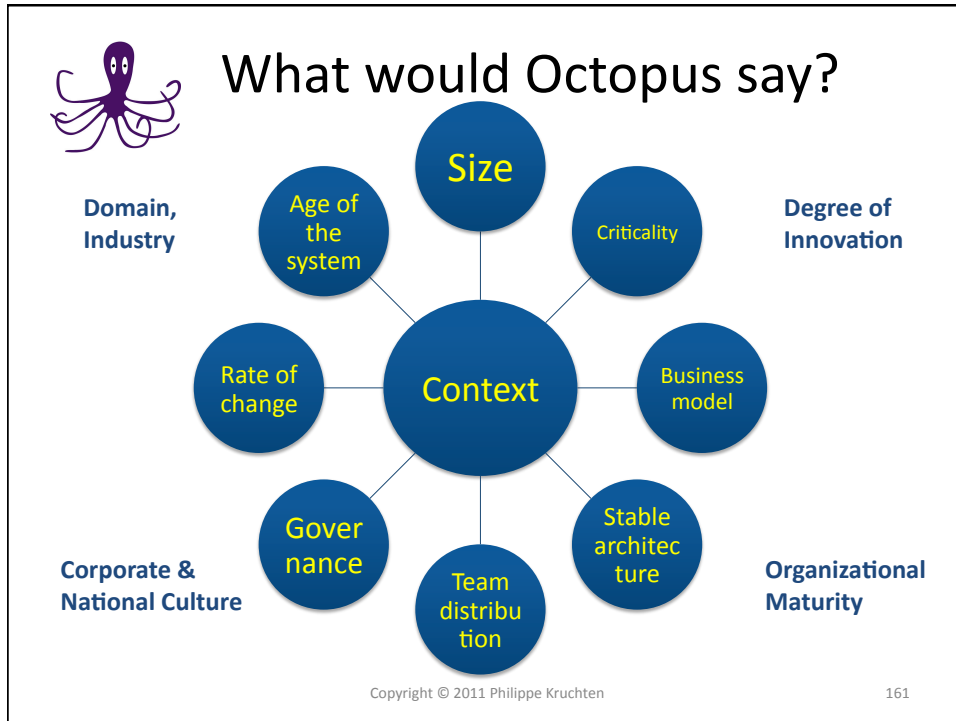


## What would Frog say?



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## Architecture: Value and Cost

- Architecture has no (or little) externally visible “customer value”
- Iteration planning (backlog) is driven solely by “customer value”
- YAGNI, BUFD, Metaphor...
- “Last responsible moment!” & Refactor!
- *Ergo*: architectural activities are not given proper attention
- *Ergo*: large technical debts

## Role of Architecture

- Novel system
- Gradual emergence of architecture
- Validation of architecture with actual functionality
- Early enough to support development

Zipper model...

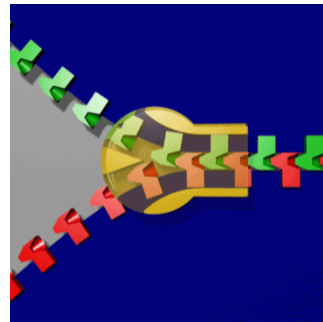
- Not just BUFD
- No YAGNI effect

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## Planning

- From requirements derive:
  - Architectural requirements
  - Functional requirements
- Establish
  - Dependencies
  - Cost
- Plan interleaving:
  - Functional increments
  - Architectural increments



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## Suggestions for project management

- Separate the processes for estimation of cost and value
- Avoid monetary value (points & utils)
- Identify invisible features and make them more visible to more stakeholders
- Allocate value to invisible feature
- Use nominal and worse case estimates for cost (effort); create shared buffers

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## Suggestions (cont.)

- Manage all elements together
- Make technical debt visible
  - Large chunks (McConnell type 2)
- Assign some value to technical debt type 2.B and include in backlog
- Exploit different type of buffers

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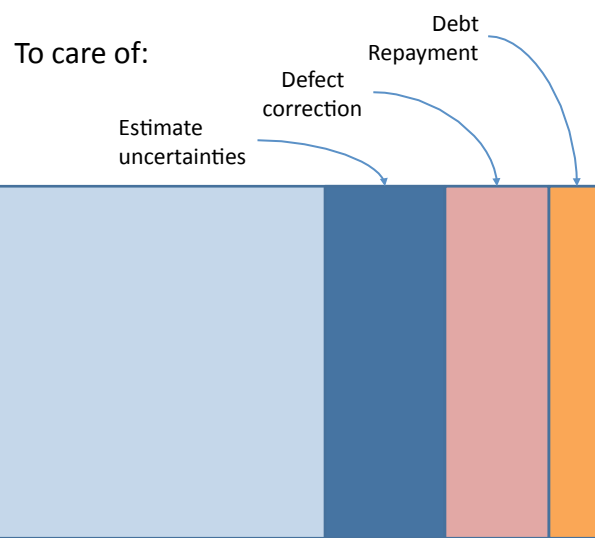
## Manage all colours in your backlog!



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## 3 Kinds of Buffers

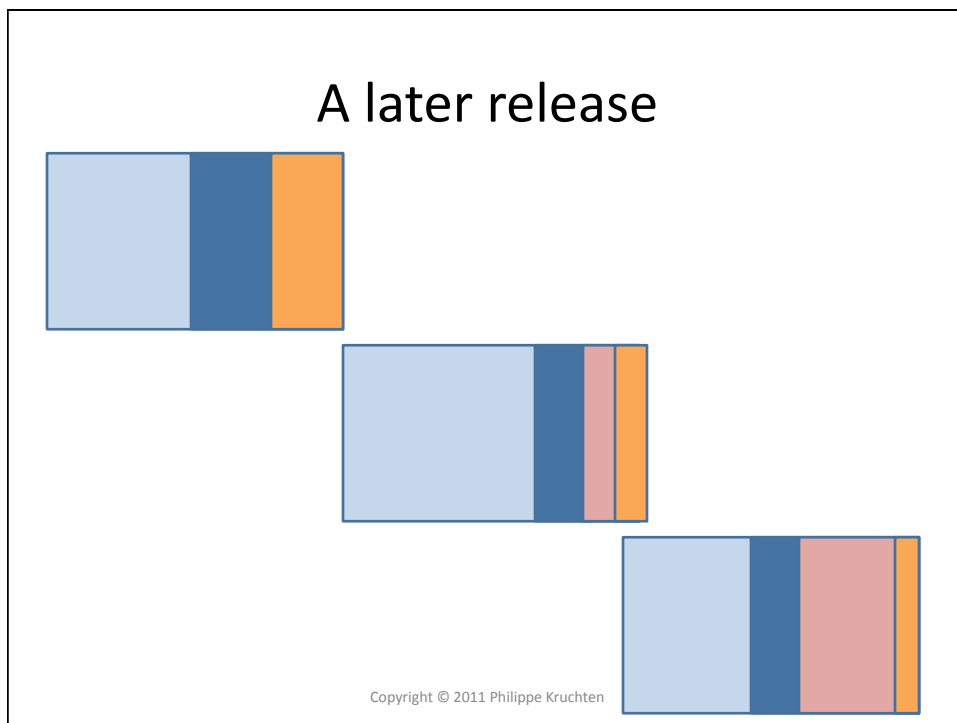
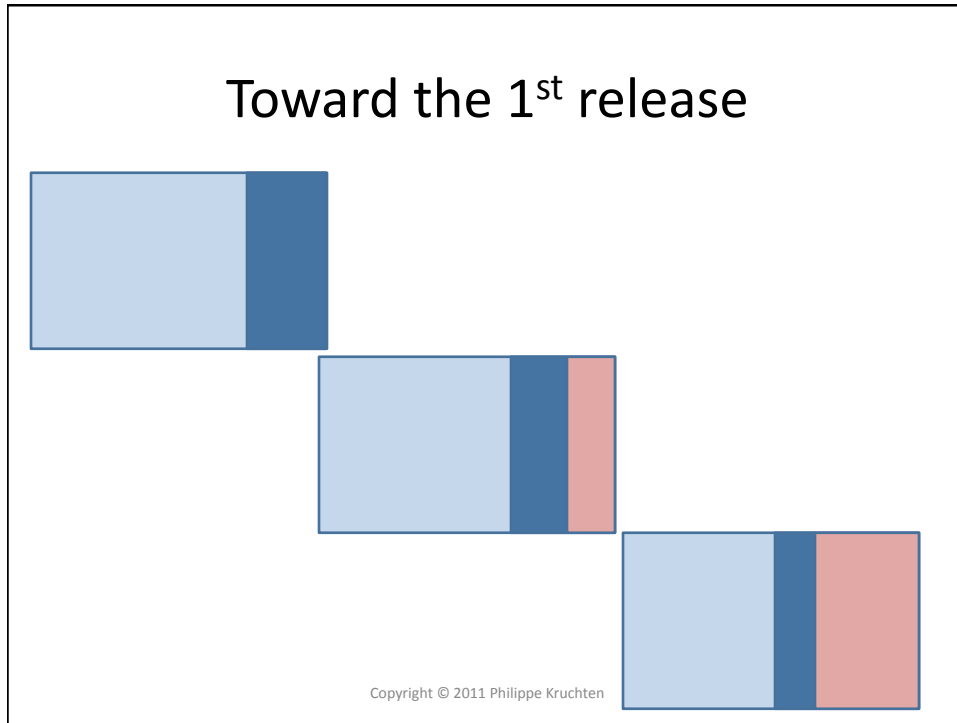


Straightforward work


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**Adaptation** versus **Anticipation**


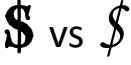




**Highsmith 2000**

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## Four take-aways

-  • Put it in context
-  • Distinguish value and cost
-  • Define an “Architecture owner”
-  • Expose & manage technical debt

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## Game to Introduce Tech Debt

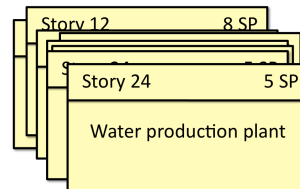
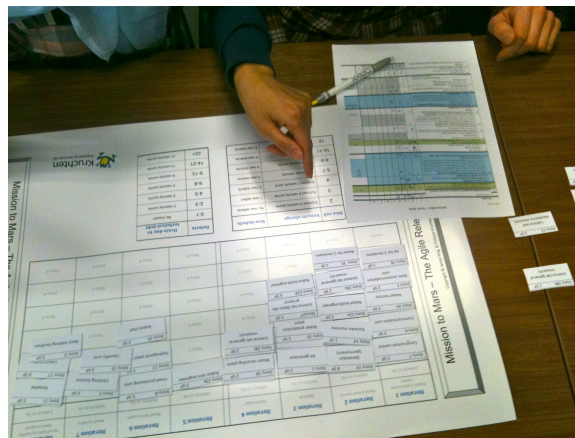
[www.sei.cmu.edu/architecture/tools/hardchoices/](http://www.sei.cmu.edu/architecture/tools/hardchoices/)



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## Mission to mars A Release Planning game

[philippe.kruchten.com/mtm](http://philippe.kruchten.com/mtm)



with J. King  
SoftEd, Aus.

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