

Kanban at Petrobras: how
30 teams delivered better
results through the lens of
ESP and KMM

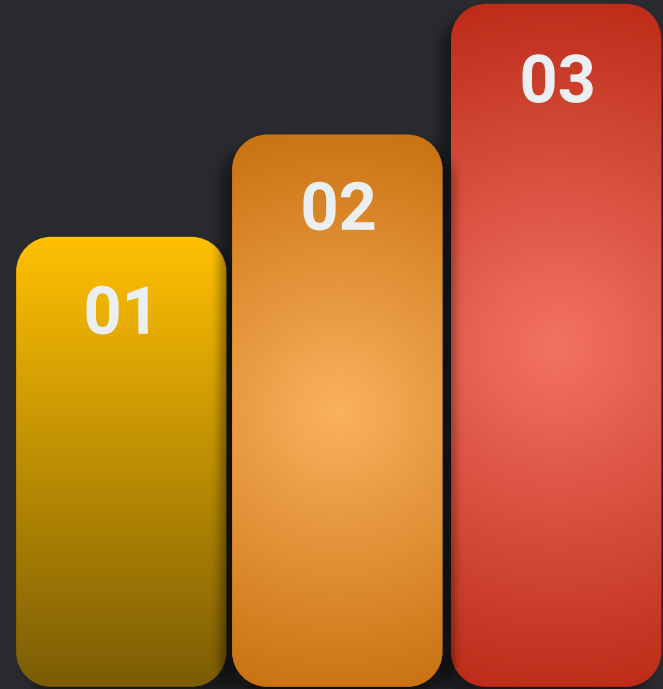
Amanda Varella



@amandavarella



/in/amandavarella



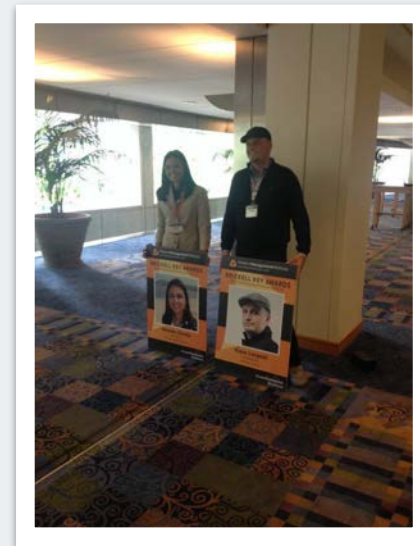
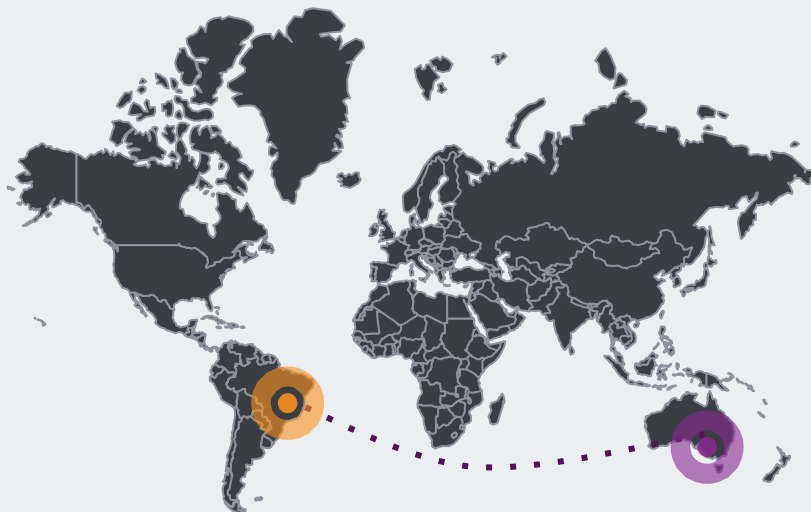


About me

Improving business agility
since 2008



Dev Manager at
envato



2014
Brickell Key Award
Petrobras Case

Petrobras is the biggest oil and gas company in South America

The company is formed by business areas of Exploitation and Production of oil and gas, and also other supportive areas. Its huge IT sector is segmented by business support



Our IT area supported the main business of the company, developing systems to control the production and exploitation of oil and gas.



Structure



Software
Development

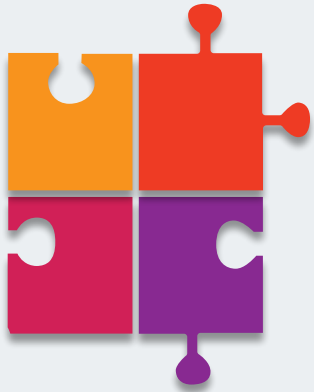
Databases

Infrastructure

293

people

4 departments

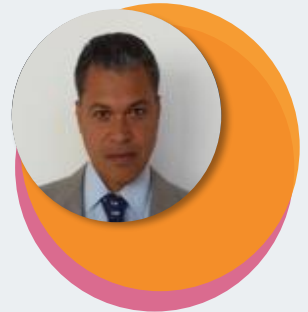


~30 teams

SNEP

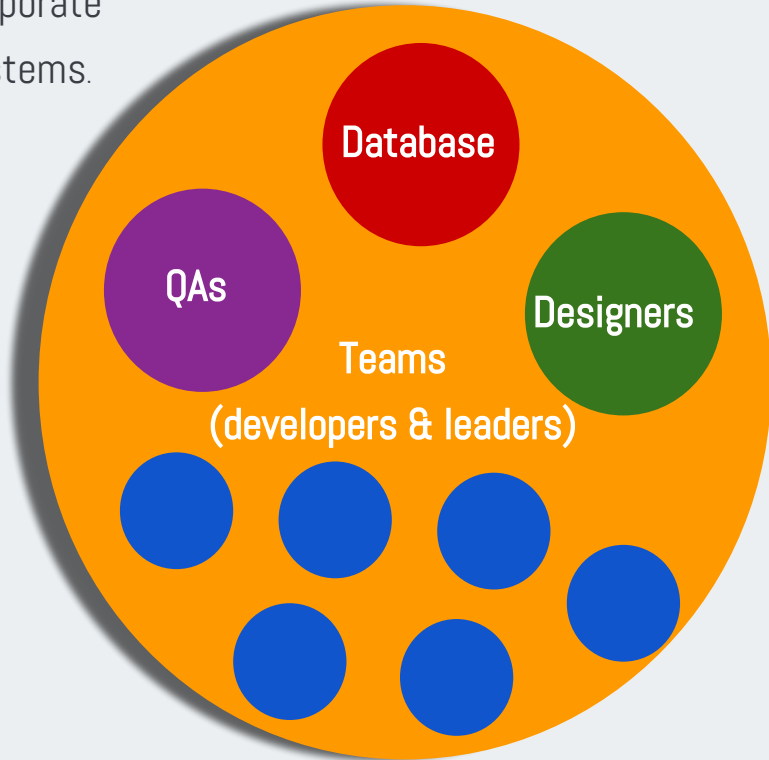
Software Development Area

... and a forward
thinker manager

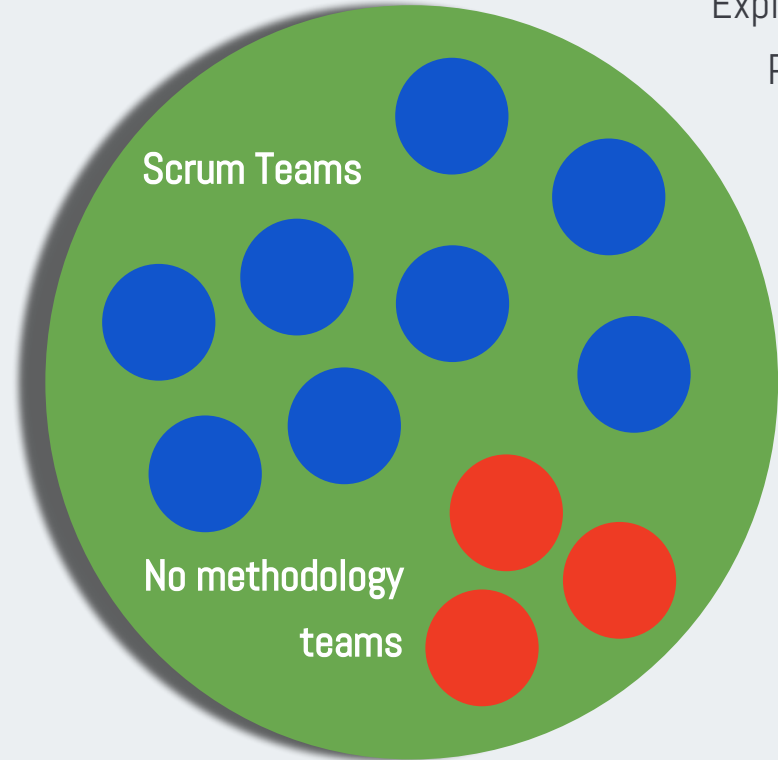


Software Development Area

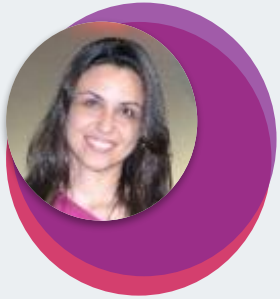
Corporate
Systems.



Exploitation &
Production
systems

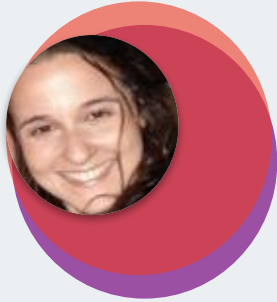


Awesome Teamwork Continuous Improvement Team



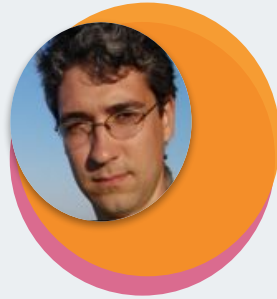
Amanda Varella

Kanban, Agile
Culture



Cristine Dantas

DevOps



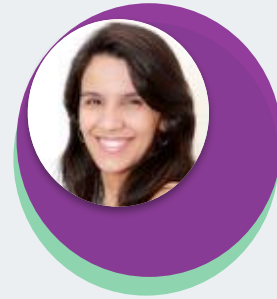
Daniel Borges

DevOps



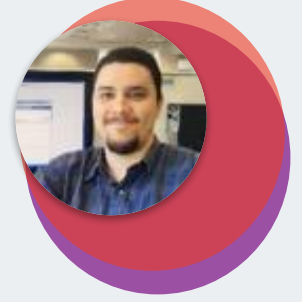
Camila Bastos

DevOps



Fabiana Sampaio

Databases



Bruno Guerchon

Software Development

Purpose: help teams to get into a state of continuous
delivery and improvement

STARTING WITH AGILE

FIRST SCRUM TEAM

STARTING WITH

KANBAN

VISUALIZATION

ANOTHER STORY

BEGINS

2008

2009

2011

2013

2015

SCALING

OTHER TEAMS

KANBAN

METRICS

MATURING TECHNICAL PRACTICES

EVOLUTIONARY CHANGE

A vast field of bright red roses in full bloom, filling the entire frame. The flowers are densely packed, with green leaves visible between them. The lighting is bright, highlighting the vibrant red color of the petals.

The experience was not a rose-strewn path



Culture



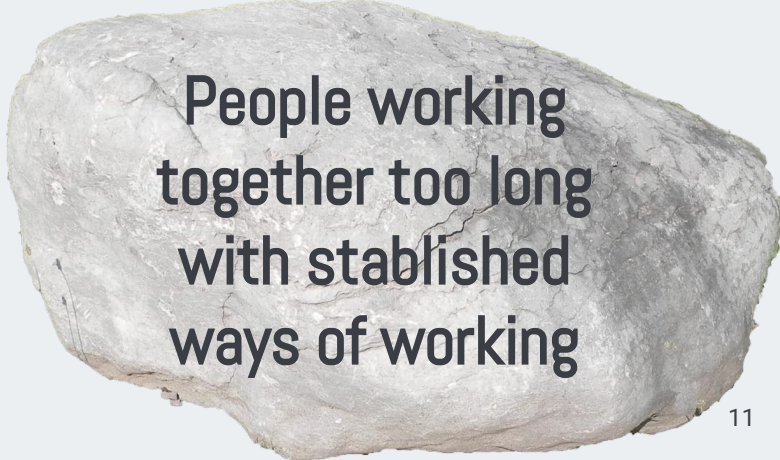
**Low interest in the
adoption of technical
practices**



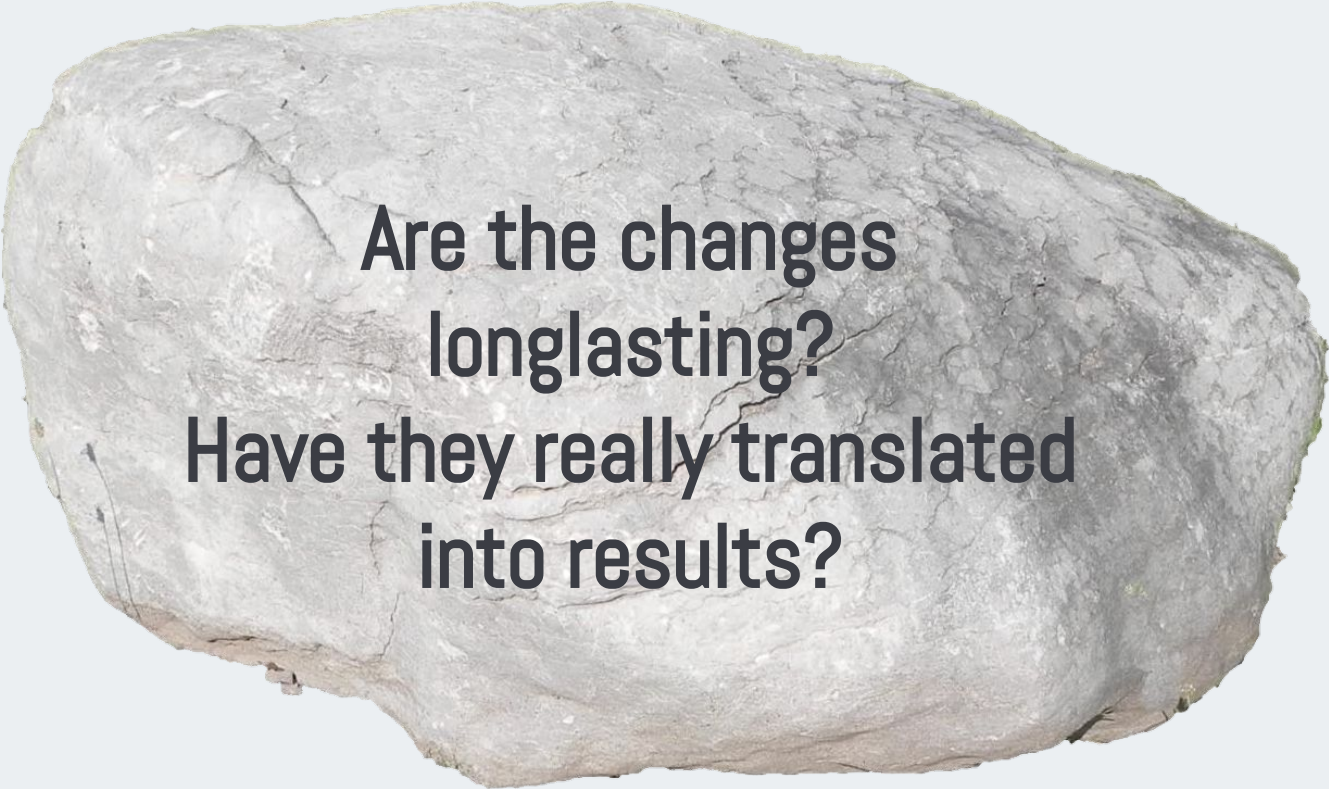
Many Teams



**Interface with
other areas**



**People working
together too long
with established
ways of working**



**Are the changes
longlasting?
Have they really translated
into results?**



Some teams had great results and kept improving



Others got better, but took some steps back



Others stayed the same



Fortunately no team got worse than before



The Challenge

How to promote
longlasting
changes?



Happiness at ML-2



ML-2

Recognisable Patterns

We are Scrum Teams

We are happy workers

We have consistent processes

Our customer is relatively happy

We have a rudimentary portfolio Kanban



Software
Development

Databases

Infrastructure

We were optimising the Software
Development Area

Databases and Infrastructure were
lagging behind

The bottlenecks were moving

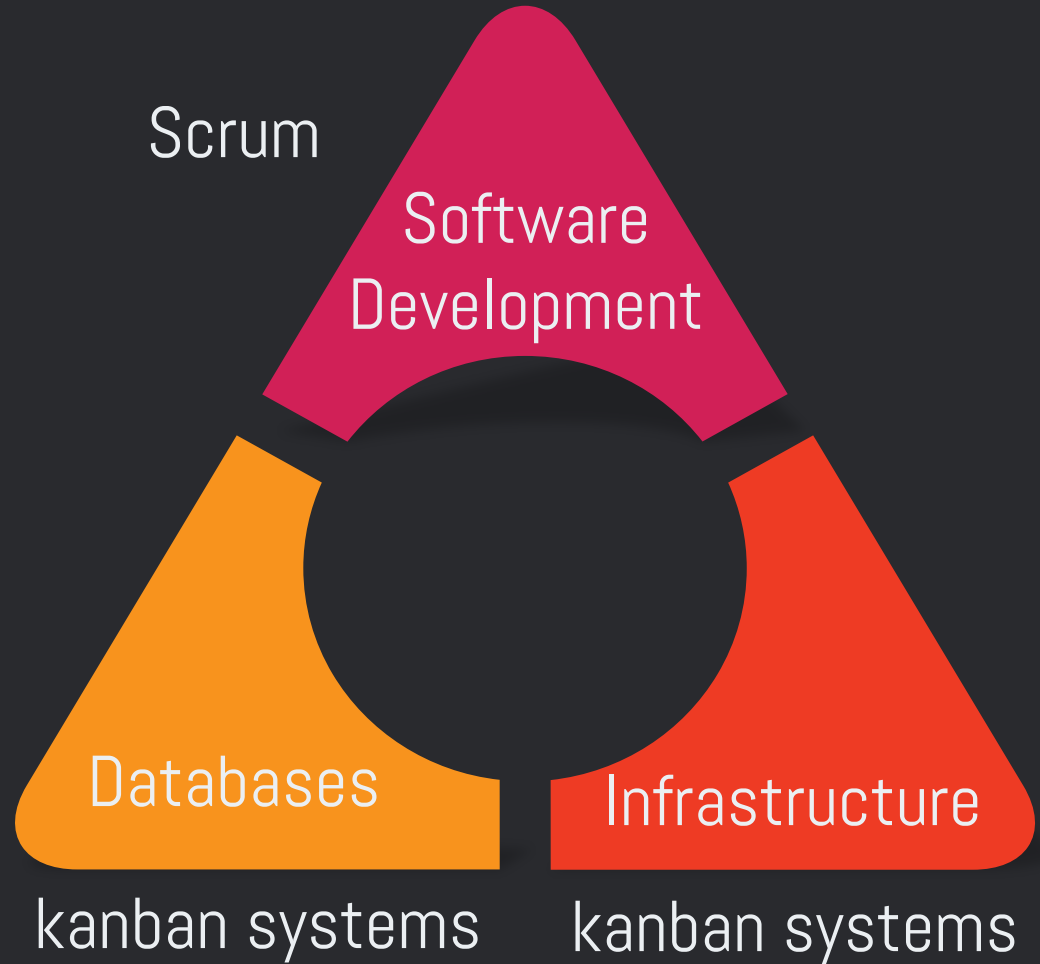
David Anderson gave his second Training in Brazil in 2010



There, I met Alisson Vale, the pioneer of Kanban in Brazil. He became our consultant

Our Initial Idea

Trying to convince the
managers from
Infrastructure
and Database areas
to start with Kanban



Didn't work!

The managers initially liked
the idea,
but didn't put the effort
to make it work

It was someone from outside,
proposing something

FAIL

Databases

kanban systems

Infrastructure

kanban systems

And then we had **Alisson**.
How could we use his services
now that the original plan had
failed?

Well, let's work inside the
software development area.

After all we still have many things
to be improved

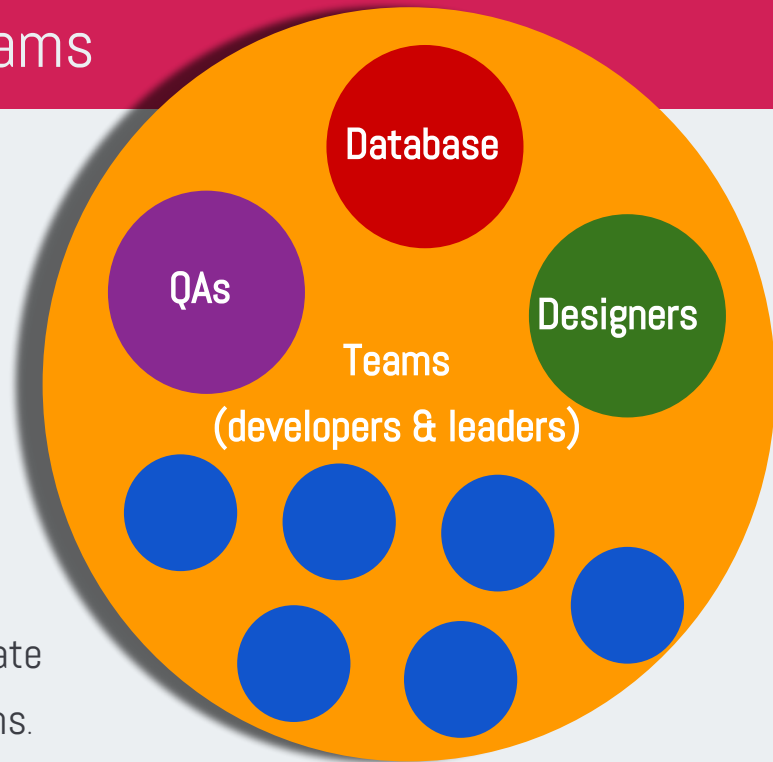


Businesses are ecosystems of interdependent services



First Experiment

Kanbanizing the services consumed by the software development teams



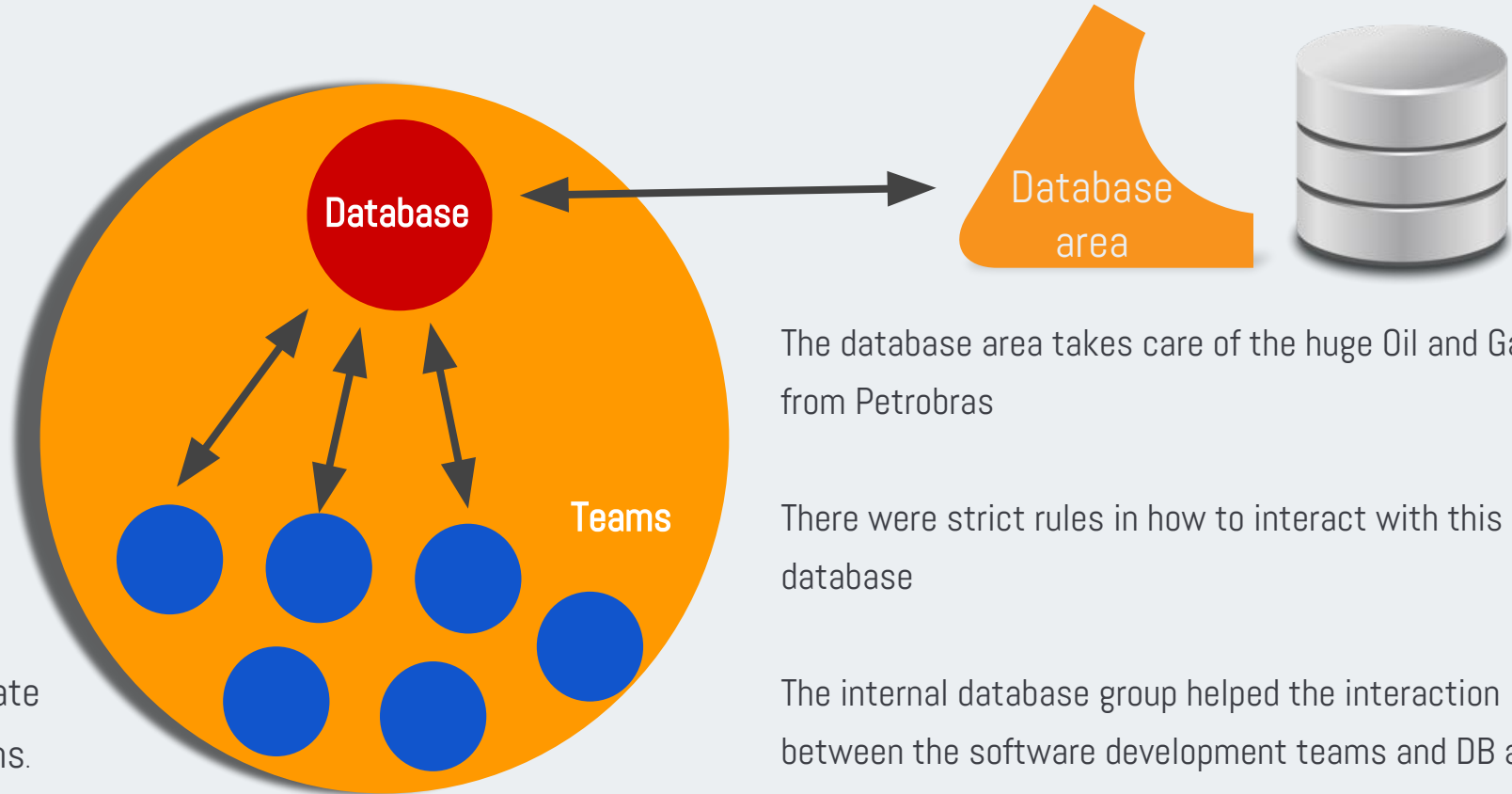
Corporate
Systems.

The structure had worked that way for many years.

We thought that making these professionals work in cross-functional teams would be very disruptive and could hurt their identities, hence, provoking more resistance.

Also, there were economical reasons that could justify the functional groups.

Internal Database Group as a Service



The database area takes care of the huge Oil and Gas data from Petrobras

There were strict rules in how to interact with this database

The internal database group helped the interaction between the software development teams and DB area.

Internal Database Group as a Service



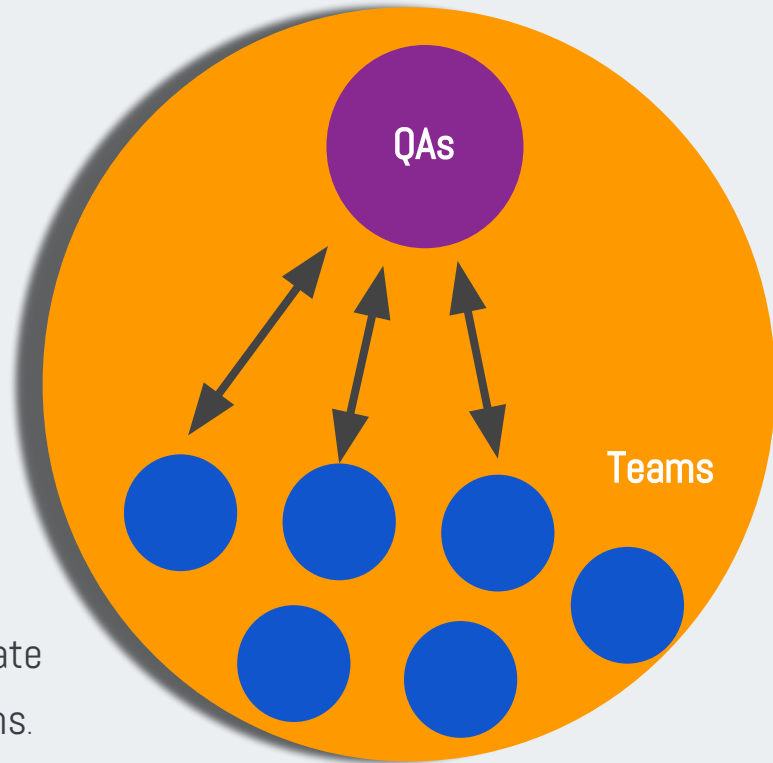
Experiment worked.

The team was formed by 4 people, and the level of service provided to the teams was enough.

No complaints!



QAs as a Service



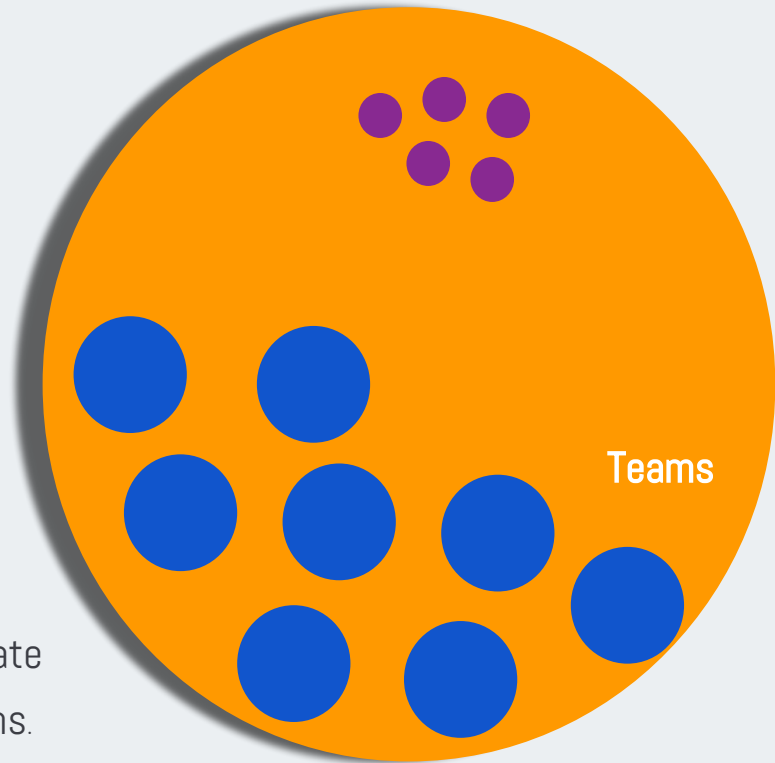
QA was a traditional testing group. They received code to test after developed, needing much more documentation than was needed.

Service levels were not being met

With the constant complaints of the developers, it was clear that the model wasn't working

Now, It would be easier to change.

QAs inside teams



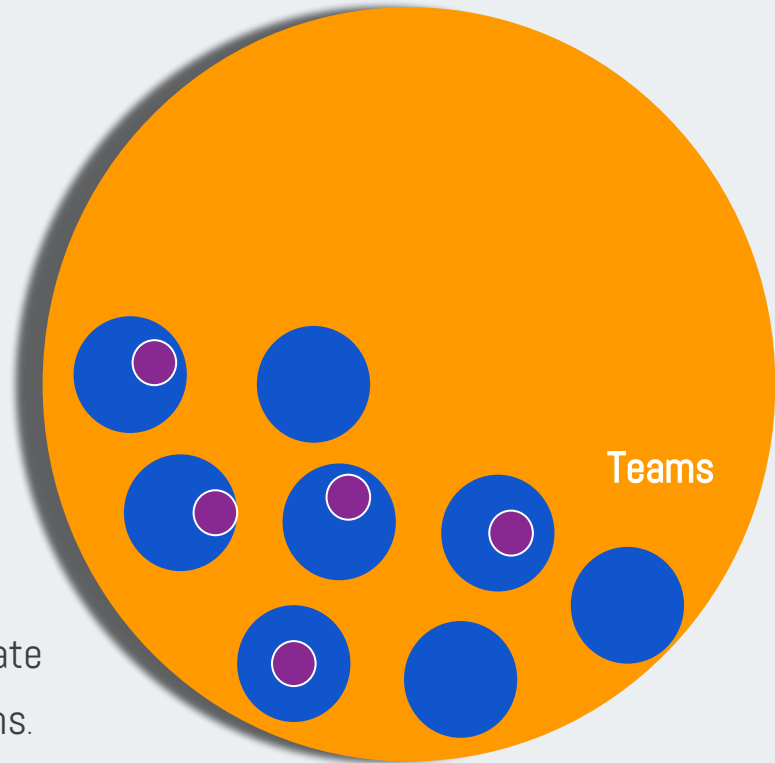
The QA were assigned to the teams
Some of them were assigned to 1 or
2 teams

Some teams stayed without
a QA role

The assignment was based
on the criticality of each
System developed



QAs inside teams



Corporate
Systems.

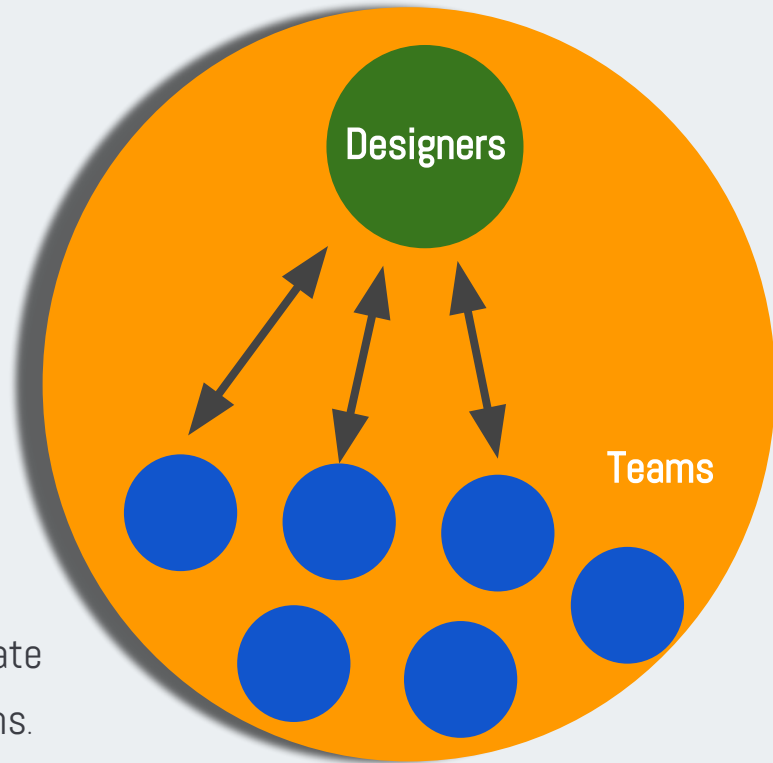
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Designers as a Service



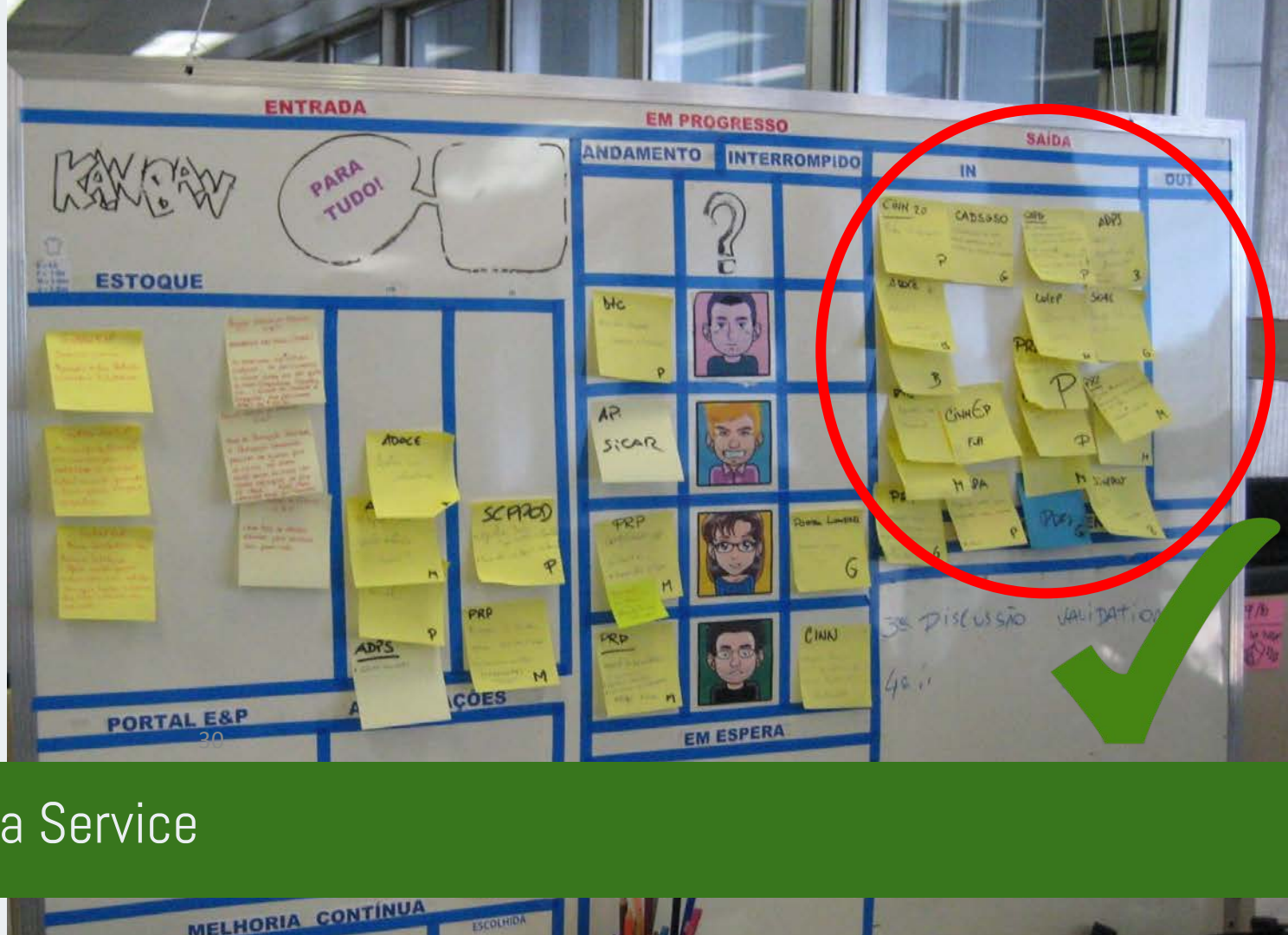
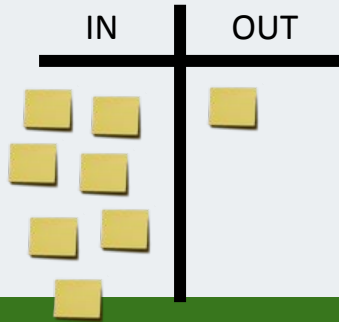
Due to the nature of the systems,
most of them didn't need full
time designers

Corporate
Systems.

They classified the job using T-Shirt sizes and assigned SLA targets.

Most of the times they had a DDP of **90%** or more.

Plus, the development leaders evaluation saying that everything was okay



Designers as a Service

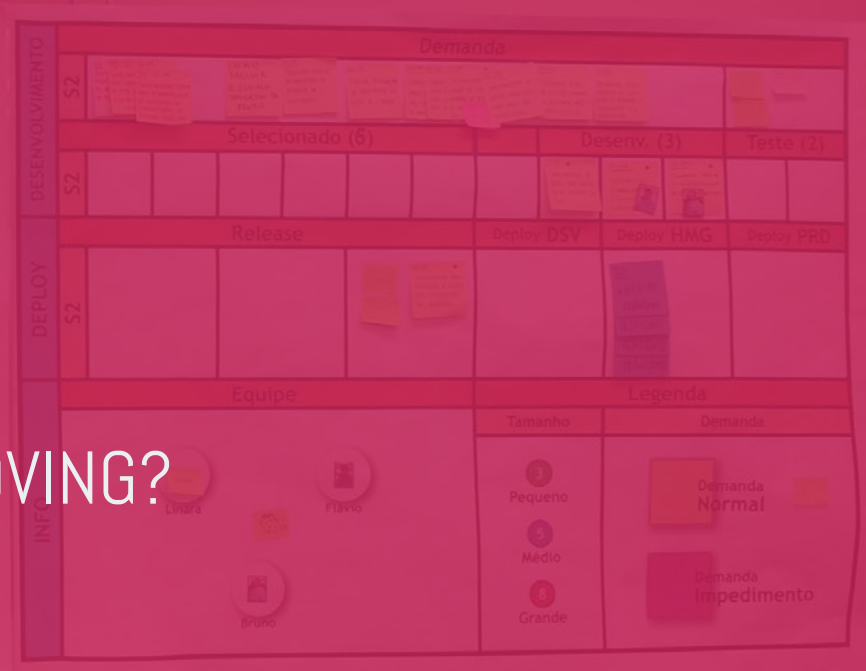
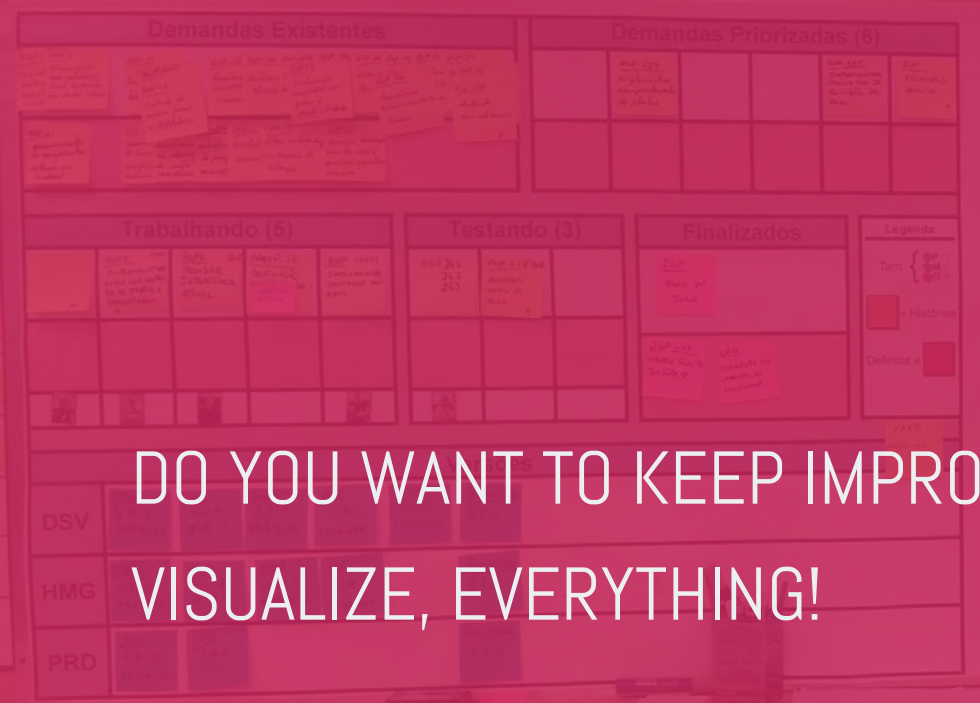


There is life beyond Multidisciplinary Teams

Not every service needs to be provided by a multidisciplinary team

Shared services can provide great results and economical benefits if well managed

It all depends on the context








































































































































































































DO YOU WANT TO KEEP IMPROVING?
VISUALIZE, EVERYTHING!

Continuous Integration

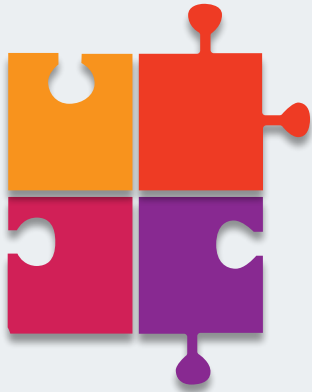


All jobs green in 1 week

30%
Reduction
of
Technical
Debt in 1
year

Dívida Técnica																
Projetos   	Gerência de Configuração				Design				Qualidade							
	Construção Automática	Integração Contínua	Deploy Automático	Promoção Automática	Uso de ferramentas de análise estática				Teste funcional			Teste não funcional			Estatísticas	Monitoração
					Estilo	Boas práticas	Bugs	Arquitetura	Unitário	Integração	Aceitação	Desempenho	Carga	Segurança		
																
																
																
																
																
																
																
																
																
																
																
																
																

4 departments



Divida Técnica

Projetos	Gestão de Configuração				Design		Qualidade		Valor
	Requisitos	Arquitetura	Detalhamento	Validação	Projeto	Testes	Defeitos		
							Abertos	Encerrados	
Projeto 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Projeto 2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Projeto 3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Projeto 4	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Projeto 5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Projeto 6	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Projeto 7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Projeto 8	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Projeto 9	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Projeto 10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Divida Técnica

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Projeto 10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Projeto 11	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Projeto 12	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Projeto 13	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Projeto 14	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Projeto 15	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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Projeto 18	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Projeto 19	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Projeto 20	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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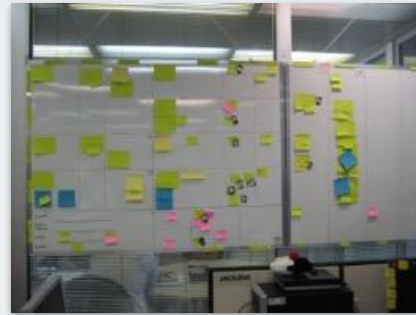


Project Portfolios



Strategic Planning

Process Modelling



Team Kanban



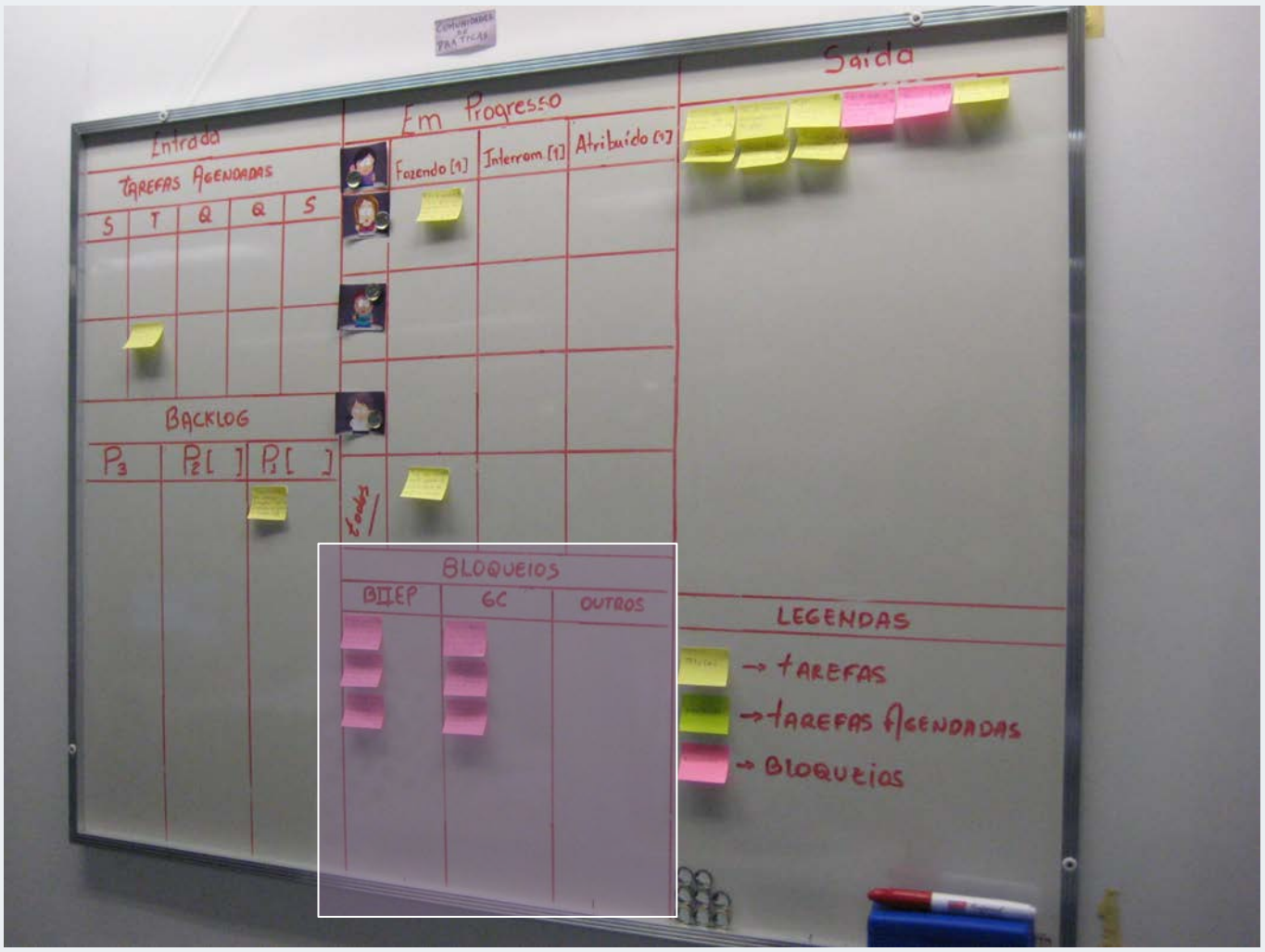


Commitment Point

WIP limits

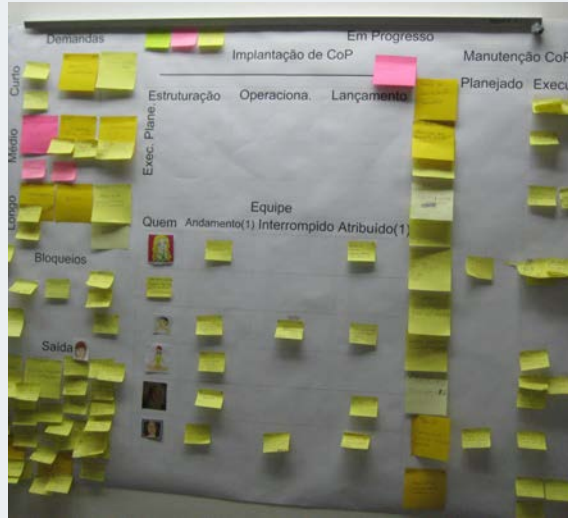
Options

Per Person
WIP limit



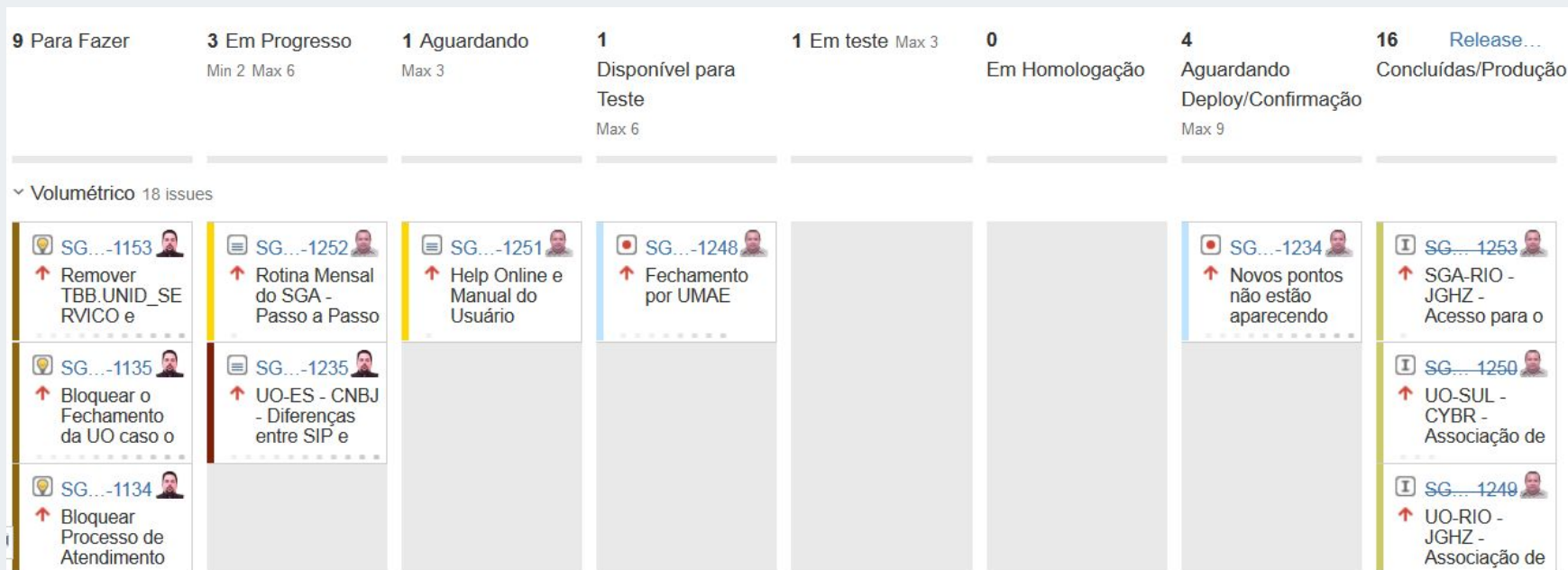
Parking lot
to visualise
dependent
work on
other
services

We started with many physical boards



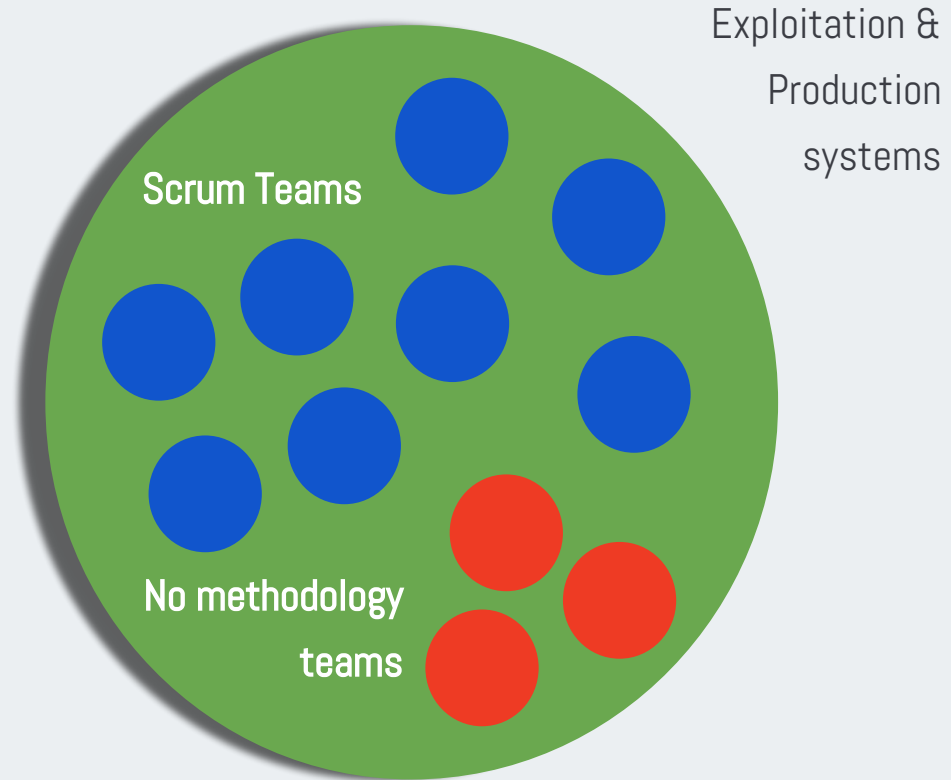
We moved buildings, space has changed

Some teams started using Jira



We lost some things,
we've gained some others...

Do you remember
those
#nomethodology
teams?



Supporting core business functions:
production of oil, gas and water

Each team had an average of 10 years of
existence

Development regulated by SOX. Requires formal
approvals and acceptance

Legacy technology: Centura

Senior Developers: (experience and age!)

Critical Systems. If they stop, Petrobras loses millions

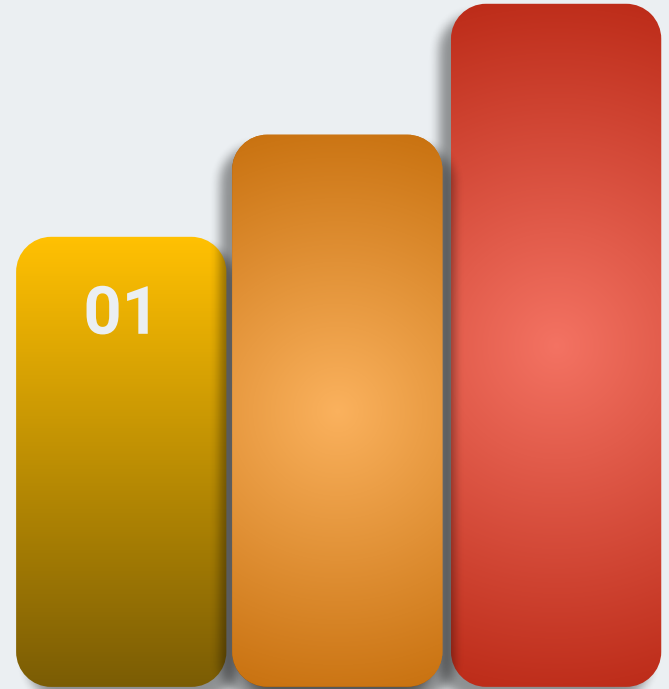
**No methodology
teams**



Conclusion:
no agile kids around here!

In the last years, those teams
have delivered results with:

Inconsistent processes
Heroic efforts



And from a specific problem,
an opportunity arises

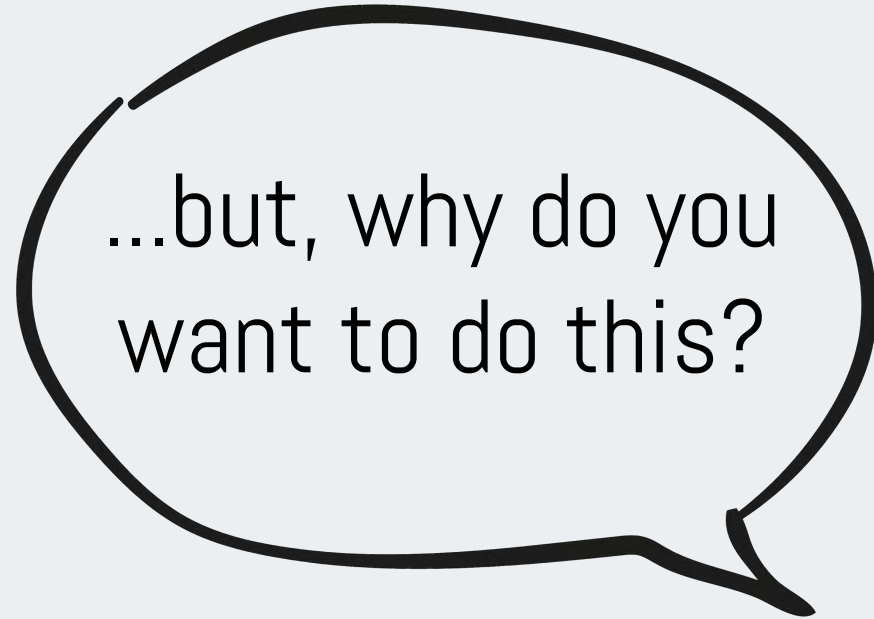
It all started with their Delivery Manager
asking:




Amanda, can you hide
who is doing what in
Jira?

A screenshot of a Jira issue card. The card has a white background with a purple vertical bar on the left side. At the top left, there is a lightbulb icon next to the issue key 'NART-718'. Below the issue key is a red upward-pointing arrow icon. On the top right, there is a small profile picture of a woman with dark hair. Below the profile picture is a small red rectangular icon. In the center of the card, the text 'Enterprise Agility 2019' is displayed.

Look, there is no way of doing it...





The customer
wants to
control our
work

He wants to say
who does what in
the team

He said he will
come here every
week

He snoops Jira
daily to see who
is doing what.

Observable Behaviour



Customers with sufficient transparency will show a preference or demand the involvement of specific individuals on their work requests as a means to mitigate risks of inconsistency, poor performance and disappointment

What was happening?



After years of relationship with their customer, he has retired, and a new customer has come

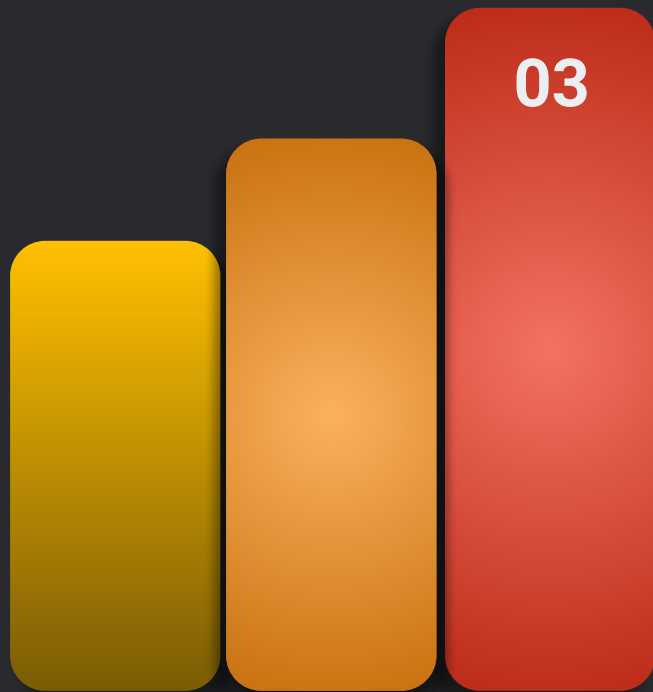
3 teams, same customer, similar problems

Hiding who
was doing
what in Jira
definitely was
not to going to
solve the problem

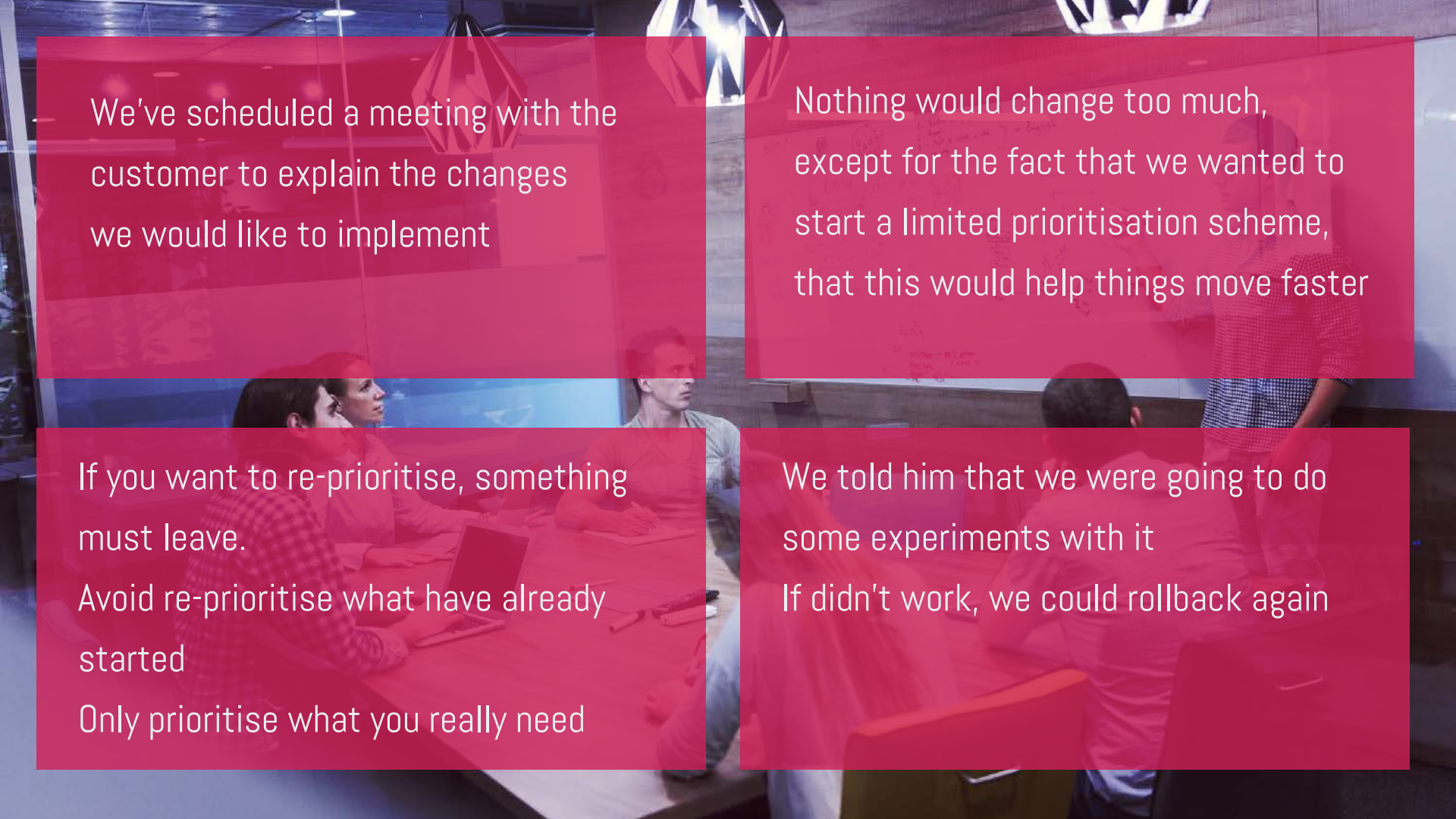


Five light-colored wooden blocks are arranged in a row on a dark, textured wooden surface. Each block has a single letter printed on its top face in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letters, from left to right, are T, R, U, S, and T, spelling out the word "TRUST". The lighting is soft, creating gentle shadows and highlighting the natural grain of the wood.

We would need reliable processes and outcomes to establish this new relationship, and the customer could trust in the teams



On the path to ML-3

A photograph of a meeting in a modern office. Several people are seated around a long table, looking towards a whiteboard. A man in a red shirt is standing and pointing at the whiteboard. The room has large windows and modern lighting fixtures.

We've scheduled a meeting with the customer to explain the changes we would like to implement

Nothing would change too much, except for the fact that we wanted to start a limited prioritisation scheme, that this would help things move faster

If you want to re-prioritise, something must leave.

Avoid re-prioritise what have already started

Only prioritise what you really need

We told him that we were going to do some experiments with it

If didn't work, we could rollback again

David Anderson's Formula for Evolutionary Change



Stressor



Reflection Mechanism



Leadership





We had everything

VISUALIZE

LIMIT WIP

MANAGE FLOW

MAKE POLICIES EXPLICIT

IMPLEMENT FEEDBACK LOOPS

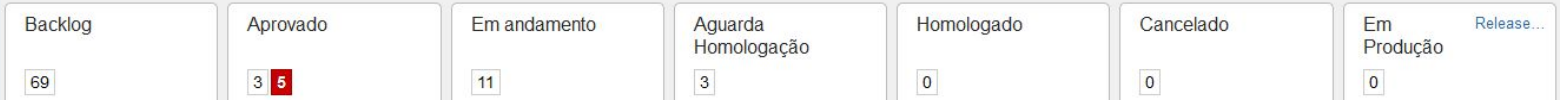
IMPROVE COLLABORATIVELY
EVOLVE EXPERIMENTALLY

Navigating
through the
Kanban
Practices

Software Development Flow



Customer Flow - for prioritisation and condensed view of In Progress items



Being a SOX regulated system, all User Stories needed to be approved by the customer (moved in the board by him) and in the end, accepted also by him.

Also, there were several Jira rules in terms of other work: developer, testers...

Before setting WIP limits, teams with
3 people had 20 items in progress



Cumulative Flow

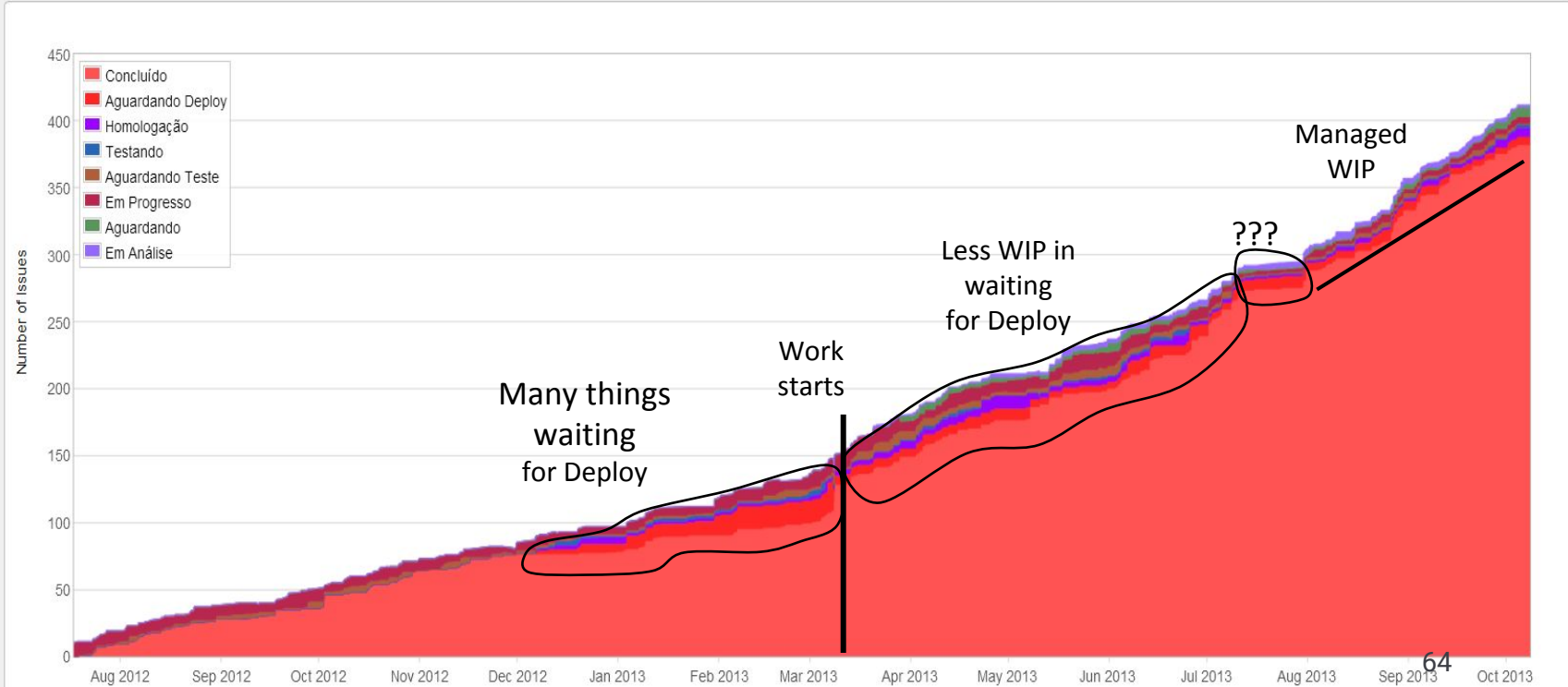
Run Charts

Throughput

Lead Time

Failure demand

... and other measures

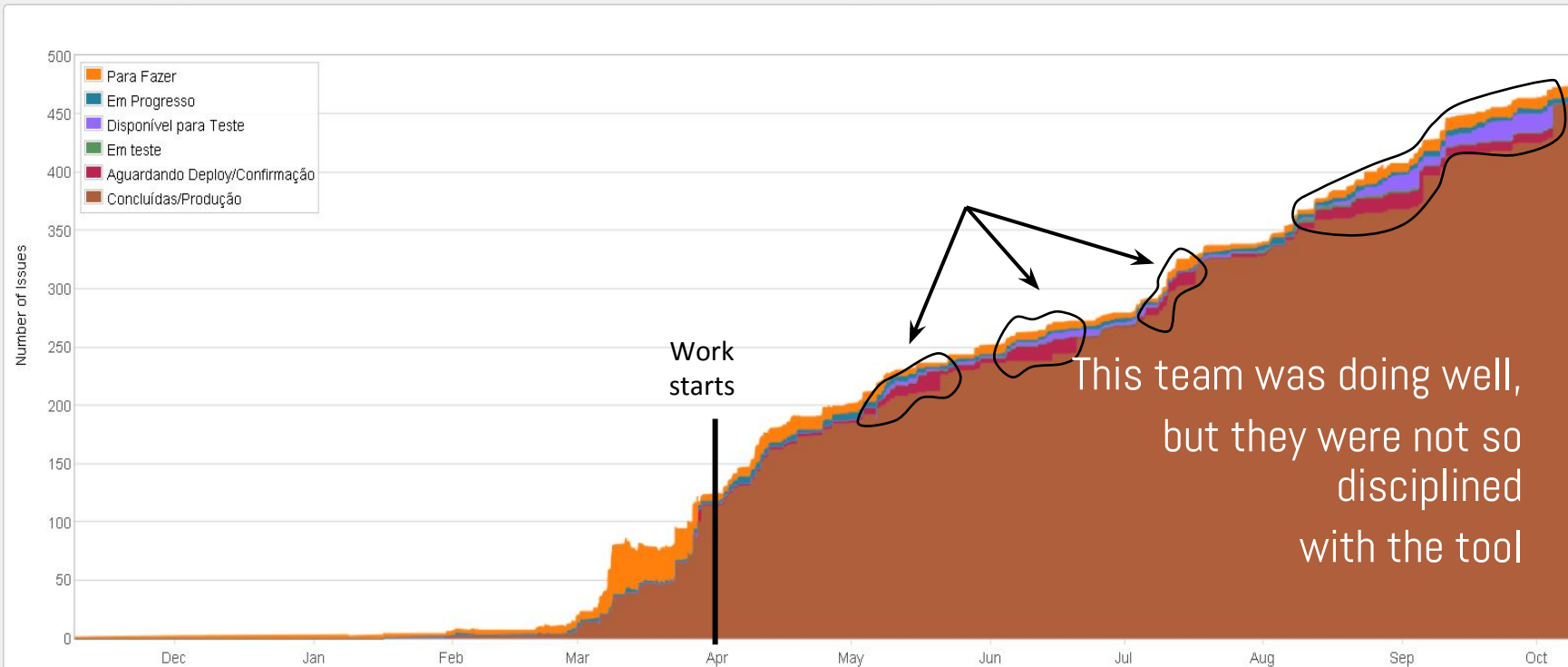


MANAGE FLOW

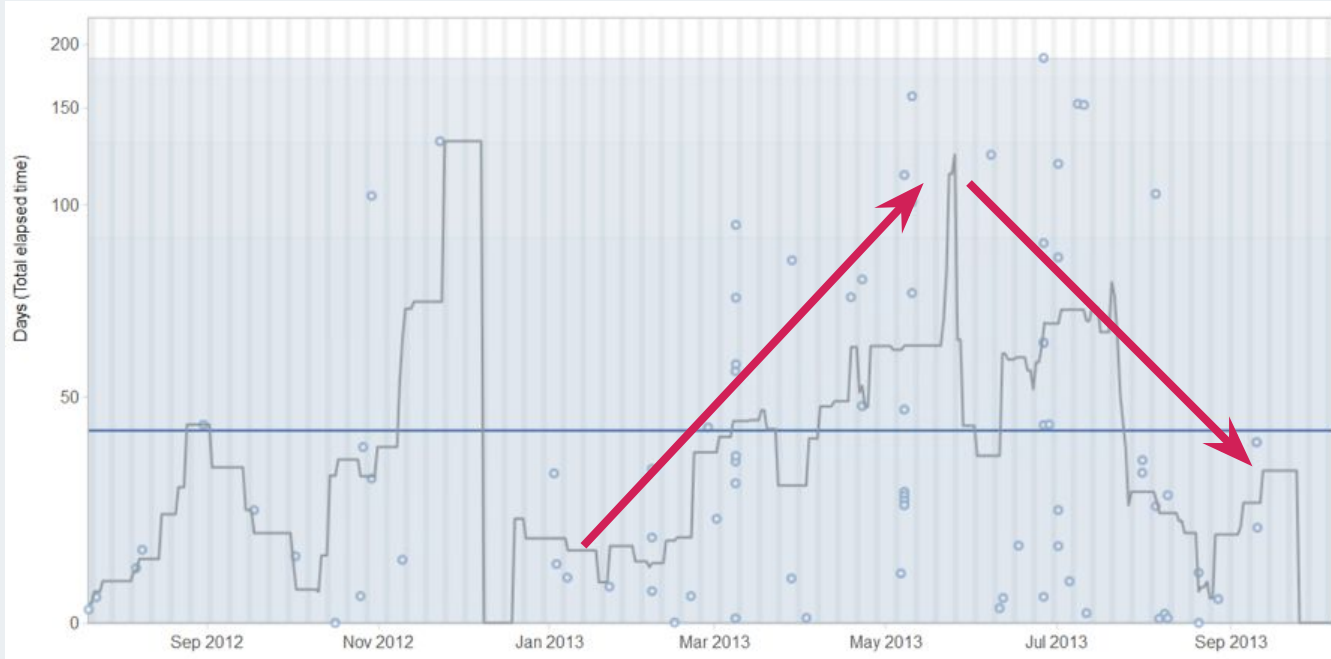
Cumulative Flow Diagram ▾

8/Nov/12 to 8/Oct/13 (All Time)

Refine



Team 1



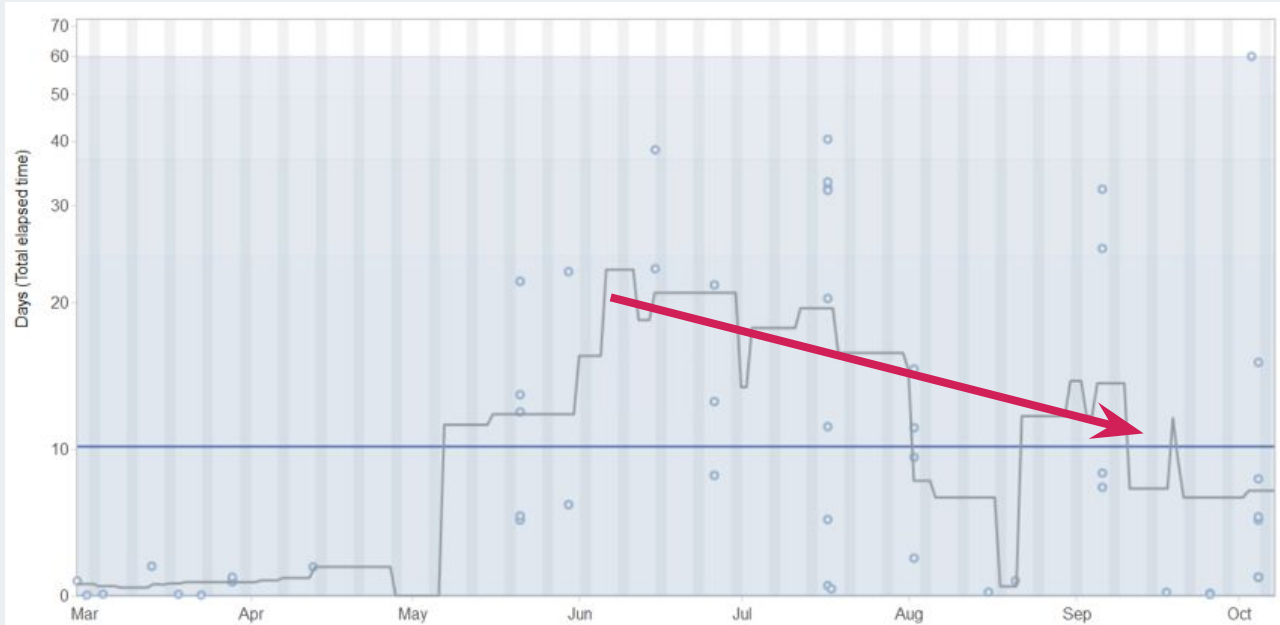
Name	Mean	Median	Standard Deviation	Min Time	Max Time
Cycle Time (Total elapsed time)	42 days 13 hours 21 minutes	29 days 22 hours 35 minutes	42 days 13 hours 42 minutes	0 minutes	187 days 20 hours 10 minutes

Team 2



Name	Mean	Median	Standard Deviation	Min Time	Max Time
Cycle Time (Total elapsed time)	18 days 17 hours 4 minutes	9 days 5 hours 17 minutes	24 days 3 hours 46 minutes	0 minutes	98 days 19 hours 33 minutes

Team 3



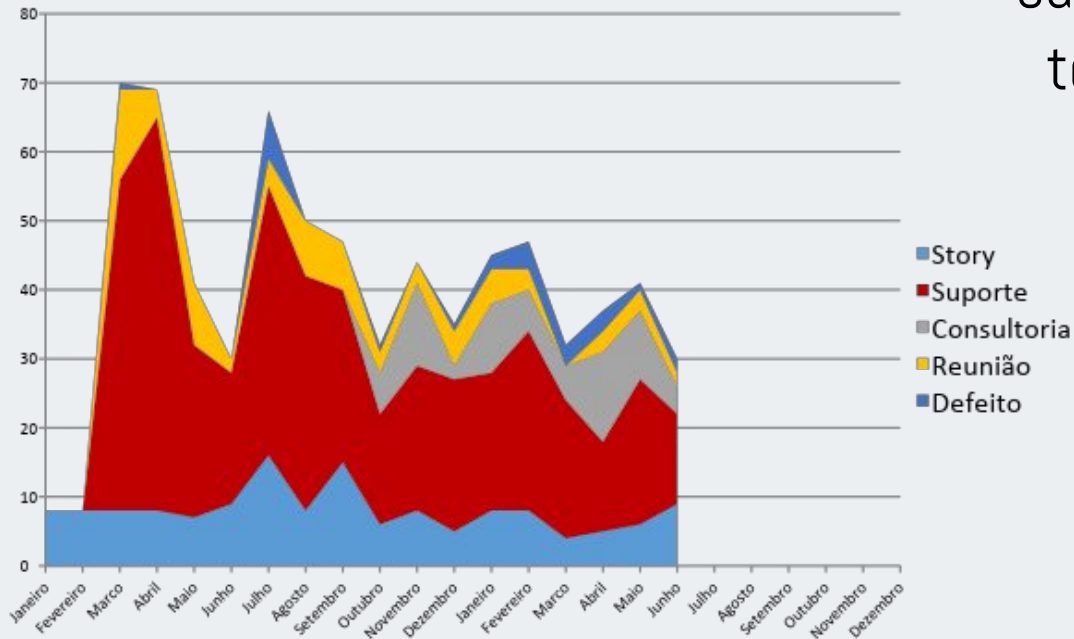
Name	Mean	Median	Standard Deviation	Min Time	Max Time
Cycle Time (Total elapsed time)	10 days 3 hours 53 minutes	5 days 4 hours 14 minutes	13 days 48 minutes	51 minutes	60 days 3 hours 50 minutes

Problem: Customer is not satisfied with our throughput, he also says things take too long to finish

Let's understand why

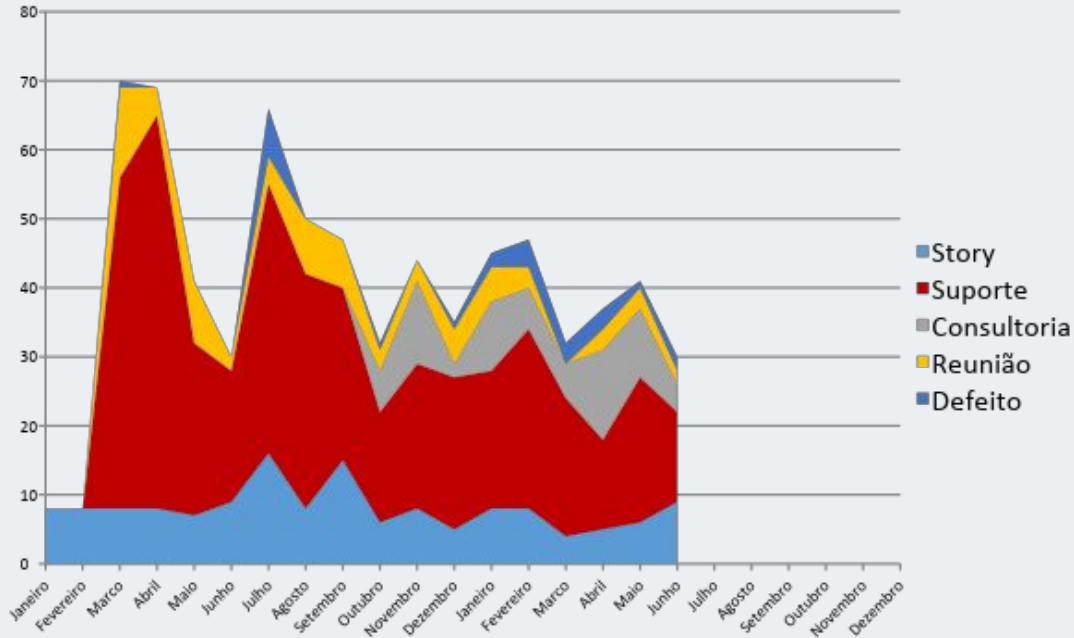
Hypothesis

Cumulative Type Chart



We receive too many support calls and we go to many unnecessary meetings

Hypothesis validated!!!



Maximise value
adding activities

Story

Minimise non-value
adding activities

Support

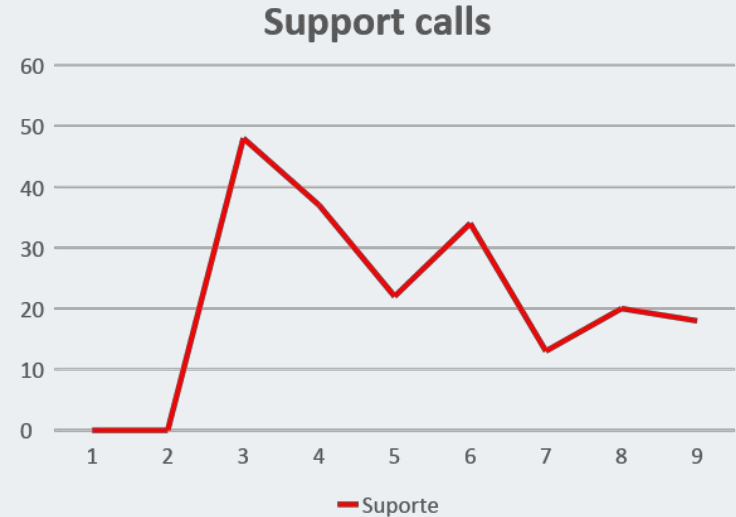
Advisory

Meetings

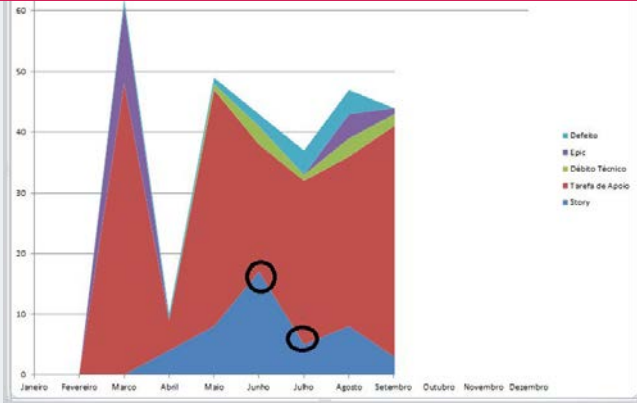
Defects

We give too many calls and go to many unnecessary meeting

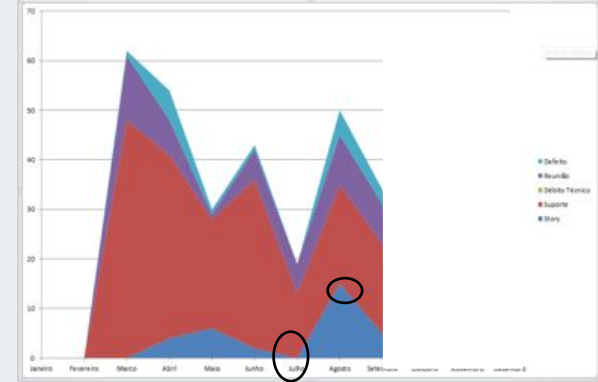
Support Calls



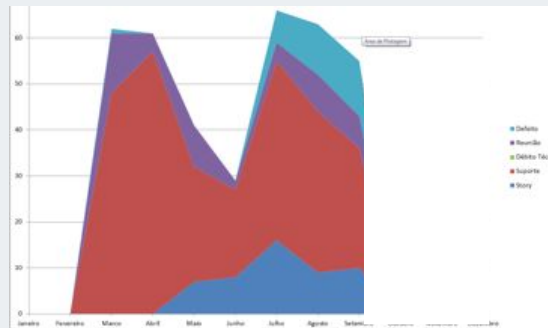
Throughput



AVG = 7,5 stories/month



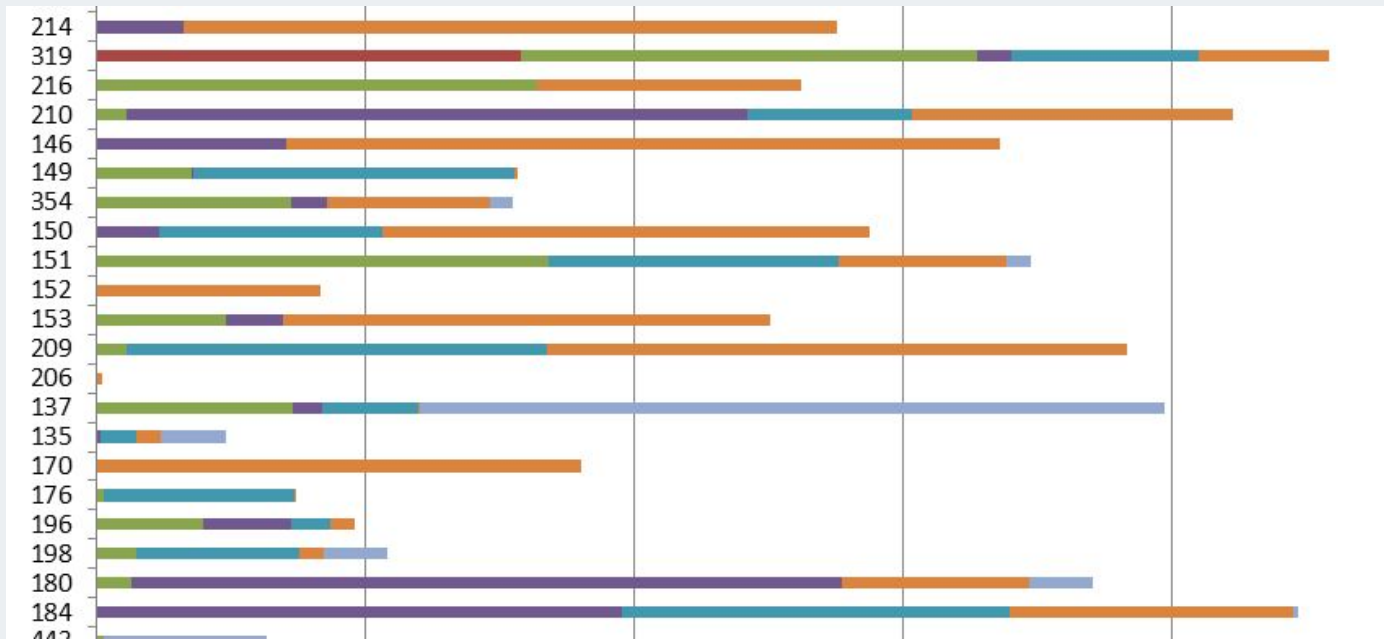
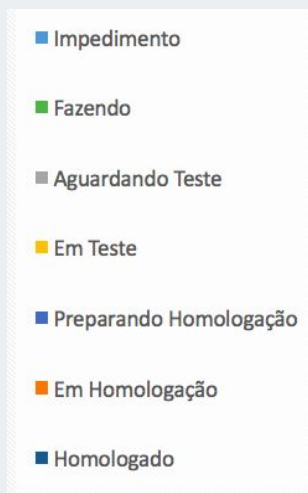
AVG = 5,3 stories/month



AVG = 10 stories/month

Problem: Customer complains that we take too long to deliver features

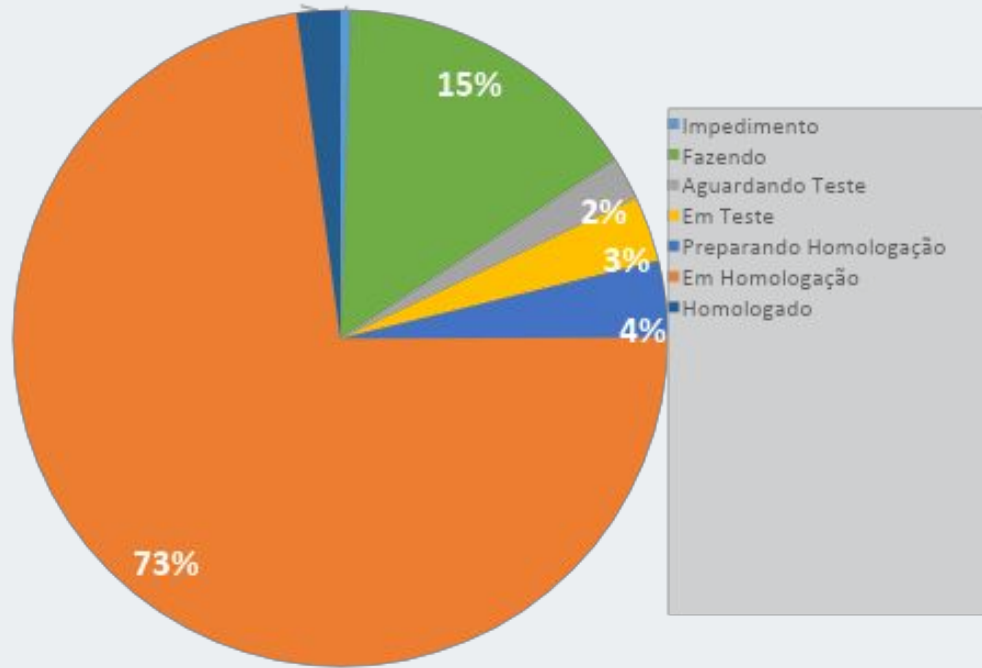
Hypothesis: the customer takes a long time to validate features. Let's investigate....



Fact: Customer takes too much time to accept features

x

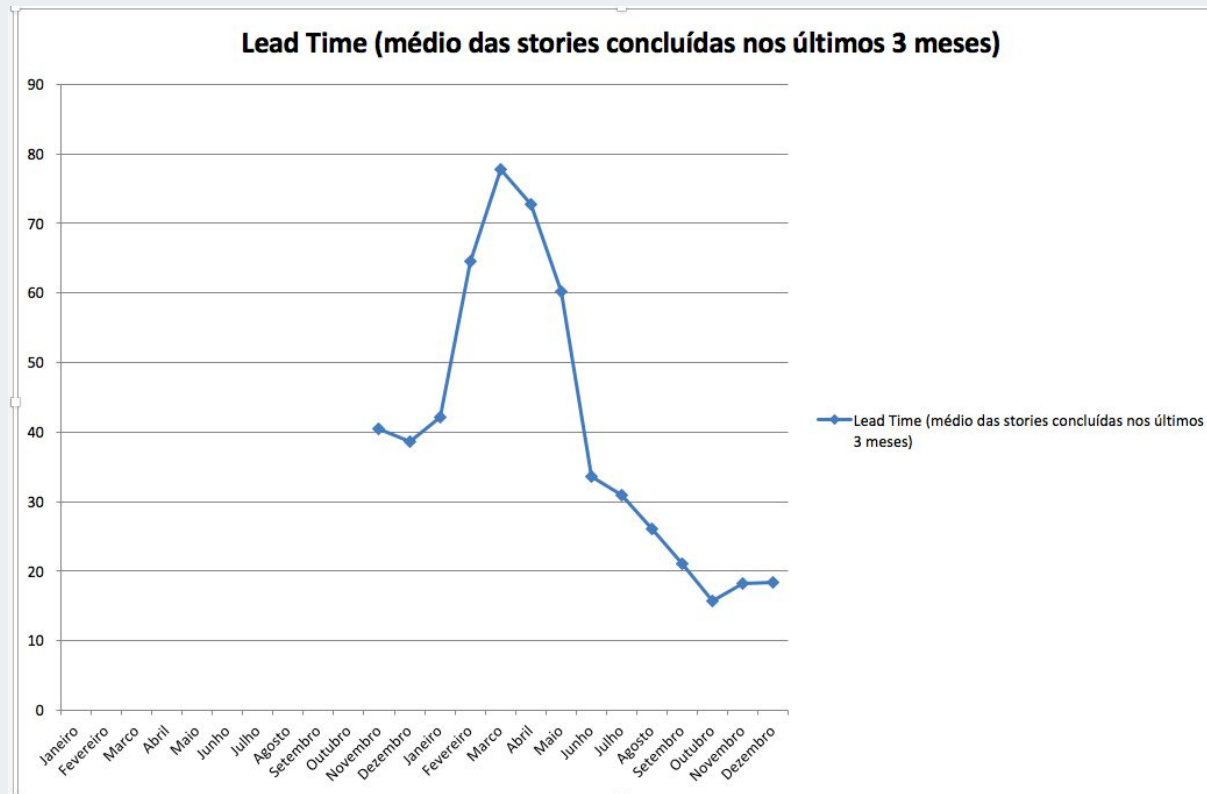
Percentage of User Acceptance Time



Defect Rate



Average Lead Time



MAKE POLICIES EXPLICIT



Bug



Épico



Improvement



Story



Task



Technical debt

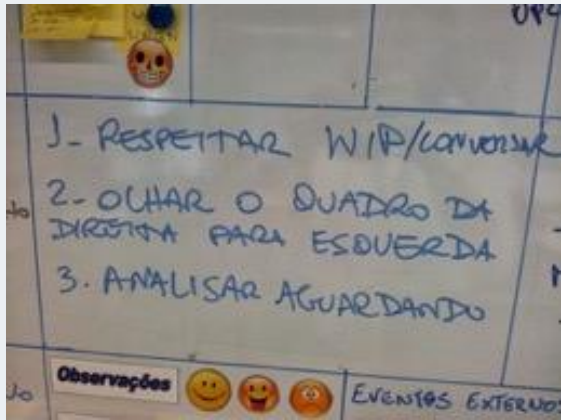


Technical Support

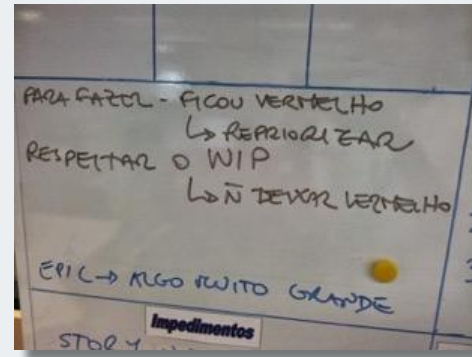


Technical task (Sub-Task)

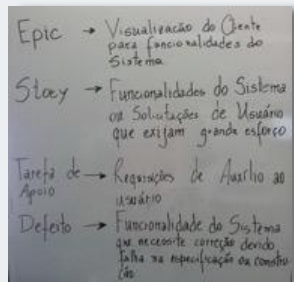
Visible policies in the team area



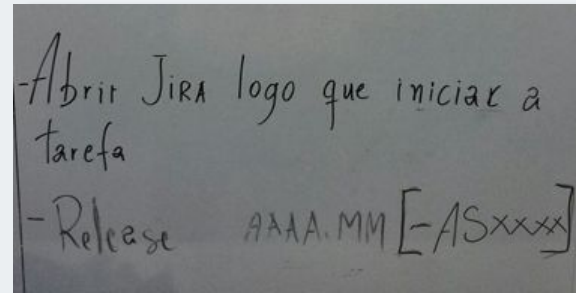
Stand-up policies



WIP policies



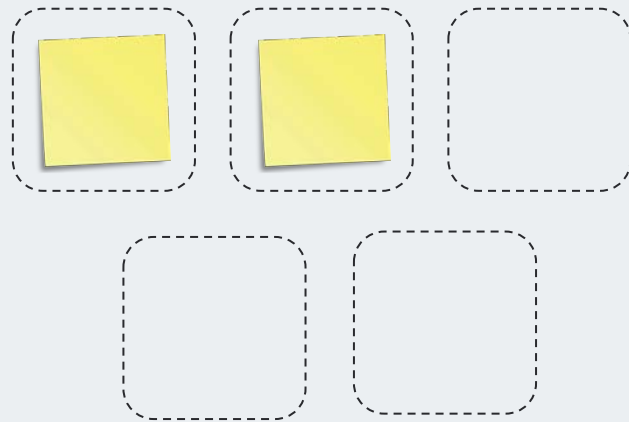
Work Item Types
Definitions



Jira Policies



Weekly Replenishment
Meetings with
the Customer



Monthly Service Delivery Review

Team + Delivery Manager

Data Analysis, what happened
and opportunities for improvement



Service Delivery Review



The Best Management Tool
to not mess up with Data!!!

The teams were very comfortable with the meetings, and they were seeing value in analysing good metrics for teams and managers. Until now, I have never seen such a thing!

Stand-up meetings

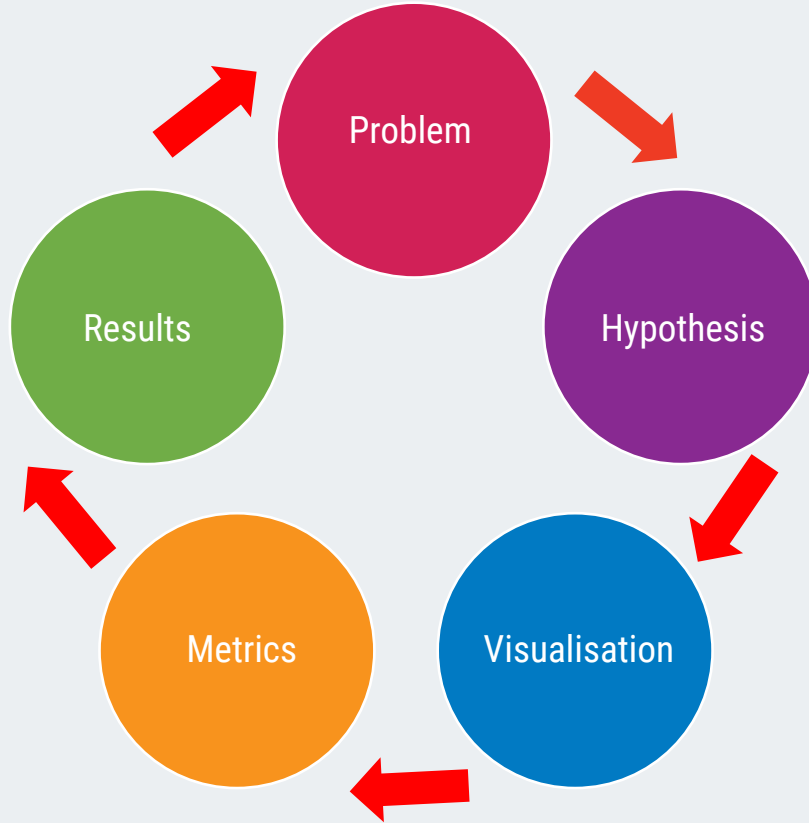
We started doing stand ups with
the 3 teams
Some of them decided to keep,
others not

As they were working together
for many time,
communication was not a issue

Also, the new boards helped a
lot to represent current reality



IMPROVE COLLABORATIVELY
EVOLVE EXPERIMENTALLY



We entered into a virtuous cycle of instead of jumping into a solution of a problem, we first built some visualisation or chart that would help us understand better the nature of the problem

Many of them were solved without us taking any action!



There was no need to
hide from the customer
who was doing what

Results



Customer stopped asking about it

There were still some minor attempts of task assignment, but the Delivery Manager handled the naughty behavior

Results



Teams got more visibility of their own activities

They've achieved a structured software development process
(it became a benchmark in the company in terms of SOX
compliance)

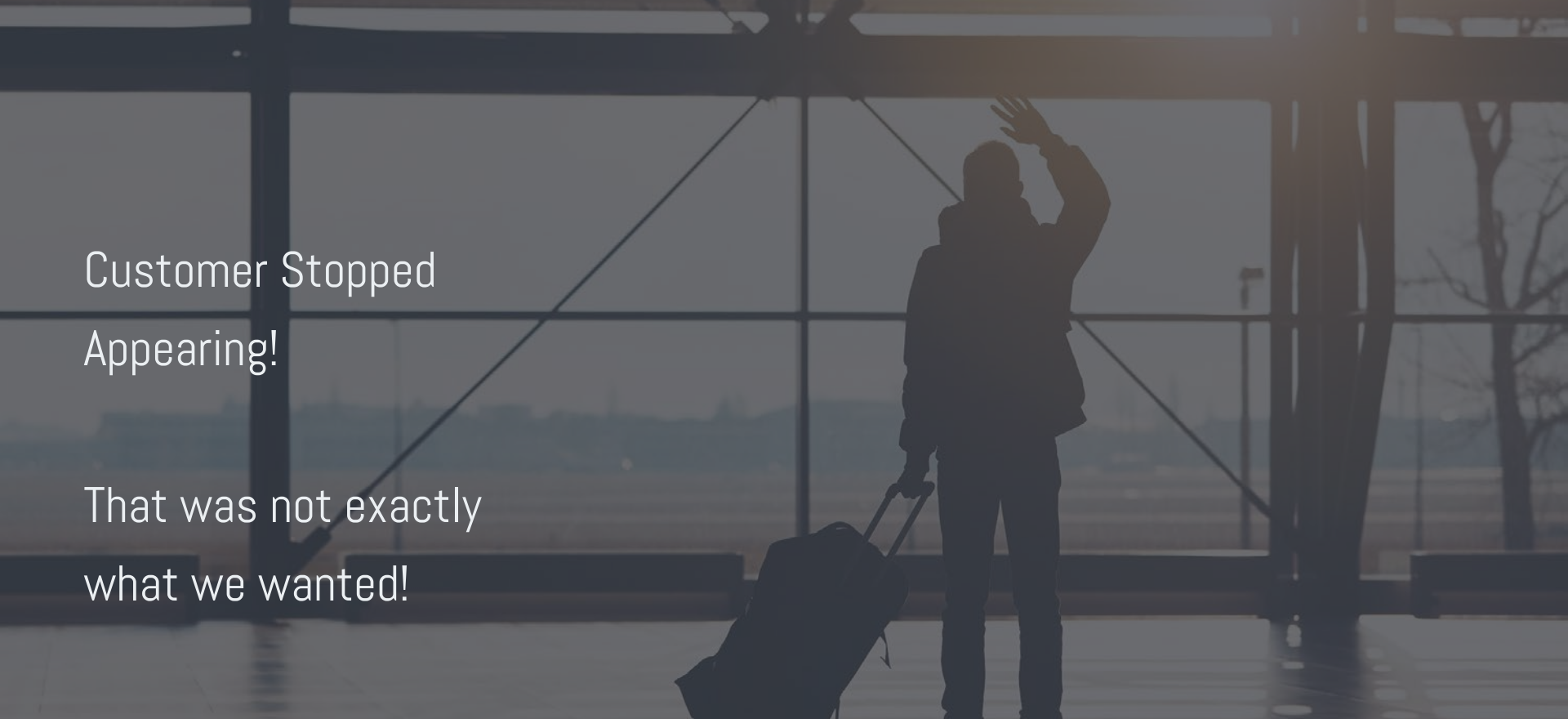
Results

The frequency of replenish meetings started to decrease

The customer started to prioritise the work directly in Jira,
and doing on-demand replenishment.

He knew exactly what was happening during the development.

Collateral effects

A silhouette of a person standing in a large, modern building with floor-to-ceiling windows. The person is holding a rolling suitcase and waving their right hand towards the window. The background shows a hazy outdoor scene with trees and a building. The overall tone is somber and reflective.

Customer Stopped
Appearing!

That was not exactly
what we wanted!

Collateral effects

Observable Behaviours



Consistency of processes
Customer expectations being met
He trusts the work is done consistently
Demand balanced against capacity
Metrics and reporting strategy
Fit for purpose



Software
Development

Databases

Infrastructure

Results

Did you remember the Databases
and Infrastructure areas?

We've put a lot of effort in our
interactions with them.

Inspired by our achievements, they've
also started to use a lot of Kanban
practices and improving their service
delivery to us.

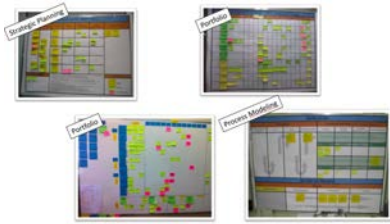
Kai Zen

改 善

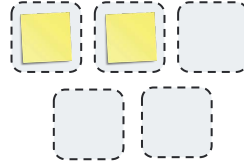
After these 3 teams, 5 more teams adopted this same approach of Service Delivery reviews

After-effects

Transparency



Balance



Customer Focus



Collaboration



Leadership



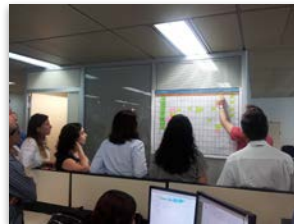
Flow



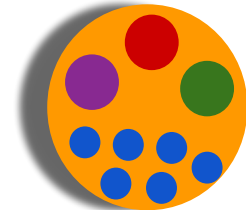
Understanding



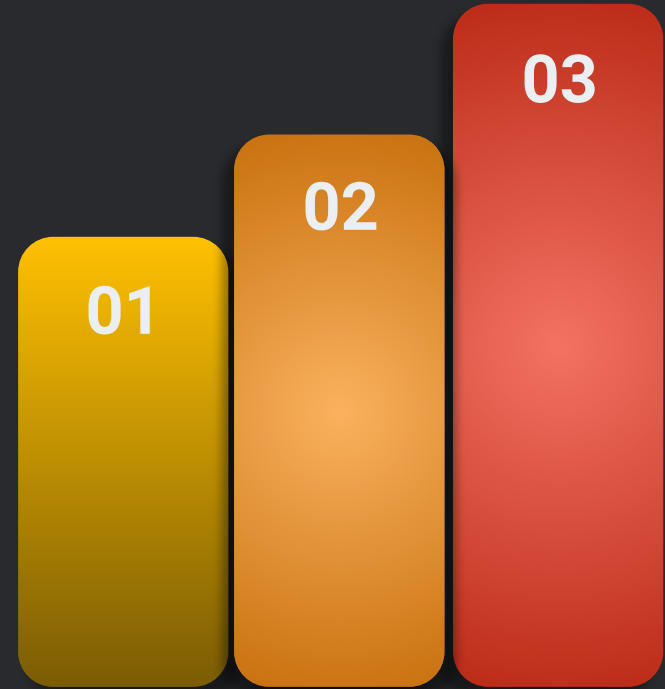
Agreement



Respect



Thank you!



Amanda Varella



@amandavarella



/in/amandavarella