

# Modernizing app, platforms, & culture

Maybe it's not as hard as it seems

Coté

Feb 2024



Source: [Pivotal Conversations #113](#), Sep 2018. Pic: [Tyler Olson](#).

We all know that

Changing organizations  
fails 70% of the time.

Actually,

We have no idea how  
frequently organization  
change fails *or succeeds*.

## TECHNICAL IMPROVEMENTS

Daily deploys

+30% developer productivity

+78% operational efficiency

60% reduction in incidents

Repaving prod months->weeks->daily

## BUSINESS IMPROVEMENTS

65% shift to in-app ordering

+46% enrollment rates

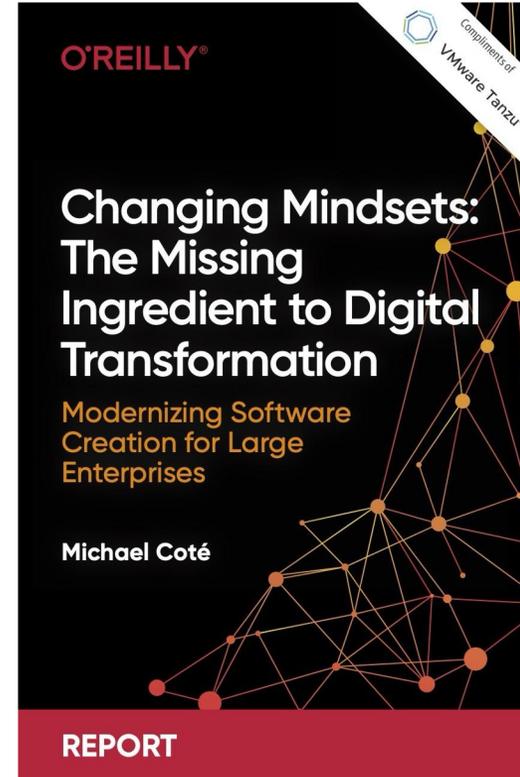
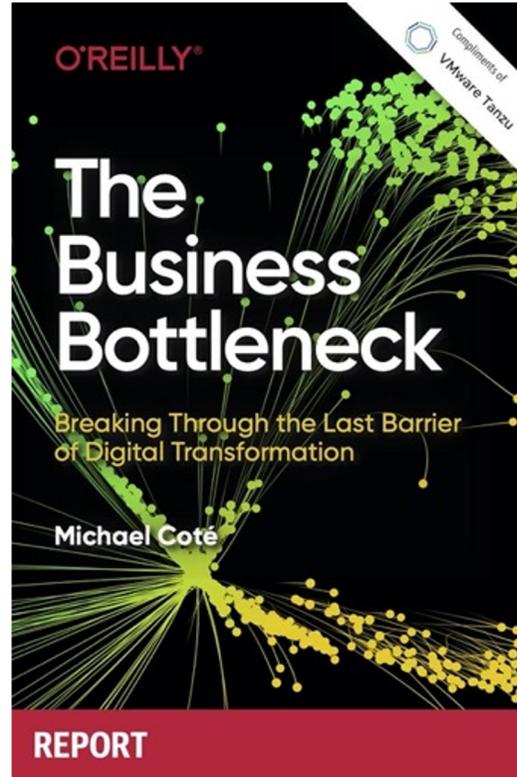
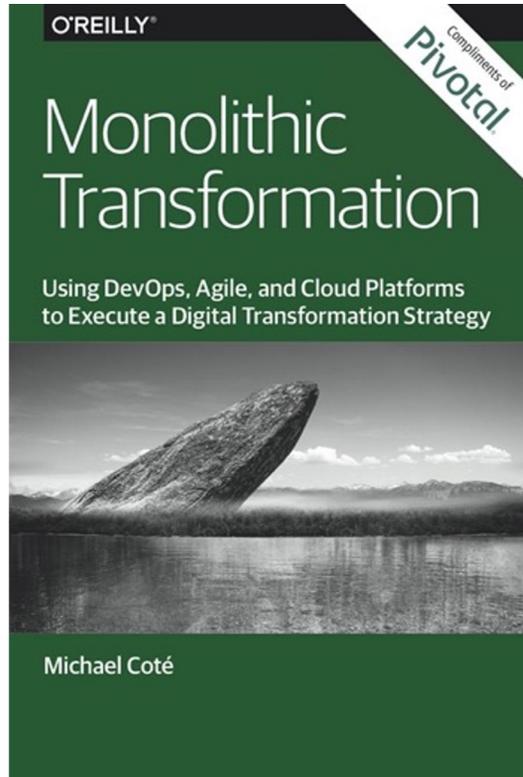
3 ½ weeks to retool loan program

6 months to launch a new business

142% ROI on platform investment

# Coté

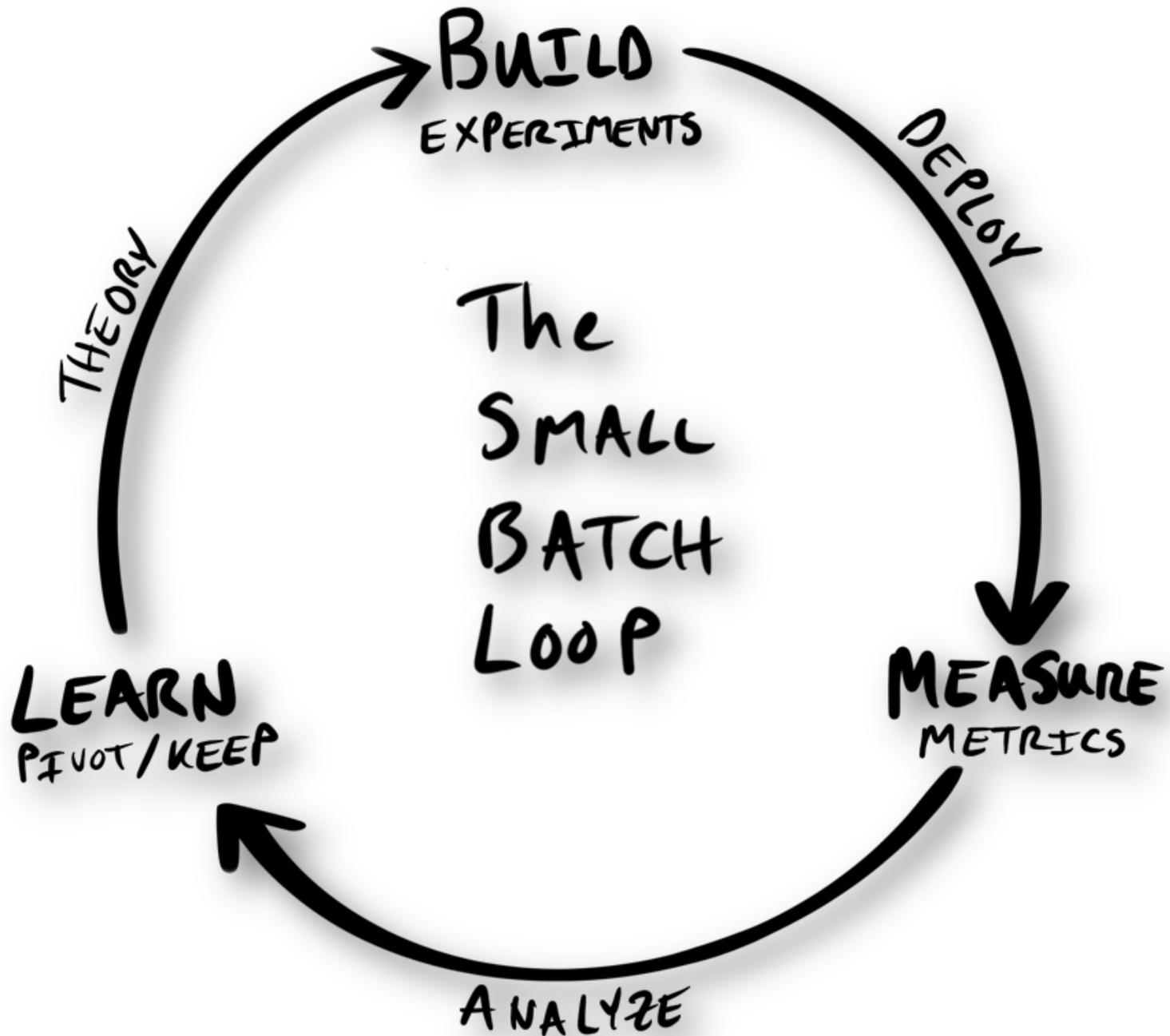
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App Dev 🙌 Product



## People are:

- Innovative
- ~~Risk takers~~ Like Learning
- People-centric

## Leaders give them:

- Autonomy
- Trust
- Voice

# The Product Development Toolbox

## User Centered Design

Understand the user and their needs and problems.

### PRACTICES

- User Interviews
- Ethnographic studies
- Persona definition
- Prototype creation

## Lean Product Management

Avoid building the wrong thing. Easily change direction if needed.

### PRACTICES

- MVP definition
- Lean experiments
- Test assumptions
- Data driven decisions

## Extreme Programming

Code at a consistent speed and quality in the face of changing requirements.

### PRACTICES

- Pair Programming
- TDD
- Short iterations
- CI / CD

## Enterprise Architecture

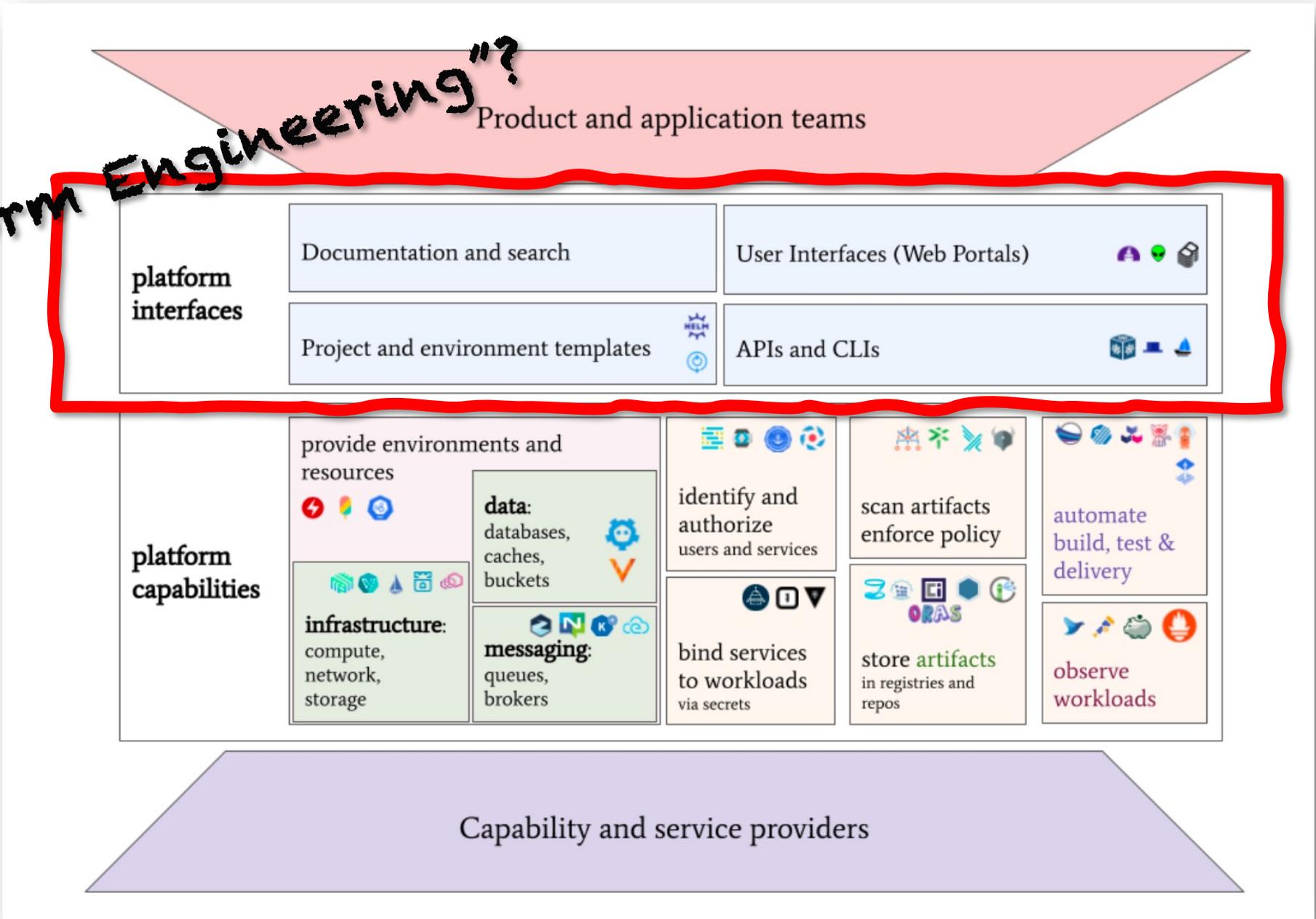
Understand how the system wants to behave. Architect for constant iteration.

### PRACTICES

- Event Storming
- Boris
- SNAP
- Patterns

Infrastructure 🙌 Platforms

"Platform Engineering"?



“ We are building this platform not for us, we are building it for Mercedes-Benz developers.”

Thomas Müller, Mercedes-Benz



# Find the Developer Toil, Confusion, Blockers

1. What are we making?
2. We have a strong vision for our product, and we're doing important work together every day to fulfill that vision.
3. I have the context I need to confidently make changes while I'm working.
4. I am proud of the work I have delivered so far for our product.
5. I am learning things that I look forward to applying to future products.
6. My workstation seems to disappear out from under me while I'm working.
7. It's easy to get my workstation into the state I need to develop our product.
8. What aspect of our workstation setup is painful?
9. It's easy to run our software on my workstation while I'm developing it.
10. I can boot our software up into the state I need with minimal effort.
11. What aspect of running our software locally is painful? What could we do to make it less painful?
12. It's easy to run our test suites and to author new ones.
13. Tests are a stable, reliable, seamless part of my workflow.
14. Test failures give me the feedback I need on the code I am writing.
15. What aspect of production support is painful?
16. We collaborate well with the teams whose software we integrate with.
17. When necessary, it is within my power to request timely changes from other teams.
18. I have the resources I need to test and code confidently against other teams' integration points.
19. What aspect of integrating with other teams is painful?
20. I'm rarely impacted by breaking changes from other tracks of work.
21. We almost always catch broken tests and code before they're merged in.
22. What aspect of committing changes is painful?
23. Our release process (CI/CD) from source control to our story acceptance environment is fully automated.
24. If the release process (CI/CD) fails, I'm confident something is truly wrong, and I know I'll be able to track down the problem.
25. What aspect of our release process (CI/CD) is painful?
26. Our team releases new versions of our software as often as the business needs us to.
27. We are meeting our service-level agreements with a minimum of unplanned work.
28. When something is wrong in production, we reproduce and solve the problem in a lower environment.

# Platform marketing, advocacy, consulting

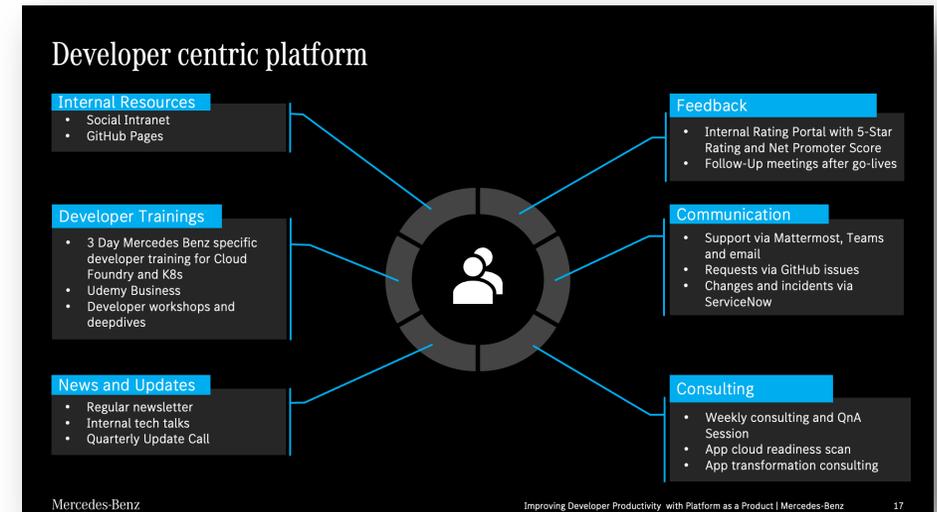
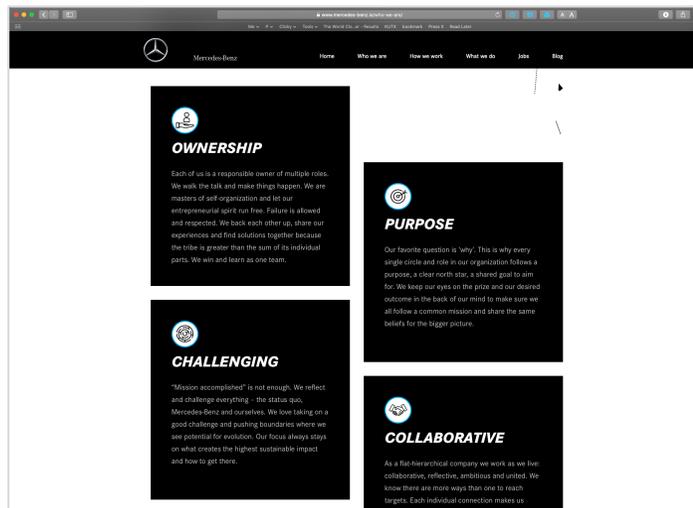
## Organizational Learning



## Focus on ways of working.....



BT



# Platform lessons learned from 1,500+ application at JP Morgan Chase

## A Successful Developer Experience (1/2)

1. Customer Focus: Treat internal developers like clients
2. Build, nourish and embrace a community around your platforms
3. Focus on end-to-end & deliver an integrated experience
4. Culture is critical
5. Cloud Blueprints
6. Cloud Parties
7. Self-service everything

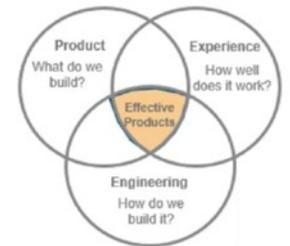


Build a customer-centre culture.  
"15 Proven Techniques to Improve Customer Experience (CX)"  
Blog by Snigdha Patel on the revechat.com platform

J P M o r g a n C h a s e

## A Successful Developer Experience (2/2)

8. Clear responsibility model, boundaries and platform contract
9. Operationally stable, reliable, and has well-defined SLOs
10. Inherently secure
11. Streamline tooling for CI/CD
12. Enable innovation through managing risk
13. Automate, automate, automate!
14. Short time to Hello World!
15. Partner for success



J P M o r g a n C h a s e

Management 🙌 Culture

“Culture” means you

## Leaders at the Genba



The boss made immediate changes once I put him on the line!



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# Management likes dev productivity metrics, developers are skeptical

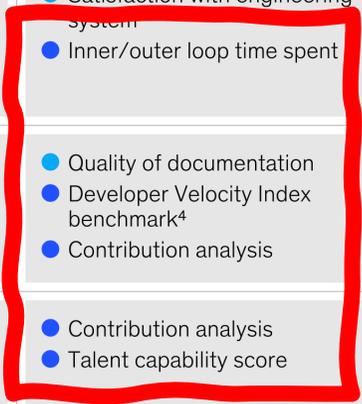
**Adding a focus on opportunities to software developer productivity metrics can offer clearer paths to improvement.**

**Focus areas by level**      ● DORA<sup>1</sup> metrics    ● SPACE<sup>2</sup> metrics    ● Opportunity-focused metrics

	<b>Outcomes focus</b> <i>Are you delivering products satisfactorily?</i>	<b>Optimization focus<sup>3</sup></b> <i>Are you delivering products in an optimized way?</i>	<b>Opportunities focus</b> <i>Are there specific opportunities to improve how you deliver products, and what are they worth?</i>
<b>System level</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Deployment frequency</li> <li>● Customer satisfaction</li> <li>● Reliability (uptime)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Code-review timing</li> <li>● Velocity/flow through the system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Satisfaction with engineering System</li> <li>● Inner/outer loop time spent</li> </ul>
<b>Team level</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Lead time for changes</li> <li>● Change failure rate</li> <li>● Time to restore service</li> <li>● Code-review velocity</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Story points completed</li> <li>● Handoffs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Quality of documentation</li> <li>● Developer Velocity Index benchmark<sup>4</sup></li> <li>● Contribution analysis</li> </ul>
<b>Individual level</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Developer satisfaction</li> <li>● Retention</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Interruptions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Contribution analysis</li> <li>● Talent capability score</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup>Google's DevOps research and assessment team, which developed these outcome metrics.  
<sup>2</sup>Satisfaction and well-being, performance, activity, communication and collaboration, and efficiency and flow; GitHub and Microsoft Research developed these metrics, which aim to look at developer well-being as a measurement at the individual level.  
<sup>3</sup>Nonexhaustive.  
<sup>4</sup>Benchmarks an organization's technology, working practices, and organizational enablement; see Shivam Srivastava, Kartik Trehan, Dilip Wagle, and Jane Wang, "Developer Velocity: How software excellence fuels business performance," McKinsey, Apr 20, 2020.

McKinsey & Company



# A thriving organization focuses on satisfaction, flow, ease, happiness

Causes of thriving	Because a developer is...
Agency	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) able to voice disagreement with team definitions of success</li> <li>2) has a voice in how their contributions are measured</li> </ol>
Motivation & Self-Efficacy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) motivated when working on code at work</li> <li>2) can see tangible progress most of the time</li> <li>3) is working on the type of code work they want to work on</li> <li>4) is confident that even when working in code is unexpectedly difficult, they will solve their problems</li> </ol>
Learning Culture	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) learning new skills as a developer</li> <li>2) able to share the things they learn at work</li> </ol>
Support & Belonging	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) supported to grow, learn, and make mistakes by their team</li> <li>2) agrees they are accepted for who they are by their team</li> </ol>

TABLE 1: **EXAMPLE DEVEX METRICS**

	FEEDBACK LOOPS	COGNITIVE LOAD	FLOW STATE
<b>PERCEPTIONS</b> <i>Human attitudes and opinions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Satisfaction with automated test speed and output</li> <li>• Satisfaction with time it takes to validate a local change</li> <li>• Satisfaction with time it takes to deploy a change to production</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perceived complexity of codebase</li> <li>• Ease of debugging production systems</li> <li>• Ease of understanding documentation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perceived ability to focus and avoid interruptions</li> <li>• Satisfaction with clarity of task or project goals</li> <li>• Perceived disruptiveness of being on-call</li> </ul>
<b>WORKFLOWS</b> <i>System and process behaviors</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time it takes to generate CI results</li> <li>• Code review turnaround time</li> <li>• Deployment lead time (time it takes to get a change released to production)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Time it takes to get answers to technical questions</li> <li>• Manual steps required to deploy a change</li> <li>• Frequency of documentation improvements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of blocks of time without meetings or interruptions</li> <li>• Frequency of unplanned tasks or requests</li> <li>• Frequency of incidents requiring team attention</li> </ul>
<b>KPIS</b> <i>North star metrics</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overall perceived ease of delivering software</li> <li>• Employee engagement or satisfaction</li> <li>• Perceived productivity</li> </ul>		

# Platform marketing, advocacy, consulting

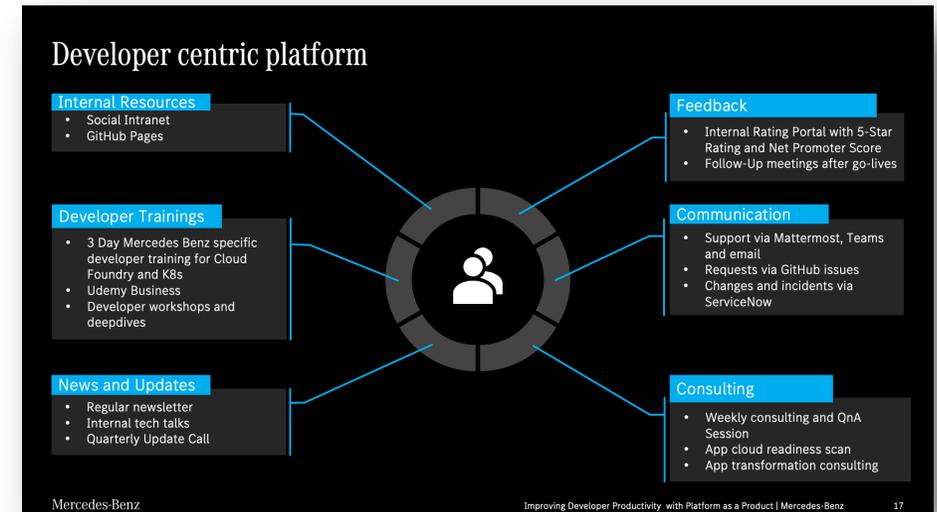
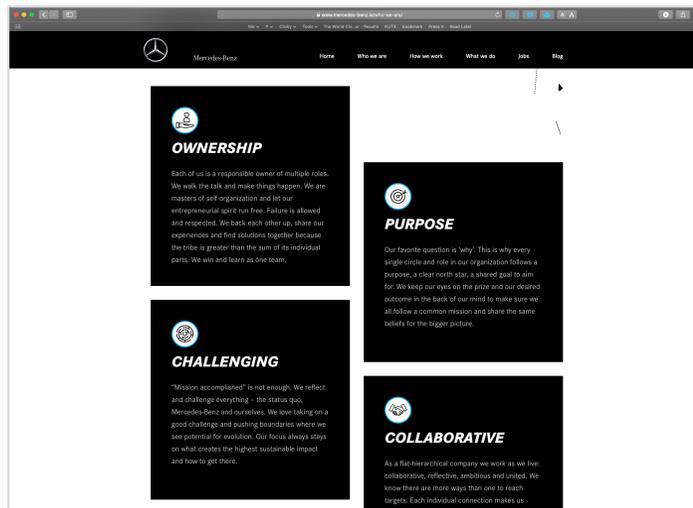
## Organizational Learning



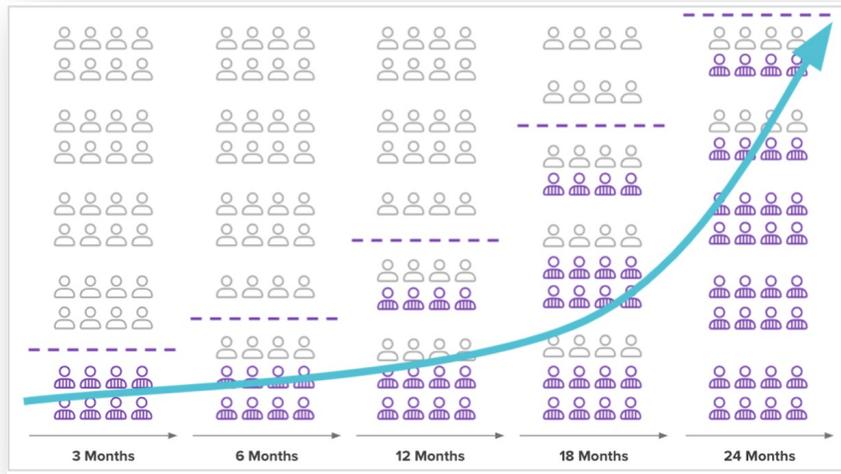
## Focus on ways of working.....



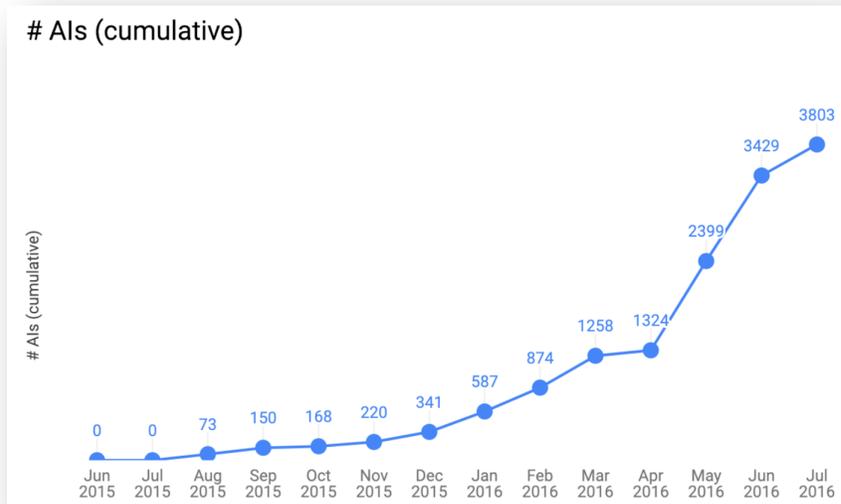
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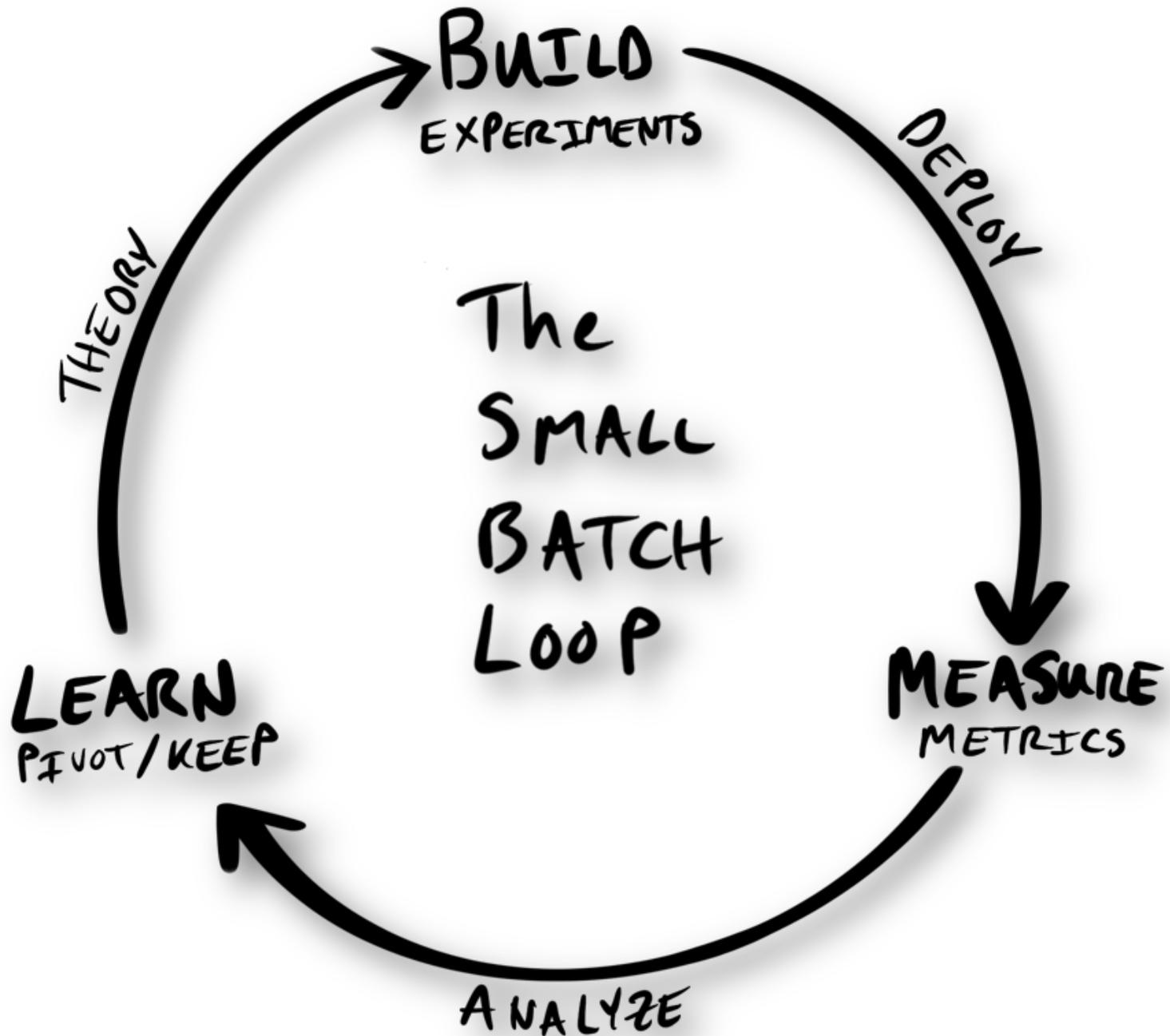
# Scaling Phase – Pairing & Seeding to build trust & training



1. Create platform team.
2. Pick one or two apps, real apps.
3. Develop the apps & platform together.
4. Do this for three months.
5. Pick some more apps, to taste.
6. Seed app people to new teams.
7. GOTO 3.



	Aspect	Provisional	Operational	Scalable	Optimizing
<b><u>Investment</u></b>	<i>How are staff and funds allocated to platform capabilities?</i>	Voluntary or temporary	Dedicated team	As product	Enabled ecosystem
<b><u>Adoption</u></b>	<i>Why and how do users discover and use internal platforms and platform capabilities?</i>	Erratic	Extrinsic push	Intrinsic pull	Participatory
<b><u>Interfaces</u></b>	<i>How do users interact with and consume platform capabilities?</i>	Custom processes	Standard tooling	Self-service solutions	Integrated services
<b><u>Operations</u></b>	<i>How are platforms and their capabilities planned, prioritized, developed and maintained?</i>	By request	Centrally tracked	Centrally enabled	Managed services
<b><u>Measurement</u></b>	<i>What is the process for gathering and incorporating feedback and learning?</i>	Ad hoc	Consistent collection	Insights	Quantitative and qualitative



# All too common challenges & blockers

## People, Culture, etc.

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- Skills, hiring
- Reluctance to change
- Scaling new roles
- Org. structure
- “We already do agile.”
- Durability through people & org. change

## Planning & Alignment

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- Budgeting
- Misaligned executives
- IT is still in the basement
- Compliance
- Weak connection to business value

## Technical Execution

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- ITSM instead of Platforms
- Overwhelming legacy portfolio
- Dependencies between teams
- Local optimization, no CI/CD

# Thanks!



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