Lack of Product Thinking will Doom your Legacy modernisation

Meaghan Waters Product and Design Principal, ThoughtWorks Fotina Koutropoulous Associate Director - Delivery, Simple Machines



Four key practices to keep doom at bay

- 1. Discovery upfront and continuous
- 2. Shared visual knowledge and wisdom think mapping
- 3. Strong, experienced product management
- 4. Change management how to make people want what's good for them



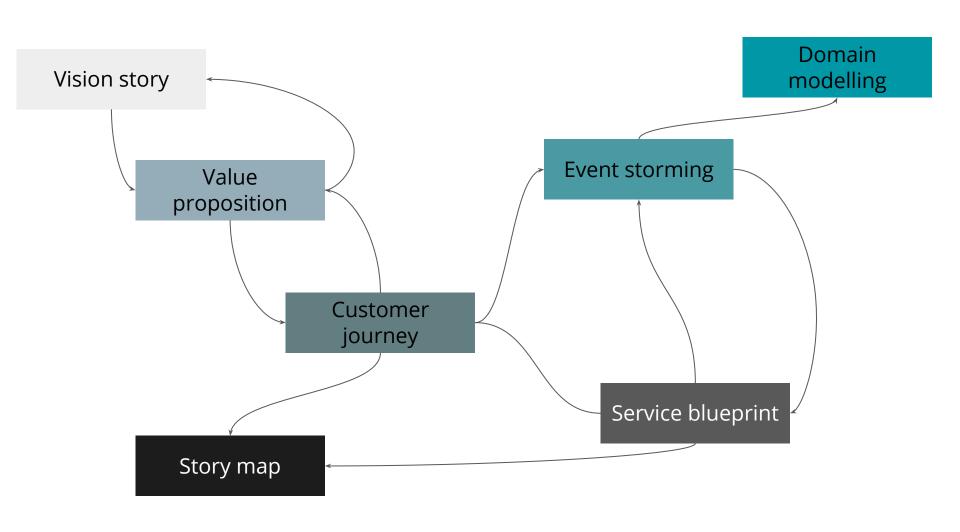
DISCOVERY -UPFRONT <u>AND</u> CONTINUOUS

Pitfalls and the sweet spot

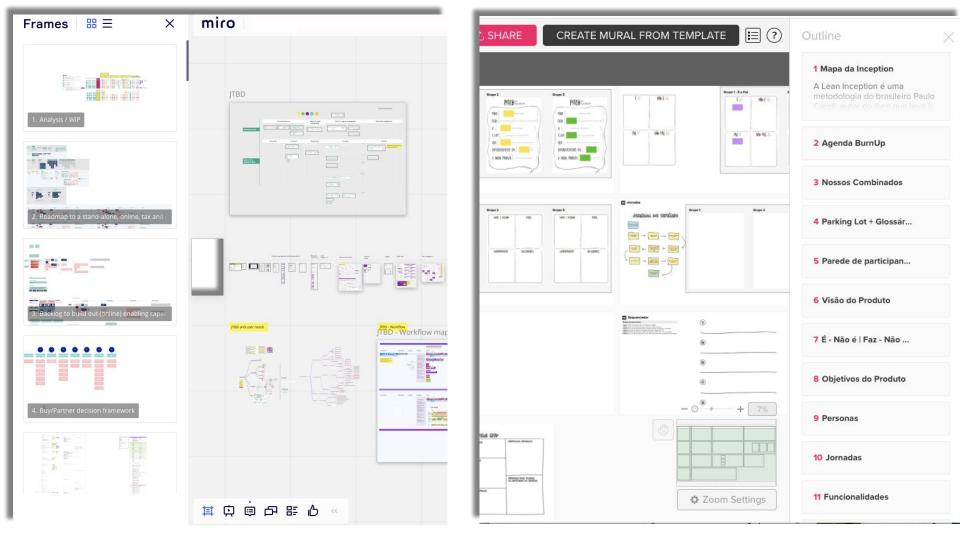
- Not doing enough discovery upfront
 - Invest time to uncover the knowns
 - Create value over feature parity
 - Build a roadmap
- Continuous discovery
 - Look ahead and adjust the roadmap
- Doing discovery for too long upfront
 - Opportunities will be missed and unnecessary things will be built



SHARED VISUAL KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM





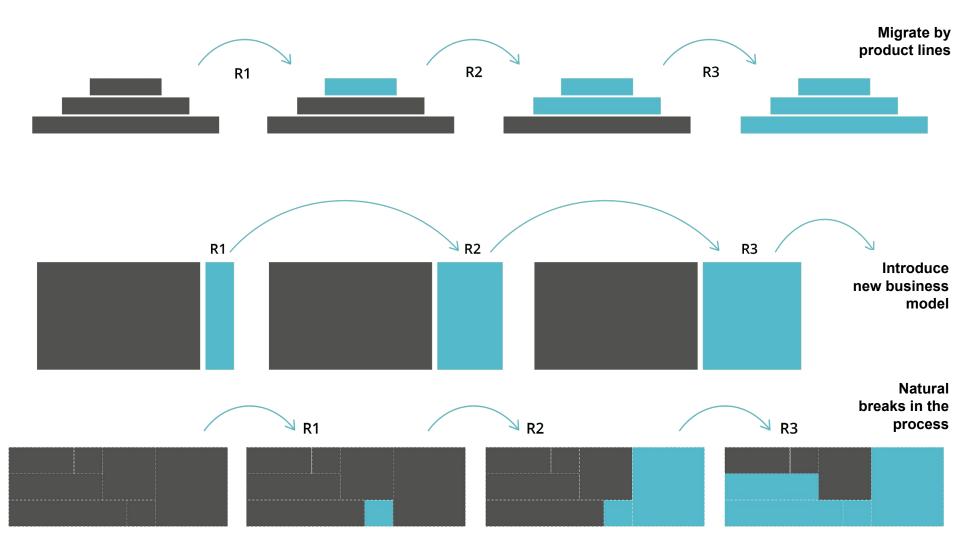




PARTNER WITH A STRONG EXPERIENCED PRODUCT MANAGER

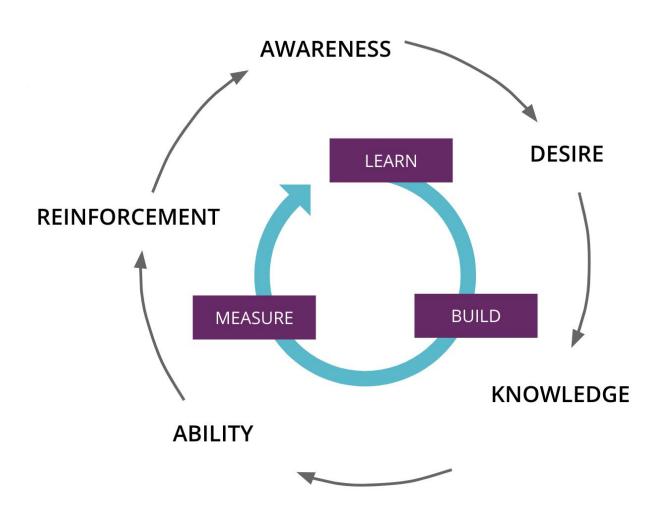
Innovative and pragmatic

- Innovative product managers take the opportunity to do things better
 - No lift and shift here
- Pragmatic product managers create a meaningful and directional vision
 - No flip flopping
- Modernisation is a beast that needs careful planning and design
 - Slicing into sensible releases helps realise value early
 - Experiment and learn from each slice before scaling





CHANGE MANAGEMENT



Takeaways

- Invest in extra upfront <u>and</u> continuous discovery
- Visible maps breakdown the complexity
- An strong experienced product manager will delivers value continuously
- Change management is budgeted for and ongoing activities are taking place

Avoid the pitfalls by thinking of it as a product within a broader ecosystem over replacing a legacy!