MVD

Minimal Viable Documentation

Introduction

Paul Meeker

Assistant Director, Product Development

Franklin University

4 years as BA

5 years as Product Manager

FRANKLIN UNIVERSITY

ADVANCED CERTIFICATE IN PROJECT MANAGEMENT

ADVANCED CERTIFICATE IN BUSINESS ANALYSIS

Get training AND credit towards a degree!

Talk to Andy!

What made you want to come to this talk?

Agenda 🕐

1. Basic Principles
2. Before Development
3. During Development
4. Production and Maintenance

Principle 1: Avoid extremes 🔥

Too much

What is wrong with too much documentation?

Too little

What is wrong with too little documentation?

Too much 🔥

Why Doesn't America Read Anymore?

April 01, 2014   10:13 AM ET

What has become of our brains?

Congratulations, genuine readers, and happy April Fools' Day!

We sometimes get the sense that some people are commenting on NPR stories that they haven't actually read. If you are reading this, please like this post and do not comment on it. Then let's see what people have to say about this "story."

Best wishes and have an enjoyable day,

Your friends at NPR

Gerald Hicks This tragedy is an artifact of a failure by the elders to successfully draw valid and recognizable comparisons to what has been, and continues today to be the common plights of all our species through history. It is up to the knowledgable, not to pass on knowledge, but to find a means to transmit via current meaningful metaphors that the Greek Tragedies, Shakespeare and many more great authors, spoke; perhaps in a different style of language, and in different dress, and in a different time, to common ills. That these stories concerned people that also contemplated, pondered and endured the very same issues that confront each new generation, and as is the propensity of youth they believe that they are the first to ponder what are in fact the common denominators of humankind. With the result they feel alone by that virtue.

👍 1 · April 1 at 9:50pm

Max Trainor I read newspapers as long as there are newspapers. And magazines. And books.

👍 1 · April 1 at 9:30pm

Diane Miller Montefusco That is a picture of BOOKS.....remember what those are? We are not talking about the ability to read text messages...or FB articles.....It's abot ACTUALLY reading for pleasure and information.......People don't have the attention span or the patience to read.

👍 1 · April 1 at 9:28pm

Dereck Byrne Because we are fat & stupid

👍 1 · April 1 at 8:38pm

Stef Santo-Fish My brain's good and I encourage others to read. I share books, swap books, and give people books a s gifts. Just remember that they exist...

👍 1 · April 1 at 8:27pm

Michael Feher Because America has become a nation of mouthbreathers.

👍 1 · April 1 at 8:24pm

Shirley J Eubanks it is call I-Pads and smart Phones

👍 1 · April 1 at 8:20pm

Jennifer Schomaker I read every day, sometimes many times.

👍 1 · April 1 at 8:19pm

Avelardo Moulinet I read more now than I ever did before. Still have piles of books and so many choices to read anything I want. The Guttenburg Project is a dream come true.

👍 1 · April 1 at 8:15pm

Ellen Nordstrom Our society has trained us to visit information with so much haste and instant gratification that many Americans just don't get the concept that reading a good book is worth the wait; everything needs to happen "yesterday" as they say...case in point: who doesn't grunt when our computers freeze and we can't get to the information we seek automatically?At the rate we're going, though, we need to have,/or to contract an A.D.D, mindset to keep up with all the messages or many grow bored or worse, feel that they are left out from the latest tweet, etc.

👍 1 · April 1 at 8:11pm

Michael Brown Turning our backs on our powers of comprehension seems more accurate. After all one can't simple simon political positions and a working brain too. One or the other has to give.

Too much

Wasted time

Too little

"It's agile, there is no documentation

Too little

"It's agile, there is no documentation

"Working software **over** comprehensive documentation"

-Agile Manifesto

Too little

"It's agile, there is no documentation

"Working software **over** comprehensive documentation"

-Agile Manifesto

"**OVER**" not "**INSTEAD OF**"

Principle 2: Identify your Audience

Personas

"Rob is a non technical visual learner who needs to justify expenses"

"Kim is detail-oriented reader who needs to understand the application before she downloads it"

Person, their learning style, and what they need to accomplish

Principle 2: Identify your Audience

Audience may change depending on where you are in the SDLC

-Developers

-Business stakeholders

-QA

-End users

-Help desk

Principle 3: Reduce, reuse, recycle

Find ways to Reuse your documentation

Principle 3: Reduce, reuse, recycle

Examples:

User stories + Acceptance Criteria = User Manual

Other examples?

Principle 3: Reduce, reuse, recycle

NOTE: Reusing requires editing because of micro decisions that happen in development

Principle 4: Pictures over words

- Napkin
- Whiteboard
- Mockups
- Interactive mockups (figma, sketch, XD)

Principle 5: No formulas $\sqrt{x}$

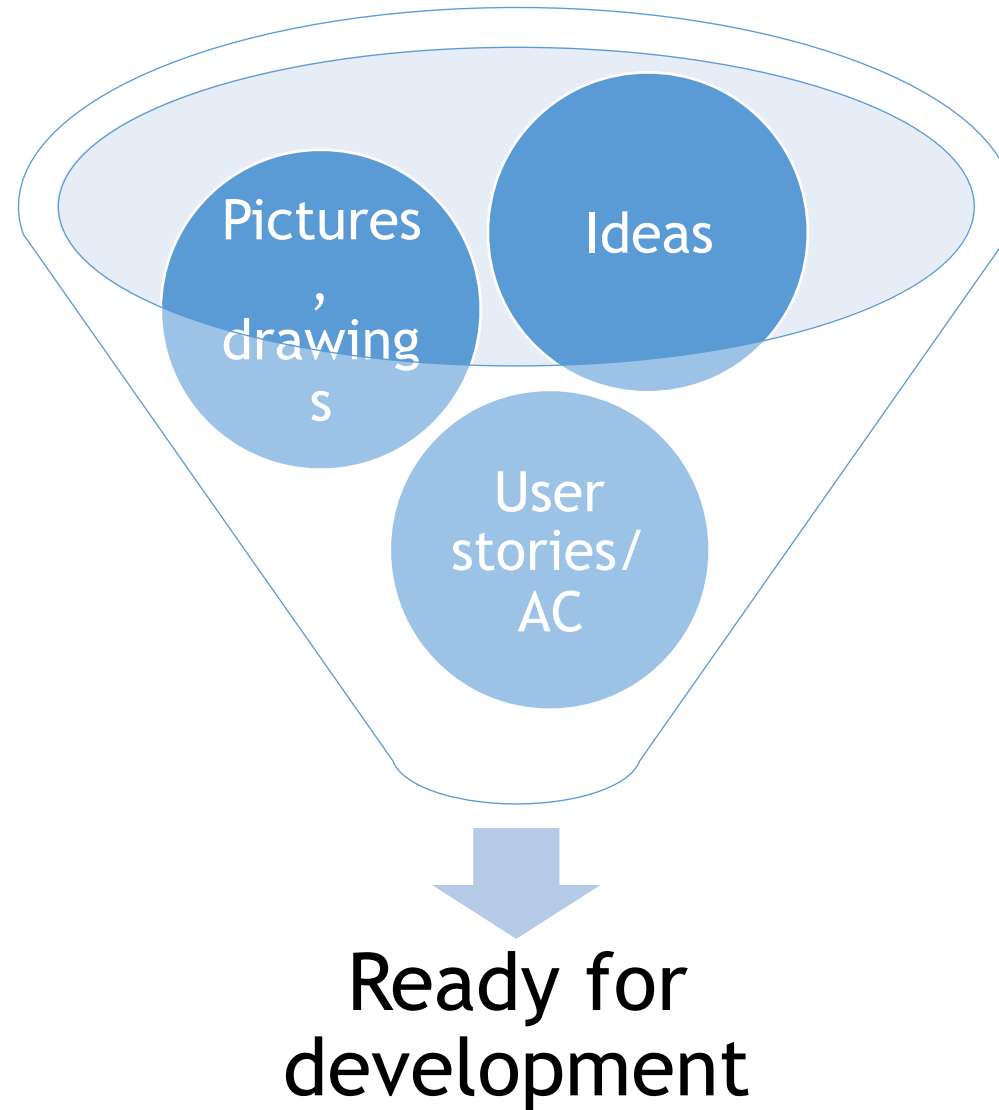Different projects require different approaches

Questions to ask:

Are there specifications that need to be remembered? By who?

Will anyone actually read this?

Where can this live in order to be reused and easily edited?

Is there information that should be hidden for any reason?

Before Development

Pictures, drawings

Ideas

User stories/ AC

Ready for development

Before: examples
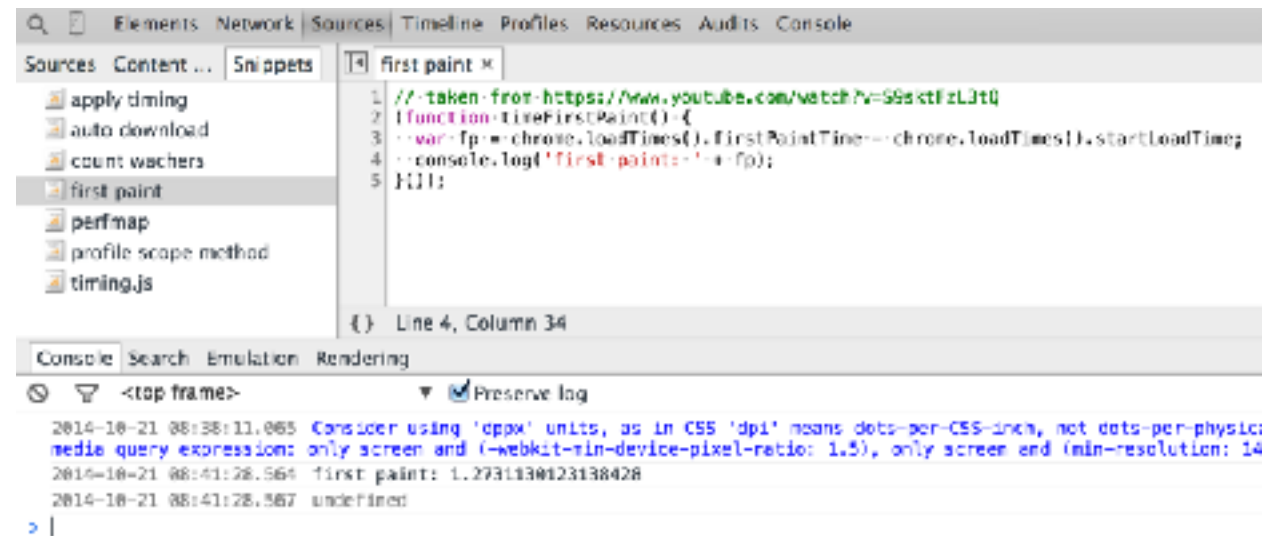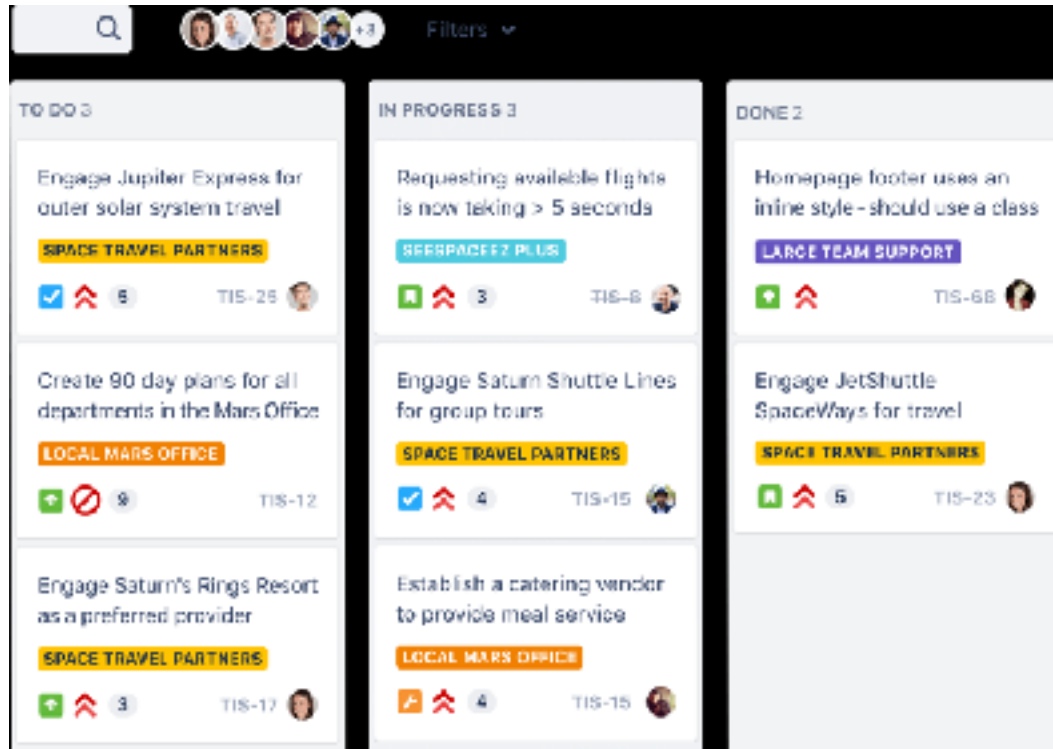

Informal ———————————————————————————————▶ Formal

Before: examples

Other examples?

Which things survive to the next stages?

During Development

During Development

Other examples?

Which things survive to the next stages?

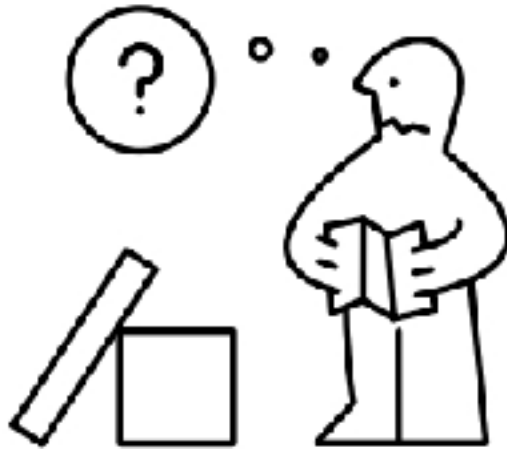# Production and Maintenance

The product itself is the document!

Production and Maintenance

The product itself is the document!

Not reality

Production and Maintenance

Thoughts:
- Refine as you get feedback (either product or documentation)
- Remember what works
- Find out if people are using documentation (youtube/Zendesk)

Conclusion
Q and A