What Organisations Can and Need to Learn From Software Development

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In a nutshell

- 1. What is wrong with the world (our organizations)
- 2. Why it is wrong
- 3. Inspiring list of examples of how to do it better

Disclaimers

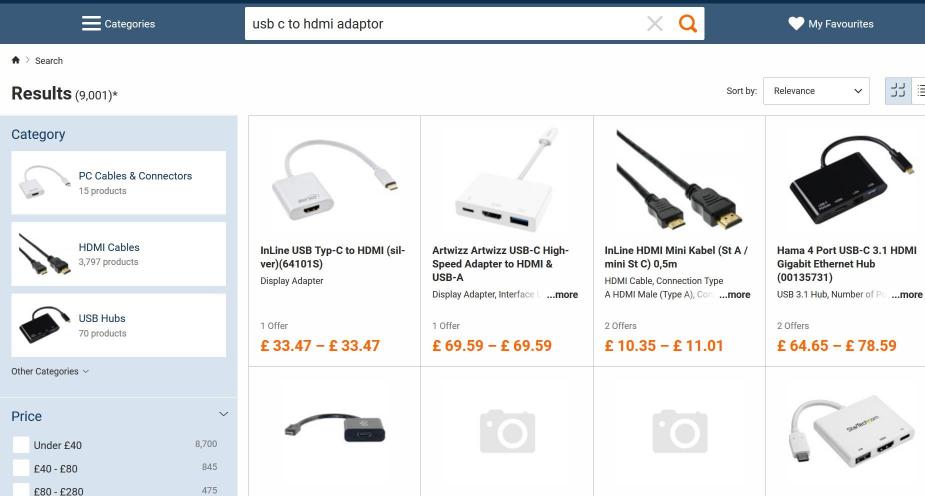
Beware! Generalizations and simplifications ahead!

Do not use anything you hear from me today!

...without understanding your context and your problem

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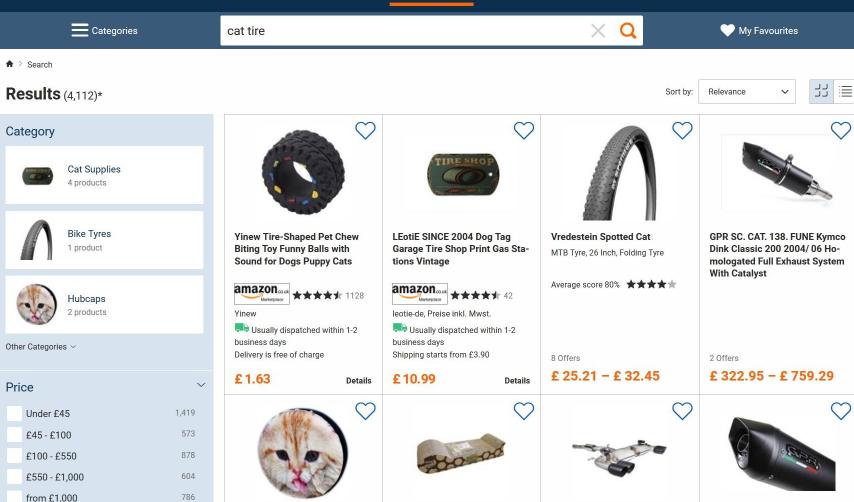
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- 6 European Markets
- In Germany alone
 - Around 18 Million visitors per month
 - 50000 partner shops
 - Offer imports: up to 60000 /s
- 35 Dev Teams in 10 units
- 900 people in Kreuzberg

Who are you?

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A complex system

- Large number of interacting systems
- Non-linear interactions; minor changes can produce large consequences
- Is dynamic
- Has a history
- And hindsight doesn't lead to foresight as circumstances and systems change

Cynefin framework - Prof. Snowden



The work of Prof Kruse (1)

- The need for collective intelligence
 - "We are in a situation where we create a degree of complexity and dynamic in the world that we can no longer manage it individually"
 - "[...] and now we realize that this development [towards self-centered information politics] brings us to the boundaries of our processing power.
 In this moment we discover something old, that is collective intelligence"

The work of Prof Kruse (2)

- Study on management in Germany (n = 400)
 - "More than three thirds of all Managers think that we need to redefine what "good management" means"
 - "The study suggests that managers tend to glorify management as an heroic act"

To sum up ...

- There are different domains for work and decisions
 - (obvious, complicated, complex, chaotic)
- Developing organisations is generally a complex task
- Choosing the wrong approach will cause developers to be frustrated
- Choosing the right approach means iterative work, done by teams of experts

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Forming teams of experts

What we do at idealo

- Pair Coaching
- Dual Leadership
- Leadership Boards

... Communities of Practice, case consultations*

*(see e.g. <u>Troika Consulting</u> of the Liberating Structures)



How to slice organisational development

(by example of a change project)

- Reduce size (teams)
- Reduce scope of change (structure, roles, policies, ...)
- Limit investment (time)

Mindset: Evolution, not revolution

(also safe to fail: "no solution" was also acceptable)



Iterations and collaboration during the change

Change outcome (solution)

- All teams and managers involved
- Working in groups, across structure
- Status Quo, ideas, iterations

Iterating on the process

- Initial process design
- Frequent adaptations
- Testing of concepts



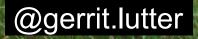
3 Take-Aways

- Don't despair!
- Find your own recipe (using iterative steps and collaboration of experts)
- Be patient with your organisations, managers and coaches

... but not too patient



Thank you



Sources

• David J. Snowden, Mary E. Boone "A Leader's Framework for Decision Making" https://hbr.org/2007/11/a-leaders-framework-for-decision-making

German sources (translations on the slides by the presenter)

- Peter Kruse "Führung und Arbeit im Wandel" Talk at New Work Night 2014 <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dst1kDHJqAc</u>
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Ancient Book by Mark Rasmuson on Unsplash

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