### What Organisations Can and Need to Learn From Software Development

Gerrit Lutter - Agile Coach @ idealo

#### 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

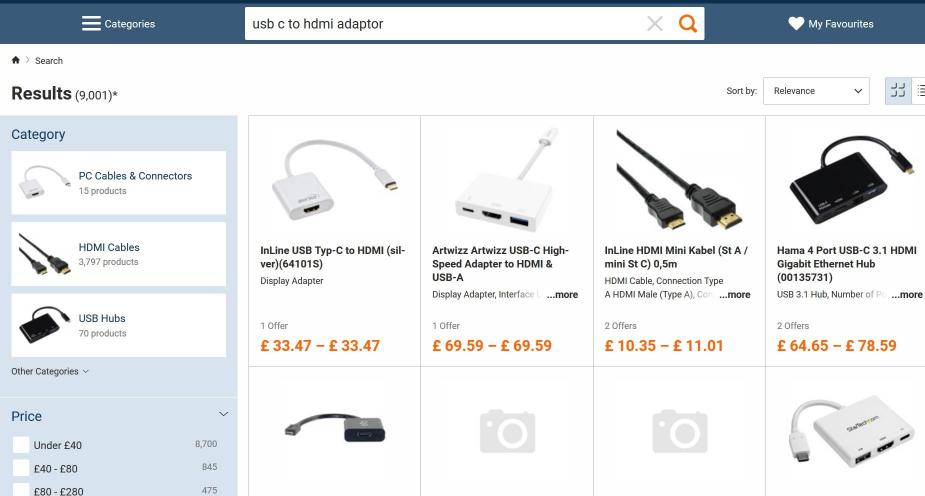
Beware! Generalizations and simplifications ahead!

Do not use anything you hear from me today!

...without understanding your context and your problem

#noblueprints





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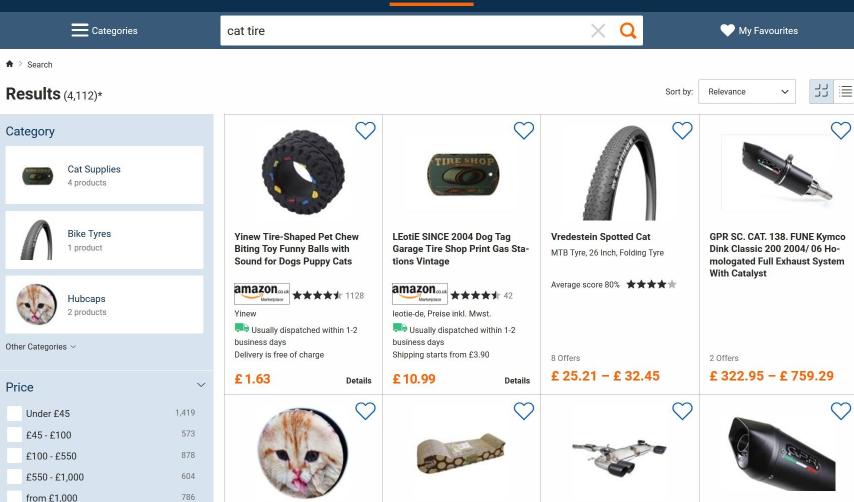
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#### idealo



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#### idealo

- 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



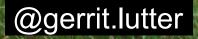
#### 3 Take-Aways

- 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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- Forum Gute Führung "Monitor: Führungskultur im Wandel" <u>https://www.inqa.de/SharedDocs/PDFs/DE/Publikationen/fuehrungskultur-im-</u> <u>wandel-monitor.pdf?\_\_blob=publicationFile</u>

#### **Photos and Graphics**

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