Is Round or Square a Choice?

It is believed that the wheel was first used around 12,000 years ago and was "invented" many times by different societies that had no contact with each other.

That makes me think of a parallel with technology and professional services. It's true that some technologies are created with a mindset of being a solution looking for a problem – we'll call those interrupters. Other technologies are squarely (excuse the pun) directed at solving a known problem – we'll call those accelerators.

A workflow accelerator should not be an impediment to your existing workflow and manpower resources. Conversely, an interrupter is a workflow distraction and a man hour drain because it requires more to learn and more integration into your existing workflow. The choice seems pretty clear, but is it really that easy to tell one from the other? With deadlines and overhead costs, a constant challenge, it makes sense to allocate time to evaluate potential workflow accelerators that become a game changing differentiator, whilst at the same time identifying interrupters.

In engineering, for example, one of the challenges of public involvement meetings is to transfer engineering concepts to a non-engineering, decision-making stakeholder. Talk about pulling a cart with square wheels! Ironically, the stakeholder feels the same way when it comes to understanding the proposed engineering concepts.

Whilst the object of this particular article is not to focus on any given new solution (accelerator), but to challenge the tyranny of the urgent (interrupter/time) and help those unknowingly using square wheels, kick the round tires (accelerators) that are available and ready to take some of the load.

Need help 'rounding' out your workflow corners? Let's talk.

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