

# Software Development

## The Trekker's way

- Is this topic justified
- Comparison between software development and trekking
- Some key learnings
- Debate/Discussion

What does trekking have to do with Software development?

Is it just philosophical or something more concrete?

- Heading – The similarity
- Center – Smells
- Bottom/Footer – Conclusion

- This is THE process that all groups going for treks should follow
  - The team does not matter
  - The terrain and the season does not matter
- Process over People?

Every team customizes the way they trek!

- This is the plan with all the minute details about this trek
- It will take us exactly 3.5 hrs to finish this stretch. We will reach the destination at 7.30 PM. Then we can catch the 7.31 bus.

Change is inevitable!  
Adaptive planning helps!

- Let's just use the rope without checking the knot.
- Let all of us cross the bridge together
- Just jump into still water

Verifiability / test driven helps you have that safety net around your code.

- How about carrying unnecessary stuff with you on a trek? Like a make-up kit.
- How about cleaning your vessels with water 3 times before and after you eat?
- How about throwing away sides of a bread or broken biscuits?
- How about throwing away the last bottle of water, because the water was warm?

Try to optimize and improve usage of resources!



- Let's try the difficult route right away.
- Let's cook Punjabi food for dinner.
- Why go to the stream, just dig a well here?
- Why search for small twigs, let's just burn this huge log?

KISS - Keep It Simple and Stupid

- Let's sit and plan for a few months
- Then we'll think of every possible scenario that can arise during a trek
- Let's buy everything that MIGHT be required
- Let's pack the whole house for the trek!

Take it as it comes!

- I'm THE LEADER on this trek.
- Let's build towers of hierarchy.
- I'm responsible for the team and I decide everything.
- Thinking is not allowed. Just follow the leader
- I will assign all the tasks.
- Everyone has to follow my words like a prayer

Trust your people!

- Let's finish the 20 KM stretch during the day and then we can do the rest over night.
- Long working days without weekends is the right way to work. The client and the management will be damn impressed

Slow and steady wins the race!

Fast and consistent will surely win the race!

But don't burn out. Take frequent pit-stops.

- Let's not waste time watching these beautiful mountains and streams. Let's reach the summit.
- Let's not take the forest route. Instead let's just walk on the road, we can reach the peak faster.

Continuous realization of value!

- Yet another certification to justify you are trekking the right way
- I need a “PIG” – Process Improvement Guru to teach me how to walk.

Understanding customer requirement and translating it to human understandable code just needs common sense!

- We cannot see a path further, but still let's continue in the same direction. After all we've been trekking in this direction for the last 3 days.
- No I know this is the right path, the map has an arrow pointing in this direction. Just ignore the cliff.

Perseverance is one thing and stupidity is another!

- Let's go on a trek with 100 people and all 100 first timers
- The following things don't make sense on our trek
  - Logistics
  - Communication
  - Shared understanding

As the team size grows the project gets exponentially complex and difficult to co-ordinate



- I'm an expert trekker. Even if I don't have any sense of direction and I don't even know what the destination looks like, I can still reach the destination on time.
- All I need is a map and a magnetic compass

Short releases and demos help the team to be on track. Also helps to build trust in the customer.

- I can trekking comfortably with a torn backpack, which is hurting your back
- Let's trek with what ever clothes/footwear, they don't matter.
- Let's save money by using a low quality rope to pull people up.

Some of the very basic stuff like clothes, chairs, desks, computers, food, etc can make a big difference to the team's productivity.

- How about discussing at the end of each milestone the following
  - What went well?
  - What we didn't like?
  - What would we like to do differently?
  - What do we want to continue doing?
  - Wish list

Retrospectives give you the insight to constantly try to improve and optimize things/process

- No Silver Bullet
- Being flexible
- Verifiability / test driven
- Eliminate waste
- Practice simplicity
- Importance of feedback
- Self organized teams
- Sustainable pace
- Team size and composition
- Importance of quality stuff
- Retrospectives

- Do we really need one?
- Isn't the food for thought enough?
- Similar analogies
  - Driving a car – Kent Beck
  - Building aircrafts while flying – Naresh Jain
  - Cooking - ?
  - Driving on Indian roads - ?

Thank you for the discussion!

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