

Why

To avoid an overload of planning, thinking, analyzing rules etc. when developing new ideas into practical solutions.

What

A limited time to develop a new idea (min. 1 to max. 4 weeks). This is called a "sprint."

How

Follow the principles of agile project management:

- Get the story across about what is needed, what has to be solved and achieved.
- Create a cross-functional team and regularly put them in the same room.
- Translate the story into a set of requirements/features that the solution has to meet/possess.
- Translate these features into tasks to complete in the short term.
- Decide together what you can do in a sprint of min. 1 to max. 4 weeks and who can do what.
- Check with end-users.
- Have a scrum meeting each day or very regularly. Discuss who did what, who is going to do what.
- Do a mini-sprint review with the team and end-users to check progress.
- Finally, do a full sprint review: what has been done, what we do in the next sprint.

When

When you don't know exactly what would be a good outcome/solution and when criteria and expectations are difficult to fix and are changeable.

Possible workshop exercise

Practice the start of a sprint: take a problem, compose a story, translate it into a set of requirements, decide who could do what and when within 4 weeks. Discuss/reflect on how this would play out in real-life.

Skills and necessary training

Have a look on YouTube, there are several short movies about this approach.

Critical success factors

People should be at the same location or have effective ways of connecting (e.g. using social media). Experimenting must be seen as a positive.