

# The Deliberate Practice of Thinking About Your Systems



Auckland - April 2025



Andrea Magnorsky  
[www.roundcrisis.com](http://www.roundcrisis.com)





# About Andrea

Programmer and Creator of Bytesize Architecture Sessions



 /in/magnorsky

 @types.pl@roundcrisis

 @roundcrisis.com

- Programming professionally since 2001
- Co-founded PC & Console Games Company in Ireland
- Contractor and Consulting since 2018
  - E-Commerce
  - Broadcasting media
  - Finance
- Recently moved to NZ and working with Atlassian

**Andrea Magnorsky**  
**[www.roundcrisis.com](http://www.roundcrisis.com)**



# You ship what is in your programmers' brains.



Andrea Magnorsky - 2021





**“It’s not the domain experts knowledge  
that goes into production, it’s the  
assumption of the developers that goes  
into production.”**



**Alberto Brandolini - 2019\***

**\*or before**

**Andrea Magnorsky**  
**[www.roundcrisis.com](http://www.roundcrisis.com)**





**Knowledge workers are workers whose main **capital** is knowledge. These are workers whose job is to “*think for a living*”.**

# Knowledge Stock & Flow



**...each pile represents a person's knowledge  
and the lines represent sharing**



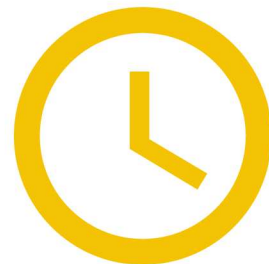


“Knowledge transfer among employees is thought to be a crucial determinant of an organisation’s capacity to utilise new knowledge and innovate.”

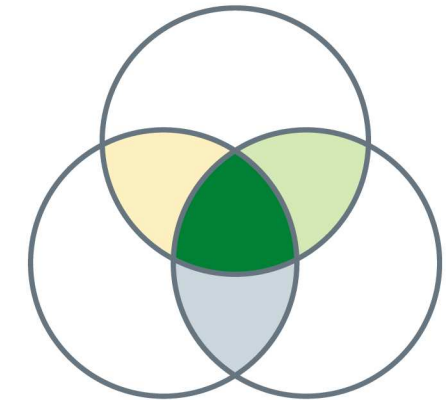
# Added difficulty



- Changing teams
- Coordination between teams
- Conflicting long term plans



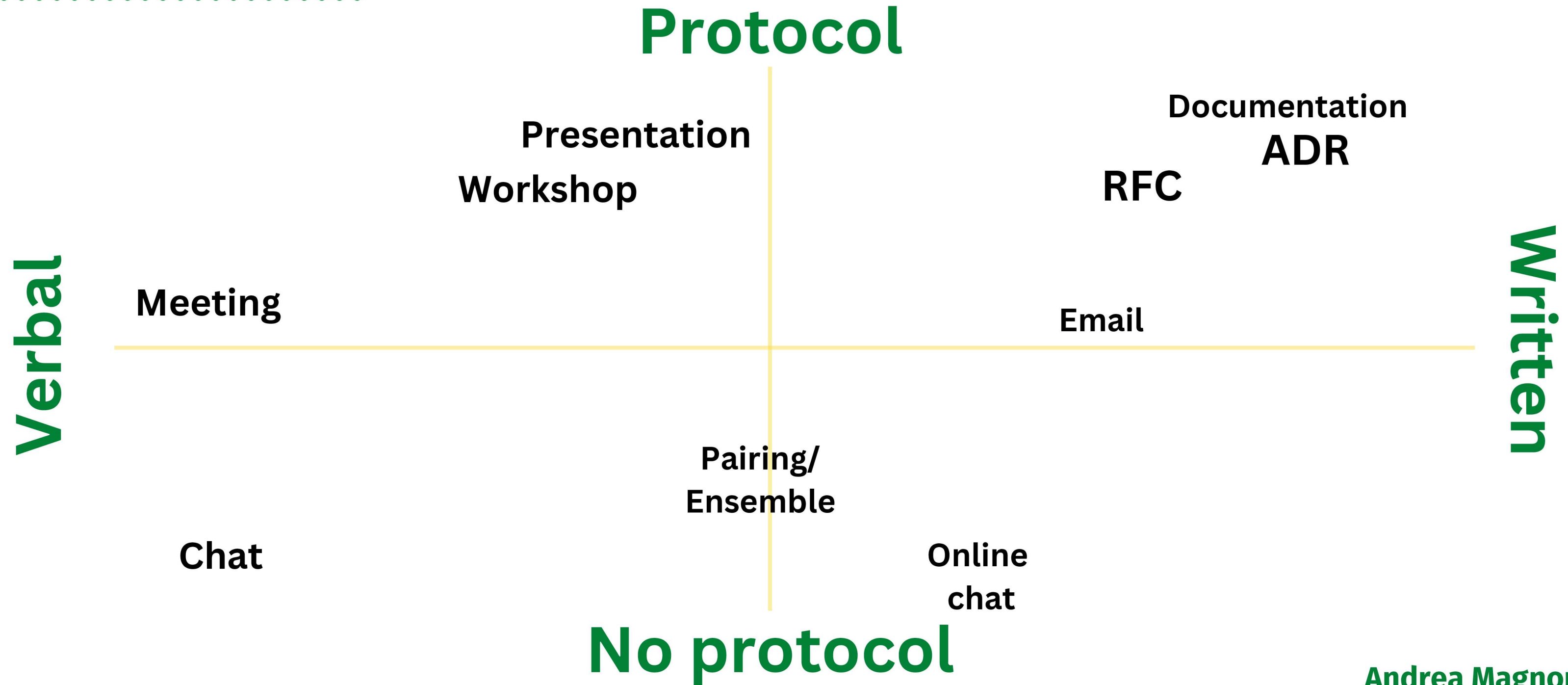
- Power
- Role dependent information variance



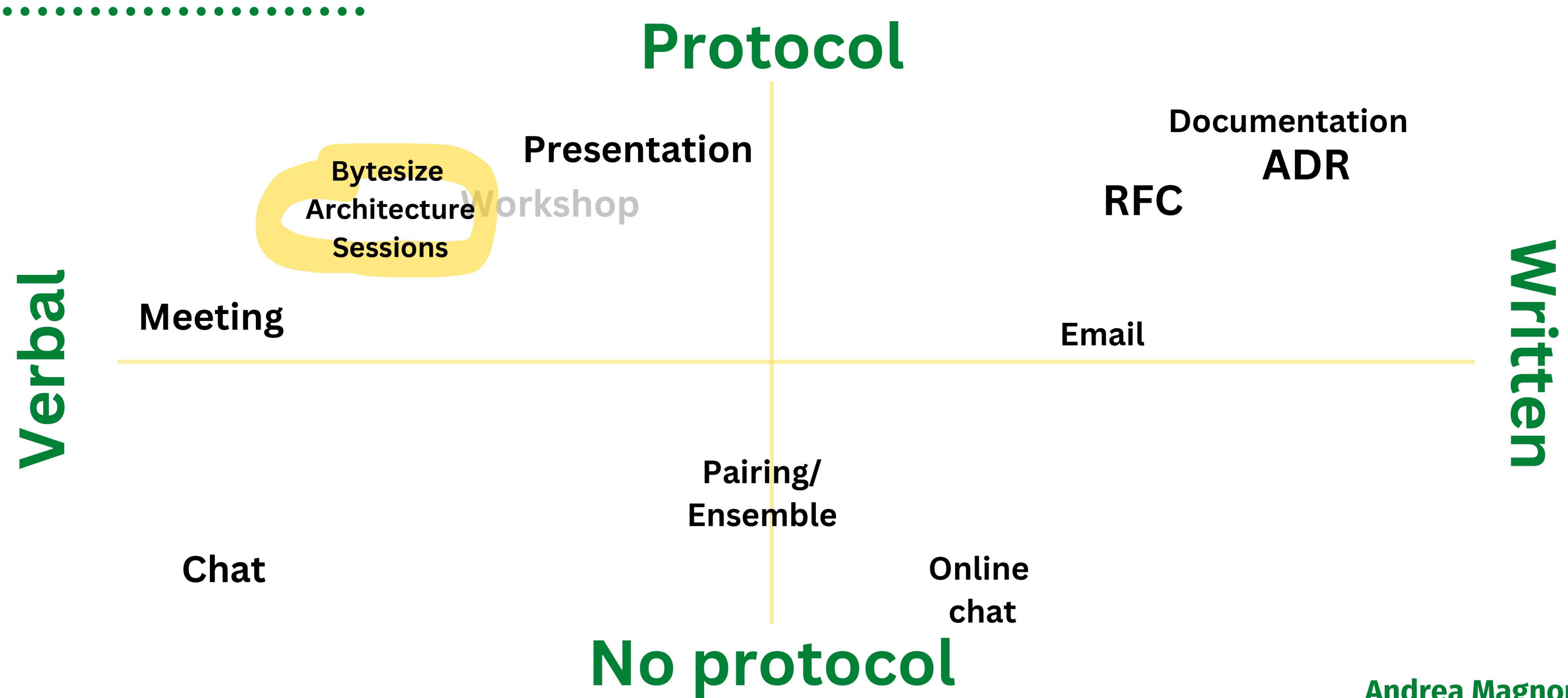




# Knowledge sharing methods



# Knowledge sharing methods

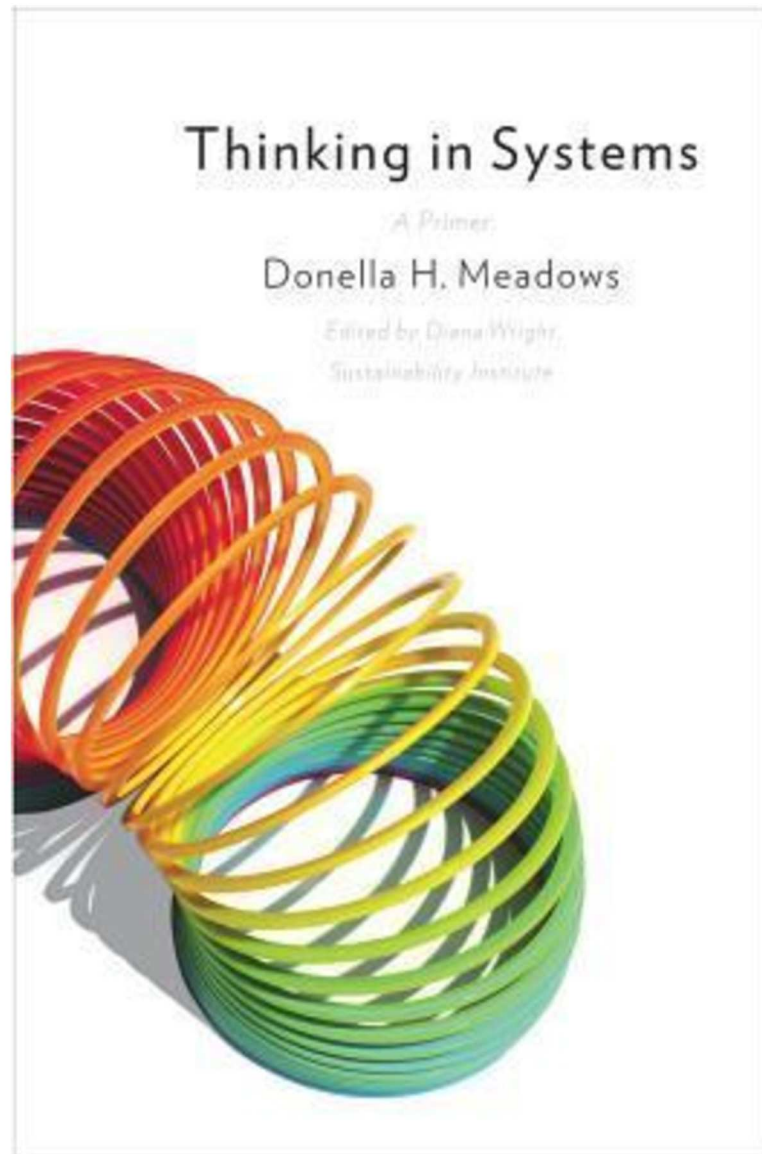






# Bytesize Architecture Sessions[T] is a workshop format



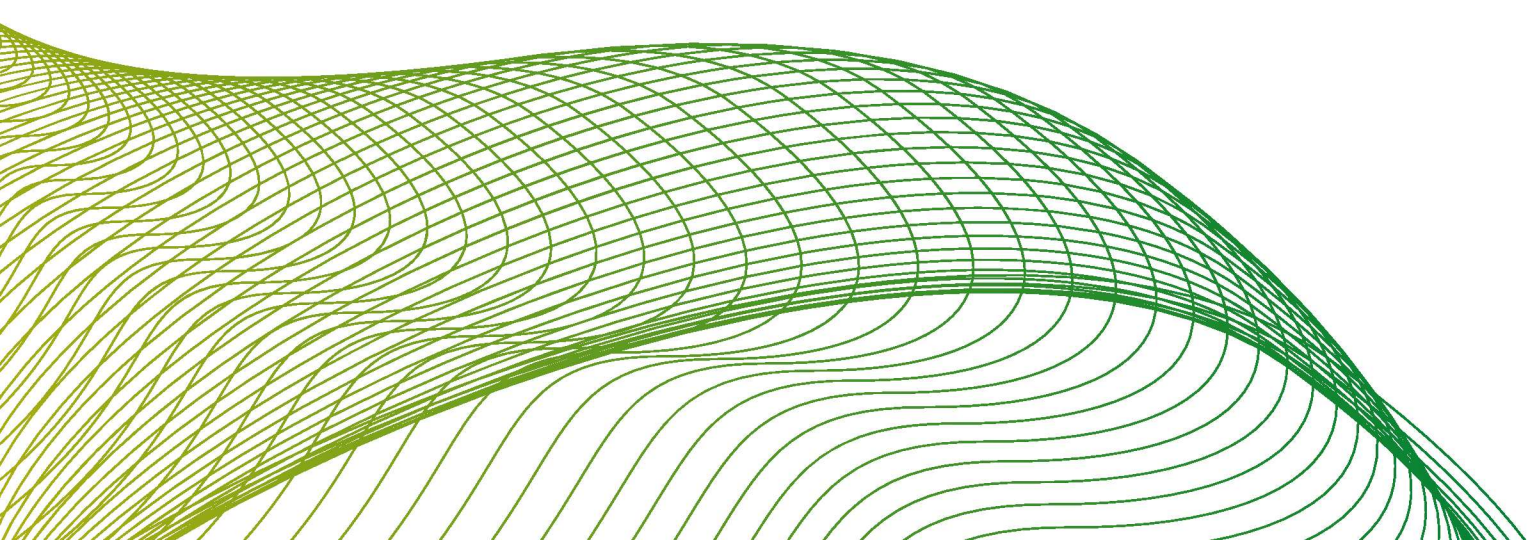


“Words and sentences must, by necessity, come only one at a time in linear, logical order. **Systems happen all at once.** They are connected not just in one direction, but in many directions simultaneously.”



## **Thinking in Systems: A Primer by Donella H. Meadows**





# In their words

.....



The main thing I took from today is  
that everyone brought their own  
perspective and that enabled us **all**  
to learn something



**Jim Taylor**  
**Senior Product Manager**  
**ITV**

# Why run Bytesize Sessions?

.....



1

**Toward  
homogeneous  
understanding of  
your System**

2

**Enabling format**

3

**Creates design  
tools**





# Build an architecture practice in a **safe** way





# **When to use Bytesize Sessions?**

## **Tech debt**

**Acknowledge problems and plan for the future**

.....

## **Evolving Team**

**Acknowledge gaps and learn together**

.....

## **Big Changes**

**Map current and ideal. Iterate towards optimal  
solution**



# **Industry example: the first Bytesize Architecture Session**



# Before the Session

.....



1. **Invited the team. Active participants of the stand up**
2. **Taught the team about C4 Model**



# Session starts



## Session

1.Session Goal

**2.Alone Together**

**3. Consensus**

4.Summary



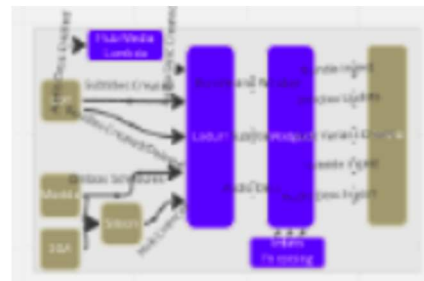
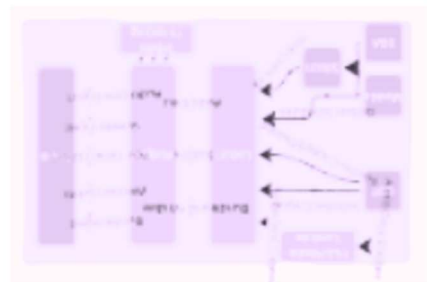
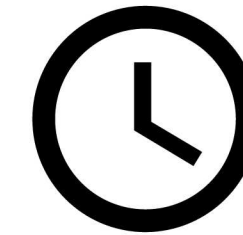
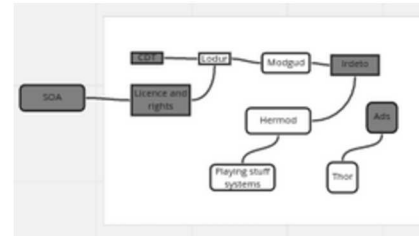
# 1. Goal



**Set the goal:  
Create a context  
diagram of the  
system as it is.**



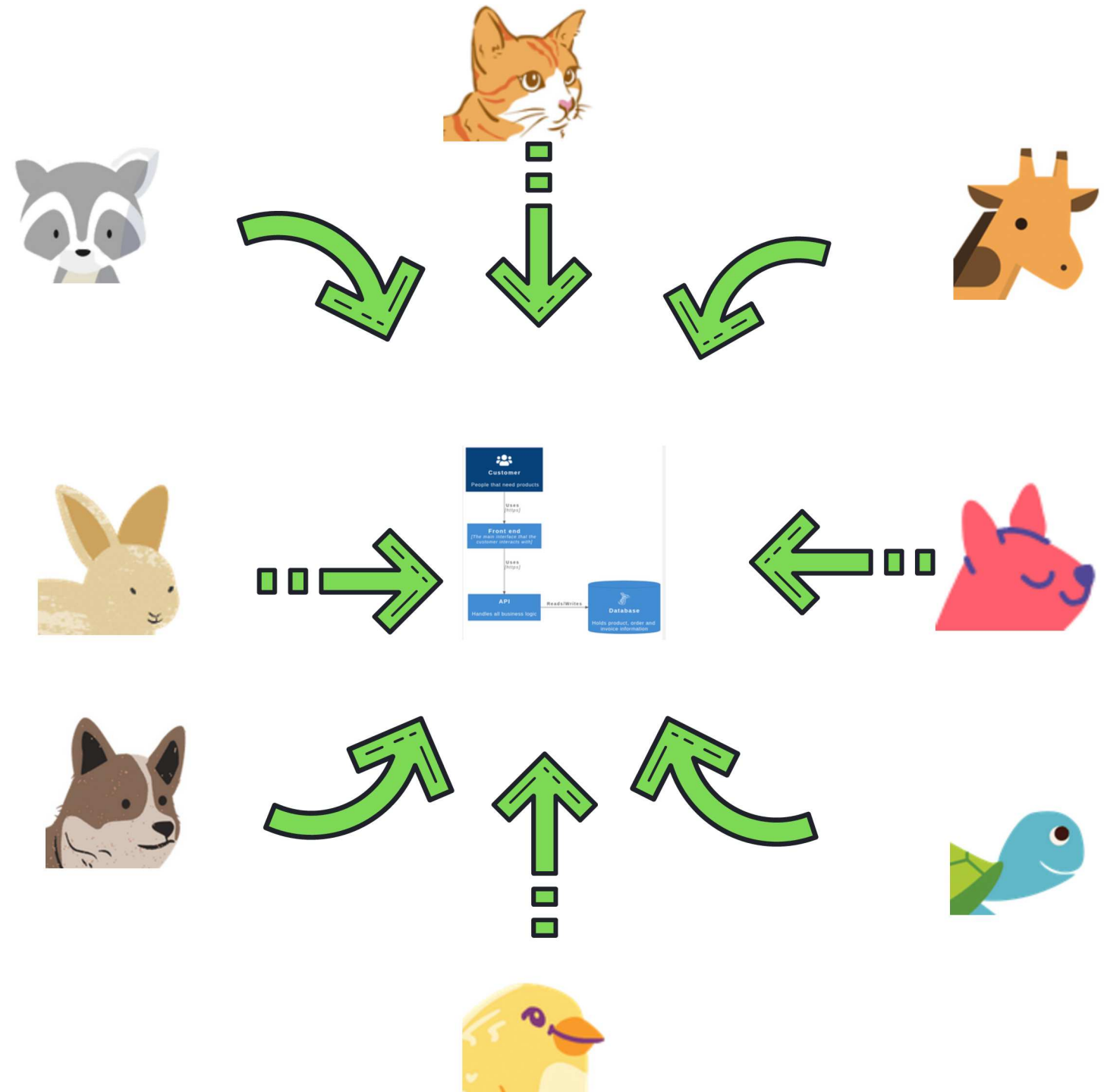
# 2. Alone Together



**When the 3min timer elapsed each attendee explained their model.**

# 3. Consensus

The team drew part  
of the system.  
End session before  
they were done.



# 4. Summary

.....

The team summarised that they:

- Learned a lot
- Were very happy with the format and,
- Wanted to do it again soon.





# Detail



bytesizeArchitectureSessions.com







Kea



# Extended case study: Inter-team collaboration



- Cohesive understanding
- Well documented
- More in Chapter 17 ...



Architecture Modernization  
Nick Tune

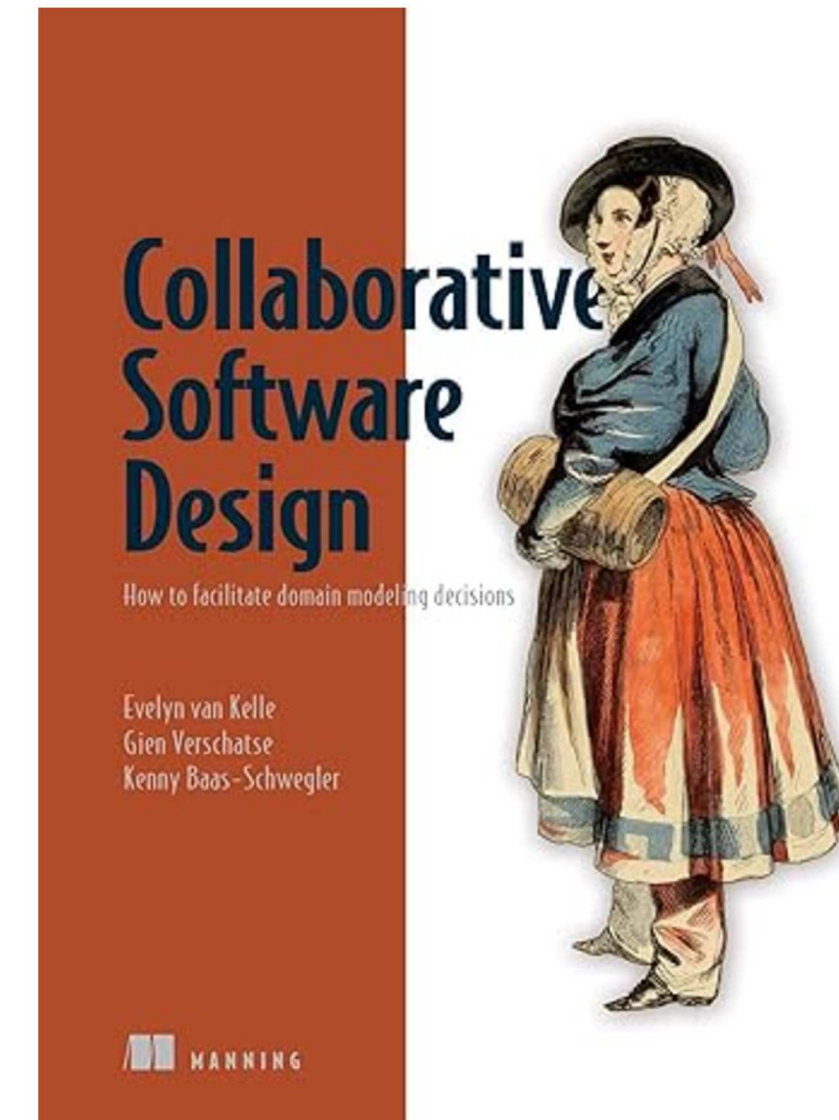


# Collaborative Software Design



.....

A great book that helps you  
find what, why and how to  
design software together.



**Collaborative Software Design**  
**Evelyn van Kelle, Gien Verschatse,**  
**and Kenny Baas-Schwegler**

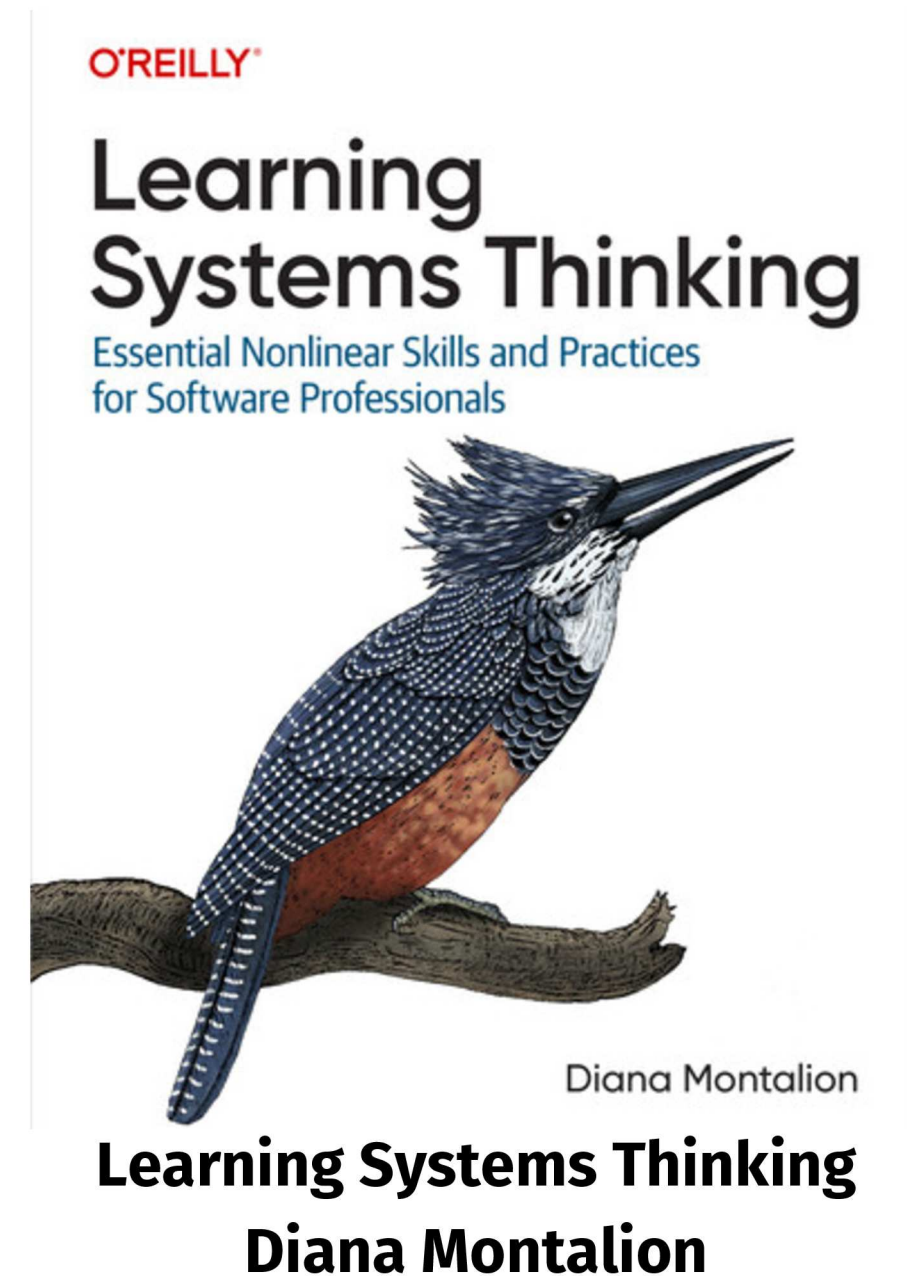
**Andrea Magnorsky**  
**[www.roundcrisis.com](http://www.roundcrisis.com)**

# Learning Systems Thinking



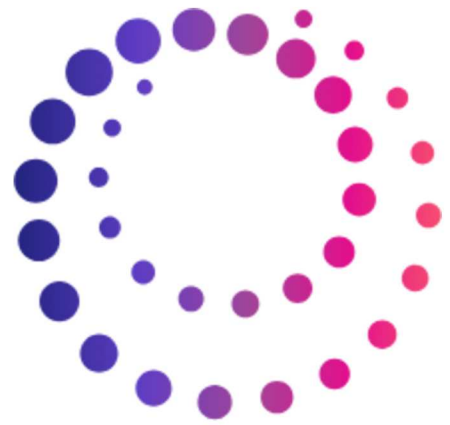
“Deeply insightful, reassuringly practical, delightfully real, and staggeringly well written.”

Kevlin Henney





# Bytesize Sessions at the Open Practice Library



## Bytesize Architecture Sessions

Iteratively collaborate to learn about your systems

▲ FOUNDATION

CONTRIBUTED BY PUBLISHED APRIL 23, 2025

COLLECTION 2

[WHAT](#) [WHY](#) [HOW](#) [LOOK](#) [LINKS](#) [DISCUSS](#)

SHARE

### What Is Bytesize Architecture Sessions?

Bytesize Architecture Sessions are a workshop format that helps teams understand the systems they work on. Each session focuses on a small slice of a system. After some sessions your team will become more homogeneous in the understanding of their systems, grow a consistent vocabulary and ultimately build tools to design the future together.

A session lasts between 45 and 90 minutes, and has four well defined parts: Session Goal, Alone Together, Consensus and Summary. You can model your systems using different tools. I suggest starting with [C4 Diagrams](#).

**<https://openpracticelibrary.com/practice/bytesize-architecture-sessions/>**

**Andrea Magnorsky**  
**[www.roundcrisis.com](http://www.roundcrisis.com)**





# Foundational pieces





**Russ Ackoff**

**“A system is not the sum of  
its parts, it's their  
interactions”**

**Source:** [youtube.com/watch?v=OqEelG8aPPk](https://youtube.com/watch?v=OqEelG8aPPk)

**Andrea Magnorsky**  
[www.roundcrisis.com](http://www.roundcrisis.com)

# Why do we share Knowledge?



.....

**Knowledge Sharing**  
**is**  
**Systems Building**





 @types.pl@roundcrisis

 @roundcrisis.com