

# Specification Workshops

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# Disturbing questions:

- How do we know that the expressed requirements are really what the clients want?
- How do we ensure that we all understood the same thing?
  - But not waste a lot of time doing so...
- How do we ensure that we can get enough time and interest from senior stakeholders?
- How do we efficiently pass knowledge about something that still does not exist to developers and testers?

**Challenge requirements!**

Collaborate on  
specifications

Whole team

# Specification workshops

- intensive domain exploration exercises
  - involving the whole team
  - focused on the current iteration
  - focused on realistic examples
- Aims:
  - produce a specification for the current iteration
  - flush out inconsistencies
  - build a shared understanding of “done”

# Workshop outputs

- Enough realistic examples to start working
  - Consistent and fairly complete specification
  - Universally agreed
  - Effectively acceptance tests
  - Not too formal, clean them up later
- Shared understanding of the domain
  - Developers know what to implement
  - Testers know what to test when it comes out

# Running the workshop

- Choose a story
- Introduce it, explain with examples
- Let people ask questions and suggest other examples
- Discuss until everyone is confident that we have enough examples to start working

Some good questions to kick it off:

How do we verify that this thing we are going to write is implemented **completely** and **correctly**?

Can you give us a few **examples**?

Pretend it's magic and it's already delivered – **how would you test it?**

Distil the specification  
- focus on *what*, not on *how*

Share domain knowledge  
- help people understand it better

Build and evolve the  
ubiquitous language

Communicate intent  
- explain *why*!

# What the workshop is not:

- Not a meeting (especially not a planning one)
- Not a presentation
- Not a design session

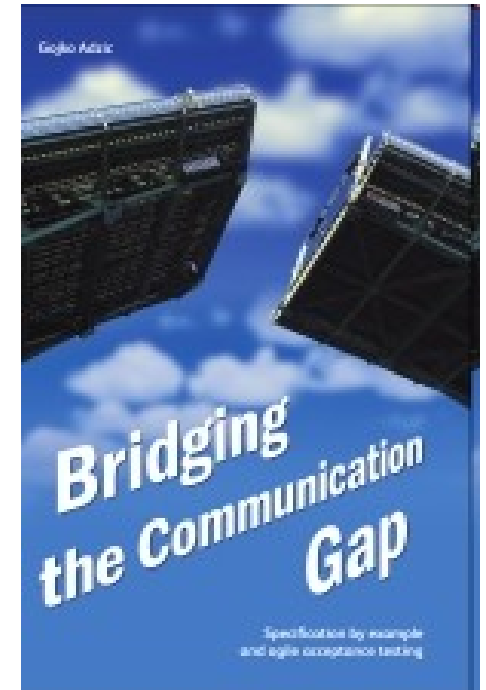
# Keeping the workshop focused

Commanders' intent template:

- Here's what I think we face
- Here's what I think we should do
- Here's what we should keep an eye on
- Now talk to me

# Bridging the Communication Gap

- learn how to improve communication between business people and software implementation teams
- find out how to build a shared and consistent understanding of the domain in your team
- learn how to apply agile acceptance testing to produce software genuinely fit for purpose
- discover how agile acceptance testing affects your work whether you are a programmer, business analyst or a tester
- learn how to build in quality into software projects from the start, rather than control it later



<http://www.acceptancetesting.info>