Requirements Engineering Then and Now
WHAT I THOUGHT I KNEW (1975)

- Victorian novel specs are dumb
- Four-stage modeling
- Dataflow = the essential view
- Top-down partitioning
- Loose connection criterion
- Defined process of analysis
- Pseudo-coded minispecs
- Work at the user’s desk
- Philosophy of iteration
- The customer is king
WHAT TURNED OUT TO BE USEFUL

- Victorian novel specs are dumb
- Four-stage modeling
- Dataflow = the essential view
- Top-down partitioning
- Loose connection criterion
- Defined process of analysis
- Pseudo-coded minispecs
- Work at the user’s desk
- Philosophy of iteration
- The customer is king
WHAT I’VE LEARNED SINCE . . .

1. It’s not all that hard to write a good spec.
2. Conflict matters more than all the rest combined.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
WHAT I’VE LEARNED SINCE . . .

1. It’s not all that hard to write a good spec.
2. Conflict matters more than all the rest combined.
3. Talent matters a lot more than method, methodology or process, and . . .
4. Talent is disappearing out the door faster than you can count the open requisitions.

5.
6.
7.
THREE SOURCES OF SUPPLY OF IT WORKERS:

🌟 The baby boom
🌟 Introduction of women into the workforce
🌟 Increasing educational levels of the generation of the 60s.
The "trough" as of 1995

The advancing baby boomer trough by 2015

Population (thousands)

Age


2015 1995 1965
“We may never have enough knowledge workers again.”

— Bruce Taylor, Publisher of KM World
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4. Talent is disappearing out the door faster than you can count the open requisitions.
5. Quality has almost nothing to do with process . . .
6.
ADOBE PHOTOSHOP:
1. It’s not all that hard to write a good spec.
2. Conflict matters more than all the rest combined.
3. Talent matters a lot more than method, methodology or process, and . . .
4. Talent is disappearing out the door faster than you can count the open requisitions.
5. Quality has almost nothing to do with process . . .
6. The customer is no longer king.
AND FINALLY . . .

7. Requirements is a lot harder than it used to be (because we built all the easy systems a long time ago).
SO, WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?

- The waterfall really is dead, and that means that requirements engineering as we have known it is dead too.
- The next change you make to your process has to make it lighter.
- Partitioning and loose connection of requirements is more vital than ever before.
- Partnership is essential.
- Your success will depend on how you manage human capital.
Slack: getting past burnout, busywork, and the myth of total efficiency
by Tom DeMarco

Random House: April 10, 2001
Tom DeMarco

Spielräume

Projektmanagement jenseits von Burn-out, Stress und Effizienzwahn
Dark Harbor House
by Tom DeMarco,
Down East Books,