

One Model for Effective Software Development

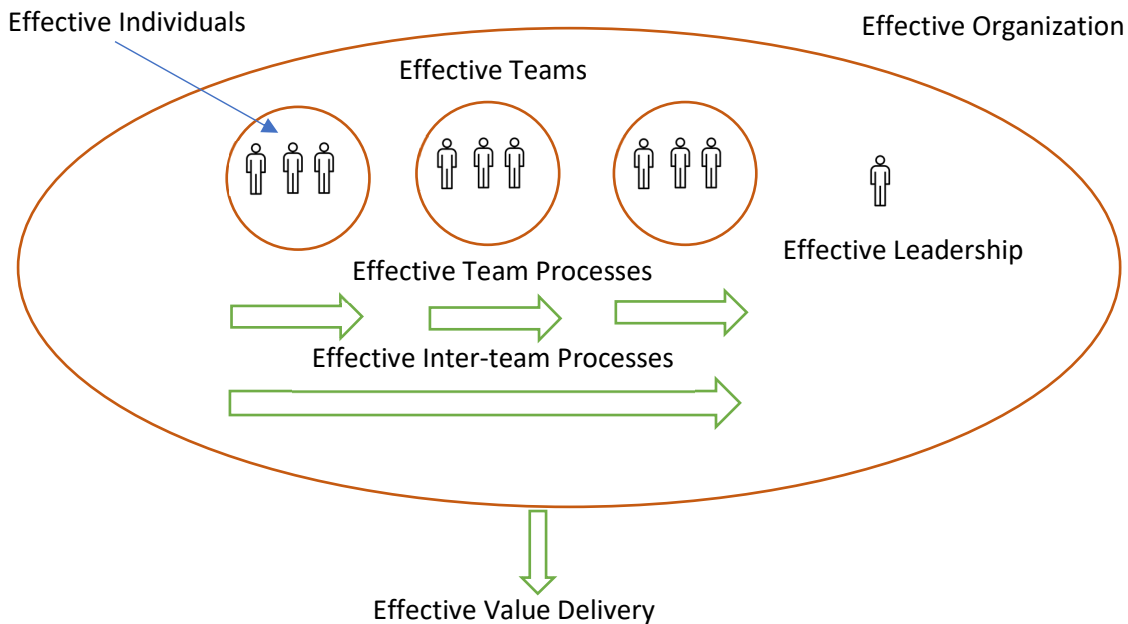
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Based on a suggestion by Dave Snowden to find the essentials of software development, I examined practices, principles, and values from agile, pre-agile and lean. From that examination, I've developed a preliminary model for effective software development. I've used the term effective based on Stephen R. Covey's *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* written in 1989-90.

Effective software development is accomplished by:

- Effective individuals working as effective teams
- Using effective team and inter-team processes
- In an effective organization
- With effective leadership.

The result is effective value delivery.



Effective individuals' characteristics include:

- Trust
- Respect
- Transparency
- Collaborative

- Learning mindset / experimentation
- Active listening

Effective teams:

- Composed of effective individuals collaborating together

[Effective team processes](#) and [inter-team processes](#):

- For scheduling (e.g., Iterations, flow)
- For implementation (e.g., BDD/ATDD, DevOps pipeline)
- Produce components that may directly deliver value or may be a part of a composite that delivers value
- Iterative / incremental / experimental as appropriate

Effective leadership:

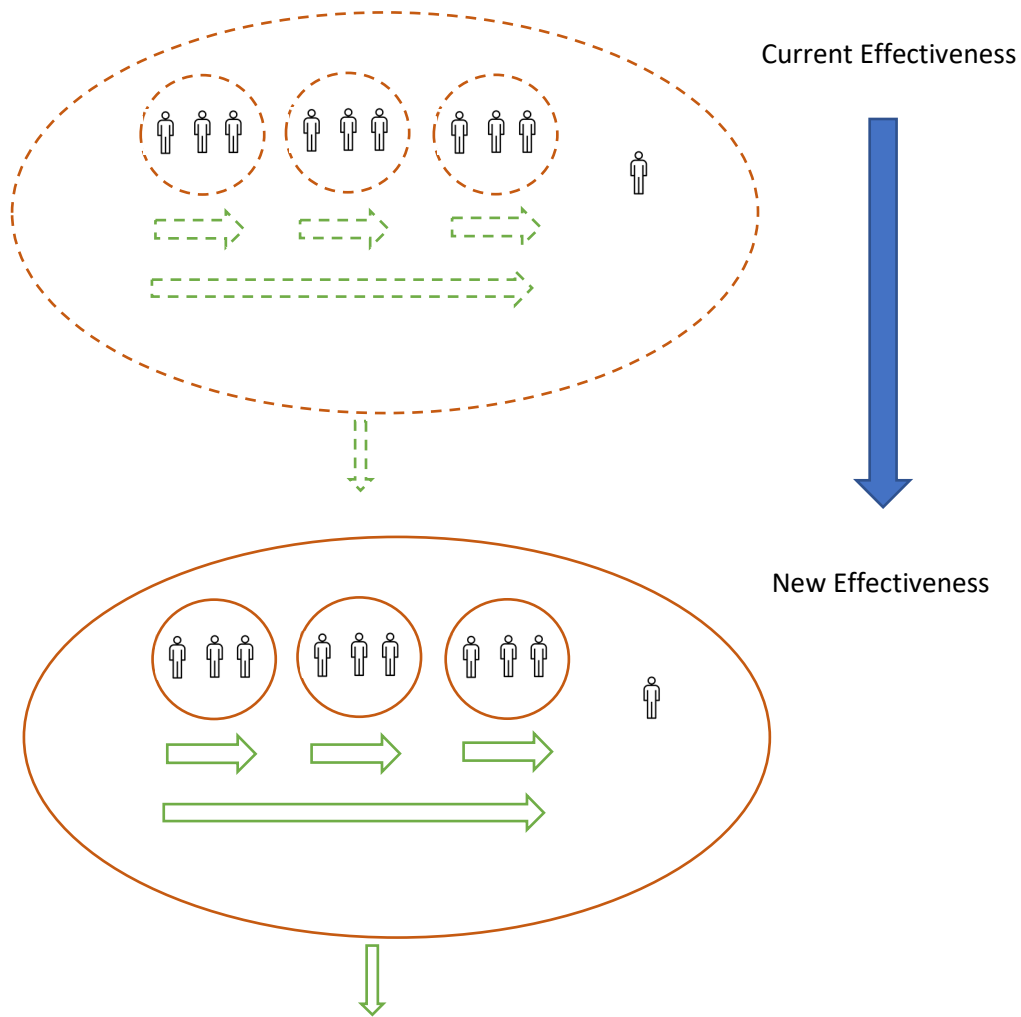
- Provides the context in which teams and individuals can be effective
- Let authority flow to others
- Encourages experimentation and learning

Effective value delivery:

- To the customer
- To the business

Learning includes:

- What will deliver value
- How to deliver value (team and inter-team processes)
- Improving effectiveness



Other facets of effectiveness:

Context is important:

- Value delivery context – external environment, market, infrastructure, etc.
- Value creation context – internal team and inter-team processes

Congruency:

- Individual, teams, organizations, leadership congruent in goals, values, culture