



Magic of Chaos: How to remain sane in everyday testing

Kamila Mrozek

#2030



A few things about me

From: Wrocław, Poland

Company: Objectivity

Role: Quality Engineer

Experience: 3 years



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Question

Holidays anyone?

Question



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Question



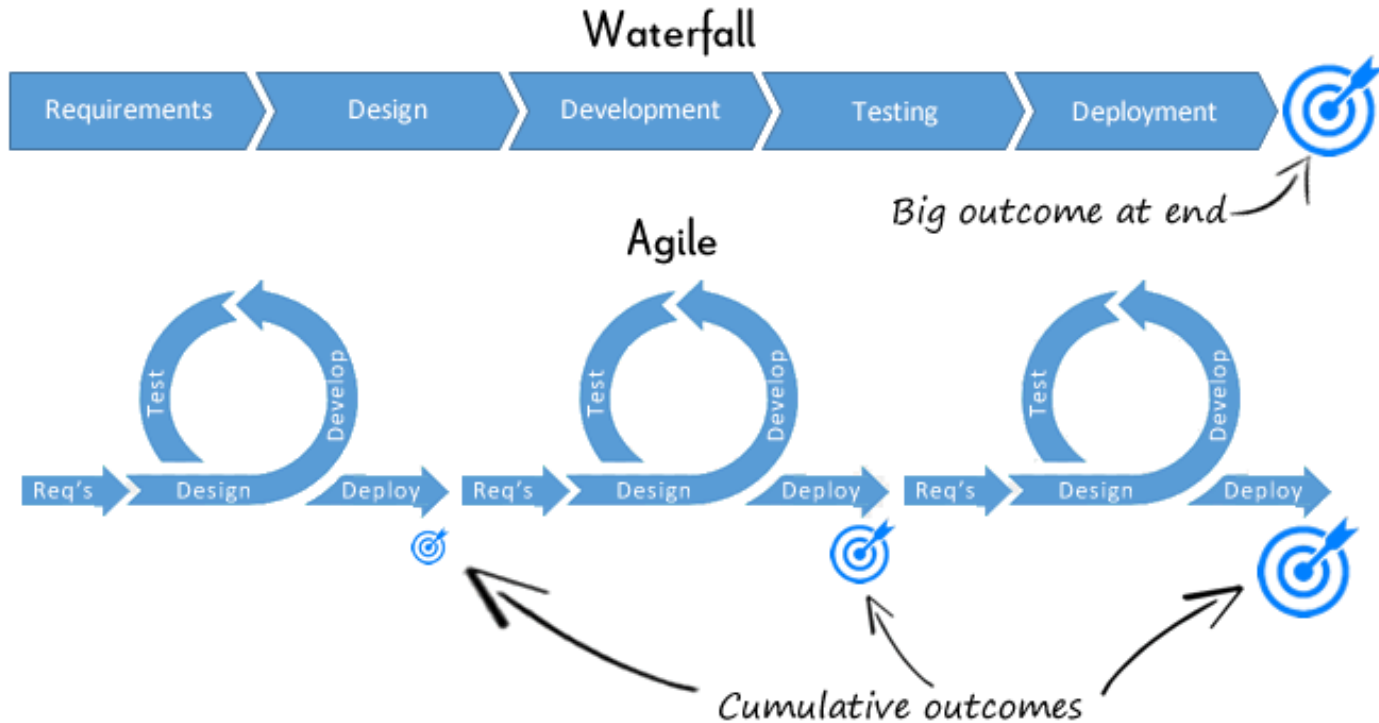
Source: [ahisgett](#) and [Andym5855](#) via [Visual hunt](#) / [CC BY](#)

Question



Source: [ahisgett](#) and [Andym5855](#) via [Visual hunt](#) / [CC BY](#)

Agile



Source: [Chuck Schaeffer - Agile versus Waterfall for CRM Implementation Success](#)

Tester tasks

- Testing

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It can be:

- Exploratory testing
- Performance testing
- Security testing
- Database testing
- Browser compatibility

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- Test execution
- Reporting issues
- Retesting fixes
- Some automation


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each User Story
each Issue


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It can be:

- Exploratory testing
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- Writing Test Cases
- Test execution
- Reporting issues
- Retesting fixes
- Some automation
- Learning new stuff
- Regression
- Knowledge sharing
- Meetings & other



each User Story
each Issue

Agile Manifesto

- Individuals and interactions over processes and tools
- Working software over comprehensive documentation
- Customer collaboration over contract negotiation
- Responding to change over following a plan

Agile Manifesto

Some principles behind the Agile Manifesto:

- The most efficient and effective method of conveying information to and within a development team is face-to-face conversation.
- Welcome changing requirements, even late in development. Agile processes harness change for the customer's competitive advantage.

Problem statement

- We all have many different tasks
- Mixed tasks that are appearing at this same time
- Passing a lot of information face-to-face and without a trace
- Requirements can change anytime

The background of the slide features a series of hand-drawn, concentric circles in a light gray or brownish tone. These circles are irregular and sketchy, creating a textured, organic feel. They are centered on the page and fill most of the background space.

Tips & Tricks

My own, personal chaos

To Do List

Free tools to track your daily tasks:

- Applications
 - Todoist
 - Asana
 - Google Keep
 - GTask
 - Any.Do
 - Evernote
- Manual
 - Notebook
 - Calendar
 - Stickers

Priority

Instead of saying "I don't have time" try saying "it's not a priority" and see how that feels.

- Laura Vanderkam

If it feels wrong – Houston, we have a problem!

Priority

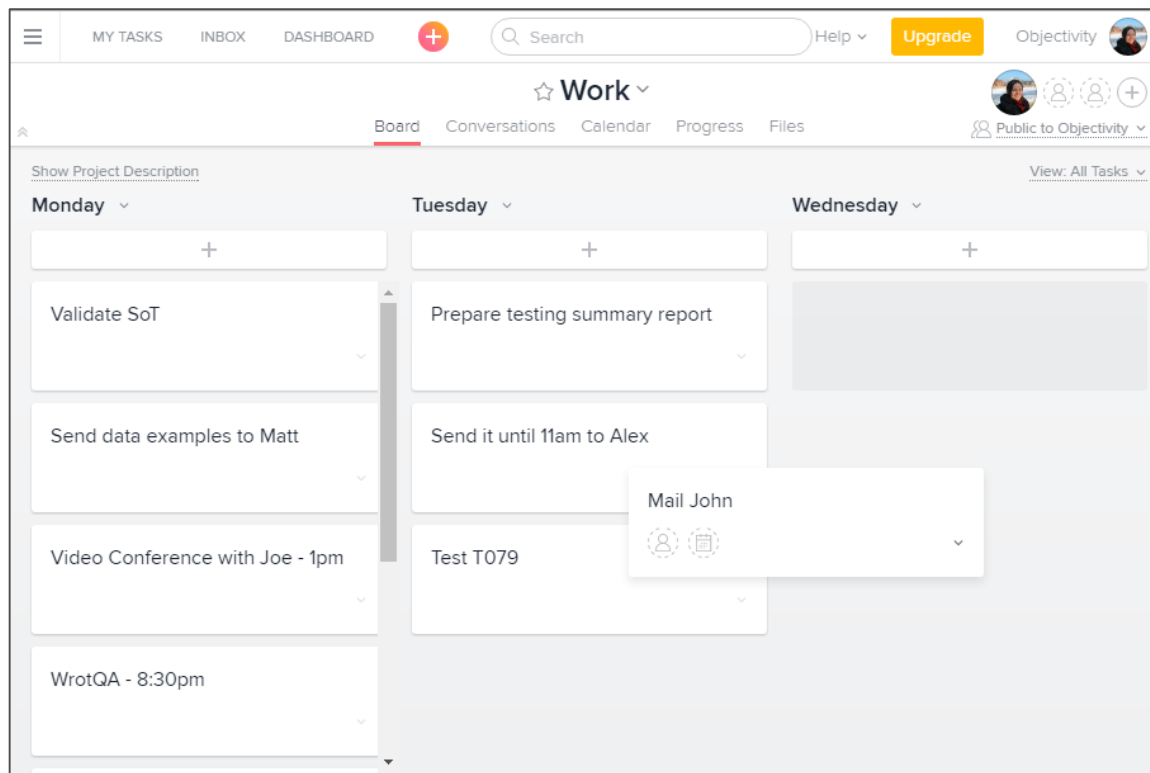
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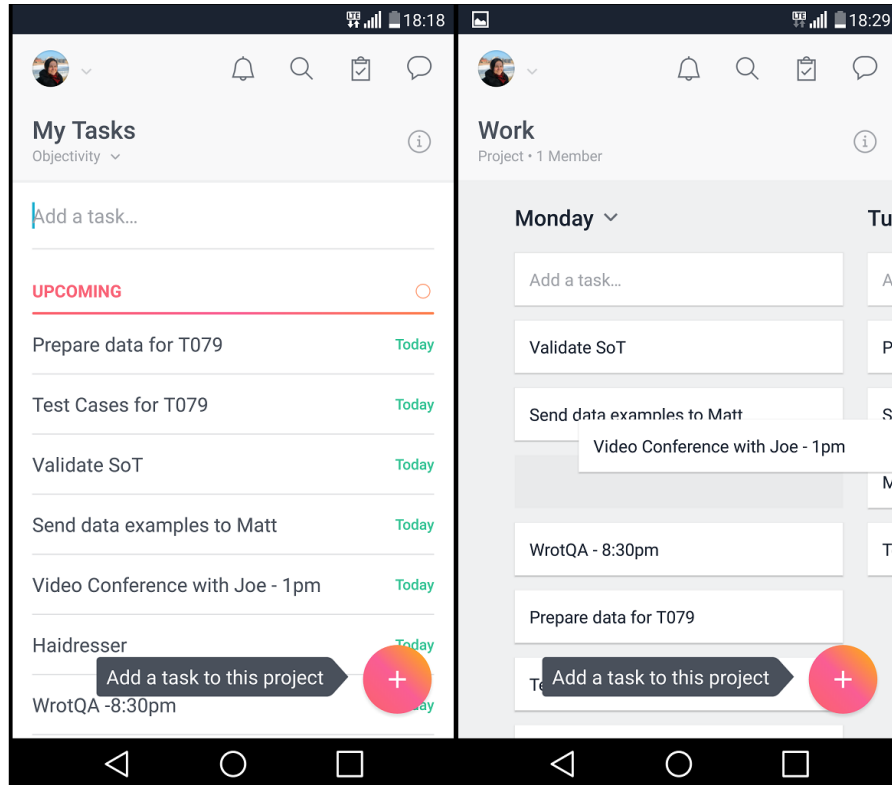
If it feels wrong – Houston, we have a problem!

- Decide on the level of priority you need
- Assign the priorities to tasks as soon as they come
- Leave the task undone when one with a higher priority comes










Tools - Asana



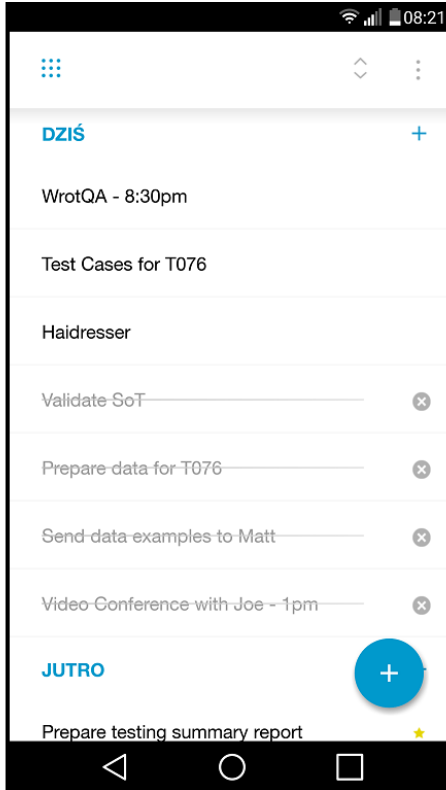
Tools - Asana



Tools - Any.Do

ALL		
TODAY	TOMORROW	UPCOMING
<div>+</div>	<div>+</div>	<div>+</div>
WrotQA - 8:30pm 	Prepare testing summary... 	Agileee conference 
Test Cases for T076	Send it until 11am to Alex  	
Haidresser	Bug retest after Hotfix	
Video-Conference with Joe - 1... 	Coffee with Jane after work	
Send data examples to Melt 	Test T076	
Prepare data for T076 	Mail John 	

Tools - Any.Do



Tools - Evernote

The screenshot shows the Evernote web interface for a user named 'Work - mrozek.kamila@gmail.com'. The interface is divided into several sections:

- Top Bar:** Contains menu items (File, Edit, View, Note, Format, Tools, Help), a 'New Note' button, and status indicators for 'All Notes', 'Sync', 'Upgrade', and 'To Do'.
- Left Sidebar:** A dark blue sidebar with navigation options: 'Notebooks' (Conference (3), Personal (1), Work (4)), 'Tags', and 'Trash (4)'. The 'Work' notebook is currently selected.
- Main Content Area:** Displays a list of notes under the 'Work' notebook. The first note is titled 'To Do' and contains a list of tasks with color-coded status indicators (Green, Orange, Red). Below this, there are sections for 'Backup test data', 'Data for Meeting', and 'Retrospective'.
- Right Sidebar:** A 'To Do' section with a 'Legend' and a list of tasks for 'Monday' and 'Tuesday'. The tasks are color-coded to match the legend.

Legend:

- Green - just remember
- Orange - do it this day
- Red - do it ASAP!

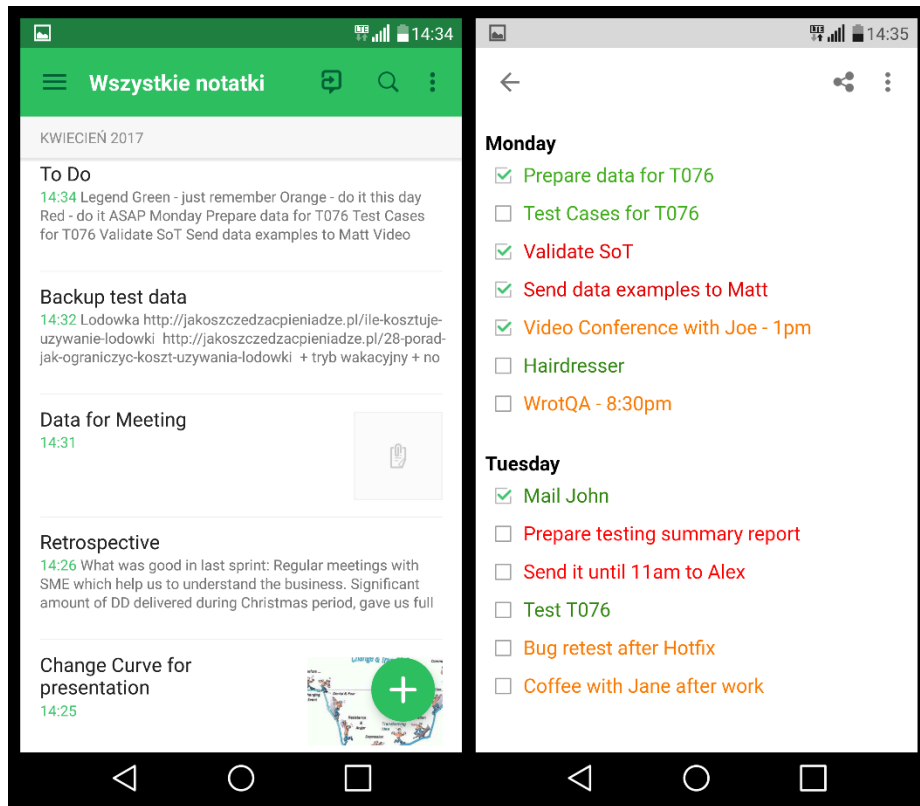
Monday:

- ☒ Prepare data for T076
- ☐ Test Cases for T076
- ☒ Validate SoT
- ☒ Send data examples to Matt
- ☒ Video Conference with Joe - 1pm
- ☐ Hairdresser
- ☐ WrotQA - 8:30pm

Tuesday:

- ☒ Mail John
- ☐ Prepare testing summary report
- ☐ Send it until 11am to Alex
- ☐ Test T076
- ☐ Bug retest after Hotfix
- ☐ Coffee with Jane after work

Tools - Evernote



To Do List & Priority - summary

- Asana – good for sharing tasks with other
- Any.Do – if you want simple task list
- Evernote – powerful tool for every challenge you face
- Manual – best for travellers and those writing a lot

Choose your own weapon to fight personal chaos!

Just do it.

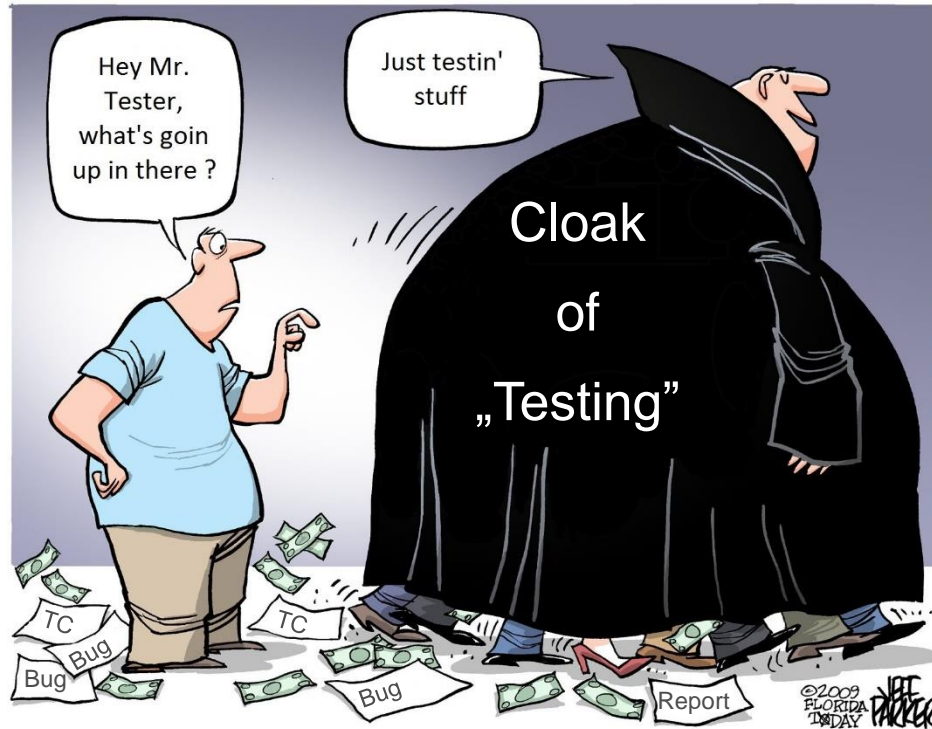
Pretty please...

The background of the slide features several hand-drawn, concentric circles in a light gray color. The circles are irregular and sketchy, creating a textured, organic feel. They are centered around the text, with the innermost circle being the most prominent.

Tips & Tricks

We are not alone

Transparency



Source: [Jeff Parker, Government Cloak of Secrecy](#)

Knowledge sharing

Gaining knowledge is the first step to wisdom,
sharing it is the first step to humanity.

- Unknown

Knowledge sharing

Gaining knowledge is the first step in testing,
sharing it is the first step to survive in it.

- Kamila Mrozek

Knowledge sharing

Gaining knowledge is the first step in testing,
sharing it is the first step to survive in it.

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- Meetings
- Instructions
- Test Cases
- Summary emails
- Free-style board

The background of the slide features several concentric, hand-drawn circles in a light gray color. The circles are irregular and sketchy, creating a textured, organic feel. They are centered on the slide and overlap each other, with the text positioned in the middle of the innermost circle.

Tips & Tricks

Responding to change

Source of the problem

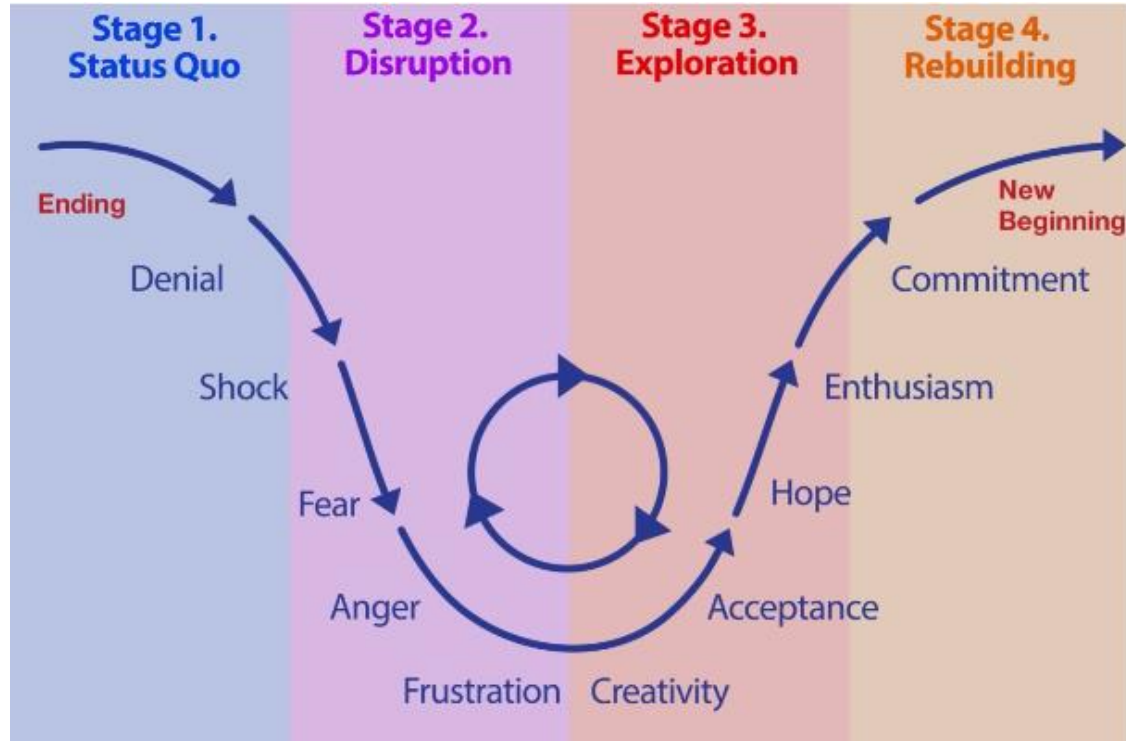
- The client can change requirements
- Our client may request a change during the review
- The self-organizing team may want to change the way they work
- Someone can introduce a change as an experiment
- Someone may suggest a change as a solution for teams problem

Change curve



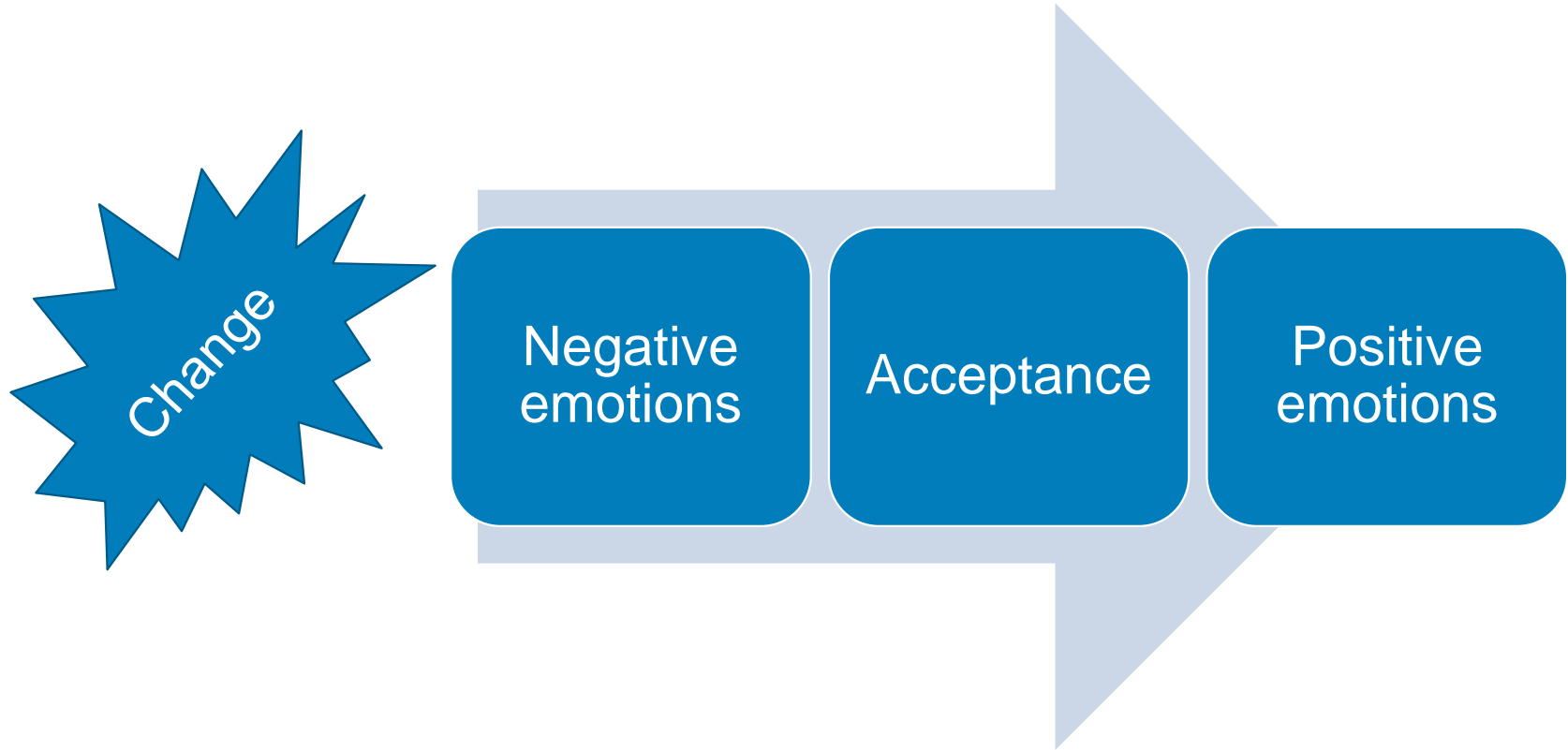
Source: [Career Partners International, The Change Monster has come to the UK](#)

Change curve

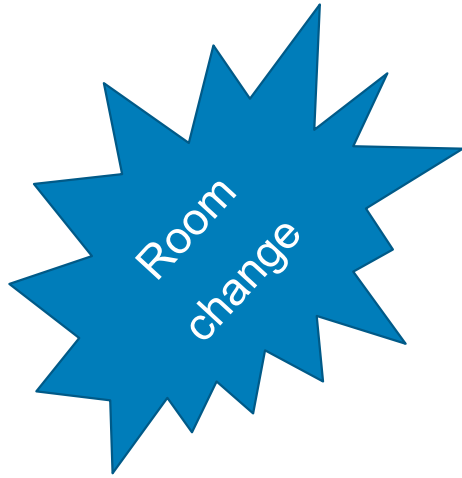


Source: [Arash Arabi, The change curve in action](#)

Change curve in the pill



Change curve example

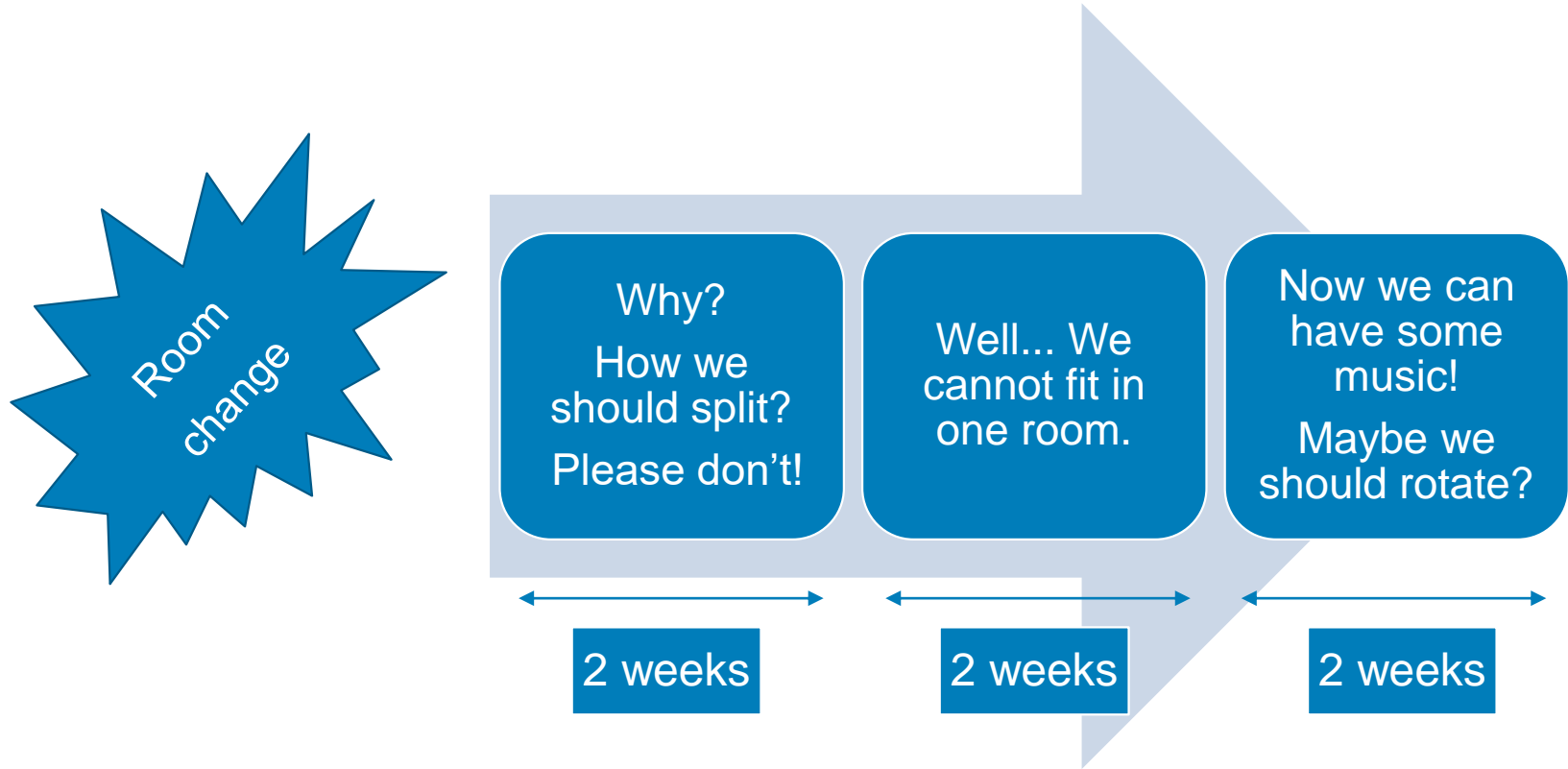


Why?
How we
should split?
Please don't!

Well... We
cannot fit in
one room.

Now we can
have some
music!
Maybe we
should rotate?

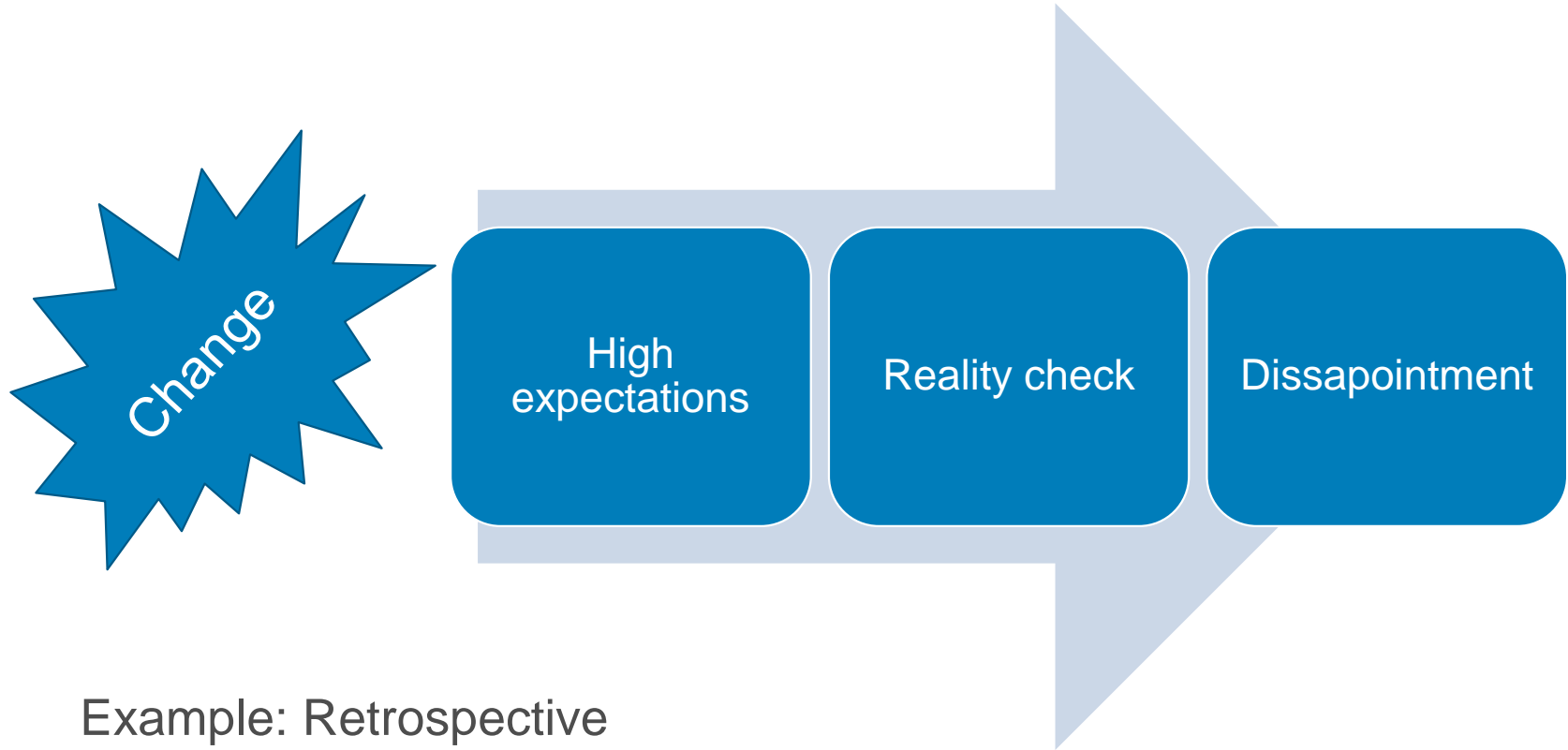
Change curve example



Responding to change

- Acceptance is a breaking point
- Try to shorten the period between the stages
- You are in control of your emotions
- Be aware of emotions in others

Beware: Reverse curve



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Tips & Tricks

Mind-bender

Mind – the greatest tool of them all

TestingCup 2016

Zeger Van Hese

"Testing in the Age of Distraction"



Source: [Zeger Van Hese, Testing Cup 2017](#)

Mind – the greatest tool of them all



Mind – the greatest tool of them all

Testing tasks require switching of thinking styles:

Think critically - focus!

Think creatively - embrace defocus

Managing focus is an important testing skill!

What does it mean?

Critical thinking

Focus

- Short timeboxes
- Avoid distractions
 - Applications
 - Multiple desktops
- Only single task
- Choose time wisely

Creative thinking

Defocus

- It needs time
- Multiple minds are better than one
- Ambient noise
- Change of environment

Thinking styles in testing

Test Stages and Styles of Thinking				
Test Stages				
Documentation Review	Test Planning	Test Execution	Test Analysis	Test Reporting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requirements • HLD • Feature docs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test Ideas • Automation • Feature files • Missions • Charters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test Models • Heuristics • Note Taking • Session Based Testing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bug Investigation • Defect reporting • Repeatability • Questioning • Automation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dashboard • Wiki - Sessions • Plan updates • Qualitative • Quantitative
Critical Thinking	Critical Thinking	Critical Thinking	Critical Thinking	Critical Thinking
	Creative Thinking			Creative Thinking
Creative Thinking		Creative Thinking	Creative Thinking	
The larger the thinking area the more focus on that style of thinking				

Source: [John Stevenson - emphasis of thinking for each testing stage](#)

Be a mind-bender

- Find out which thinking style you should use for your tasks
- Prepare the right environment
- Switching isn't so hard – it can be even relaxing
- Get the most out of time spent on the task



Summary

Tips & tricks to survive in chaos

- Create a ToDo List
- Prioritise your tasks
- Be transparent
- Share your knowledge
- Be aware of the emotional impact of change
- Use the right tool for the right job
- Enjoy it



Questions?

Thank You!

Vote:

#2030

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