Set-Based Concurrent Engineering: Cultural Aspects and Benefits

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Ippd r Lean Product & Process Development

Set-Based Development



lppc

Lean Product 8

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A Simple Example: Point-Based

Setting up a meeting using the point-based model



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A Set-Based Approach

Now setting up the meeting by communicating about sets

A: I can meet 10:00 -1:00 or 3:00 - 5:00 Can you make any of these times?

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Traditional Concept Exploration



- The 'best' solution for each system is chosen
- The 'best' solution may not lead to the 'best' overall solution as compatibility between sub-systems are not understood
- A lot of iterations later to 'fix' the interface issues & tradeoffs that typically arise

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"Accelerated" Concept Exploration Approach



- Pressure to move quickly into developing the solution
- Don't fully explore the design space
- Rush to a "winner" with minimal knowledge
- Rework the design in the development phase

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Challenges with the Point-Based Approach



- Causes us to pass a solution around, each member making changes
- Each change causes further changes and we never get a clear picture of the possibilities.

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Set-Based Philosophy

Generating multiple potential solutions to a design or engineering challenge and working through a convergence process to achieve the best possible solution.

- Dr. Al Ward

Pursue innovative ideas while managing uncertainty in design

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Set-Based Concurrent Engineering (SBCE)



- Develop enough knowledge to understand which alternatives to eliminate
- Keep building knowledge around the remaining alternatives over time and keep eliminating weaker alternatives
- Use integration events to ensure compatibility
- Final selection is ultimately made with significant amount of accumulated knowledge
- High confidence in selected solution to go into detailed design

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"I don't play my 11 best players." I play my best 11 players"

Bear Bryant Former Alabama Football Coach

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Set-Based Perspective

System Integrator & teams look for intersections between feasible sets of alternatives to arrive at best system-level solution



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SBCE EXERCISE

Cultural Aspects and Benefits

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Teams of 5 players Objective: Try to have the "optimal hand" with 5 cards



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Scoring:

- Face cards = 10 points
- Other cards = face value (e.g. ace=1,2,3,4..9)

Bonus:

- All the same color (black or red) = +10 points
- All the same suit (spade, heart,etc) = +25 points
- 4 of one kind (e.g. aces, jacks, etc) = +50 points
- 5 all in sequence in same suit (4,5,6..) = +50 points

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Game play:

- 5 total plays
- Each player initially selects 1 card from the deck
- Up to 4 additional plays where, team assesses score and may:
 - Stop and keep the existing hand as-is
 - Keep some cards, reject others and re-draw from deck

Costs:

- -1 for each initial draw (play 1)
- 3 for each additional draw (plays 2,3)
- 5 for each additional draw (plays 4,5)

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Example of play...



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Round #1: Now let's play...

Assign a scorekeeper in your team to capture score throughout the exercise

Play the game twice to compare results

Provide final scores and number of iterations to the facilitator

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Game play:

- Each player initially draws 5 cards from the deck
- Team members compare "sets" of cards to create the highest possible scoring hand
- Costs:
 - -3 for each player for 5 draws
 - Total Team cost = 15 points

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Round #2: Let's play again...

Assign a scorekeeper in your team to capture score throughout the exercise

Play the game twice to compare results

Provide final scores to the facilitator

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Debrief: Group Discussion

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Discussion points

Compare scores – within teams and between teams. What do you see?

What are the benefits you saw between the first and second rounds?

What cultural behaviors did you observe in the first versus the second rounds?

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Front-load to throroughly explore alternatives



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SBCE Approach: Getting Started

PREPARATION

Scope, objectives, participants,data

WORKSHOP

(initialization of SBCE) 2 – 3 days dedicated teamwork



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Working in Sub-Groups



Document each concept on 1 page



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Evaluation and Compatibility



- Present Concepts
- Evaluate Compatibility
- Eliminate weaker alternatives

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Convergence Phase & Set Expansion



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Kentou (Study) Phase convergence



662

Hedging: Innovation vs "Failure"

Simultaneous pursuit of multiple alternatives provides robustness against engineering failure.

- Problem is broken down as far as possible, and multiple approaches pursued to each sub-problem
- Pursue both radically innovative and conservative approaches (Backup) in parallel
- Decision dates set to show success based on knowledge generated for innovative/radical alternatives

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Set-Based Concurrent Engineering



Concept Exploration

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Kentou (Study) Phase: Follow up

Key Points:

• Document all solutions that have been explored during the Kentou phase in a designated repository as they may be applicable to future projects.

Key success factors:

- All disciplines respect decisions made by the team.
- Avoid going back to second-guess or re-explore solutions already eliminated.
- Decisions are made when specified on the convergence plan based on the knowledge generated



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Conclusions: Front-loading & SBCE

- Encourages innovation & risk-taking upfront
- Encourages growth and sharing of knowledge
- Encourages multi-discipiline collaboration
- Helps better manage technical & project risks
- Reduces the probability of late (and costly) "discoveries"
- Drives a structured cadence of decision-making
- Optimizes system solutions that best meet our customers' needs

SBCE helps to drive the cultural aspects of Lean PPD into an organization (e.g. customer first, rapid learning and continuous improvement)

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Thank You

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