

The TameFlow Connection Newsletter

The latest news and ideas about the *TameFlow Approach*

TameFlow Connection No 7

Hello Friends of Herbie

After the TOCICO conference, I am slowly "recovering" normal modes of operations. It is amazing how much stuff piles up in your inbox after just one week of reduced attention due to participating to a conference.

TameFlow

Campfire Talks with Herbie

Last week we had [Ad Vermeulen](#) on the [Campfire No 16](#). Ad is a director at **A-dato**, a software company whose offering are most relevant for anyone using the *TameFlow Approach*. A-dato started supporting the *TameFlow Approach* as early as 2013, just as I and Wolfram had published the very first edition of "*Tame the Flow*" (which eventually became the "[Hyper](#)") book.

In fact, their [LYNX TameFlow](#) solution is the first "*Officially Approved TameFlow Software.*"

A-dato's tool allows you to manage **CCPM Buffers**. They fully implement the *TameFlow Boards* with **DBR Scheduling, Kanban Tokens** and **Replenishment Tokens**. Likewise the tool is able to generate **Buffer Fever Charts** and multi-project **Buffer Bubble Charts**.

The Campfire did not feature my customary whiteboard session; instead it was replaced by a live demo of LYNX TameFlow.

Organizations as Networks

In the last *TameFlow Connection* newsletter, I recounted how I was glad to discover (at the TOCICO conference) the works with **Design Structure Matrices** (DSM) of Steve Holt and Matthew O'Brien - because they reminded so much of the **Interaction Grids** that were so important in the beginnings of the *TameFlow Approach*.

This week I was equally amused by reading [Have You Ever Analyzed the Networks Inside Your Company?](#) It is a really worthwhile read, where the authors describe how network analysis / network maps can be used to gain insights into how well the organization functions. In short this is about **Informational Flow**, and one of the central concepts of the *TameFlow Approach* is also highlighted: that of addressing the "control bottleneck." In other words, what I often refer to as the **Management Attention** Constraint.

The remedy is to put leaders in the condition to be able to *delegate authority* not to individuals in the prominent positions in the formal organization chart, but to *key influencers* in the informal social network of the organization, including connections with the external network (customers and suppliers).

Why did this strike a chord? Because it maps wonderfully to the usage of *natural force-based social networks* or **Adjacency Diagrams** that I wrote about in Chapter 2 - *Shapes and Patterns of Hyper-Productivity* - of the [Hyper Book](#). Seems it is about time to dust off those initial techniques!

Personal Knowledge Management

Roam Research

Unless you've been living under a rock, you will certainly have heard about [RoamResearch](#) and their product. Well, yes, I've been infected by the "Roam Cult" as well. Actually, I've been using an early version of Roam since the beginning of this year.

It is a **Personal Knowledge Management** system. At first glance it appears to be unimpressive and looks like something totally useless. But that's mightily deceptive. It is counter-intuitive. Once you start using it, it will grow on you; and after a while you will start to connect the dots.

I discovered it as the most powerful way I have ever come across to organize my own thoughts. I am now using it as an integrated system for: note taking, task management, contact/customer relationship management, course development, bibliographic references management, book authoring - and every day there's a new use case. In fact, this very newsletter is first authored in Roam, before being moved over to the email management system.

If you are doing research and writing about what interests you - as you presumably do - this tool is unlike anything else.

Read their [whitepaper](#) if you want to have the big picture. (Note: that page is written in Roam itself: it might take a little while to open... just bear with it... it is worth it.) Or check for the numerous [enthusiastic opinions](#) or collection of [videos](#) about Roam.

I strongly suggest you take a serious, long look at it. But be *very* patient and persistent: it might take a few weeks of deliberate active use before it "clicks." After you get there, you will appreciate its long term implications.

Maybe you can start writing your next blog post, article or report by jotting down ideas, bibliographic references, notes on those references, then fleshing out your own main text. Just to become familiar.

The point of all this? **Roam and TameFlow**

RoamResearch have announced that their **future roadmap** will include **multi-user support**, where entire databases or just elements of them (even down to a single sentence) can be shared between peers or even publicly. This could become a global solution for capturing the collective **knowledge-graph** of all people that share an

interest. It will enable a new ways of collaborative knowledge development; research; distribution; and management.

In the [TameFlow Community](#) there is this experimental page - [The TameFlow Body of Knowledge Wiki](#) - that intended to become a Wiki where the community members could collectively develop and share the public **Body of Knowledge** of TameFlow.

So far it has not taken off. Presumably the reason is that the process of writing Wiki pages on Discourse (the platform underlying the community site) is just too cumbersome. There is too much friction. (But by all means, give it a try and feel free to contribute to it! It is their to build the collective TameFlow knowledge!)

Now, if the vision of Roam Research will come to fruition, I can very well see that such a *Body of Knowledge* could be developed collectively and seamlessly with the contribution of many.

Why?

Because the build up of knowledge in Roam is natural, friction-less, effortless. If you start using Roam for your own personal usage, and start collecting *your* notes about what you discover, appreciate, dislike, critique about the *TameFlow Approach*; well, then all **your notes** could (selectively) be shared and contributed to the making of such collective a *Body of Knowledge*.

Even if such a vision never materializes, or if you don't feel like contributing; well, in any case you will have a very precious and handy personal knowledge repository of everything *you* find of relevance with TameFlow.

So I suggest you start looking into Roam... and then we will see what develops.

Have a great week!

Steve

P.S.

Please spread the word about the *TameFlow Approach*. Tell your friends and colleagues to subscribe to this [TameFlow Connection Newsletter](#) - or just forward them a copy of this issue - and to watch the [Campfire Talks with Herbie](#) webinars.



SHARE ON FACEBOOK



SHARE ON TWITTER



FORWARD EMAIL

TameFlow Consulting Limited

Villa Malitah 15, Triq il-Mediterran, San Giljan, Malta

© 2020 TameFlow Consulting Limited.

The "TameFlow" brand and logo are ® Reg. U.S. Pat. & Tm Off.

You received this email because you signed up on our website or made a purchase from us.

[Unsubscribe](#)