The TameFlow Connection Newsletter

The latest news and ideas about the *TameFlow Approach*

TameFlow Connection 15

Hello Friends of Herbie

Here's this week's edition of the *TameFlow Connection* newsletter.

Events and Media

Recent Events

On **August 25th, 2020**, at 15:00 CEST, the *Campfie Talk with Herbie (24)* welcomed [Dr. Paul D. Giammalvo](#) who gave us his unorthodox insights on large scale **asset (portfolio) management** and **program (operational) management**. The stream is here on [Youtube](#). This episode was a bit unusual, as there were not many interactions; but the audience could discover another perspective in the world of large scale project management - especially of the kind that pertains to conventional, "physical" projects.

Upcoming Events

- **September 1st, 2020, at 13:00 CEST:** *Campfire Talks with Herbie 25*. The guest will be [[Venkatesh "Venky" Krishnamurthy]]. Venky hs an 18-year track record of innovation and achievement in the software development field. He is a seasoned Agile Coach, trainer, author, and speaker, and Australia's first Certified LeSS Trainer. We will explore how **Large Scale Scrum** (LeSS) and the *TameFlow Approach* compare and how they can operate together.
- **September 1st, 2020, at 20:20 CEST**: on the *Agility Chef* show, [John Coleman](#) will let [Daniel Doiron](#) talk about **Throughput Accounting**. Given than Daniel is also a Certified Public Accountant, I am sure this will be quite an interesting presentation. For details, see John's [Meetup Event](#).

- **September 8th, 2020, at 22:00 CEST**: *Campfire Talks with Herbie 26*. The guest will be [Clarke 'the bottleneck guy" Ching](#). Clarke is one of the most longstanding people who has been bridging the world of **Theory of Constraints** and **Agile**. In fact Clarke's MBA thesis was one of the first papers on the topic, and it had a huge impact on the shaping of my own ideas. I owe a lot to Clarke! He's also been running podcasts where he has interviewed [Eli Goldratt](#) himself, and even [myself](#) earlier this year. Actually, Clarke interviewed me even earlier, in 2015. I found that interview in the [Internet Archive](#); I also published a [transcript](#) of that interview. (You can see all of Clarke's old podcast on the Archive [here](#)). So after being Clarke's guest twice, I thought it wold be nice to reciprocate. Clarke is also an accomplished author of rocking [books](#). So we will certainly have a conversation on our experiences as book authors.

- **September 15th, 2020, at 20:0 CEST**: *Campfire Talks with Herbie 27*. The guest will be quantification expert and agile pioneer [Tom Gilb](#). Tom will give us his views on how to **Quantify Value** and bring us up to date on his latest writing: a new book about quantification: [Quanteer](#) (a Dropbox download link from which you can get Tom's "daily build" of the book). We will see how his ideas can support the **Full Kitting** activity in the *TameFlow Approach*.

New Events Notification System

While many of you have enjoyed the *Campfire Talks with Herbie*, unfortunately the event notification service I chose to keep you posted about the upcoming events turned out to be turnip - and did not work well at all. So starting from this week I am going back to something more traditional but that should be much more reliable: a simple notification mailing. I will send out notification emails with the details (date, time, live stream link, etc.) of the upcoming TameFlow Events.

If you have received and are reading *this* email, it means you have already registered and opted in to receive emails from me. Therefore, for your convenience, you can add yourself to the new events notification list through this one-click link button:

Campfire Talks Notifications

Note: if you happen to read this email because it was forwarded to you, and you are not already signed up, then the above button will not work. Instead use this signup page.

Re-Read Saturday with Tom Cagley

As usual, Thomas "Tom" Cagley Jr. - the host of the *Software Process and Measurement Cast* - posted this weeks' Re-Read Saturday. This time he tackles Chapter 13 about **Portfolio Prioritization and Selection in PEST Environments** of my Tame your Work Flow book. In his post, Tom provides his insights and elaborates on how the "power plays" at work in companies will often break the application of any rational prioritization criteria.

At one point, referring to the negative of conflicts, Tom laments that the book *"does not suggest how to stop them."* Though I concede that Tom might still have to read the rest of the book, I disagree. In fact I commented on his post:

> The Full-Kitting activity is structured as to quickly make prioritization decisions, transparently – and with quick escalation paths, to the very top, to resolve any issues that cannot be decided or negotiated by the people in action.
>
> Also, in TameFlow we do use all the tools of the Theory of Constraints, like the Evaporating Cloud and other trees of the Thinking Processes that typically resolve conflicts and create coherent views of reality.
>
> It is clear that a "social contract" must be in place between all players: from the CEO to the ground floor. The agreement that all subscribe to is to reach "The Goal" and use Throughput Accounting to resolve any decision that has a business impact.
>
> If you get such "working agreements" in place, it is very unlikely that power plays will keep going on – because either the power player can show that what is their suggestion does have a greater positive impact on financial throughput, and then that is the right thing to do – no

questions! Or, if it does not bring a greater positive impact, the social contract makes it acceptable – and expected – to escalate the issue for the resolution to the very top if necessary.

Jumping the queue to "make a bonus" does not exist in a TameFlow context. All bonuses are shared on the achievement of the common goal. All local optimization metrics – and hence the silos bonuses – are weeded out. Likewise, transparency and light weed out the bugs!

TameFlow and Mental Models

As you progress in learning about the *TameFlow Approach*, you will come to appreciate more and more the role that **Mental Models** have. While you may have come across the term, it is worthwhile to look a bit deeper in what it means - and how it should be understood in the context of the *TameFlow Aproach*.

To this end, an excellent resources is Shane Parrish's *Farnam Street* website. Start from his description of [What are Mental Models](#). He writes: *"Mental models are how we understand the world. Not only do they shape what we think and how we understand but they shape the connections and opportunities that we see. Mental models are how we simplify complexity, why we consider some things more relevant than others, and how we reason."*

And then: *"A mental model is simply a representation of how something works. We cannot keep all of the details of the world in our brains, so we use models to simplify the complex into understandable and organizable chunks."*

All the resources on that website, as well as Shane Parrish's books on *Mental Models* are invaluable from the perspective of the *TameFlow Approach*.

That's it for this time.

Have a great week!

Steve

P.S.

Do you enjoy this newsletter? Spread the word and tell your friends and colleagues to subscribe to this [TameFlow Connection Newsletter](#) – or just forward them a copy of this issue. And invite everyone to watch the [Campfire Talks with Herbie](#) live streams. Or invite them to join the [TameFlow Community](#).