

# The TameFlow Connection Newsletter

The latest news and ideas about the *TameFlow Approach*

## TameFlow Connection 20

Hello Friends of Herbie!

Welcome to the 20th installment of the *TameFlow Connection Newsletter*!

Have you been hit *Agile Fatigue* yet? It's starting to become like a mosquito that buzzes in your ear at night and doesn't let you sleep.

"Agile this!" and "Agile that!" and "Agile here!" and "Agile there" and "Agile over there too!"

At the end the word becomes devoid of any meaning. I get distressed when folks believe that the *TameFlow Approach* is yet another "Agile thing."

Yes, the *TameFlow Approach* will give any business the ability to **change direction at speed** – that is the dictionary definition of agility – but I don't subscribe to the "Agile movement" (whatever that is) in any shape or form.

So this needs to be clarified! To make the message clear, I penned this Agile Heresy Manifesto:

### **This is an Agile Heresy Manifesto**

*We have come here to bury Agile, not to praise it!*

*We are uncovering better ways of managing knowledge-work by doing it and helping others do it. Through this work we have come to value:*

*Sheer individualistic, egotistical selfishness that exploits the power of the Ego over Servant Leadership.*

*Rational and scientific "Patterns and Mental Models" of feel-good "Values and Principles."*

*Real bottom-line results over proclaimed customer-value focus.*

*Scale free solutions over Don-Quixote lost battles of scaling the wind mills.*

*That is, while there is value in the items on the right, we value the items on the left more.*

*By thinking outside the box, we create high-performance, humane and sustainable cultures unlike any other.*

Is this just a provocative stunt or is it for real? If you want to know how the items on the left outwit those on the right, sign up for my webinar presentation with Agile Main, on November 4th (details in the *Events* section below).

## Reading

### Be Like Water

[Srinivas "Sri" Garapati](#) posted another collection of wisdom on the [TameFlow Community](#) site: [Be Water and Tame the Flow!](#). The connection to Bruce Lee's statement "*Be like water*", and the idea that water *flows* and thus the value of "*Tame the Flow*" is brilliant! But Sri covers a lot of ground before drawing the conclusion.

### Six Questions to Judge Technology

[David Hodes](#) never ceases to contribute great reflections. In his [Six Questions to Judge Technology](#), he recalls how Eli Goldratt and Eli Schragenheim formulated the **Six Technology Questions** that we can use to assess the utility of any innovation that crosses our way – or crazy startup ideas that might cross our mind, when the rational part is caught off-guard!

As always, David is pragmatic and illustrates the theory with an actual case of his. It's worth reading. And this is a series of posts; so we will be waiting for David's sequel.

In the meantime, you might also want to discover more about this referring back to the [Campfire Talks with Herbie #22](#) where I explored the *Six Technology Questions* together with [Jitesh Dineschandra](#) and then summarized the key points in the blog post [Market Disruption the TameFlow Way](#).

Besides, referring to my work in the Blockchain space, a significant part of my *Blockchain Strategy Framework* is based precisely on a broad

application of these questions... but that is another topic!

## The Change Compass

No week would be complete without something interesting to read from [Michael Küsters](#). This time he writes about [The Change Compass](#). I never came across that one before; but it might be worthwhile to explore from a *TameFlow* perspective, primarily because in the post Michael refers to **Directional Patterns**. Now, since the *TameFlow Approach* is firmly rooted in **Pattern Theory**, it might be interesting to dig deeper, and see if those *Directional Patterns* can actually be framed as *Alexandrian Patterns*. I wouldn't be surprised if Michael will give it a thought (and maybe write a follow-up post!).

## Events

### Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars for the following upcoming events

**October 20th, 2020 at 20:00 CEST** *Campfire Talks with Herbie 28*.

The guests will be [Patrick Steyaert](#) and [Arlette Vercammen](#) of Okaloa Flowlabs. We will talk about *Business Simulations* and *Experiential Learning*.

**November 4th, 2020 at 23:00 CET** I will be the guest speaker on Agile Maine's webinar "*This is an Agile Heresy Manifesto*" (mentioned above), hosted by [Miljan Bajic](#). Sign up [here](#).

**November 10th, 2020 at 13:00 CET** *Campfire Talks with Herbie 29*. The guest will be [Peter Merel](#). Of course we will talk about his *XSCALE* and see how it compares to the *TameFlow Approach*.

**November 23rd-24th, 2020** I will have a talk at the **Critical Chain Project Management Virtual Conference 2020** organized by the TOCICO. The conference will be targeted at *traditional* project managers that might only have a summary understanding of CCPM and are trying to "uncover better ways" to do their job. Of course, one such better way will be via the *TameFlow Approach*. For more information, see [here](#).

**December 3rd, 2020 at 20:00 CET** will see first ever discussion panel event on the *Campfire Talks with Herbie 30*. The panel will be moderated by our very own [Mark Jørgensen Chaudhry](#) a.k.a "Question Mark" because when he is around, no question will be left unasked! The topic will be: **Ready now for building the future-proof organization**. We will explore the future of organizations, touching on

themes like: resilience, sustainability, diversity, social responsibility, power structures, hierarchies, networks, complexity, etc. and who know how many other lines of thought will be developed. In addition to myself, the panel will include these great professionals:

- [Niels Pflaeging](#), a leadership philosopher, management exorcist, speaker, author, advisor. Founder at BetaCodex Network. Thanks to Niels: the idea of this panel was developed with his input!
- [Pamela Dukes OLY](#), an enterprise agile coach & trainer, and a Hall of Fame Olympic athlete who is focused on helping teams through servant leadership and self-reliance strategies;
- [Ritu Ward, FACHE](#), a Healthcare executive with success delivering quality, growth, and strategy while leading high performing teams;
- and last, but not least, [Nigel Thurlow](#), former Chief of Agile of Toyota and the co-creator of The Flow System.

To make sure you don't miss any *Campfire Talks with Herbie* events, subscribe to the [Campfire Events Notification List](#), and you will receive the broadcast links ahead of the event.

## Recent Events

Last week there were no *TameFlow* related events. However the video of the **September 23rd, 2020** panel discussion in the [eXperience Agile](#) conference discussing: *What next for pandemic hit organizations utilizing Lean, Agile, Scrum?* has been released as a [Youtube recording](#). The discussion was moderated by [Nigel Thurlow](#) (mentioned above), and the other panelists, besides me, were: [Sonja Blignaut](#), the complexity and Cynefin expert who leads global operations for Dave Snowden's Cognitive Edge; [Jabe Bloom](#) who leads the Global Transformation office at Red Hat; [Andrew Blain](#) creator of the Remote Agility Framework; [Dirk Van Goubergen](#) Europe's leading expert in Lean and Value Stream Design.

In any case, if you missed some of the past episodes of the *Campfire Talks with Herbie*, you can also catch up with the [full playlist](#) of all recorded episodes.

That's it for this time.

Have a great week!

Steve

P.S.

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