



MVP (Minimum Viable Product) in IT Projects

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- Experience;
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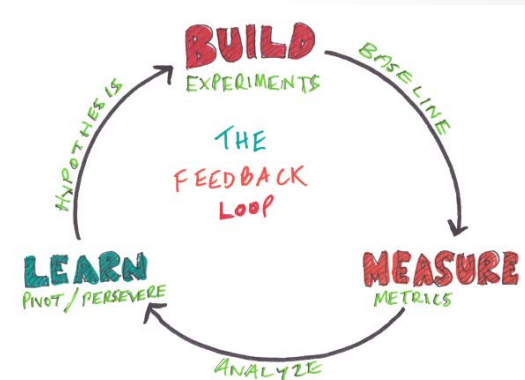
Austin Baker

- Experience;
 - Sr. Project Manager – Mutual of Omaha
 - Capstone Project Mentor / Guest Lecturer – Midland University
 - Health Information Systems Manager – Vetter Health Services
 - Distribution Development Manager (Project Manager) – Mutual of Omaha
- Certification;
 - Project Management Professional – Project Management Institute
- Education;
 - Master of Project Management – Bellevue University
 - Bachelor of Science, Logistics, Materials, and Supply Chain – Bellevue University



MVP - History

- Term first used with Eric Ries
 - A Minimum Viable Product is that version of a new product which allows a team to collect the maximum amount of validated learning about customers with the least effort.
- Over time simplified
 - The smallest thing you can build that lets you quickly make it around the build/measure/learn loop.





MVP - History

- Start-up focus based on experience with chat software
- The things they focused on, didn't matter
- Focus on learning was...learning
- They could have spent their time on the features they spent their time on, waste
- Captured this approach with book, *Lean Startup*



MVP - Ties to Agile

- Values #1 Individuals and interactions over process and tools
 - Values #2 Working software over comprehensive documentation
 - Values #3 Customer collaboration over contract negotiation
 - Values #4 Responding to change over following a plan
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MVP - Ties to Agile

- 1. Our highest priority is to satisfy the customer through early and continuous delivery of valuable software
 - 2. Welcome changing requirements, even late in development. Agile processes harness change for the customer's competitive advantage
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MVP - Ties to Agile

- 3. Deliver working software frequently, from a couple of weeks to a couple of months, with a preference to the shorter time scale
 - 7. Working software is the primary measure of progress
 - 10. Simplicity – the art of maximizing the amount of work not done – is essential
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MVP - Application

Themes of functionality, flexibility and feed back





MVP - Application

- Attempt to break down any “hard problem” that requires a lot of complexity into a simple problem that requires much less
 - Notable keys;
 - Start with HVT
 - Task level 6 hours or less theory (not too simple not too complex)
 - Using the user stories to drive scope not solutions
 - No work on later task until feedback occurs from initial delivery
 - Understanding the roll continuous improvement will or will not play
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MVP - Application

- 80-20 thought process
 - AKA the law of the vital few, or the principle of factor sparsity
 - May not be solving 100% but if you can solve 80% of original problem with 20% effort, huge ROI

MVP - Application

HOW NOT TO BUILD A MINIMUM VIABLE PRODUCT



1



2



3



4

ALSO HOW NOT TO BUILD A MINIMUM VIABLE PRODUCT



1



2



3



4

HOW TO BUILD A MINIMUM VIABLE PRODUCT



1



2



3



4



MVP - Application

"A minimum viable product is therefore not a product. It is a minimum viable go to market step."

- <http://scalemybusiness.com/the-ultimate-guide-to-minimum-viable-products/>



MVP – Examples

- Three unique examples;
 - Technical Debt
 - 401K System
 - Midland Capstone Project
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MVP – Technical Debt





MVP – Technical Debt

- Mainframe language upgrade
- Pacbase (1970 Language) to Maintainable Cobol and JAVA
- Started with a wide array of databases and UI's
- No planning beyond POC
- Project transferred to me after POC



MVP – Technical Debt

- Took MVP approach to develop scope of individual projects and how those tied to program objectives
- Planned with the mindset of the “Known-Unknowns”
- Delivered with MVP across 10 releases (2.25 complete projects)
- Big wins from program perspective
 - Speed to market (internal), cost avoidance across numerous fields and flexibility to grow



MVP – Technical Debt

- Key elements
 - Continuous improvement
 - Real time customer feedback loop
 - Understanding what customers had vs what they needed (future state) from a technology perspective
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MVP – 401K System





MVP – 401K System

- Associate agent information to certain UI screens
- Started with a wide swath of associated features and requirements
- Minimal prioritization initially done
- Project transferred to me
- Took MVP approach to reprioritize to the most important thing, and what can be delivered earliest





MVP – 401K System

- Re-planned with this mindset, cut estimated delivery date drastically
- Now delivering the MVP across two releases
- From portfolio perspective, this is a big benefit as we can evaluate function v. function instead of the whole project v. other whole projects

MVP – Midland Capstone





MVP – Midland Capstone

- VC/Start-up company data is limited
- Need to be able to compare to peers
- MVP was the first pass at the data set
- Delivery started the feedback loop
- Delivery stood on its own, but allowed for easily identified next steps
- Additional deliveries occurred after MVP





MVP - Examples

- Three unique examples;
 - Technical Debt
 - 401K System
 - Midland Capstone Project
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MVP - Why It Adds Value

- Early feedback/interaction point with the customer
- Reduced risk of being off base
- Customer use of the software/deliverable
- Portfolio Management; can cut edges if needed
- Less likely to be a total failure/cut
- Improved trust and relationships



Dialogue



Thank You!

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Helpful Links

- [Cleveroad - What is the use of a MVP](#)
- [The Case For A Minimum Viable Product Launch](#)
- [Forbes MVP Case Studies](#)
- [MindTools - Creating Minimum Viable Products](#)
- [Scale My Business - MVP User Guide](#)