Welcome!

Please make tables of 6-8 people
Spark Digital Joy by Tidying Up Your Work

Trace Wax
Director, Product Strategy
Who here is tidy?
I am not a tidy person.

Why did my house get clean
When my code did?
A story of origin
On the dishwasher where I learned Extreme Programming
Experiment-Driven Design.
Deployed pilots within weeks.
Continuous validated learning.

PHILOSOPHIE
Think by making.

Now I work here
Got us thinking: what best practices lead to tidiness?
the life-changing magic of tidying up
the Japanese art of decluttering and organizing

spark joy
an illustrated master class on the art of organizing and tidying up
I gave this a try.
Later:
Then:

Marie Kondo Isn’t Sparking Joy for Thrift Stores

A global ‘Tidying Up’ frenzy is burying donation centers with goods that truly, nobody wants. “We aren’t a place for people to just dump their rubbish.”
This happened:

Either there’s a @netflix glitch or @MarieKondo’s methods have escalated.
And the memes:

This one sparks joy.

This one does not spark joy.
And applied to features:

This sparks joy.

This does not.
Why can’t we do that with our...

- features
- backlogs
- roadmaps
- designs
- code
- to-do lists
- process?
Her relevant techniques, oversimplified

- Greet your home with your intention
- Take your items out in batches and set them aside
- Hold each near your heart
- Feel whether it sparks joy
- If it does, keep it, and organize it later
- If it does not, thank it for its role, release it, and toss it
So how might we:

- Greet your work items with your intention
- List your items out in batches and set them aside
- Hold each near your heart
- Feel whether it sparks joy
- If it does, keep it, and organize it later
- If it does not, thank it for its role, release it, and toss it
Let’s use a workshop technique to help:
We’ll use just one line in our story map
To deliver incremental value
An example result
Let’s begin!
Agenda:

• Select the work list you’d like to tidy
• Greet your work items with your intention
• Describe the problem and sketch your work
• Map your work (in the order it will be used)
• Determine what sparks joy (moving the rest below the line)
• Thank your below the line items and throw them away
Select the work list you’d like to tidy

- features
- backlogs
- roadmaps
- designs
- code
- to-do lists
- process?
How Marie Kondo greets a home:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PjWs2R363cs

I make a point to greet the client’s home.
Greet your work with your intention

• Check in with yourself and your feelings about the hopes you have for your work.
• As Marie Kondo does when she enters a house her clients wish to tidy, take a moment to greet the work (roadmap, backlog, design, or code) you wish to tidy.
• Introduce yourself to your work with your name and role, and ask for its help tidying it.
• Then, share this with to the person next to you
Describe the Problem

• Pair up and describe the problem this work solves
**Sketch Your Work**

- Take 2 sheets of paper and fold them in 8
- Place a Post-It on each section
- Take 30 seconds each to draw or write your work items that are top of mind on the Post-It
- Share them with someone sitting next to you
Sketch your work

App with bite-sized actions to do daily.

Web app: email letter generator helps user easily write personalized letter to stakeholders.

Make solutions cheaper! Program 1

Website or app that makes expensive actions cheaper (i.e. buying solar panels, clean programs, etc. or sharing)

Weekday radio program each morning: 5 min on actions regular people can take.

Map/flow chart for navigating difficult conversations with friends, family, and neighbors about climate change or feel nothing can be done I don't care.

App with push notifications to alert users to new programs or incentives to purchase energy efficient products.

Helps user easily write personalized letter to stakeholders.
Map Your Work

- Tape 2 pieces of paper together
- At the top, label ‘beginning’, ‘middle’, and ‘end’
- Roughly arrange your sketches in front of you in the chronological order in which they appear in your users' journey
- Or any order (or no order) that makes sense to you
How to tell if something “Sparks Joy”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PjWs2R363cs
Determine what sparks joy

- Draw a line of tape below your sketches
- Take each Post-It and reflect on it
- Hold it close to your chest, as Marie Kondo teaches
- Check in with yourself emotionally and decide how it feels to you, and feel if it sparks joy
- Put yourself in the mindset of a user having the problem you described, and check in with yourself again as if you were them
- If an item does not spark joy, thank it for the purpose it served and move it below the line of tape
Discuss

• Talk as a group with your peers at your table.
• How was this for you?
• What felt right?
• What felt challenging?
Release the items

• Take all the items below the line and set them aside
• Thank them for the purpose they served
• Let them go
• Say “thank you” to your items as you place them in “Del” the trash can, who will incinerate them for you...
Special Guest Star: item incinerator “Del” from LeanDog

Courtesy of @scotrtrageous

(🔥 Not a real fire 😊)
Thank You!

Email me: trace@philosophie.is
Tweet at me: @tracedwax

Want help tidying your product or backlog, running Lean experiments, or designing and building things quickly?

Please reach out!