Open Space

"A 1 hr open space schedule, to co-create anything out of nothing but presence."

What is this?

This is a process outline for a 1 hr open space session, with an option to connect development tools to existing challenges.

Open Space is a powerful process for engaging large and small groups of people in discussions to explore particular questions or issues. It can be used with groups of any size.

Outcomes

● Dialogue based progress

Set up

● Timer, papers/whiteboards, pens.
● The question you ask and how you frame it will determine who will join, so be mindful of this.

Principles

Open Space has Four Rules and One Law (the Law of Two Feet), and two insects as add-ons.

The Four Rules:
1. Whoever comes are the right people.
2. Whatever happens is the only thing that could have.
3. Whenever it starts is the right time.
4. When it's over, it's over.

The Law of Two Feet:
During the course of the open space, if any person is neither learning nor contributing, they shall move to a more productive place.

Insects
Butterflies.
These people hang out, and don't appear to do much, however they may just be involved with the most important discussions of the day.

Bees.
They fly from conversation to conversation bring new ideas, and fresh eyes to the table.
They can also encourage mingling to those for whom the Law of Two Feet feels a bit rude.

How to...

Self organize

1. Present the question, e.g. "What is your biggest challenge right now?". Be sure to give space for clarifications.

2. Let anyone propose their "topic" in 30 seconds.
   When a topic is presented, anyone who feels drawn to that topic may join the person.
   The law of two feet enables changing your mind, whenever. Move around freely!

Derive driver statements

Self organized groups are now formed around topics. Spend 15 minutes (max) on 3 & 4.

3. Let the proposer formulate a driver statement:
   - Observation: (objective)
   - Effect: (of what is observed)
   - Need: (not solution. Need!)

4. Co-create and complement the driver statement in the group. Be careful not to change the spirit in the topic. This is not an "all perspectives are equal" session. Usually it is good to let the proposer own the topic.

Share solutions

Spend another 15 minutes (max) on 5.

5. Share experiences in the group that may address the need. Proposer takes notes of what she/he finds relevant.

6. Optional is to map development tools (these tools) to the identified need(s).

Share in big group
Spend the last 15 minutes on sharing.

7. Share each driver statement, and the relevant solutions.

8. After sharing, anyone that has an additional experience may share directly with the Proposer.

Celebrate!

Do a 10 s retro - using a fist of five.

Capture improvement.