Think Small (Know the details)

Principle 4 (Operations)

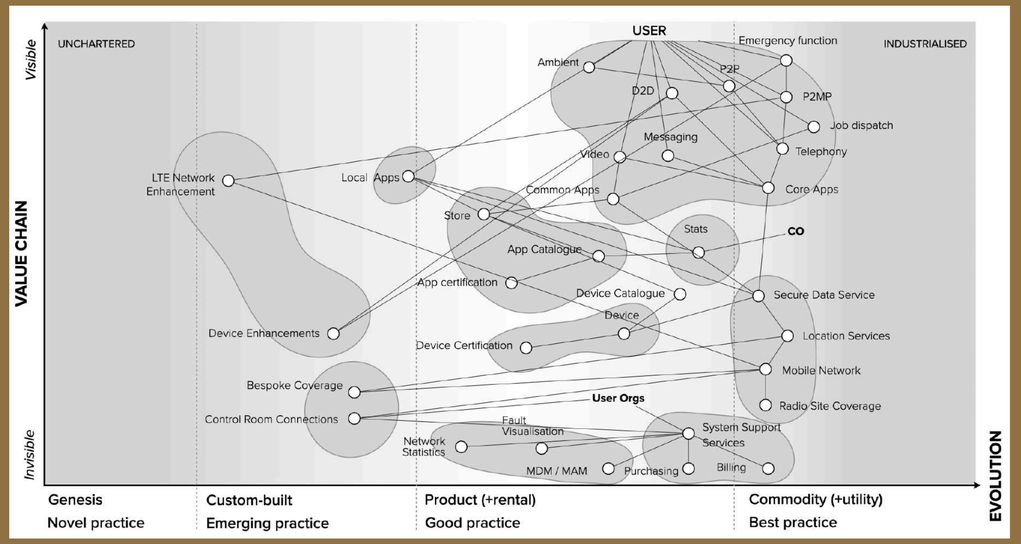
v1.4

PowerMaps

PRINCIPLES (universally useful ways of operating any organisation can adopt)						
CATEGORY	COMMUNICATION	DEVELOPMENT	OPERATIONS	LEARNING	LEADING	STRUCTURE
PHASE I *TAKE CONTROL*	3. Use a common language Challenge assumptions Understand what is being considered (situational awareness)	1. Know your users 2. Focus on user needs Remove bias and duplication Use appropriate methods	4. Think small (as in know the details)	Use a systematic mechanism of learning (bias towards data)		
PHASE II *GET FIT*	Be transparent (Bias towards open)	Focus on the outcome not a contract Think fast, inexpensive, restrained and elegant (FIRE) Use appropriate tools Be pragmatic Use standards where appropriate	Manage inertia Manage failure Effectiveness over efficiency	Bias towards action (learn by playing the game)	Move fast Strategy is iterative not linear	Think small (as in teams) Distribute power and decision making Think aptitude and attitude
PHASE III *BETTER WITH LESS*			Optimise flow (remove bottlenecks) Do better with less Set exceptional standards (great is just not good enough)	Bias towards the new (be curious, take appropriate risks)	Commit to the direction, be adaptive along the path Be the owner Think big, inspire others Embrace uncertainty Be humble (listen, be selfless, have fortitude)	Provide purpose, mastery & autonomy Seek the best
PHASE IV *REAL-TIME STRATEGY*				Listen to your ecosystems (future sensing engine)	Exploit the landscape There is no core (everything is transient)	There is no one culture Design for constant evolution

Break large landscapes into smaller projects in order to manage them better.

Don’t be put off by fears of increasing complexity.*

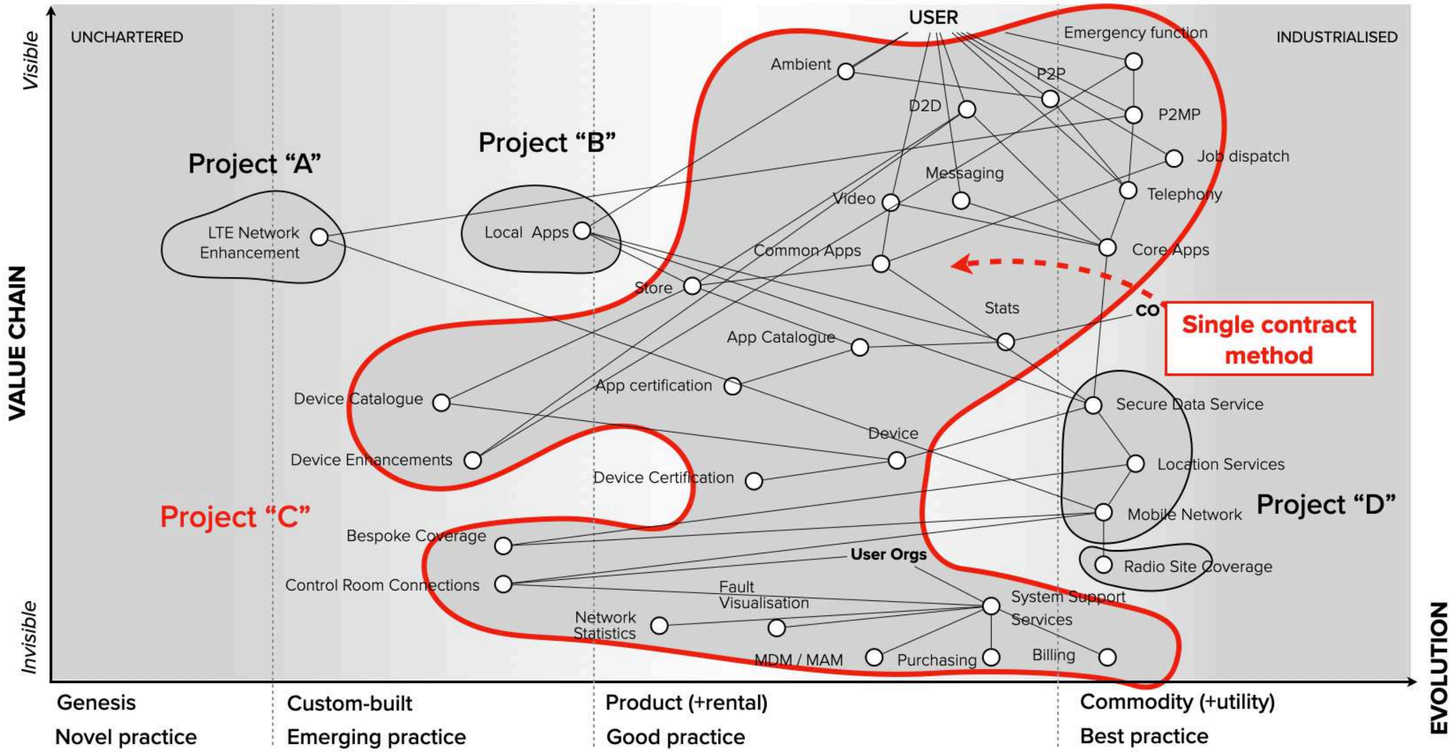


* That’s there already, just hidden, preventing you from managing it

Don’t do this!!

Group projects together based on financial or functional characteristics in order to make them more manageable.

This creates serious problems:
Project “C” is too broad — with industrialised components (on the right) mixed with uncertain components (on the left).



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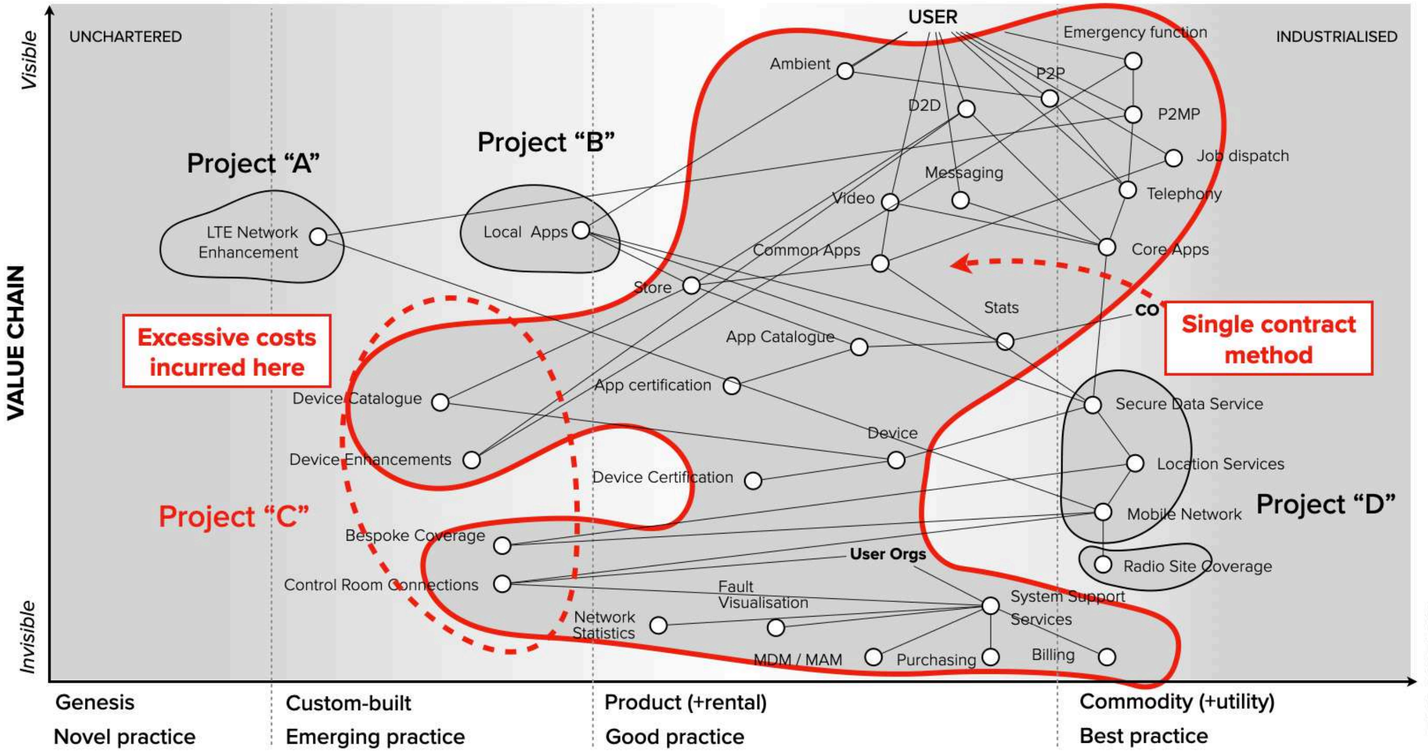
Why it’s a problem

Components on the right of the map have a high-level of certainty. These can be delivered to specification.

Components on the left have a low-level of certainty. They will change often and incur excessive costs.

Project “C” will overrun its budgets and deadlines.



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The problem is “we want to know what is being delivered” from components where there is too much uncertainty.

The only guarantee is that custom-built components will change, costs will spiral and disputes will break-out.

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Someone will suggest the solution is “better specification”.

This will only increase costs as you try (and fail) to define the uncertain.

The way to solve this problem is to map the Landscape then over-lay your projects on it.