Event Storming
Unleashed
Building Bridges for Effective Communication
Agenda

- What is EventStorming?
- BREAK
- Exercise: Big Picture EventStorming
- BREAK
- Transitioning Between EventStorming Sessions
- Exercise: Process Modeling EventStorming
- BREAK
- Additional EventStorming Guidance
- Recap
What is EventStorming?
What is EventStorming?

Collaborative workshop-based experience to gain a shared understanding of a complex business system
EventStorming Grammar

• *Conversations* with sticky notes
• Eventually structured to follow a particular grammar
What is an Event?
Signed up for EventStorming workshop
Why the Orange sticky note?
Merge the people, split the software.

- Alberto Brandolini
What is the Storming of EventStorming?
Types of EventStorming

**Big Picture EventStorming**
- Goal: Generate shared understanding
- Used for discovery

**EventStorming for Process Modeling**
- Goal: Address the Hotspots
- Used for exploring a process
- Typically limited to a single end-to-end process

**EventStorming for System Design**
- Goal: Evaluate a system and propose a solution
- Design a solution
- Be aware of alternatives
- Hide unnecessary complexity from the users

**EventStorming for People Experience**
- Goal: Understand customer/user/persona interactions and experiences

**EventStorming for Refactoring**
- Given an existing solution, use EventStorming to identify what is available and potential refactor points
Big Picture EventStorming
Nobody knows the whole story
Ask questions about the unknown
Share knowledge to build a shared understanding
EventStorming in Companies

Small and Large
Startups

- Fewer silos, if any
- People wearing multiple hats
- People who are more likely to admit they don’t know
- May find company gaps where no one knows
- May be easier to schedule people
Corporations

• Consultant/outside facilitator may find it easier to get the key stakeholders together

• **Discovering key impediments, solving key problems**
Big Picture
EventStorming
Process
Step 1: Chaotic Exploration

Get people talking and writing events in past tense
Entered payment details
Entered shipping information
Shipping costs calculated
Sales tax calculated
Payment accepted
Searched for item
Order submitted
Searched order history for order status
Delivered the order
Processed the order
Added item to cart
Check Out
Entered payment details
Step 2: Deduplicate

Find commonalities and dedup ideas
Step 3: People and Systems
Step 4: Identify Areas to Explore
Sticky Notes in EventStorming
EventStorming Grammar

- *Conversations* with sticky notes
- Eventually structured to follow a particular grammar
Color-Puzzle Thinking

- Source: Alberto Brandolini
Domain Events

- Orange sticky note
- Verb in **past tense**
- Answers “What happened?”
Commands

- Light blue sticky note
- Imperative
- Issued by a user
- Triggers events
Users / Roles / Personas

- Small yellow sticky note, possibly labeled stick figure
- May be a generic representation
- May be a specific persona when specificity is known
Policy / Process

• Lilac (light purple) sticky note
• “Whenever”
• Under what conditions
• May include a related role
External Systems

- Light pink sticky notes
- Systems external to the one being discussed
- May be external as in third-party, outside the company
- Not always third-party apps
Issues / Hot Spots / Problems

• Red or purple
  • Sometimes shown in screenshots as Black – depending on the sticky notes available in whatever sticky note app is available
  • Also seen in screenshots as a speech bubble

• What are **the pain points**?
• What are **the unknowns**?
Aggregates

- Yellow sticky note
- Used to **group objects** for the purpose of data changes
Views /Queries / Read Models

- Green sticky notes
- Data needed for a user to make a decision
- Do not get wrapped up in reusability

1. Understand the decision
2. Define necessary data
3. Make it happen

- Lives in the bounded context where the decision is happening
Big Picture EventStorming Sticky Notes

- Command
- Aggregate
- Domain Event
- Policy
- Command
- Read Model
- User
- External System
Types of EventStorming

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Common Flow of EventStorming

• How do the EventStorming sessions flow into each other?
Transitioning Between Big Picture and Process Modeling

- Processes uncovered during discovery
- Deep dive into a process

QUESTIONS?
PAIN POINTS?
EventStorming for Process Modeling
Process Modeling Event Storming Sticky Notes

- Command
- Aggregate
- Domain Event
- Policy
- Command
- Read Model
- User
- External System
EventStorming for Process Modelling

• Collaborative process modeling
• Limited scope – single end-to-end process
• Smaller number of people
• Use the cooperative game principle – the problem is the opponent and everyone in the room must work together to defeat it
• May need to give up technical or specialty jargon to get everyone on same page

More on EventStorming for Process Modelling
Game Goals for Process Modeling

1. All process paths are completed.
2. Every possible Hotspot is addressed.
3. All the stakeholders involved in the process are reasonably happy.
4. The color grammar is preserved with no holes or gaps.
Grammar for EventStorming for Process Modeling - Events

- Orange sticky notes
- Triggered by a **user interaction**
- Triggered by **an external system**
- Triggered by **time** (temporal)
- Triggered as a cascading reaction

Meal decision made
Grammar for EventStorming for Process Modeling – Commands/Actions

• Blue sticky notes
• Also intentions or user decisions
• Commonly triggers more events

Places order with the server
Grammar for EventStorming for Process Modeling – People

- Yellow sticky notes of stick figures
- Sometimes smaller yellow sticky notes
- Can also be used for **roles**, **actors**, **personas**, and **concrete examples of people**
Grammar for EventStorming for Process Modeling – External Systems

- Pink sticky notes

Staff Scheduling System
Inventory System
Reservation System
Authentication System
Grammar for EventStorming for Process Modeling – Hot Spots

• Red or purple sticky notes
• Black sticky notes
• Comment bubbles
• Something that calls attention and stands out

WHAT PAYMENT METHODS ARE SUPPORTED?

HOW ARE THE SPECIALS OF THE WEEK DETERMINED?

WHAT IF THIS STEP FAILS?
Grammar for EventStorming for Process Modeling – Policies

• Lilac sticky notes
• Capture reactive logic to processes
• Business decisions
• Organization reaction to given events

• Whenever events then commands

Whenever the meal is complete
Whenever the meal is complete, calculate the check, and line items summed.
More of the Process

Line items summed

Calculate tax

Tax calculated
Grammar for EventStorming for Process Modeling – Read Models

- Green sticky notes
- Information needed to make a decision

- Item Name
- Ingredients
- Price
Wireframes and Sketches in Process Modeling EventStorming

- Visual aids are welcome
- If they add value, be explicit
Team Dynamics

• **The Pragmatic:** will know which path delivers more value and why
• **The Driller:** will come up with alternatives and “What if...?” scenarios
• **The Empathic:** will care about emotions & feelings
Revelations in Talking with Participants

• I started working here recently. I finally understand what they do here!
• This is where everything is broken.
• This never really works.
• It takes forever to complete this step.
Process Modeling Event Storming Process
Step 1: Chaotic Exploration

Get people talking and writing events in past tense
Added item to cart

Entered shipping information

Shipping costs calculated

Sales tax calculated

Payment accepted

Searched for item

Order submitted

Processed the order

Search order history for order status

Delivered the order

Entered payment details
Step 2: Deduplicate & Timeline

Find commonalities and dedup ideas
Step 3: People and Systems
Step 4: Identify Pain Points & Possible Resolutions
EventStorming for System Design

• Used to help implement system features that solve a specific problem
• Designing a solution
• In the end, agree on a solution
• Make alternatives visible
• Bigger egos – systems designers, software architects, senior devs
• Hide unnecessary complexity
EventStorming for Refactoring – Basic Sticky Notes

What happened?  
Domain Events

Who uses the system?  
Users/Roles/Personas

What systems are involved?  
Systems
Identify Hotspots

QUESTIONS?
PAIN POINTS?
EventStorming for Refactoring – Additional Sticky Notes

- What triggers the event?
- Large Grouping of a Business Problem

Command

Aggregate
Resources

• *EventStorming* by Alberto Brandolini
• *The EventStorming Handbook* by Paul Rayner
• EventStorming.com
• 50,000 Stickies Later – Alberto Brandolini (Explore DDD 2017)
• 100,000 Stickies Later – Alberto Brandolini (Øredev 2019)
Thank you!

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