

# Thinking about **Systems** **with** **Bytesize Architecture Sessions**

.....  
**Yow Australia**

December 2024







# About Andrea

Programmer and Creator of Bytesize Architecture Sessions



- Programming professionally since 2001
- Co-founded PC & Console Games Company in Ireland
- Contractor and Consulting since 2018
  - E-Commerce
  - Broadcasting media
  - Finance
- Recently moved to NZ and working with Atlassian

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# Agenda



- Why sharing knowledge about systems is hard?
- How do we share this knowledge?
- Bytesize Architecture Sessions
- Overview
- Industry example: first session
- Industry example: Inter team collaboration
- Questions



# You ship what is in your programmers' brains.



Andrea Magnorsky - 2021





**It's not the domain experts knowledge  
that goes into production, it's the  
assumption of the developers that goes  
into production.**



**Alberto Brandolini - 2019\***

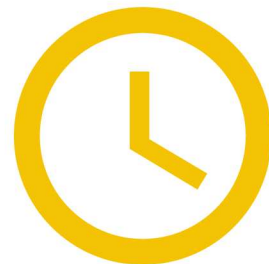
**\*or before**

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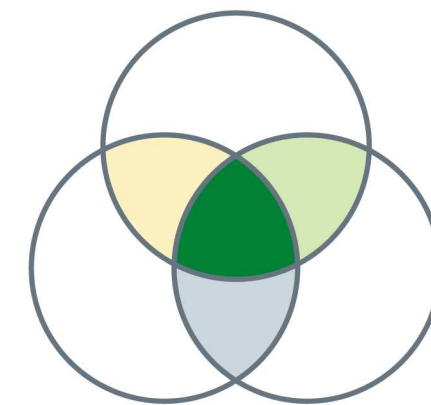
# Added difficulty



- Changing teams
- Coordination between teams
- Conflicting long term plans



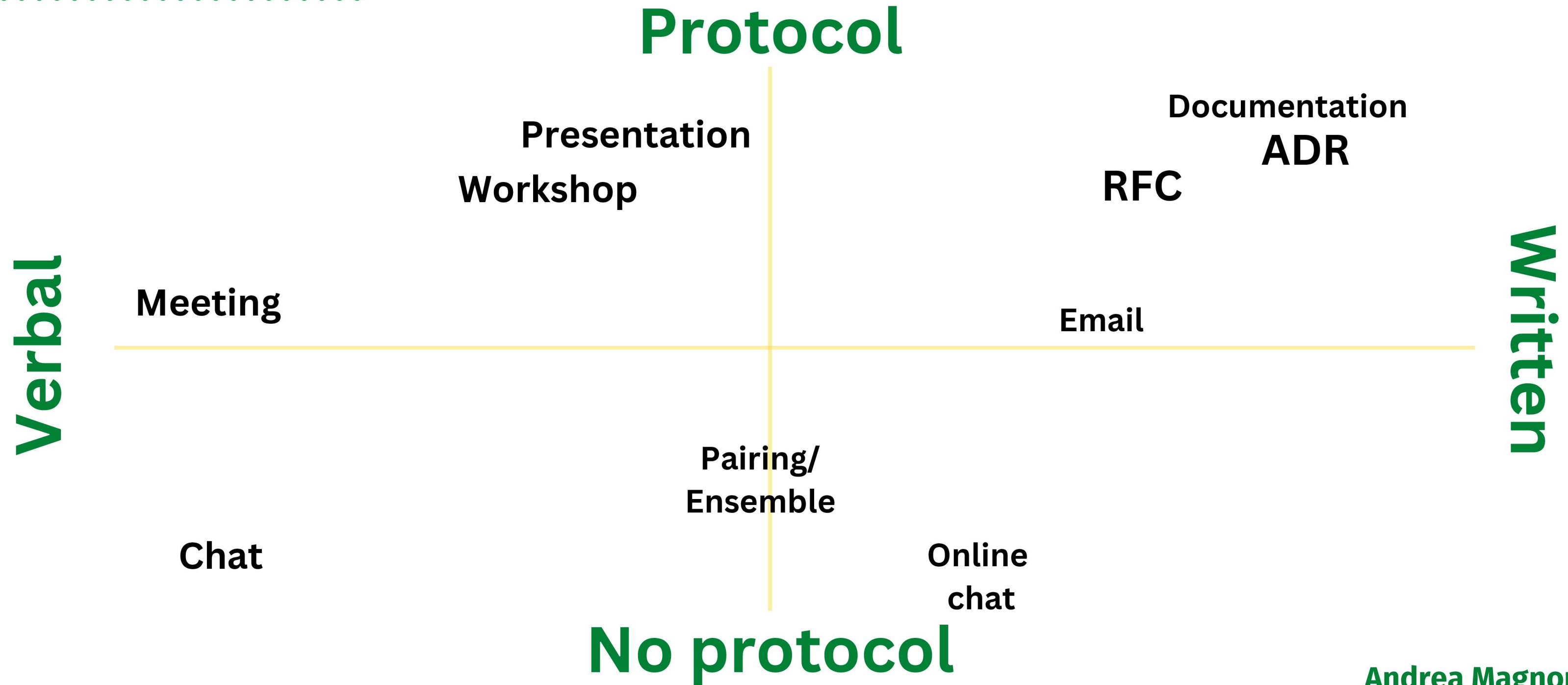
## Role dependent information variance





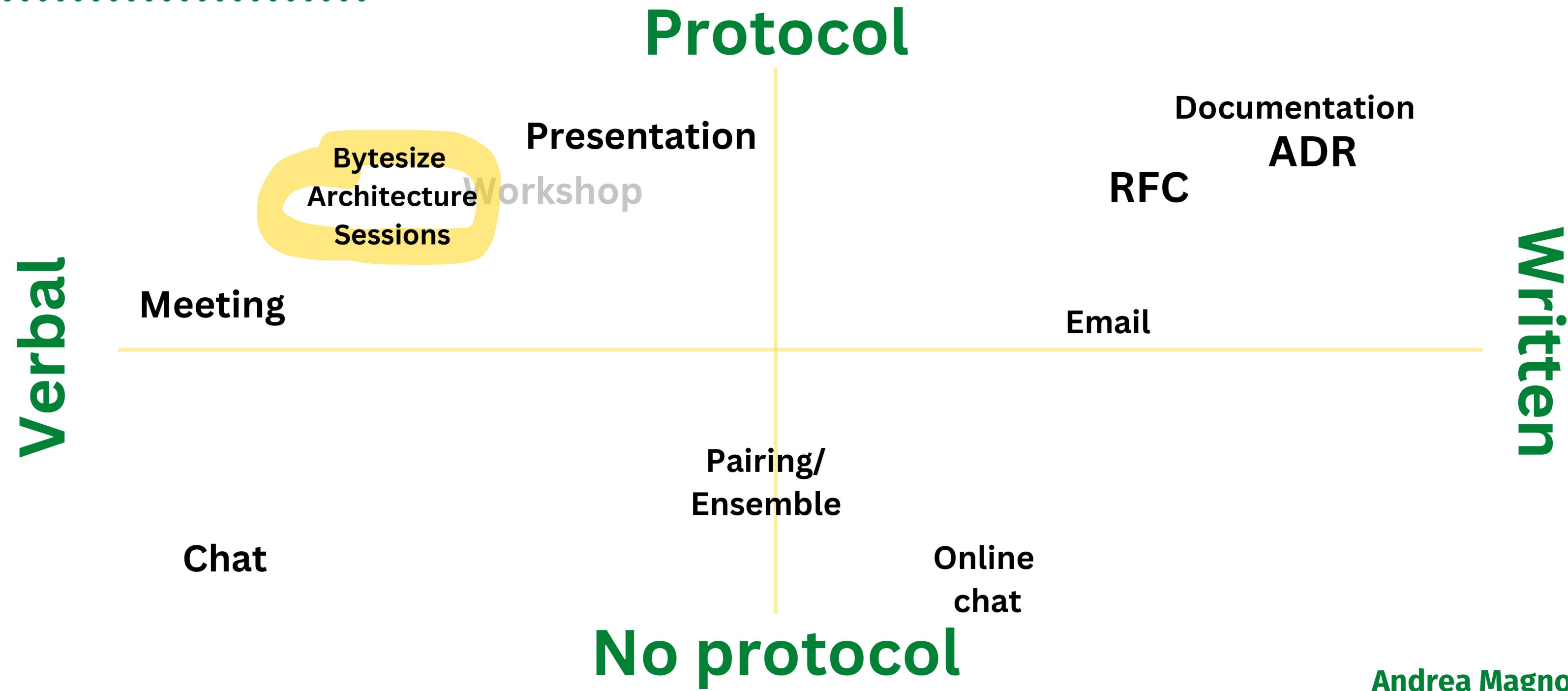


# Knowledge sharing methods





# Knowledge sharing methods

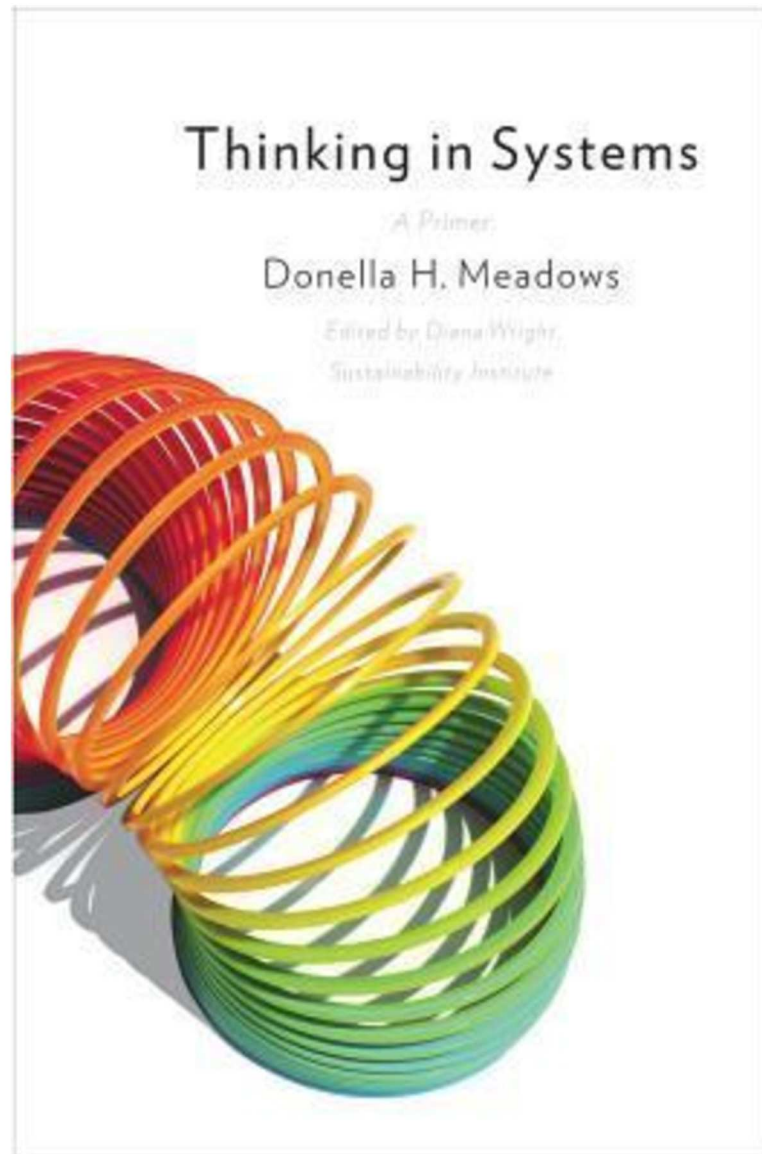






# Bytesize Architecture Sessions[T] is a workshop format





“Words and sentences must, by necessity, come only one at a time in linear, logical order. **Systems happen all at once.** They are connected not just in one direction, but in many directions simultaneously.”



## **Thinking in Systems: A Primer** **by Donella H. Meadows**



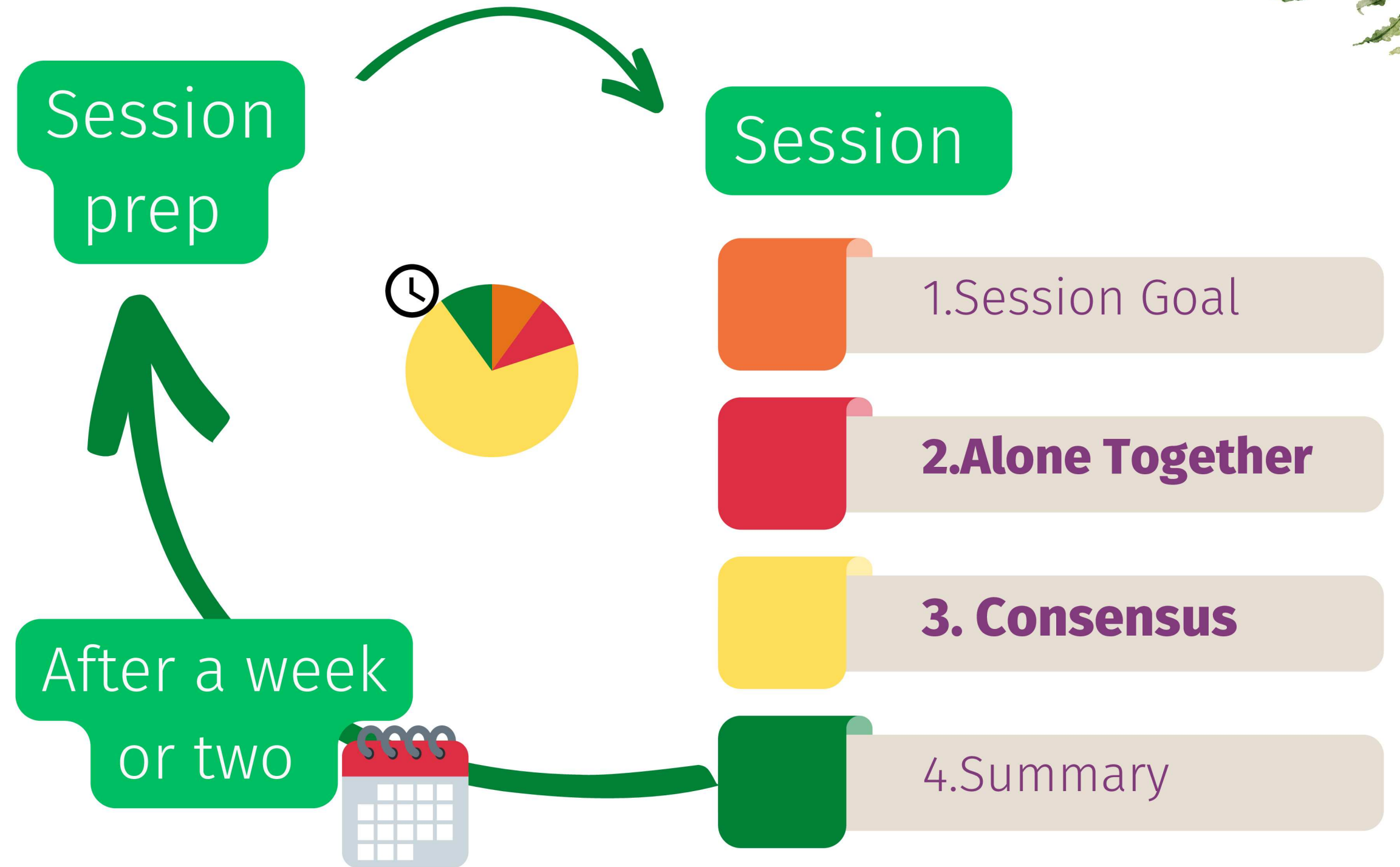
# Why do we share Knowledge?



.....

**Knowledge Sharing**  
**is**  
**Systems Building**

## A horizontal row of 18 solid green dots.





# In their words

.....



The main thing I took from today is  
that everyone brought their own  
perspective and that enabled us **all**  
to learn something



**Jim Taylor**  
**Senior Product Manager**  
**ITV**

# Why run Bytesize Sessions?

.....



1

**Toward  
homogeneous  
understanding of  
your System**

2

**Enabling format**

3

**Creates design  
tools**





# Build an architecture practice in a **safe** way





# **Industry example: the first Bytesize Architecture Session**

# Before the Session

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1. **Invited the team. Active participants of the stand up**
2. **Taught the team about C4 Model**

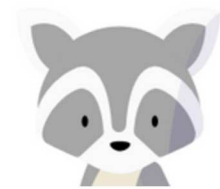




# Session starts

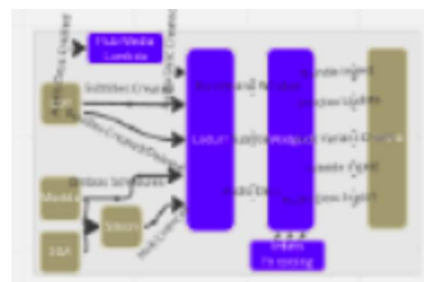
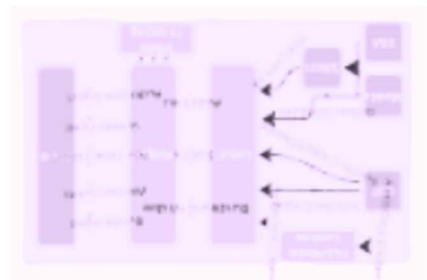
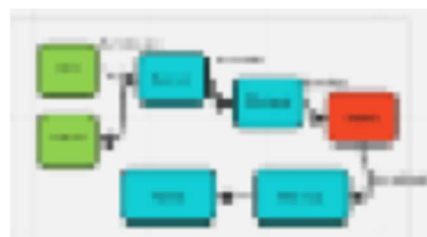
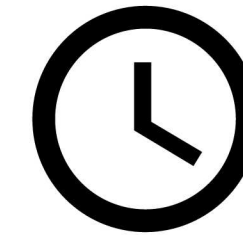
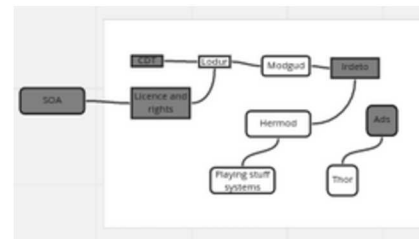


# 1. Goal



**Set the goal:  
Create a context  
diagram of the  
system as it is.**

# 2. Alone Together

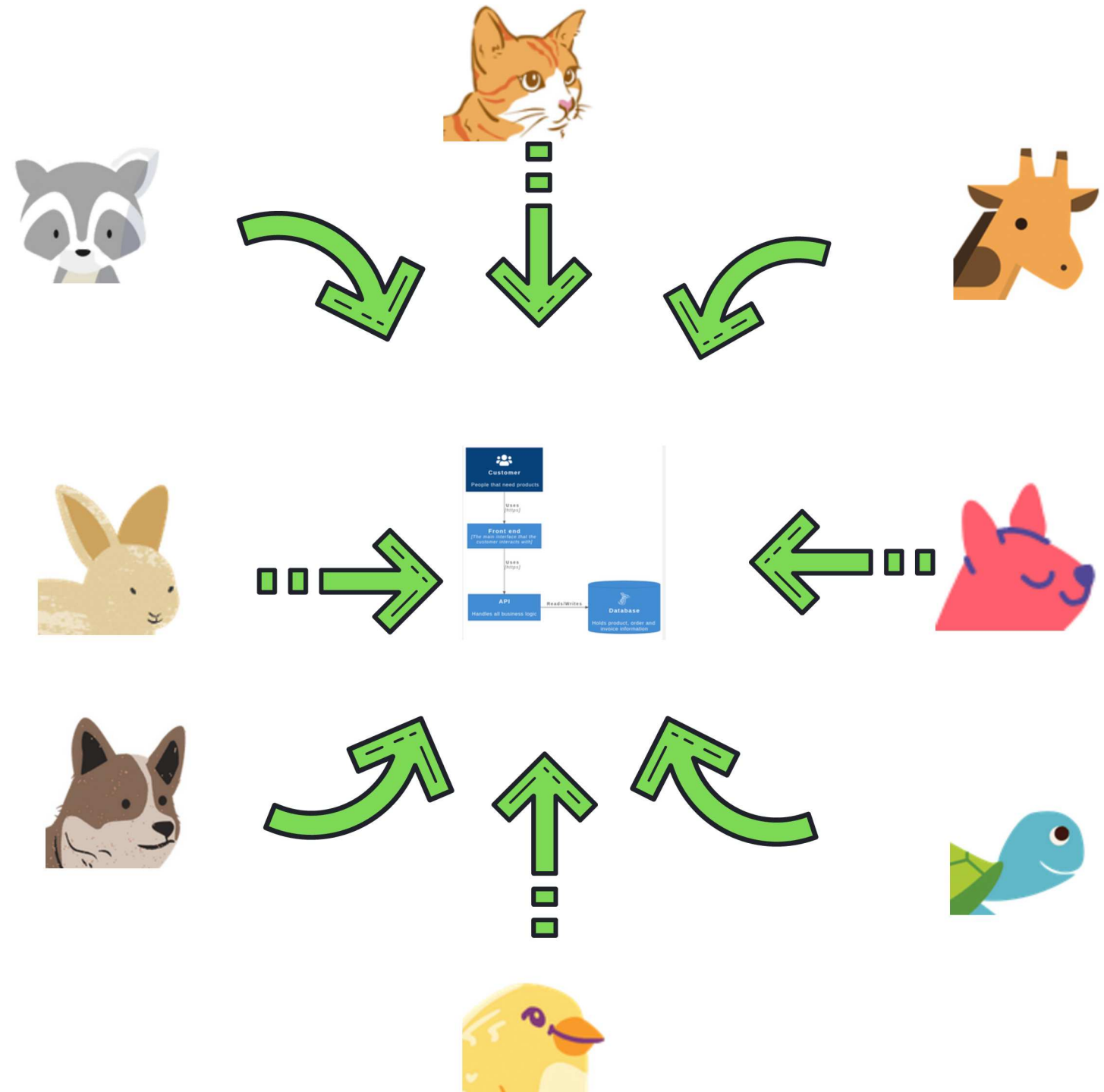


**When the 3min timer elapsed each attendee explained their model.**



# 3. Consensus

The team drew part  
of the system.  
End session before  
they were done.



# 4. Summary

.....

The team summarised that they:

- Learned a lot
- Were very happy with the format and,
- Wanted to do it again soon.



# Detail



bytesizeArchitectureSessions.com







Kea



# Industry example: Inter team collaboration



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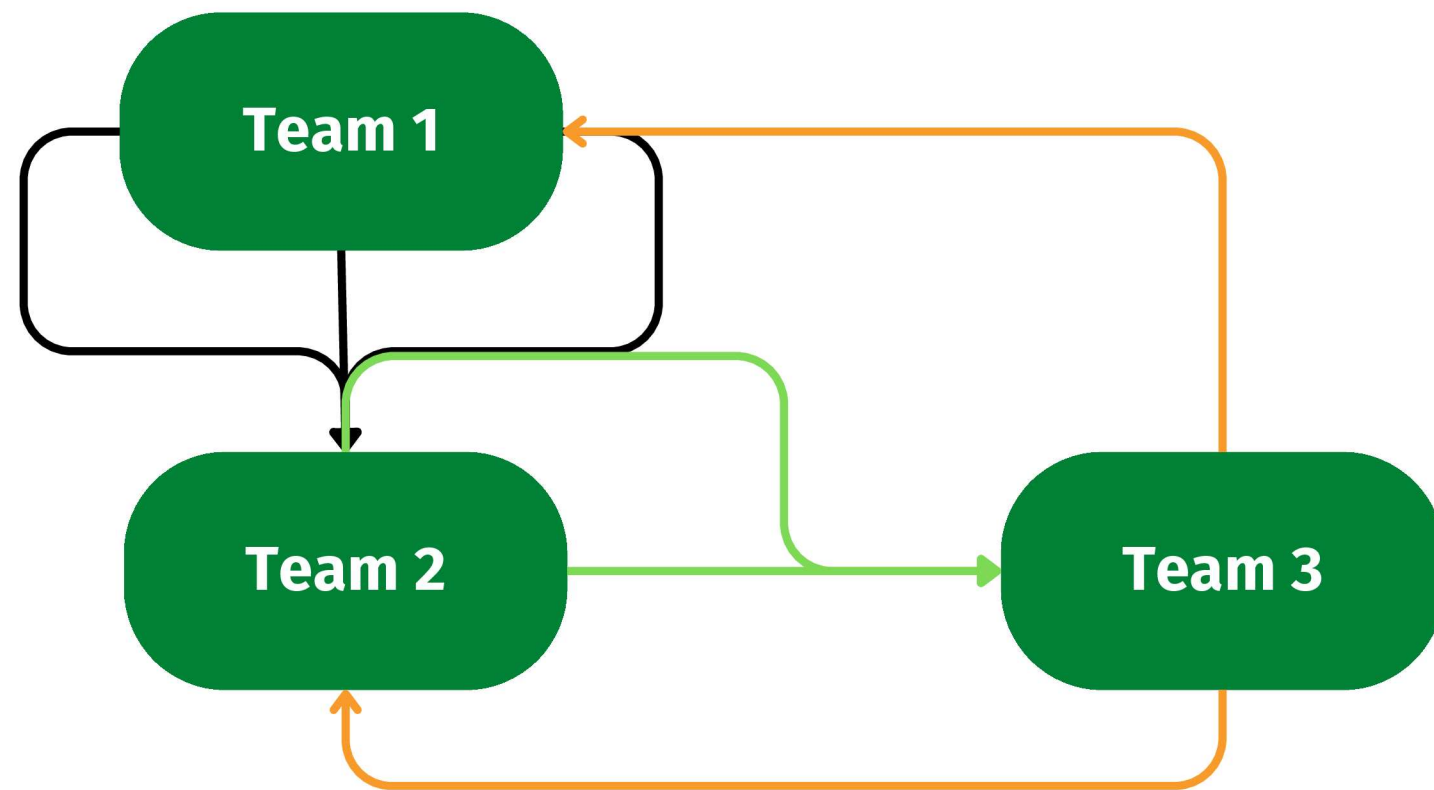


- 
- The diagram illustrates the following dependencies:
- Team 1 Services** (green rounded rectangle) has a self-loop and a dependency on **Team 2 Services** (green rounded rectangle).
  - Team 2 Services** (green rounded rectangle) has a dependency on **Team 3 Services** (green rounded rectangle).
  - Team 3 Services** (green rounded rectangle) has a dependency on **Team 1 Services** (green rounded rectangle) and a dependency on **Other team** (grey rounded rectangle).
  - Other team** (grey rounded rectangle) has a dependency on **Team 2 Services** (green rounded rectangle), marked with an asterisk (\*).
- ```
graph TD; T1[Team 1 Services] --> T1; T1 --> T2[Team 2 Services]; T2 --> T3[Team 3 Services]; T3 --> T1; T3 --> OT[Other team]; OT --> T2; style T1 fill:#006633,color:#fff; style T2 fill:#006633,color:#fff; style T3 fill:#006633,color:#fff; style OT fill:#666,color:#fff;
```

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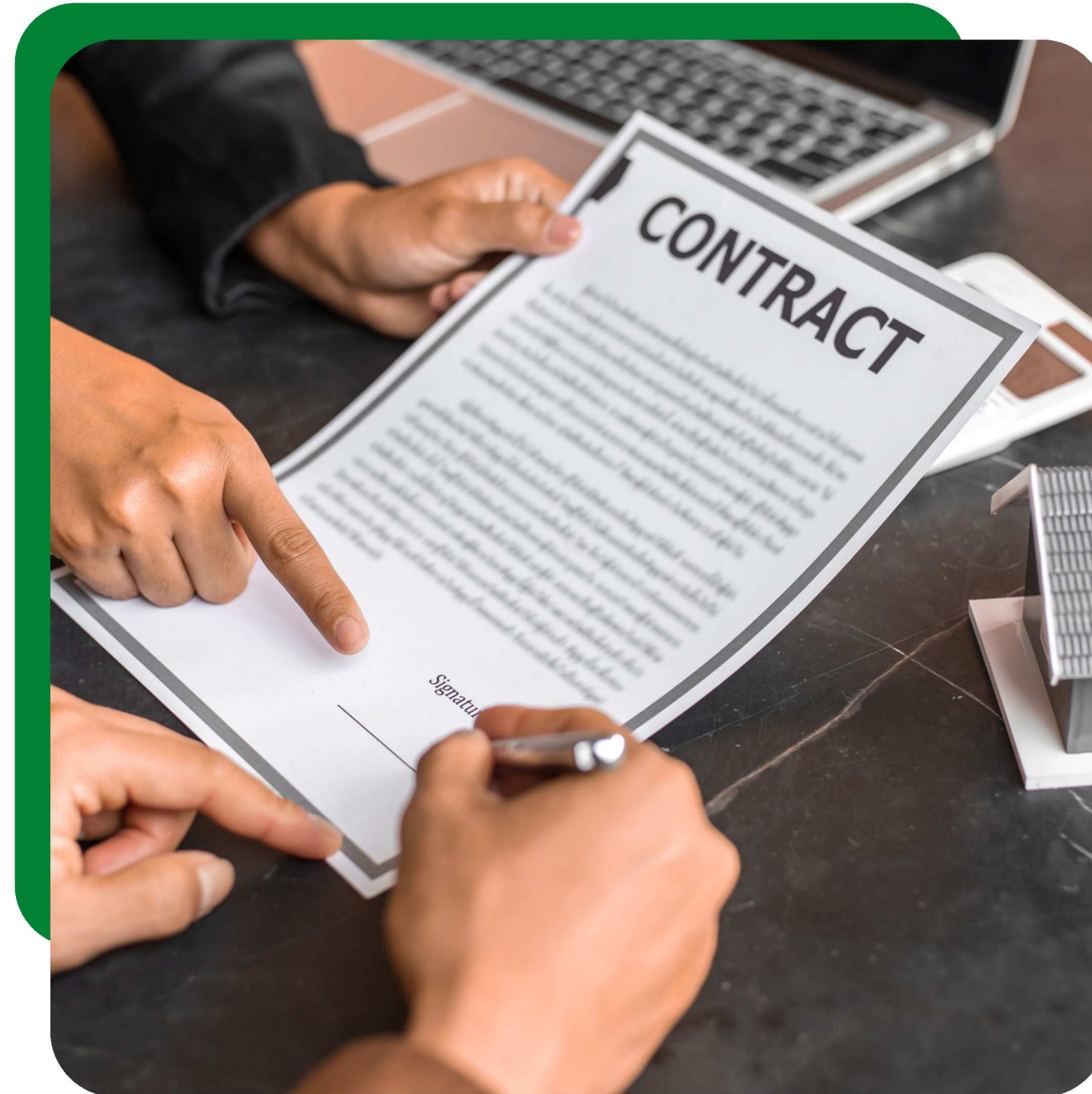


# 2nd Bytesize Architecture Session: Ideal solution



- Find ideal solution
  - Real ideal too far from current.
- Compromise**
- Still happy with outcome, we all understand it

# Offline: Firm up the new contracts



# Extended case study: Inter-team collaboration



- Cohesive understanding
- Well documented
- More in Chapter 17 ...



Architecture Modernization  
Nick Tune





# Foundational pieces





**“A system is not the sum  
of it's parts, it's their  
interactions”**

**Russ Ackoff**

**Source:** [youtube.com/watch?v=OqEeIG8aPPk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqEeIG8aPPk)

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# Take aways

- Knowledge sharing is essential to building systems.
- Use a diverse set of tools to enable effective and efficient knowledge sharing.
- Try Bytesize Architecture Sessions!



[bytesizeArchitectureSessions.com](https://bytesizeArchitectureSessions.com)



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**Thank You!**





# Questions?

