Prepare for a mapping session

Print this or forward it to the people joining your session with Chris Daniel.

Before the session

- Pick one real question or decision. One, not a list of topics.
- Write it down in two sentences. If it takes more, it is not clear yet, and that is useful to know.
- Name who owns it. That person decides what happens with the answer.
- Invite the people who will have to live with the answer, including one who disagrees. A map is only worth having if it has been argued with.
- Bring what already exists: diagrams, a roadmap, the proposal as it stands. Rough is fine. Nothing needs polishing.
- Read nothing. The session teaches what it needs.

In the room

- The map is drawn live. It will be wrong at first.
- Correcting it is the work. If something looks wrong, say so.
- Disagreements go on the map, not at people. Put your view on the page and let the room look at it.
- It will feel uncomfortable at times. That is normal. Read why Wardley Maps feel uncomfortable if you want to know why.
- Phones away is not required, but one conversation at a time is.

Afterwards

- Keep the map where the team can see it. A map in a drawer is a map nobody corrects.
- Write down the decision and who owns the next step.
- Set a date to look at the map again. Things will have changed by then, and the map should change with them.

The three sessions

This sheet applies to all three: the executive briefing (two hours), the applied decision workshop (one to two days) and the foresight session for boards and executive teams.

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