Leftwards Planning
How-To (quick reference)

1. Identify the delivery team's iteration goal

Gather the whole team so the plan can be built together.

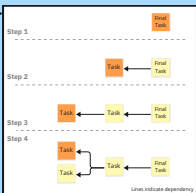Slice down any grand vision into a tiny first deliverable.

Build knowledge and validate the team understands the what and the why of this increment.

Identify what already exists today which can be built on.
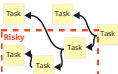
2. Start with the ending, and end with the start

Step 1 — Final Task

Step 2 — Task → Final Task

Step 3 — Task → Task → Final Task

Step 4 — Task → Final Task, Task → Task → Final Task

Lines indicate dependency

At the same time, use these techniques to keep the project plan healthy

Repeatedly break work down until there are only small tasks

Large Task

Small Task | Small Task | Small Task

Strategically de-risk parts of the project that could create problems

Task → Task → Task

Risky

Task → Task → Task

Put an airlock between delivery and technical innovation

Normal Project Work

Choose the Airlock Air

Cool ideas to do things differently

4. Propose a transparent, realistic, and informed plan

Collect Project Plan Details

Identify workload consumed by other projects in progress

Consider external team dependencies

Calculate team's available time allocation

Express a simple project proposal based on details

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