THE FUTURE OF PROJECT CONTROLS

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What will the future of project controls be? Megaprojects on the moon? Bitcoin funded buildings?

The Australian Institute of Project Management recently hosted HKA led an interactive, innovative online workshop titled *"Dystopian Futures: Project Controls Under Pressure".*

Attended by project controls professionals and industry members, the host, Jessie Schilling, challenged participants to reframe and reimagine the future of project controls. The premise was that project controls will only come under pressure if change is seen as a **threat.** Instead, change should be seen as an **opportunity** for learning, unlearning and innovating to lead the projects of tomorrow.

But why wait for tomorrow when we can start today!

In project controls, we pride ourselves on data integrity which provides the single source of truth. However, while it's commonplace for us to capture and analyse data for the purposes of managing project cost, schedule and risk, we must ensure we are also actively sharing our insights and lessons learnt in handling this data across diverse portfolios of projects.

- Do we consider threats to our data, our practice?

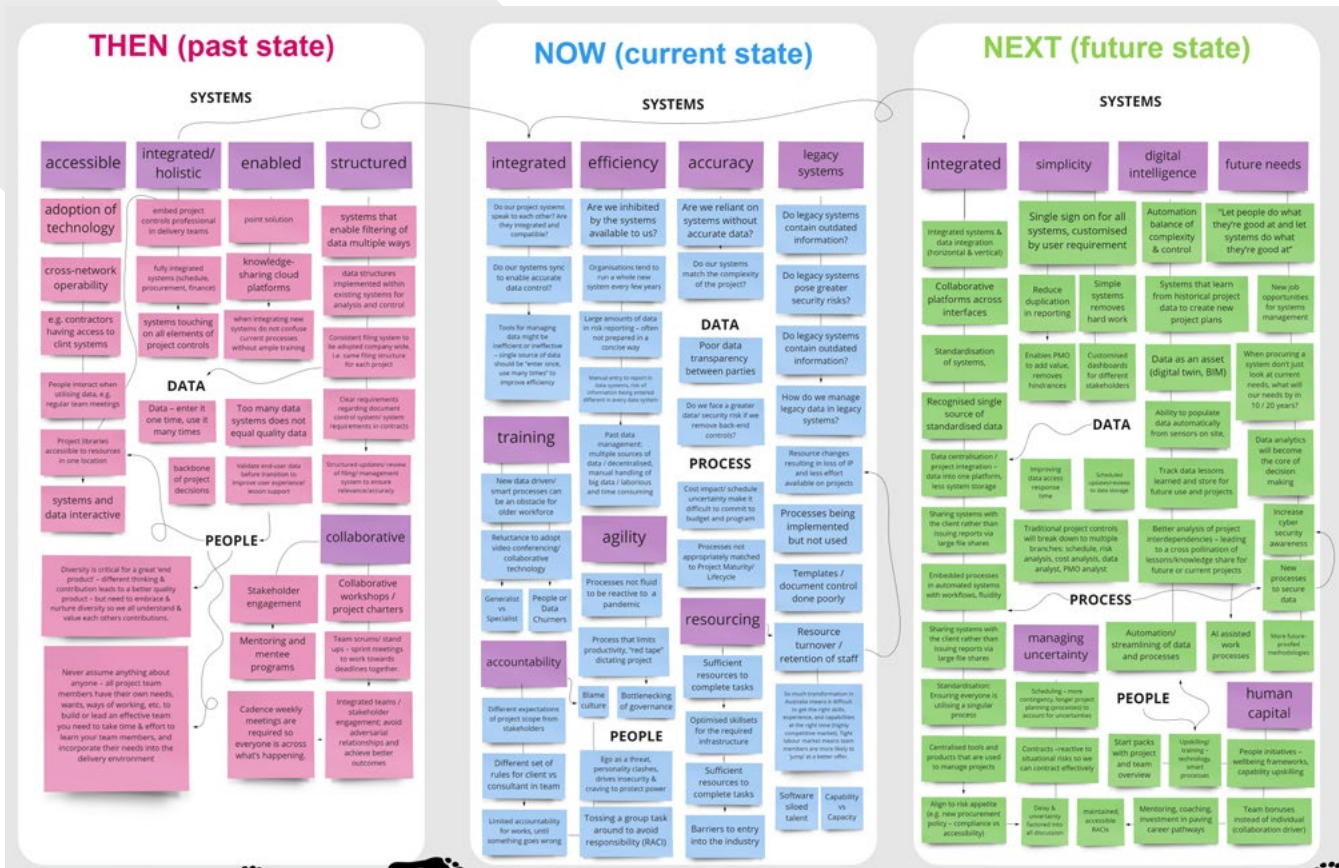- Do we actively seek opportunities for cross-project learnings?

When we talk about lessons learned in the project space, we're not just talking about what went well and what didn't go well. We're talking about what we need to do differently to ensure future success and prevent repeat issues. We need the highest level of thinking not only to understand a lesson but to leverage that lesson and apply what we've learned in an innovative and solution-oriented way.

During the session, attendees applied design thinking to project controls, drawing on empathy, ideation and experimentation to solve business problems creatively.

After splitting attendees into breakout rooms, HKA facilitators used Miro to conduct rapid design thinking. The 116 attendees provided insights and observations on the past, present and future states of our project environments through the lens of the building blocks of project controls: data, people, processes and systems.

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The below Miro board provides a summary of the key themes and insights shared.

These emergent patterns and recurring themes require further probing.

If you missed the session, register to access the on-demand webinar. If you would like to discuss the inputs or outputs of the session or explore opportunities for a tailored workshop for your project team, feel free to contact us.

The session outcomes included:

• Applying design thinking to problems

• Leveraging cross-project learning

• Engaging in future-proofing and continuous improvement of project controls

Contact us

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