

HOW PROJECT MANAGERS REDUCE RISK BY DELIVERING EARLIER

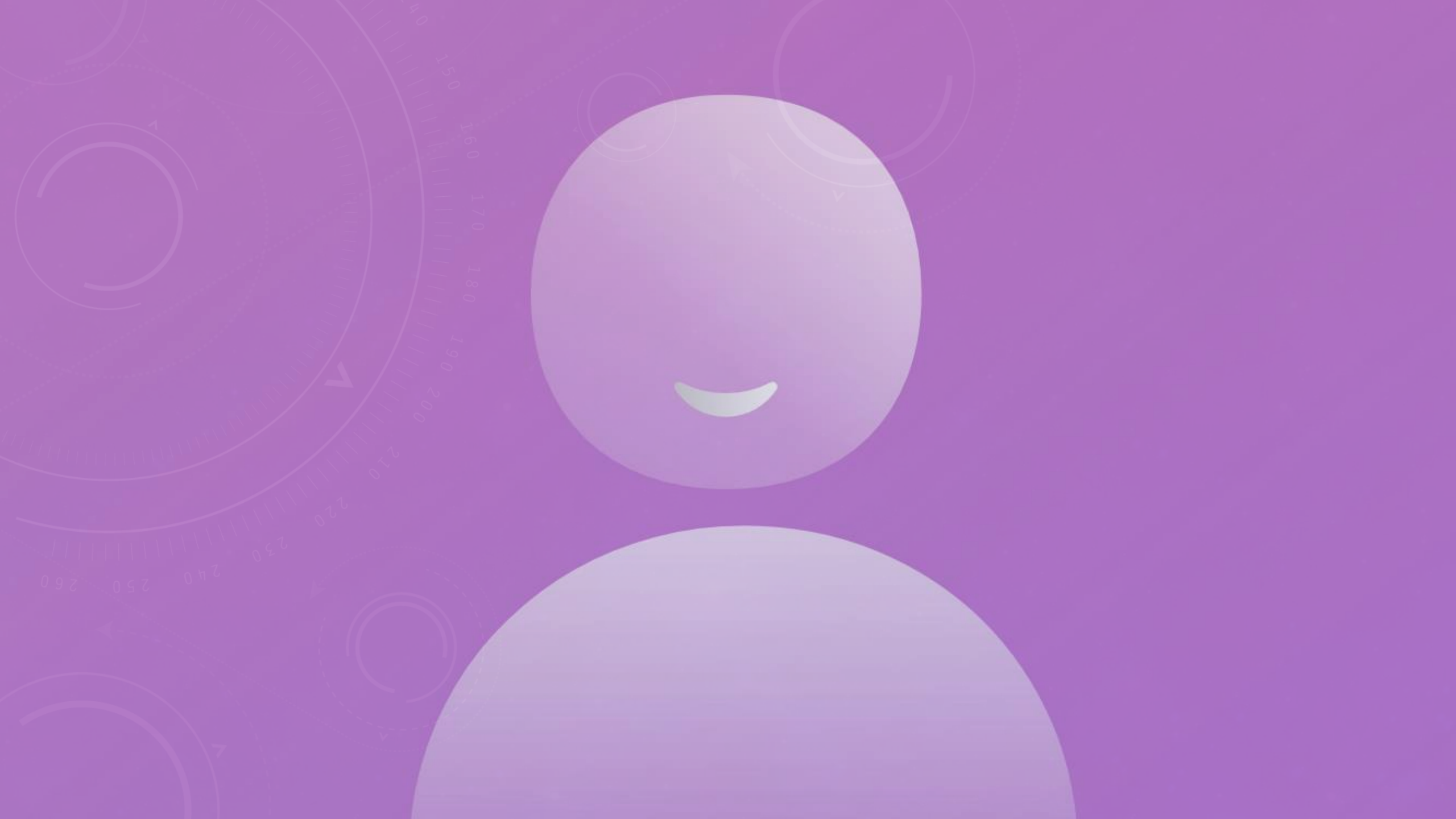
Mike Lyons
Partner, KaiRise

The Illusion of Control

More uncertainty
More/better plans
More status updates

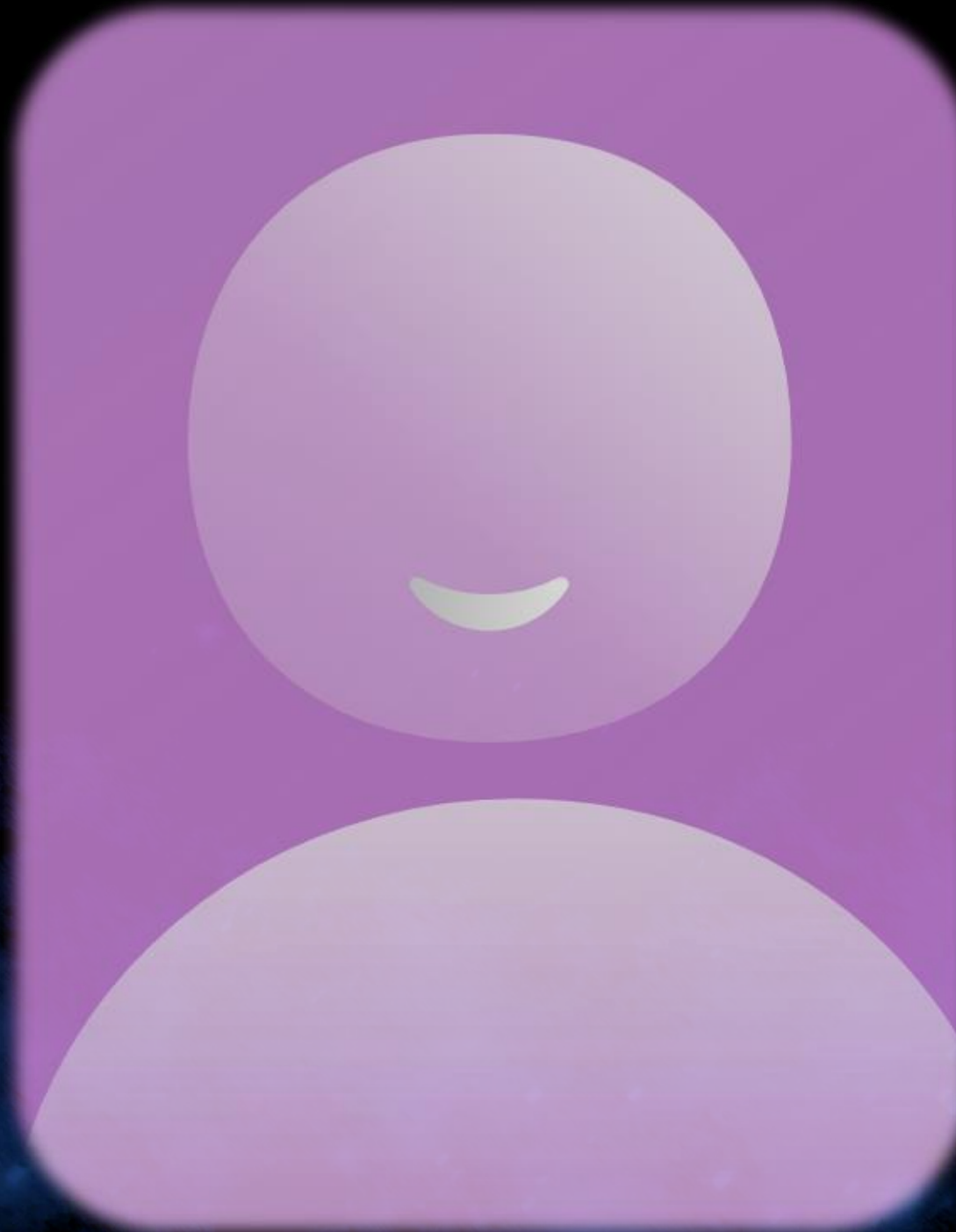
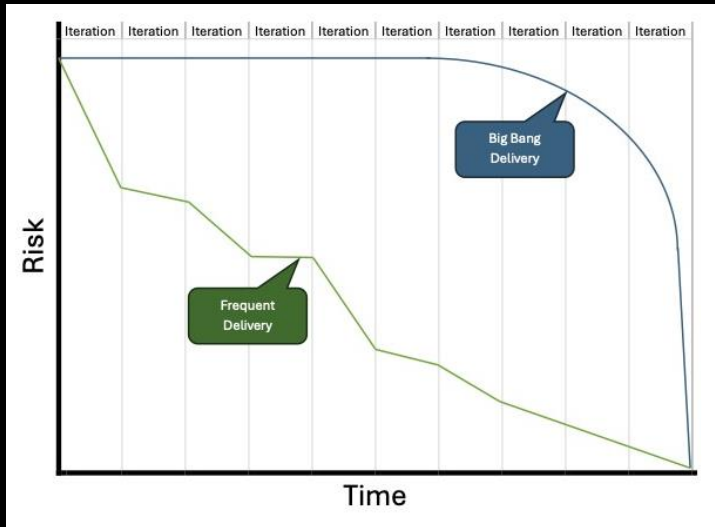
Less time creating evidence

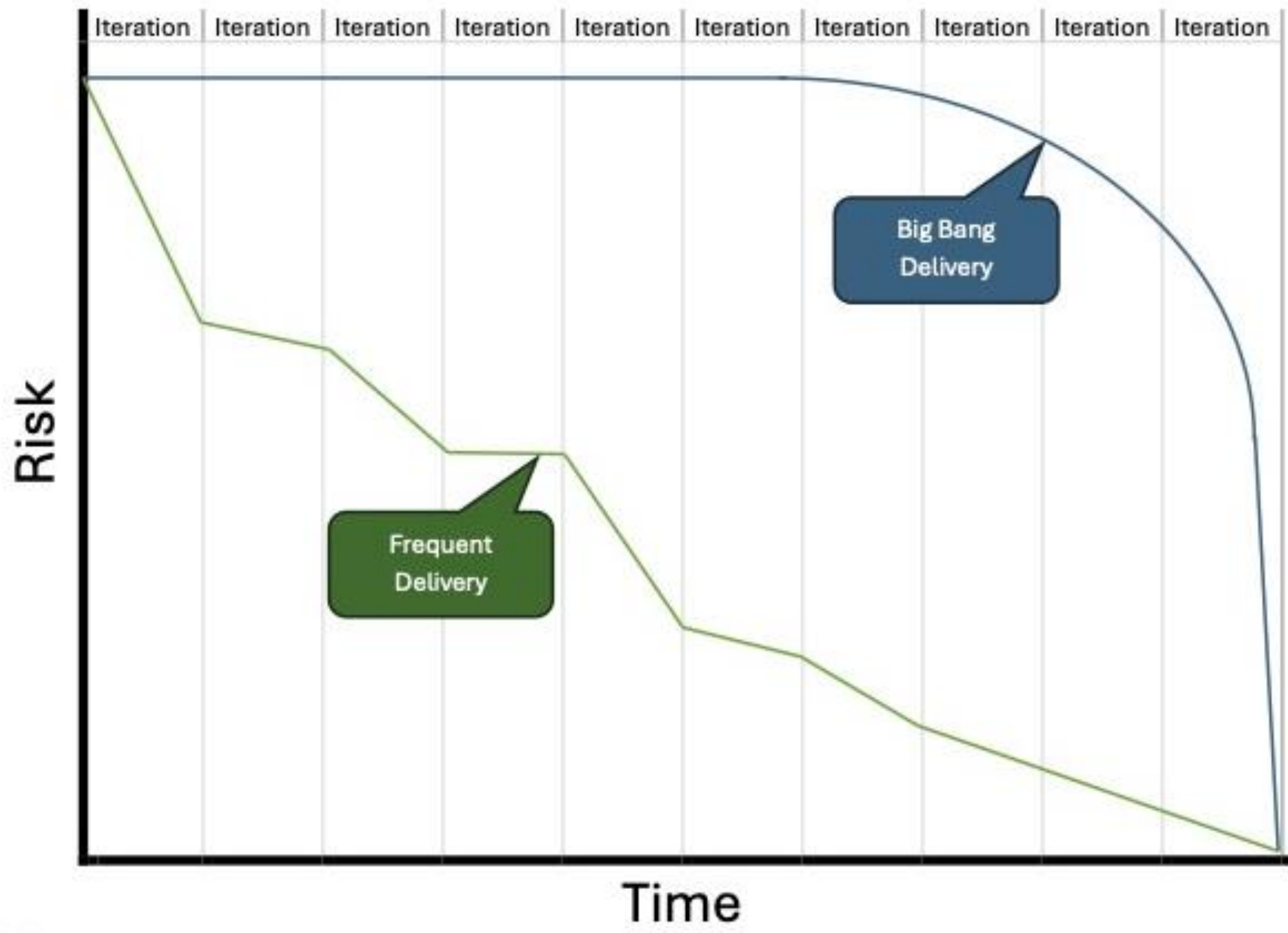




“Plans are guesses.”

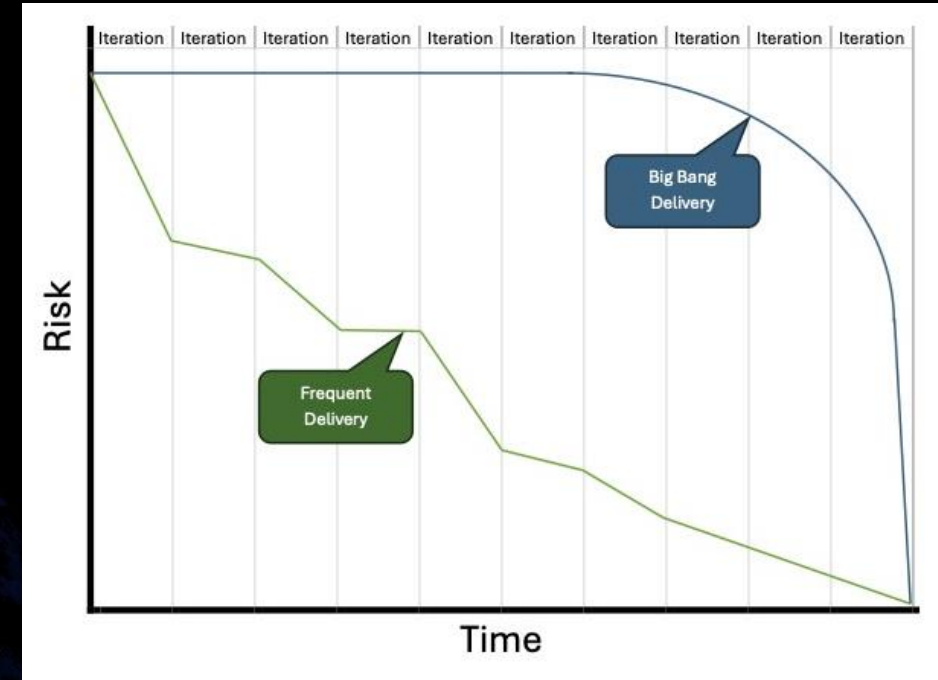
- Jason Fried, 37Signals





Don't predict the future
Show it

Deliver something early
Small. Real. Visible.





How PMs Reduce Risk Earlier

Leading Teams with Impact

The 3 crucial shifts every leader needs to make

Improve flow so work finishes sooner

Small batches, minimize WIP, and unblock bottlenecks

Empower teams to surface risks earlier

Structure, trust, safety, and autonomy

Relentless Learning

Adapting systems to match the pace of change

3 Crucial Shifts

Leading Teams with Impact

Shift 1

Manage the system, not people

Shift 2

Move from individual to team accountability

Shift 3

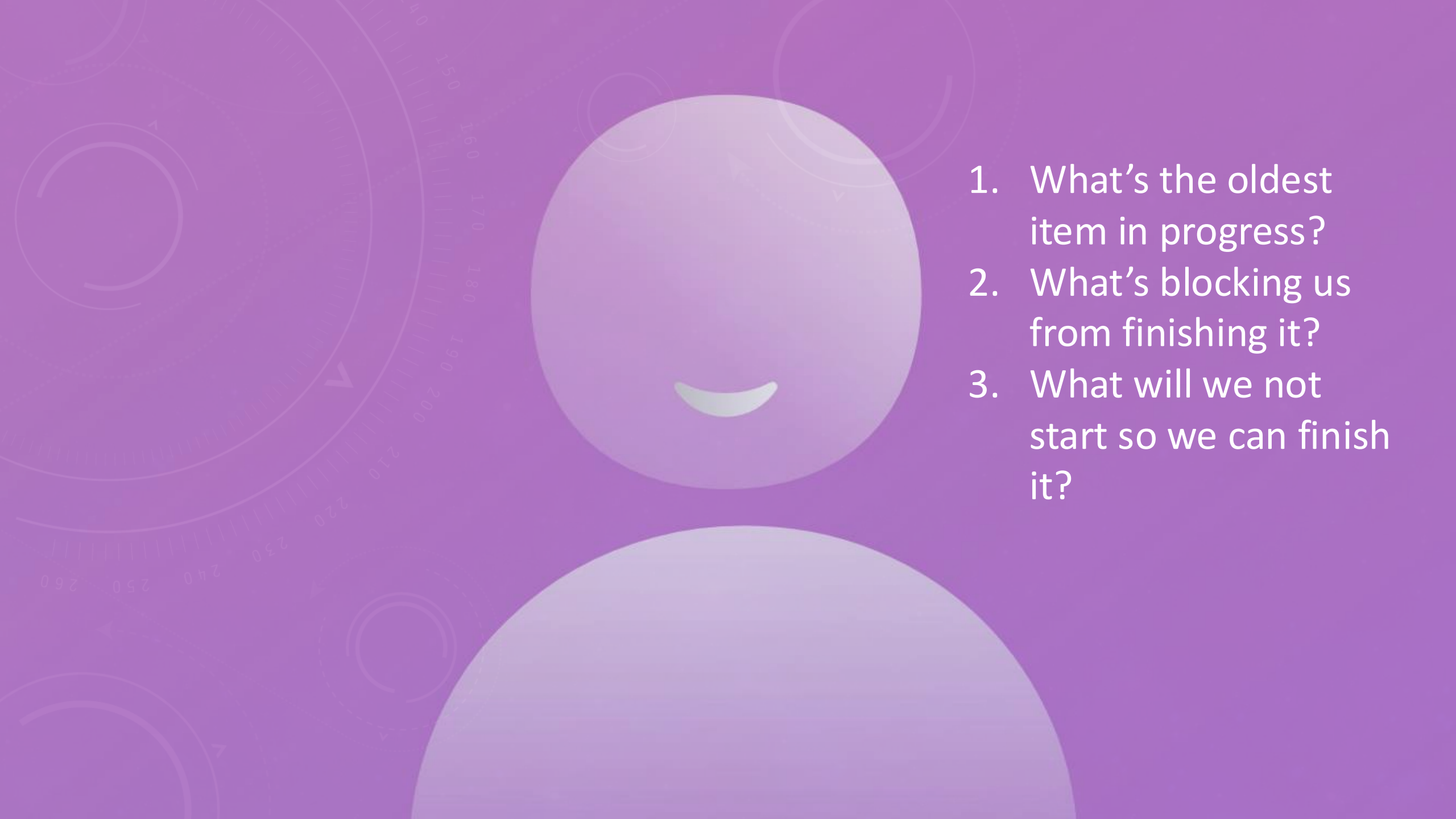
Move from centralized to de-centralized decision making



Improving Flow

- Understanding Flow
- Kanban
- WIP & WIP Limits

Flow reduces risk because finishing small things gives us real evidence faster.

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1. What's the oldest item in progress?
 2. What's blocking us from finishing it?
 3. What will we not start so we can finish it?

Empowered Teams **Ship Faster**

Team Ownership

Safety to surface risks early

Communication & knowledge flow

Lead by example

Learning is part of Risk Reduction

Learn from what the
team ships

Use each delivery to test
assumptions

Adapt before risk gets
expensive



The risk keeps moving. You keep learning.

If this was useful, here are a few next steps:

- Keep learning with PMI resources
- Get the KaiRise Quick Start kit
 - *Free mini-courses on flow, empowered teams, Kanban, and the 3 crucial shifts*
 - *Free digital copy of The Agile Project Manager*

[Free Resources](#)

