
AI impact on Software Dev
Lessons from Gauntlet AI
Andrew Shindyapin
Oct 29 11am PDT
Gauntlet

Agenda

- Bottom Line Up Front
- Who am I?
- Gauntlet AI (journey, tools, and agents)
- Diving deeper: BMAD Method (Analyst, Product Manager, Development Team)
- Important! plan → code → test cycle
- What working with AI agents looks like today
- Impact: developers · startups · enterprises · economy
- Key takeaways
- Q & A
- References

Bottom Line Up Front

- We’re in a learn-by-doing phase: start experimenting now
- Fundamentals matter more as coding time shrinks → planning & testing
- Today’s tooling is scaffolding for next 3–5 years; stay adaptable

Who am I?

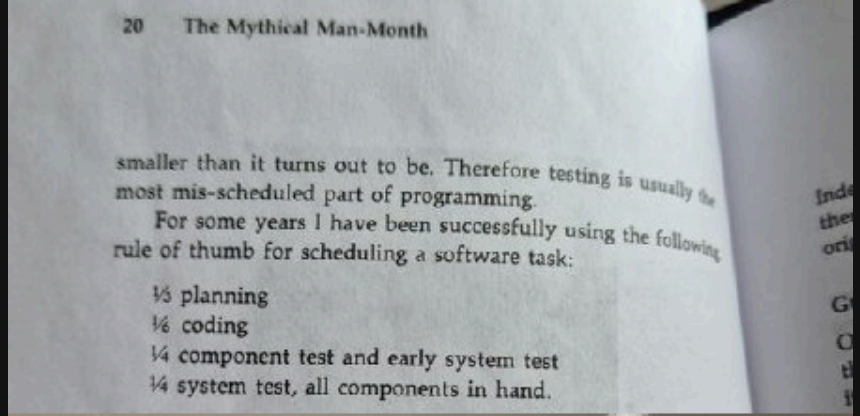
- BS in Materials Science (PSU, 2004)
- 2010 - Now: Entrepreneur (AutoMicroFarm, InstaTints)
- 2006 ~ 2018: Software Developer
- 2018 ~ 2025: Product/Project Manager
- Now: AI-First PM/Developer (https://tadacafe.dev)

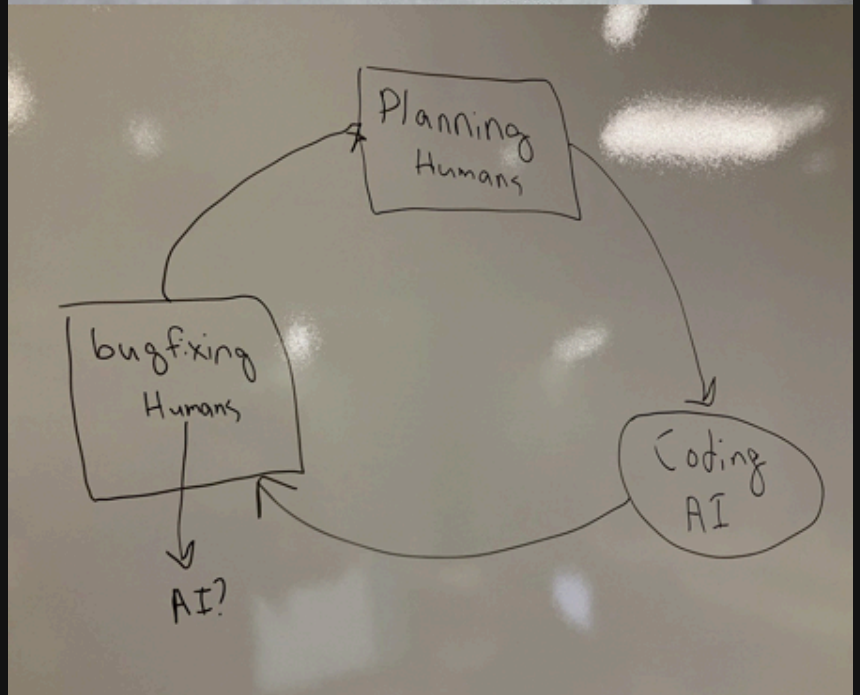
Journey with Gauntlet AI

- Intense 10-week training to learn how to develop with AI
- First two weeks: not allowed to write code by hand
- Result: 15 apps/sites (web, mobile, desktop, legacy) in 10 weeks
- More like MBA: learned as much from classmates as from instructors
- Personal experience: greenfield build in hours instead of weeks

Tools

- Leading LLMs: Claude, ChatGPT, Grok, Gemini
- Cursor
  - my favorite: I am polyLLMorous
  - Alternatives: VS Code + Copilot, Amp Code, RepoPrompt
- CLI tools
  - Claude Code
  - OpenAI Codex
  - Amp Code
- Methodologies
  - Cursor + `cursor-rules`
  - BMAD Method (currently experimenting with)
- MCPs, `Skills`



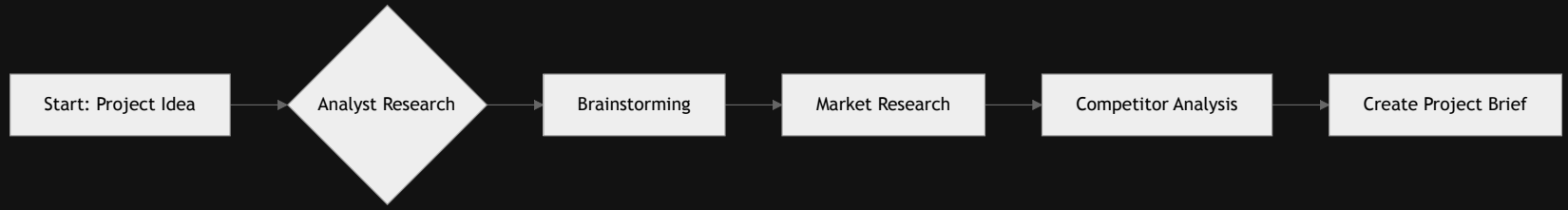


Experience with Agents

- plan → code → test
- the better the plan, the less testing/rework needed
- 40x coding speedup in greenfield projects
  - If estimate was 6 weeks, it took 6 hours
  - speedup is not counting the time spent on planning and testing
- This cycle is what takes us from "smart autocomplete" to "agentic development"
  - eventually, AI agent team(s)!

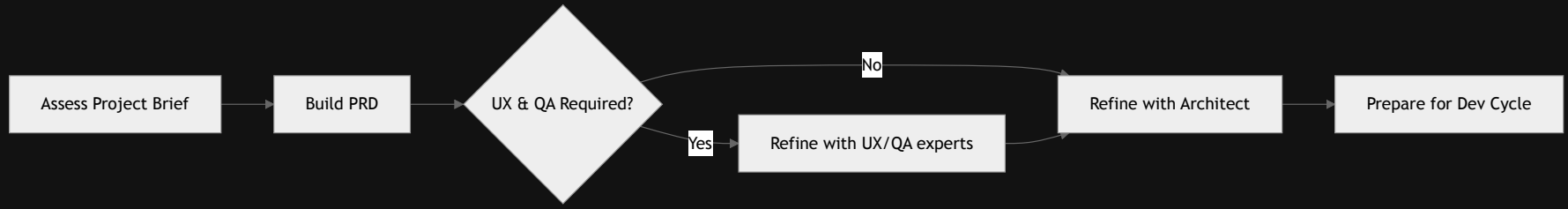
BMAD Method: Analyst

- BMAD stands for Breakthrough Method for Agile AI-Driven Development
- Watching the BMAD Masterclass is highly recommended
- The BMAD Method has more of a focus on startup projects
- Consists of pre-defined roles (prompts) for the AI agents, and a series of questions
- The Analyst role helps create a project brief, a precursor to the PRD
  - PRD: Product Requirements Document



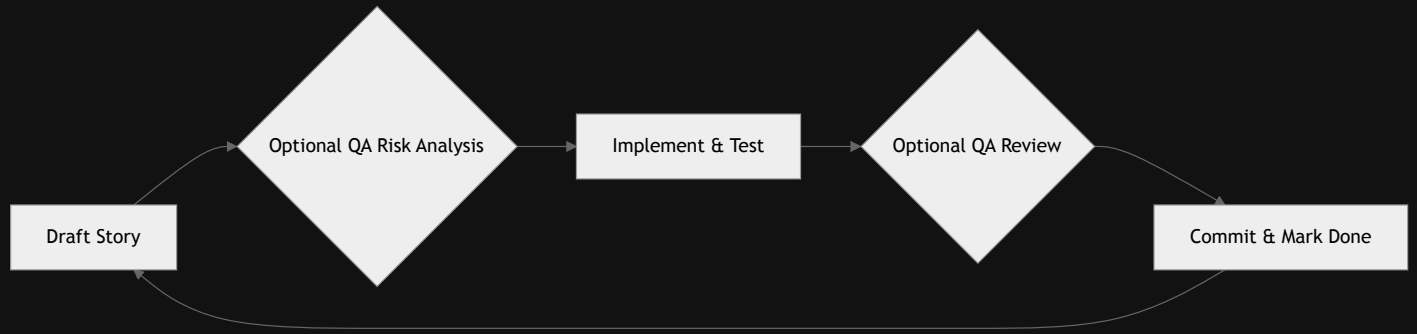
BMAD Method: Product Manager

- The Product Manager role helps build the PRD from the project brief
- During Gauntlet AI, this is really where we began every project
  - Except the brief was really a homework/project assignment
  - As mentioned, we used a variety of tools instead of BMAD Method
  - I was (and still am) partial to Cursor + `cursor-rules`



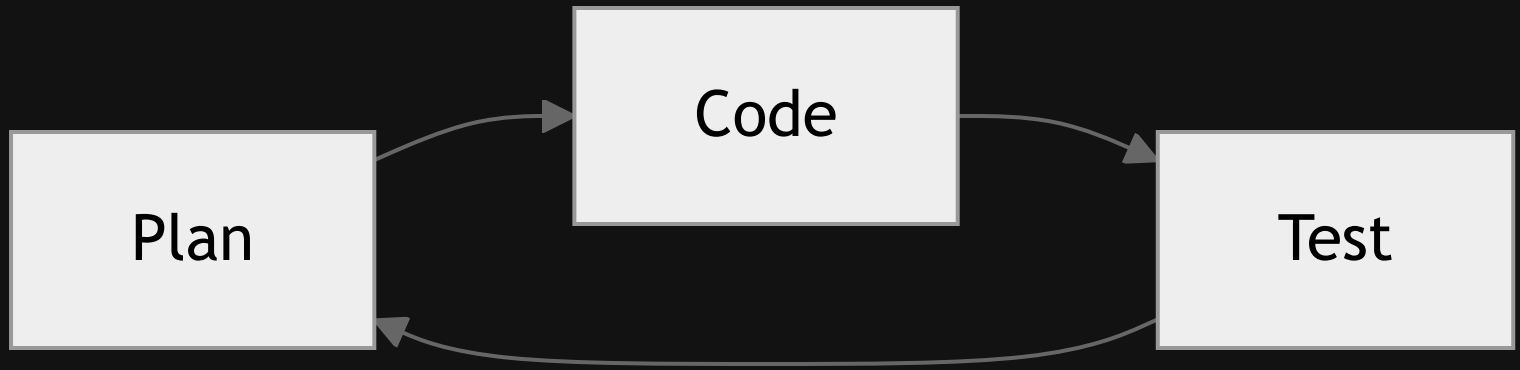
BMAD Method: Developer / QA

- At this point, the software agent is ready to write code
- The BMAD method follows the agile development process rather closely
- In contrast, the `cursor-rules` approach is more informal:
  - Break the PRD into tasks, then subtasks, then implement each subtask
- Meanwhile, the BMAD method breaks down the PRD into stories
  - Then uses the following process to implement each story



Important! plan → code → test cycle

- Whether one uses BMAD Method, `cursor-rules`, or something else…
- This cycle is the foundation of development processes
- Each step can be partially or almost fully done by AI
- **I strongly suspect that a refinement of this cycle will allow for effective agent teams**



Working With AI agent(s)

- Analogy: early cars vs horse-drawn carriages on city streets
  - lacking infrastructure (context, guardrails)
- But, even with infrastructure, need to slow down for pedestrians
  - Pedestrians: users, processes, legacy systems
  - Know when “highway speeds” apply vs “downtown limits”
- Bleeding edge: still working on this!

Impact

- Software devs/PMs: roles converging
- Startups: move faster with fewer people
- Enterprises: productivity gains, but to what extent?
- Economy: no-one knows, but it will be weird
  - My concerns:
    - 90% of white-collar work automated by 2030
    - 90% of blue-collar work automated by 2040~2045

Key Takeaways

- We’re in a learn-by-doing phase: start experimenting now
- Fundamentals matter more as coding time shrinks → planning & testing
- Today’s tooling is scaffolding for next 3–5 years; stay adaptable


Questions?
Andrew Shindyapin: https://andrew.shindyapin.com
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/andreishindyapin

References

- Gauntlet AI
- LLMs: Claude, ChatGPT, Grok, Gemini
- Tools: Cursor, VS Code Copilot, Amp Code, RepoPrompt
- Cursor Rules
- BMAD Method
  - BMAD Masterclass
- Andrew Shindyapin
  - AI-first Development
  - Portfolio
  - LinkedIn