

How well beaten is the innovation track?

A fairly light-hearted look at what it can mean to be an innovator, but with the positive message that it's well worth the effort.

Colin Bird

Let's begin with ...

... some audience participation ...

**What do you see as the
characteristics of innovators?**

One perspective ...

- Curious
- Outward Looking
- Opportunistic
- Brilliant
- Persistent
- A "hero[ine]"
- Optimistic
- Committed
- Charismatic
- Friendly
- Hard working
- Collaborative



Do you feel like this?

A different perspective ...

- Will not focus
- "Off message"
- A "loose cannon"
- A nuisance
- Pigheaded
- A bit weird
- Fanatical
- Does not understand "no"
- Disruptive
- The centre of conflict
- Poor at delivery
- Non-team player



Or do you feel that others perceive you this way?

Compare the perceptions ...

- Curious
- Outward Looking
- Opportunistic
- Brilliant
- Persistent
- A "hero[ine]"
- Optimistic
- Committed
- Charismatic
- Friendly
- Hard working
- Collaborative
- Will not focus
- "Off message"
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How do you perceive yourself?

O wad some Pow'r the giftie gie us
To see oursels as others see us
It wad frae monie a blunder free us
An' foolish notion

Robert Burns, "To a Louse"

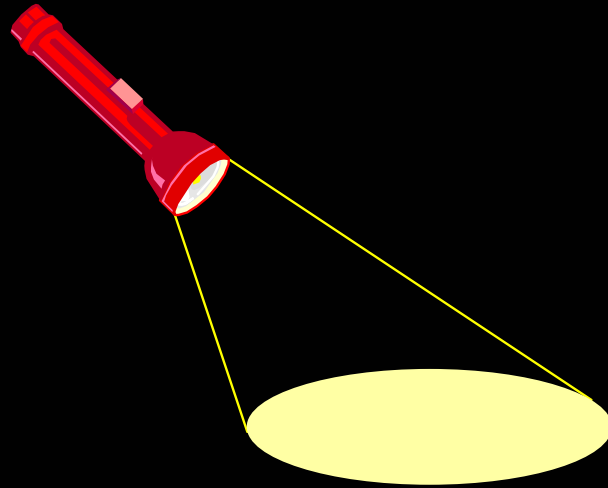
But ...

did the Bard have the right message for innovators?

The Ideas Dungeon

Warning!

The inventor's nightmare is caged within these walls.
Only enter if you are feeling strong ...

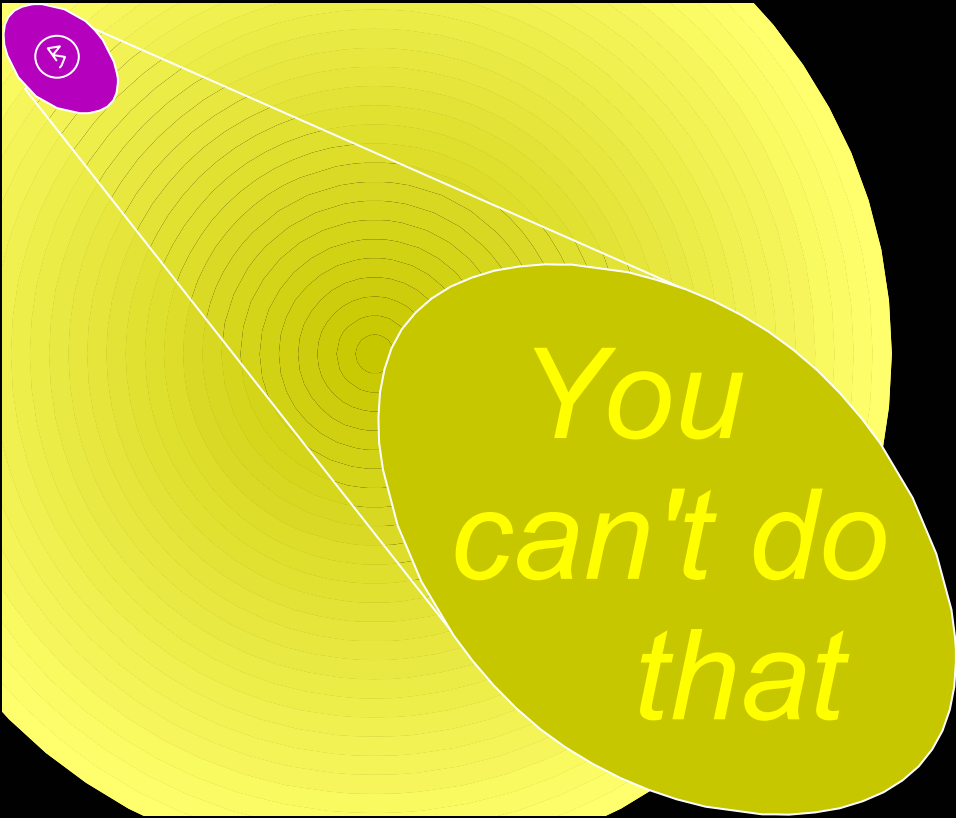


No!



*Don't
be
silly*





*It will
never
work*



*We've
tried that
already*





*It will
never
perform*



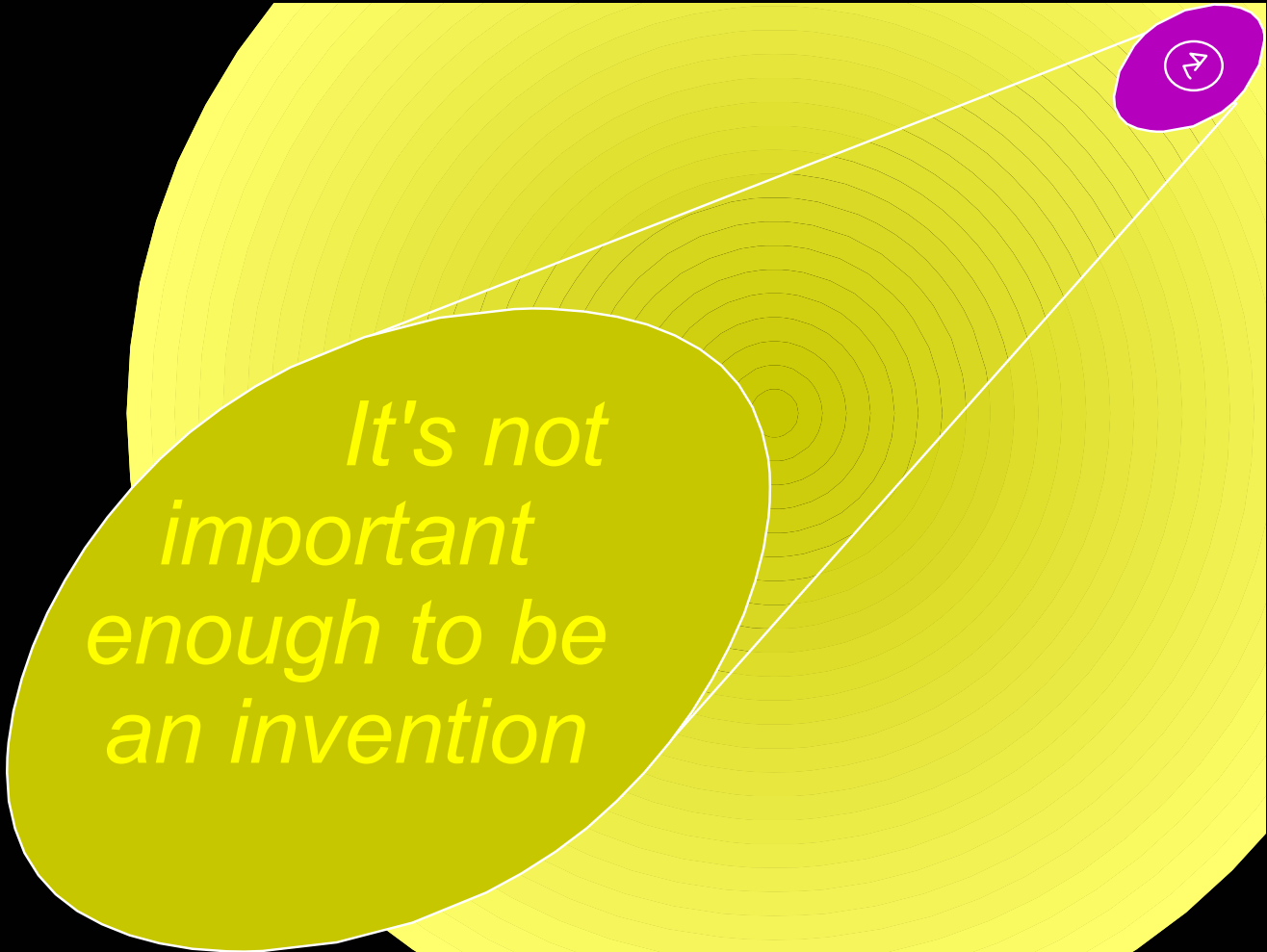
*We
just
don't
work
that
way*



*Oh,
that's
obvious*

A yellow notepad with a purple eraser and a pencil icon. The notepad is open, showing a spiral binding on the left side. A purple oval eraser with a white pencil icon is positioned at the bottom left corner of the notepad. A yellow oval callout bubble is positioned over the notepad, containing the text "It's just a few lines of code." in a yellow, italicized font.

*It's
just a
few lines
of
code.*



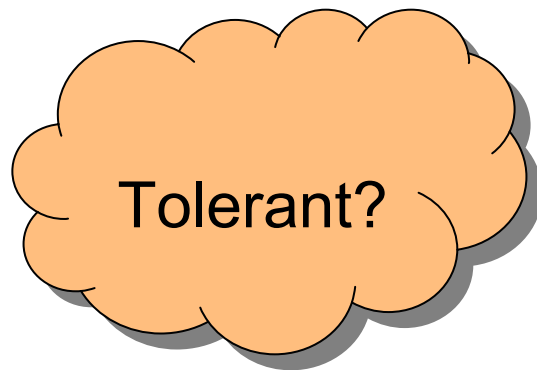
*It's not
important
enough to be
an invention*

Pause for confession

Exit

Outside the dungeon ...

... what environment are we looking for?



*"You need to kiss an awful
lot of frogs to find a
prince"*

Graffito

Showing a mature reaction to "failure"

A young journalist challenged Thomas Edison, **"Mr. Edison, why do you keep trying to make light by using electricity when you have failed so many times? Don't you know that gas lights are with us to stay?"**

To this Edison replied, **"Young man, don't you realize that I have not failed but have successfully discovered six thousand ways that won't work!"**

On October 21, 1879, after thirteen months of repeated failures, Edison finally succeeded in finding a filament that would work.

Innovators are agents of change

*When men are easy in their circumstances,
they are naturally enemies to innovations."*

Joseph Addison

*"It is not the strongest of the species that
survives, nor the most intelligent ... It is the
one that is the most adaptable to change"*

Charles Darwin

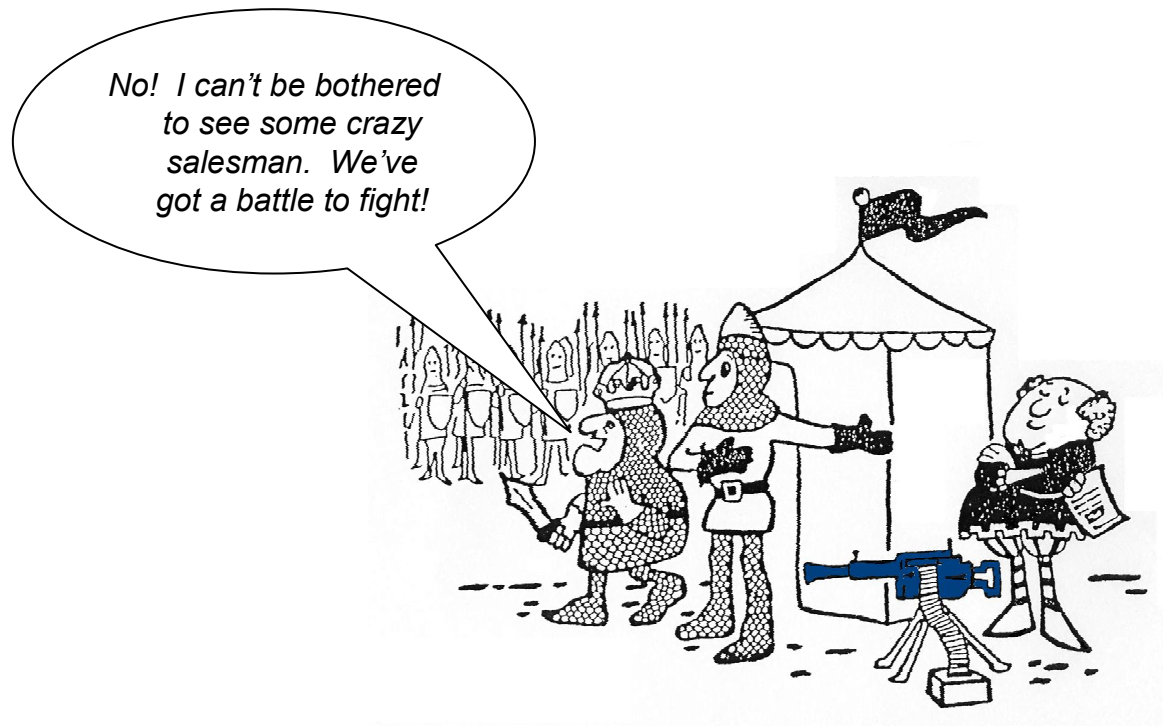
*"The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable
one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore all
progress depends on the unreasonable man."*

**George Bernard Shaw, Man and Superman (1903)
"Maxims for Revolutionists"**

... the environment also needs to tolerate change

Listening helps too ...

Busy people focus on their tasks, not their goals



Two more 'L's

- Learning

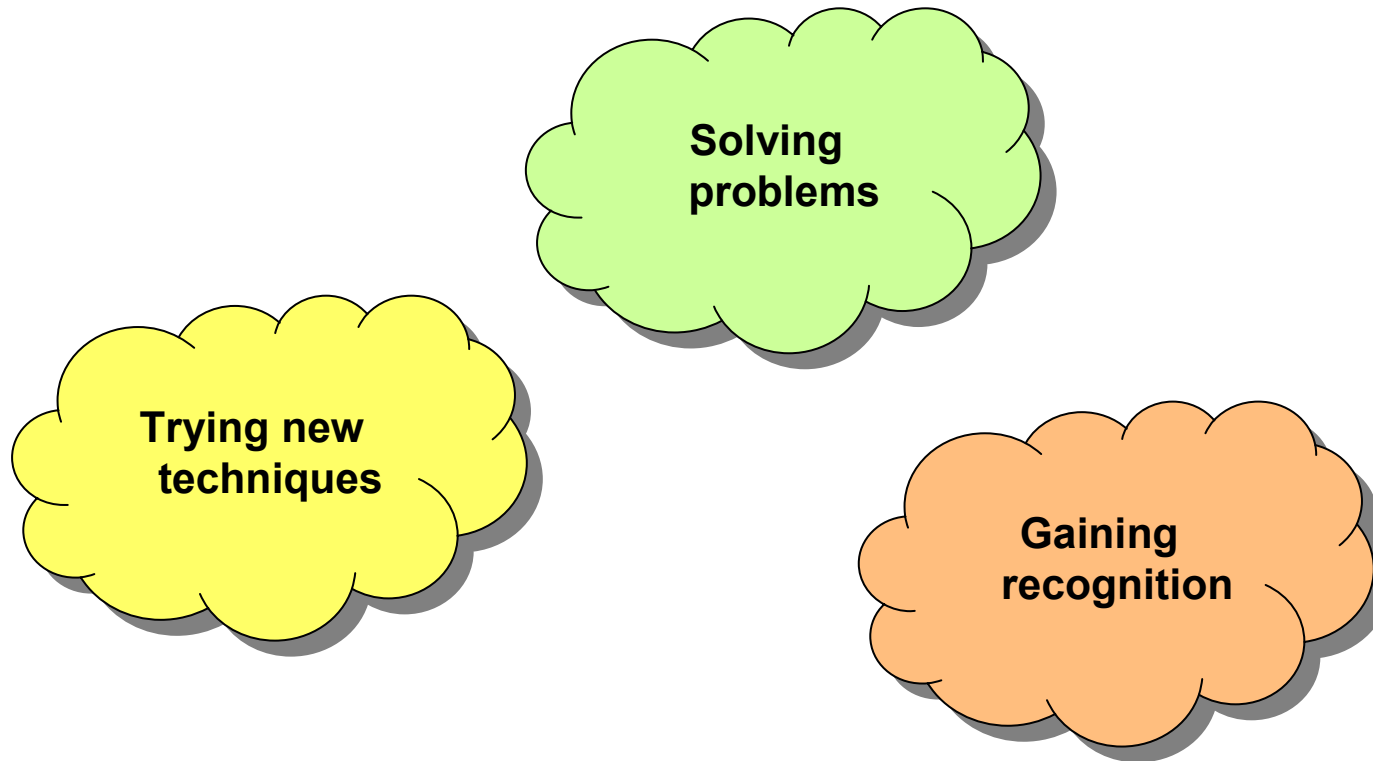


From "The Dilbert Principle" by Scott Adams

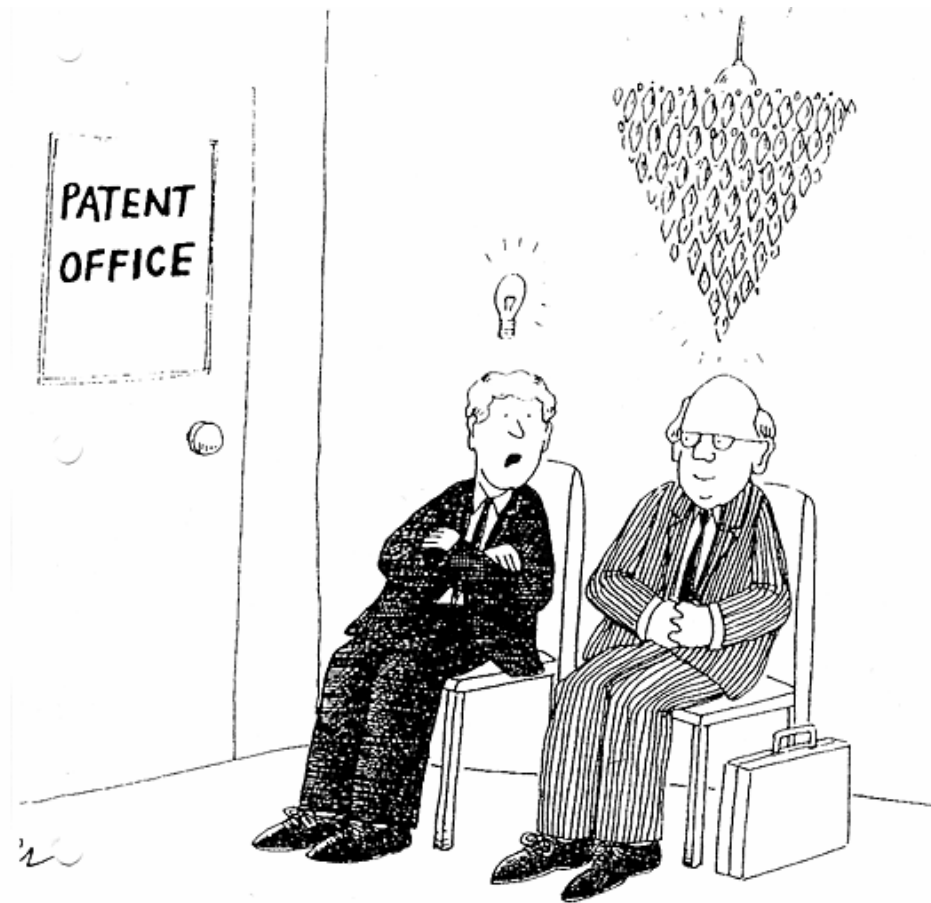
- Lateral thinking:
 - ✓ Helps you see past your assumptions and practices
 - ✓ Improves with practice 😊

Innovating should be fun ...

... even though we want innovation that matters



Gaining recognition ...



‘I take it your idea is pretty good.’

...and finally ...

In conclusion ...



