

# **The Art of Problem Solving\***

**By Ben Everard**



**THE IDEA BUREAU**

**Ben, why the f\*\*\* are you  
talking about this?**

**Impact:**

**Opportunity**

**Enjoyment**

**Money**

**Time**

**Stress**

**Impact:**

Opportunity

Enjoyment

Money

Time

**Stress**

Browser tabs: Edit Post < Gutenberg — WordPress X +

Address bar: gutenberg.test/wp-admin/post.php?post=1&action=edit

WordPress Admin Bar: Gutenberg 0 + New View Post Howdy, ben

Left Sidebar:

- Dashboard
- Posts**
  - All Posts
    - Add New
    - Categories
    - Tags
  - Media
  - Pages
  - Comments
  - Appearance
  - Plugins
  - Users
  - Tools
  - Settings
  - Collapse menu

Post Editor Header: + ↶ ↷ ⓘ ☰

Post Editor Actions: Switch to Draft Preview Update ⚙️ ⋮


Document Settings Panel:

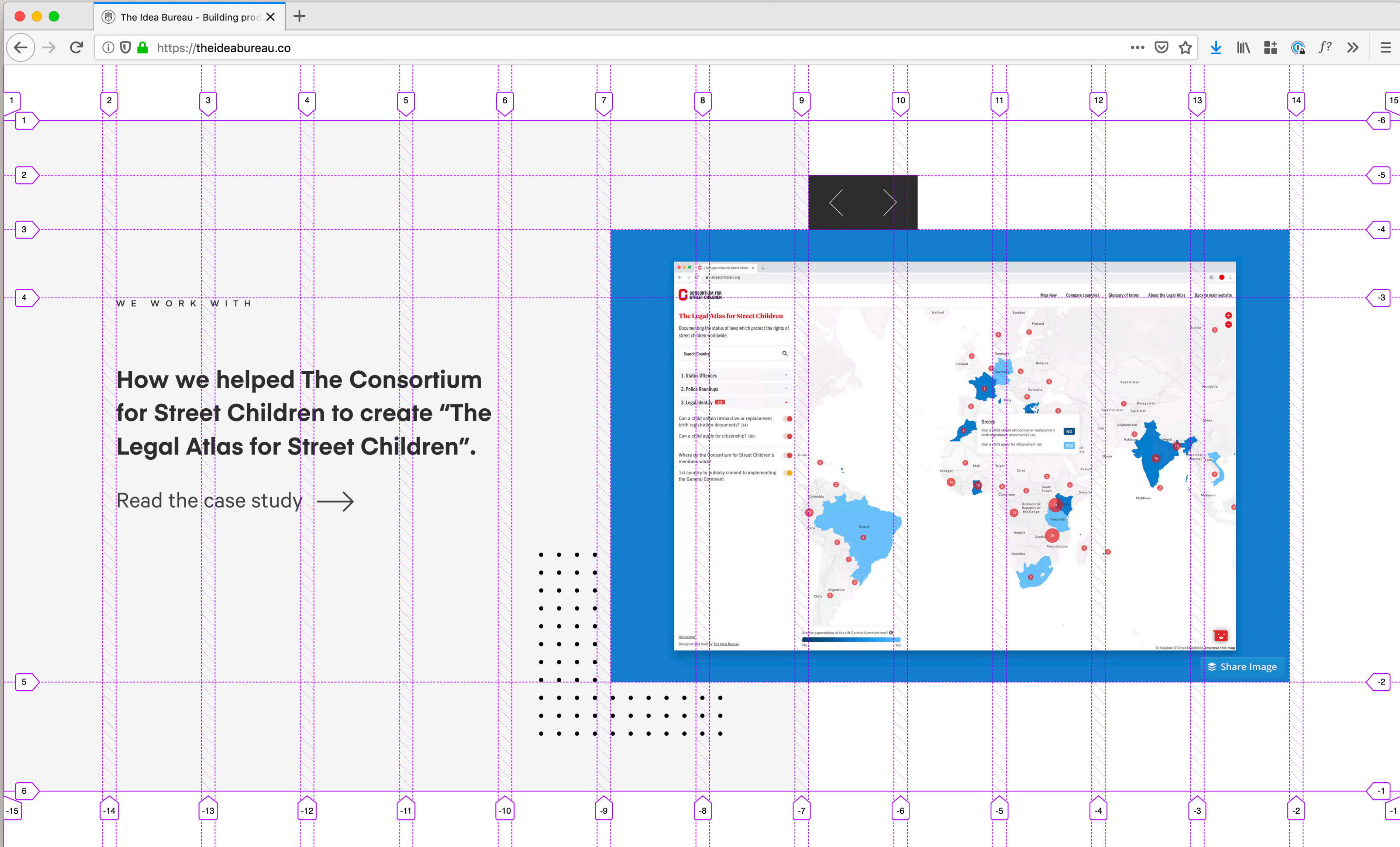
- Document Block X
- Status & Visibility ^
  - Visibility [Public](#)
  - Publish [May 6, 2019 10:24 am](#)
  - Stick to the Front Page
  - [Move to trash](#)
- Permalink ▾
- Categories ▾
- Tags ▾
- Featured Image ▾
- Excerpt ▾
- Discussion ▾

Post Content:

# Gutenberg

Welcome to WordPress. This is your first post. Edit or delete it, then start writing!

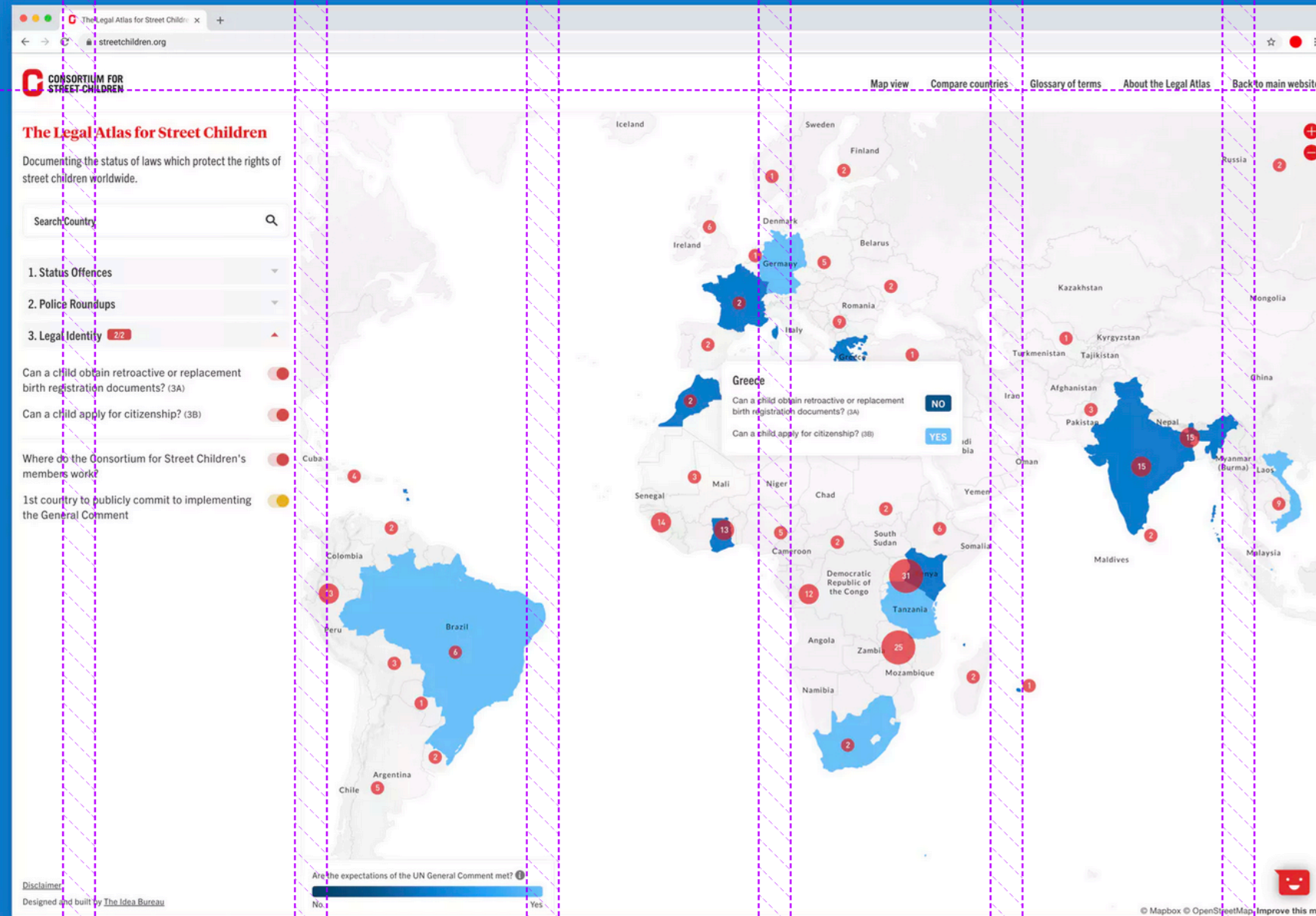




WE WORK WITH

# How we helped The Consortium for Street Children to create "The Legal Atlas for Street Children".

Read the case study →



Share Image

**This isn't just for our  
work problems.**





# Brexit



**Before we start...**

~~Read~~

**Consume**

**Contribute**

# **Five steps:**

**1. Discover**

**2. Understand**

**3. Solve**

**4. Report**

**5. Share**

# **1. Discover**

## 1. Discover

**Proactively discover  
our problems.**

## 1. Discover

**Embrace problems while  
they're cheap to solve.**



## 1. Discover

**Think about the future  
now, it'll be an investment  
you wished you had made.**

## 1. Discover

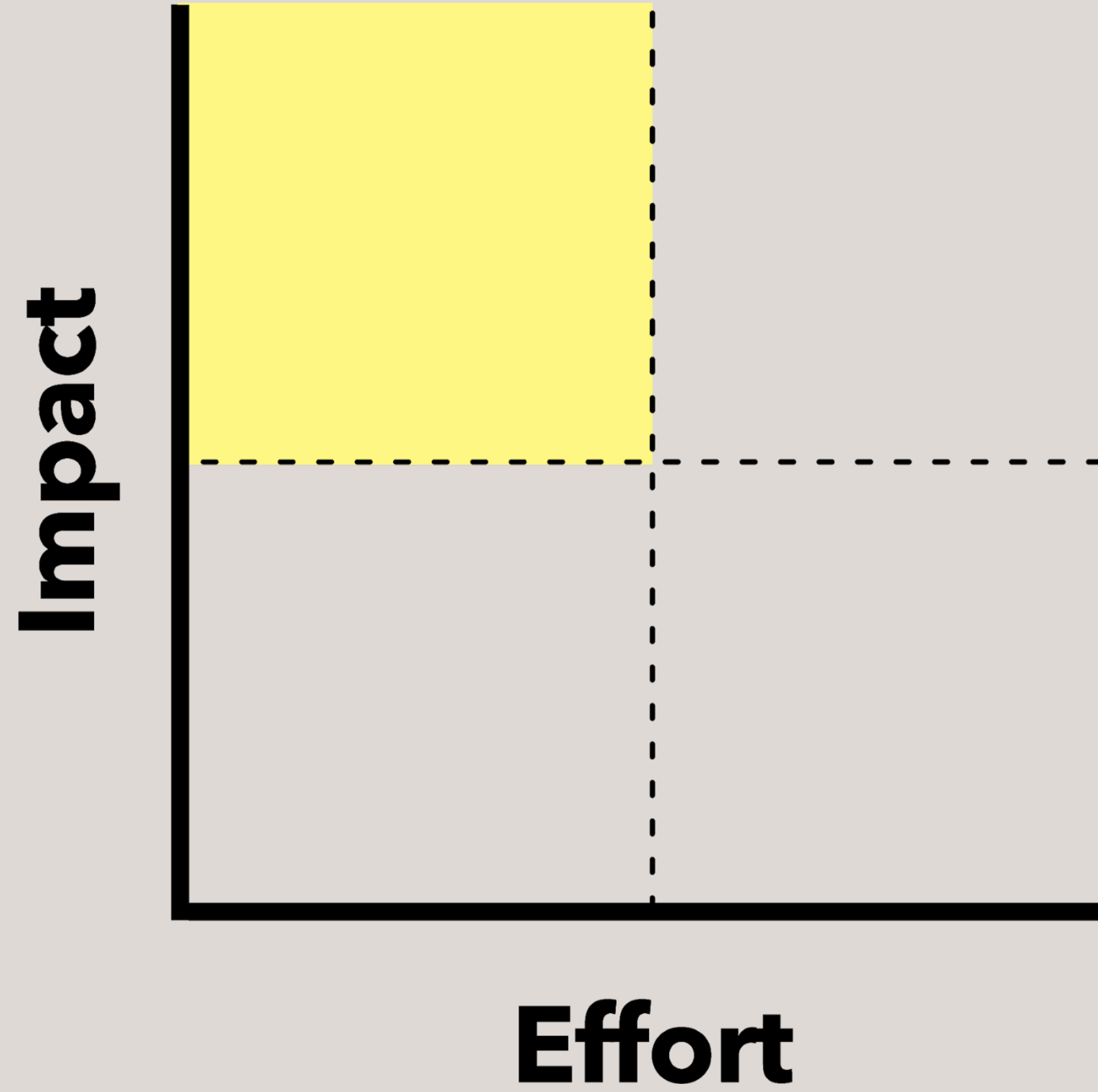
**Don't hide from our problems.**

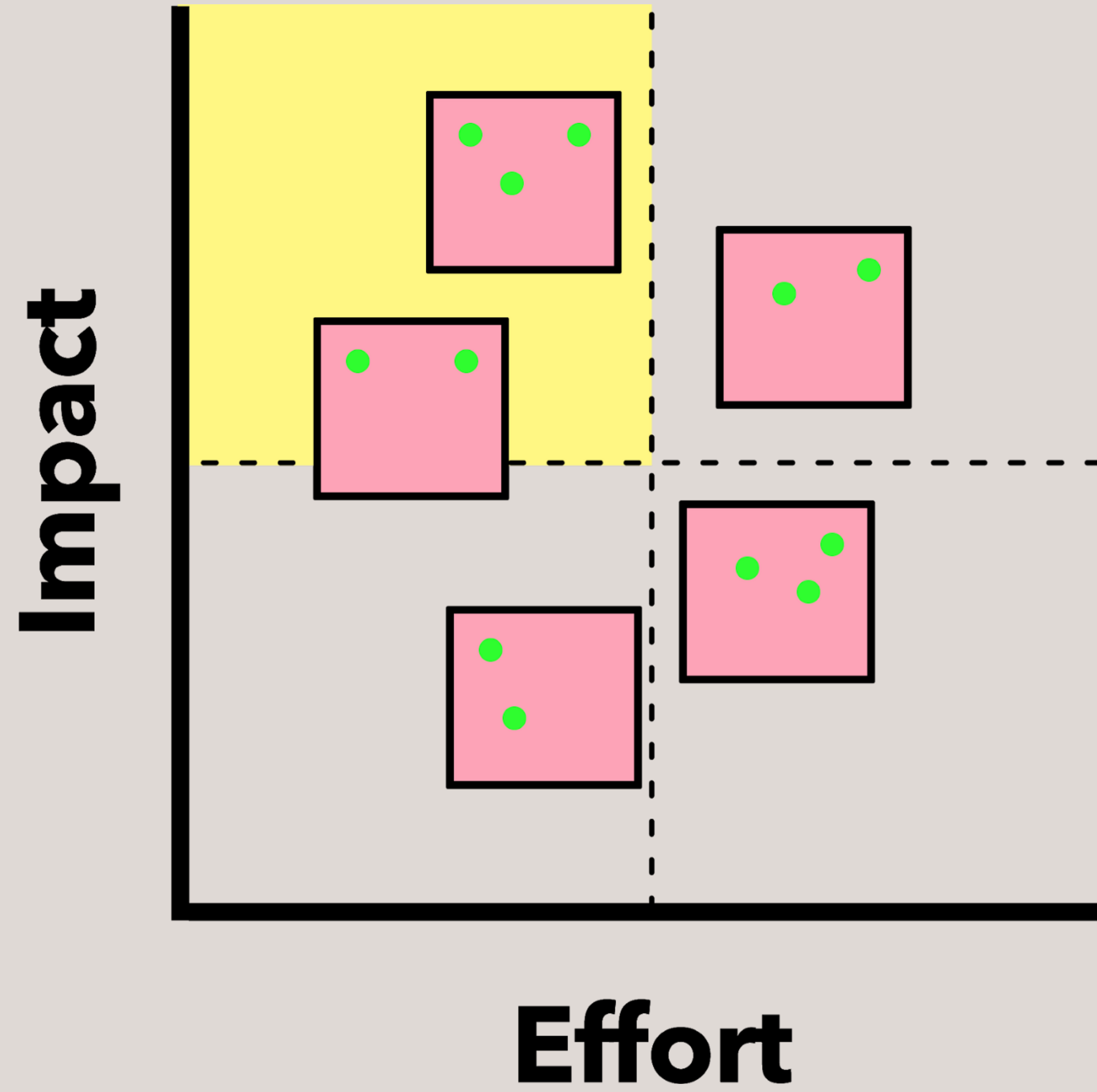
## **1. Discover**

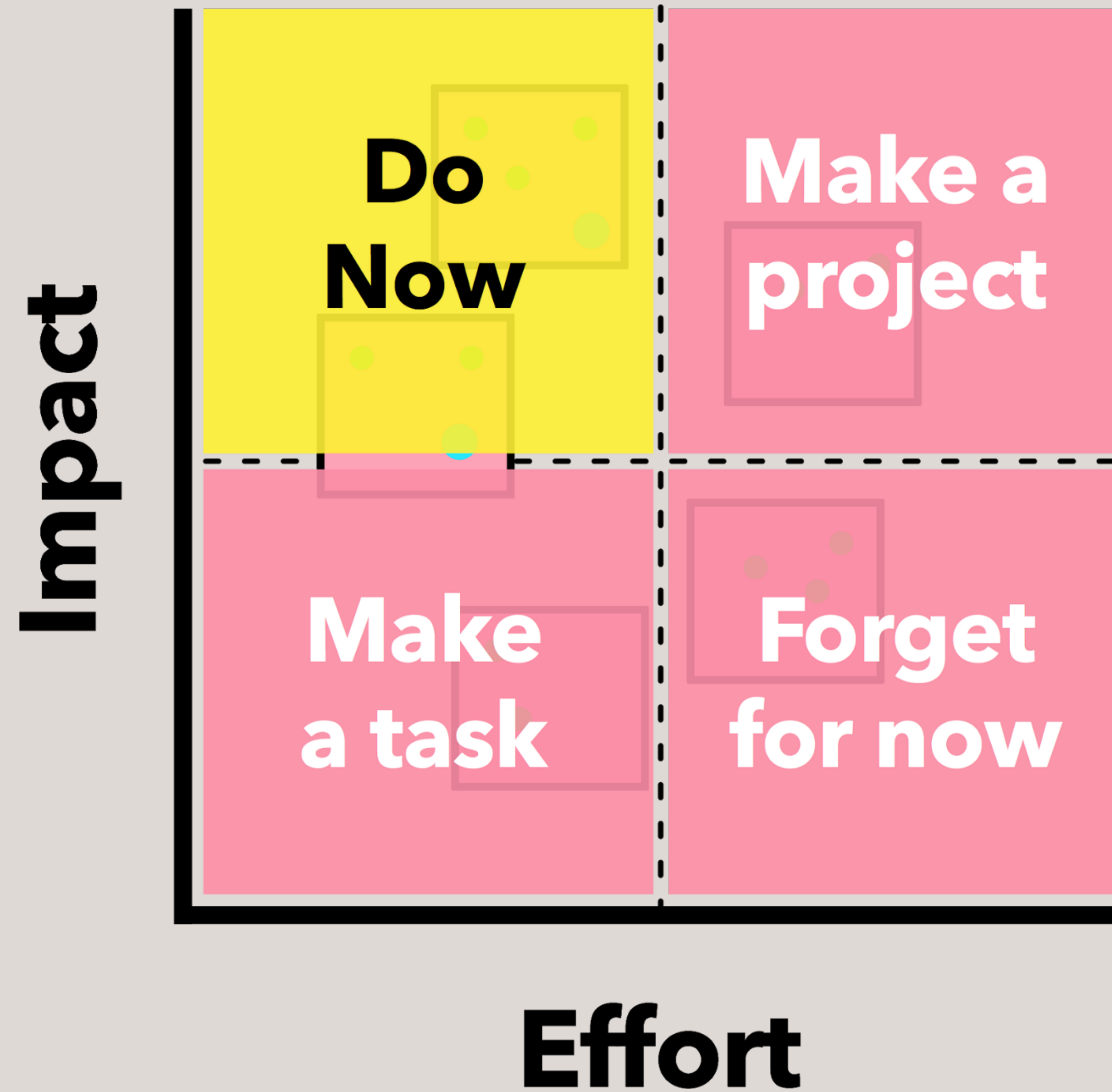
**Document our problems.**

## **1. Discover**

**Prioritise our problems.**







- All my problems**
- The spare bedroom needs redecorating  
Effort: High Impact: Low  
Score: Forget for now
- We could be celebrating our projects more  
Effort: Low Impact: High  
Score: Do now
- Our projects are over running  
Effort: High Impact: High  
Score: Make a project
- How do I convince to my gran that Brexit was a stupid idea.  
Effort: High Impact: Low  
Score: Forget for now
- The headlight in my car is broken  
 Effort: Low Impact: High  
Score: Do now
- 

**Menu**

- About This Board**  
Add a description to your board
- Change Background**
- Filter Cards**
- Stickers**
- More**

- Power-Ups** 1  
Calendar, Google Drive and more...
- Effort / Impact**
- Add Power-Up...
- Add Power-Up...

- Activity**
- Ben Everard** added [We could be celebrating our projects more](#) to All my problems  
9 hours ago
- Ben Everard** added [How do I convince to my gran that Brexit was a stupid idea.](#) to All my problems  
9 hours ago
- Ben Everard** enabled the Effort / Impact Power-Up  
9 hours ago



### I've got 99 problems but priorit...

- All my problems**
  - The spare bedroom needs redecorating  
Effort: High Impact: Low  
Score: Forget for now
  - We could be celebrating our projects more  
Effort: Low Impact: High  
Score: Do now
  - Our projects are over running  
Effort: High Impact: High  
Score: Make a project
  - How do I convince to my gran that Brexit was a stupid idea.  
Effort: High Impact: Low  
Score: Forget for now
  - The headlight in my car is broken  
Effort: Low Impact: High  
Score: Do now
  - Our website contact form isn't performing so well  
Effort: Low Impact: High  
Score: Do now

## Our website contact form isn't performing so well

in list [All my problems](#)

EFFORT IMPACT SCORE  
Low High Do now

**Description**

Add a more detailed description...

**Add Comment**

Write a comment...

**Activity** Hide Details

**Ben Everard** added this card to All my problems  
a few seconds ago

ADD TO CARD

- Members
- Labels
- Checklist
- Due Date
- Attachment

POWER-UPS

Effort / Impact

Effort: Low

Impact: High

**Save**

- Archive
- Share

**Menu**

About This Board  
Add a description to your board

Change Background

Filter Cards

Stickers

More

**Power-Ups** 1  
Calendar, Google Drive and more...

Ben Everard added [We could be celebrating our projects more](#) to All my problems  
9 hours ago

Ben Everard added [How do I convince to my gran that Brexit was a stupid idea.](#) to All my problems  
9 hours ago



Boards



# I've got 99 problems but prioritising ain't one



The Idea Bureau

BC

Private



Invite

## All my problems



+ Add another list

How do I convince to my gran that Brexit was a stupid idea.

Effort: High Impact: Low

Score: Forget for now

Our projects are over running

Effort: High Impact: High

Score: Make a project

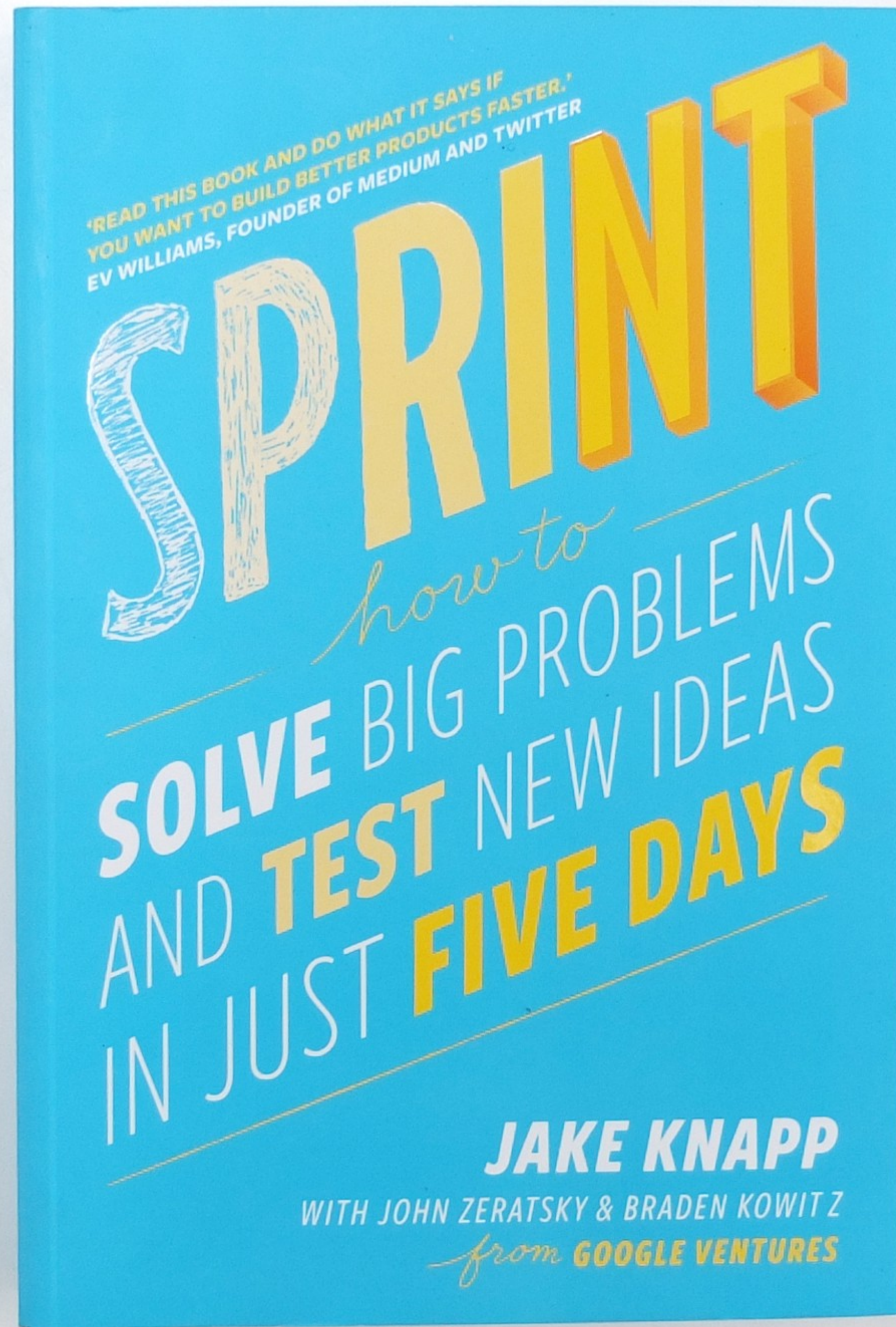
Our website contact form isn't performing so well

Effort: Low Impact: High

Score: Do now

We could be celebrating our projects more

Effort: Low Impact: High



## **2. Understand**

## 2. Understand

**Know the problem.**

## 2. Understand

**"Very little will cost you more than having to do something twice"**

## **2. Understand**

# **How do we understand our problem?**

**We ask questions**

**We consult experts**

**We speak to users**

**We challenge assumptions**

**We challenge our bias**

**We use data**

## **2. Understand**

**Is this even a problem  
that needs solving?**



## 2. Understand



**"If I had more time, I would  
have written a shorter letter."**

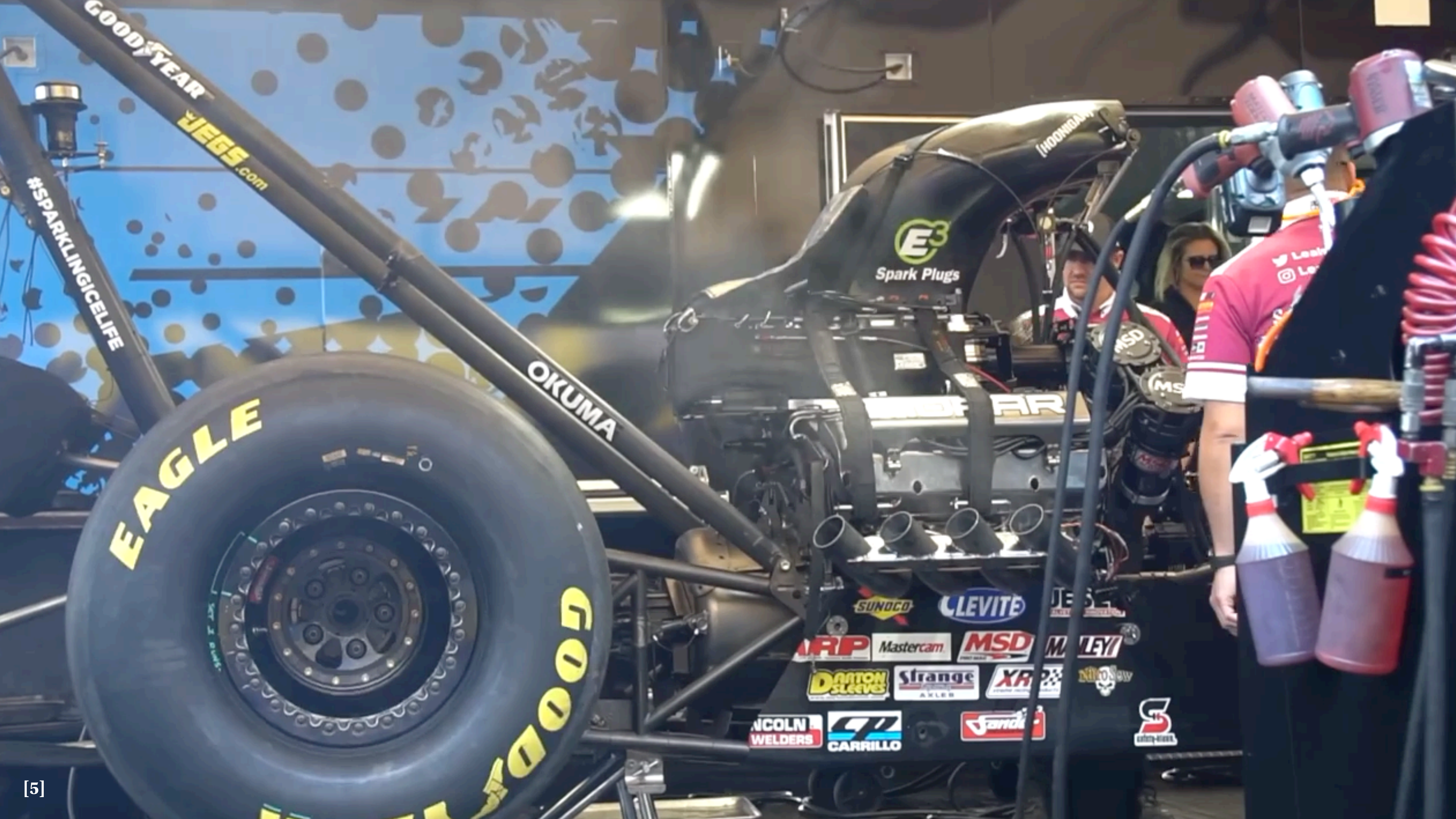
# 3. Solve

### 3. Solve

**Keep it simple!**

### 3. Solve

**Layering complexity will either  
become a resource drain  
or a failure, pick one.**



### 3. Solve

**Test. Test. Test.**

# 4. Report



## 4. Report

**Things go wrong, and it's important to be able report on what happened.**

## 4. Report

**It's a strength to report to a stakeholder how a problem occurred, not a weakness.**

# **5. Share**

## 5. Share

**The problem is solved...  
are we done?**

## 5. Share



**Luke Murphy-Wearmouth**

@lurkmoophy



London Design Teams! We're wanting to do some design team knowledge swaps at Memrise. The idea is we sit down together in a room and share stuff around process, learnings etc. Anyone keen to chat?

11:33 AM · Jan 31, 2019 · [TweetDeck](#)

**4** Retweets **5** Likes



# 5. Share



## Add a number to another number in JavaScript



hallo

0

I have got a number in my JavaScript variable! Now how do I add another number to it? Please



javascript



### 3 Answers

oldest newest votes



22

You should definitely use jQuery. It's really great and does all things

link | edit | flag

answered 11 minutes ago

 [i3jQuery](#)  
1,234 ● 2 ● 13



I agree, jQuery is really the best, it solves all kinds of browser problems and is good, as well – [|sumc0da](#) 8 mins ago

+1 jquery is best quality code ever, if you don't use your a idiot – [Werry\\_Togan](#) 4 mins ago

add comment



4

I think there's a jQuery plugin for that. Google for jQuery basic arithmetic plugin.

link | edit | flag

answered 5 minutes ago

 [Timothy Goatse](#)  
4,321 ● 1 ● 12

yeah, jQuery is definately the way to go – [fishnipples](#) 5 mins ago

I used the jQuery diet plugin and lost 10kg in a week – [jfatty](#) 4 mins ago

add comment



-2

To add numbers together you should use the [+ operator](#), for example:

```
var a= 1;  
var b= a+2;  
alert(b); // 3
```

tagged

javascript × 18553

asked

a while ago

viewed

some times

latest activity

just now

**Wanted:** [Yet another ASP.NET developer](#). See this and other great job listings at [jobs.stackoverflow.com](#).

### Related

[What is the best number?](#)

[How can I use JavaScript to parse some HTML using regex?](#)

[JavaScript: why is my text content getting mangled when I clone nodes? Obviously I must be doing something wrong as jQuery is perfect](#)

[Stupid JavaScript floating point numbers are broken](#)

[How can I extract number from HTML using a regex without ZALGO singing the song that ends the world?](#)

[Is there a jQuery plugin for making an HTML page appear in the browser?](#)

[Where are my legs?](#)

# **The Art of Problem Solving\***

# **Cheers, drive!**

**@\_beneverard**

**noti.st/beneverard**



# References

1. <https://www.space.com/24835-spacesuit-water-leak-nasa-investigation.html>
2. <https://blog.ajsmart.com/how-to-prioritise-your-tasks-and-reduce-stress-at-work-acb352df3ec9>
3. <https://www.thesprintbook.com/>
4. <https://youtu.be/InlXTbGwj4?t=1065>
5. <https://quoteinvestigator.com/2012/04/28/shorter-letter/>
6. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F98lUtez3EU>
7. <https://twitter.com/lurkmoophy/status/1090936204047142912>

# Colophon

Typeface: Utopia Std Regular