

Applying Project Management Principles to Software Development Leadership™

# Leading Software Maniacs™

How to Create a Digital Comix

KEN WHITAKER

# Agenda

- Objectives
- Planning the Project
- Create the Art with Photoshop and ToonIt!
- Create the Cell with Illustrator
- Prepare for Print with InDesign
- Preparing for Online Viewing
- Viewing a Single Habit in a Presentation
- Final Words

# Background

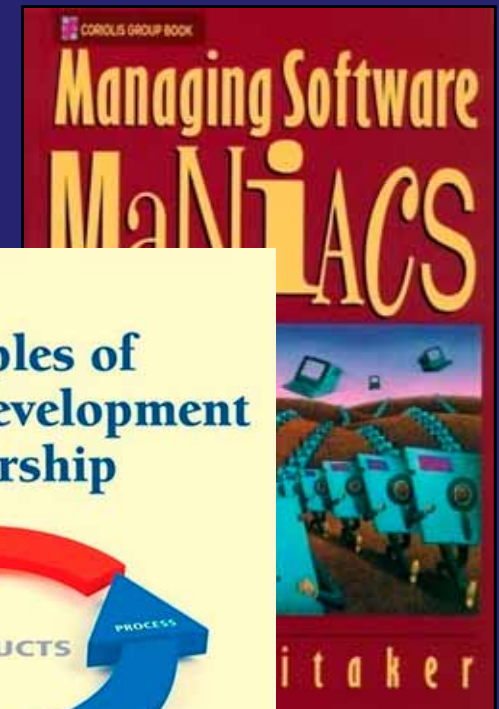
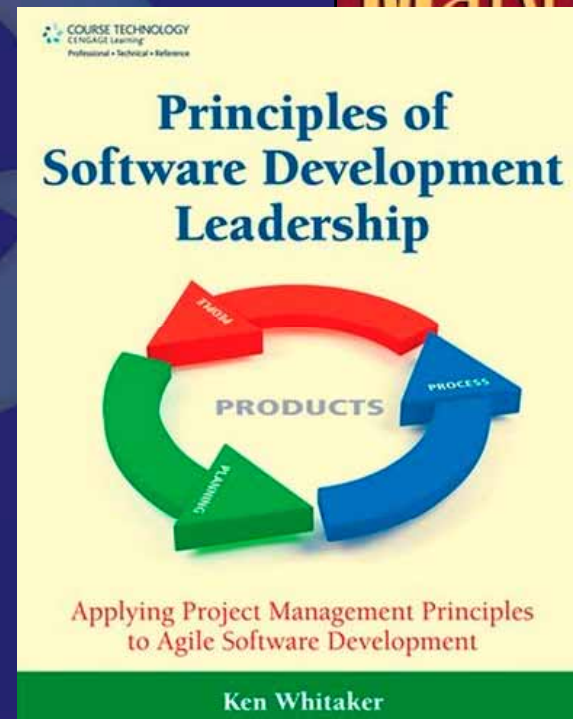
Ken Whitaker, PMP, CSM

- Over 25 years of software leadership experience
- Speaker at dozens of software industry events
- Creator of Software Success  
“Delivery of On-time, Bug-Free Software”  
US/Canadian tour
- Project Management Professional (PMP)<sup>®</sup>
- Certified ScrumMaster

# Background

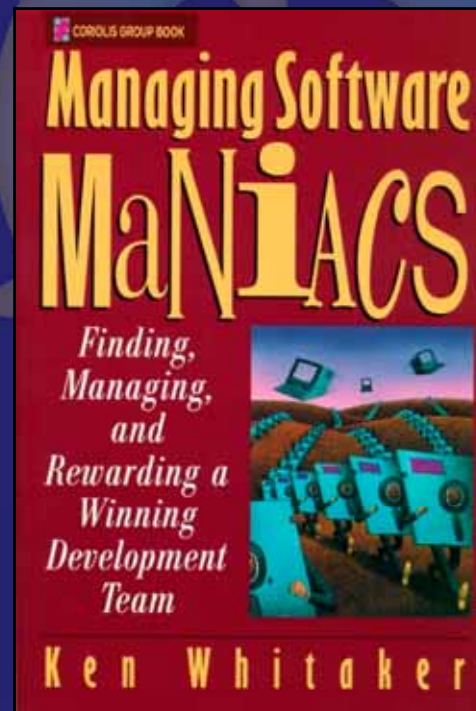
Ken Whitaker, PMP, CSM

- Author of *Managing Software Maniacs* (J Wiley & Sons)
- Author of *Principles of Software Development Leadership* (Course Technology PTR)



# Drawing For a Free Book!

One free copy of *Managing Software Maniacs* will be given away at the end of the class!



# Free Handout

- Everybody should have a comix, right?



# Legal Stuff ...

## Leading Software Maniac Marks

Applying Project Management Principles to Software Development Leadership, Principles of Software Development Leadership, 4Ps, Leading Software Maniacs, Soft-Audit, jus' e'nuff, Nerd Herd Game, the 4Ps logo, the Leading Software Maniacs logo, and the Nerd Herd Game logo are marks of Leading Software Maniacs, LLC.

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# Objectives

## Project Vision

- Needed some sort of “leave behind” for a popular set of stories entitled “The 7 Deadly Habits of Ineffective Software Managers”
- A comix was chosen as the medium
- To be used based on this priority:
  - Printed comix handout
  - Part of training presentations
  - Web site

# Planning the Project

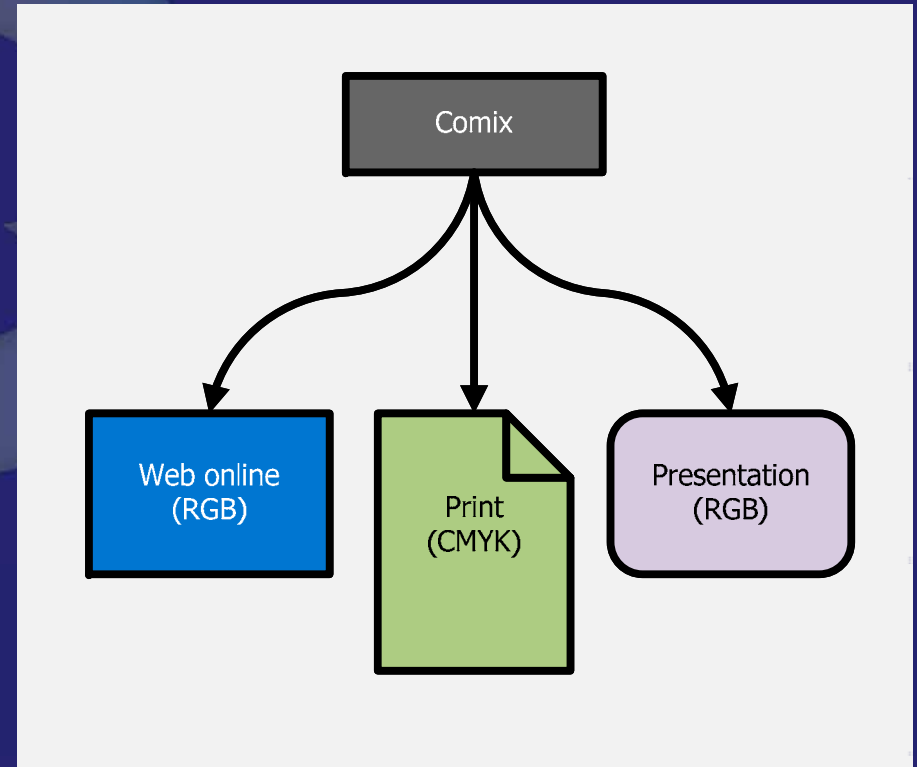
## Selection of Tools

- Hand-drawn or completely digital?
- Selection of best of breed stuff
  - Dell and Apple HW, Wacom tablet
  - Adobe CS4 and Digital Anarchy software
  - Royalty-free photos and sketching software
- In preparation of this presentation, we used TechSmith's SnagIt! And Microsoft Visio

# Planning the Project

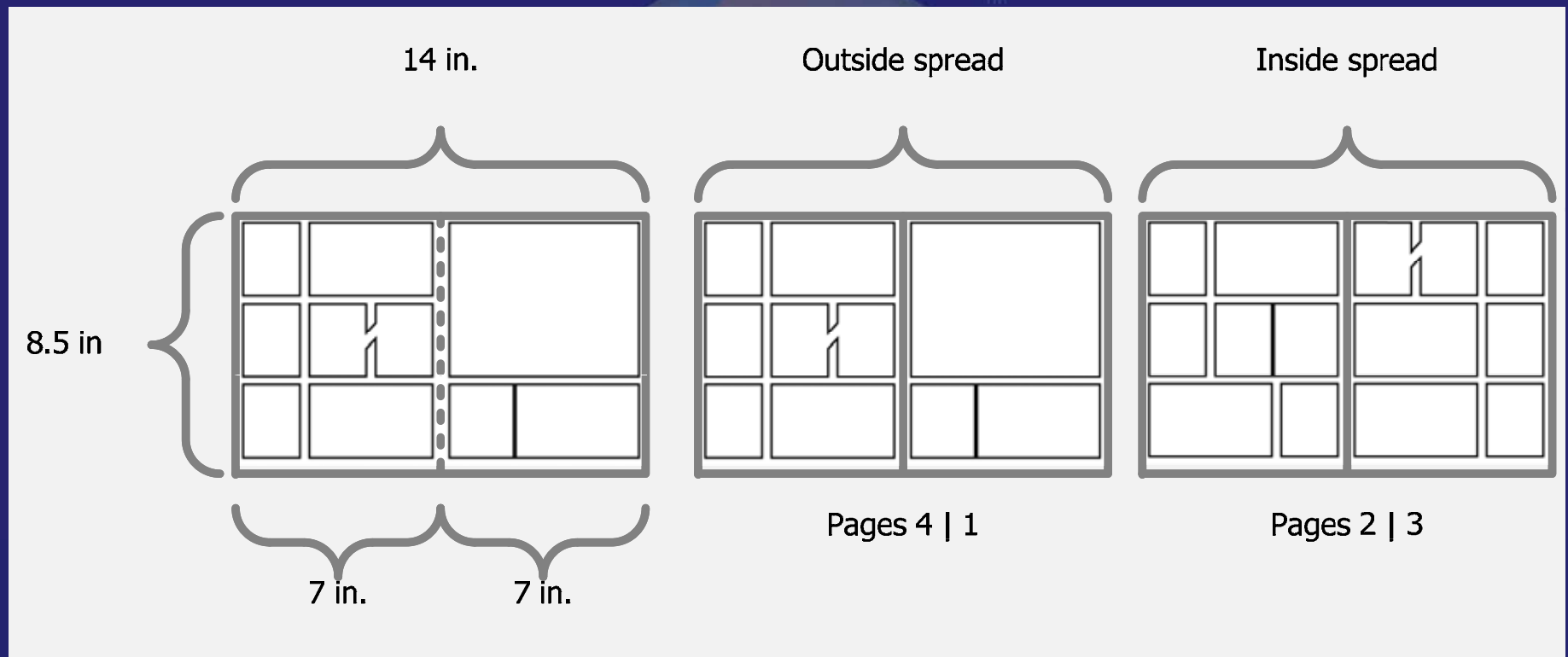
## Single Source, Multiple Outputs

- Recreated in stages
- Highest quality at any resolution or color model
  - CMYK
  - RGB
- Flexible artifact organization



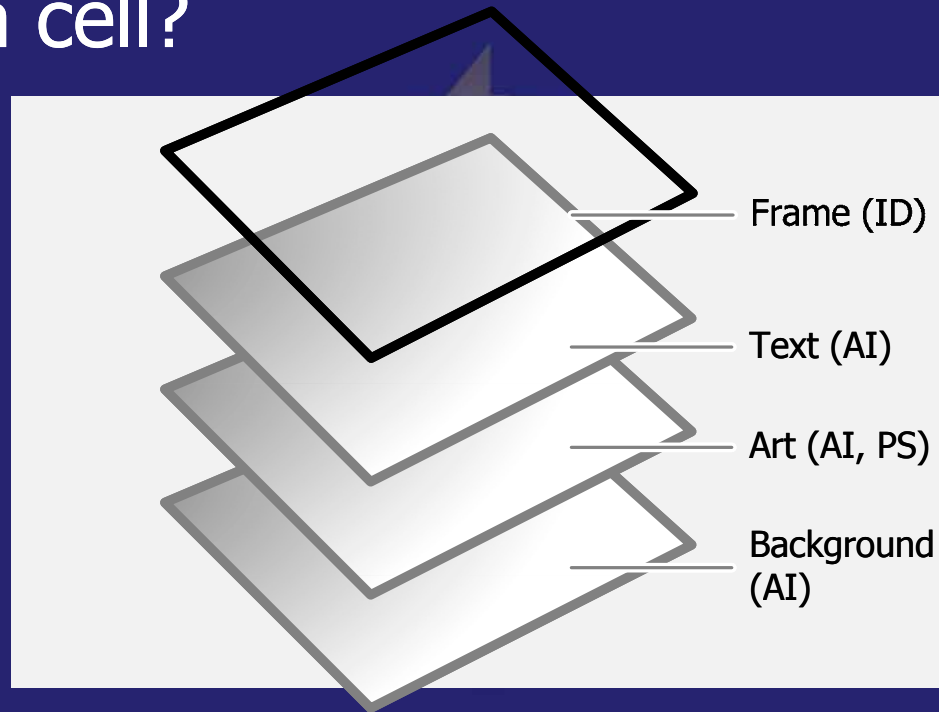
# Planning the Project

- Layout designed so that anyone could print it



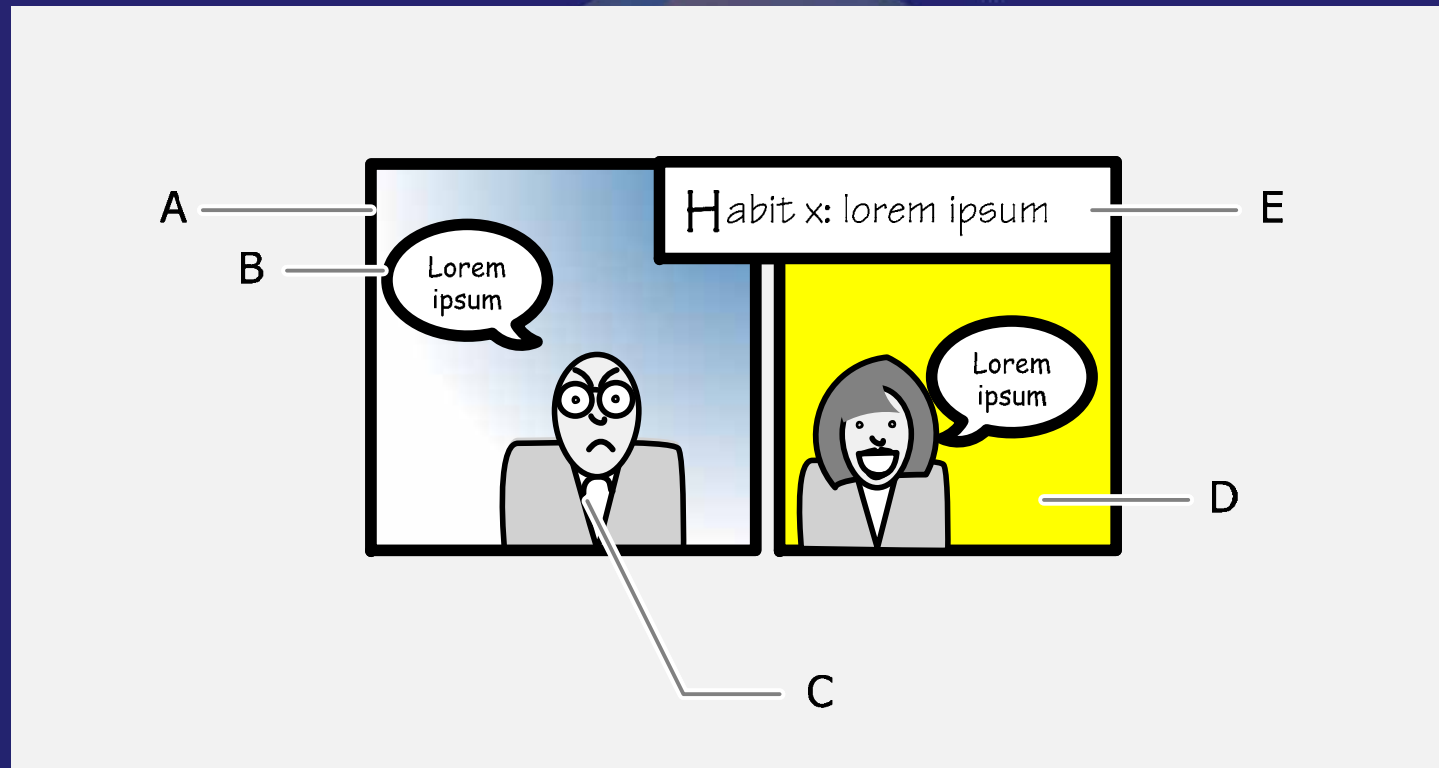
# Planning the Project

- What is a cell?



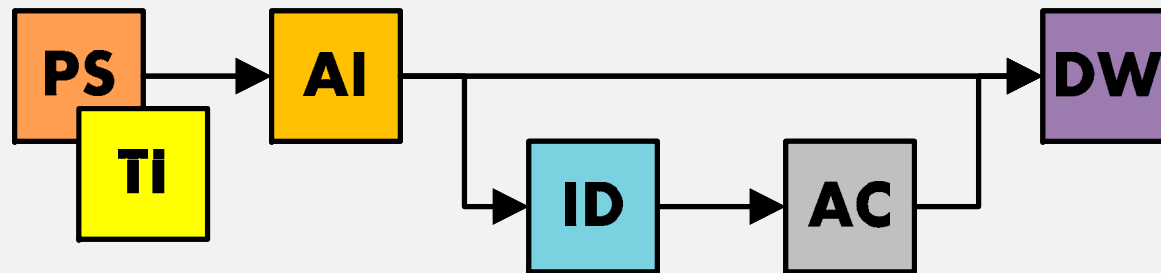
# Planning the Project

- Storyboard what the look of a cell should be



# Planning the Project

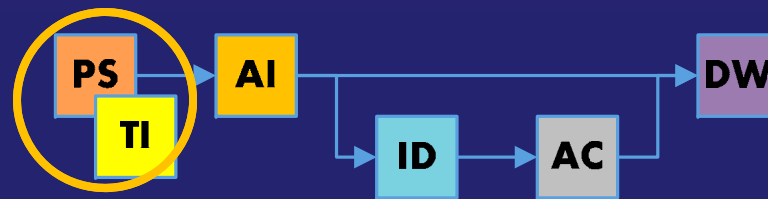
- Workflow from image to cell and then to final layout



# Create the Art with Photoshop and ToonIt!

What are we going to do?

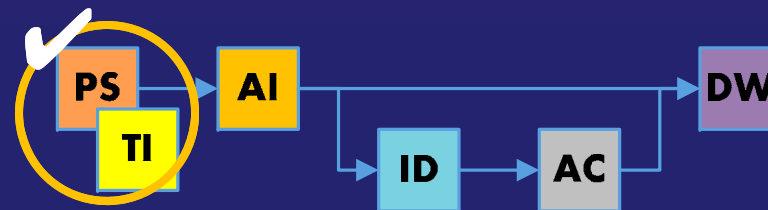
- Download royalty-free photo or
- Draw it or
- Draw over a royalty-free photo
- Convert art to comix look with ToonIt!
- Export to make art scalable (with Illustrator)
- **Demo ...**



# Create the Art with Photoshop and ToonIt!

What did we do?

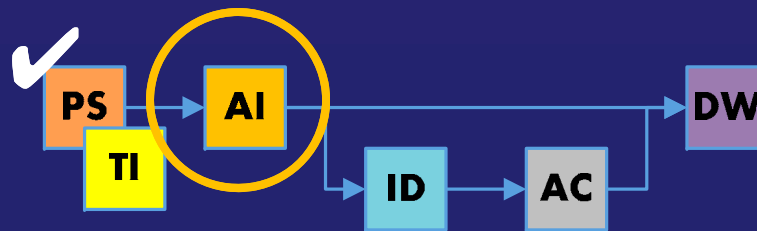
- We created/selected the image
- Cropped the image to fit the preplanned cell size
- We used a filter to make it appear to be like a cartoon
- Finally, exported it to a TIF



# Create the Cell with Illustrator

What are we going to do?

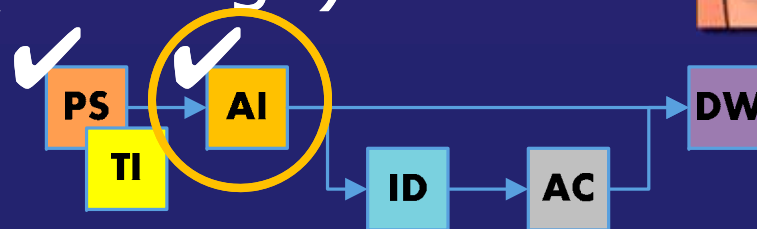
- Create cell that is completely scaleable
- Convert raster art to vector objects
- Modify and enhance the cell art
- Export for online and document uses
- Export for print preparation (with InDesign)
- **Demo** ...



# Create the Cell with Illustrator

What did we do?

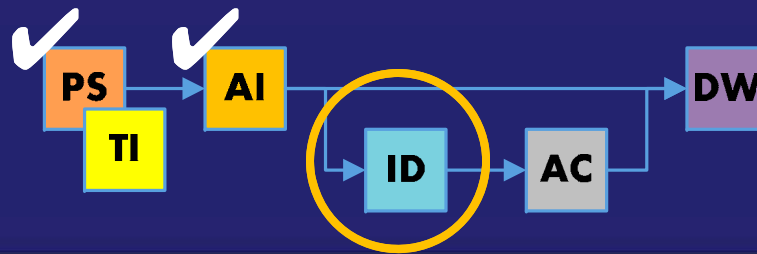
- Linked image into the cell template
- Converted raster to vector
- Modified and enhanced art
- Exported for Web, MS Office, and print (InDesign)



# Prepare for Print with InDesign

What are we going to do?

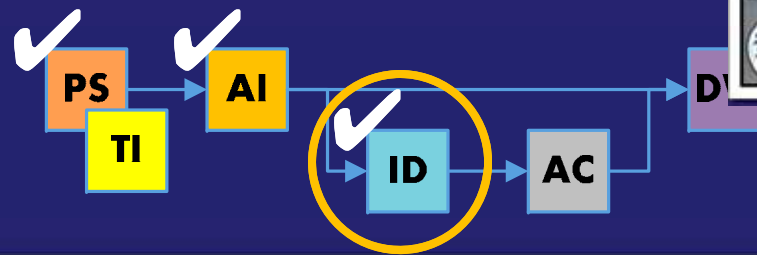
- Place all of the art cells into proper location
- Enable frames that outline cells
- Create overlapped text headings
- Use PDF presets export for press and online
- **Demo ...**



# Prepare for Print with InDesign

What did we do?

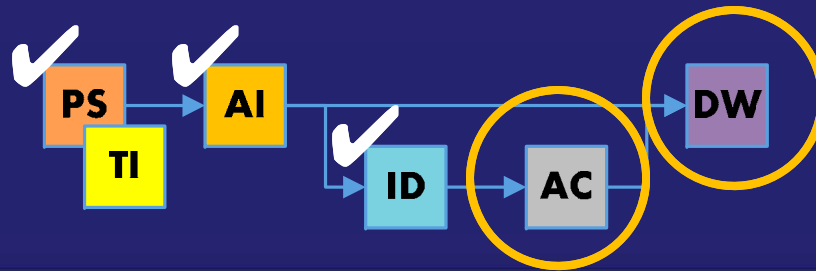
- Created the frames
- Linked the cell drawings into the layout spread
- Created the overlapped headings
- Output to PDF (CMYK & RGB)



# Preparing for Online Viewing

What are we going to do?

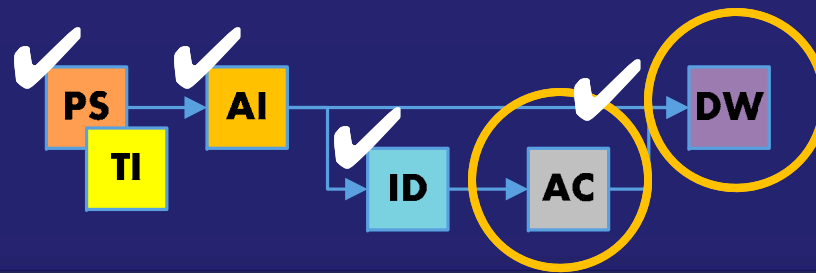
- Use Acrobat to convert spreads into pages
- Discuss how Dreamweaver can be used to place the comix:
  - For viewing
  - For download
- Demo ...



# Preparing for Online Viewing

What did we do?

- Used Acrobat to convert spreads to pages
- Extracted pages to files
- Used Dreamweaver to post comix to web site
- And there's one more thing ...



# Preparing for Online Viewing

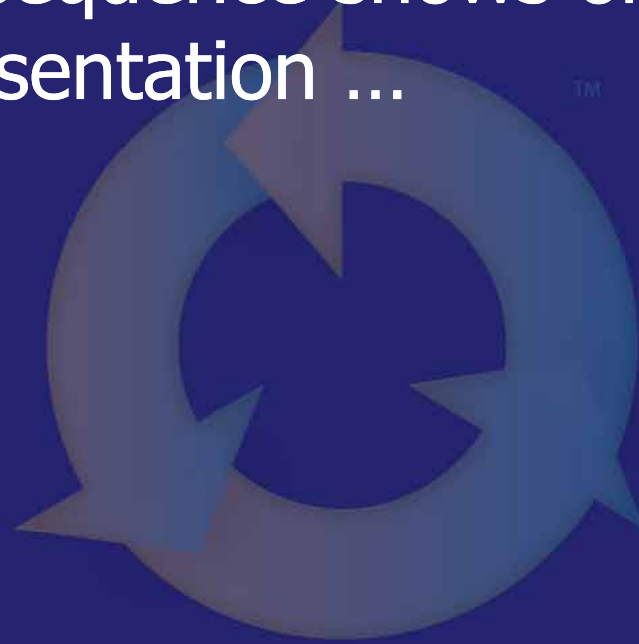
What if you need to print in grayscale?

- For those set of instructions and a copy of a whitepaper that explains all of these steps, go to:

[http://www.leadingswmaniacs.com/resources\\_ whitepapers.html](http://www.leadingswmaniacs.com/resources_whitepapers.html)

# Viewing a Single Habit in a Presentation

The next slide sequence shows one of our habits used in a presentation ...



TM

# Habit 6—Taking Too Long to Negotiate Feature Sets ...

... and Schedules



# Final Words

## Best Practice

Plan, Plan, and do more planning

ADOBE CREATIVE SUITE 4



TechSmith

# References

- Digital Anarchy. *ToonIt! The Photo Gallery* (<http://www.digitalanarchy.com/toonPS/gallery/kenWhitaker.html>).
- Leading Software Maniacs. "7 Deadly Habits of Ineffective Software Managers" comix download page ([http://www.leadingswmaniacs.com//resources\\_comix\\_c7dh.html](http://www.leadingswmaniacs.com//resources_comix_c7dh.html)).
- Leading Software Maniacs. "How to Create a Digital Comix" whitepaper ([http://www.leadingswmaniacs.com/resources\\_whitepapers.html](http://www.leadingswmaniacs.com/resources_whitepapers.html)).
- Whitaker, Ken. *Principles of Software Development Leadership: Applying Project Management Principles to Agile Software Development*. Boston: Course Technology PTR, 2009.

# Applying Project Management Principles to Software Development Leadership™



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