Tool 18.1

Continuous Improvement Tool Index

Title of Tool:

Value Stream Map

Tool Description:

A value stream map is created to identify unnecessary steps in a process by visualizing the process from beginning to end using icons and arrows. It also helps to identify waste in a process and where efficiencies can be created.

A value stream map is typically utilized after a problem has been identified and a team has been formed. Once the team assembles, part of the process will be to create a current state map, in which a value stream map can be used.

In this map, icons and arrows are utilized to identify supplies, customers, materials, information and anything else that is part of the process. After initial maps are drawn, value-add and non-value add activities are identified on the map.

After efficiencies have been identified and eliminated from the process, a new value stream map is created to visualize the new process. Again, look at the map, are there features in which more effective and efficient processes or communications/material movement that could be identified and removed?

A value stream map ideally is used for projects in which materials/goods are moved from place to place, or where processes have been identified to have many steps and many people involved. Are there ways in which some steps of the processes can be removed or combined with others?

Tool Utilization:

Identify the symbols that are most beneficial and helpful to you and the process you are working through. Now, draw each step in a process, including the communications steps, material movements steps and the directional flow of material throughout the process. Allow others in the team to add to the process. Many stakeholders can be helpful in this process because they may be able to identify steps in the process that others weren't aware of.

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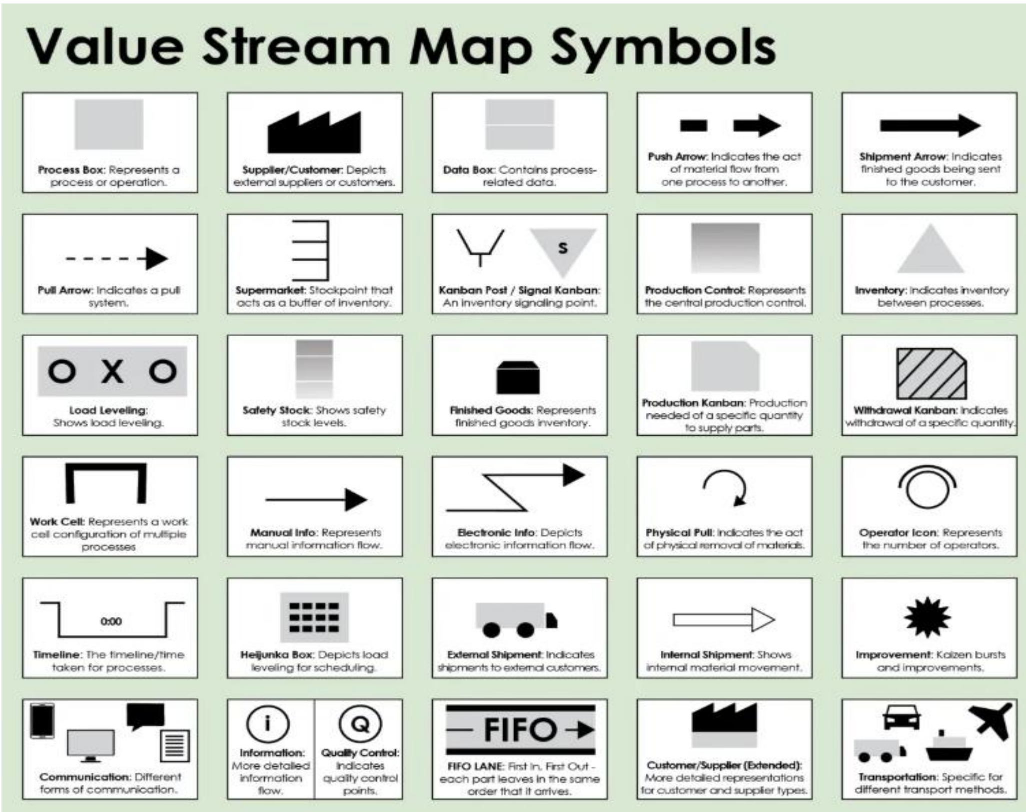
Example of tool with associated icons:



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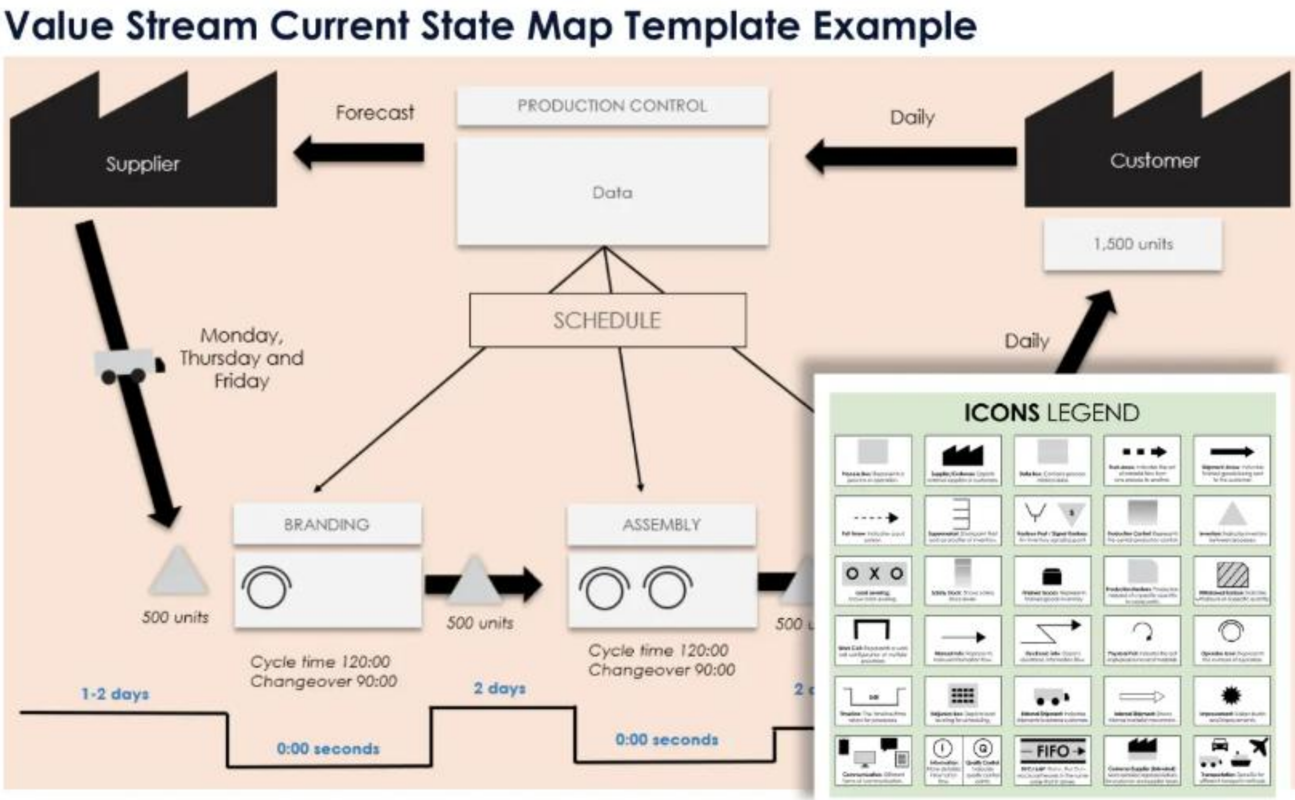
Value Stream Current State Map Template Example
Supplier
Forecast
PRODUCTION CONTROL
Data
Daily
Customer
1,500 units
SCHEDULE
Monday, Thursday and Friday
Daily
BRANDING
ASSEMBLY
500 units
500 units
Cycle time 120:00
Changeover 90:00
Cycle time 120:00
Changeover 90:00
1-2 days
2 days
0:00 seconds
0:00 seconds
ICONS LEGEND
FIFO