

# Large Concept Audits

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# Learning Objectives

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- Avoiding large concept audits
- Effectively scoping large audits
- Balancing impact with effort



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*"Hey, Sisyphus, when you've got a minute I'd like to discuss this progress report with you."*

# What is a large concept audit?

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- Know it when you see it
- Expansive scope
- Covers multiple programs/departments

# Quiz – Do you have a large audit?

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Think of a specific audit that you are either currently working on or recently finished

# Quiz – Do you have a large audit?

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- 1) Does your team frequently have to discuss whether something is within the scope?
- 2) Are you struggling to figure out recommendations?
- 3) Have you extended the length of the audit?
- 4) Do you frequently forget about entire objectives?
- 5) Can you sleep?

# Quiz – Do you have a large audit?

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- Total up your responses

# One trick to avoid huge audits

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- Don't start one



# Where do large audits come from?

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- Unclear problems
- Desire to do something
- Vague misgivings
- Lack of understanding about auditing

# Avoiding huge audits

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- How do you build your work program?

# Avoiding huge audits

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- Try to get to the problem
- Ask - Is this an auditable issue?
- Brainstorm potential recommendations
- Talk about opportunity cost



# So you have a large audit

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- Unclear problems
  - Many moving parts and interdependencies
  - Lack of audit models to look to
  - What you think is clear, actually isn't

# So you have a large audit

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- Desire to do something
  - We can help!
  - We don't want your help!

# So you have a large audit

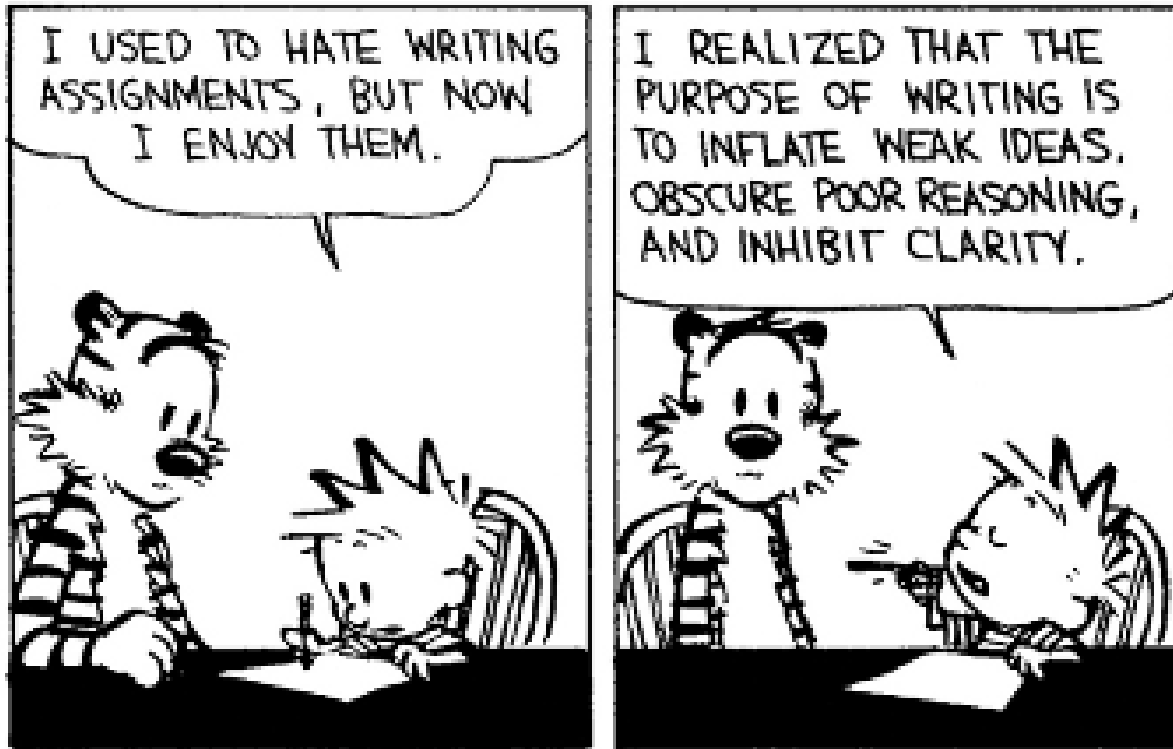
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- Lack of understanding about auditing
  - On the part of the auditee?
  - Or the auditor...

# Scoping the large audit

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Know what is possible...before you get too far.



# Scoping the large audit

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- Look carefully for available criteria...before you start
  - Guidelines vs standards
  - Outputs vs outcomes
    - Arguments can become circular



# Scoping the large audit

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- How to make it easier
  - Look at what you can measure, and the fundamentals
  - Don't try to solve the problem (you won't get the answer for how to solve homelessness)

# How to balance impact with effort

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- Approach the audit in smaller pieces
  - Clearly communicate the limits of the scope
- Look for proven, defined criteria
- Consider a focus on key infrastructure or standards

# Questions?

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