

# Article

## Difference between a Value Stream and a Process



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## The difference between a Value Stream and a Process

While on the surface, Value Streams and Processes can appear to be similar, Value Streams primarily describe workflow, whereas Processes describe the inputs and the activities/procedures required to transform these inputs into one or more defined outputs.

Value Streams, make it easier to identify queuing, backlogs, bottlenecks, cycle and lead times, and waste etc. Value Streams make it easier to identify opportunities for improvement, such as identifying work-flow efficiencies (managing work), e.g., such as automation, the introduction of techniques such as swarming and shift left etc., and not to mention, Value Streams describe the customer journey (end-to-end).

Processes however, whilst vital, do not typically reach the same visual expectation, particularly when a process generally describes only a slice of the customer journey. It should be noted each Value Stream includes all processes required to fulfil a service respectively.

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