

# VALUE STREAMS





## Value streams

Some people ask the value of value streams', well let me explain in a short paragraph.

In simple terms value streams can be observed whereas a value chain and practices cannot be observed. Value streams help organisations to:

- Visualise more than just single process level (e.g., end to end)!
- Identify and remove waste!
- Make decisions about workflow!

So, it is all well and good having well-documented practices but do these demonstrate how we behave? In isolation what impact do these have - probably little if any? In today's modern business world, it is all about how we 'cash in and cash out' as to speak - behaviour! Meaning value streams and processes describe such behaviour. Simply put, value streams describe workflow and processes describe the inputs and the activities to transform these inputs into one or more defined outputs.

In crude simple terms, if we looked at a relay race, what takes place when handing over the batten could be viewed as a process or processes, whereas how the batten is transported between all stages from start to finish could be viewed as a value stream with each stage being a sequence of steps in the value stream.

I do not want to regurgitate ITIL 4 but what about the guiding principle "start where you are", are we observing/inspecting directly? Without value streams and processes I suspect not. As for policies, these clearly highlight what we should be doing but is this what we are doing?

So, let's start walking the talk instead of just talking the walk!

Hope this helps clarify

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