

SYNERGY 2026
DEVPARTNER CONFERENCE

Accelerating Thoughtful Design Through AI Iteration

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Why Design Matters

Design affects whether people can finish their work.

Clear actions reduce guesswork and mistakes.
Useful feedback builds confidence in the result.
Accessible interactions help more people succeed.

Some Features of Good Design

Clear hierarchy	People can find the item that needs attention
Consistent language	People spend less effort interpreting controls
Useful feedback	People know whether the change saved

UI and UX Address Different Things

UI: The interface 

Layout and visual hierarchy
Labels and controls
Navigation and feedback

Is the next action clear?

UX: The experience 

Task flow and effort
Confidence and recovery
Accessibility and context

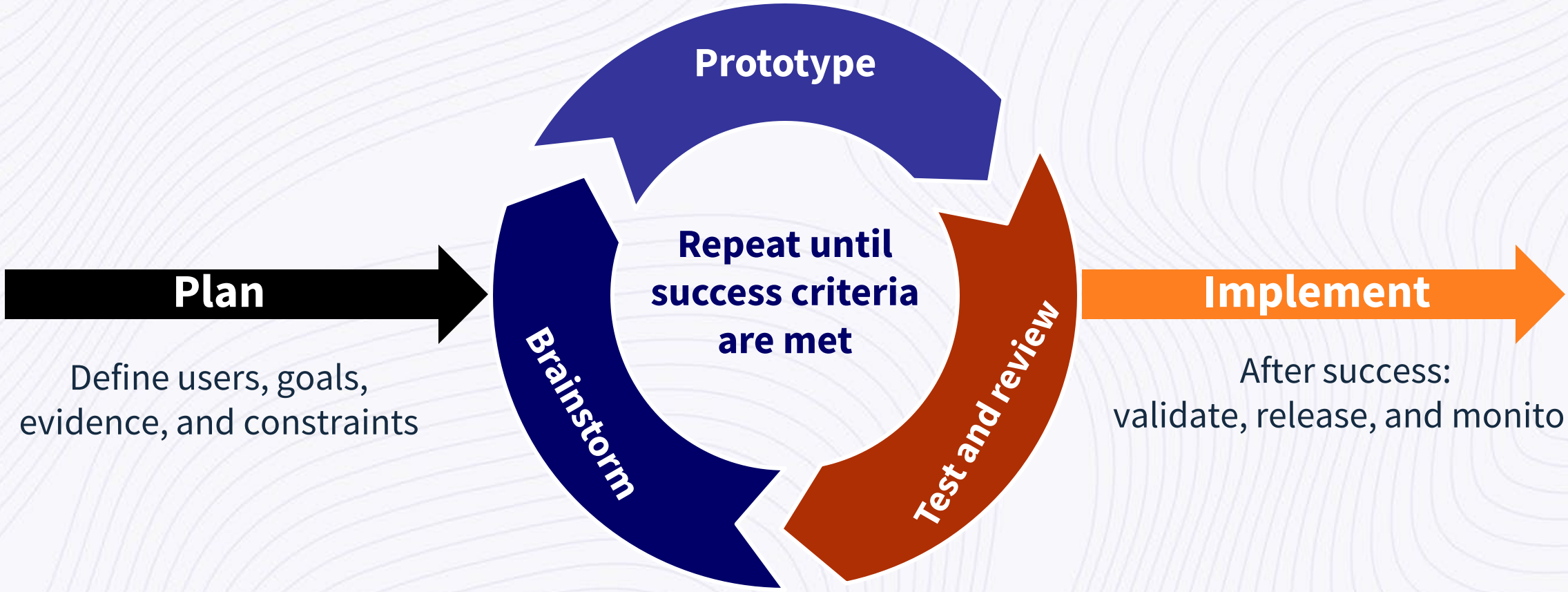
Can the user finish the task?

Signs a Design Needs an Update

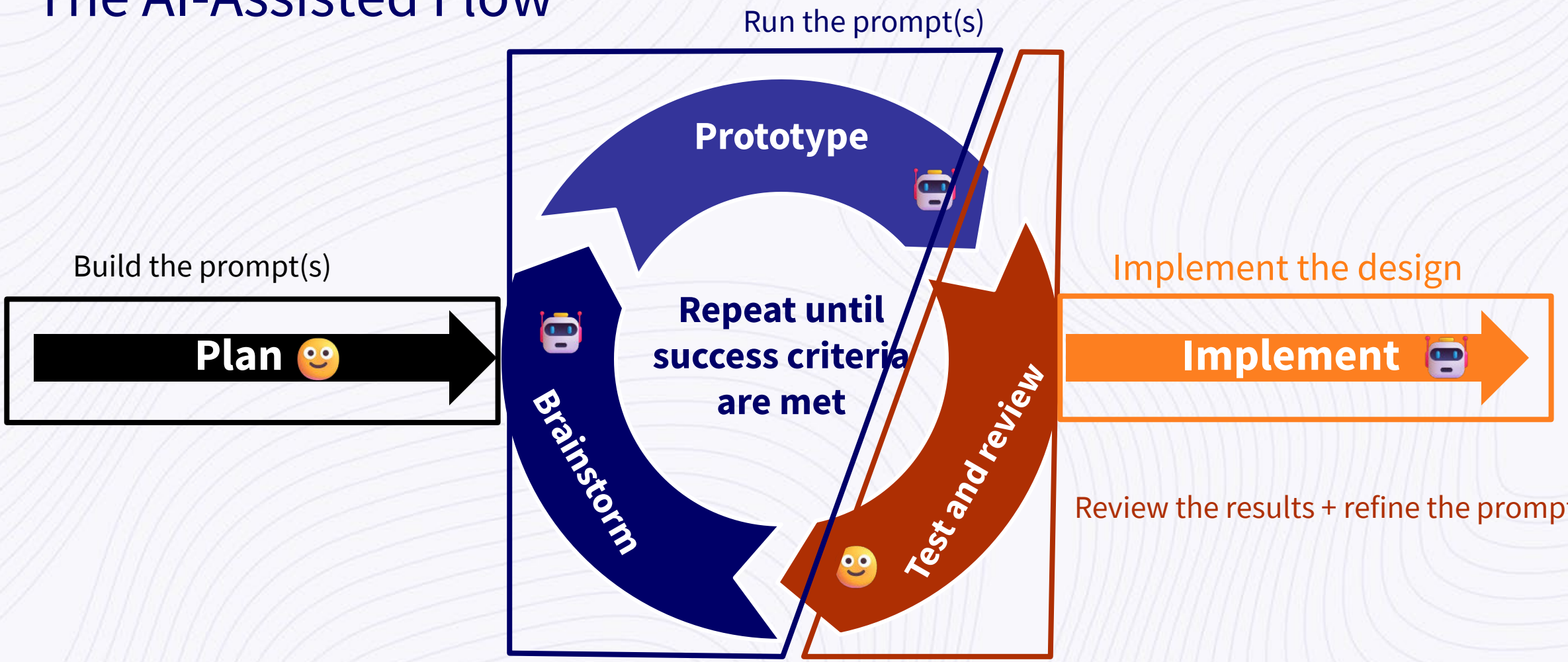
Task friction	Users hesitate, backtrack, or abandon the task
Errors and rework	Users make repeated mistakes or redo work
Support needs	Routine tasks require frequent help or workarounds
Access barriers	People struggle with keyboard, zoom, or small screens
Changing needs	The interface no longer fits users' tasks or context

Prioritize by user impact, frequency, and task importance.

A Repeatable Design Workflow



The AI-Assisted Flow



AI helps explore and prototype. People evaluate and decide.

Planning Gives Iteration a Clear Purpose

The problem to solve

Users and their tasks
Observed friction and evidence
Goals and success criteria

The boundaries to work within

Scope and business rules
Technical and design constraints
Accessibility and user needs
Prototype format

Better Context = More Useful AI Results

Vague input

“Make this screen better.”

AI has to guess the user,
the problem, and the priorities.

Useful context

Who is using it and why
Evidence of the current problem
Rules and constraints to preserve
What success looks like

Missing or misleading inputs can produce polished answers that solve the wrong problem.

An Example Prompt

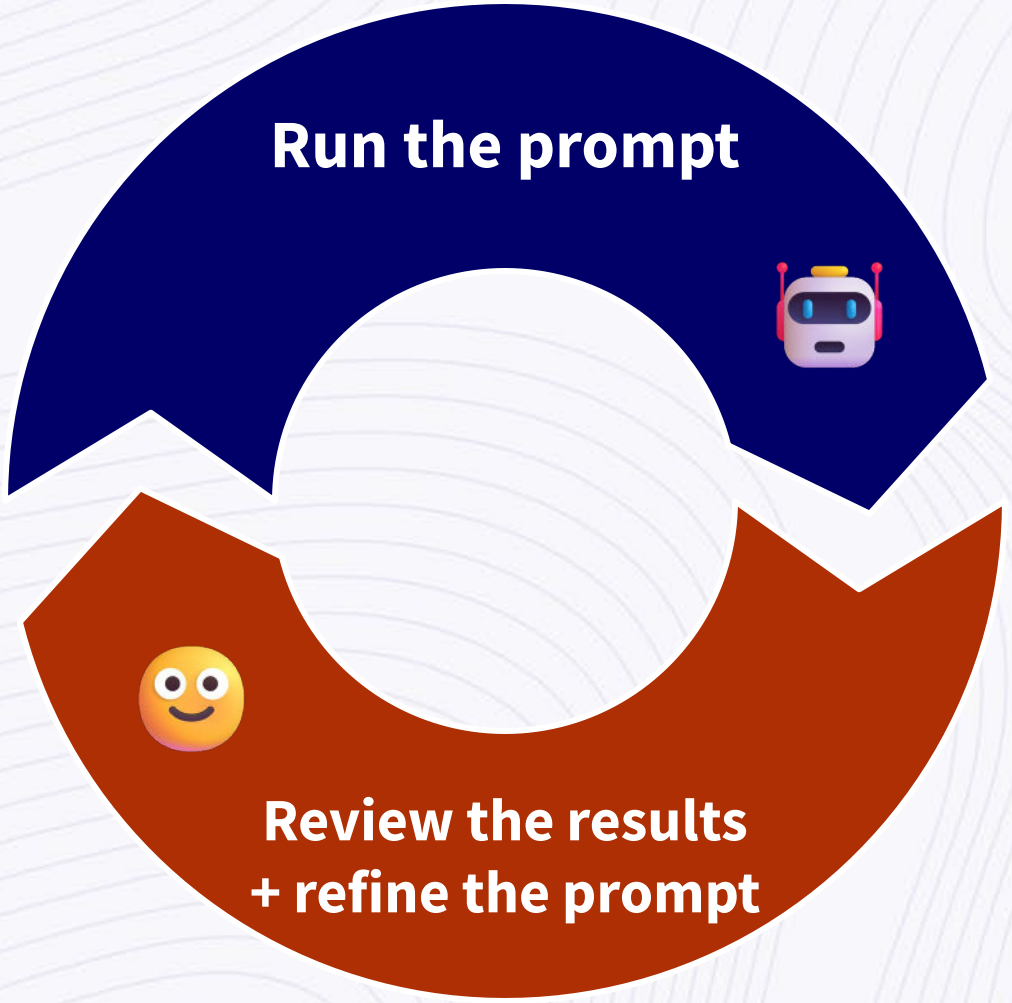
Help me redesign a service-request screen. Coordinators need to find overdue, unassigned requests and assign an available technician.

We suspect users reopen records to check the assignee. Treat this as a hypothesis to validate. Success means correct assignments without help, fewer unnecessary record opens, and no increase in errors.

Prototype one workflow using existing components and fictional local data. Preserve permissions, required fields, statuses, and assignment rules. Support keyboard use, visible focus, labeled controls, zoom, and narrow screens. Do not rely on color alone for status.

Flag any needed backend changes. List assumptions and ask about missing information before writing code. Do not invent research findings.

Iterate, Iterate, Iterate!



Getting the Most Out of Testing

“Assign the overdue scanner request to an available technician. Let me know when you believe it is complete.”

Observe	Where do they hesitate, backtrack, or ask for help?
Check	Did they choose the right request and technician?
Probe	What tells them the assignment saved? Can they recover from failure?

Record what happened before deciding what to change.

Feedback That Improves the Next Prompt

Vague feedback

“Make the assignment flow more intuitive.”

Example follow-up

“In our test, the coordinator reopened the request after saving to check the assignee.

Show the assignee and a clear saved confirmation in the list. Preserve the filters, selection, and permission rules.

Change only the confirmation behavior, then explain how to verify it.”

Observation + desired outcome + constraints + verification

Human Judgment Sets the Stopping Point

AI can assist	Generate alternatives, draft prototypes, suggest checks, and summarize feedback.
People decide	Which problem matters, whether the evidence is enough, and which tradeoffs are acceptable.
Ready to proceed	Success criteria are met, important failures are addressed, and remaining risks have owners.

A convincing explanation is not evidence that the design works.

Tips and Tricks: Comparing Designs with AI

Give AI the same task, evidence, and criteria for every design.

Make the comparison fair	Use the same records, rules, and level of prototype detail.
Ask for a structured critique	Compare task clarity, effort, feedback, recovery, and access.
Separate evidence from guesses	Request specific examples, unknowns, and checks for people to perform.

AI can help organize the comparison. People test and choose.

Tips and Tricks: Mind Your Corners

A useful shortcut saves effort while preserving what you need to learn.

Where cutting corners helps

For a small implementation, combine brainstorming and prototyping.

Build a focused version, try it, and refine the idea as you go.

Where cutting corners costs

Vague goals invite the wrong solution.

Skipped checks hide broken behavior.

No saved version makes recovery harder.

Save time, effort, and money/tokens where you can.