Muda - or the 7 Deadly Wastes

In the manufacturing world it is referred to the 7 wastes, or the Japanese term Muda. How does this apply to software development.

THE 7 WASTES OR MUDA ARE:

- Transportation
- Inventory
- Motion
- Waiting
- Over-Processing
- Over-Production
- Defects

These all apply to software development in similar ways as they apply to a manufacturing facility.

For instance:

- Transportation refers to moving things, which in software development may refer to electronically moving things through the process.
- Inventory – The backlog of bugs, feature requests or other work.
- Motion – Moving people, for instance in person meetings or walking to a different office for things that could be done over the phone, over Skype, IM, or other modern technology.
- Waiting – Developers distracted by waiting for information, waiting for a build, waiting for test, etc.
- Over Processing – depends a lot on the environment.
- Over Production – doing more than what is asked for or needed.
- Defects of Muda translates to Bugs in software.

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