Source: https://twitter.com/TrungTPhan/status/1425476793327259651?s=20

Elon: It's a 5-step process.

First, make your requirements less dumb. Your requirements are definitely dumb. It does not matter who gave them to you. It's particularly dangerous if a smart person gave you the requirements because you might not question them enough.

Int: Yea, you might take it as like gospel. Like, "I have to do this thing."

Elon: Yes. Everyone's wrong, no matter who you are, everyone's wrong some of the time. Also, whatever requirement or constraint you have it must come with a name, not a department. Because you can't ask the department, you have to ask a person. And that person who's pulling for the requirement or constraint must agree that they must take responsibility for that requirement. Otherwise, you can have a requirement that basically an intern two years ago randomly came up with, off the cuff, and they're not even at the company anymore.

Int: Right**.**

Elon: So, make your requirements less dumb, then try very hard to delete the part or process. This is actually very important. If you're not occasionally adding things back in, you are not deleting enough.

Int: Right.

Elon: The bias tends to be very strongly towards lest's add this part of the process in case we need it, but you can basically make "in case" arguments for so many things.

And then only in the third step is "Simplify or optimize". The third step, not the first step. The reason it's at the third step is because it's very common, as possibly the most common error of a smart engineer is to optimize a thing that should not exist.

Int: Right, right.

Elon: And then finally, you get to step four which is "Accelerate cycle time". You're moving too slowly, go faster. But don't go faster until you work on the other three things first.

If you're digging, you know, your grave, don't dig it faster. Stop digging your grave, you know. But you don't always make things go faster.

And then, the final step is “Automate”. Now, I have personally made the mistake of going backwards on all five steps multiple times. So I have to repeat this - yes, multiple times.