

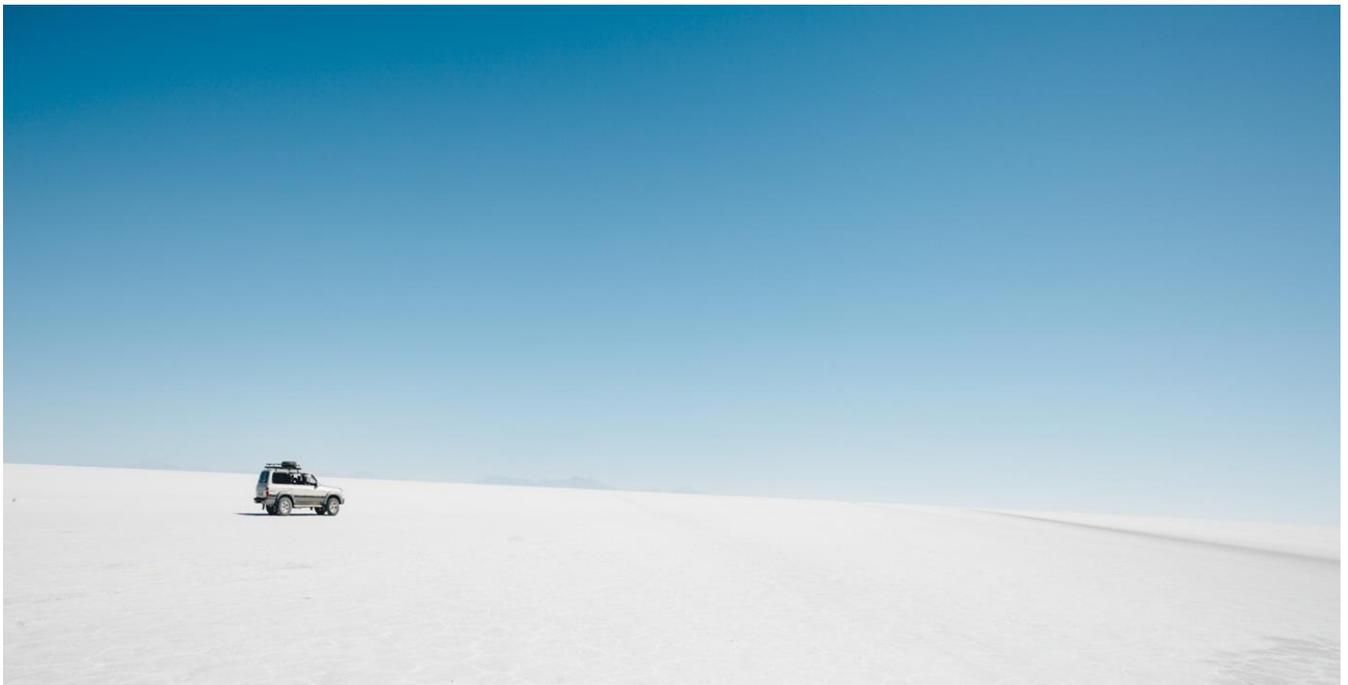
## Mapping exercise

### **I think it is time to consider an imaginary trip.**

If I told you to drive from where you are to the Great Salt Flats, and there would be a reward for you there, and you had no map or directions, and you could not use GPS or a computer, could you get there?

I would think you probably could. Though, the trip would be a lot slower and may have some wrong turns. It may take you a week or more for something that should only take a few days. There would be extra gas burned, and excess wear and tear on the car, and the people in the car.

When you get to the Salt Flats, you may find that you are 40 miles from a gas station. Also, there are no restaurants or hotels, freshwater or other places to fulfill your needs. You may have packed differently, or driven routes, or even took more provisions if you would've had a map and some facts about where you were going.



If you have decided what you want to do professionally, as a career, or the industry you want to work in, now is the time to start laying out the path of how you are going to get there. This is the rough overview. At this point, it is almost like saying, "I worked in the Air Force, and now I plan to be a process improvement developer." It is just a bare-bones, yet it is a start. Think of your goal and milestones as to the stopovers and destination on the road of life.

Milestones are important. We do not climb a staircase by jumping from one landing to the next. And, we do not get to go from start immediately to where we want to end up. If it is worth doing, you should do it well. Here is what a map of getting to the Salt Flats and back, from a planning perspective might look like.

