

PE 17

PRACTITIONER EXPERIENCE

Experience an Embedded Practice in real work.



Problem-Solving &
Critical Thinking



PRACTICE: The Second Option

Generate one credible alternative before you commit — and make your first idea earn its place.

THE HOOK

The first workable answer has an advantage: it arrived first. One credible alternative is often enough to reveal whether you found the best path — or simply stopped searching.

DEFAULT

BEHAVIOR SPECTRUM

EMBEDDED

01

SIGNAL

When does this matter?

Any time you have a solution in mind and are ready to recommend it, commit to it, or start building it.

You're about to tell your manager you'll fix the reporting bug by rewriting the query from scratch.

02

REDIRECT

What do I do?

Generate one credible second option — a different path to the same problem. Name the condition where it would win. Then choose.

You realize patching the existing query is faster and lower-risk than a rewrite — you pick that instead.

03

SHIFT

How will I know it's working?

You'll know it's working when your first idea starts changing more often — because comparison reveals what you couldn't see alone.

Your first instinct shifts after weighing the second option, more weeks than not.

04

EMBEDDED

How do I know it worked?

You stop confusing the first plausible answer with the best one. You always have an answer for "what else did you consider?"

Your director says, "You always know why you didn't go the other way."



REPEAT UNTIL EMBEDDED

BEFORE (Old Pattern)

- You commit to the first workable answer.
- You never find out if it was the best one.

AFTER (Embedded)

- You generate one credible alternative and compare.
- Your first idea earns its place, or loses to a better one.

THE GOAL

Make your first idea earn its place before you commit to it.