

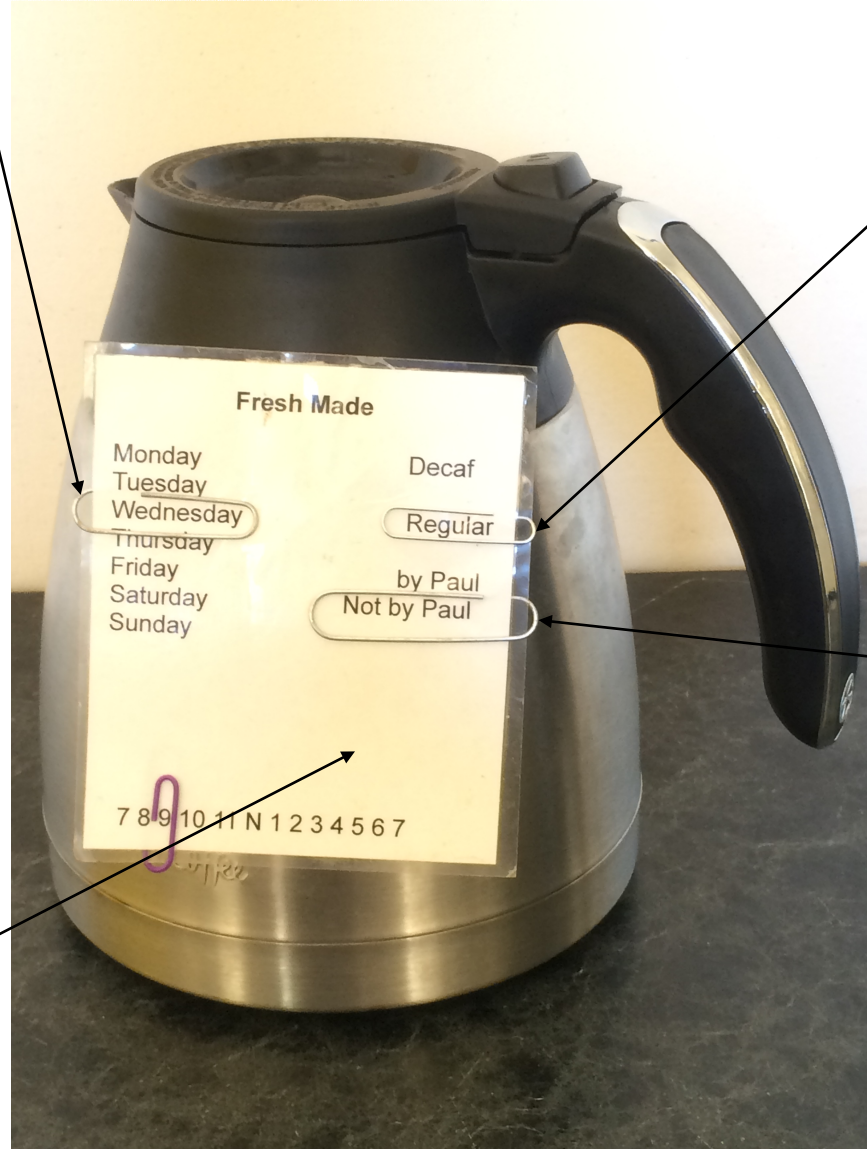
ANNOTATION

Problem:

Users cannot smell or feel the coffee well enough to know if it is fresh or warm. The lid and insulation along with the inattention of the users wasted time and undermined the credibility of the host... challenge accepted!

Paperclips slide to indicate answers to essential questions rather than counting on a note writer to remember or neatly document this trivial set of facts. Also, dry erase markers disappear while paperclips accumulate (paperclips are seldom urgently needed.)

The Pot needs a very hot detergent soak weekly but an indication here for that was seen as insufficient, so there is a practice of removing the sign and replacing it with an ugly hand written "HOT AND SOAPY!" sign to insure notice.



This upper right corner was blank in early iterations. An early concession led to adding the Decaf vs Regular option. Someone suggested finding an orange paperclip for this but genuine confusion could result from moving the orange to surround the "regular,"

by Paul vs Not By Paul is a meaningful distinction. Paul makes coffee in a consistent way so users could know how they'd like to amend (or thin) it.

An early version did anticipate the use of dry erase markers, which lead to the lamination. That provided great protection against coffee so the evolutionary pressures preserved that trait, long after the pens had disappeared (as they all do.)

Using materials found in the staffroom and regimenting a trivial aspect of the workplace life was an exercise in creatively unburdening ourselves from having to repeatedly think out and discuss unimportant things in an environment where there is plenty of more meaningful material to cover and precious little time to do so. It was also a great object lesson in quality, care, creativity and a bit of self parody, within the bounds of the ordinary.