Code Review Practices

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AMOS F01

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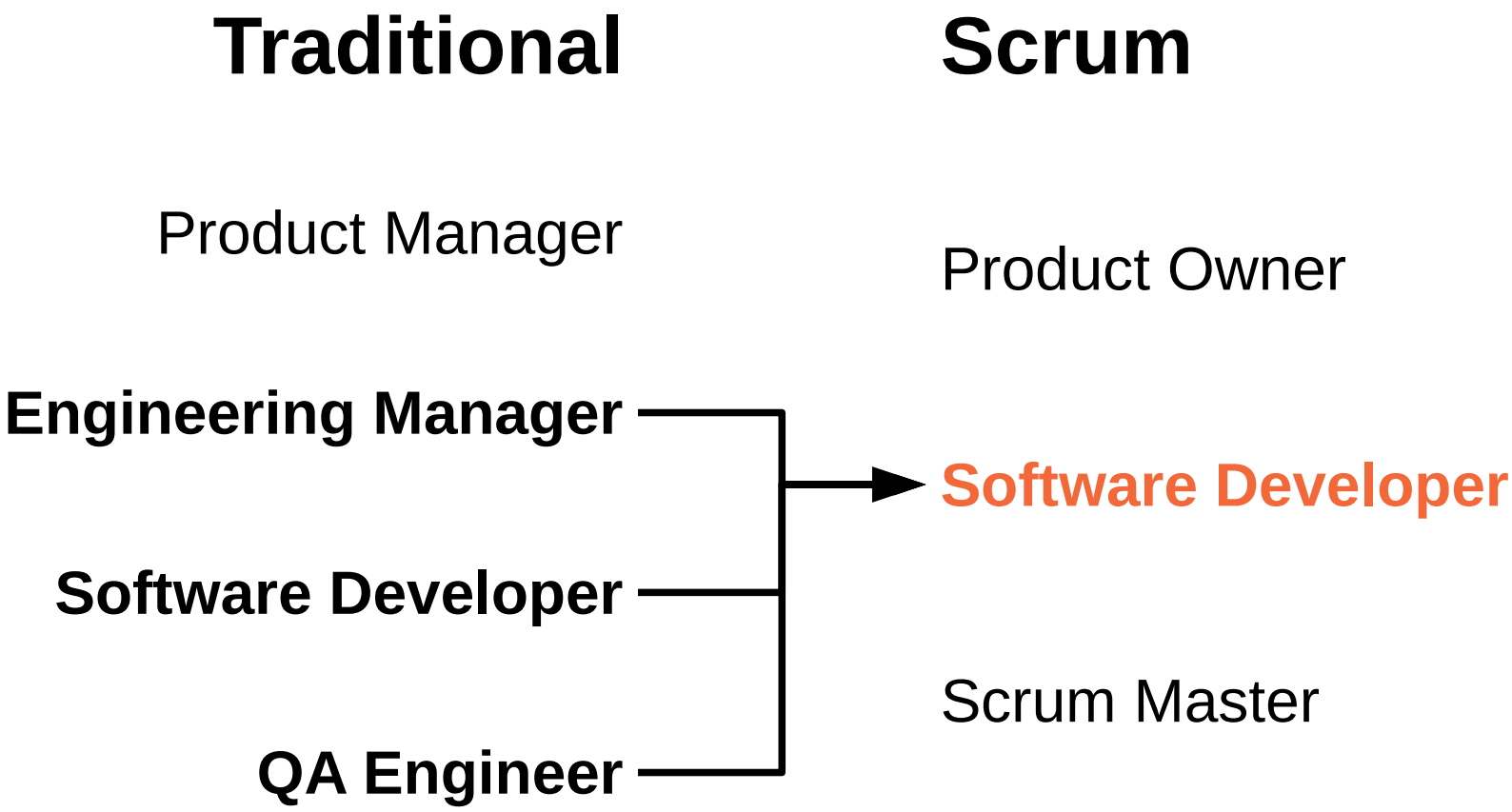
Traditional to Scrum Role Mapping (Recap)



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Code Review

- Definition and purpose
  - “Code review is systematic examination […] of computer source code.
    - It is intended to find and fix mistakes overlooked in the initial development phase,
      - improving both the overall quality of software
      - and the developers’ skills.
  - Reviews are done in various forms such as
    - pair programming,
    - informal walkthroughs, and
    - formal inspections.” [1]

[1] Adapted from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Code_review [DR]

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When to Review Code?

1. In the moment
2. Before commit
3. At another time
4. Before release

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Pair Programming

- Definition
  - Is programming carried out by pairs of programmers
  - One programmer implements, and the other programmer reviews
  - Effectiveness is debated; empirical studies show conflicting evidence
- Purpose
  - Quality assurance
  - Collaborative learning
  - Knowledge sharing
- Synonyms
  - Programmer and reviewer
  - Driver and co-driver
  - Pilot and navigator

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Agile Code Review Practices

1. **Pair programming**
2. **Pre-commit code review**

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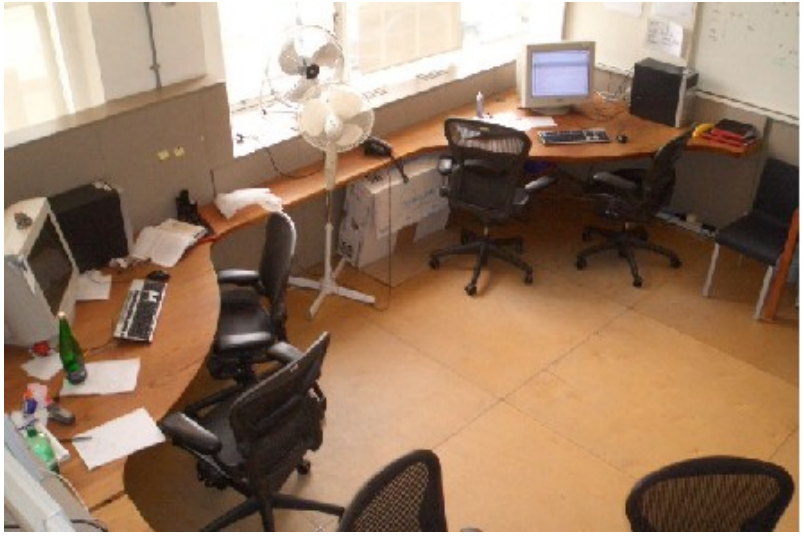
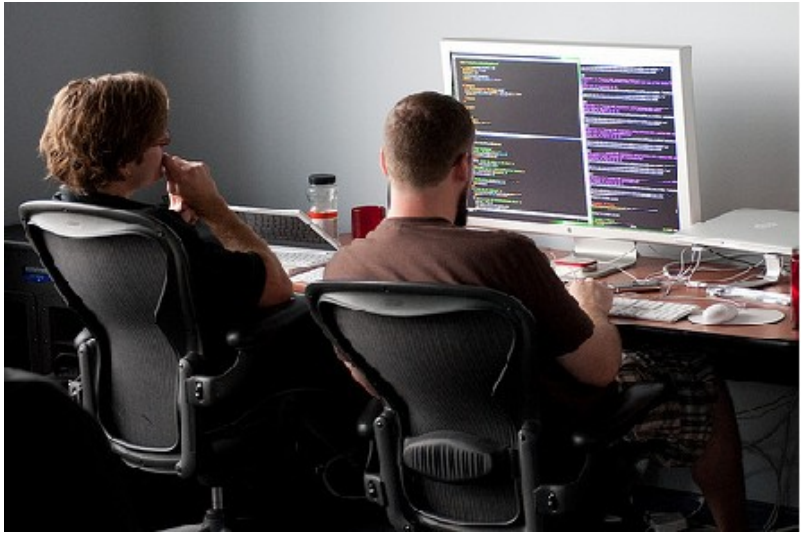
Pair Programming (Practices)

- **Process**
  - Find comfortable partner
  - Switch roles often
  - Communicate regularly



- **Advice**
  - Don’t force it for small stuff
  - Don’t overheat, take a break
  - Switch partners at times



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Dilbert on Pair Programming 1 / 2

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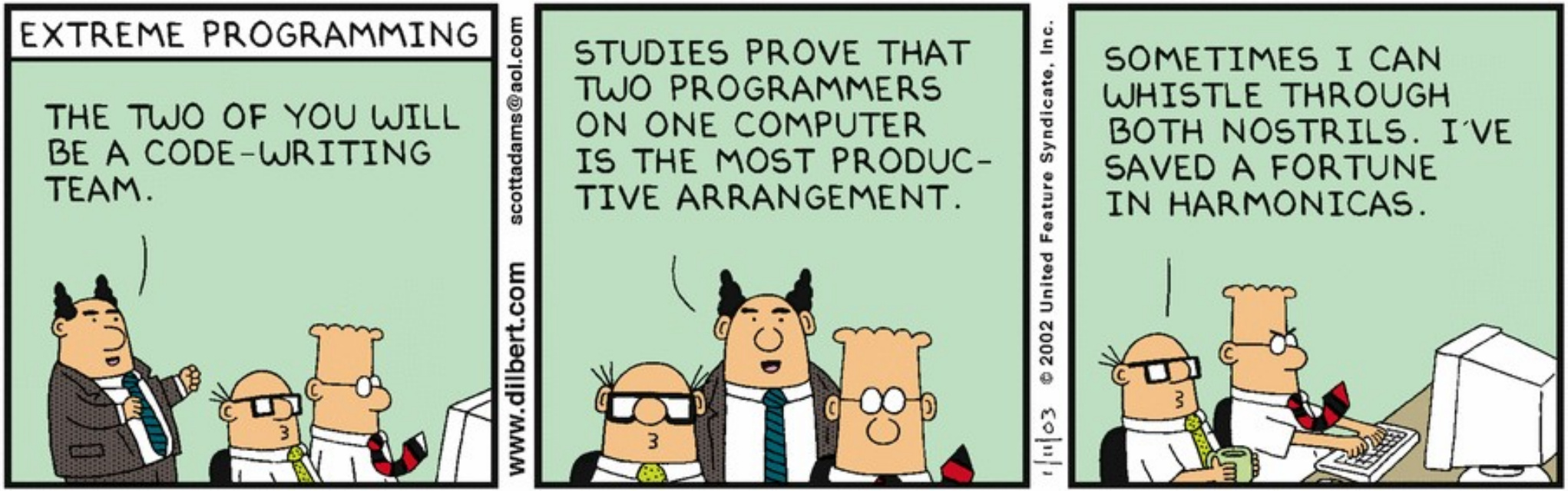
Dilbert on Pair Programming 2 / 2



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Pre-Commit Code Review

- Code review
  - Is the (peer) review of source code for quality criteria
  - Reviewer has accept or reject responsibility
  - Cf. “Vier-Augen-Prinzip” (in German)
- Pre-commit code review
  - Is the review of source code before it gets committed to a team repository
  - Typically facilitated by a software tool, e.g. Gerrit
  - May lead to back and forth between developers until “LGTM”

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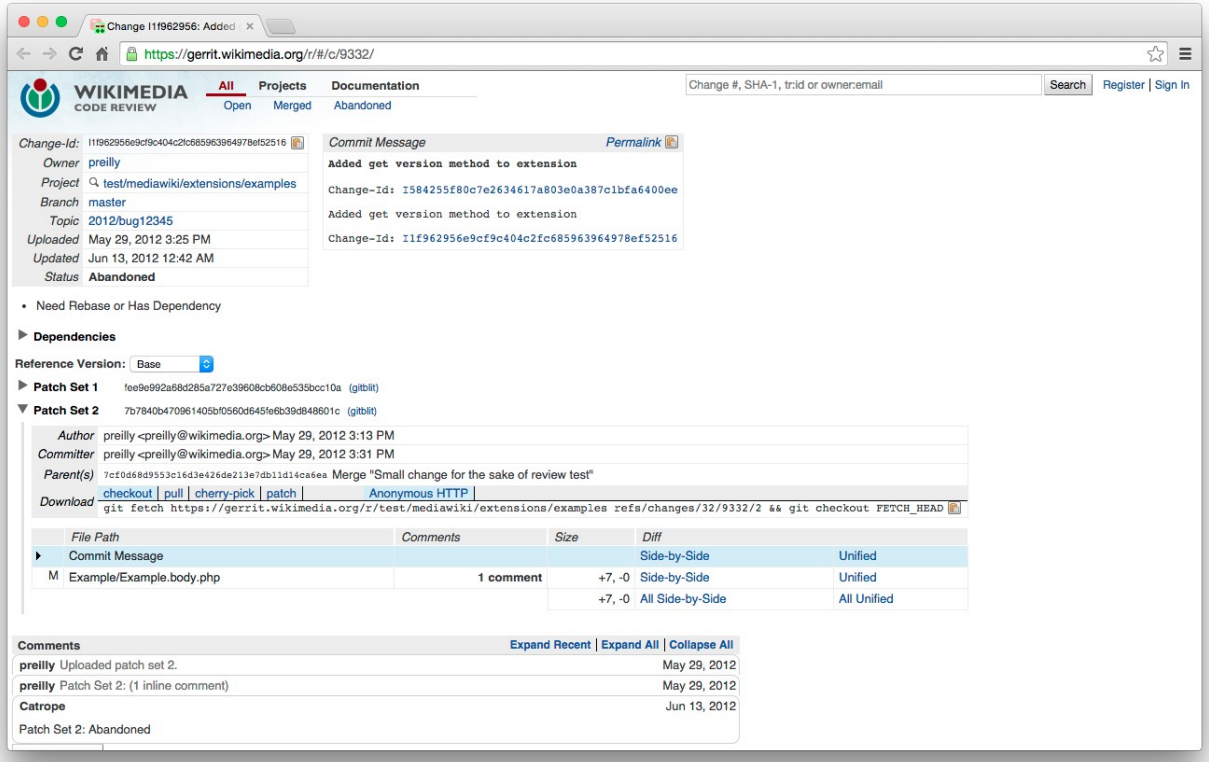
Example Code Review with Gerrit 1 / 3



[1] See https://www.mediawiki.org/wiki/Gerrit/Tutorial

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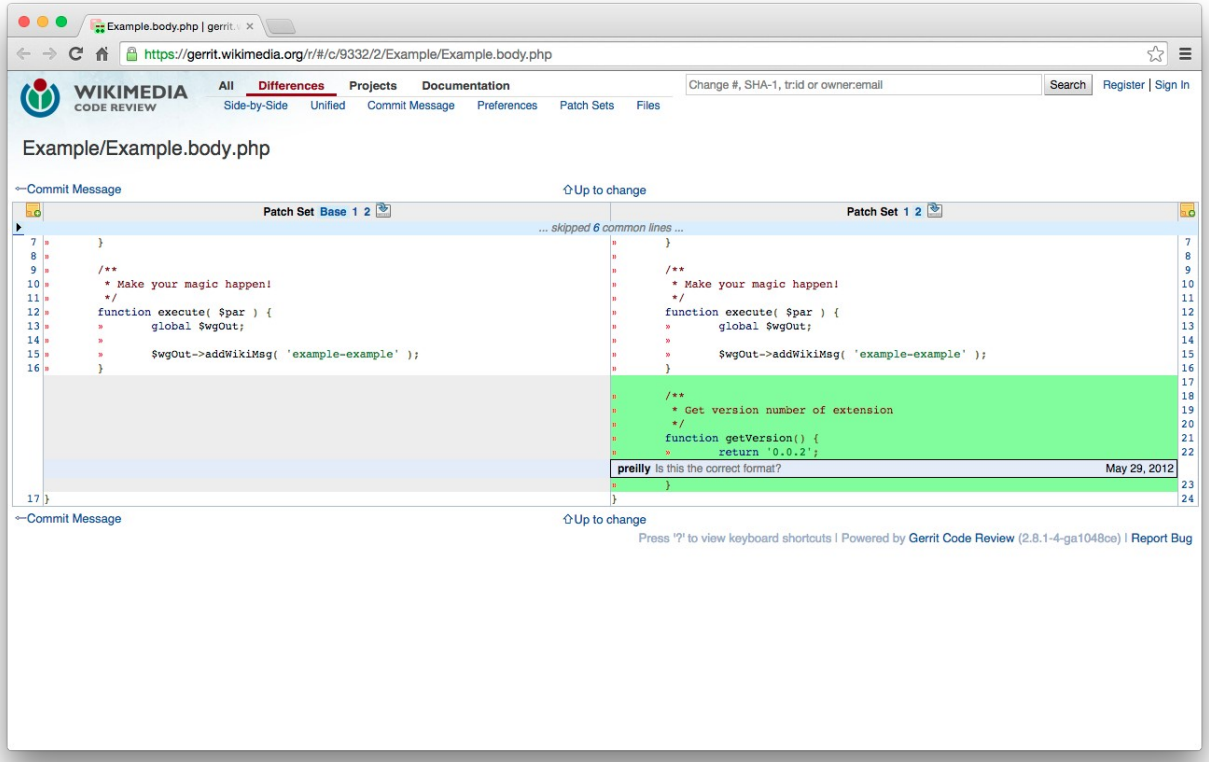
Example Code Review with Gerrit 2 / 3



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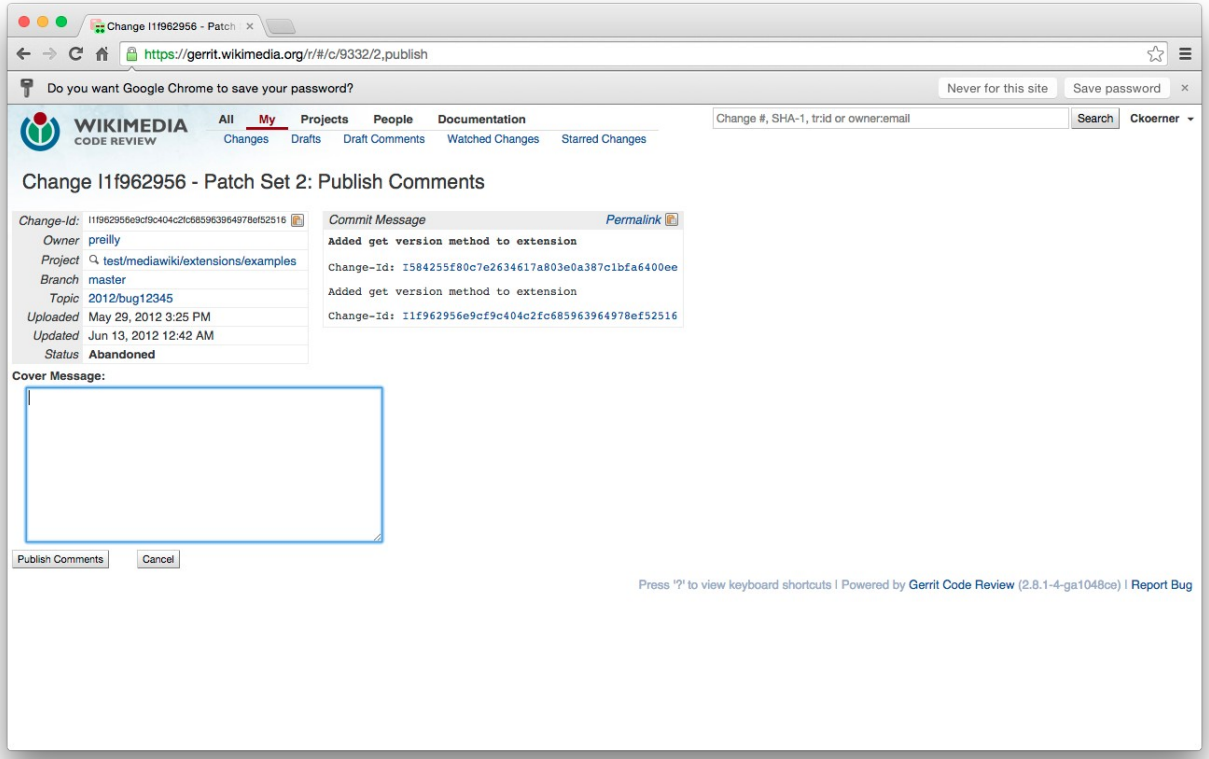
Example Code Review with Gerrit 3 / 3



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Benefits of Pre-commit Code Review

- Collaboration
  - Improves knowledge sharing and teamwork
  - Makes it easier to establish topics like security
- Quality assurance
  - Leads to more disciplined developers
  - Prevents (some) errors before they happen
  - Raises overall quality standards
- Feeling of responsibility
  - Specifically, supports collective code ownership
  - Strengthens overall feeling of responsibility

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Agile vs. Open Source Code Review

- **Agile methods**
  - Programming guidelines
    - Code reading >> writing
    - Make it easy to get acquainted
  - Collective code ownership
    - Feature-oriented development
    - Typically co-located development
    - Everyone has write access
  - Pair programming
    - Changes are reviewed directly
    - Everyone is a peer
- **Open source**
  - Programming guidelines
    - Code reading >> writing
    - Showing respect for project
  - Individual code ownership
    - Component-oriented development
    - Typically distributed development
    - Strictly regulated write access
  - Patch review
    - Changes are submitted for review
    - Two-class reviewing hierarchy

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Review / Summary of Session

- Code review practices
  - Pair programming
  - Pre-commit code review
- Agile vs. open source approach

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Thank you! Questions?

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