

A Pragmatic Philosophy for Pragmatic Programmers (SSEers)

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University
of Regina



FACULTY OF **ENGINEERING**
& APPLIED SCIENCE
Software Systems Engineering



Outline

- Personal character
- Stone soup and boiled frogs
- Knowledge portfolio
- Communicate!

About being pragmatic – A refresher (271)

- A commitment to quality
- An active agreement
- Accepting responsibility
- Honesty & integrity

Provide
options, not
excuses



Intelligence & humility

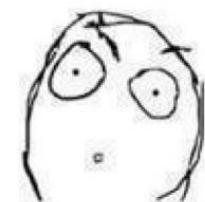
- The best programmers know they don't know it all
 - “Most programming is an attempt to compensate for the strictly limited size of our skulls” (Dijkstra, 1972)
- Continuously learn



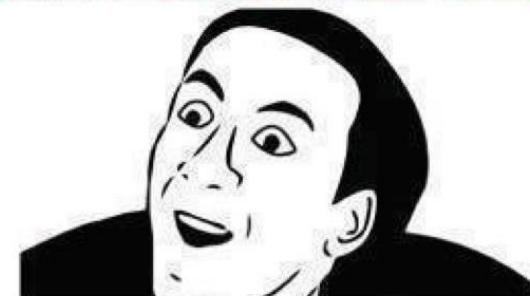
Intellectual honesty

- Refusing to pretend to be an expert
- Admitting mistakes
- Clearly understanding your program, not compiling it to see if it works
- Providing realistic goals, report-outs/updates, estimates
 - Holub on estimates: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QVBlnCTu9Ms>

Hey, can I be
honest with you?

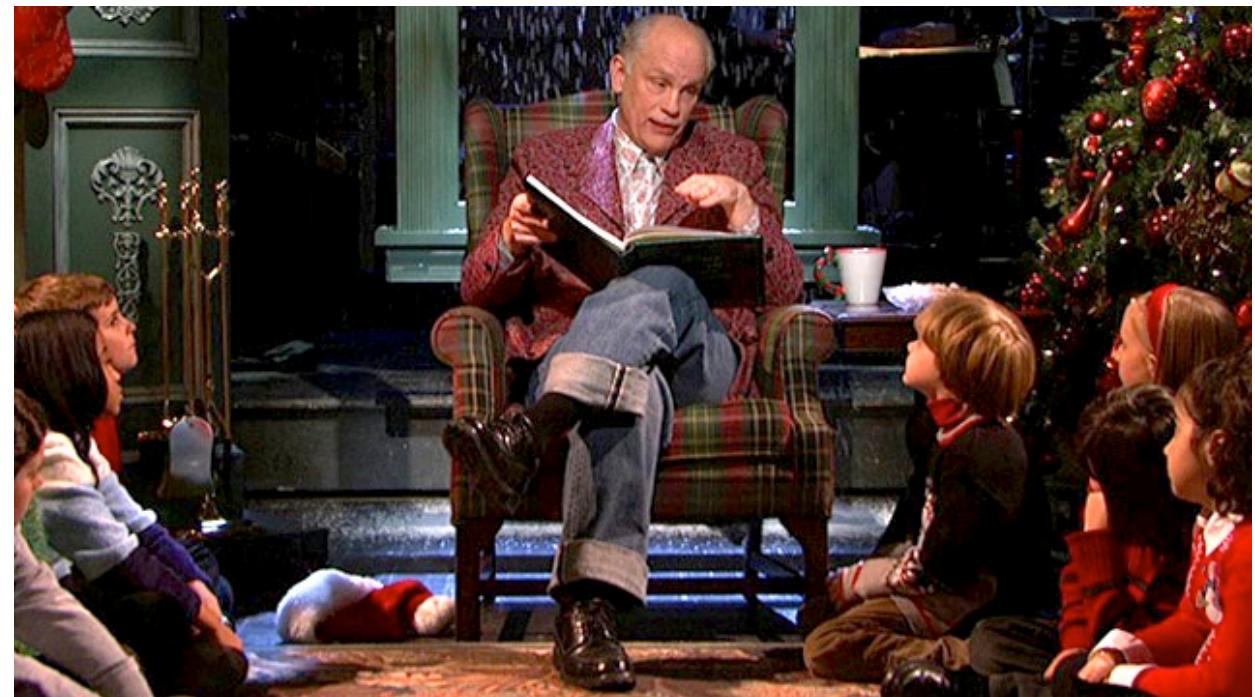


NO, PLEASE LIE TO ME!



Stone soup

- Story time with Tim!



Stone soup

- Story time with Tim!
- Morals of the story

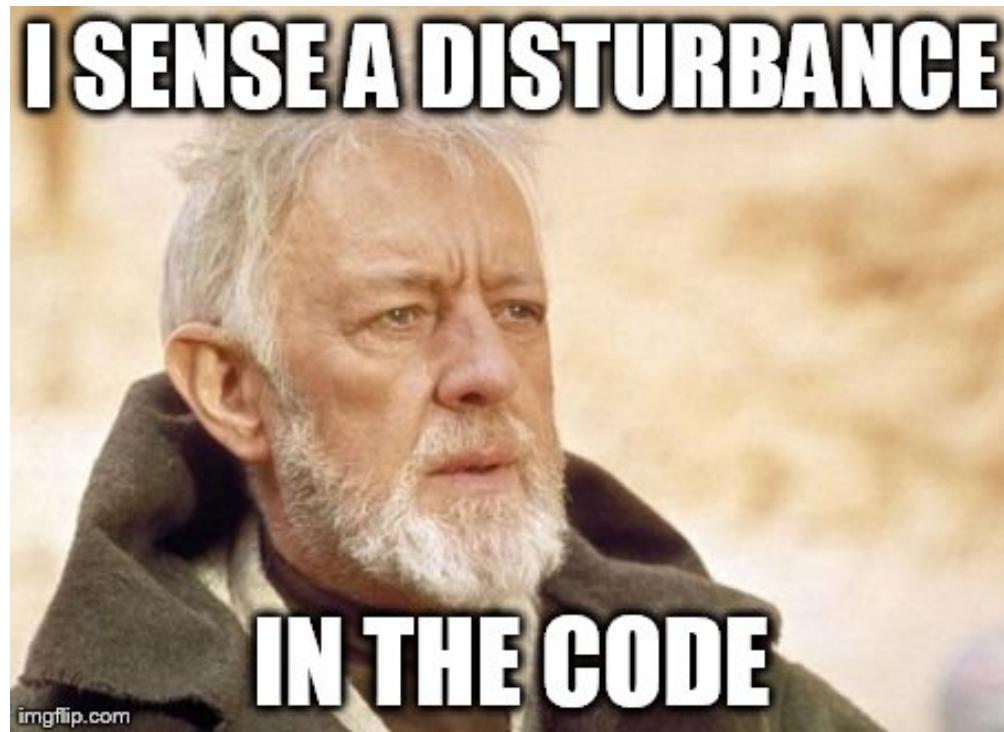


Stone soup

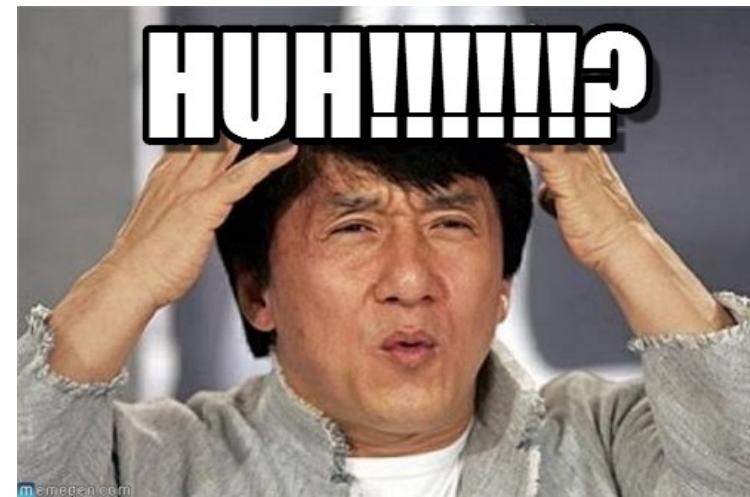
- Story time with Tim!
- Morals of the story
- Remember the big picture



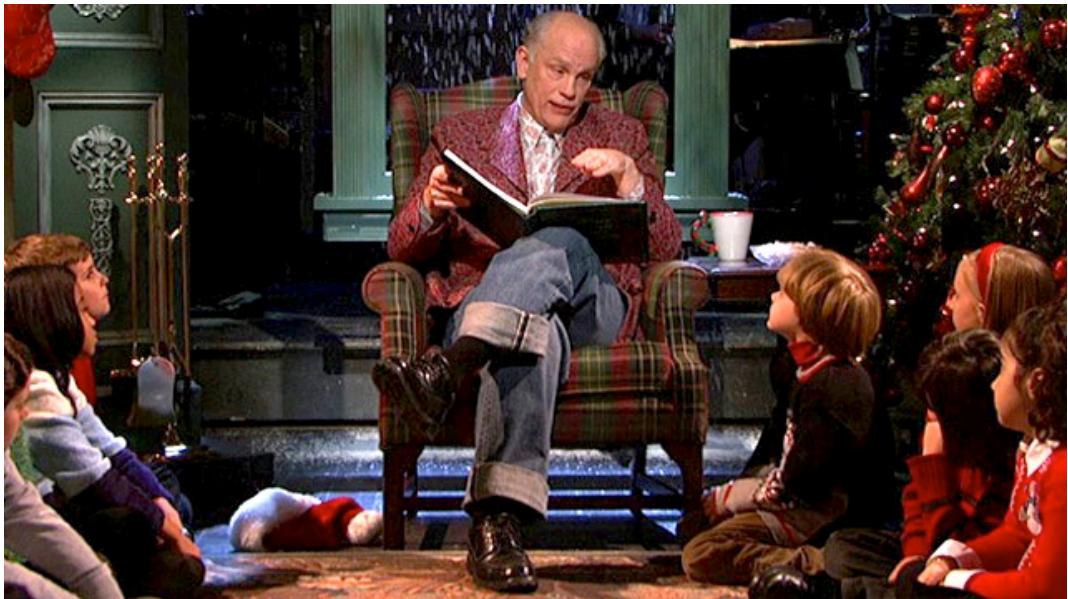
Beware of boiling frogs



- Entropy

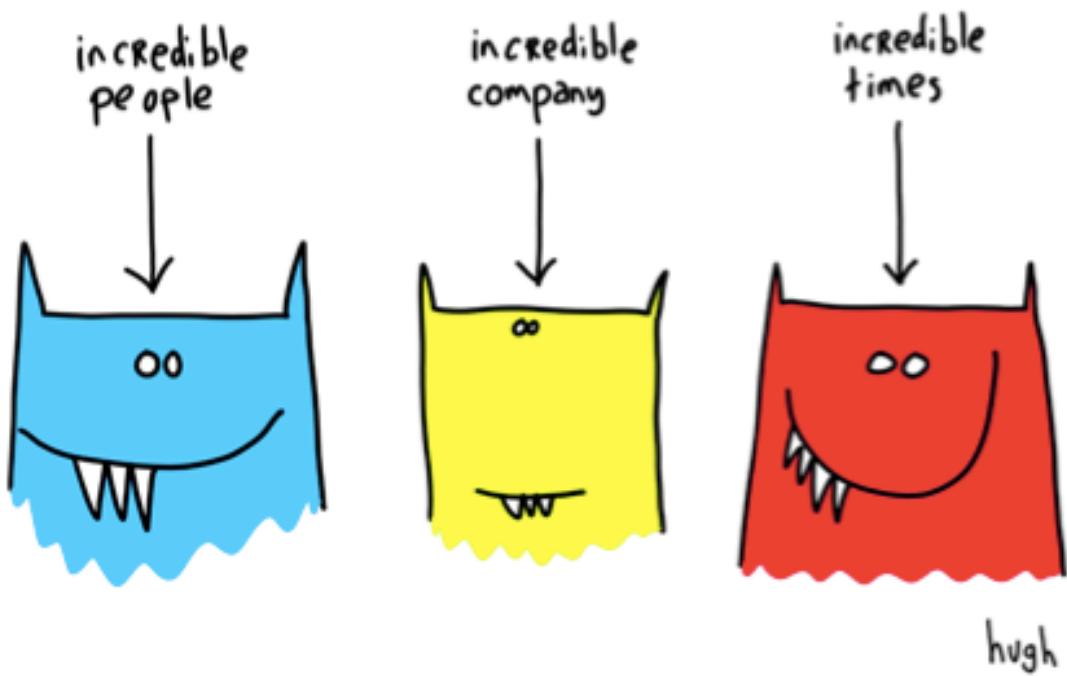


Beware of boiling frogs



- Entropy
- Boiling frogs

Beware of boiling frogs



- Entropy
- Boiling frogs
- So: Don't live with broken windows

People before bits and bytes (ah, 271!)

- False-consensus effect
 - <https://youtu.be/TewiUcN35Yo>
- Make quality, from the user's perspective, paramount



Developer watching videotape of usability test.

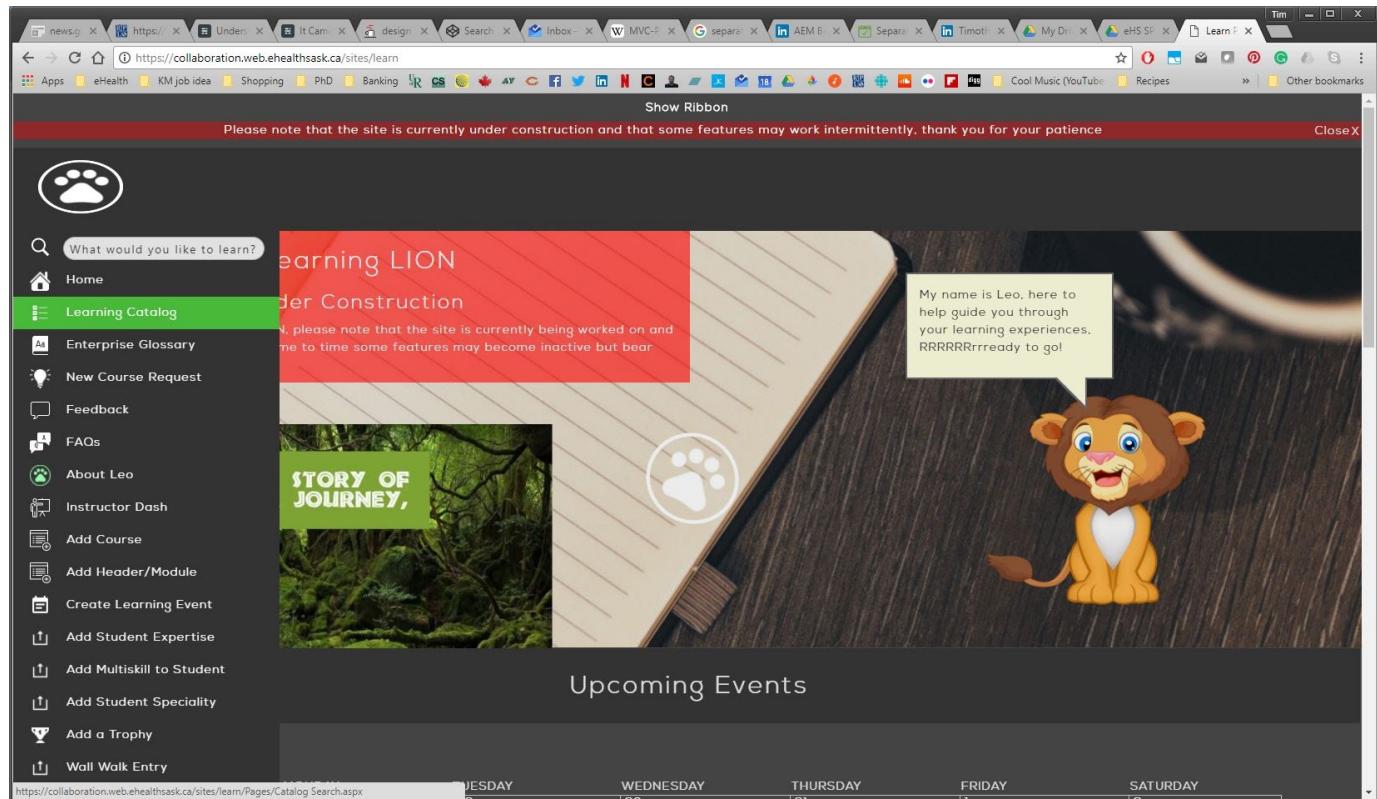
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- Make quality, from the user's perspective, paramount
- Know when to stop
 - My curse, re: my art
 - eHealth LMS
 - Inspired by [Pluralsight](#)



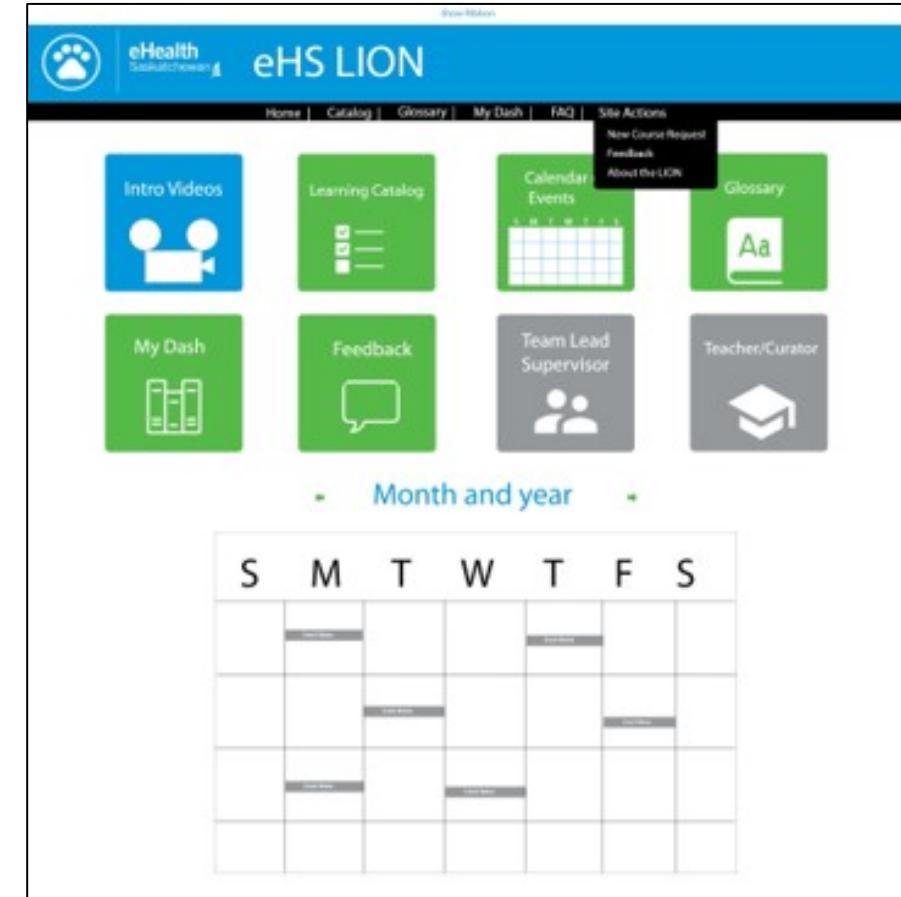
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Build your knowledge portfolio

- Your knowledge is an “expiring asset”
- Curiosity of spirit
- Build a stronger (broader) awareness of the design & dev process



Moar on *building* knowledge!

- Read



Moar on *building* knowledge!

- Read
- Analyze before acting



Moar on *building* knowledge!

- Read
- Analyze before acting
- Things to do
 - Learn a new language every year
 - Read a technical book each quarter
 - Just read (currently reading “The Guncle”)
 - Take classes
 - Participate in local user groups (IEEE, SharePoint, LOSURS – and not just technical ones!)
 - Experiment with different enviros (Linux, Mac, Win)
 - Stay current



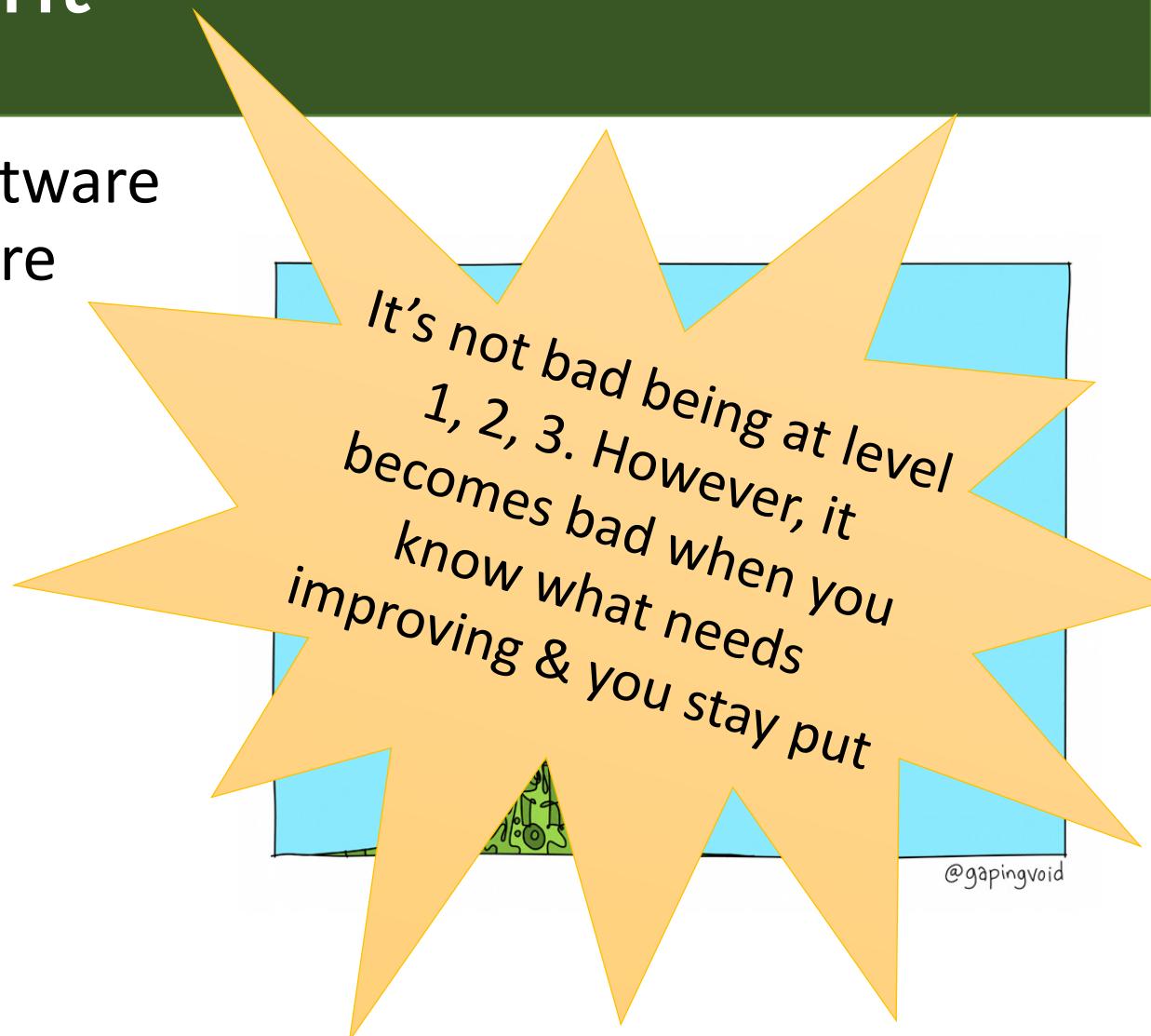
Professional development

- Making the commitment to be a software engineer /software designer/software programmer / *software gardener*
- Level 1: Beginning
- Level 2: Introductory
- Level 3: Competency
- Level 4: Leadership



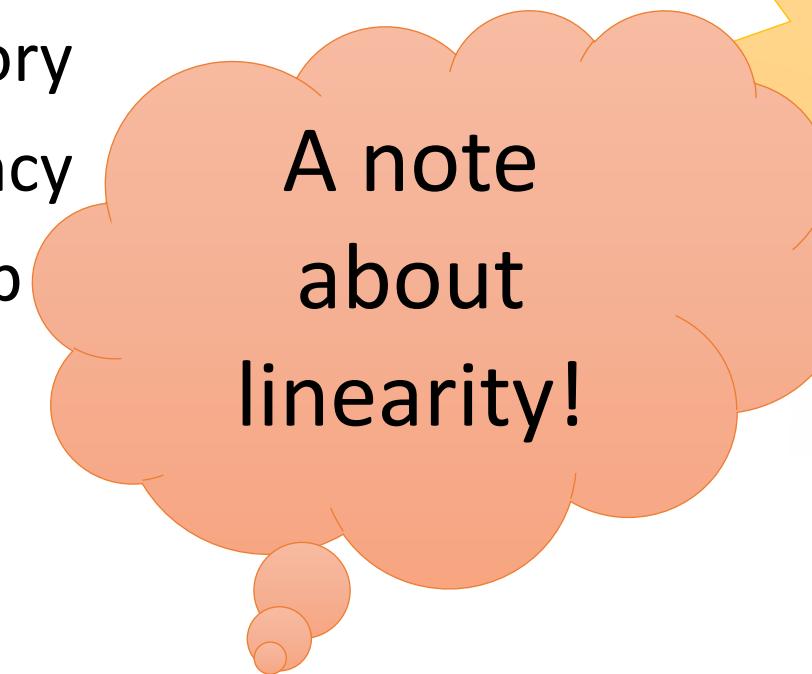
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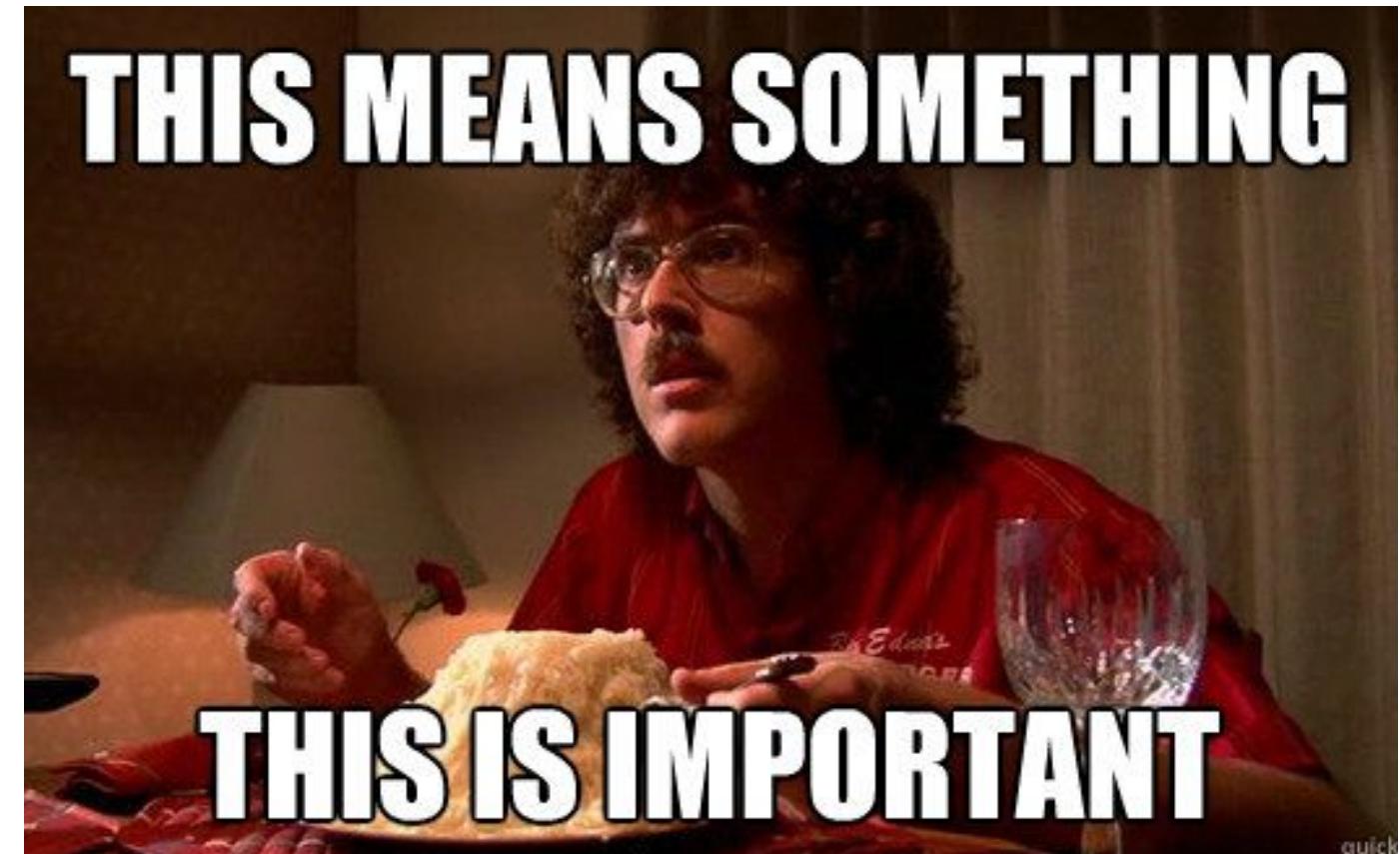
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It's not bad being at level 1, 2, 3. However, it becomes bad when you know what needs improving & you stay put

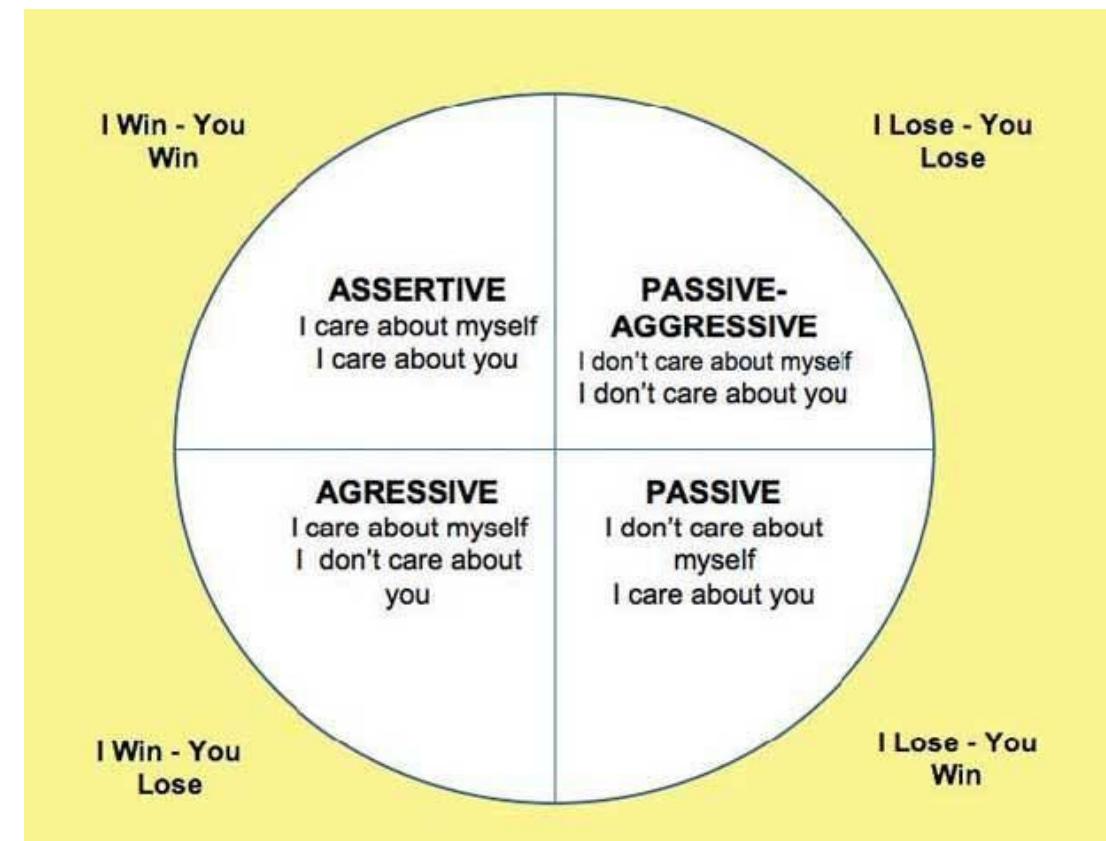
PPT it up! – No, not a PowerPoint file!!

- People
- Process
- Technology



Communication

- Know what you want to say
- Know your audience
- Choose your moment
- Choose a style
- Make it look good
- Involve your audience
- Be a listener
- Get back to folks



Communication

- Know what you want to say
- Know your audience
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*Software Engineering
is a social effort!*

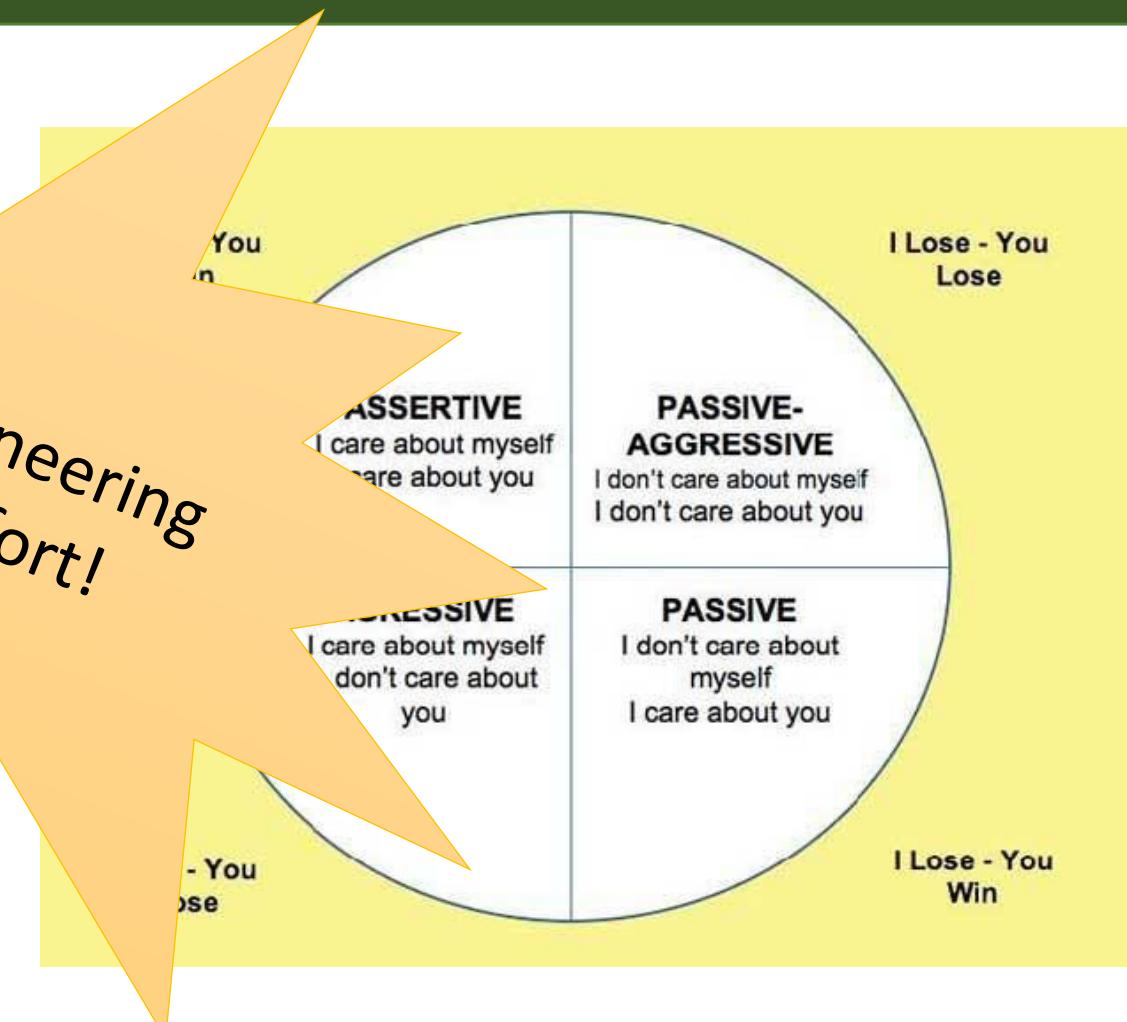


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