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Remember Vibe Coders? Yeah... They're Gone

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Adarsh Gupta

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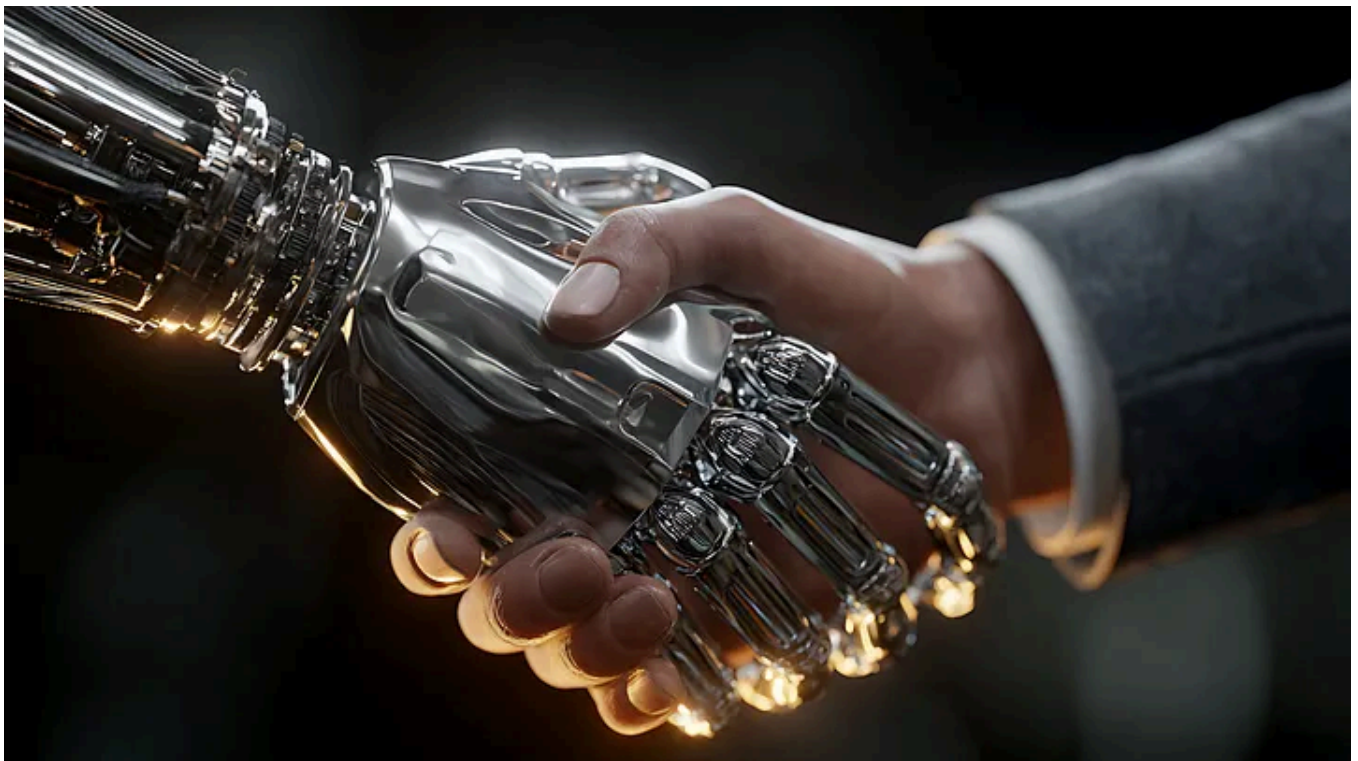


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Turns out it was the first AI bubble to burst



The deal is closed

This year was special for software developers, as this was the year they thought they would be out of jobs, or at least that's what influencers said.

Remember March? Just a few months ago, the entire internet was vibrating. I wrote a blog about the new kid in town: Vibe Coding.

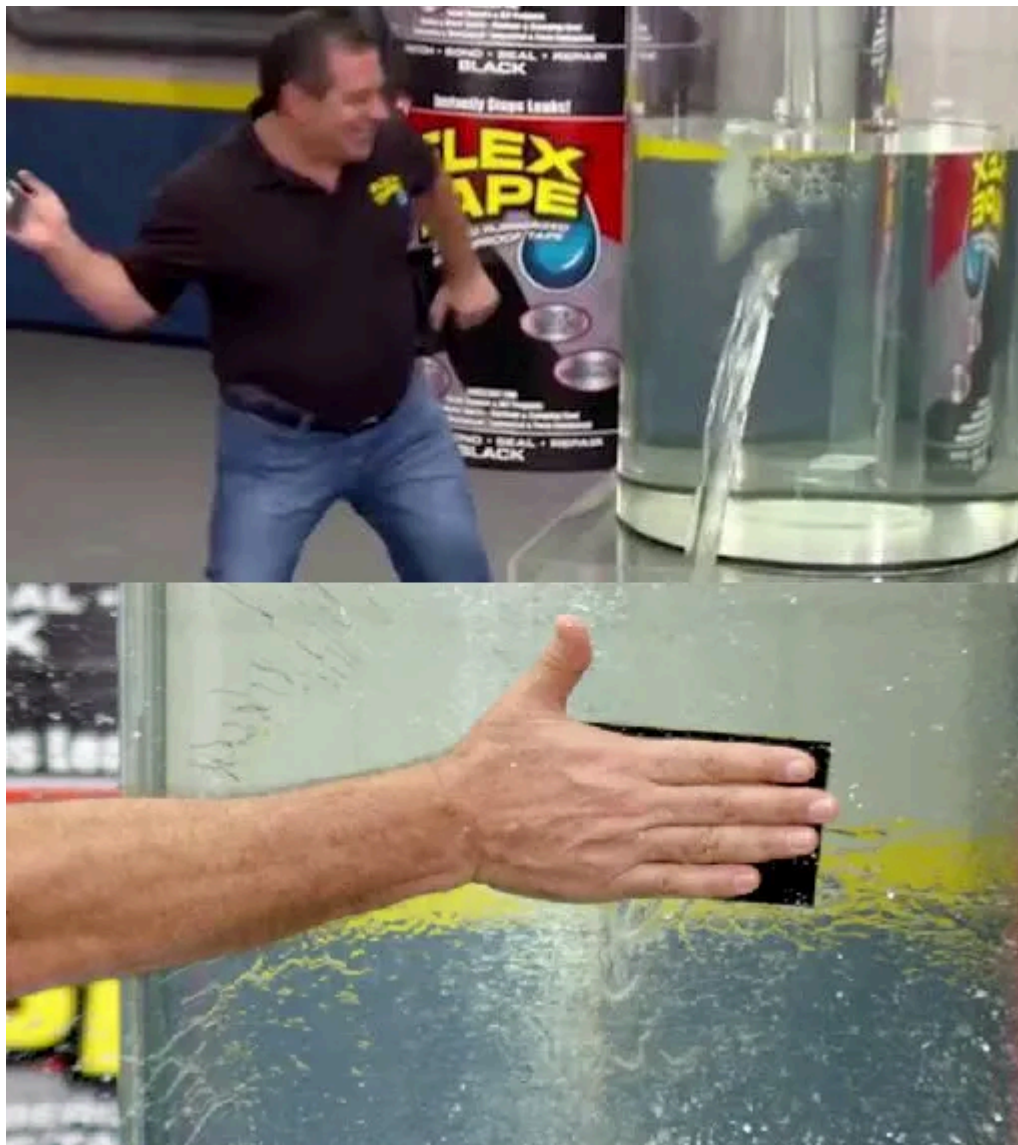
We all asked, or at least we all **thought**, “Are software engineers... long gone? 🧑”

The vibe was overwhelming.

You didn’t need to code... You just needed to *prompt*. You could build a Netflix clone before your coffee got cold. Life was good.

Well, welcome to the morning after that. The party’s over, the music’s stopped, and we’re all staring at the mess. The vibe-coding hype train has met the hard wall of reality.

And that duct-tape code I talked about? It’s starting to peel.



From Giphy

Since it's been a **significant** amount of time since vibe coding **has** been in existence (a whole 5 months), the results are here...

Result 1

Result 2

“Confidently Wrong” Scene

It turns out that shipping 100 “vibe apps” is easy. Even 1000 is easy

Maintaining *one, just one, of* them is a living nightmare.

The core problem wasn’t that the AI would make a silly mistake. The problem is that the AI is confidently wrong.

It generates code that looks perfect. It’s clean, it’s formatted, and it’s a complete and utter disaster. It even thinks that there is a library for something by hallucinating.

I always read these stories on Reddit. Most people are not complaining. They are sharing horror stories.

They were spending hours debugging AI-generated code that was “95% correct”, only to find the 5% flaw was a fundamental misunderstanding of the entire business problem.

We were all so excited about the *speed* that we forgot to ask about the *quality*. Or the *security*. Or the... well, *sense*.

We thought we were getting an autopilot. But the OGs are now telling us we just got a very, very fast junior intern, who will mess up big time.

“AI is about amplifying human potential, not replacing it.” — Satya Nadella, CEO of Microsoft

The whole point was that it's a *copilot*. A copilot doesn't fly the plane. It helps the pilot who *already knows how to fly*.

Kent Beck accurately summed up the entire situation:

AI assistants “**excel at inhaling (adding features) but struggle with exhaling (refactoring for simplicity).**”

We're just adding more and more complexity, and the AI is happily helping us build our own digital bonfires.

So now the problems that we have to face are:

- Textbook **SQL injection** vulnerabilities.
- **Hard-coded credentials** and API keys.
- **Missing input validation**, just waiting for an attack.
- Hallucinated dependencies.

These are the basic checks that humans would do.

When building software for scale, we have to think **about a lot**: where we're hosting, which DB we're using, and much more. We even have to **implement rate limiting** to reduce exploitation of our **services**. **The AI** won't catch these things until we **explicitly** say so.

It's not a 100X debugger. It's a 100X vulnerability-suggester.

The Market Correction is Here

So, what about those CEOs who were drafting layoff memos?

They're now quietly drafting "Senior Staff Engineer (AI Code-Review)" job reqs.

The panic is over, and the Correction is here. Companies are realizing that the "kid who vibes 3x faster" is also the kid who just pushed 10 critical vulnerabilities to production.

By "**companies**" I don't mean **corporates**; they still have a huge entry barrier like Leetcode (at least people know what they know). I mean startups that ship products like crazy.

While CEOs were dreaming of firing their entire dev team, **the reality** is that half of all developers don't even use AI to "think." They just use AI for **autocomplete and suggestions**, which were already there in VS Code **extensions**.

The *real* engineers know the truth. The AI isn't a replacement for a senior dev. It's a tool that makes a senior dev *even more necessary*.

You don't need a "prompt engineer." You need an *architect* who can look at 1,000 lines of AI-generated nonsense and ask the one question that matters: "...but *why?*"

More than 50% of tech jobs are **maintenance jobs**, not writing systems from **scratch**.

The future isn't "vibe coding." The future is *validated* coding. The vibe is just a suggestion. You're still the one who has to sign off on the PR.

Thanks for reading this blog.

See you at the top!

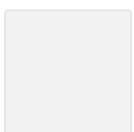
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Responses (78)



Bgerby

What are your thoughts?



Krzysztof Rekas

4 days ago



I've been in software engineering for over 10 years, and at my company we have access to tools like GitHub Copilot and a few other AI assistants. From my perspective, AI agents are just that — tools. You need to know how to use them. They're great... [more](#)



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David Barrineau

4 days ago



I, for one, am kinda glad it's imploding mainly because of the CEOs and whatnot that think they can fire everyone and then get hit in the face with reality. Don't get me wrong, I see nothing wrong with using AI to assist but as you pointed out so... [more](#)

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Red_Eddy

5 days ago



AI is also great for brainstorming... you get an MVP and now you can learn to build it from the bottom-up approach.

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 1 reply

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