Decision-Making for Maximizing Agreeability

Chelsea Troy

"Generally, it is better to optimize our code for legibility than for speed."

Context: The descriptors that characterize our specific situation.

When we are unaware of the **context** we're in, we can accidentally mistake our *specific* case with an imaginary *general* case.

"Generally, it is better to optimize our code for legibility than for speed."

"Generally, composition is preferable to inheritance."

What does generally mean?

“In most cases.”

But *which* cases?

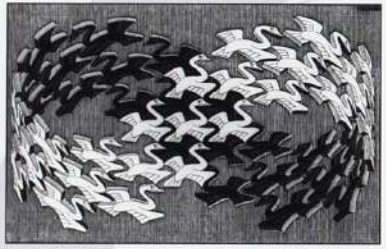
The Point:

You (and I) swim in a sea of context.

Design Patterns

Elements of Reusable Object-Oriented Software

Erich Gamma
Richard Helm
Ralph Johnson
John Vlissides



Foreword by Grady Booch

ADDISON-WESLEY PROFESSIONAL COMPUTING SERIES

Pitfalls:

1. Assumed Context
2. Flattened Metrics

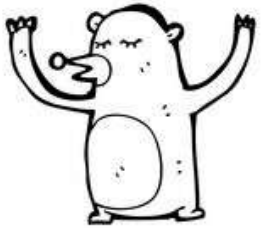
maximizers

exhaustively seek the best

compare decisions with others

expend more time and energy

unhappier with outcomes



satisficers

accept good enough

don't obsess over other options

can move on after deciding

happier with outcomes

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1. Modeling decisions in software can be deceptively complicated

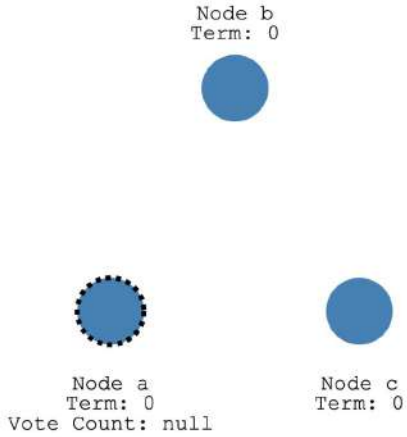
2. *Making* decisions while executing complex software in teams can be…also complicated

Which perspectives matter the most in decision-making?

One Default: Singular Executive Decision

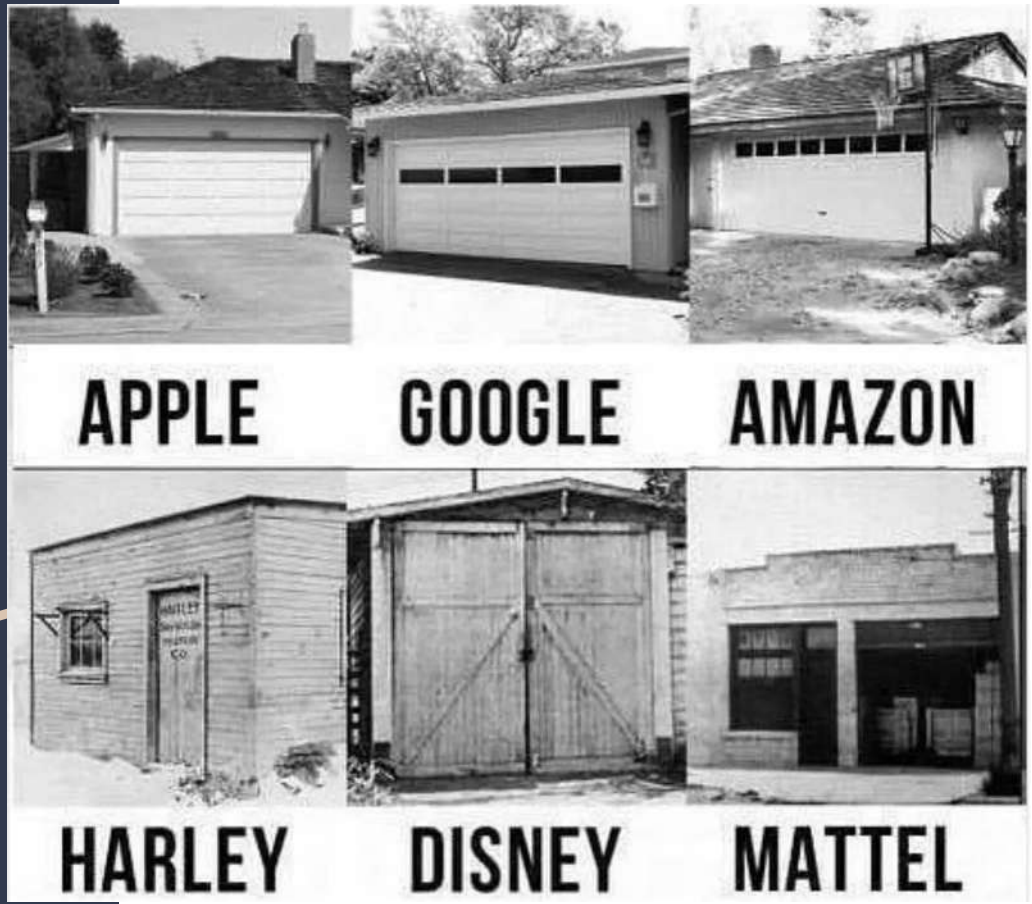
Office example

Algorithmic example



If followers don't hear from a leader then they can become a candidate.

Collective tech industry example



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Which perspectives matter the most in decision-making?

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- When stakes are low

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- When literally any decision beats no decision

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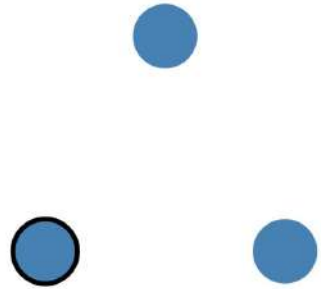
2. At the limit (one decider to production), it assumes that *only one* perspective matters

Other Default: Majority Rule

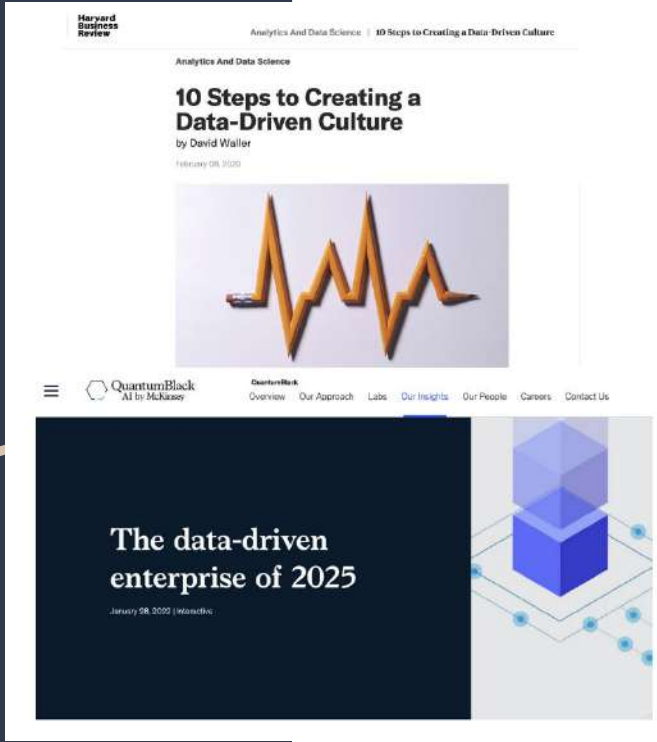
Office Example

Algorithmic Example: The Voting Classifier



The candidate becomes the leader if it gets votes from a majority of nodes.

Collective Tech Industry Example



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- When two candidates
- When both of the options would be *acceptable* to the entirety of the voting populace.

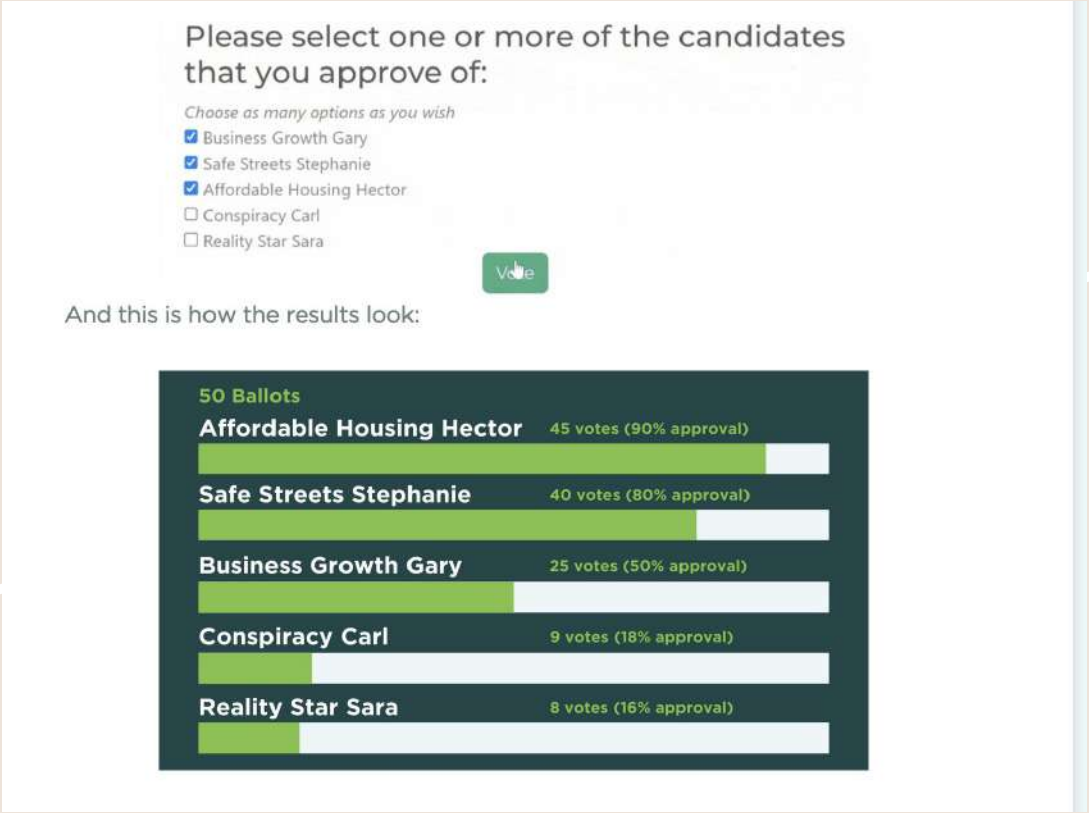
Threats to Agreeability

Tyranny of the majority

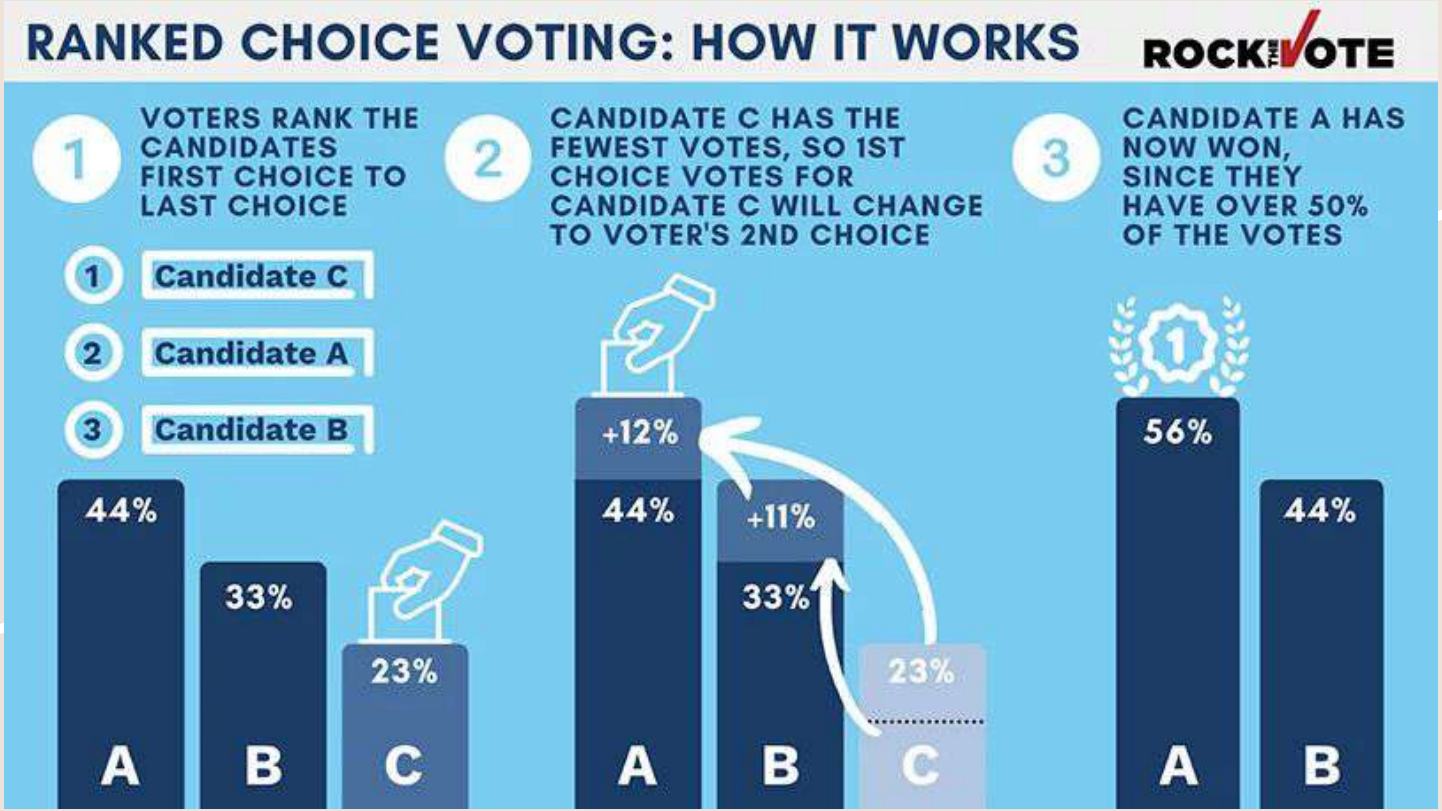
What are our other options?

Consensus?

Approval Voting?



Ranked Choice Voting?



Independently Ranked Choice Voting?

	Voter 1 (9 votes)	Voter 2 (9 votes)	Total
Candidate 1	8	4	(winner) 12
Candidate 2	1	5	6

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One Last Collective Tech Industry Example

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FingerWorks founders John Elias and Wayne Westerman pose with the original product. PC Engadget, January 2007.

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4. Approval voting among acceptable candidates
5. Executive decision by one or a few people on the final decision

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Thank you!

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chelseatroy.thinkific.com/collections