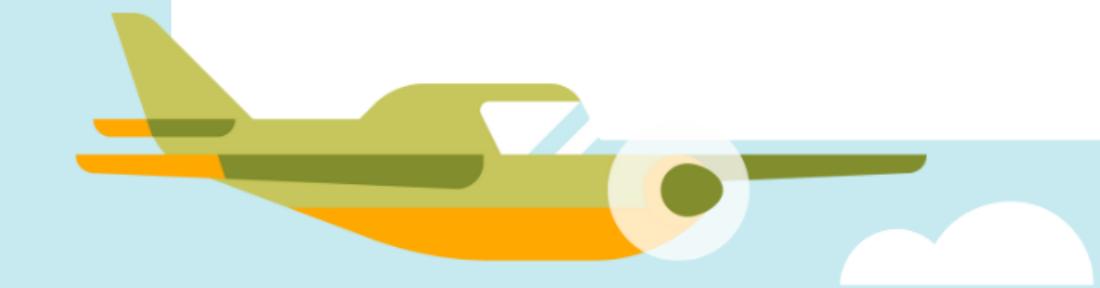




Using Your Existing Skills, Knowledge And Experience To “Make It” In The Tech World.



Liz Hardy

SETTING EXPECTATIONS

AUDIENCE?

- New To Tech?
- Transferring Into Tech?
- In Tech Yet Not Progressing/Fulfilled?
- Keen To Help Others?

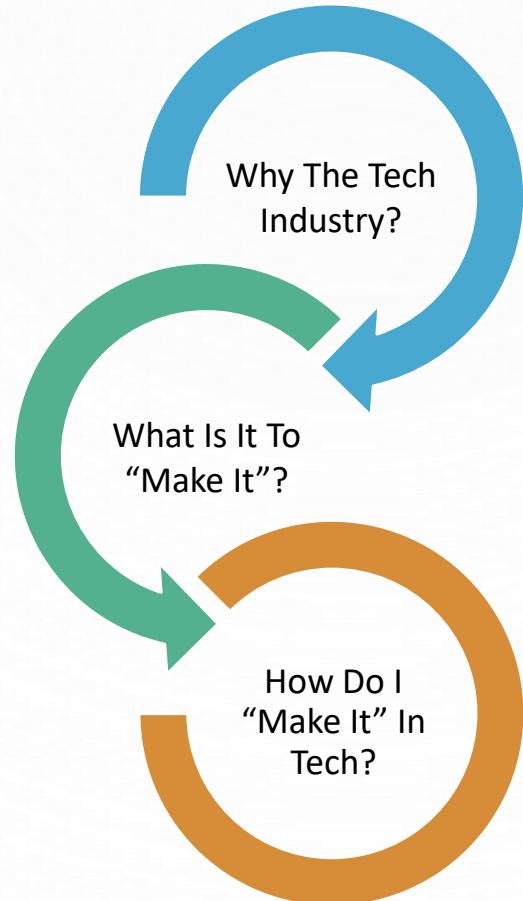
In Scope?

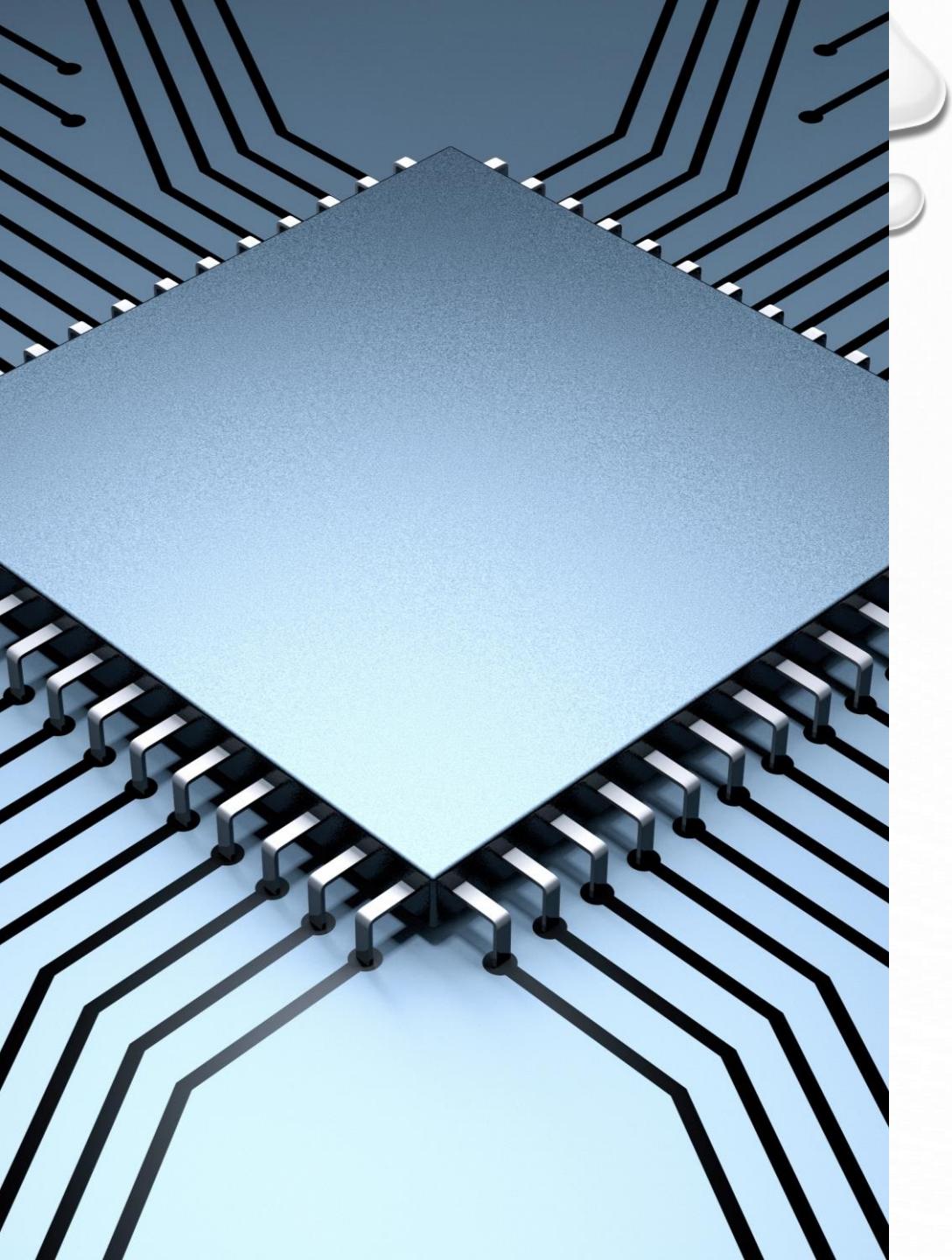
- My Journey In Tech – What Can This Teach Others?
- What Skills Were Useful In My Journey?
- Examples

Out Of Scope?

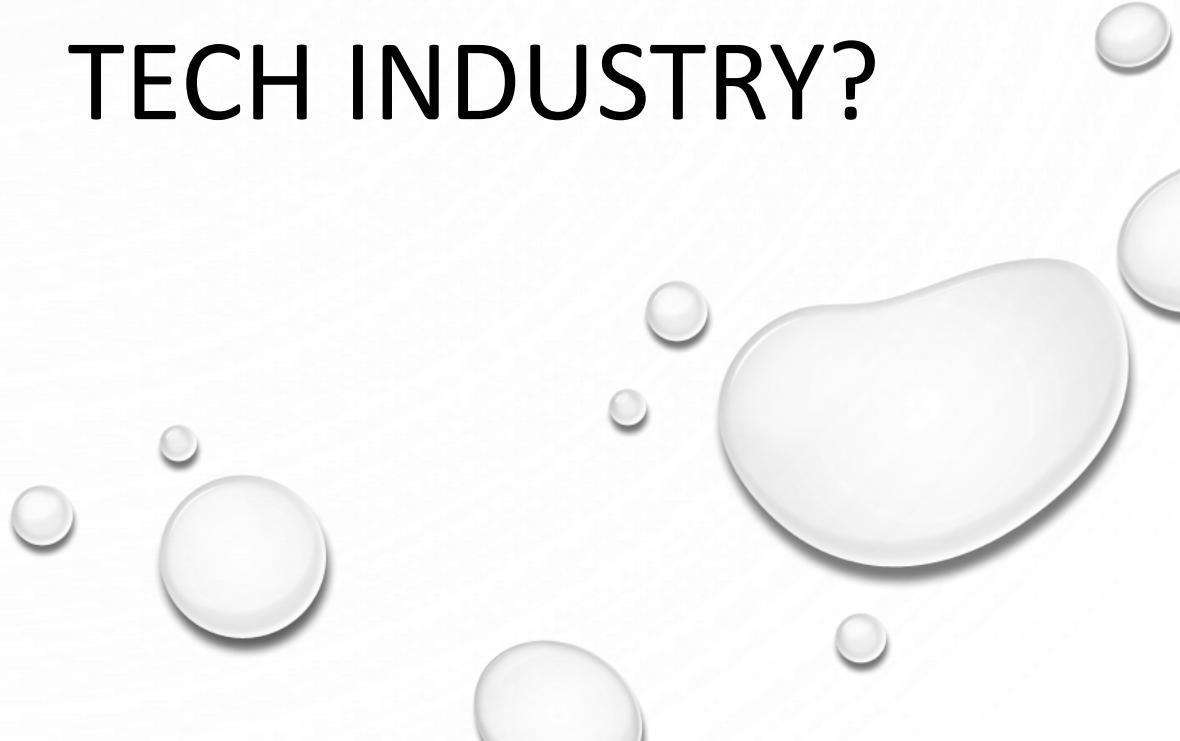
- Can't Cover Everything - Mostly High Level
- No Silver Bullet

INITIAL THOUGHTS





WHY THE
TECH INDUSTRY?



BIO

LIZ HARDY

(She/Her)

Data Platform Engineer - Data Masterminds

Over 10 Years Working In The Tech Industry

Previous Roles Included:

- Data Analyst
- Database Administrator (DBA)
- DBA Team Lead
- Data Platform Engineer



Contact Me:



ABOUT ME



© Mikey Bronowski

Netball



© World Netball



Gigs



Pottery



Cats



DEFINING WHAT
IS IT TO
“MAKE IT”?

DEFINING “MAKING IT” IN TECH



DEFINED BY YOU



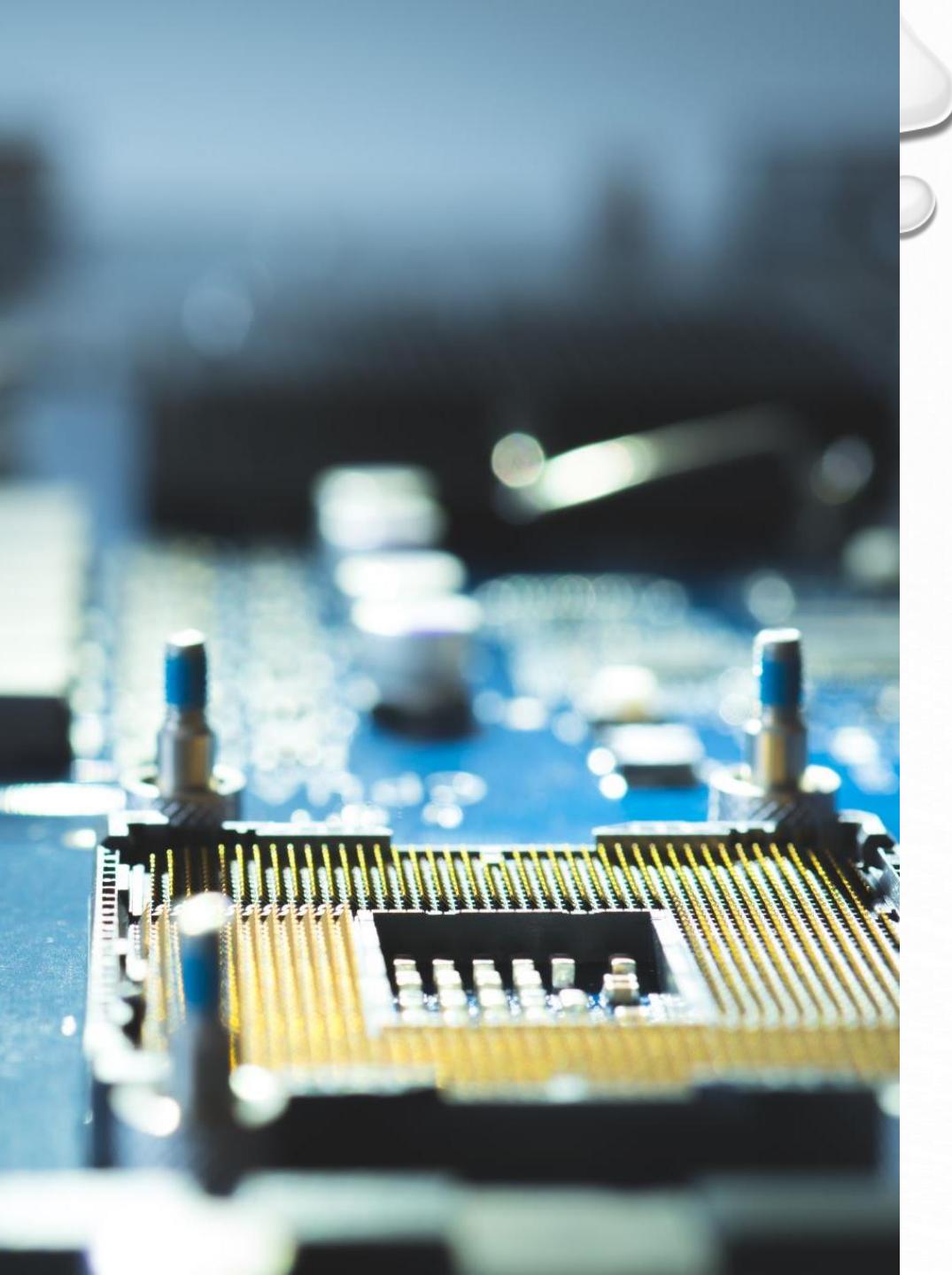
YOUR GOALS



WHEN WILL YOU BE
HAPPY?



WHAT WILL BE YOUR
LONG-TERM
ACHIEVEMENTS?



HOW DO I
“MAKE IT” IN TECH?

**“TECHNICAL SKILLS ARE
THE MOST IMPORTANT SKILLS
TO SUCCEED IN TECH”**

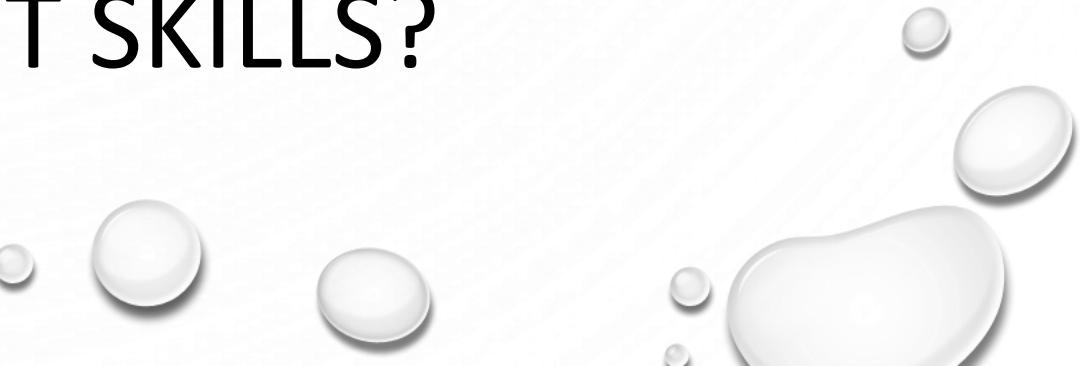
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

**IN MY OPINION,
THESE CAN ALWAYS
BE LEARNED**





WHAT ABOUT SOFT SKILLS?





ALSO KNOWN AS:

“POWER SKILLS”

WHICH SOFT SKILLS ARE IMPORTANT?



Ready To Learn



Communication/People Skills



Adaptability



Problem Solving



Mentoring



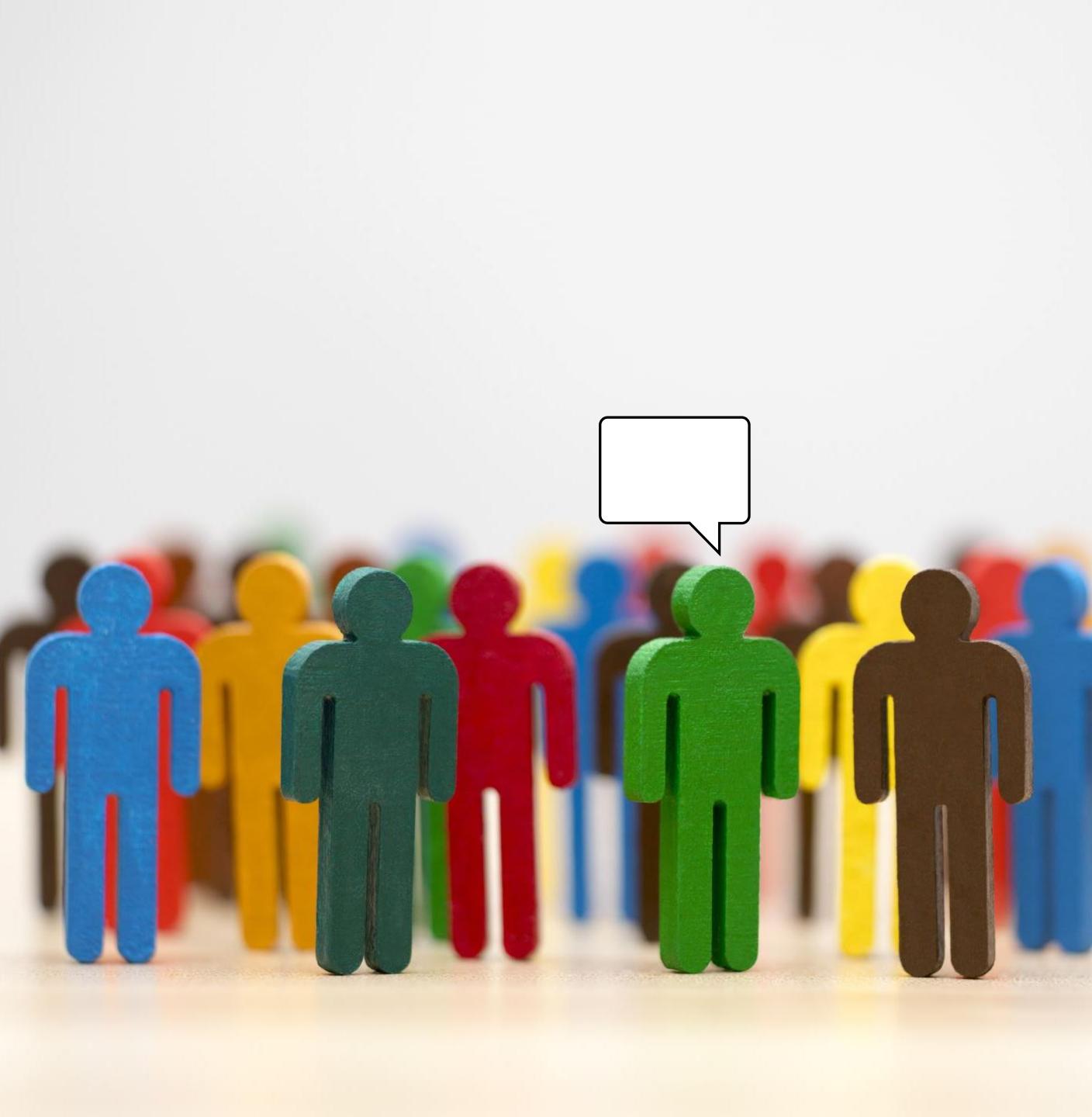
READY TO LEARN



REAL LIFE EXAMPLE

READY TO LEARN





COMMUNICATION & PEOPLE SKILLS

Speaking / Listening / Presenting

Communicate At All Levels

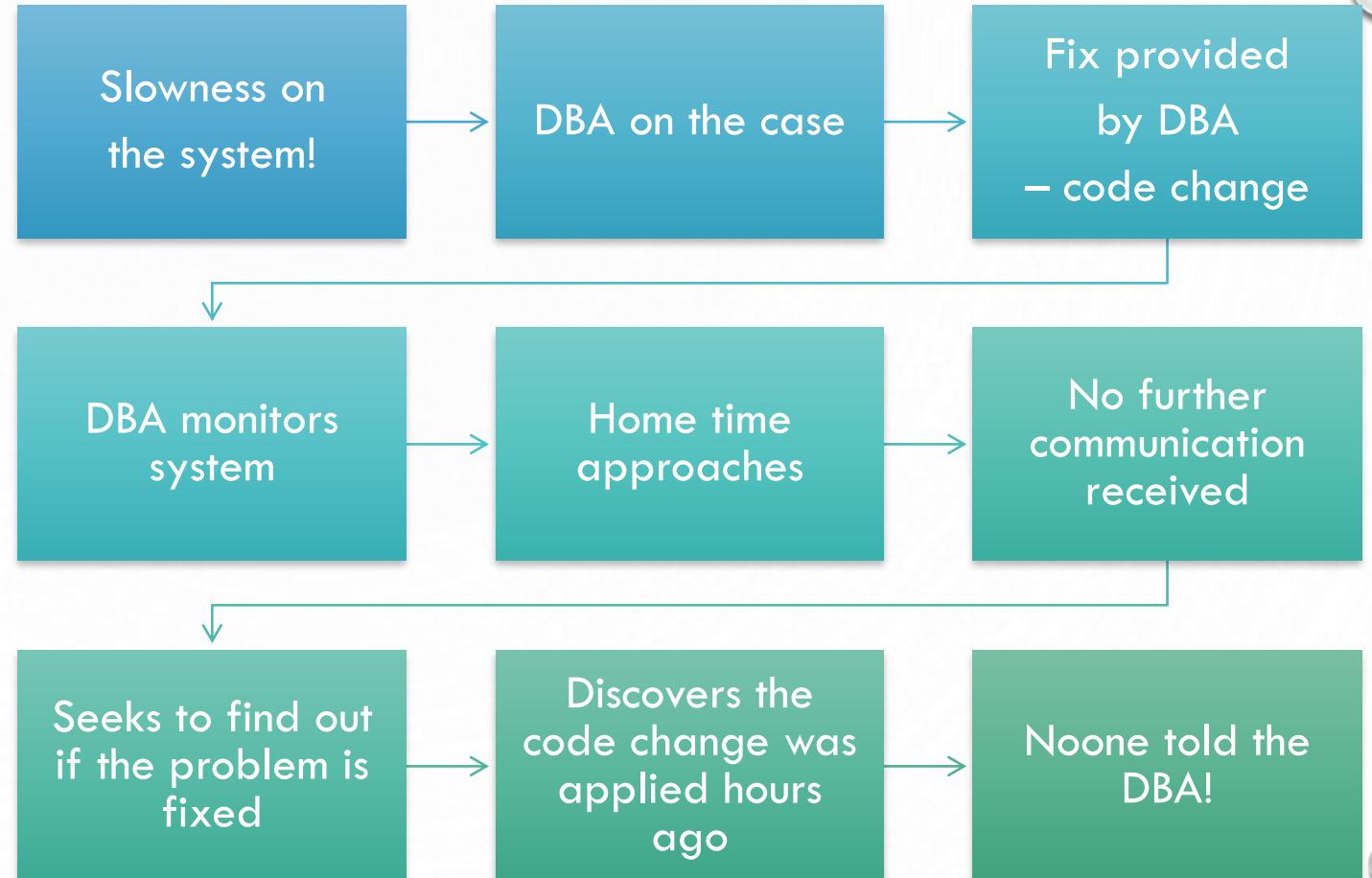
Translating Technical Terms

Collaborate Effectively

Achieving Common Goals

REAL LIFE EXAMPLE

LACK OF COMMUNICATION/
PEOPLE SKILLS



Yes. This actually happens...

It shouldn't.



ADAPTABILITY



EXAMPLE OF ADAPTABILITY

Multiple Clients/
Customers
To Support

Different
SLAs

Logging On
To Different
Systems

Accessing Using
Different VPNs /
/Credentials

Different OS/
Languages Used

Multiple Projects
& Priorities

Lots Of Context
Switching



PROBLEM
SOLVING

EXAMPLE OF PROBLEM SOLVING





MENTORING

MENTEE

MENTOR

Working Together

Share The Knowledge

Identify Knowledge Gaps

Skills Matrix

Action Plan

Regular Catch Ups/Feedback

Mentor/Mentee at any point

QUESTIONS?

**WHAT ELSE DO YOU
HAVE TO OFFER?**

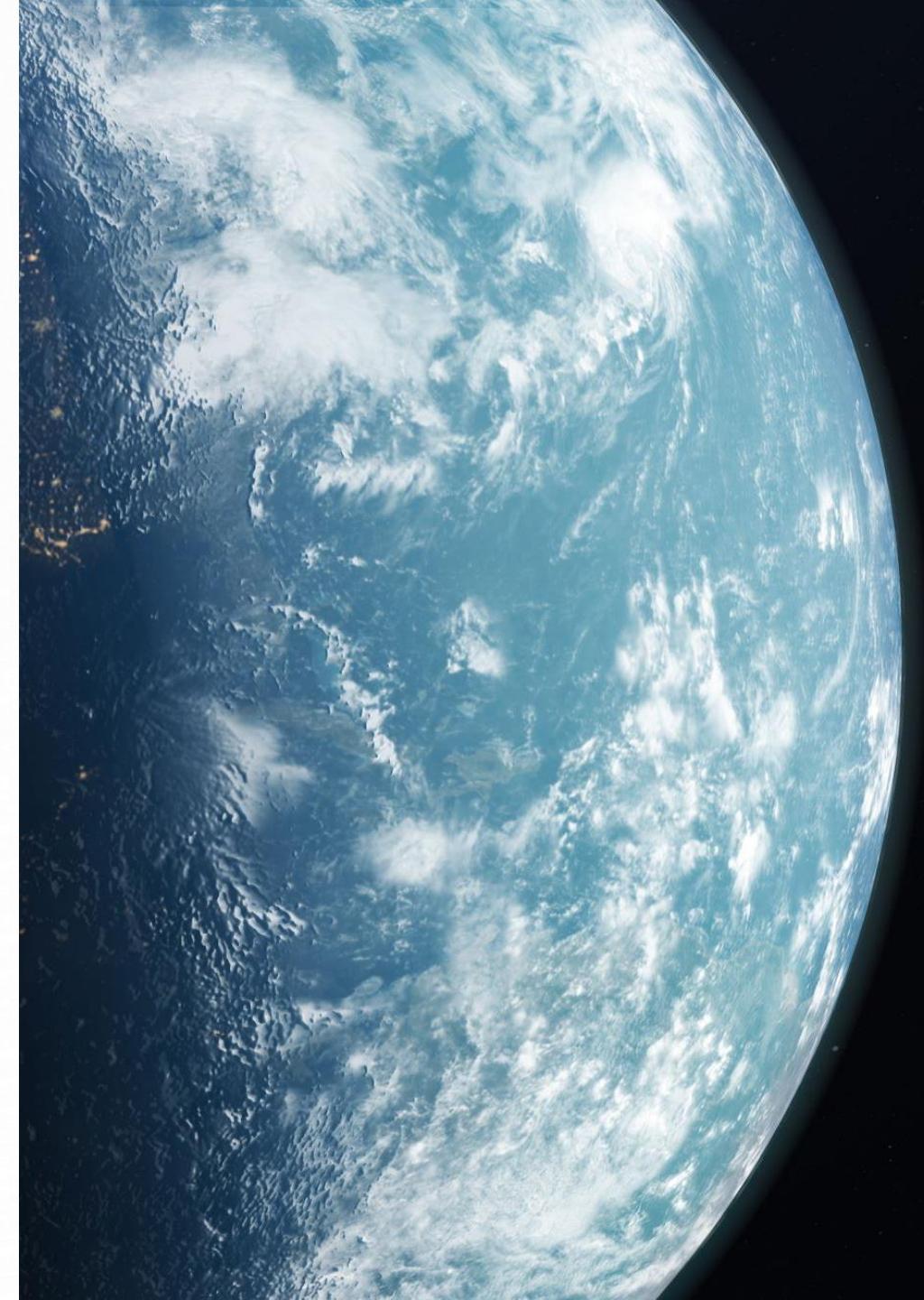




YOUR
KNOWLEDGE &
EXPERIENCE



**INSIGHTS FROM
MY JOURNEY
IN TECH...**





ACTIVE LISTENING

Being Present

Business Knowledge

ASK QUESTIONS

Feed Your Curiosity

“You Don’t Know What You Don’t Know”

Prompts Others To Rethink

Prevents Assumed Knowledge



STATING THE OBVIOUS

We All Think Differently!

"Common Sense Really Isn't That Common!"



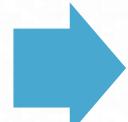
©The Simpsons When your new employee suggests business hammocks.
: r/TheSimpsons (reddit.com)



BE HONEST

“You Can’t Know Everything”

What do you
already know?



What is
missing?



Use this as your
starting point to
fill in gaps in
knowledge



LEARN FROM FAILURES

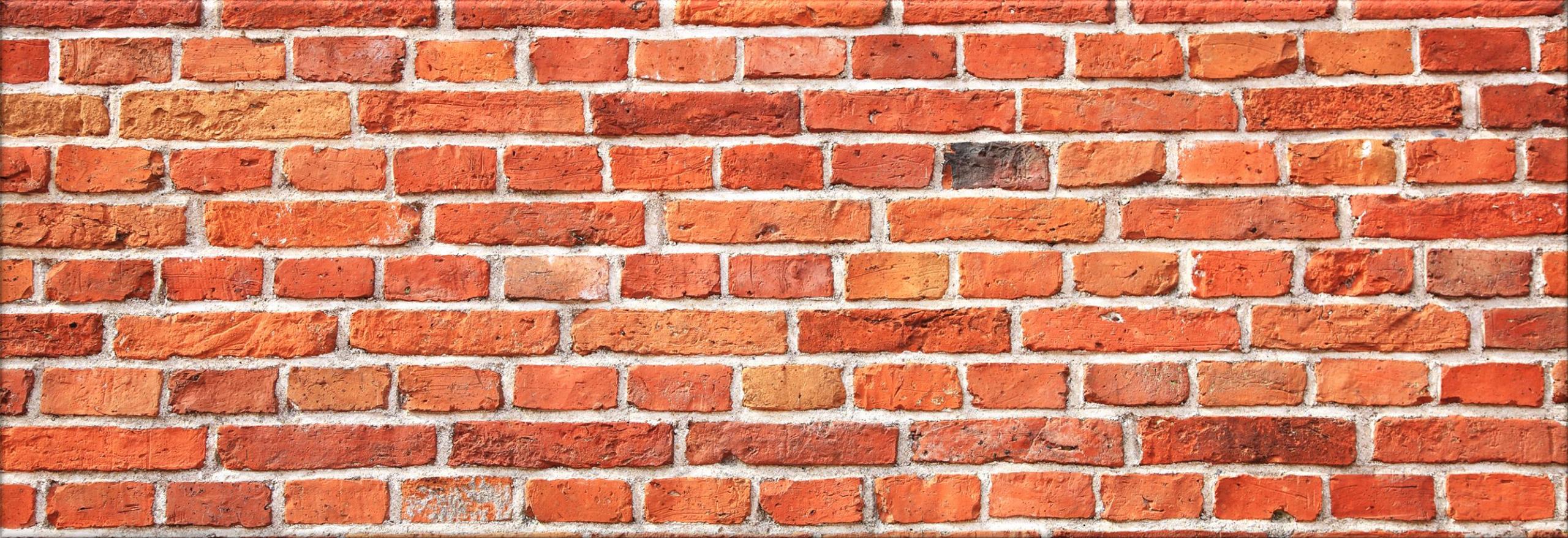
Turning Negative Into A Positive

Things Will Improve

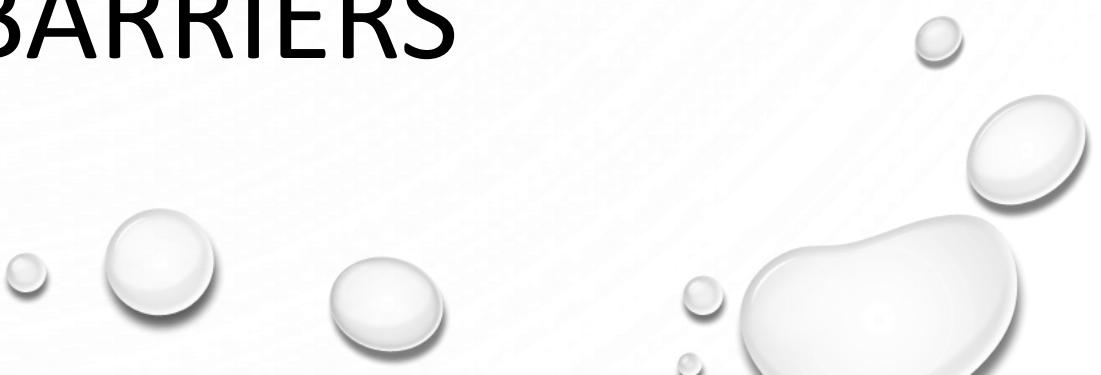
“OUT OF COMFORT ZONE”

Learn To Push Yourself

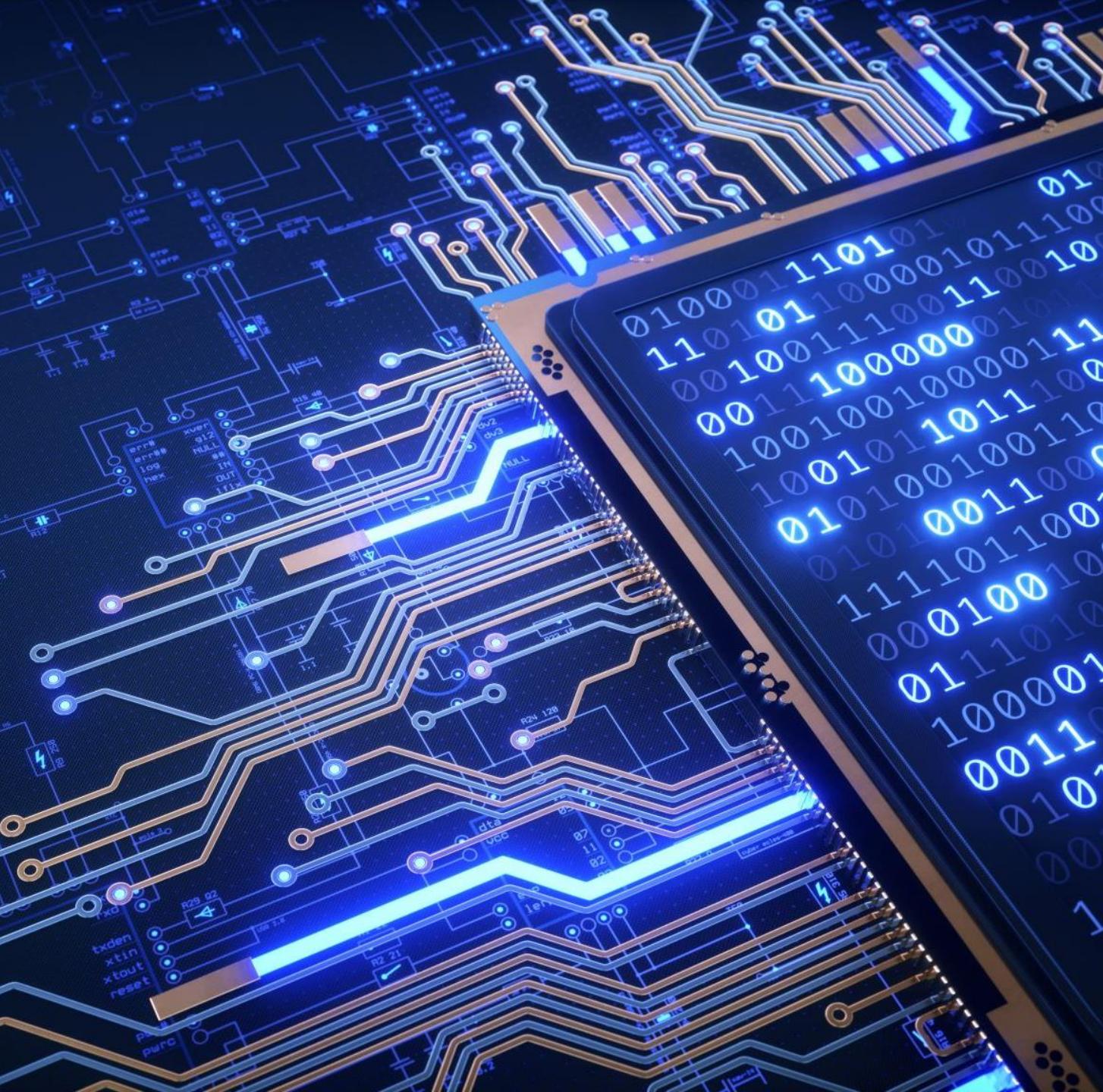




OVERCOMING BARRIERS



QUESTIONS?



WHAT
ABOUT
TECHNICAL
SKILLS?

“HARD SKILLS”

HOW CAN I LEARN THE TECHNICAL SKILLS?



Online Learning
Resources



Certifications/
Training Courses



Mentor



Attend/Volunteer
at Conferences

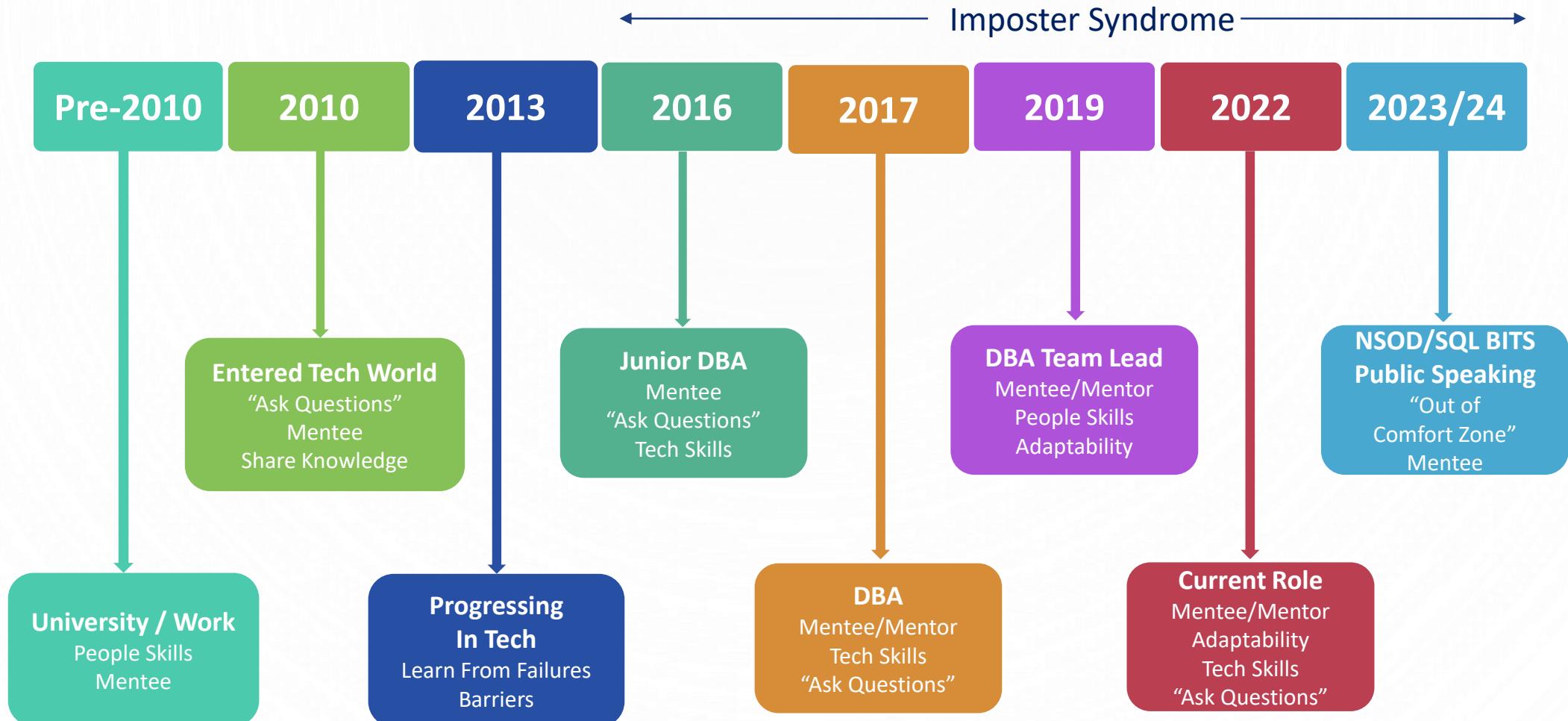


Get Involved in
Tech Community



MY OWN STORY

MY TIMELINE



HAVE YOU EVER FELT LIKE THIS?



Why would someone hire
me?



I don't know anything!

IMPOSTER SYNDROME

Negative Self-talk/Lack Of Confidence

It's Completely Normal

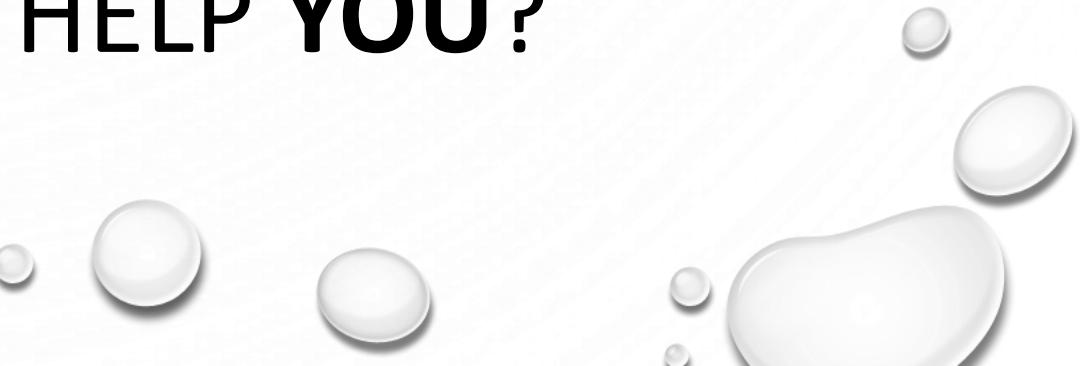
Be Honest

You Don't Know What You Don't Know

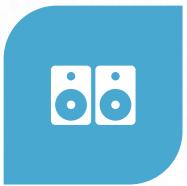
By Teaching Others, You Can Overcome It



HOW CAN ALL THIS HELP YOU?



NEW TO TECH



Research
Potential
Companies



Find That
First Job



“Readiness To
Learn”



Buddy Up/
Mentoring



Not Working?



Join The Tech
Community

TRANSFERRING TO TECH



Find A
Company/Role



Draw On
Pre-Existing Skills



Active Listening



Business
Knowledge



Find A Mentor

NOT PROGRESSING



Self Reflection /
Feedback



Gaps In
Knowledge



Work On Soft
Skills



Network At Events



Teaching What
You Know



Become A Mentor
For Someone

WANTING TO HELP OTHERS



Teach What
You Know
(Tech & Non-tech)



Find
A Mentee



Be Present At
Events/User
Groups



Assist &
Encourage
Others



Start
Speaking At
Events

HOW CAN I BECOME A MENTOR?

Look out for mentees in your own team

Reach out to the Tech Community e.g. SQL Community

User Groups / Conferences/ Meetups
(ideally in person)

Help set up a local Group

Get Involved!

RECAP

No Silver Bullet

Giving the Tools
or “know-how”
to progress

TAKEAWAYS

Important Soft Skills



READY TO LEARN



ADAPTABILITY



PEOPLE SKILLS



PROBLEM
SOLVING



MENTORING



TAKEAWAYS

Knowledge & Experience

- Active Listening
- Ask Questions
- Stating The Obvious
- Be Honest
- Learn From Failures
- Get “Out Of Your Comfort Zone”
- Overcoming Barriers

These helped me to progress in my journey.

Try Using These Too!



YOUR TIME FOR ACTION

So, what next?

Here are a few ideas...

EMBRACE YOUR OWN “SOFT SKILLS”

1. Research Soft Skills

Try Out Some Of These Links To Improve On These Skills:

[A Better Name For Soft Skills: Power Skills | Unboxed Training & Technology \(Unboxedtechnology.Com\)](#)

[Why “Power Skills” Is The New Term For Soft Skills In The Hybrid Work World - Thomson Reuters Institute](#)

[10 Valuable Soft Skills That You Need To Succeed In Your Career | Indeed.Com UK](#)

[How To Improve Soft Skills In The Workplace | Indeed.Com UK](#)

Try Out Some Free Soft Skill Courses

- Open University [Soft Skills Training - Openlearn - Open University](#)
- Coursera [Best Soft Skills Courses & Certifications \[2023\] | Coursera Online Learning](#)

2. Further Actions

Self Reflection – Identify Strengths / Weaknesses – Create An Action Plan

3. Further Reading/Listening

Podcasts – “Think Fast Talk Smart: Communication Techniques” – Stanford GSP

Book (& Audiobook) – Think Faster, Talk Smarter – Matt Abrahams



GAPS IN TECH SKILLS

- Reach Out / Ask For Help
- Collaborate with Colleagues
- Network!
- Find A Mentor
- Become A Mentor

UPCOMING EVENTS

Check Meetup <https://www.meetup.com/>

Check Here For Events - <https://callfordataspeakers.com/list>

(Provides A list of events under call for speakers To See What Events Are Already Scheduled)

<https://sqlwatch.io/community-events/>

Microsoft Events - <https://eventlist.azurewebsites.net/index.php>

SQL Bits Annually

Data Saturdays (e.g. Rhineland/Oslo/Gothenburg)

Data Grillen, 2024

Data Scotland, 2024

SQL Konferenz, 2024

dataMinds Connect, 2024

Microsoft Data User Groups

Accessible Via Meetup (Across The UK, Europe, USA)

Full Of Training / Networking Opportunities!



GET INVOLVED!

Find Your Local Microsoft User Groups:

<https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/sql-server/community?activetab=pivot:sqlservertab>

Northern UK User Groups

	Leeds	Manchester	Newcastle
LinkedIn 	https://www.linkedin.com/company/dataleeds 	https://www.linkedin.com/in/manchester-user-group-782348143/ 	https://tinyurl.com/y22mqjq8 
Web	http://www.meetup.com/dataleeds/	https://www.meetup.com/mcrdataplatform/	https://www.meetup.com/Newcastle_DPaC https://www.meetup.com/newcastle-pug/

**PLEASE LEAVE ME
YOUR FEEDBACK.**



<https://sqlb.it/?12535>

THANK YOU!

Contact me:

