



**NEW STARS
OF DATA**

USING YOUR EXISTING SKILLS,
KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE TO
“MAKE IT” IN THE TECH WORLD.

LIZ HARDY

27TH OCTOBER 2023

SETTING EXPECTATIONS

AUDIENCE?

- NEW TO TECH?
- TRANSFERRING INTO TECH?
- IN TECH YET NOT PROGRESSING/FULFILLED?
- KEEN TO HELP OTHERS?

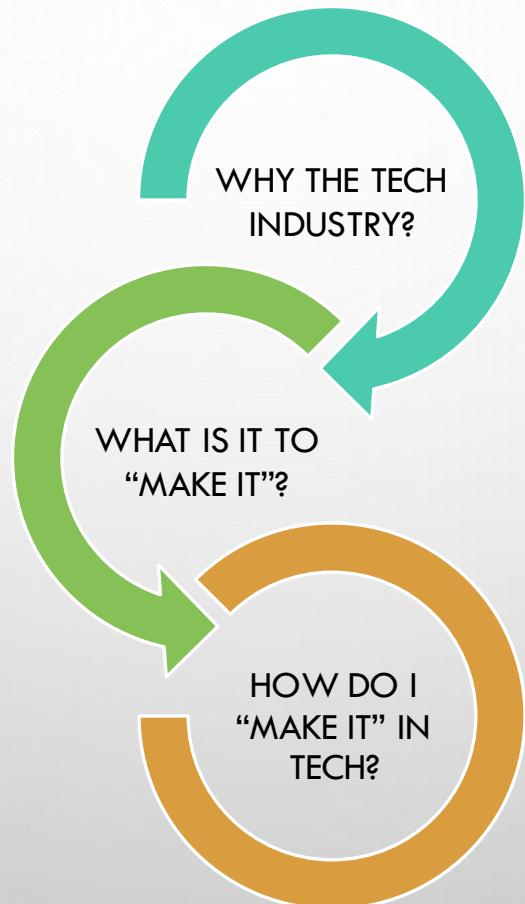
In scope?

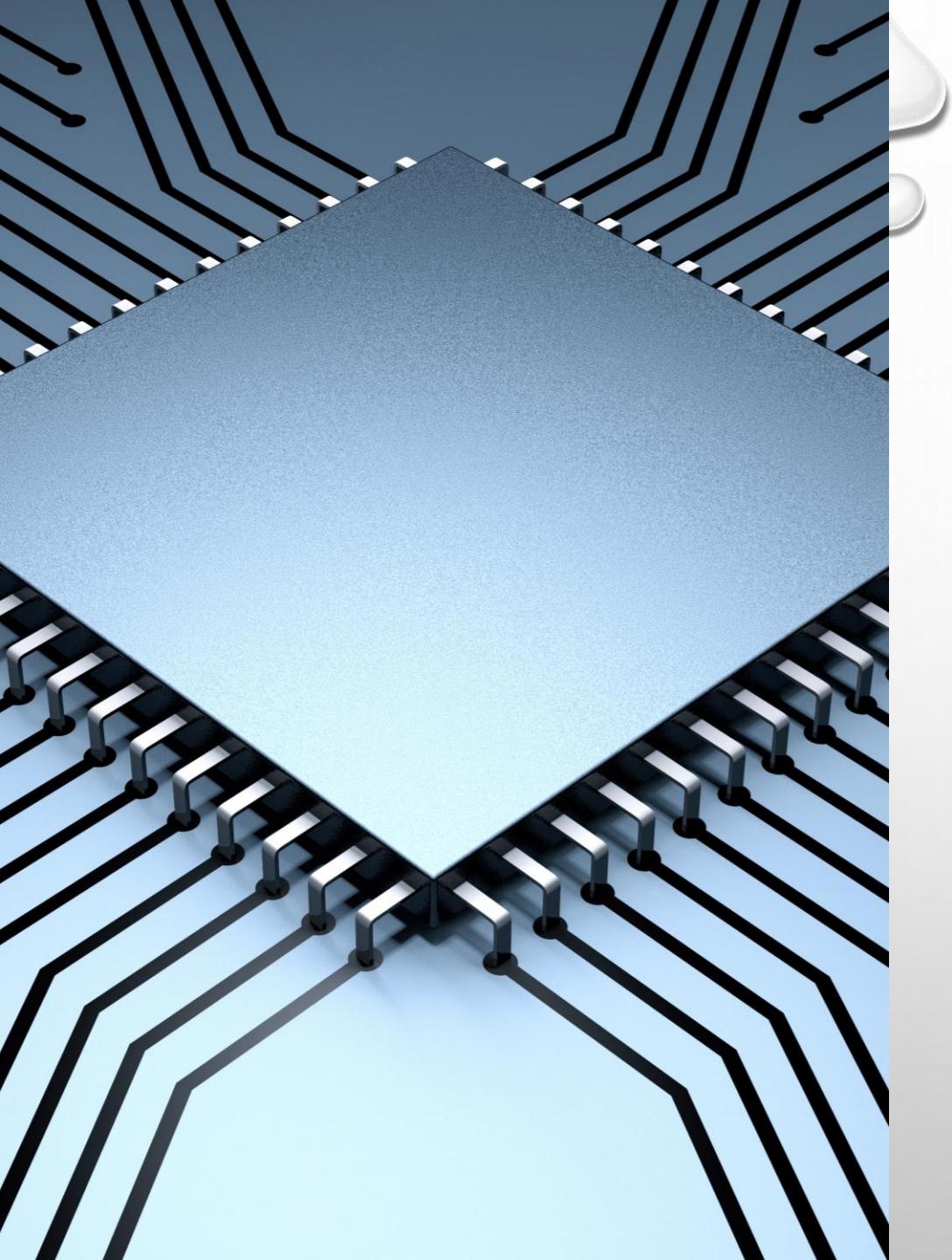
- My journey in tech – what can this teach others?
- What skills were useful in my journey?
- Examples

Out of scope?

- Not going to be able to cover everything
- 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



WHAT IS IT TO
“MAKE IT”?

DEFINING “MAKING IT” IN TECH



DEFINED BY YOU



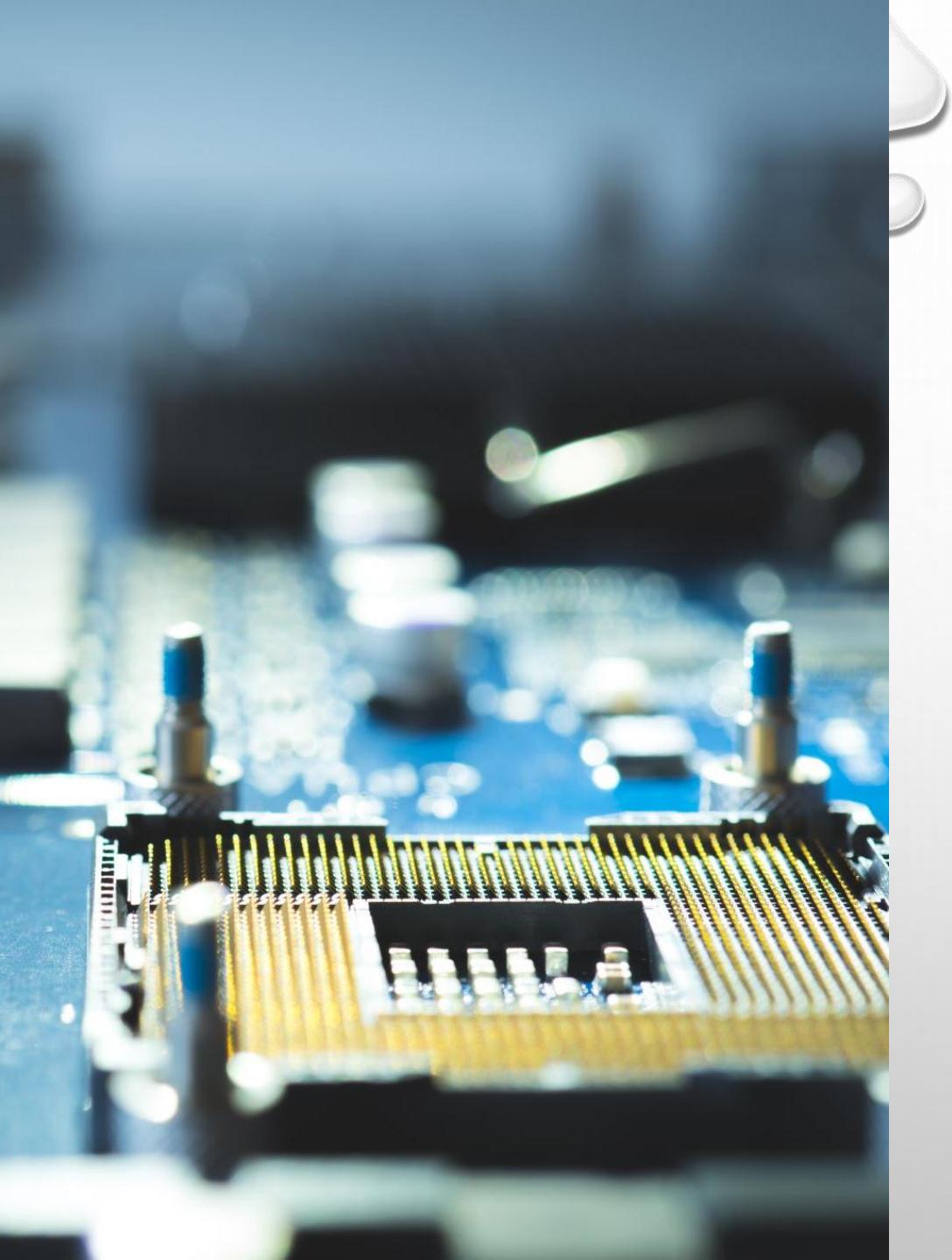
YOUR GOALS



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...
**THEY CAN
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

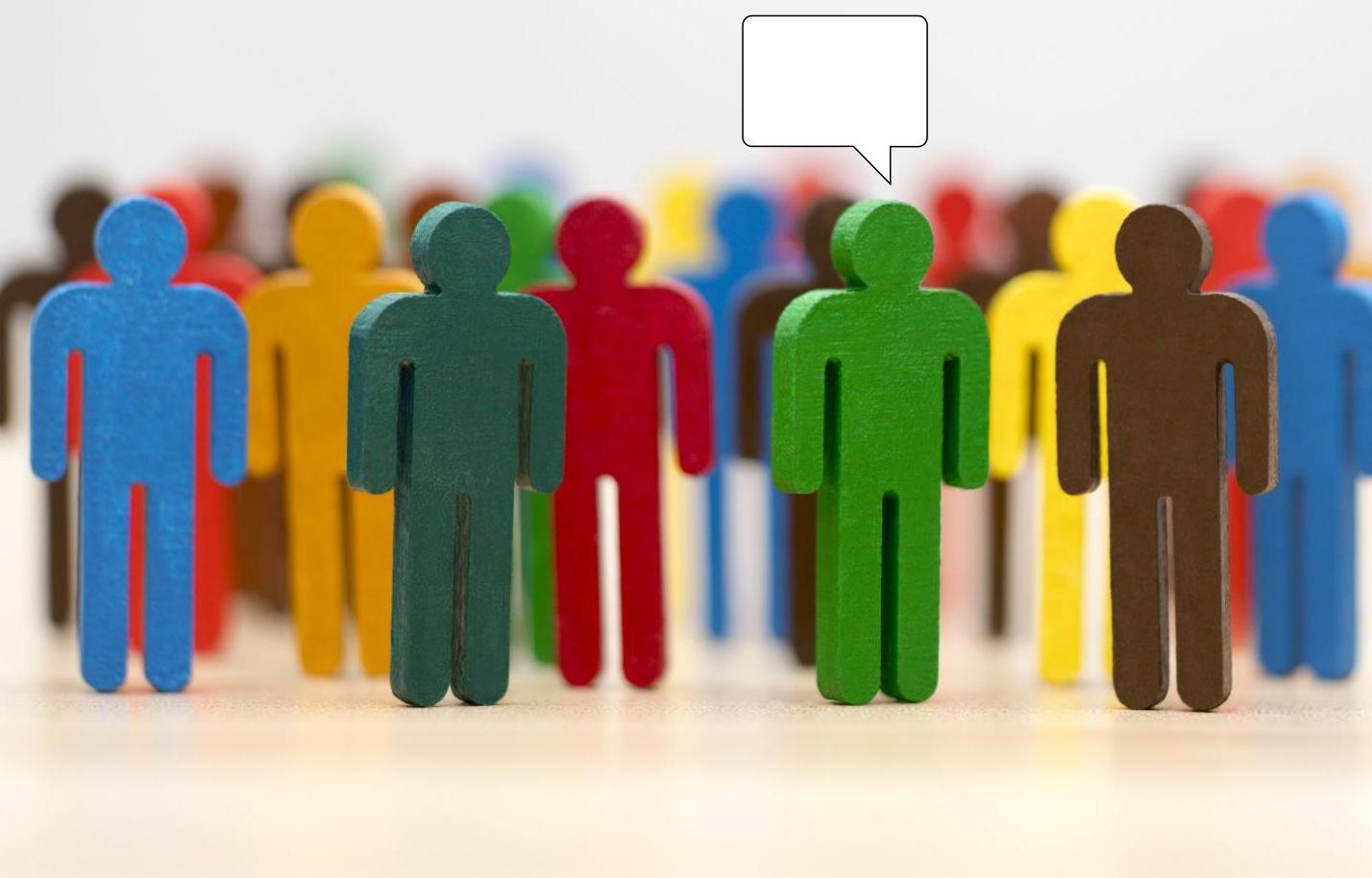


MENTORING



READY TO LEARN





COMMUNICATION / PEOPLE SKILLS

SPEAKING / LISTENING / PRESENTING

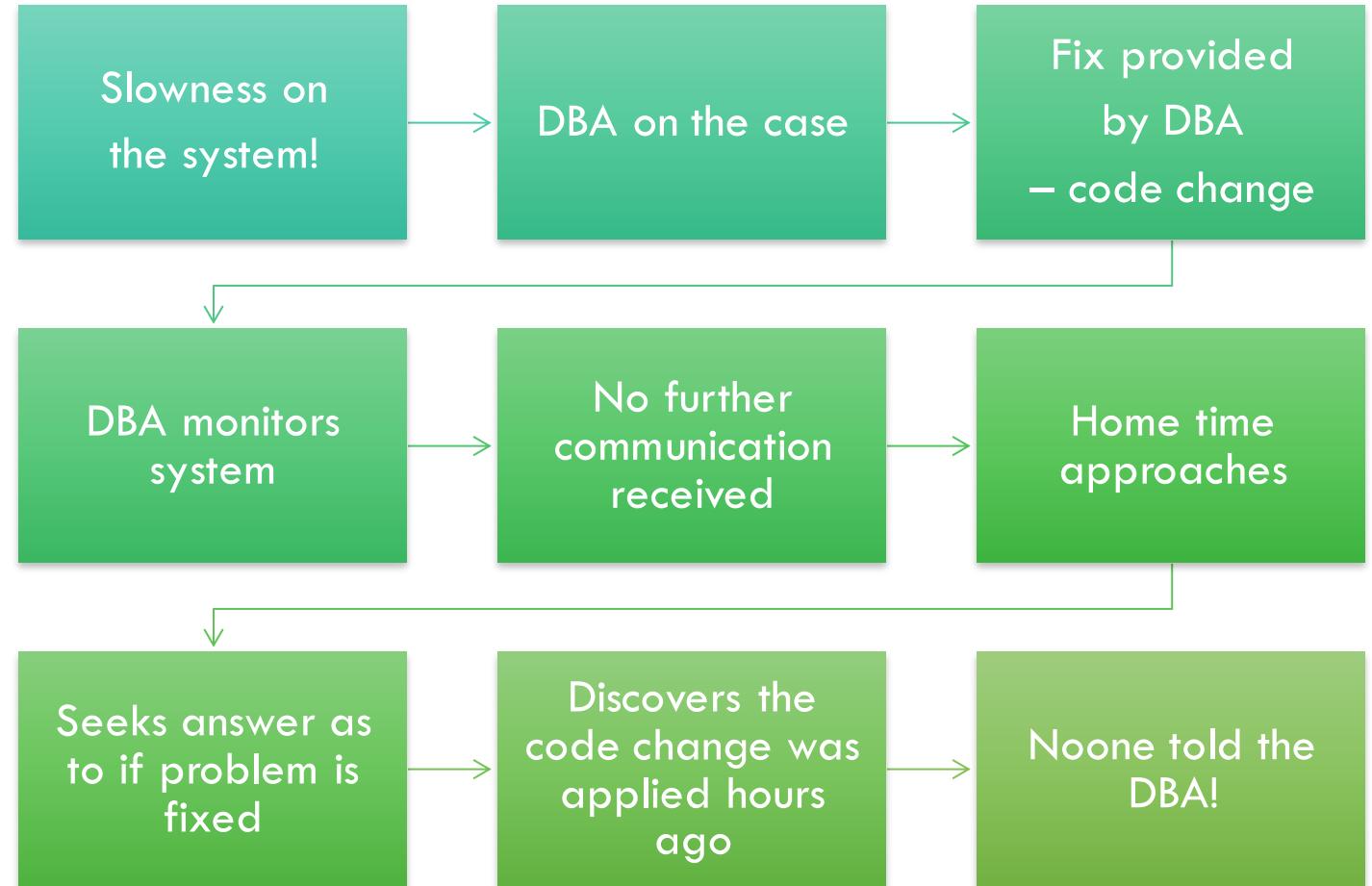
COMMUNICATE AT ALL LEVELS

TRANSLATING TECHNICAL TERMS

WORKING TOGETHER EFFECTIVELY

ACHIEVING COMMON GOALS

REAL LIFE EXAMPLE



Yes. This actually happened...



ADAPTABILITY





PROBLEM
SOLVING

QUESTIONS?



WHAT ELSE DO YOU
HAVE TO OFFER?

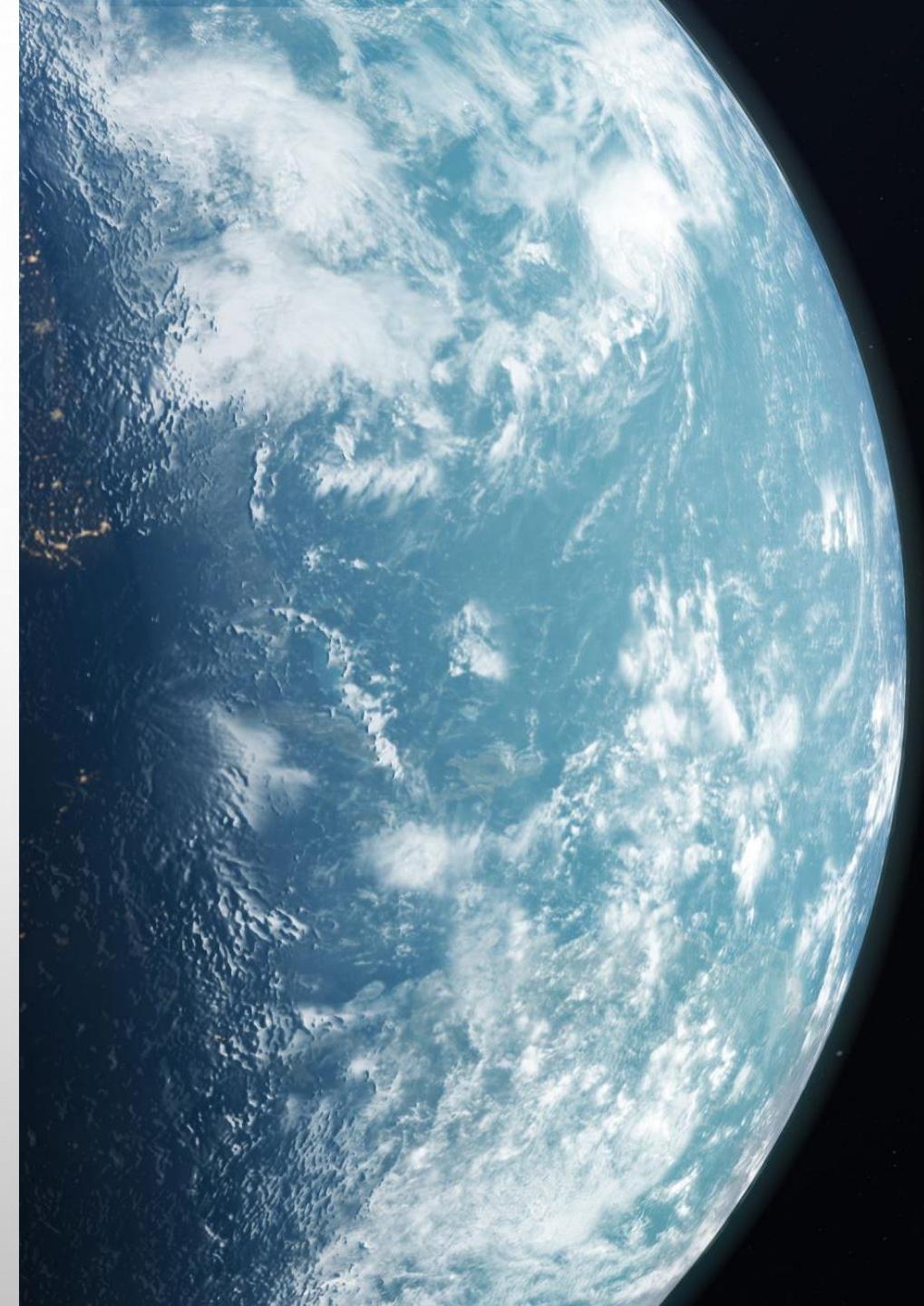




YOUR
KNOWLEDGE
& EXPERIENCE



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





ACTIVE LISTENING

BUSINESS KNOWLEDGE

ASK QUESTIONS

FEED YOUR CURIOSITY

“YOU DON’T KNOW WHAT YOU DON’T KNOW”

PREVENTS ASSUMED KNOWLEDGE



POINTING OUT THE OBVIOUS

WE ALL THINK DIFFERENTLY!

“COMMON SENSE REALLY ISN’T
THAT COMMON!”



©The Simpsons

[When your new employee suggests business hammocks. : r/TheSimpsons \(reddit.com\)](https://www.reddit.com/r/TheSimpsons)

BE HONEST

“YOU CAN’T KNOW EVERYTHING”

What do you
already know?



What is
missing?

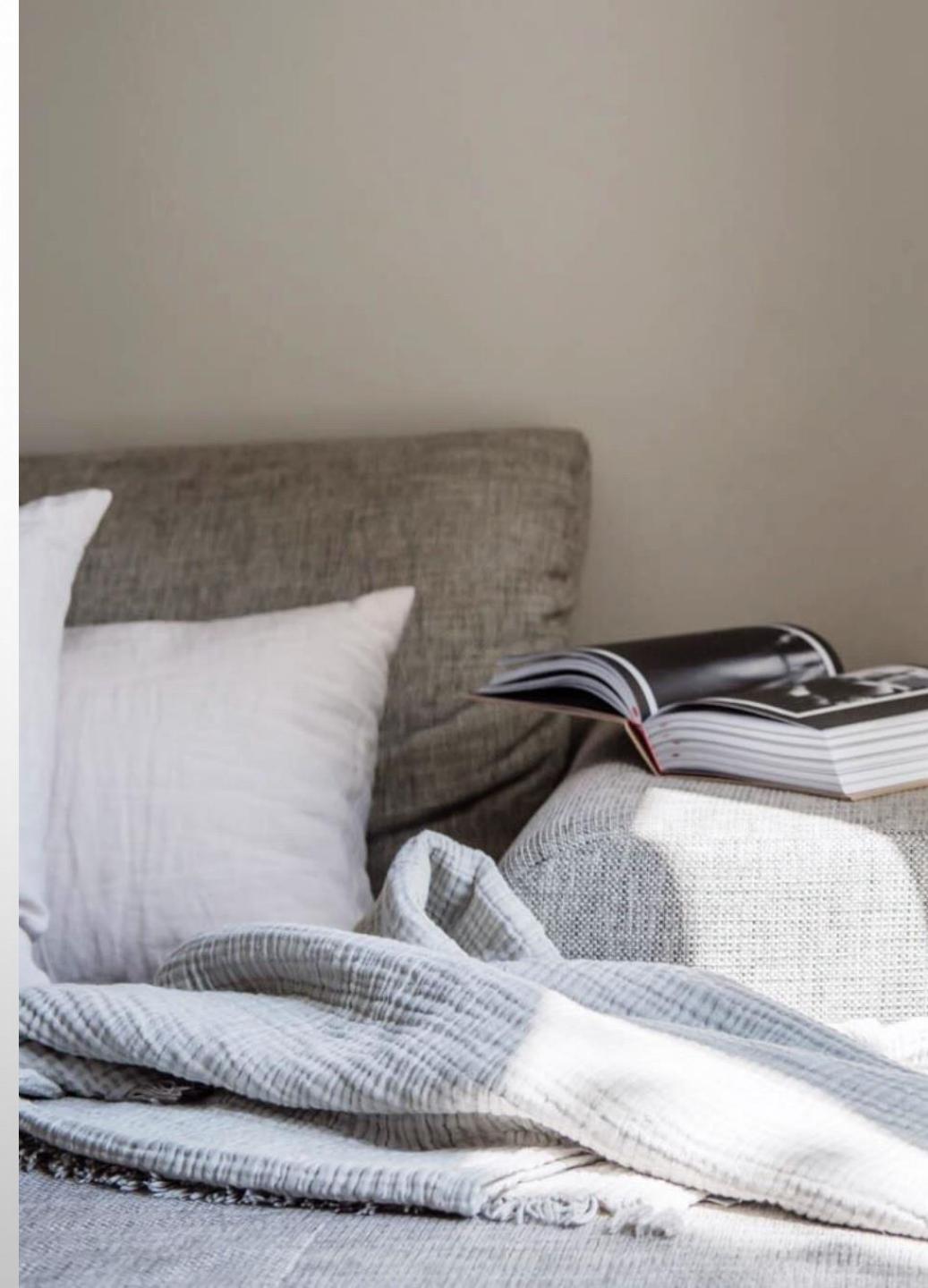


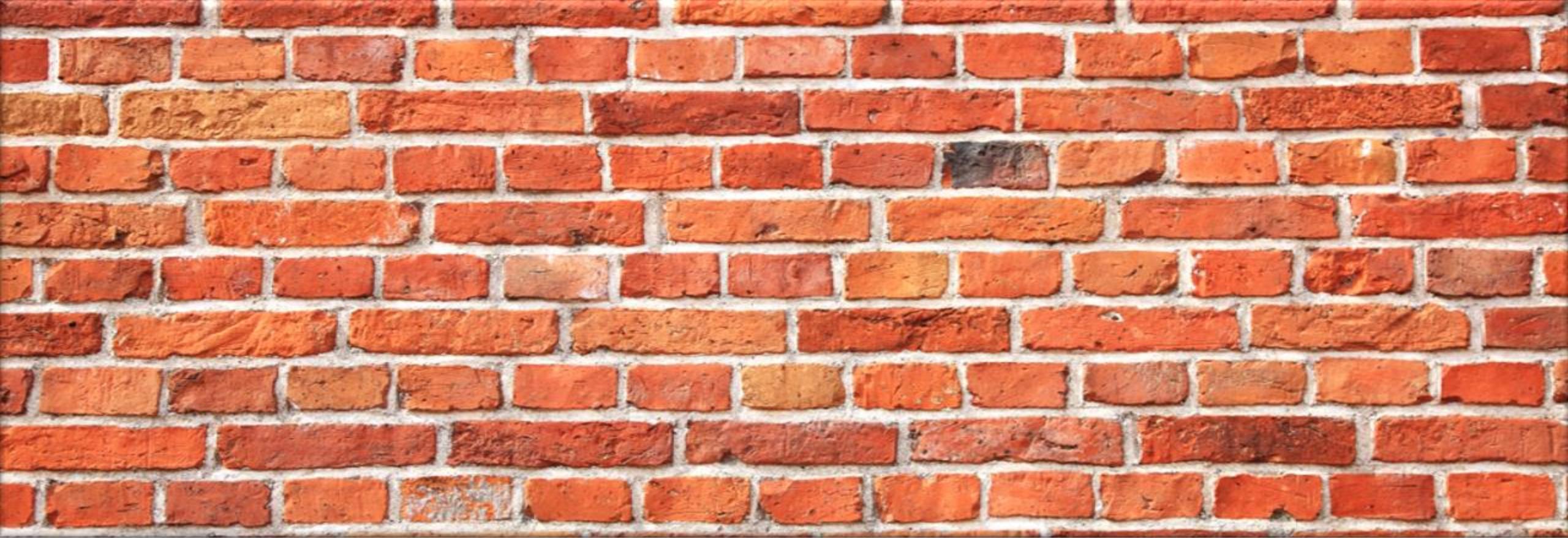
Use this as your
starting point to
fill in gaps in
knowledge



**LEARN FROM
FAILURES**

**“OUT OF
COMFORT ZONE”**

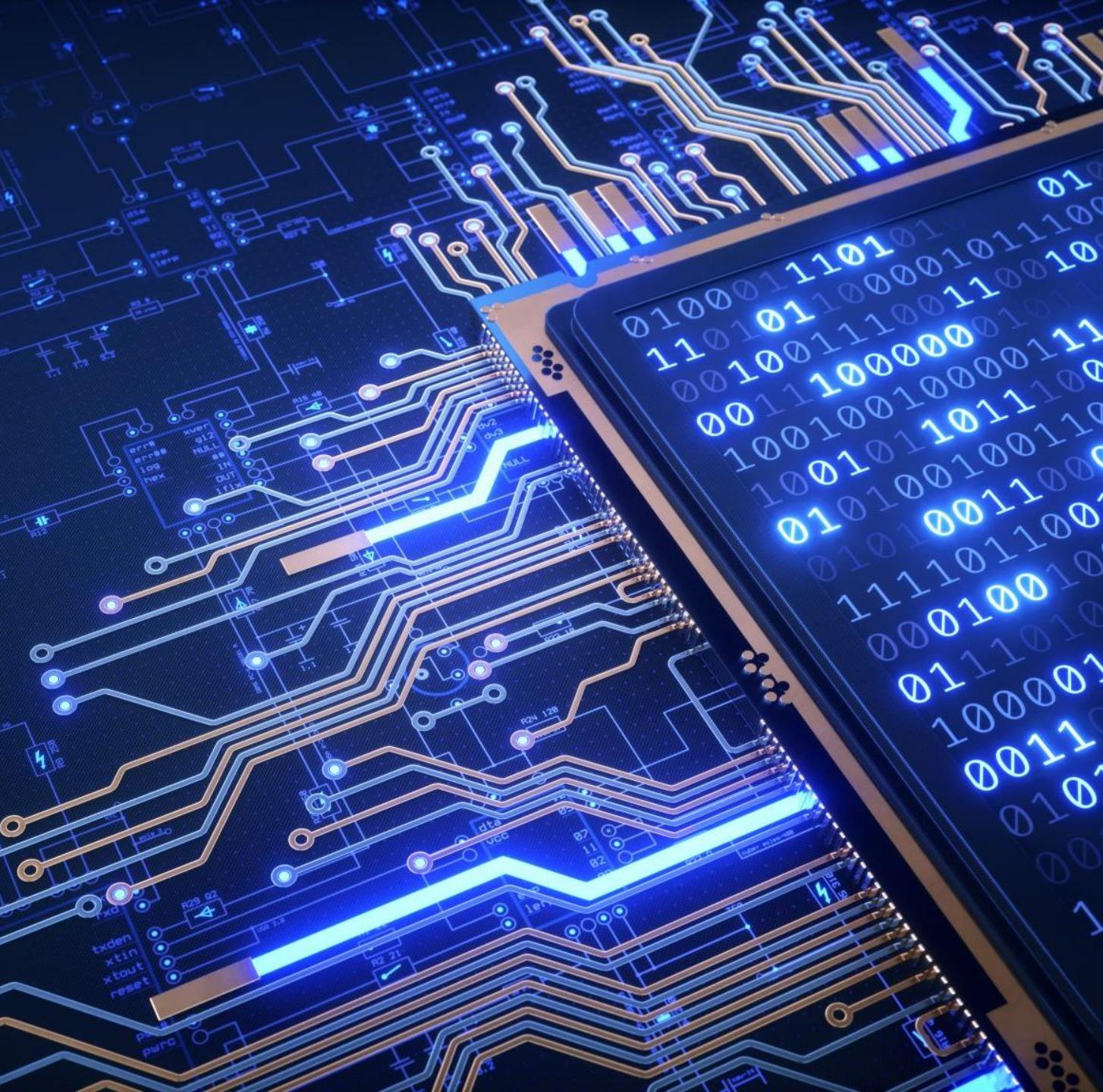




BARRIERS



QUESTIONS?



WHAT
ABOUT
TECHNICAL
SKILLS?

“HARD SKILLS”

WHAT CAN HELP ME TO LEARN THE TECHNICAL SKILLS?



Online Learning
Resources



Certifications/
Training Courses



Attend/Volunteer
at Conferences



Get Involved in
Tech Community



MENTORING

FIND A MENTOR

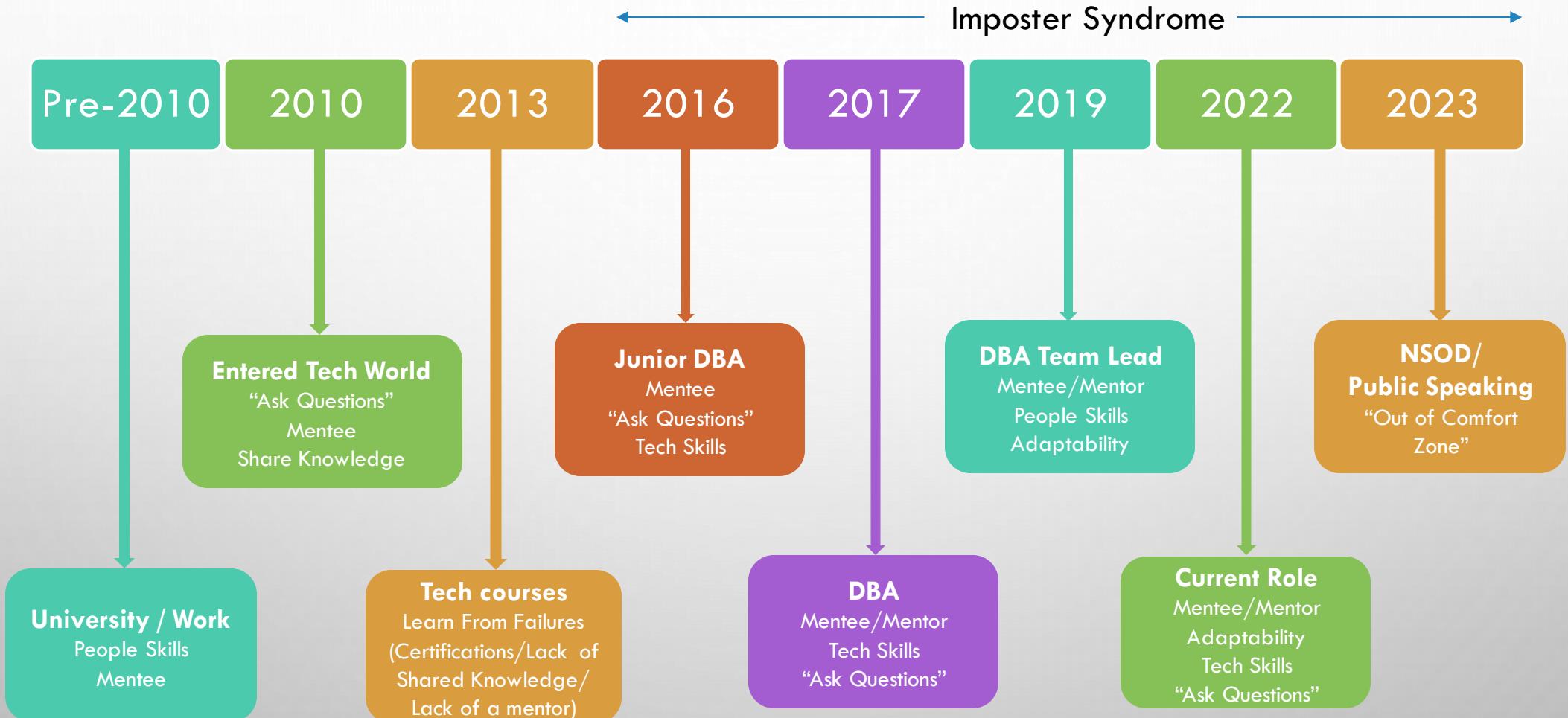
BE A MENTOR

SHARE THE KNOWLEDGE



MY OWN STORY

MY TIMELINE



HAVE YOU EVER FELT LIKE THIS?



Why would someone hire
me?



I don't know anything!

IMPOSTER SYNDROME

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 AS MUCH AS WANT



SELF REFLECTION
/ FEEDBACK



GAPS IN
KNOWLEDGE



WORK ON SOFT
SKILLS



USER GROUPS/
CONFERENCES



TEACHING WHAT
YOU KNOW



BECOME A
MENTOR FOR
SOMEONE

WANTING TO HELP OTHERS



TEACH WHAT
YOU KNOW



FIND
A MENTEE



ATTEND USER
GROUPS /
CONFERENCES



ENCOURAGE
OTHERS



SPEAK AT EVENTS

HOW DO YOU 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!

FINAL THOUGHTS

Not a one size
fits all

Sharing the
tools/know-how
to progress

TAKEAWAYS

KEY SOFT SKILLS



READY TO
LEARN



ADAPTABILITY



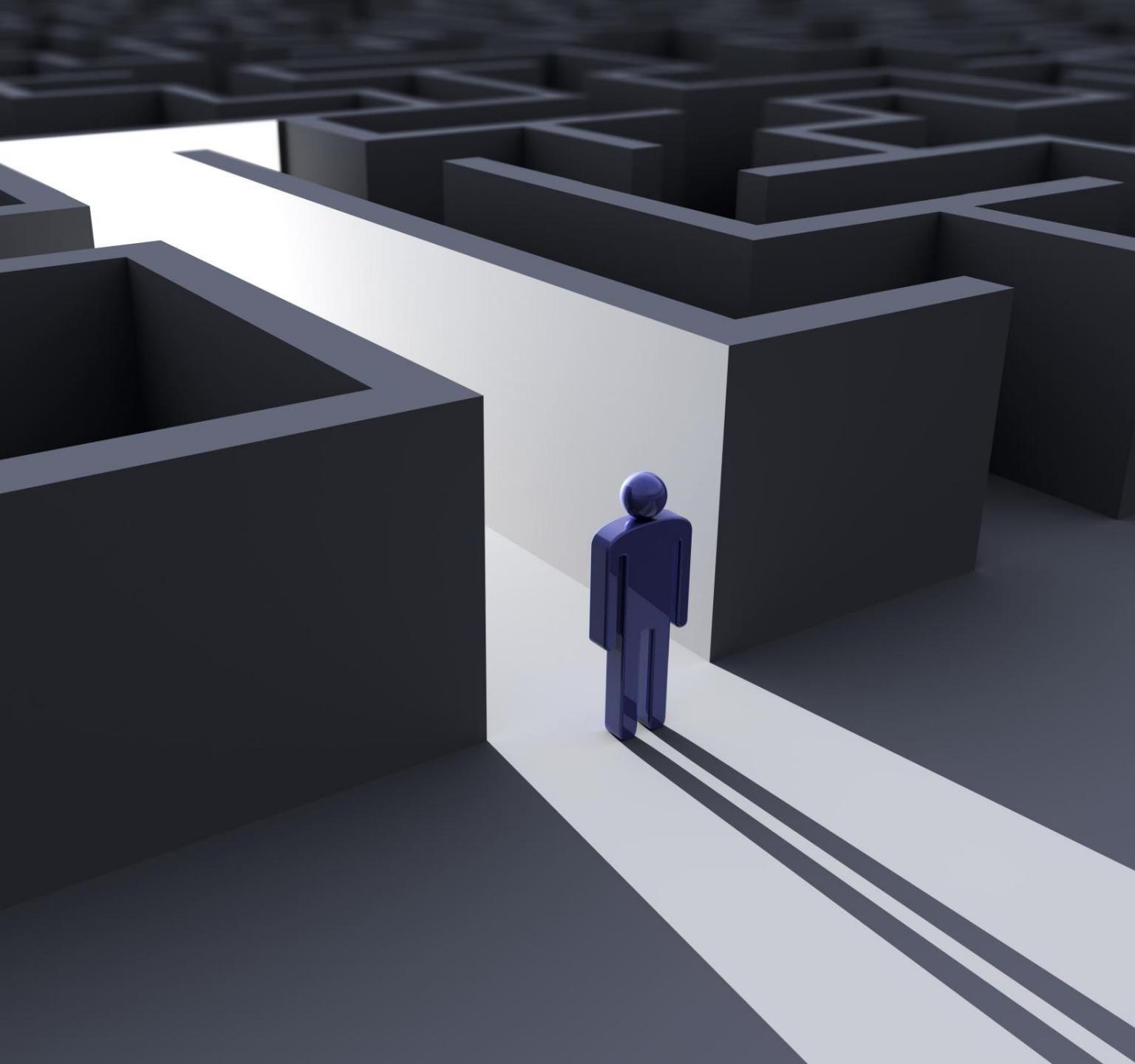
PEOPLE
SKILLS



PROBLEM
SOLVING



MENTORING



TAKEAWAYS

From Knowledge/Experience

- ACTIVE LISTENING
- ASK QUESTIONS
- POINTING OUT THE OBVIOUS
- BE HONEST
- LEARN FROM FAILURES
- OUT OF YOUR COMFORT ZONE
- BARRIERS



**TIME FOR
ACTION!**

**WHAT ARE YOUR
NEXT STEPS?**

Here are a few ideas...

EMBRACE YOUR OWN “SOFT SKILLS”

1. DO YOUR OWN RESEARCH

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](#)

FREE SOFT SKILL COURSES:

- OPEN UNIVERSITY [SOFT SKILLS TRAINING - OPENLEARN - OPEN UNIVERSITY](#)
- COURSERA [BEST SOFT SKILLS COURSES & CERTIFICATIONS \[2023\] | COURSERA ONLINE LEARNING](#)

2. WHAT NEXT?

SELF REFLECTION – WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

ACTION PLAN TO WORK ON THOSE WEAKNESSES (WHILST PLAYING TO YOUR STRENGTHS)

TRAINING
LEADERSHIP
SKILLS
SEMINARS
WORKSHOPS
INSPIRE
CAREER
MENTOR
METHOD
DIRECTION
IMPROVE
WORK
DEVELOP
PEOPLE
GOALS
PROGRAM
COACH
MENTORING
GUIDING
HELP
SUCCESS

TECH SKILLS

FIND A MENTOR
BECOME A MENTOR

START NETWORKING!

PROGRESS YOUR CAREER
FROM HERE!

UPCOMING EVENTS

CHECK MEETUP [HTTPS://WWW.MEETUP.COM/](https://www.meetup.com/)

CHECK HERE FOR EVENTS - [HTTPS://CALLFORDATASPEAKERS.COM/LIST](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/](https://sqlwatch.io/community-events/)

MICROSOFT EVENTS - [HTTPS://EVENTLIST.AZUREWEBSITES.NET/INDEX.PHP](https://eventlist.azurewebsites.net/index.php)

DATA SATURDAYS

DATA GRILLEN, 2024

ONE OF THE BIGGEST **FREE** MICROSOFT DATA PLATFORM EVENTS IN GERMANY

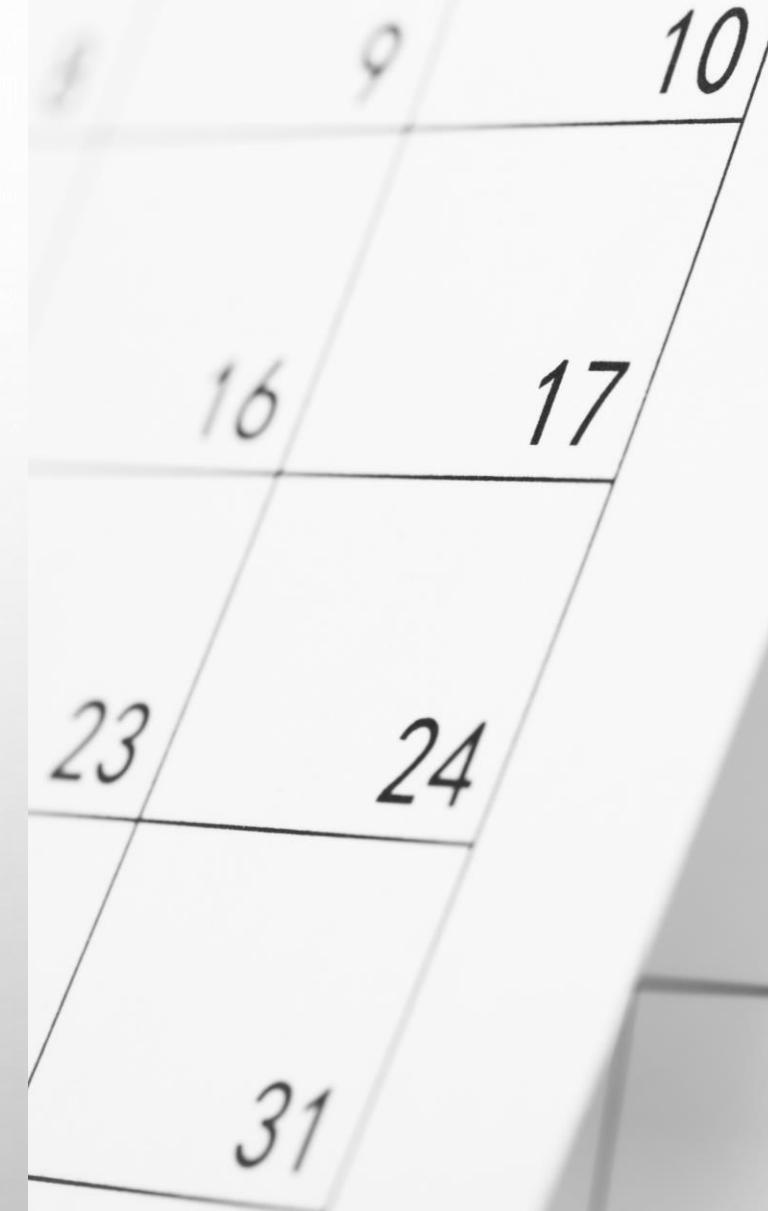
SQL BITS 2024

DATA CONFERENCE

MICROSOFT DATA USER GROUPS

ACCESSIBLE VIA MEETUP (ACROSS THE UK, EUROPE, USA)

THESE ARE ALL FULL OF TRAINING AND
NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES!



GET INVOLVED!

FIND YOUR MICROSOFT USER GROUPS:

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

NORTHERN UK USER GROUPS

	Leeds	Manchester	Newcastle	
Twitter 	@dataleeds 	@mcrdataplatform 	@DPaCNewc 	@PowerBINewc 
LinkedIn 	https://www.linkedin.com/company/dataleeds 	linkedin.com/company/manchesterdataplatform 	https://tinyurl.com/y22mqjq8 	
Web	https://www.meetup.com/dataleeds/	https://www.meetup.com/mcrdataplatform/	https://www.meetup.com/Newcastle_DPaC https://www.meetup.com/newcastle-pug/	

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY.



NEW STARS
OF DATA

Contact me:

 /in/lizhardyuk