



**TECHNICAL
DEBT
IS NOT FREE**



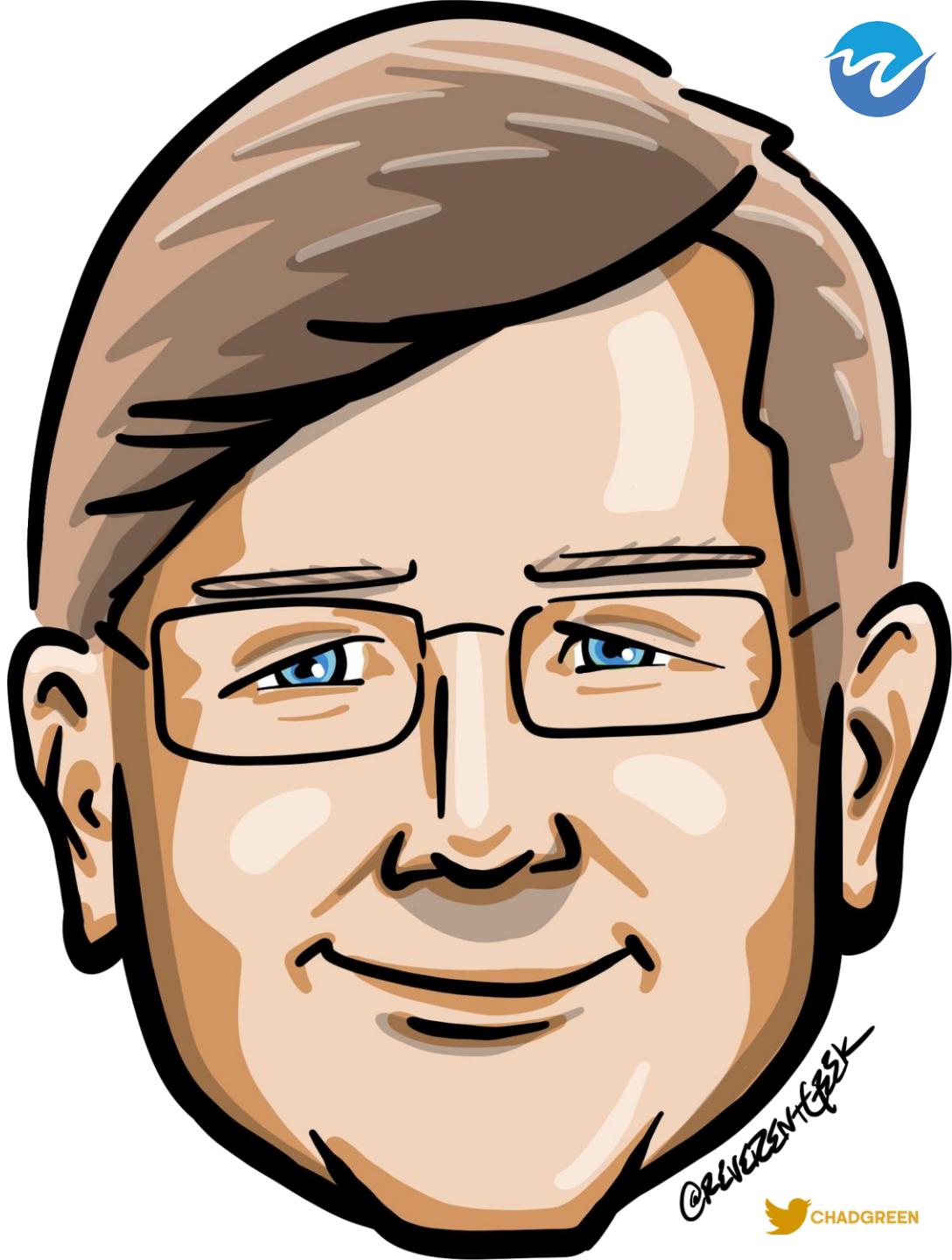


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Technical Debt is not Free





Agenda

- What is Technical Debt
- Technical Debt Statistics
- Pros and Cons of Technical Debt
- What Causes Technical Debt
- Technical Debt Identification
- Tracking & Managing Technical Debt



What is Technical Debt

Technical Debt is not Free



What is Technical Debt?

A story as old as time

Technical Debt is not Free



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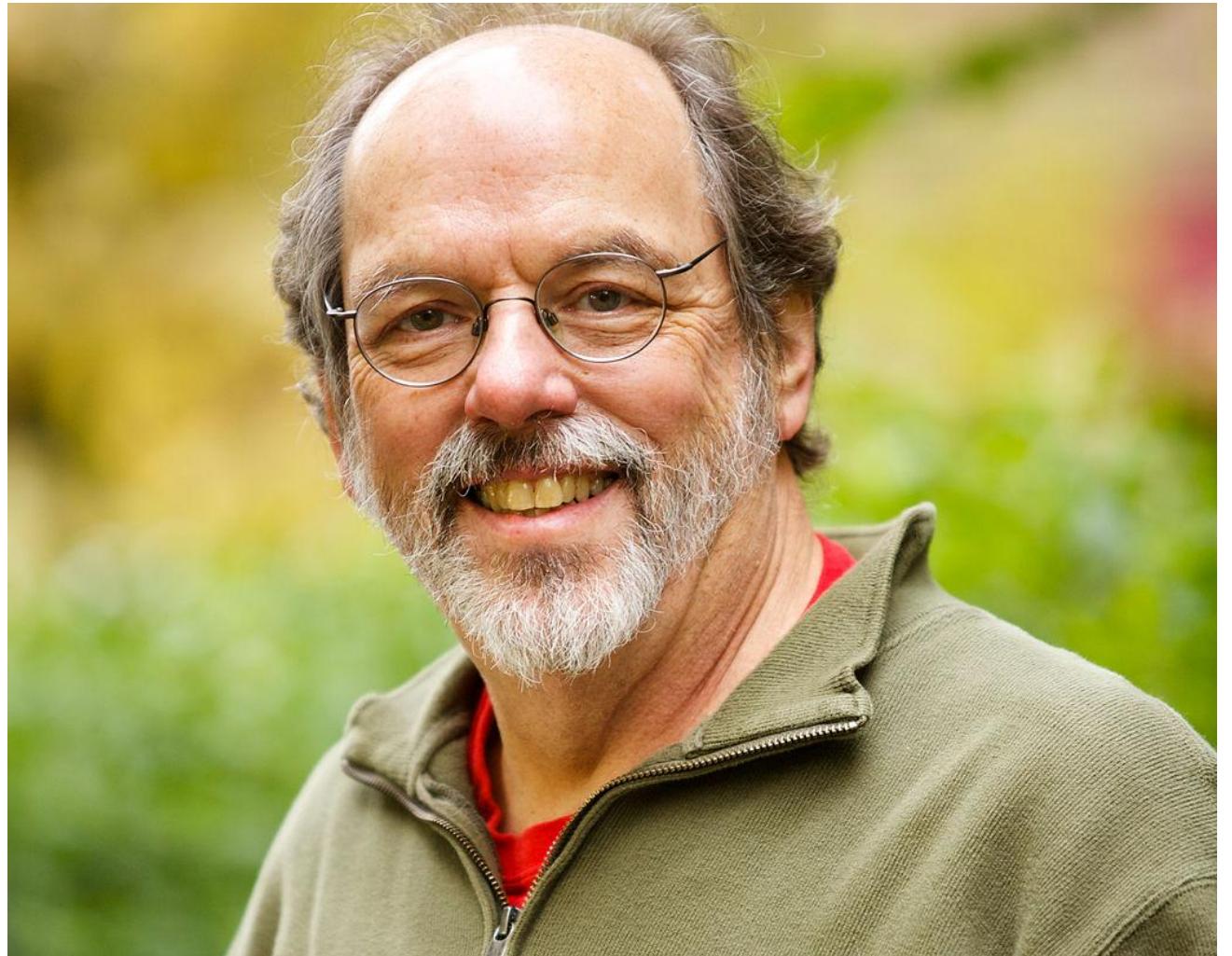
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What is Technical Debt?

First described by Ward Cunningham in 1992

The danger occurs
when the debt is not
repaid.

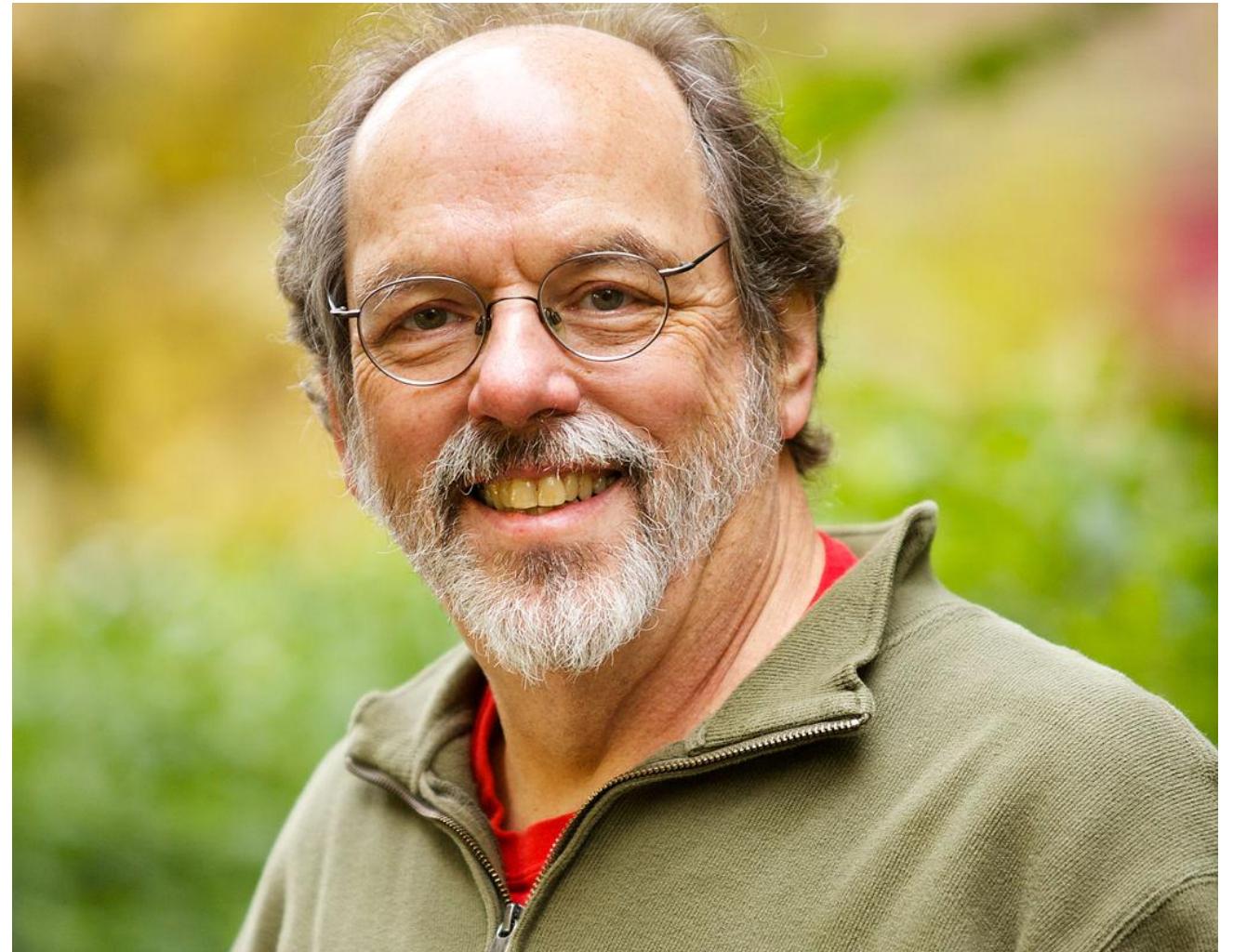




What is Technical Debt?

First described by Ward Cunningham in 1992

Every minute spent
on not-quite-right
code counts as
interest on that
debt.

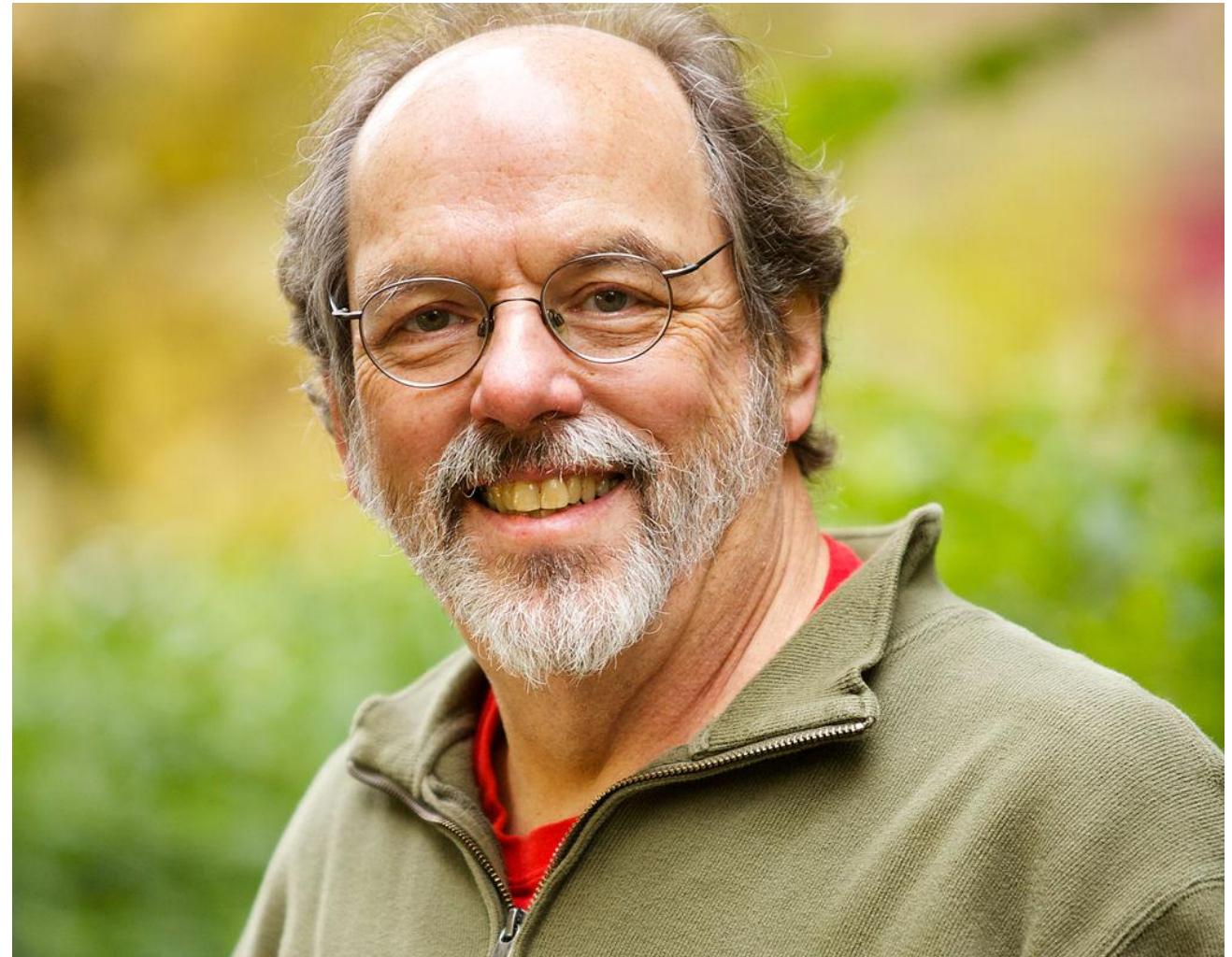




What is Technical Debt?

First described by Ward Cunningham in 1992

...brought to a stand-still under the debt load of an unconsolidated implementation





What is Technical Debt?

Common definition from Martin Fowler

quick and dirty way





What is Technical Debt?

Common definition from Martin Fowler

incurs interest
payments





What is Technical Debt?

Common definition from Martin Fowler

extra effort that we have to do in future development





What is Technical Debt?

implied cost





What is Technical Debt?

rework





What is Technical Debt?

choosing easy





What is Technical Debt?

better approach





A more reasonable definition

A state of unnecessary complexity, duplication, subpar code, or otherwise deficient code that introduces risks in the form of time, quality, security, team morale, or other forms. Typically the results of past action or inaction.

Matt Eland

Killalldefects.com/2019/12/23/defining-technical-debt



Technical Debt is Bad



Technical Debt is Bad



Technical Debt can be Bad



Technical Debt can be Devastating



Technical Debt can be Useful



Technical Debt can be Beneficial



Technical Debt is not Free



Technical Debt Statistics

Technical Debt is not Free



Technical Debt Statistics

- Causes Delays and Reduced Productivity



Technical Debt Statistics

- Causes Delays and Reduced Productivity
- Impact on Development Speed



Technical Debt Statistics

- Causes Delays and Reduced Productivity
- Impact on Development Speed
- Increased Maintenance Costs



Technical Debt Statistics

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- Quality and Performance Issues



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Technical Debt Statistics

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- Customer Satisfaction



Technical Debt Statistics

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- Employee Morale
- Customer Satisfaction



Pros and Cons of Technical Debt

Technical Debt is not Free



Technical Debt Pros

Supplier

- Faster time to market
- Short term competitive advantage

Customer

- New features faster
- Short term capital preservation



Technical Debt Cons

Supplier

- Degradation of quality
- Limits ability to innovate
- Longer development cycles
- Less responsive to market changes
- Customer churn
- Developer churn

Customer

- Higher upgrade costs
- System compatibility issues
- Poor end user experience
- Less responsive to market changes
- Poor IT morale



(Bad) Technical Debt Example

No User Roles



(Bad) Technical Debt Example

No User Roles

Permission for
Specific Requirement



(Bad) Technical Debt Example

No User Roles

Permission for
Specific Requirement

Differentiation of
Users



(Bad) Technical Debt Example

No User Roles

Permission for
Specific Requirement

Differentiation of
Users

Yet Another
Permission Change



(Bad) Technical Debt Example

No User Roles

Permission for
Specific Requirement

Differentiation of
Users

Yet Another
Permission Change



(Good) Technical Debt Example

.NET 5

Current Release

.NET 6

LTS Release

.NET 8

LTS Release

Technical Debt is not Free



What Causes Technical Debt?

Technical Debt is not Free



Insufficient up-front definition

What causes technical debt?





Business Pressures

What causes technical debt?





Lack of process or understanding

What causes technical debt?





Tightly-coupled components

What causes technical debt?





Lack of a test suite

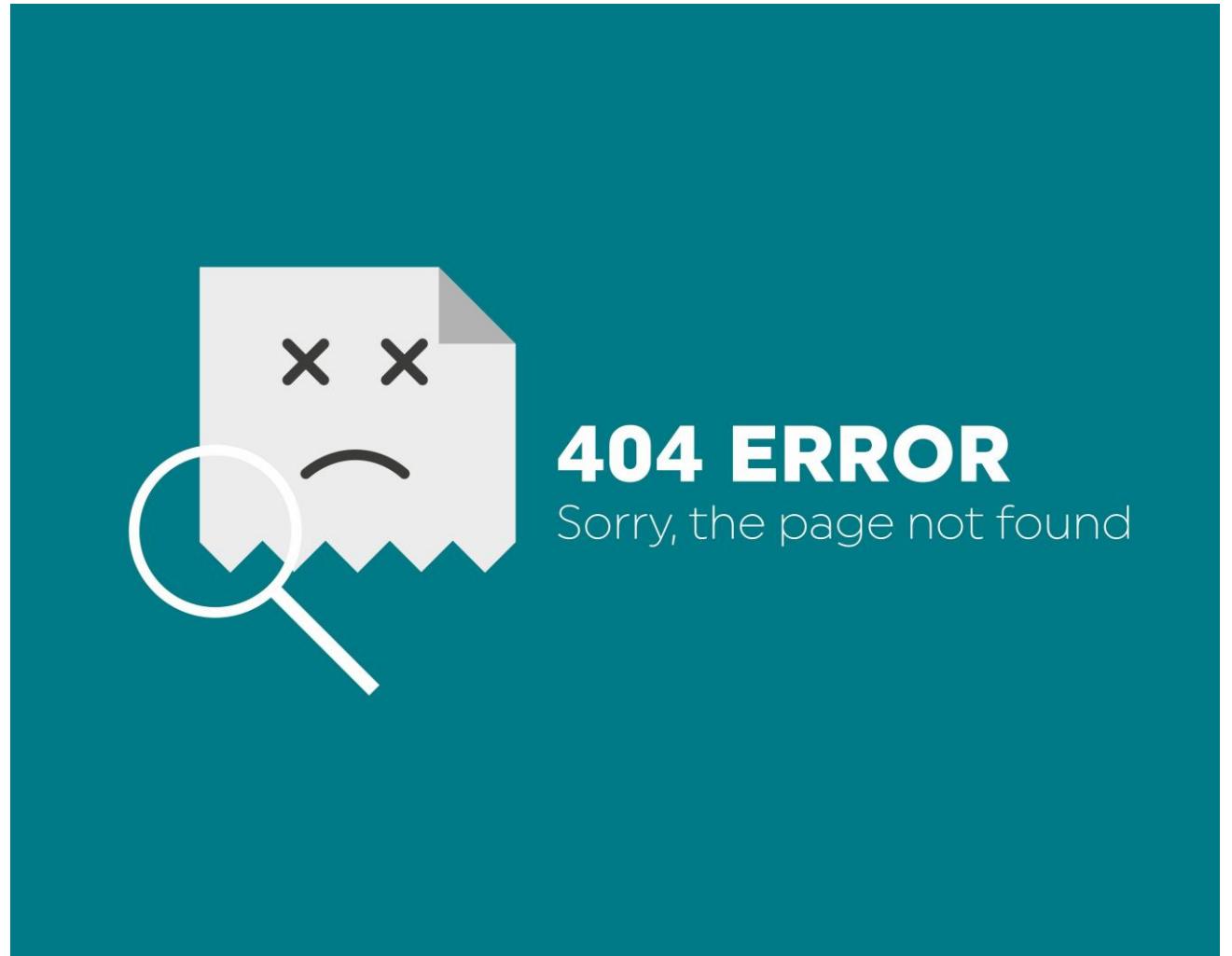
What causes technical debt?





Lack of documentation

What causes technical debt?





Lack of collaboration

What causes technical debt?





Parallel development

What causes technical debt?





Delayed refactoring

What causes technical debt?





Lack of alignment to standards

What causes technical debt





Lack of knowledge

What causes technical debt?





Lack of ownership

What causes technical debt?





Poor technical leadership

What causes technical debt?





Last minute specification changes





What causes technical debt?

- Insufficient up-front definition
- Business pressures
- Lack of process or understanding
- Tightly-coupled components
- Lack of a test suite
- Lack of documentation
- Lack of collaboration
- Parallel development
- Delayed refactoring
- Lack of alignment to standards
- Lack of knowledge
- Lack of ownership
- Poor technical leadership
- Last minute specification changes



Technical Debt Identification

Technical Debt is not Free



Technical Debt Identification

Code Quality

Clarity



Technical Debt Identification

Code Quality

Maintainability



Technical Debt Identification

Code Quality

Documentation



Technical Debt Identification

Code Quality

Refactored



Technical Debt Identification

Code Quality

Well-Tested



Technical Debt Identification

Code Quality

Efficiency



Technical Debt Identification

Code Quality

Technical
Deficiencies

Have other teams built similar solutions?



Technical Debt Identification

Code Quality

Technical
Deficiencies

Are there inconsistent user experiences?



Technical Debt Identification

Code Quality

Technical
Deficiencies

Are solutions using the same
reusable frameworks?



Technical Debt Identification

Code Quality

Technical
Deficiencies

Are best practices being followed?



Technical Debt Identification

Code Quality

Technical
Deficiencies

Are deployments taking too long?



Technical Debt Identification

Code Quality

Technical
Deficiencies

Are limits being exceeded,
or are users seeing errors?



Technical Debt Identification

Code Quality

Technical
Deficiencies

Business
Misalignment



Technical Debt Identification

Code Quality

Technical
Deficiencies

Business
Misalignment



Opportunities to Identify Technical Debt

Technical Debt is not Free



Code Reviews

Opportunities to Identify Technical Debt



Technical Debt is not Free



Pull Requests

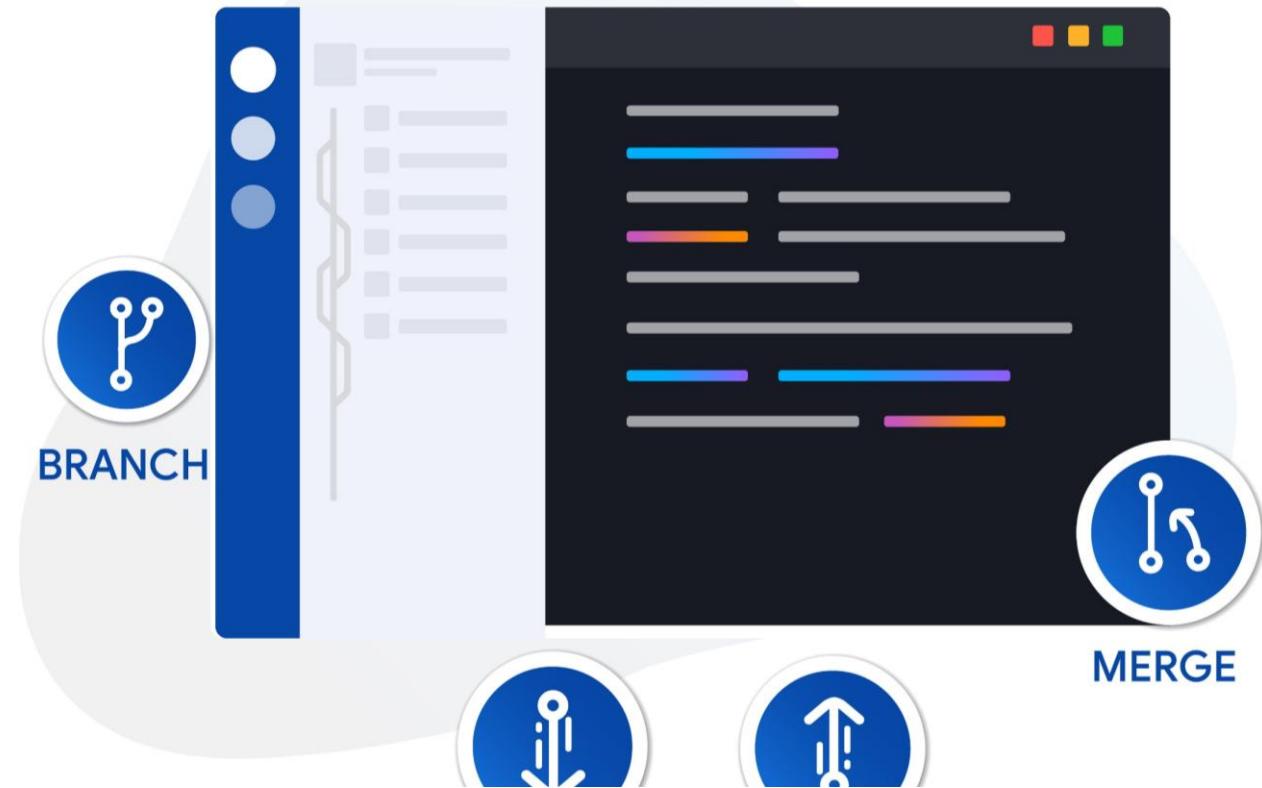
Opportunities to Identify Technical Debt

GIT REPOSITORIES

Software Development



GIT FLOW



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Sprint Review

Opportunities to Identify Technical Debt



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Stand Up

Opportunities to Identify Technical Debt





Coding

Opportunities to Identify Technical Debt



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Manifesto for Software Craftsmanship

Not only working software,
but also **well-crafted software**

Not only responding to change
but also **steadily adding value**

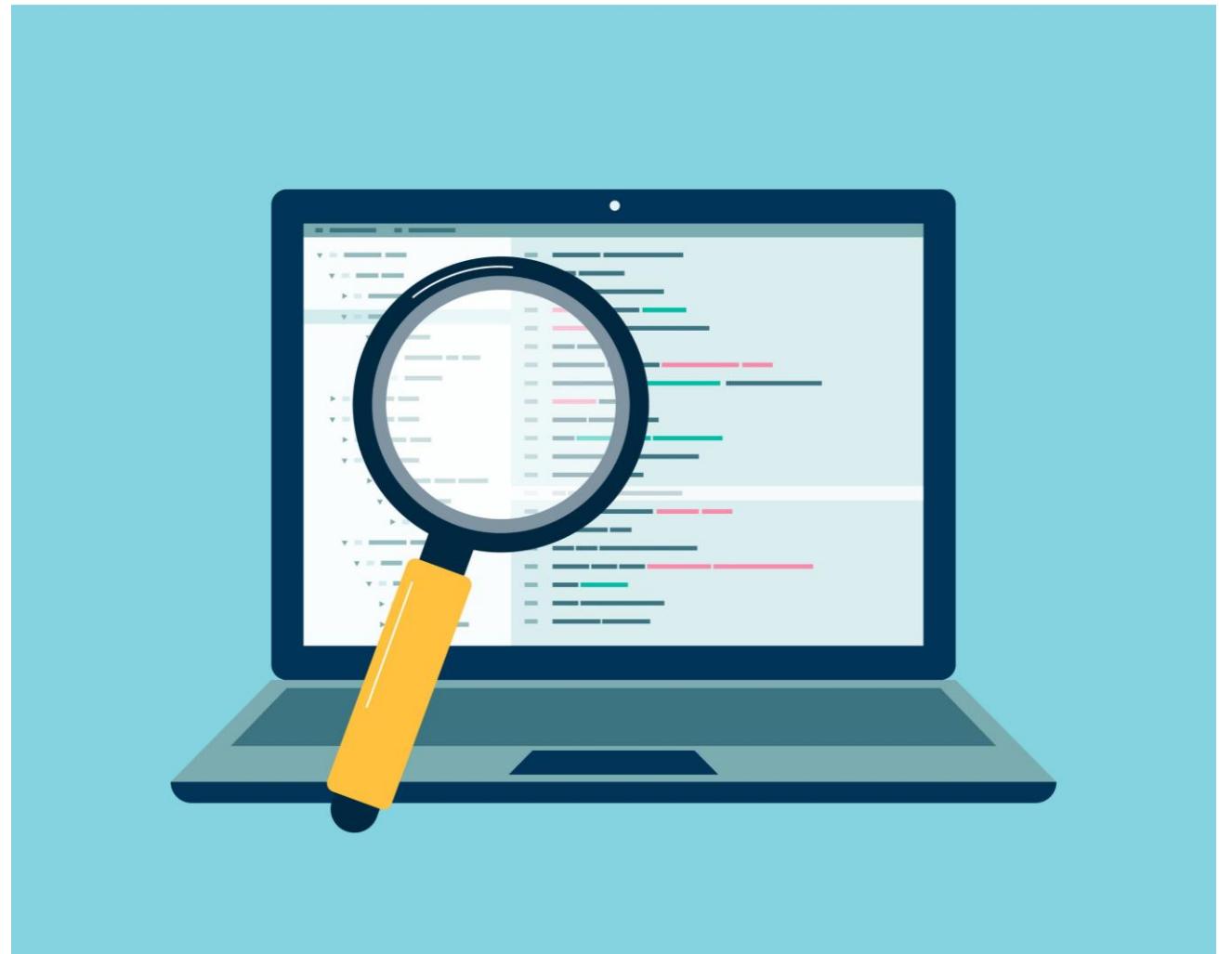
Not only individuals and interactions
but also **a community of professionals**

Not only customer collaboration
but also **productive partnerships**



Code Analysis Tools

Opportunities to Identify Technical Debt



Technical Debt is not Free



Often hidden in plain sight

Opportunities to Identify Technical Debt





Recoding Technical Debt

Technical Debt is not Free



Recording Technical Debt

- User Story
- Product Backlog Item
- Requirement
- Issue





Recording Technical Debt

- User Story
- Product Backlog Item
- Requirement
- Issue
- ~~Bug~~





Key Information to Record

- Problem Statement

We need to refactor our SSO.



Key Information to Record

- Problem Statement
 - In 22Q1, 20% of system outages were due to the SSO service straining under scale constraints. Given our focus on the enterprise segment, we are taking some time this quarter to ensure that part of the system is ready for us to continue to scale up this segment.



Key Information to Record

- Problem Statement
- Story Points
- Criticality
- Complexity
- Reward
- Remediation Cost



Tracking Technical Debt

Technical Debt is not Free



Tracking Technical Debt



Technical Debt is not Free



Tracking Technical Debt





Technical Debt Register

- Product
- User Story #
- Title
- Criticality
- Complexity
- Reward
- Remediation Cost
- Technical Debt Score



Technical Debt Score

R : Reward

Cr : Criticality

Co: Complexity

$$(R \times .2) + (CR \times .15) - (CO \times .15)$$



Technical Debt Score

R : Reward

Cr : Criticality

Co: Complexity

$$(R \times .2) + (CR \times .15) - (CO \times .15)$$



Technical Debt Score

$$(R \times .2) + (CR \times .15) - (CO \times .15)$$

Criticality (CR)	Complexity (CO)	Reward (R)	Score
5	1	5	1.6



Technical Debt Score

$$(R \times .2) + (CR \times .15) - (CO \times .15)$$

Criticality (CR)	Complexity (CO)	Reward (R)	Score
5	1	5	1.6
1	5	1	-0.4



Technical Debt Score

$$(R \times .2) + (CR \times .15) - (CO \times .15)$$

Criticality (CR)	Complexity (CO)	Reward (R)	Score
5	1	5	1.6
1	5	1	-0.4
3	2	3	0.75



Technical Debt Score

$$(R \times .2) + (CR \times .15) - (CO \times .15)$$

Criticality (CR)	Complexity (CO)	Reward (R)	Score	Rank
5	1	5	1.6	1
1	5	1	-0.4	3
3	2	3	0.75	2



Technical Debt Ratio

Technical Debt is not Free



Technical Debt Ratio

$(\text{Remediation Cost} / \text{Development Cost}) \times 100\%$

Project	Remediation Cost	Development Cost	Technical Debt Ratio
Project 1	12.1	3633.12	0.33%



Technical Debt Ratio

$(\text{Remediation Cost} / \text{Development Cost}) \times 100\%$

Project	Remediation Cost	Development Cost	Technical Debt Ratio
Project 1	12.1	3633.12	0.33%
Project 2	702	18,728.55	3.75%



Technical Debt Ratio

$(\text{Remediation Cost} / \text{Development Cost}) \times 100\%$

Project	Remediation Cost	Development Cost	Technical Debt Ratio
Project 1	12.1	3633.12	0.33%
Project 2	702	18,728.55	3.75%
Project 3	1,058.25	9,593.37	11.03%



Summary

Technical Debt is not Free



Technical Debt is not Free

- What is technical debt?



Technical Debt is not Free

- What is technical debt?
- Pros and cons of technical debt



Technical Debt is not Free

- What is technical debt?
- Pros and cons of technical debt
- Causes of technical debt



Technical Debt is not Free

- What is technical debt?
- Pros and cons of technical debt
- Causes of technical debt
- Types of technical debt



Technical Debt is not Free

- What is technical debt?
- Pros and cons of technical debt
- Causes of technical debt
- Types of technical debt
- Identifying technical debt



Technical Debt is not Free

- What is technical debt?
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- Recoding technical debt



Technical Debt is not Free

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- Technical Debt Score

$$(R \times .2) + (CR \times .15) - (CO \times .15)$$



Technical Debt is not Free

- What is technical debt?
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- Causes of technical debt
- Types of technical debt
- Identifying technical debt
- Recoding technical debt
- Technical Debt Score
- Technical Debt Ratio

(Remediation Cost / Development Cost)
x 100%



Thank You!

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github.com/TaleLearnCode/TechnicalDebtIsNotFree

