

Philippe Trépanier

Technical Debt Warrior or: Everybody hates you

/OSEDEA

Montreal-based innovation and technology firm, founded in 2011

We design intelligent, high-performance applications, tailored to the specific needs of our customers

Our services

- / Software Engineering
- / UX/UI Design
- / Artificial Intelligence
- / Robotics

Technology, for us, is a means within our innovation process, not the ultimate goal



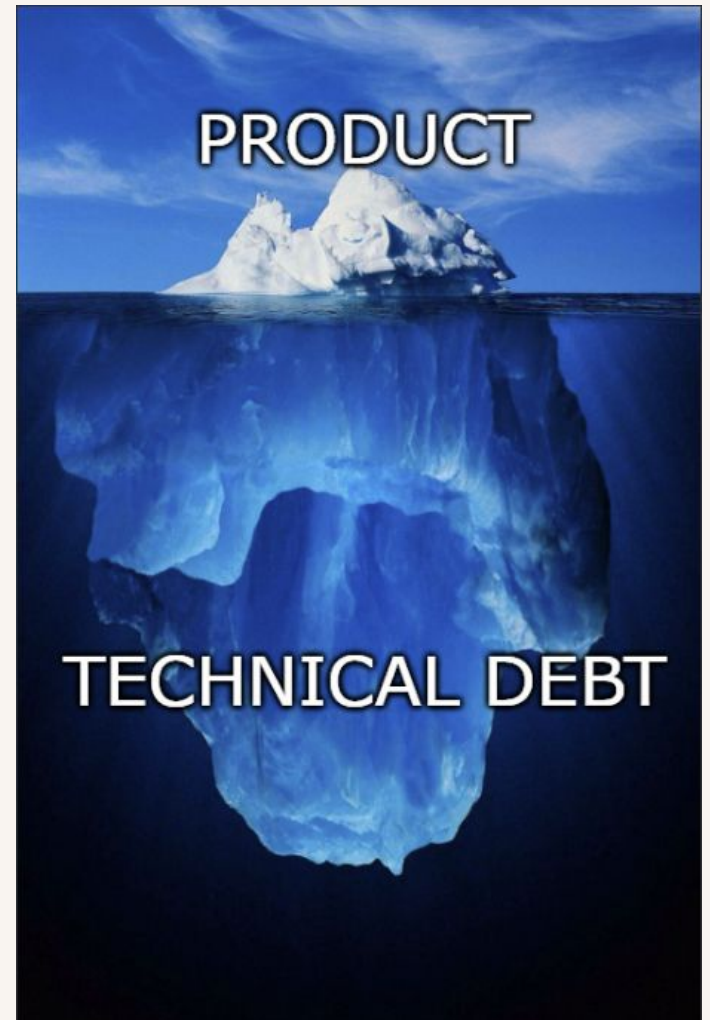
Personal Background



Defining Technical Debt



Technical Debt



Debt Impedes Opportunities



Why? Oh why?

It sucks, it really sucks



Please Try to Understand



No, I won't



A Big Pile of 💩



Categorizing Debt

The Good, the Bad & the Ugly



Categorizing Debt

Good Debt or Mortgage
Debt

Good Debt



Two Systems



(Some) People Get It Man



Efficiency Schmificiency



SLOWly BuT sUrELY



Good times end...



Categorizing Debt

Bad Debt or Credit Card
Debt

Bad Debt



Misunderstood by most



Motivation Killa



Hiding Away *like a rat*



Categorizing Debt

Ugly Debt or Loan Shark
Debt

Ugly Debt



That Poker Planning in 2017

$$8 \rightarrow \cancel{21} \rightarrow 34$$

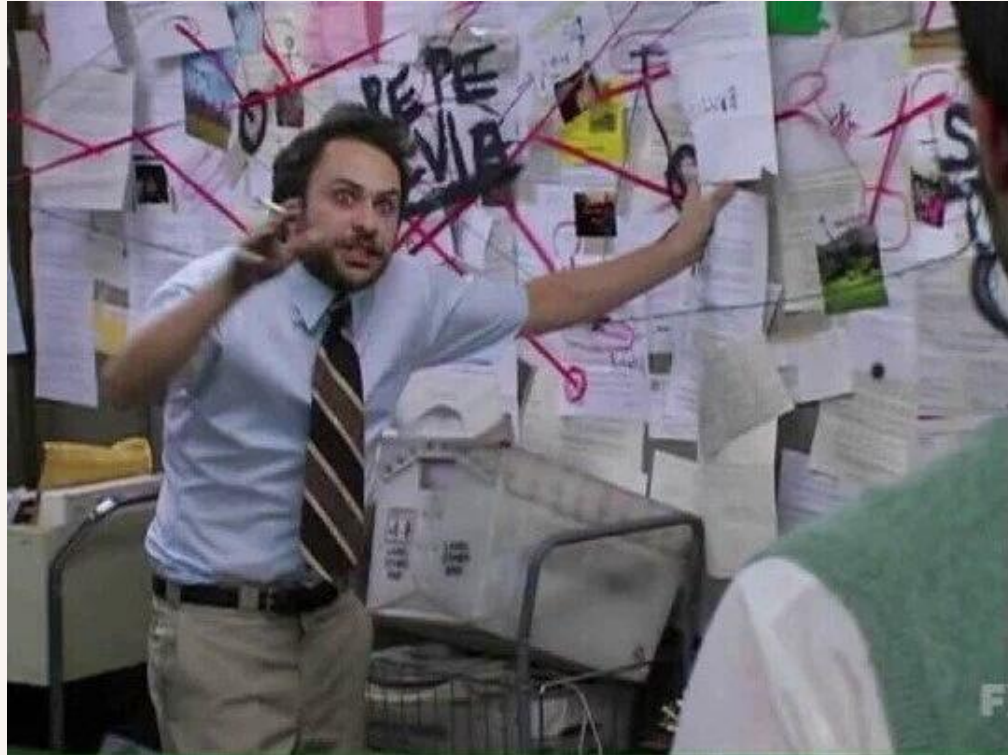
Account teams



Director



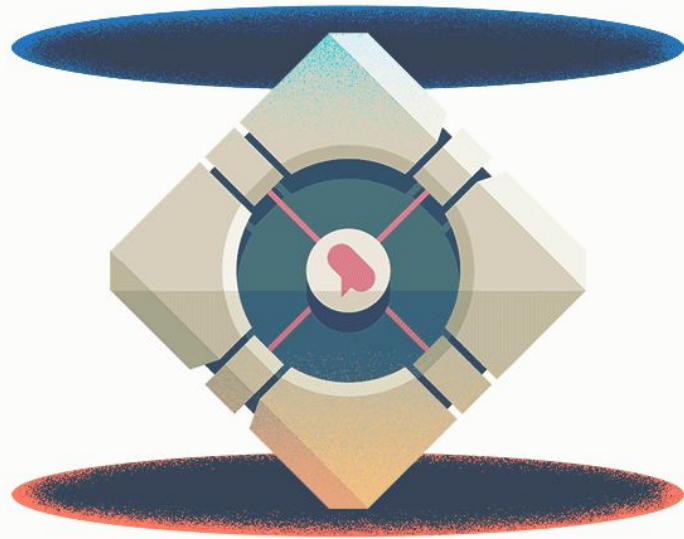
Software Architect



The Bill Comes Due



Feedback loop



Bankruptcy



Visualizing the Process



Another way of looking at it

- Clean 🌟 No debt
- Good 👍 visible and understood by all stakeholders
- Bad 👎 visible and understood by (some) technical stakeholders
- Ugly 😱 affecting current tasks
- Bankruptcy 💀 might as well start from scratch

Misery Loves Company

Taking your first steps

Steering the Course



~~Trick~~ Find Someone To Help You

- A. Talk to the project manager
- B. Talk to the lead
- c. Talk to the whole team
- ~~D. Talk to your partner until they convince you to take time off~~

Misery Loves Company

Convincing the Project
Manager

Understanding the PM



Tactical Moves

“I’d like to do some *foundational work* on the Epic scheduled for next month.”

  Technical Debt

Misery Loves Company

Convincing the Lead
Developer

Understanding the Lead Dev



Tactical Moves

“You don’t need to write the technical tasks, *I’ll do it.*”

 Taking ownership

 Being an asshole

Misery Loves Company

Convincing the Dev Team

Mutiny



Misery Loves ~~Company~~ You

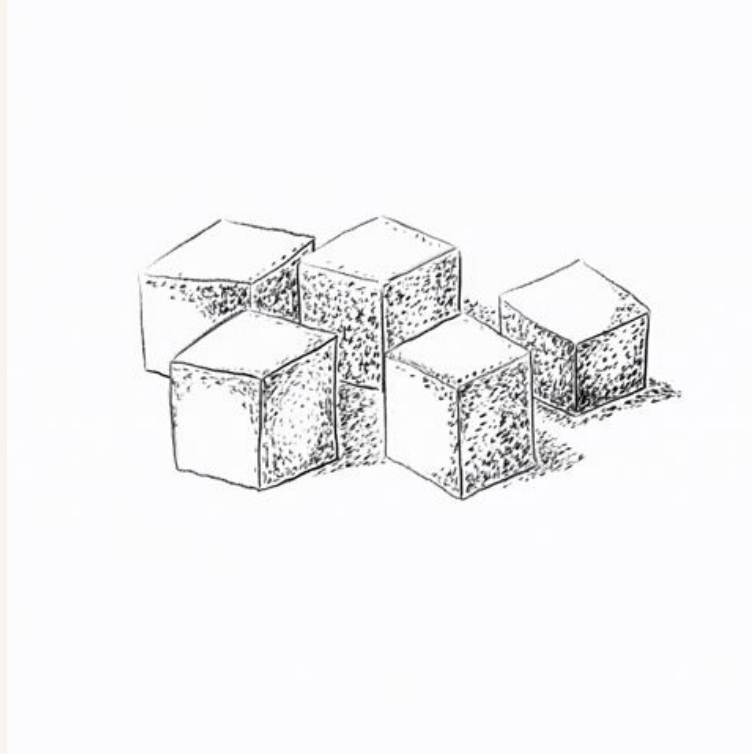
Ironman Mode

Ask for Forgiveness... Later



Tackling Debt

Establishing Boundaries

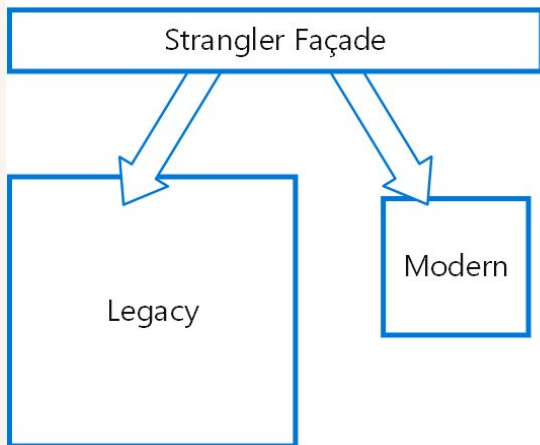


Defensive Programming

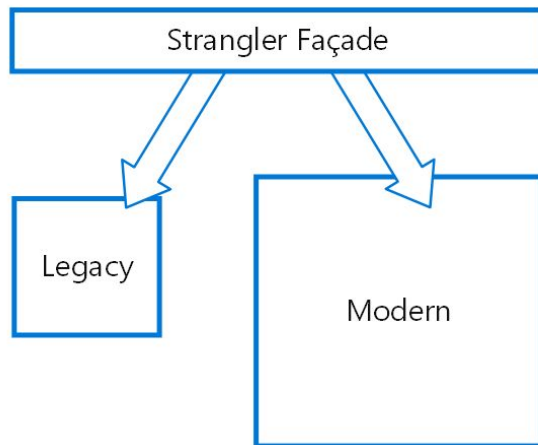
```
public Author? GetAuthorOrDefaultById(string id) {  
    if (string.IsNullOrEmpty(id)) return null;  
  
    // rest of the implementation...  
}
```

Strangler Fig Pattern

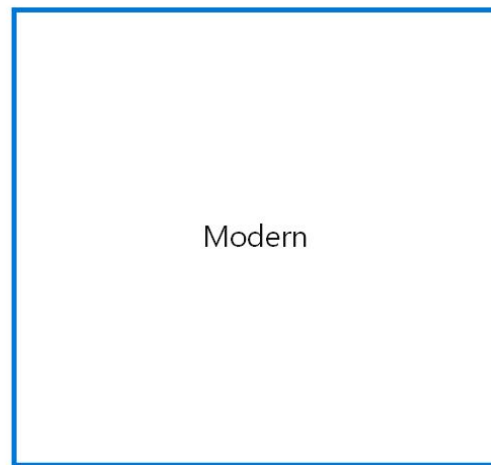
Early migration



Later migration



Migration complete





Takeaways

1. It sucks, I'm sorry you have to deal with that
2. ☀️ → 👍 → 👎 → 😱 → 💀
3. Keep debt visible
4. Find *somebody* to support you
5. Fix one thing at a time
6. Only bite what you can chew

Thank You! Questions?



Philippe Trépanier

linkedin.com/in/philippe-trepanier/

github.com/philtrep/

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