



# Soft Skills For Software Developers

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Good decisions come from experience...  
...and experience comes from bad decisions.  
- Unknown





# 1 Introduction



## Technical Introduction







## Personal Introduction





## Travel Introduction





When you're in the expert business, after a  
while you realize there are no experts.

Prof. Richard Sylla

New York University







## 2 Ourselves

Skills that make us good developers  
beyond merely our technical abilities.



## Being The Best!

Unhealthy view:

- Perfectionism
- Competition with colleagues
- Badges



## Stewardship

- Of abilities
- Of experiences
- Of resources
- Of opportunities
- Of relationships





Wanting to be someone else  
is a waste of the person you are.

-Kurt Cobain





## Personal Growth

- What can you not not do?







## Personal Growth

- What can you not not do?
- Growing through difficulties





*Die Siege laden ihn nicht ein.*

*Sein Wachstum ist: der Tiefbesiegte von immer  
Größerem zu sein.*

Winning does not tempt that man. He grows by being  
defeated, decisively, by ever greater opponents.

-Rainer Maria Rilke





## Personal Growth

- What can you not not do?
- Growing through difficulties
- Pursuing directly vs indirectly





## Personal Growth

- What can you not not do?
- Growing through difficulties
- Pursuing directly vs indirectly
- Realizing we are not on our own





## 3 Our Colleagues

Working productively with people  
with different skills, interests and personalities





No man is an island entire of itself

- John Donne

Whoever you are, I have always depended on  
the kindness of strangers.

- Tennessee Williams





Projects die but friendships remain

*Im leben trifft man sich immer zweimal.*

In life you always meet people a second time.





Vendors will sell anyone a computer;

What gives your company its advantage  
are its people and teams.



# Appreciate

1. valuing; the act of recognizing the best in people or the world around us; affirming past and present strengths, successes, and potentials; to perceive those things that give life (health, vitality, excellence) to living systems

2. to increase in value, e.g. the economy has appreciated in value

Synonyms: VALUING, PRIZING, ESTEEMING, HONORING.





### Inquire

1. the act of exploration and discovery
2. to ask questions; to be open to seeing new potentials and possibilities

Synonyms: DISCOVERY, SEARCH,  
EXPLORATION, STUDY







# Appreciative Inquiry

AI is about the search for the best in people, their organizations, and the strengths-filled, opportunity-rich world around them ... AI is a fundamental shift in the overall perspective

[https://appreciativeinquiry.champlain.edu/learn/  
appreciative-inquiry-introduction/](https://appreciativeinquiry.champlain.edu/learn/appreciative-inquiry-introduction/)





## 4 Our Managers

Working with authority to accomplish more



# A Manager's Role

- Structure
- Protection
- Permission
- Nurture
- Authority



# Manager's Need

- Followers
- No excuses
- No surprises
- Honest agendas
- Honest timelines
- Honest feedback





If you want to build a ship,  
don't drum up the men to gather wood,  
divide the work, and give orders.

Instead, teach them to yearn  
for the vast and endless sea.

Antoine de Saint-Exupery







# THANK YOU



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## Time Management

- Simplified from the “Pomodoro System”
- 25 uninterrupted minutes of work
- 5 minute break
- combine up to 4 pomodoros
- Creates structure
- Encourages discipline
- Provides rest

