

SHIPPING QUALITY SOFTWARE
IN HOSTILE ENVIRONMENTS

WHO?

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RECOVERING
WEB DEVELOPER
OF 10+ YEARS

ARCHITECTURE, INFRASTRUCTURE & SECURITY CONSULTANT

STARTUP FOUNDER REMOTE WORK EVANGELIST

HOSTILE ENVIRONMENTS?

TECH DEBT?

IMPLIED COST OF AN EASY SOLUTION
OVER A SLOWER & BETTER APPROACH

AN API THAT RETURNS A LIST OF
RESULTS WITHOUT PAGINATION

FRAGILE CODE THAT
EVERYTHING RUNS THROUGH

PARTS OF THE CODEBASE
NOBODY WANTS TO TOUCH

ENTIRE SYSTEMS THAT HAVE BECOME
TOO COMPLEX TO CHANGE OR DEPRECATE

BROKEN TOOLS & PROCESSES

LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN THE BUILD & DEPLOY PROCESS

WHAT YOU WISH YOU COULD
CHANGE BUT CAN'T AFFORD TO

WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

INSUFFICIENT UP-FRONT DEFINITION

TIGHT COUPLING OF COMPONENTS

LACK OF ATTENTION TO THE FOUNDATIONS

EVOLUTION OVER TIME

ANY OF THESE SOUND FAMILIAR?

"WE'LL GET BACK
TO THAT LATER"

"WHY DOES X HAVE TO
BE CLEAN, WHEN Y ISN'T?"

"WE'RE A TINY STARTUP, WE CAN'T
AFFORD TO HAVE PERFECT CODE."

"WE'RE STILL TRYING TO PROVE THE
PRODUCT-MARKET FIT."

"WHEN WE MAKE SOME MONEY,
THINGS WILL BE DIFFERENT"

WHAT'S THE HARM?

UNADDRESSED TECH DEBT
BREEDS MORE TECH DEBT

PRODUCTIVITY DROPS & DEADLINES SLIP

DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE
RESULTS WITH CONFIDENCE

QUALITY TAKES A NOSEDIVE

NO CLEAR ROOT CAUSE

TANKING MORALE AMONG TECH STAFF

DEVELOPERS ARE JUST
SPOILED... RIGHT?

FALSE.

CASE STUDY

I GET A CALL ONE DAY.

WITHIN DAYS...
MY ALARMS START GOING OFF

MASSIVE MONOLITHIC GIT REPOSITORY

NO CONCEPT
OF STABLE

HAND-CRAFTED BUILD SERVER

NO LOCAL DEV
ENVIRONMENTS

NO DB SCHEMA VERSIONING

HALF THE SERVERS
NOT DEPLOYABLE
FROM SCRATCH

CODE REVIEW TOOL IS
SELF-HOSTED ABANDONWARE

OUTAGES A
DAILY OCCURRENCE

EVERYONE FOCUSED
ON SHIPPING FEATURES

HOW DO YOU EVEN
BEGIN TO FIX THIS?

IT TOOK OVER
A YEAR AND A HALF.

HOW?

BUILD SERVER REBUILT FROM SCRATCH

BUILD AND DEPLOY JOBS
DEFINED 100% IN CODE

MONOREPO SPLIT UP
INTO 40 SMALLER ONES

REBUILT & REDEPLOYED
ALL SERVERS WITH ANSIBLE

MIGRATED TO MODERN
CODE REVIEW SOFTWARE

VPN NOT NEEDED FOR
DAY TO DAY DEV WORK

ETC.

THE MORAL OF THIS STORY IS

DON'T WAIT FOR PERMISSION
TO DO YOUR JOB RIGHT.

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING
BROKEN - FIX IT

IF YOU DON'T HAVE TIME TO
FIX IT - WRITE IT DOWN

BUT DO COME BACK TO IT WHEN
YOU CAN STEAL A MINUTE

EVEN IF IT TAKES MONTHS
TO MAKE PROGRESS

THE TEAM WAS WELL AWARE
OF HOW BROKEN THINGS WERE.

IF WE PUSHED FOR IT TO BE A SINGLE MASSIVE
PROJECT, IT NEVER WOULD'VE HAPPENED.

JOB WELL DONE!

EXCEPT . . .

THAT'S NOT HOW
THINGS SHOULD BE.

HOW DO WE DO BETTER?

"TECH DEBT" WORK IS
DIFFICULT TO SELL

IT'S NOT LIKE PAYING OFF
YOUR CREDIT CARD

IT'S INCREDIBLY DIFFICULT TO
SCHEDULE WORK TO ADDRESS TECH DEBT

IF YOU DON'T SCHEDULE TIME FOR MAINTENANCE,
YOUR EQUIPMENT WILL SCHEDULE IT FOR YOU

TIME FOR A NEW APPROACH

SPRINTS, MARATHONS & ROOT CANALS

BY GOJKO ADZIC

NEW NAME:
SUSTAINABILITY WORK

OKAY TO SKIP HERE AND THERE

BUDGET VS PLANNING

HELPS WITH MORALE

~~TECH DEBT~~

SUSTAINABILITY WORK

QUESTIONS?

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THANK YOU!



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