Testing Relativity — Does Technical Debt Exist?

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TSQA 2020

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Housekeeping

Code of Conduct

Transcript available

https://github.com/drasch/talk-tsqa-2020

Credits throughout

What is he blathering on about? (questions)

https://www.sciencemag.org/careers/2017/10/women-ask-fewer-questions-men-conference-talks-new-studies-suggest

I love feedback!

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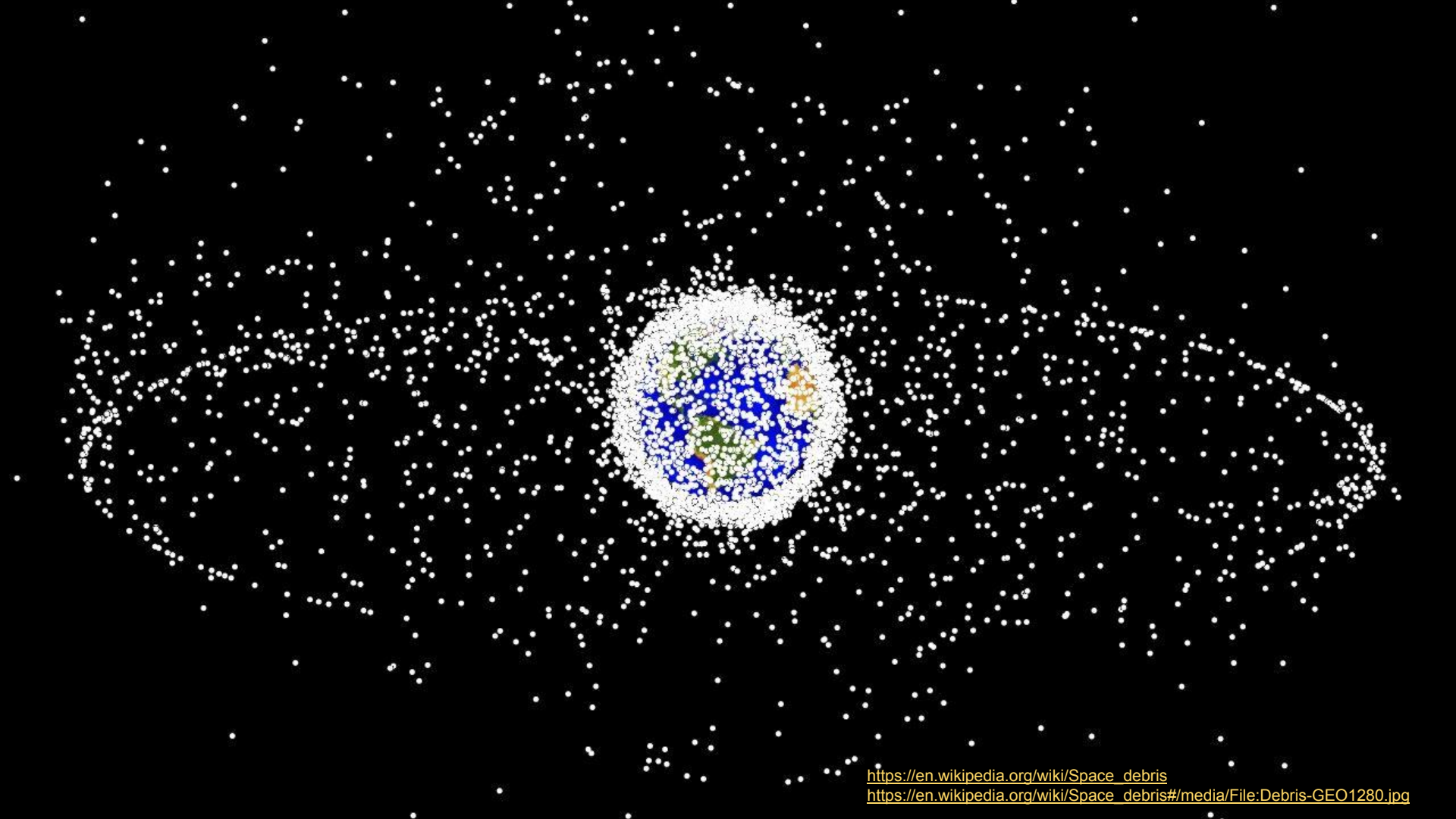
Agenda

...

- what is it?
- who's to blame?
- beauty of building software
- the example
- what about my automation debt?

(intentionally blank slide)



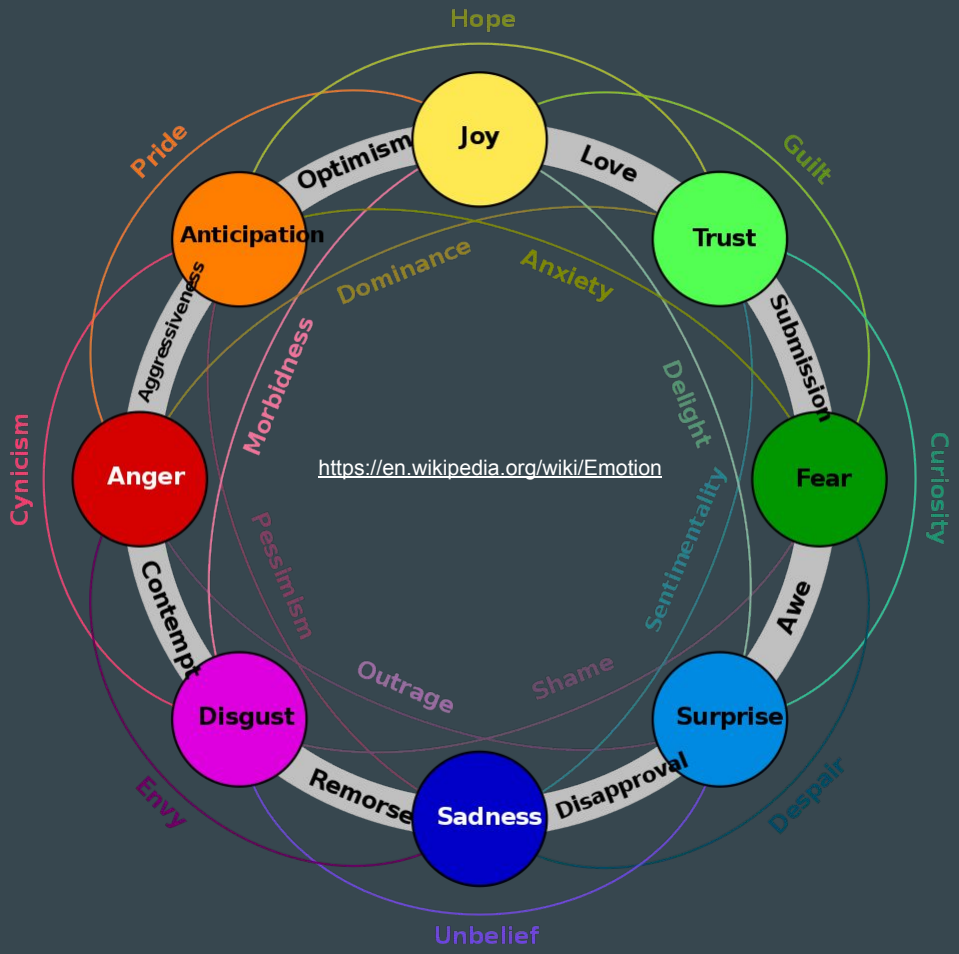
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Space_debris
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Space_debris#/media/File:Debris-GEO1280.jpg

technical debt

“the cost of rework caused by choosing an easy (limited) solution now”

abridged from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Technical_debt

talk



how does it make you feel?

whose fault is it?

“not mine”

the tIem?

[sic]

sorry, it is your fault*

*partially

https://flickr.com/photos/gotcredit/33627561091

tradeoffs

let’s build a house

your role

testing the kitchen

run away

the beauty

costs

what is debt?

who owes us?

It’s all just work

“but my situation is special...”

(another blank slide)

Todo List App

1. Connect to Twitter
2. Button to Share when I complete a Todo

THE FUTURE

nevermind

We want to tweet in other places in our app

We decide to scrap Twitter and use Facebook

We want Facebook and Twitter both

We decide to support Twitter for logins too

How does the “debt” change?

If we think of these all as bad debt...

...

The benefit of making software becomes a disadvantage

(blank slide)

Automation Spiral of Despair

1. Product wants Feature 1 quickly
2. Shoved out the door without incomplete automation
3. Product wants Feature 2, complains it's taking forever
    a. complaints about the lack of automation
    b. complaints about technical debt

But what did we gain? What could we do better?

We have to communicate our tradeoffs well!

Make them together with product, but don’t forget your responsibilities!

abusive?

“but what about the past?”

(my situation is different)

bugs

outages/unplanned work

customer feedback

slow development

manual effort

don’t be the victim!

don’t let technical debt happen to you!*

*unless you want it to

THANK YOU!

questions...

I love feedback!

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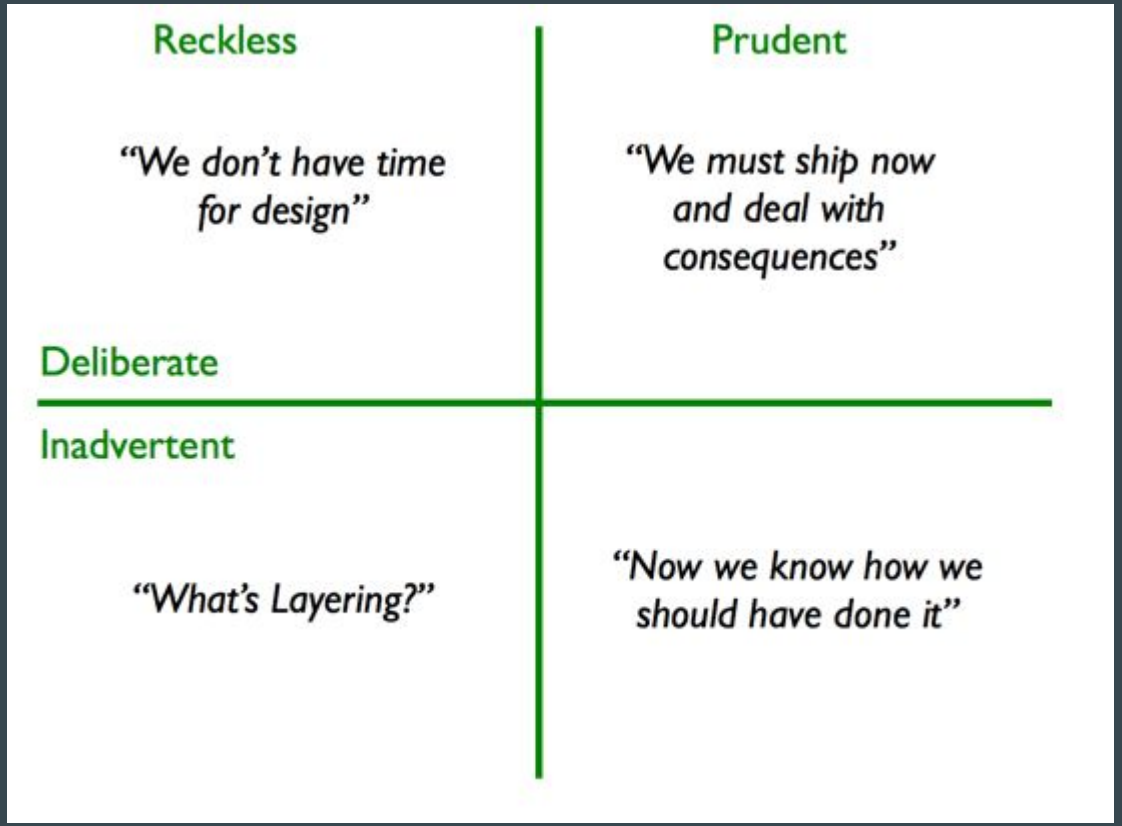
Appendix

...



https://martinfowler.com/bliki/TechnicalDebtQuadrant.html