

# **SOCIO-TECHNICAL LEADERSHIP**

**HOW TO HAVE IMPACT AS A  
SOFTWARE DEVELOPER**

**@EINARWH**

# WHO AM I?

**NIK TV**

# TALKS

<http://einarwh.github.io/talks.html>

# BLOG

<http://einarwh.wordpress.com>

# GITHUB

<http://github.com/einarwh>

# **TWITTER**

<http://twitter.com/einarwh>

# **SOCIO-TECHNICAL LEADERSHIP**

**HOW TO HAVE IMPACT AS A  
SOFTWARE DEVELOPER**

**@EINARWH**



# **SOFTWARE IS** **SOCIO-** **TECHNICAL**

**WHAT DOES  
THAT MEAN?**

**SO WHAT?**

# WHAT ARE SOCIO- TECHNICAL SYSTEMS?



# CONWAY'S LAW

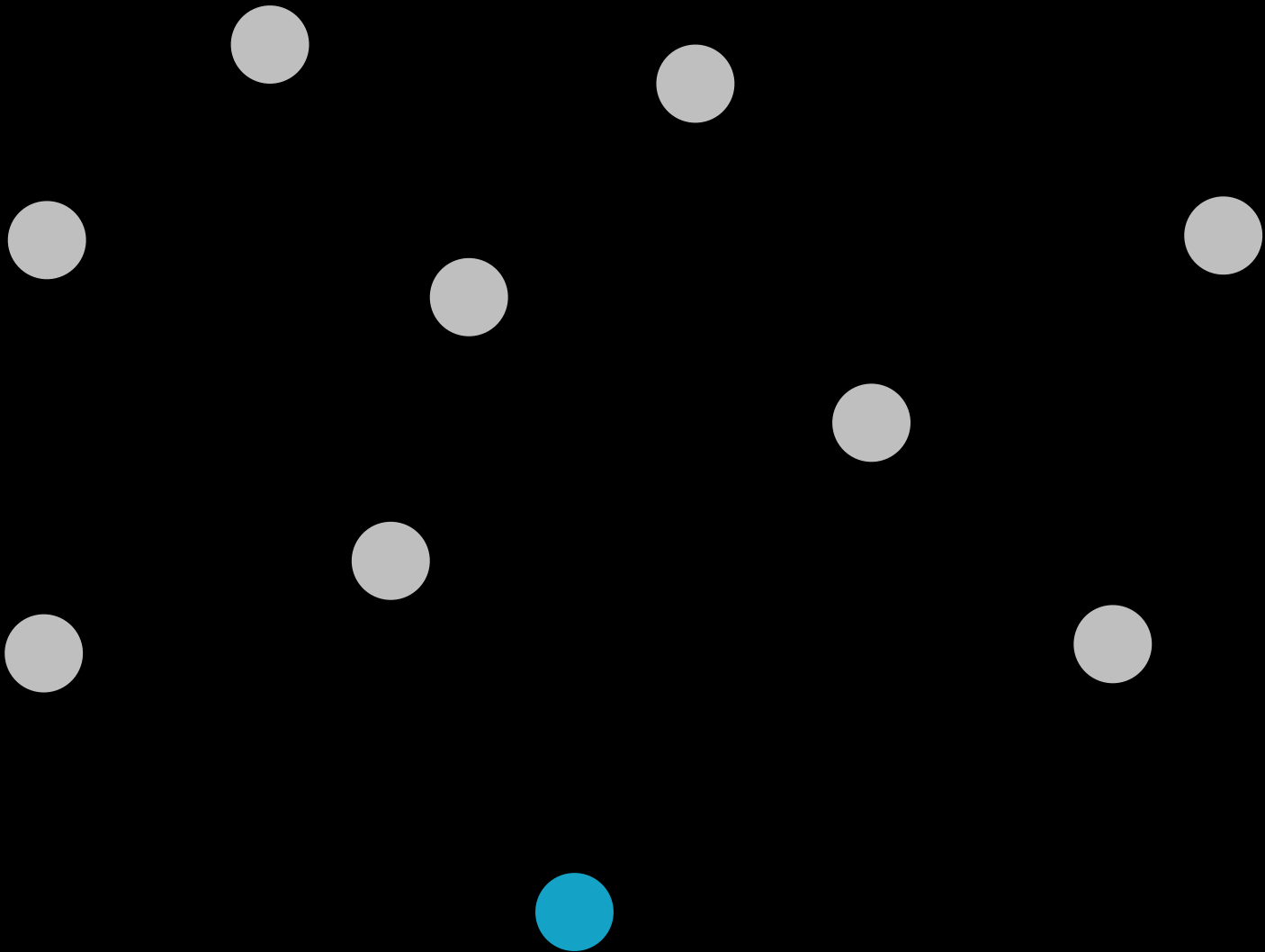
# **JOINT OPTIMIZATION**

**WHAT ARE THE  
IMPLICATIONS?**



# **HOW TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP**

# **STARTING A NEW JOB**



**HOW WILL IT  
PLAY OUT?**

# IT DEPENDS

**WHO ARE  
YOU?**

**WHO ARE  
THEY?**

# CONTEXT



**WHY ARE YOU  
THERE?**

# WHAT IS YOUR **ROLE?**

# ARCHITECT

# TECH LEAD

# **SENIOR DEV**

# JUNIOR DEV

**SOMETHING  
ELSE?**

**WHAT IS  
EXPECTED  
FROM YOU?**



**1337 DEV**

**FASTEST  
JIRA TICKET  
PROCESSING  
MACHINE IN  
THE NORTH**

# **COACH A TEAM OF DEVELOPERS**

**MOVE  
TOWARDS A  
BETTER  
ARCHITECTURE**

# **HELP BUILD A BETTER DEVELOPER CULTURE**

**WHAT ARE  
YOUR GOALS?**

**PROVIDE  
VALUE FOR THE  
CUSTOMER**

**PROVIDE  
INCOME FOR  
YOUR  
EMPLOYER**



**EARN A DECENT  
PAYCHECK**

# **CREATE AN AWESOME PRODUCT**

# **BUILD A CAREER**

**CREATE A  
NAME FOR  
YOURSELF**

# **WORK WITH EXCELLENT PEOPLE**

**HAVE FUN**

# WHAT IS YOUR TIME FRAME?

# LIMITED



# LONG RANGE

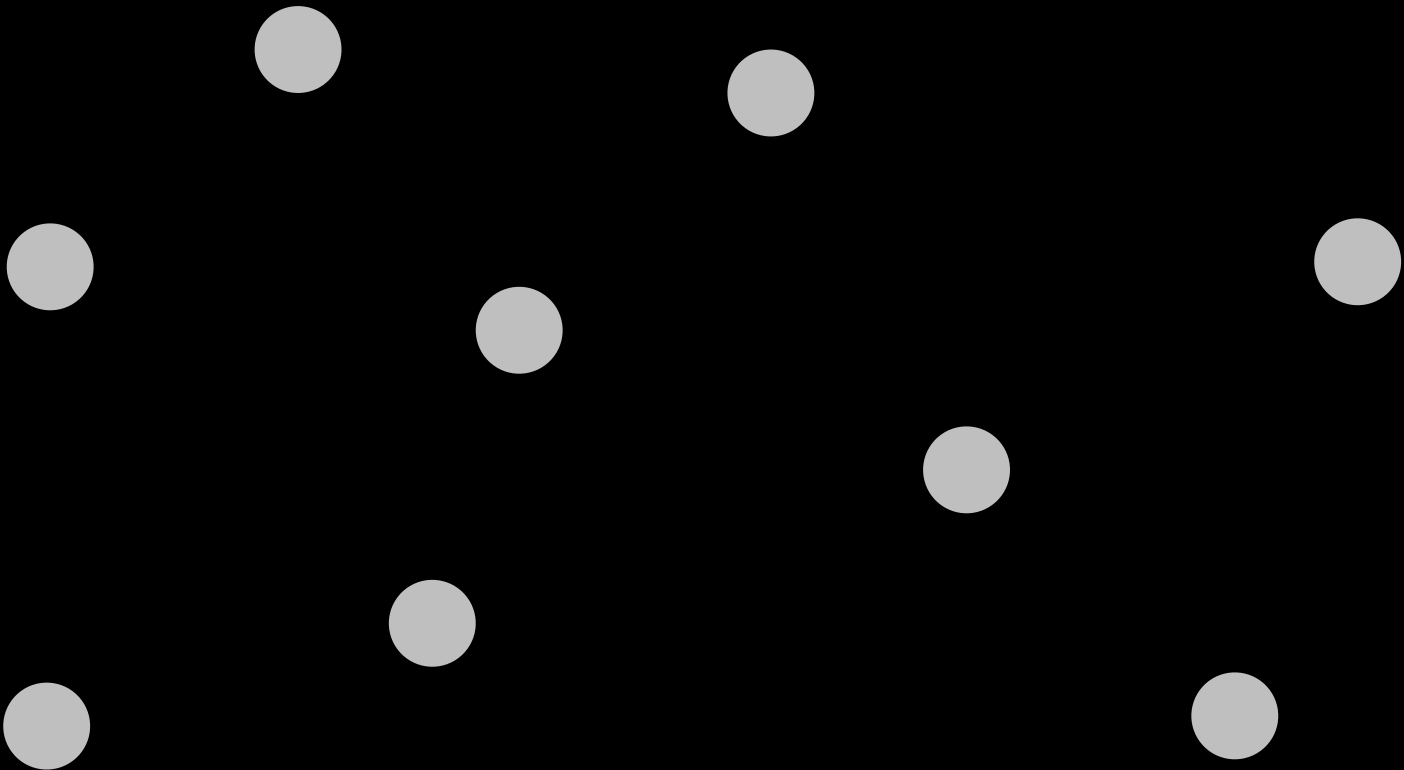
# ASSUMPTION

**YOU WANT**  
**IMPACT**

# CONTEXT

# **A CONCRETE EXAMPLE**

**ME**



**I COME WITH  
OPINIONS**



# **I BELIEVE IN DOMAIN-DRIVEN DESIGN**

**I AM SKEPTICAL OF  
PROCESS THEATRE**

**I BELIEVE IN  
THE NEED FOR  
LEADERSHIP**

**I AM SKEPTICAL OF  
TOP-DOWN  
LEADERSHIP**

**I BELIEVE IN  
INCREMENTAL  
IMPROVEMENTS**

**I AM SKEPTICAL OF  
GRAND REWRITES**

**I BELIEVE IN  
EMPOWERED  
AUTONOMOUS  
TEAMS**

**I AM SKEPTICAL OF  
INDIVIDUAL  
PROGRAMMER  
HEROICS**



**BUT THESE ARE**  
**JUST EXAMPLES**

**I AM HUMAN**

**I AM COMPLEX**

# **KNOWLEDGE & EXPERIENCE**

# **STRENGTHS & WEAKNESSES**

# **HOPES & FEARS**

# **CONFIDENCE & INSECURITY**

# PET PEEVES



# LIMITED RATIONALITY

**DRIVEN BY  
EMOTIONS**

# **COGNITIVE BIASES**

# BLIND SPOTS

**I AM MADE OF  
NARRATIVES**

**I HAVE A  
SELF-IMAGE**

**I AM A GOOD  
PERSON**

**I AM A GOOD  
DEVELOPER**



**I DO MY BEST**

**I DESERVE**  
**MY PAY CHECK**

# CHALLENGES & THREATS

# **I EXPERIENCE COGNITIVE DISSONANCE**

**I NEED**  
**COGNITIVE**  
**CLOSURE**

**I HAVE SELF-  
DEFENSE  
MECHANISMS  
IN PLACE**

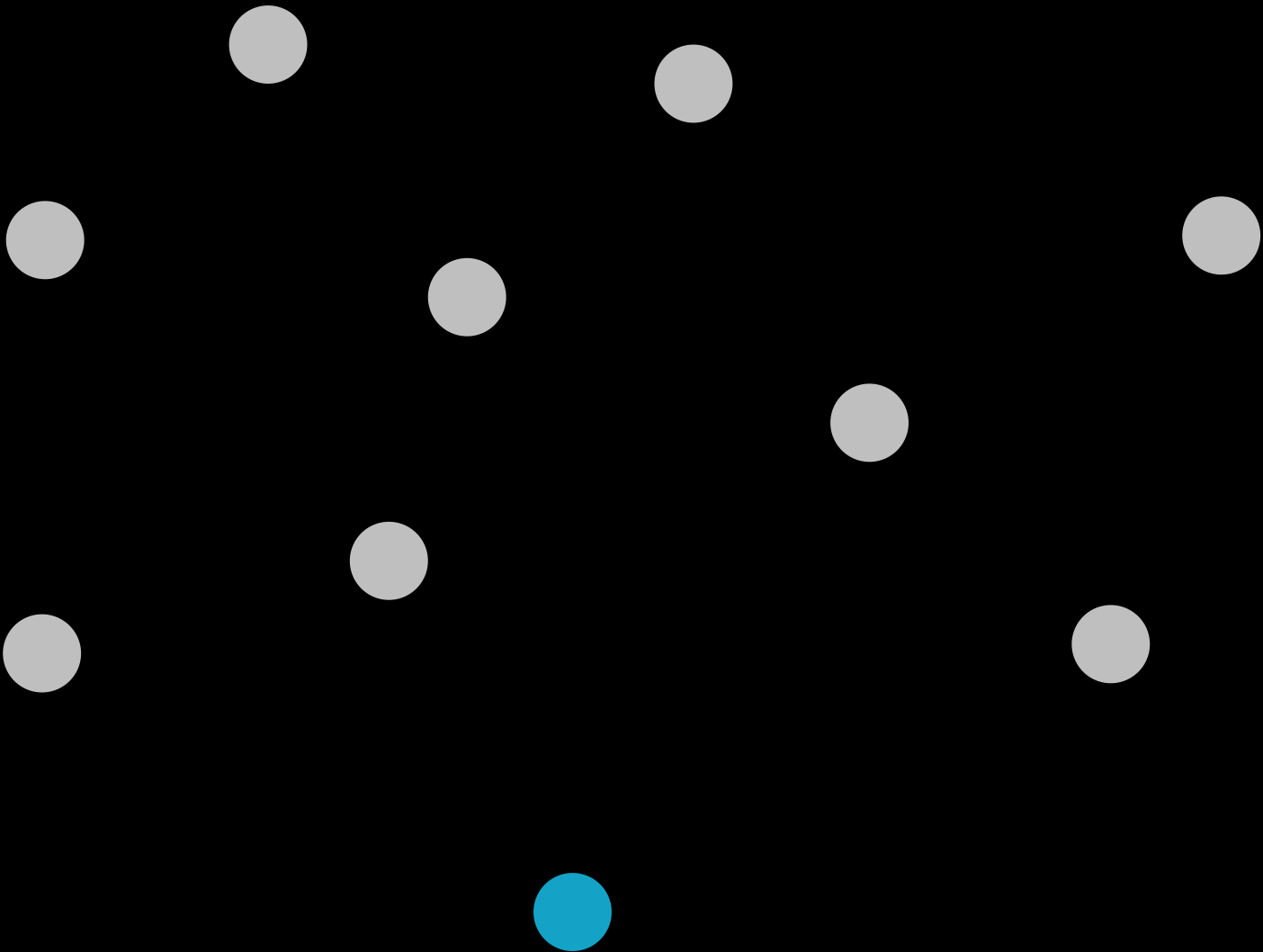
**NOT JUST ME**

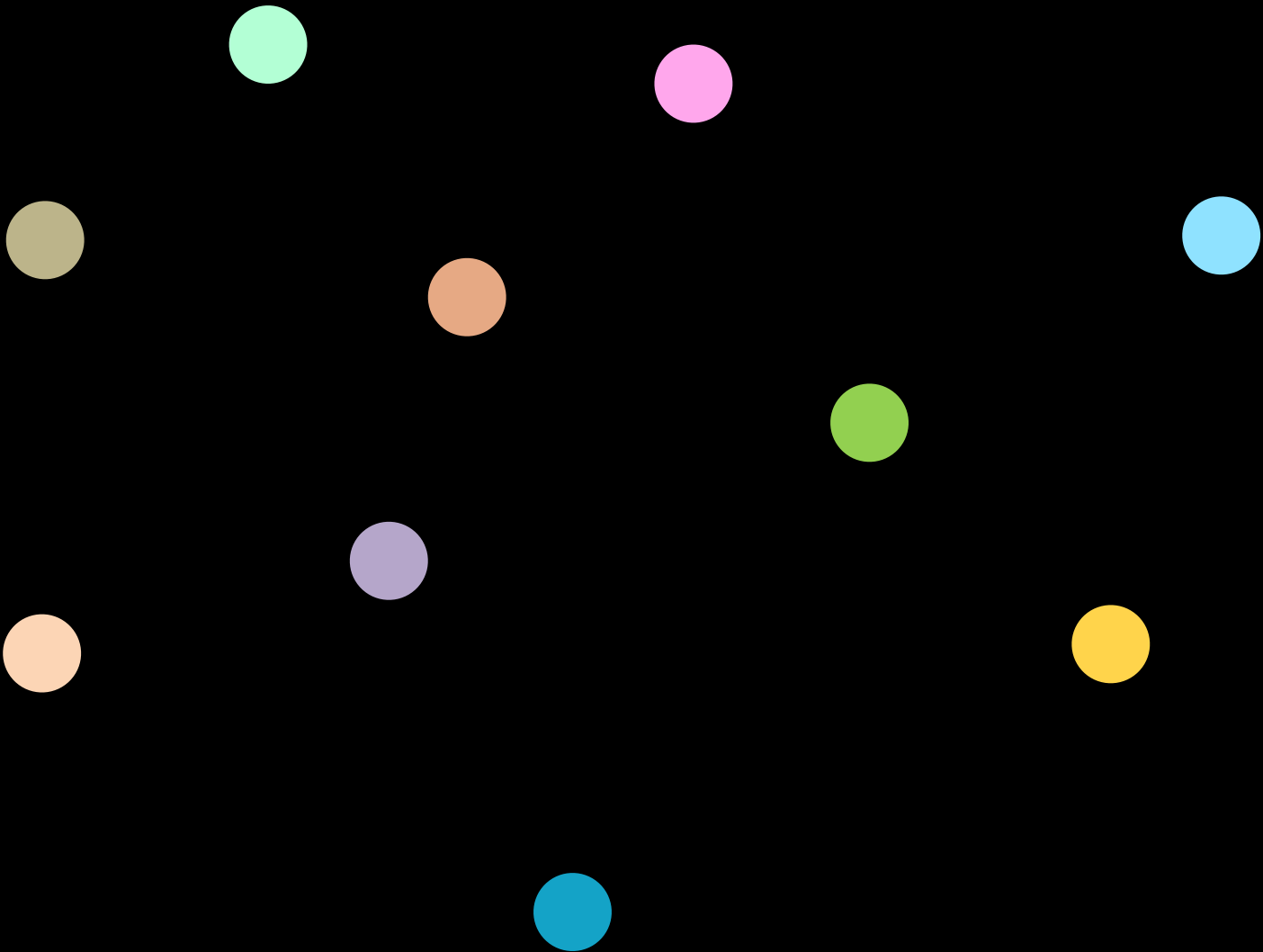
**EVERYONE IS  
LIKE THIS**

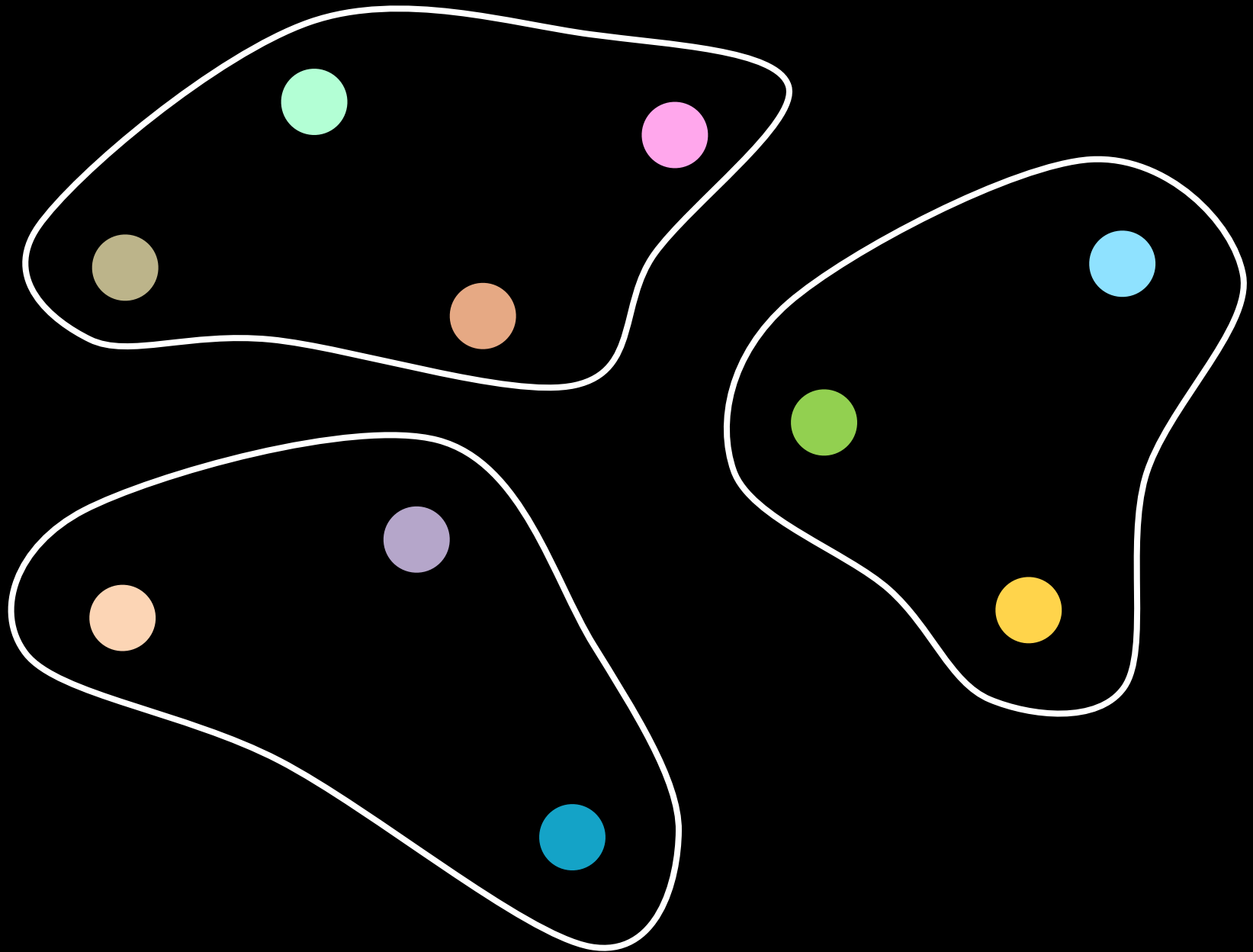


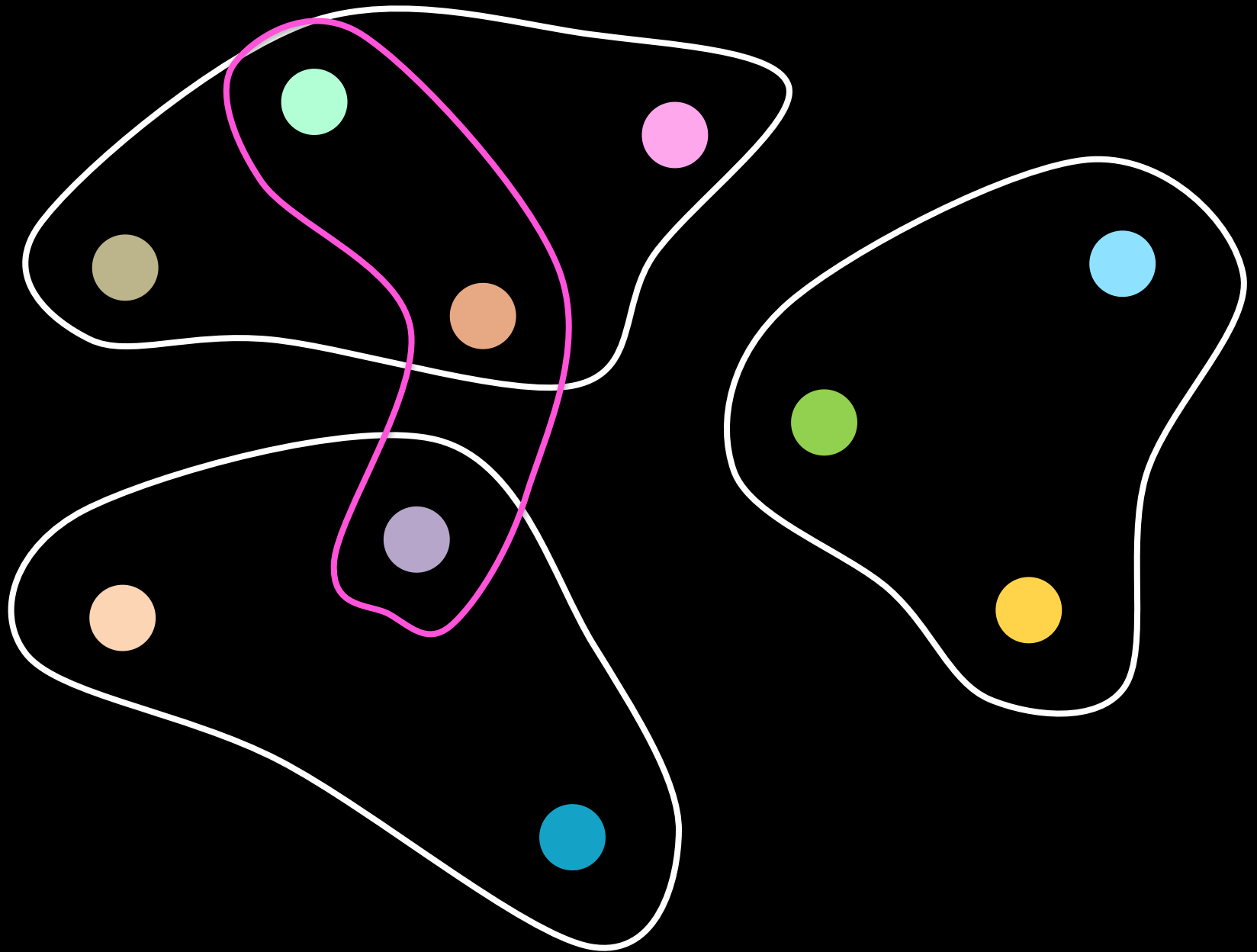
**OUR SELF-  
DEFENSE  
MECHANISMS  
ARE EASILY  
TRIGGERED**

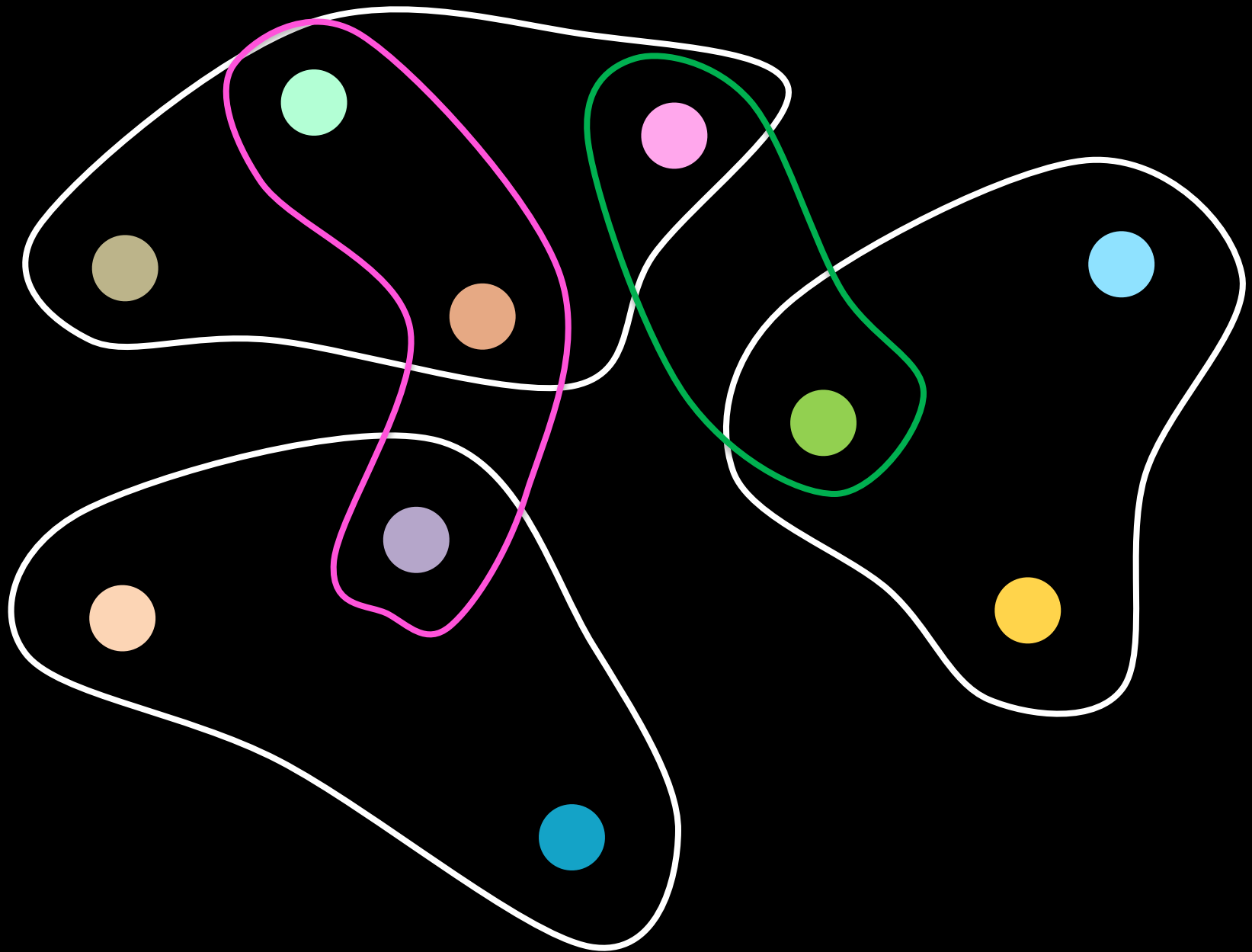
**JUST USING  
DIFFERENT  
TECHNOLOGY  
IS AN IMPLICIT  
ACCUSATION!**

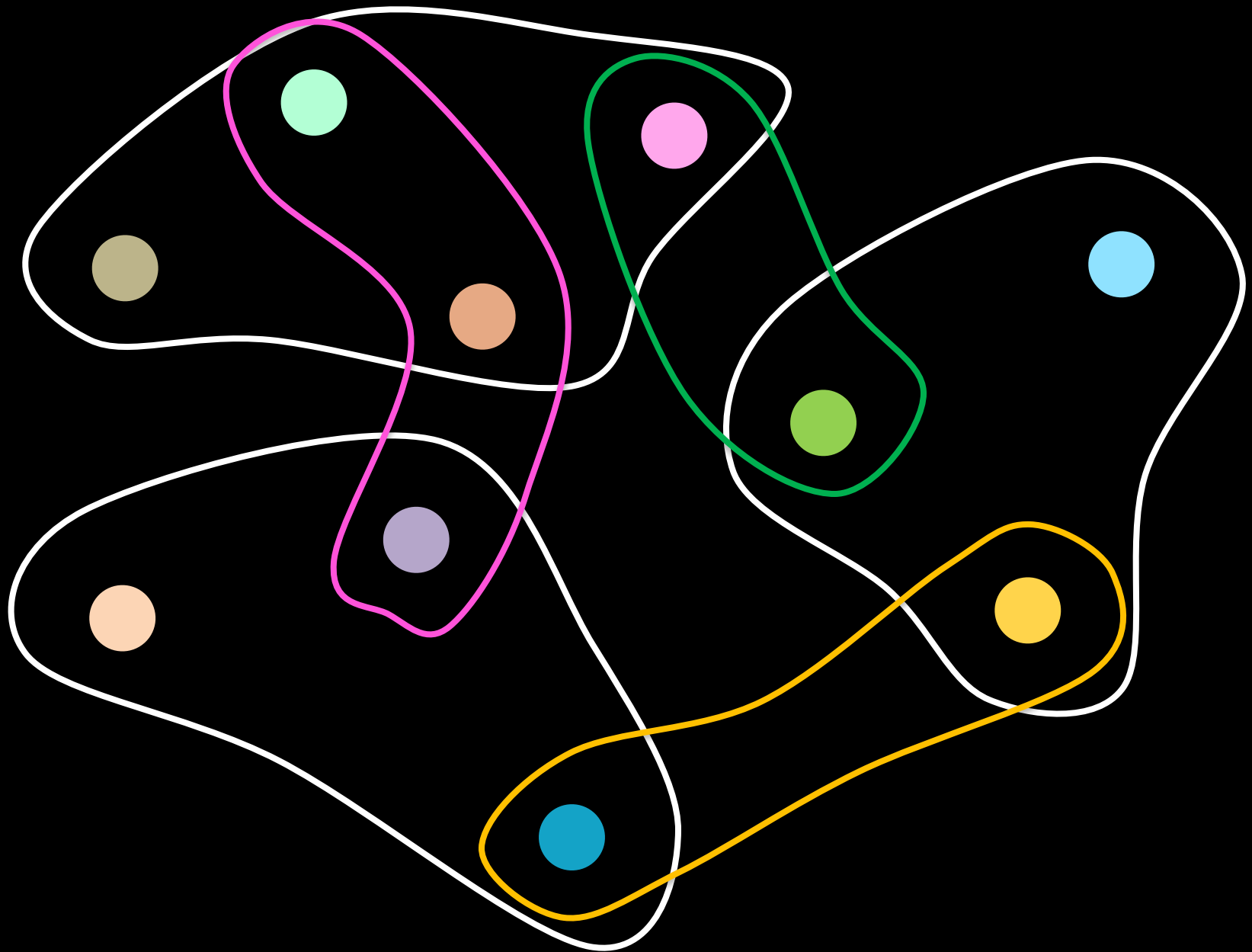














**GROUPS OF  
WE'S ON TOP  
OF THE ME'S**

**GROUP  
IDENTITY  
AS WELL AS  
INDIVIDUAL  
IDENTITY**


**GROUP  
PSYCHOLOGY  
AS WELL AS  
INDIVIDUAL  
PSYCHOLOGY**

**ME** IS JUST THE  
SMALLEST **WE**

# **HOW TO WORK WELL TOGETHER?**

# TRUST

# **RHETORIC AS DEVELOPER SELF-DEFENSE**



**DO X**



**YAGNI**



**BEST  
PRACTICE**

# **GOLD PLATING**



**IT'S A  
PATTERN**



**MY UNCLE  
SAYS**



**MY AUNT  
SAYS**



**WE NEED TO  
DO BETTER**



**YOU CAN'T WIN  
BY FIGHTING  
PEOPLE'S  
NARRATIVES**

**WHY DON'T  
I WANT TO  
DO X?**

**MAYBE I THINK**  
**X IS A BAD IDEA**  
**IN GENERAL**

**MAYBE I THINK  
X IS A GOOD IDEA  
IN THE RIGHT  
CONTEXT BUT NOT  
IN THIS ONE**

**MAYBE I WOULD  
LIKE TO DO X  
BUT DON'T  
KNOW HOW**

**MAYBE I DON'T  
FEEL CONFIDENT  
I CAN DO X  
ON MY OWN**

**MAYBE I DON'T  
UNDERSTAND  
WHAT X MEANS**

**MAYBE X ISN'T  
WELL DEFINED**



**WHY DON'T  
I SAY SO?**

# TRUST

# HOW TO BUILD TRUST?

# HONESTY

# CURIOSITY

# EMPATHY

# HUMILITY

# LISTEN



**BE PREPARED**  
**TO CHANGE**  
**YOUR MIND**

**SHOW THAT  
YOU CAN AND  
DO CHANGE  
YOUR MIND**

# **PRACTICAL TECHNIQUES**

# COACHING

**YOU CAN'T  
MAKE PEOPLE  
CHANGE THEIR  
MIND**

**YOU CAN'T  
FORCE PEOPLE  
TO AGREE**

**HELP OTHERS  
BE SUCCESSFUL**

**SHOW PEOPLE**  
**HOW TO BE**  
**SUCCESSFUL**  
**WITH X**



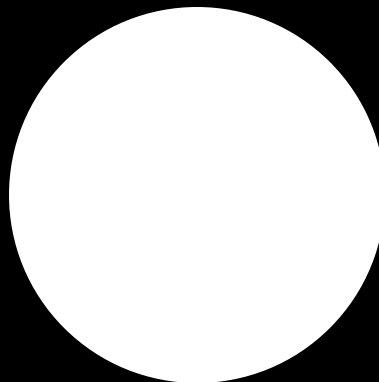
**WORK WITH  
OTHERS ON  
THEIR  
PROBLEMS**

**CREDIBILITY**  
**MUST BE**  
**EARNED**

**TRUST**  
**MUST BE**  
**EARNED**

# **MOB / ENSEMBLE PROGRAMMING**

# RELUCTANCE TO TALK



# AMBIGUITY

# THE DESK FORCE



# **THE LAND OF UNKNOWN TRUST**

**THEY TOO MIGHT  
BE RELUCTANT  
TO TALK**

# **ARTICULATE YOUR PROBLEM**

# **JUSTIFICATION OF OPINIONS**

# **DISCUSSIONS & NEGOTIATIONS**

# **POSSIBILITY OF CONFLICT**

**WHY IS THERE  
AN AMBIGUITY?**

**MAYBE THEY'RE  
BAD AT  
EXPRESSING  
THEMSELVES**



**MAYBE THERE'S**  
**INDECISION**  
**AND CONFLICT**  
**HIDDEN THERE**

**DO I WANT TO  
TRIGGER THAT?**

# **SELF-DEFENSE MECHANISMS**

**THEY'RE  
PROBABLY  
BUSY**

**I CAN'T BOTHER  
THEM WITH  
THIS**

**NO-ONE ELSE  
ASKS THESE  
QUESTIONS**

**CAN I SOLVE IT  
BY MAKING AN  
ASSUMPTION?**

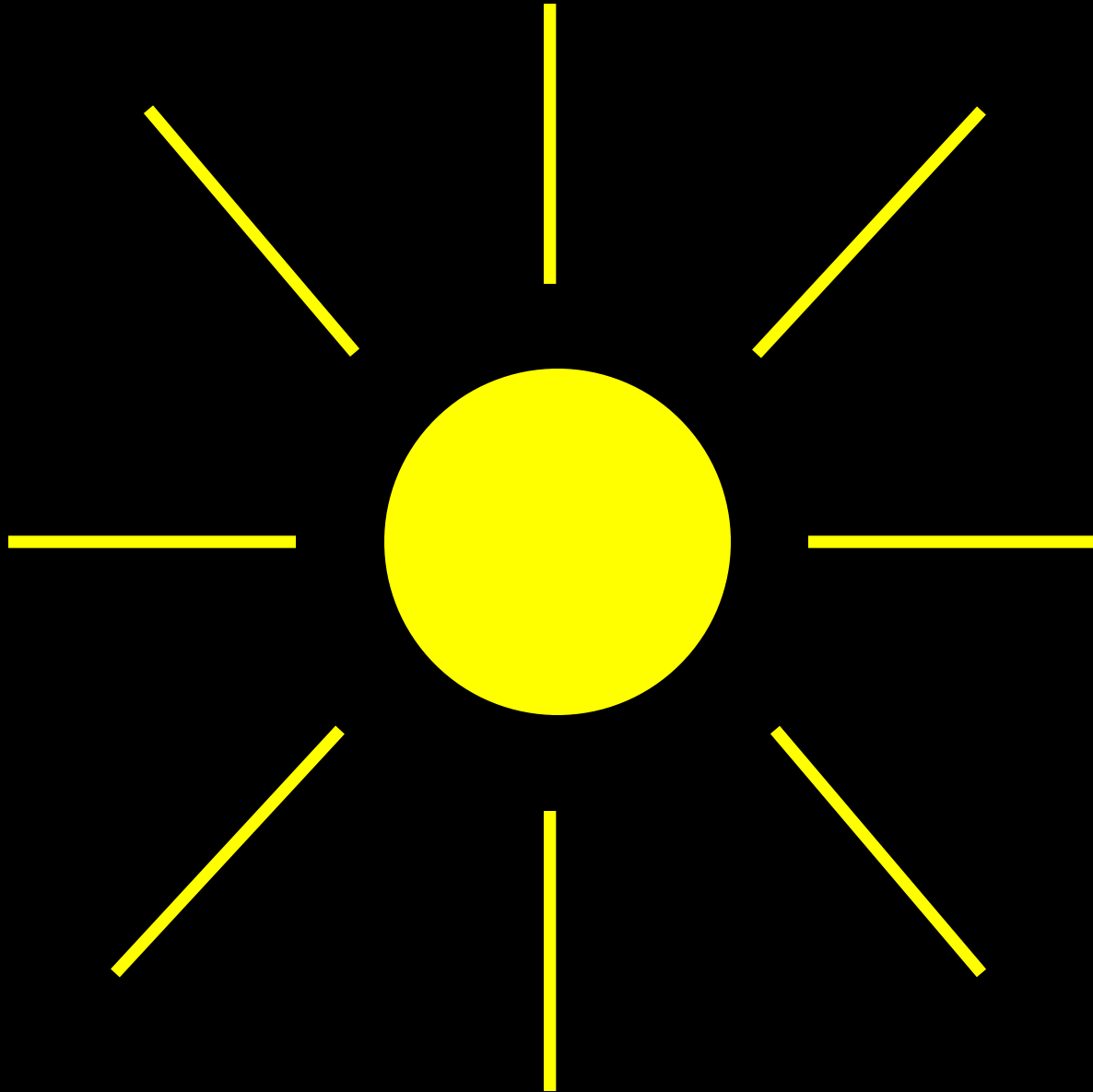
# **ASSUMPTION**



# GUESS

**MAKING  
S\*\*\*T UP**

# PROXY PERSON



**ASSUMPTIONS  
ARE BETS  
AGAINST THE  
FUTURE**

# **MOBS ARE A COUNTERFORCE TO THE DESK FORCE**

**MOBS ARE  
HARDER TO FOOL  
THAN YOURSELF**

**MOBS ARE  
BETTER AT  
FIGURING OUT  
WHO TO TALK TO**



# **MOBS OVERCOME THE SOCIAL AWKWARDNESS**

**MOBS ARE**  
**ALREADY A**  
**CONVERSATION**

# EVENT STORMING

# **EVENT STORMING STARTS THE CONVERSATION**

# SUMMARY

# **SOFTWARE IS** **SOCIO-** **TECHNICAL**

**EVERYONE CAN  
LEAD AND  
HAVE IMPACT**

**WE ARE  
HUMAN**



**TRUST IS  
THE KEY**

**WORK  
TOGETHER**