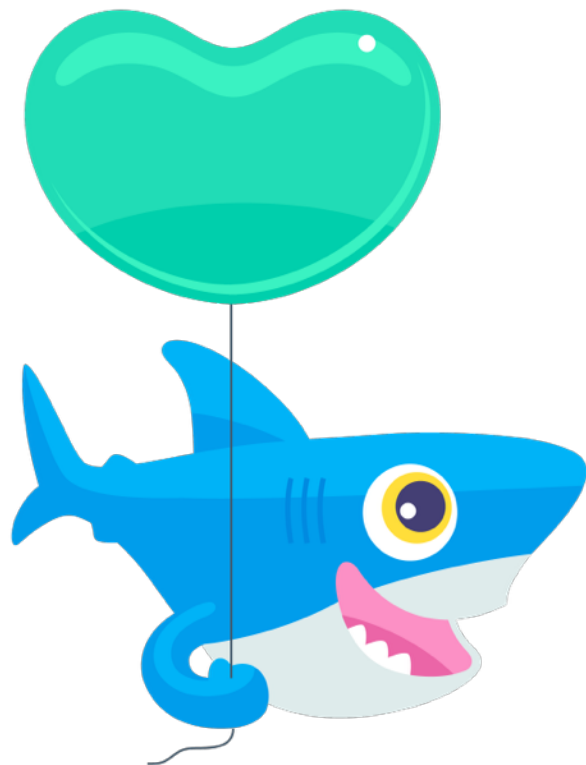


On how your brain is conspiring against you making good software

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Humans are
“predictably irrational”

– Dan Ariely

“severe and
systematic errors”

- Amos Tversky & Daniel Kahneman





1. On Being Logical
2. On Bugs and Debugging
3. On Sprint Planning
4. On Others' Code
5. On Open Offices
6. On Knowing Your Worth
7. On Assembling a Team

On Being Logical

Humans aren't great logical thinkers.

On Being Logical

All P are M.
All S are M.
Therefore, all S are P.

On Being Logical

People will endorse a 👎 bad argument 👎 if it leads to something they believe to be true.

On Being Logical



On Being Logical

But, we get much better about reasoning about concrete examples.



On Being Logical

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On Bugs and Debugging

“Debugging is twice as hard as writing a program in the first place”



- Brian Kernighan

On Bugs and Debugging

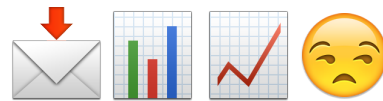
We tend to interpret and favor information in a way that confirms our pre-existing beliefs.

On Bugs and Debugging

“2, 4, 6”

On Bugs and Debugging

We even distrust evidence that goes against our prior beliefs.



On Bugs and Debugging

We have a tendency to be rigid in how we approach a problem.



On Bugs and Debugging

We sometimes block problem solutions based on past experiences.



On Bugs and Debugging

We often have no idea we're going to solve a problem,
even thirty seconds before we crack it.



On Bugs and Debugging

Breaks are more important than you think.



On Bugs and Debugging

Creativity is just about having
all the right ingredients.



On Others' Code

Again, we tend to think about problems in fixed ways.



On Others' Code

We prefer things that we have made or assembled ourselves.



On Sprint Planning

We're bad at making predictions about how much time it will take us to do something.



On Sprint Planning

We think that bad things are more likely to happen to other people than to us.



On Open Offices

We're actually pretty good at
filtering out unwanted stimuli...



On Open Offices



On Open Offices

...but we're not totally oblivious to it.



On Open Offices

Selective attention requires both
ignoring and paying attention.



On Open Offices

But what about that 🔥 juicy conversation 🔥
happening next to you?



On Open Offices

Sometimes we're helpless to the
processing power of our brain.



On Open Offices

BLUE PURPLE RED
GREEN PURPLE GREEN

software is
about PEOPLE

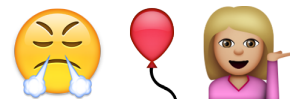
On Knowing Your Worth

Relatively unskilled people think they are better at tasks than they actually are.



On Knowing Your Worth

We tend to overestimate our
own skills and abilities.



On Knowing Your Worth

Skilled people underestimate their abilities and think tasks that are easy for them are easy for others.



On Knowing Your Worth

Impostor Syndrome.

On Assembling a Team

We favor members of our own in-group.



On Assembling a Team

We prefer the status quo.



On Assembling a Team

We're liable to uphold the status quo,
even when it hurts other people.



On Assembling a Team

People have a tendency to attribute situations to others' character rather than to external factors.

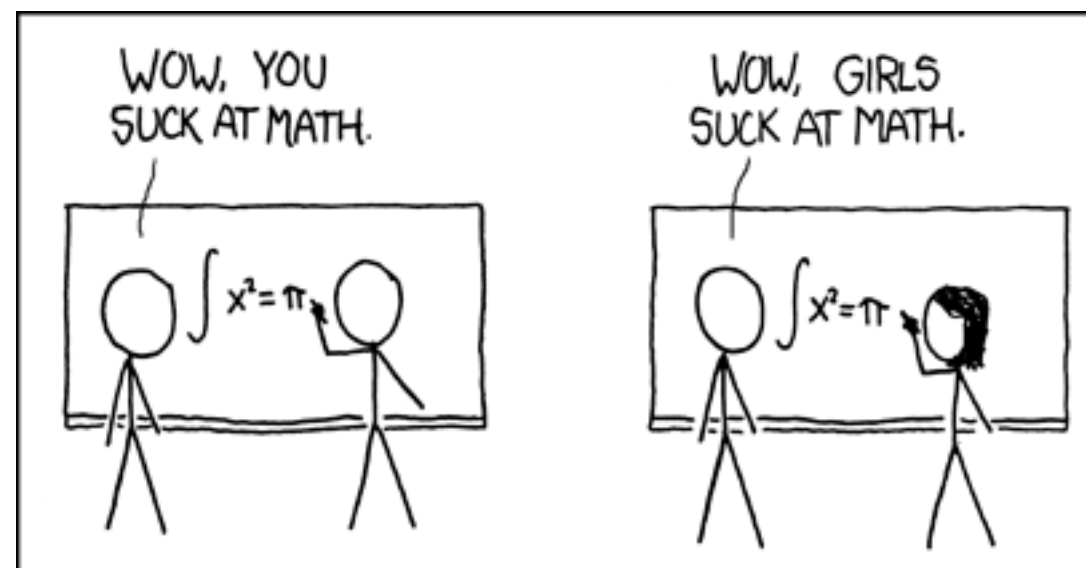


On Assembling a Team

People have a tendency to believe that attributes of a group member reflect the entire group.

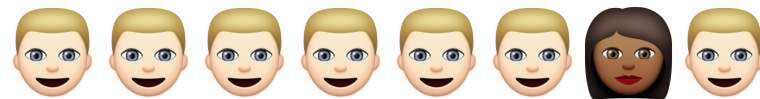


On Assembling a Team



On Assembling a Team

We rely on examples that come to mind
when evaluating something.



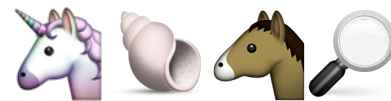
On Assembling a Team

We assume things in a group will resemble the prototype for that group, and vice versa.



On Assembling a Team

In some cases, we ignore probabilities
in favor of focusing on details.



On Assembling a Team



On Assembling a Team



On Getting Past This



System 1



System 2

On Getting Past This



Thanks!

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