

# All Code Sucks

Why Bad Code is Everywhere and What to Do About It

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# What is sucky code?

*“Programs are meant to be read by humans and only incidentally for computers to execute.”*

*— Donald Knuth*

# The Great Hunt for Non Sucky Code



# Why Code Sucks

## The Statistics Favour Suck

- Half of everything is below average

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- Sturgeon's Law
- The 3 Year Old Programmer

# Why Code Sucks

## Organisations Tend To Suck

- Software Startups

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- Software Startups
- Summer Student Projects
- Prototypes in Production

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## The Psychology of Suck

- The Illusion of Explanatory Depth

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## The Psychology of Suck

- The Illusion of Explanatory Depth
- Availability Bias

# What To Do

Adapted from Michael Feathers

- **Discovery** Log behavior
- **Exploration** Scripted investigation
- **Automating** Test harnesses (or clamps)
- **Deconstruction** Separate the target code
- **Enable** Switching with a feature flag
- **New Code** Side by side rewrite

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# The Challenge

## Where I need your help

*“It’s not that hard...”*

— *Billy Beane*

*“It’s incredibly hard”*

— *Ron Washington*

# Thank You!

Joe J Collins

