

# 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*

*“It is better to have clean code that doesn’t work than crap code that does.”*

*— Robert C. Martin*

# The Great Hunt for Non Sucky Code



International Commission on Illumination  
Commission Internationale de l'Eclairage  
Internationale Beleuchtungskommission

# Why Code Sucks

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- Half of everything is below average

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- Sturgeon's Revelation
- The 2 Year Old Programmer Problem

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Organisations tend to suck

- Structure of Software Startups

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- Prototypes in Production
- The Agile Manifesto
- New projects = New programmers

# Why Code Sucks

## Psycho Suck

- Availability bias

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- The Illusion of Explanatory Depth

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## Psycho Suck

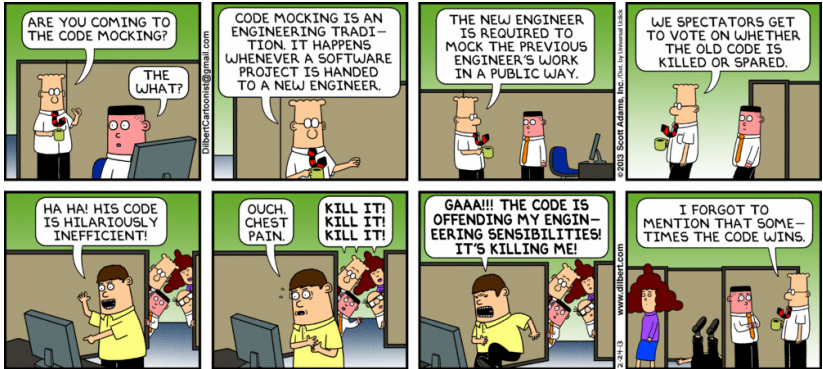
- Availability bias
- The Illusion of Explanatory Depth
- Parkinson's Law of Triviality

# Why Code Sucks

## Psycho Suck

- Availability bias
- The Illusion of Explanatory Depth
- Parkinson's Law of Triviality
- The Lake Wobegon Effect

# What Not To Do





# What To Do

Based on the work of Michael Feathers

- Put the code in a vice (a test harness)
- Get ahead of the offending code with a feature flag
- Side by side rewrite

# The Challenge

## Where I need your help

*“It’s not that hard...”*

— *Billy Beane*

*“It’s incredibly hard”*

— *Ron Washington*