

# AI Code: **slop and Rot**

Addressing the elephant in the pull request. Why bad code isn't a new  
problem, just a new medium.

"AI generated code is bad, because  
AI generates slop and rot."

— Common Developer Sentiment

# Defining the Terms

---

## `<Slop />`

Plausible but low-quality code that sneaks past review. It looks correct at a glance but lacks robustness, edge-case handling, or efficiency.

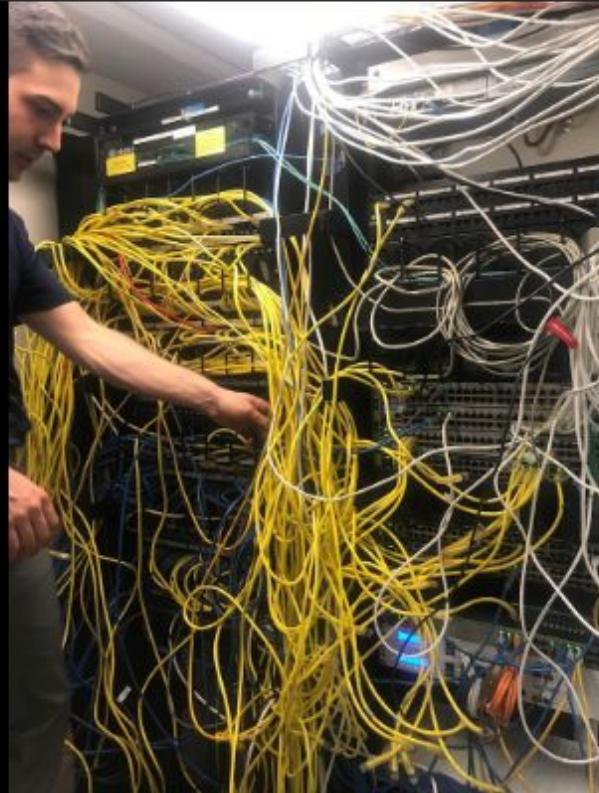
## `<Rot />`

The long-term structural decay caused by accumulating slop. It's the "death by a thousand cuts" that makes a codebase impossible to maintain or refactor.

# The Anatomy of Slop

---

- **Superficial Correctness:** It compiles, it runs, but it's fragile.
- **Lack of Context:** AI guesses the intent but misses the broader architectural constraints.
- **Subtle Bugs:** Errors that are hard to spot in a quick diff but crash production under load.
- **Review Fatigue:** Reviewers assume it's right because it looks authoritative.



# The Long-Term Effect: Rot

---

When slop accumulates, it calcifies into Rot.

- System rigidity increases; changes become risky.
- Onboarding new developers becomes a nightmare.
- Refactoring is impossible because nobody understands the generated logic.
- The codebase becomes a legacy burden immediately after creation.



---

**But doesn't that sound familiar?**

---

# Old Problems, New Names

---

AI Criticism	Human Equivalent	The Reality
<b>Slop</b>	Cargo Cult Code, Spaghetti Code	Copy-pasting without understanding.
<b>Rot</b>	Technical Debt	Choosing speed over quality.
<b>Hallucinations</b>	"It worked on my machine"	Assumptions vs. Specification.

# We've Been Here Before

---

These problems existed long before LLMs.

- > StackOverflow copy-paste driven development.
- > Hacking away without specifications.
- > Skipping code reviews to meet deadlines.
- > Ignoring design patterns for "quick fixes".

Slop and Rot are not AI problems. They are workflow problems.



# The Real Root Cause

---



## No Standards

Accepting code—human or AI—withoutr adhering to a strict style guide or architecture.



## Weak Reviews

Rubber-stamping PRs without actually reading and understanding the logic.



## Zero Spec

Generating code without a clear definition of what needs to be built.

# The Solution: Mastery

---

With advanced techniques and context, AI performs as a **Senior Developer**.

- **Strategic Review:** Shift focus from checking syntax to validating architectural fit.
- **High-Level Specs:** Providing deep context unlocks senior-level, production-ready output.
- **Automated Precision:** Use AI to enforce patterns and standards more rigorously than humans.
- **Orchestration:** We transition from writing code to directing intelligent systems.



## **AI Is The New Standard**

It replaces manual coding with high-level engineering. The bar has been raised.

# Q&A

Let's discuss our  
workflow.

# Image Sources

---



<https://www.ashtonsolutions.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/CBG-Before-1.jpg>

Source: [www.ashtonsolutions.com](http://www.ashtonsolutions.com)

---



[https://images.stockcake.com/public/1/b/0/1b0d5f66-7774-4761-9128-0d0d946c7750\\_large/rusty-bridge-detail-stockcake.jpg](https://images.stockcake.com/public/1/b/0/1b0d5f66-7774-4761-9128-0d0d946c7750_large/rusty-bridge-detail-stockcake.jpg)

Source: [stockcake.com](http://stockcake.com)

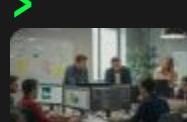
---



<https://i.redd.it/8j3u65w2ow191.png>

Source: [www.reddit.com](http://www.reddit.com)

---



<https://static.vecteezy.com/system/resources/thumbnails/071/530/832/small/software-developers-team-collaboration-meeting-in-modern-office-programming-code-review-and-discussion-photo.jpeg>

Source: [www.vecteezy.com](http://www.vecteezy.com)

---



<https://en.pimg.jp/116/166/126/1/116166126.jpg>

Source: [www.pixtastock.com](http://www.pixtastock.com)