

# *foreword*

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As is often the case with new and technical areas, *Chaos Engineering* is a simple title for a rich and complex topic. Many of its principles and practices are counterintuitive—starting with its name—which makes it doubly challenging to explain. The early days of a new topic, however, are precisely the time when we need to find and distribute the easy-to-understand explanations.

I'm very pleased to say this book does exactly that.

An oft repeated scientific dictum is that “if you can’t explain it simply, then you don’t really understand it.” I can safely say to you that Mikolaj clearly understands chaos engineering because in these pages he explains its principles and practices with a simplicity and practical use that is uncommon for technical books.

This, however, brings us to the main question. Why on earth would any reasonable person want to introduce *chaos* into their systems? Things are complicated enough already in our lives, so why go looking for trouble?

The short answer is that if you don’t look for trouble, you won’t be prepared when it comes looking for you. And eventually, trouble comes looking for all of us.

Testing—at least as we have all understood the term—will not be of much help. A *test* is an activity you run to make sure that your system behaves in a way that you expect under a specific set of conditions.

The biggest source of trouble, however, is not from the conditions we were expecting, but from the conditions that never occurred to us. No amount of testing will save us from emergent properties and behaviors. For that, we need something new.

We need chaos engineering.

If this is your first book on chaos engineering, you have chosen wisely. If not, then take solace in the fact that you are about to begin a journey that will fill in the gaps of your understanding and help you glue it all together in your mind.

When you are finished, you will feel more comfortable (and excited) about applying chaos engineering to your systems, and probably more than a little anxious about what you will find.

I am very pleased to have been invited to write these words and grateful to have a book like this available the next time someone asks me, “What is chaos engineering?”

—DAVID K. RENSIN, Google