Maintainability
Simplicity: Managing Complexity

- A big ball of mud

    - explosion of the state space

    - tight coupling of modules

    - tangled dependencies

    - inconsistent naming and terminology

    - hacks aimed at solving the performance problems

    - special-casing to work around issues elsewhere

- Good abstraction can hide complexity behind a clean and simple-to-understand facade

    - e.g., high-level programming language, SQL

Maintainability
Evolvability: Making change easy

- Agility on a data system level

  - simple and easy-to-understand system

- In terms of organizational processes

  - Agile working patterns

  - Test-driven development and refactoring