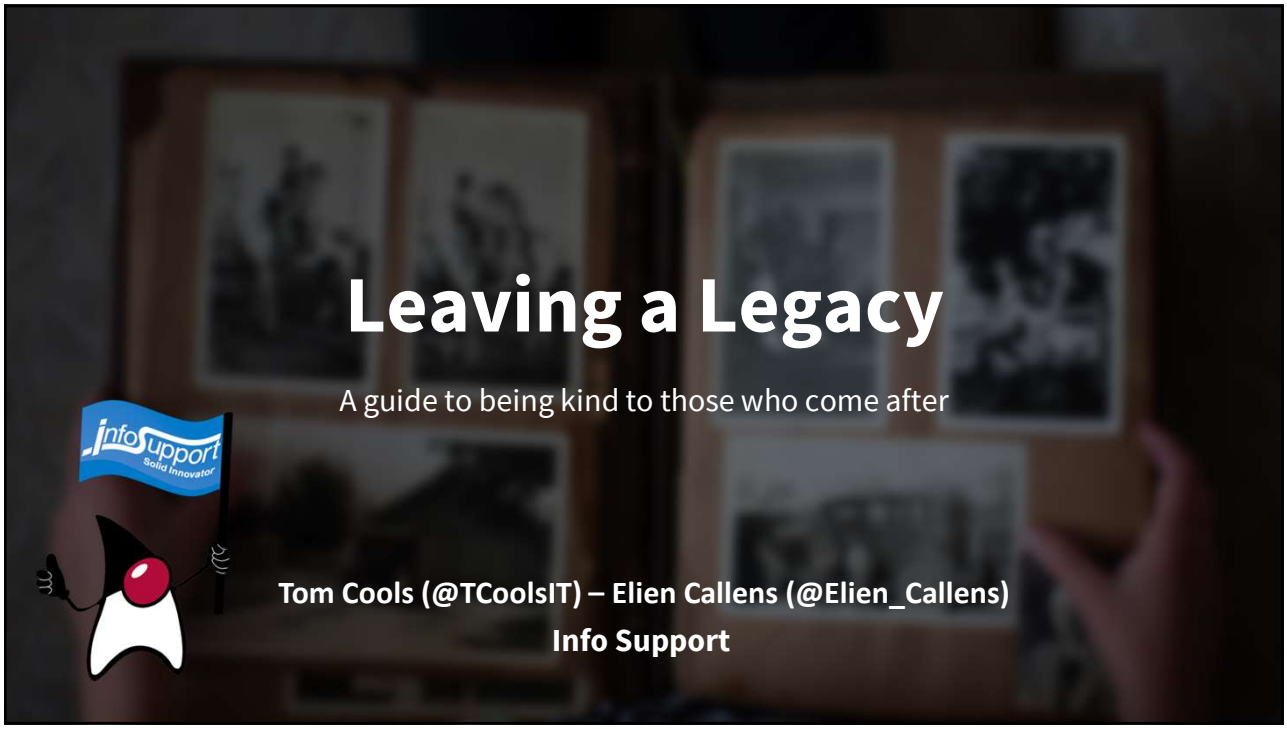
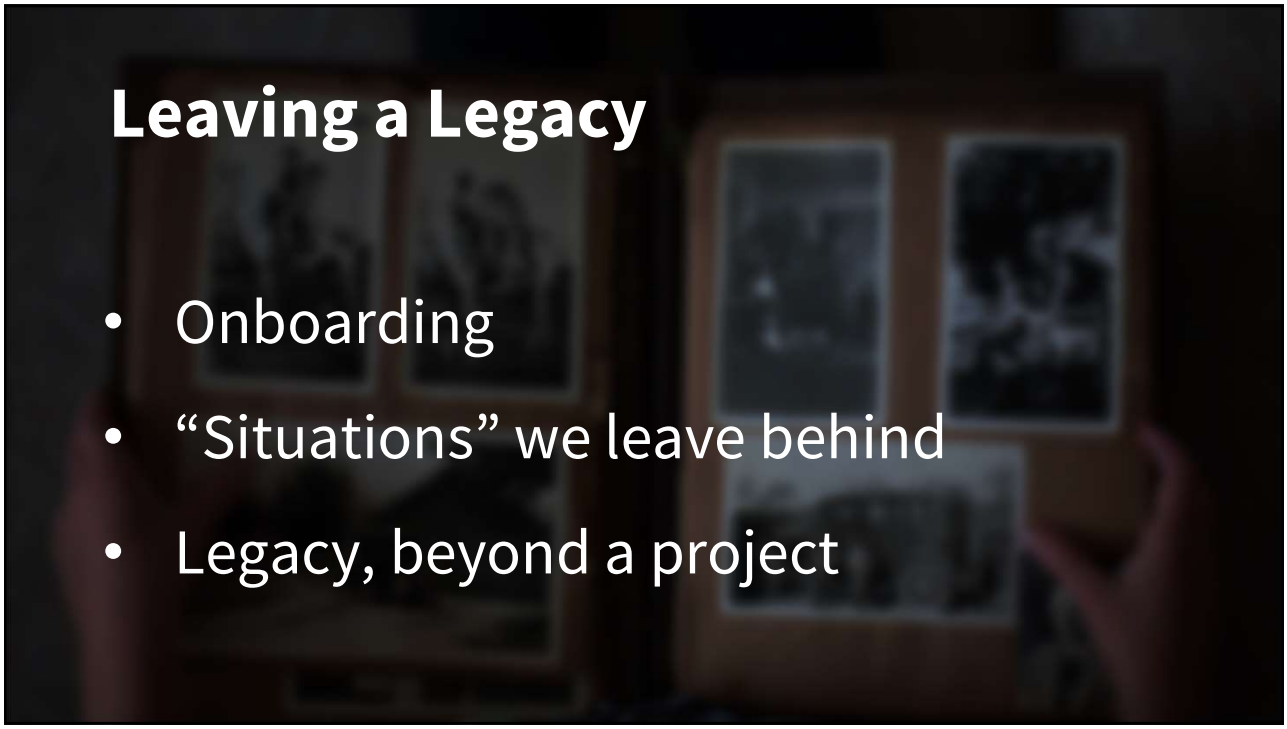
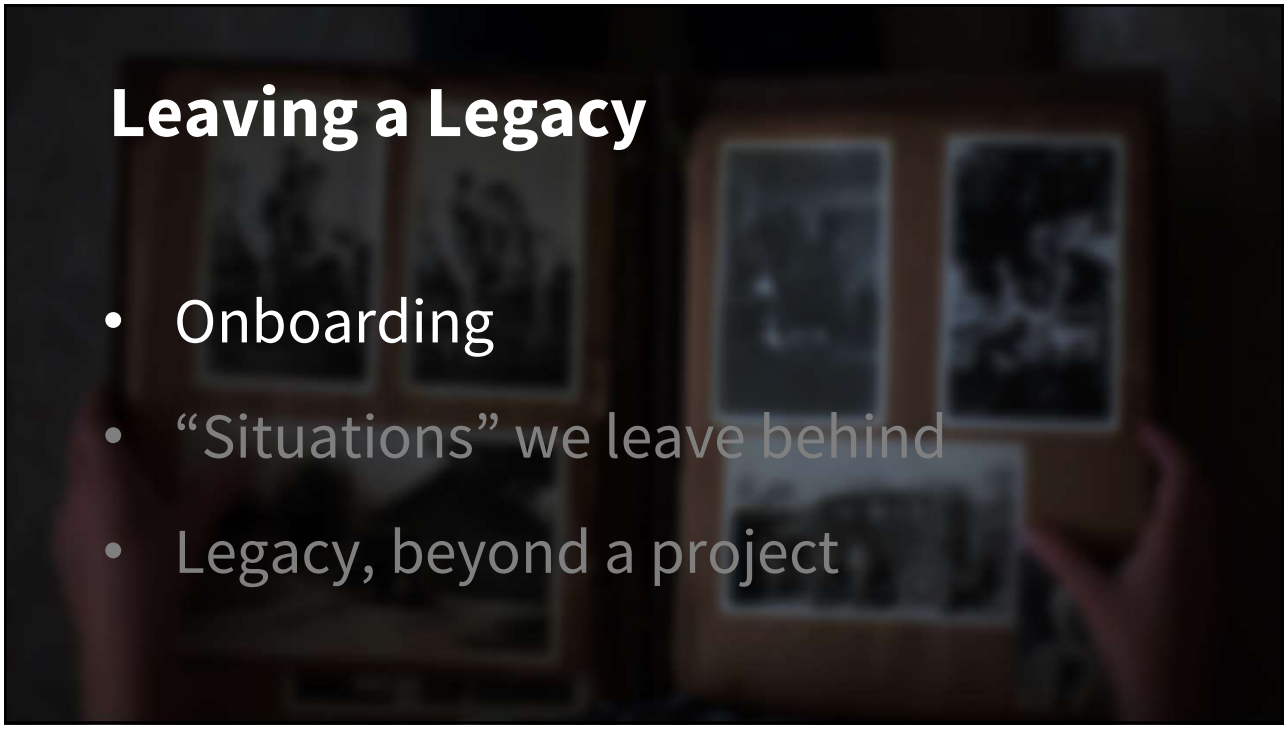

Leaving a Legacy
A guide to being kind to those who come after
Tom Cools (@TCoolsIT) – Elien Callens (@Elien_Callens)
Info Support

Definition: something that somebody has done ***successfully*** and that has ***positive effects*** even after they retire or die

Definition: a ***situation*** that exists now because of events, actions, etc. that took place in the ***past***

Source: https://architectuul.com/architecture/monolith


Leaving a Legacy
• Onboarding
• “Situations” we leave behind
• Legacy, beyond a project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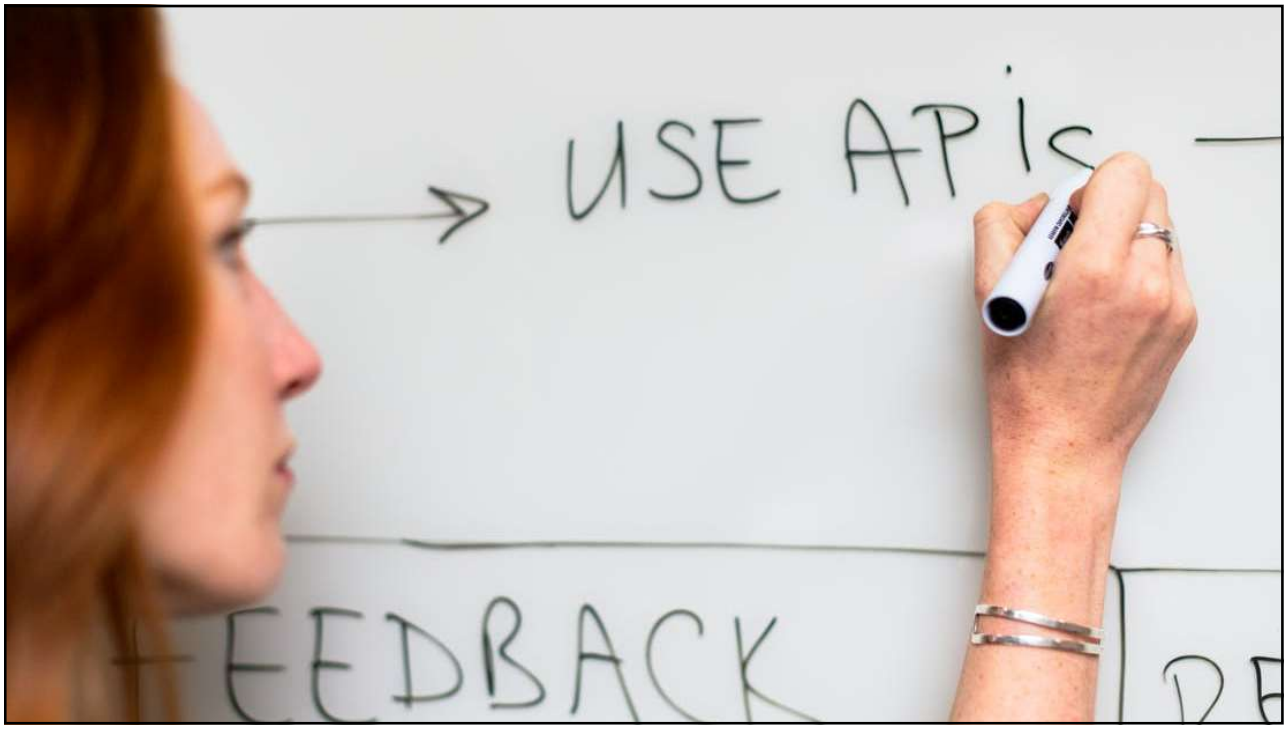
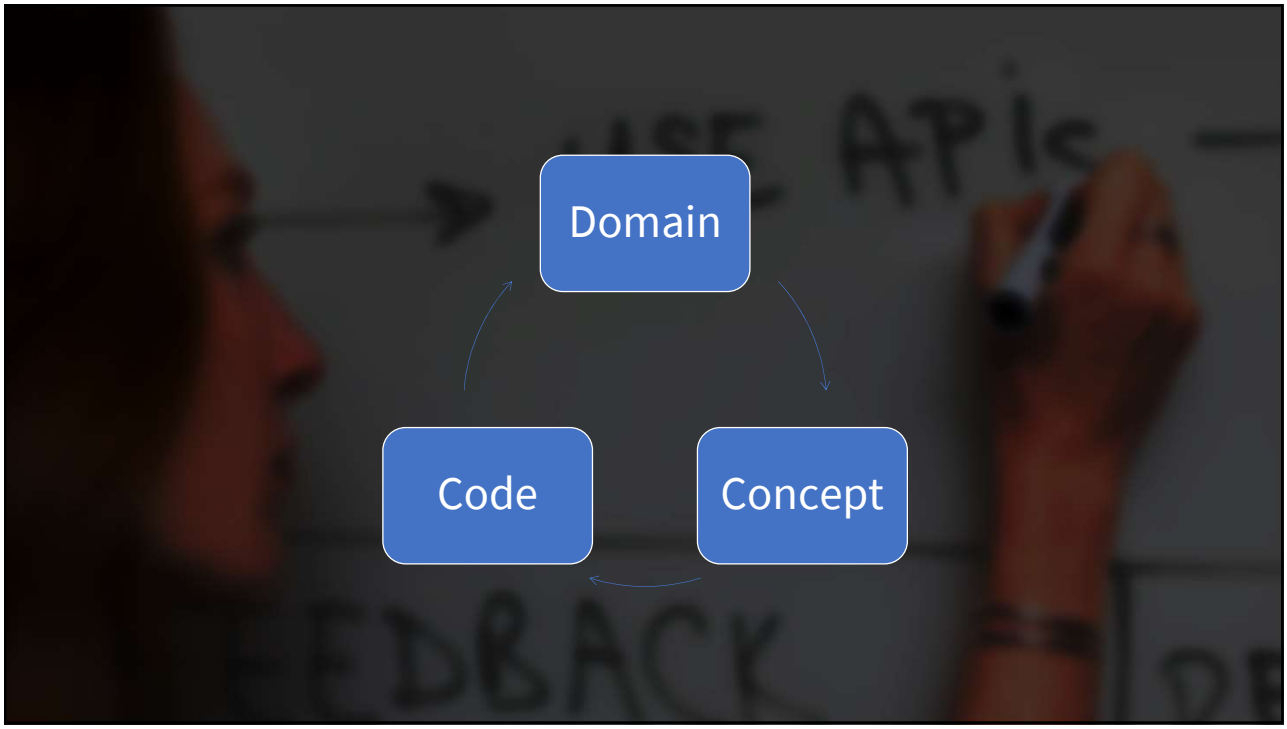
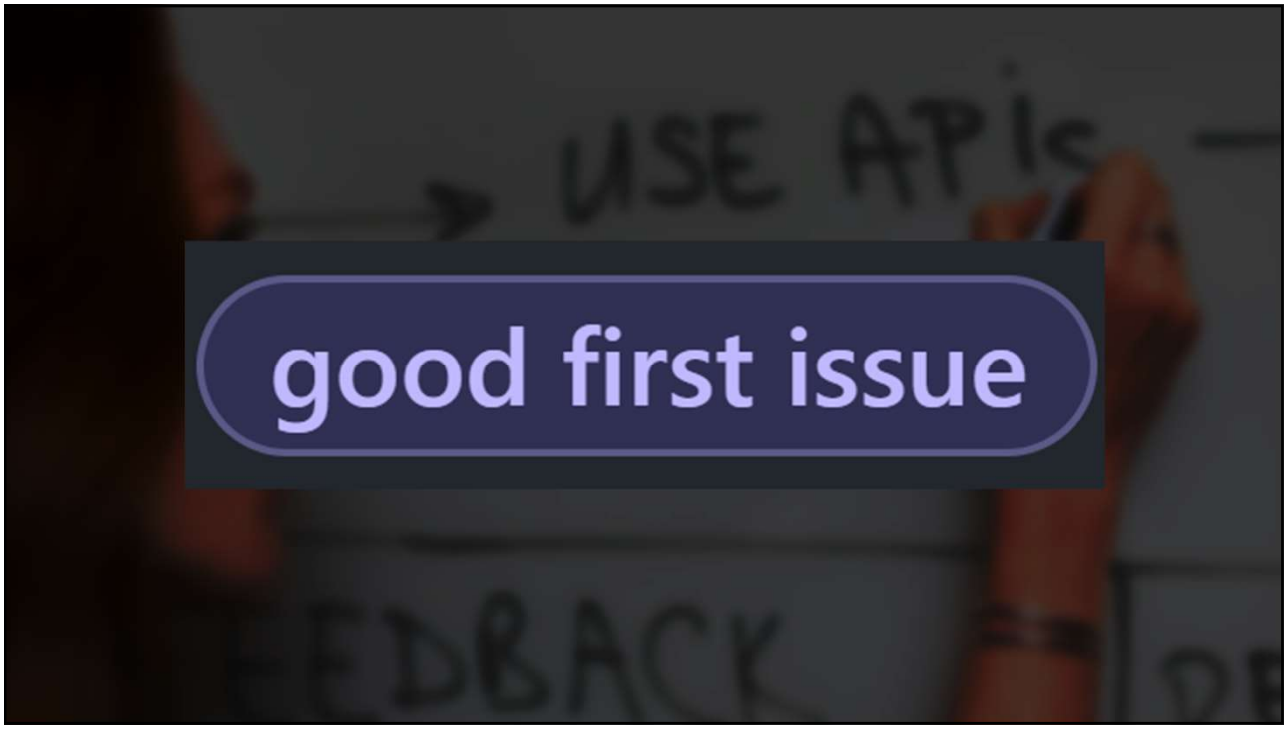
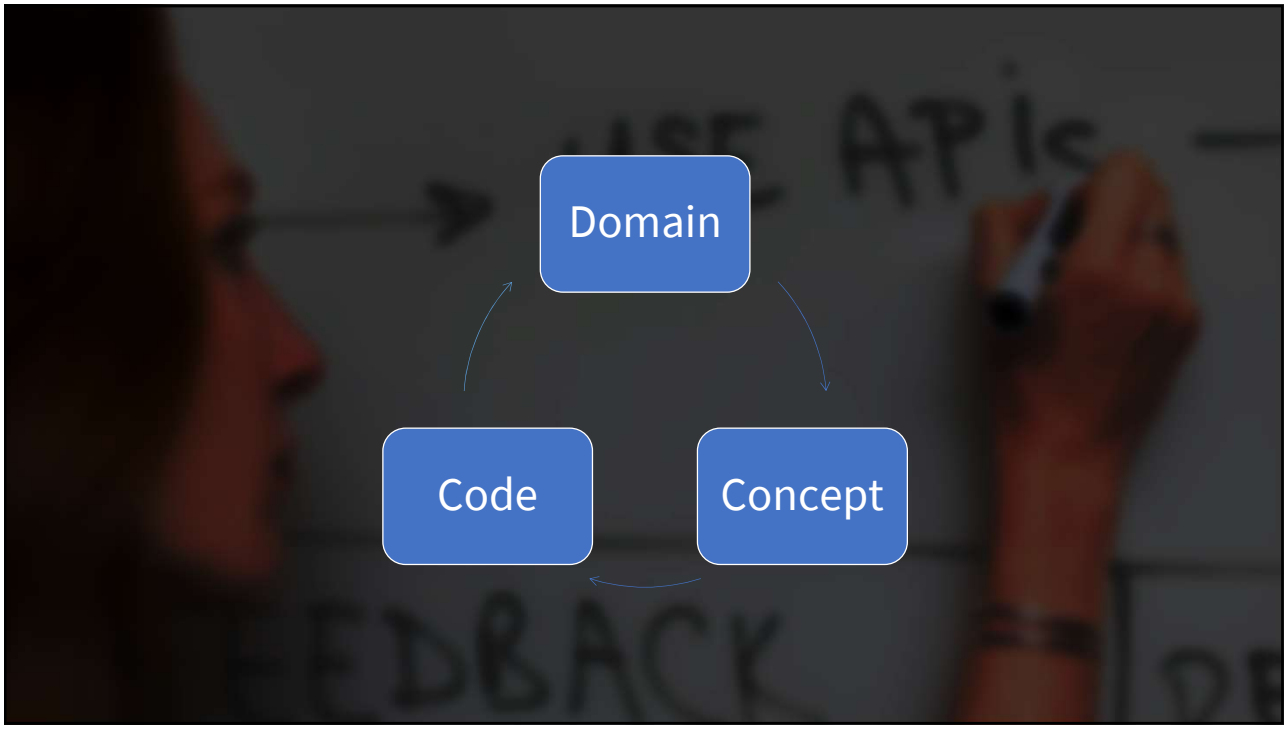
WELCOME
ON BOARD

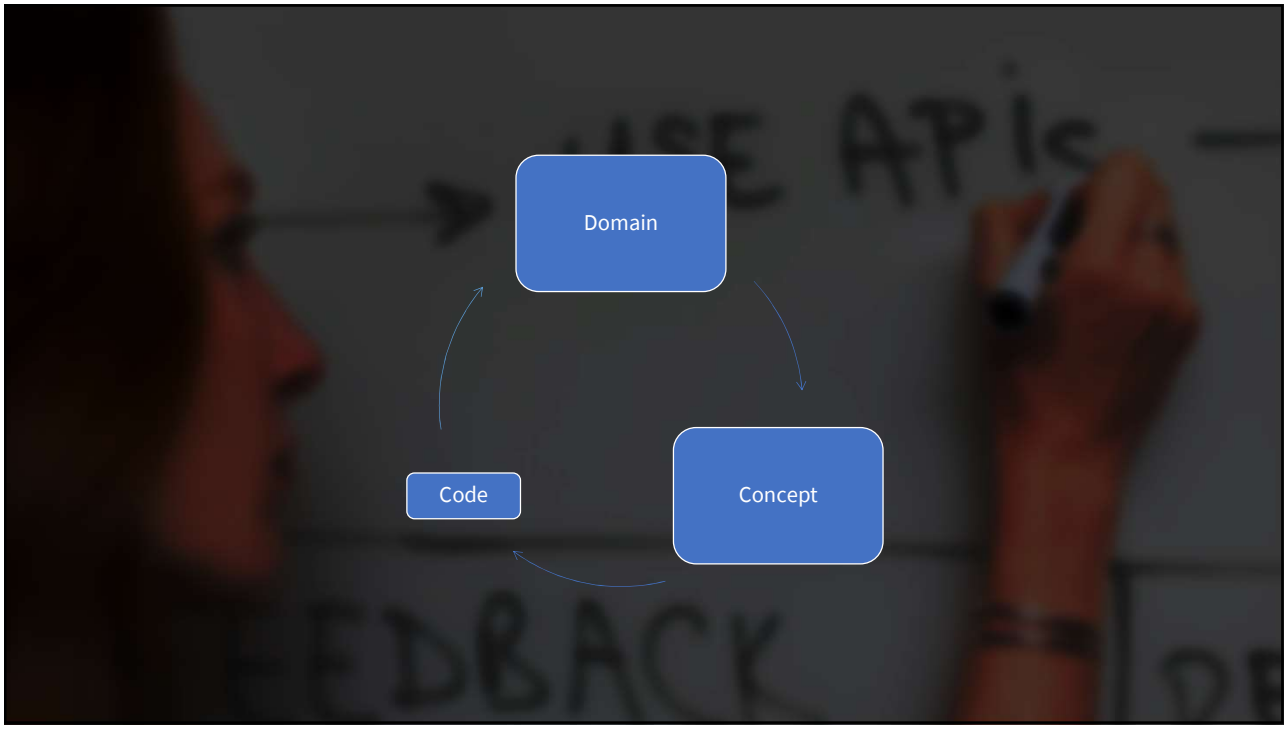

USE APIs
FEEDBACK


Domain
Concept
Code


USE APIs
good first issue
EDBACK

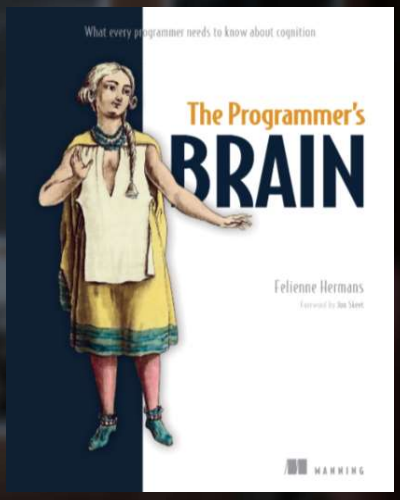
Contributor
no pgbouncer with named prepared statements.
added C: Enhancement Good first issue P: Medium labels on Jun 28, 2018
Andres Almiray
@aalmiray
“PRs welcomed” is my latest trigger phrase.
If I knew how to fix it I’d not only file a ticket but also ask for guidance/feedback before sending the PR
11:16 AM · Aug 19, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone


Domain
Concept
Code


Domain
Concept
Code

Felienne Hermans : The Programmer's Brain

- Exploration
  e.g. *Browsing the codebase*
- Searching
  e.g. *Finding an implementation of a class*
- Transcription
  e.g. *Write pseudocode to implement a method*
- Comprehension
  e.g. Summerize a specific method in natural language
- Incrementation
  e.g. Adding a feature to an existing class



Open Source: "Real" Good First Issue

- Lists prerequisite knowledge
- Clear path to the solution
  - Pseudocode
  - Copy / Paste
- Contributor could do this in ~10 minutes

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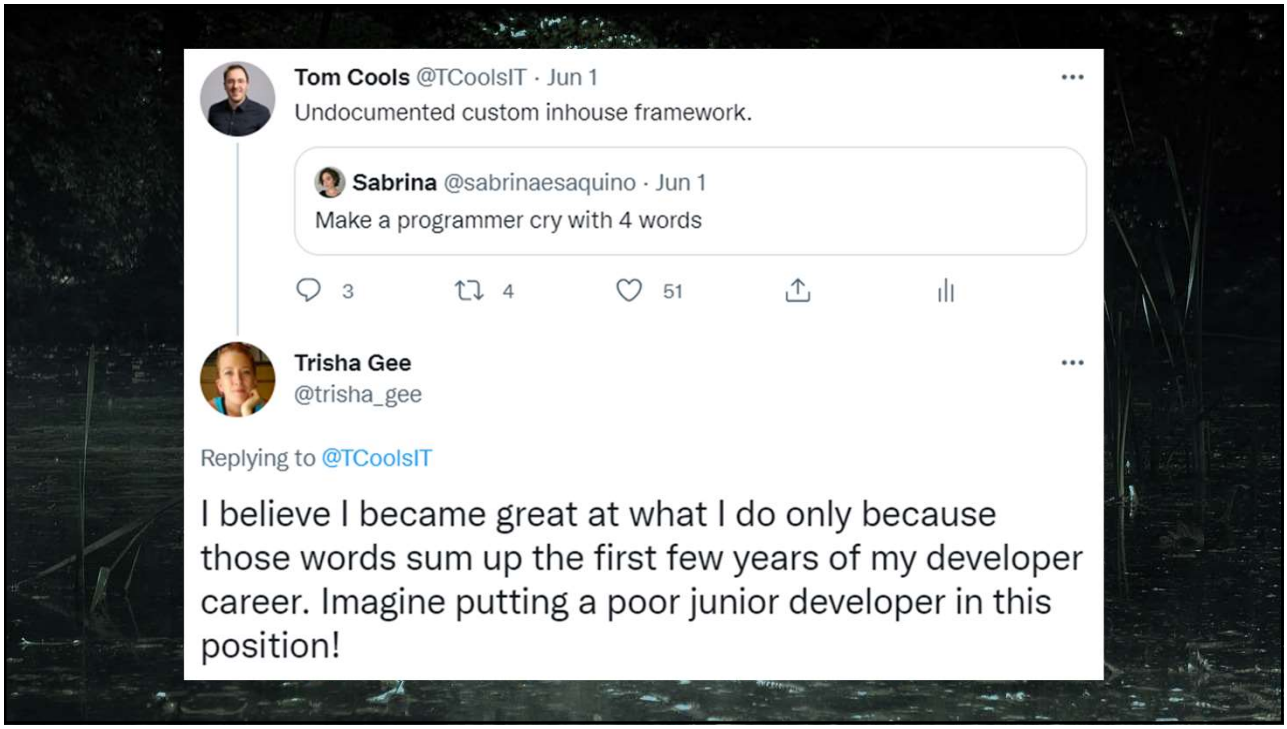
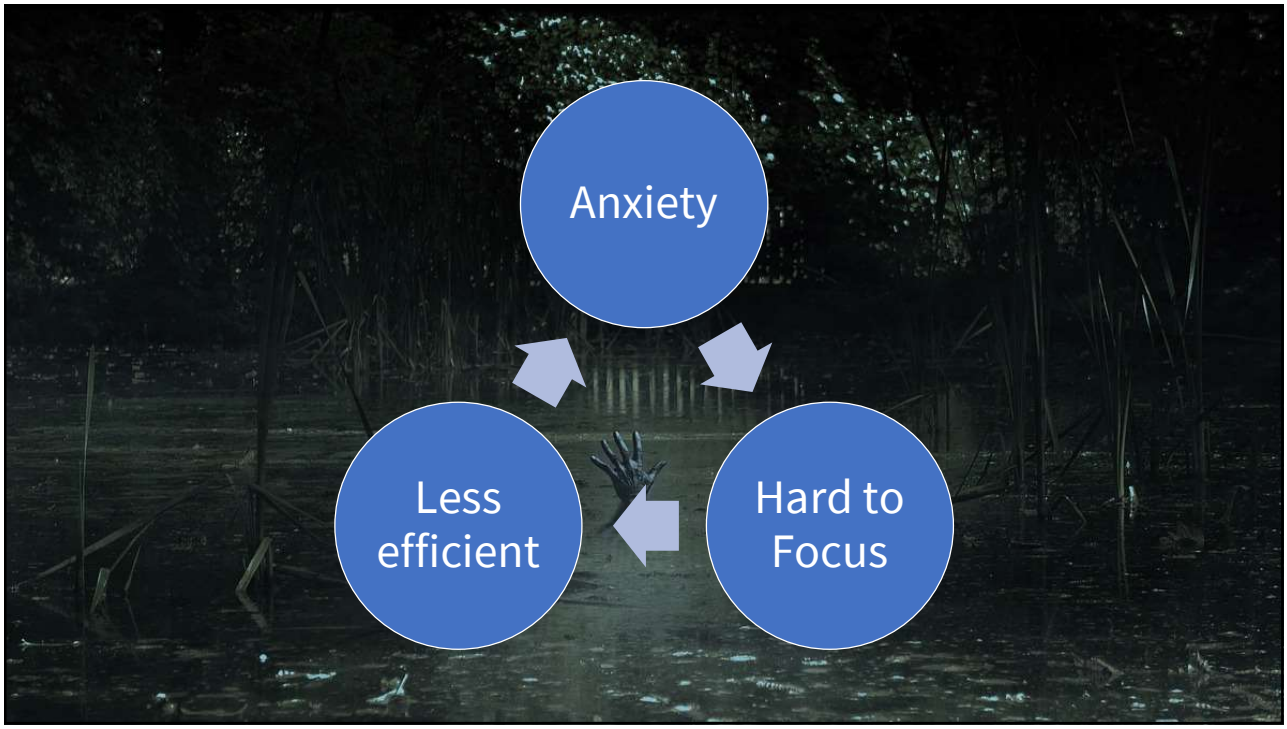
“Undocumented Custom Inhouse Framework”


Tom Cools @TCoolsIT · Jun 1
Undocumented custom inhouse framework.
Sabrina @sabrinaesaquino · Jun 1
Make a programmer cry with 4 words
3
4
51
Trisha Gee
@trisha_gee
Replying to @TCoolsIT
I believe I became great at what I do only because those words sum up the first few years of my developer career. Imagine putting a poor junior developer in this position!



Thoughts and remarks…

- Why didn't they just leave? I would have!
- Didn't they escalate this?
- Maybe they were just lacking self confidence?

Thoughts and remarks…

- Why didn't they just leave? I would have!
- Didn't they escalate this?
- Maybe they were just lacking self confidence?

Do

- Put your docs in your repository
  - Versioning
  - Pull requests
  - Markdown / Asciidoc for editing, generated website for reading
- Not just WHAT, but also WHY!

Architecture Decision Record

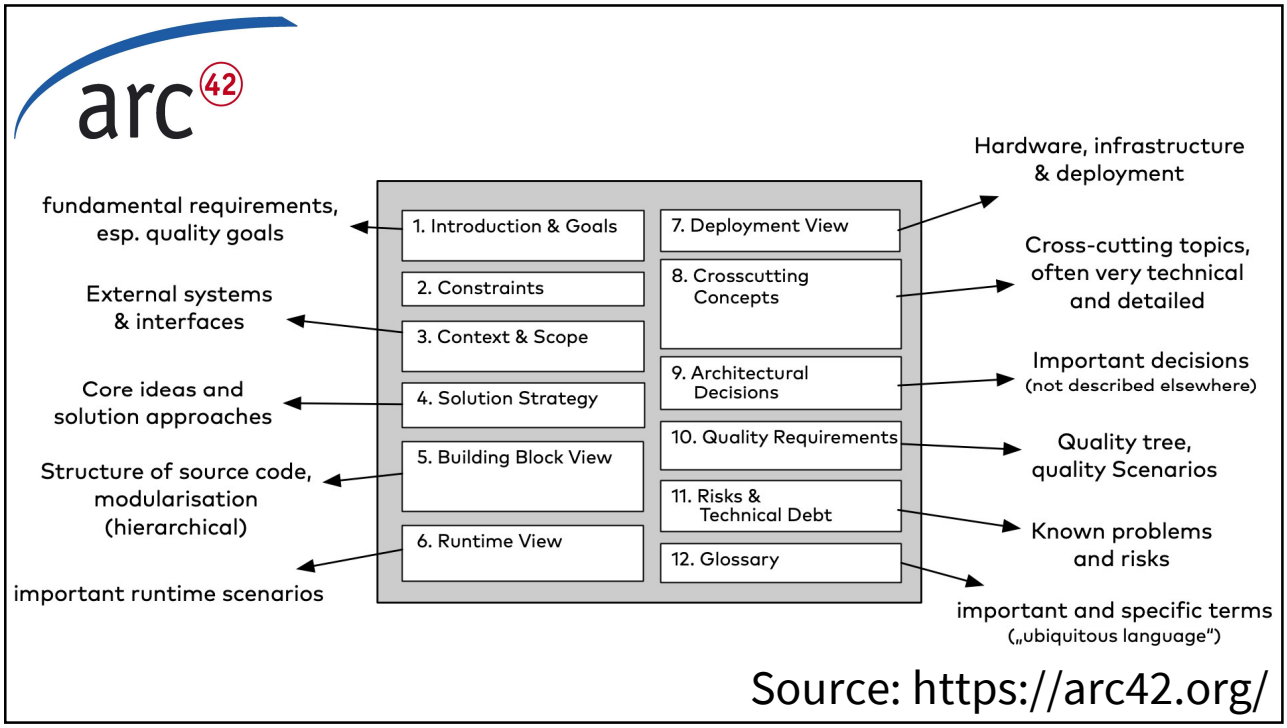
Status

Context

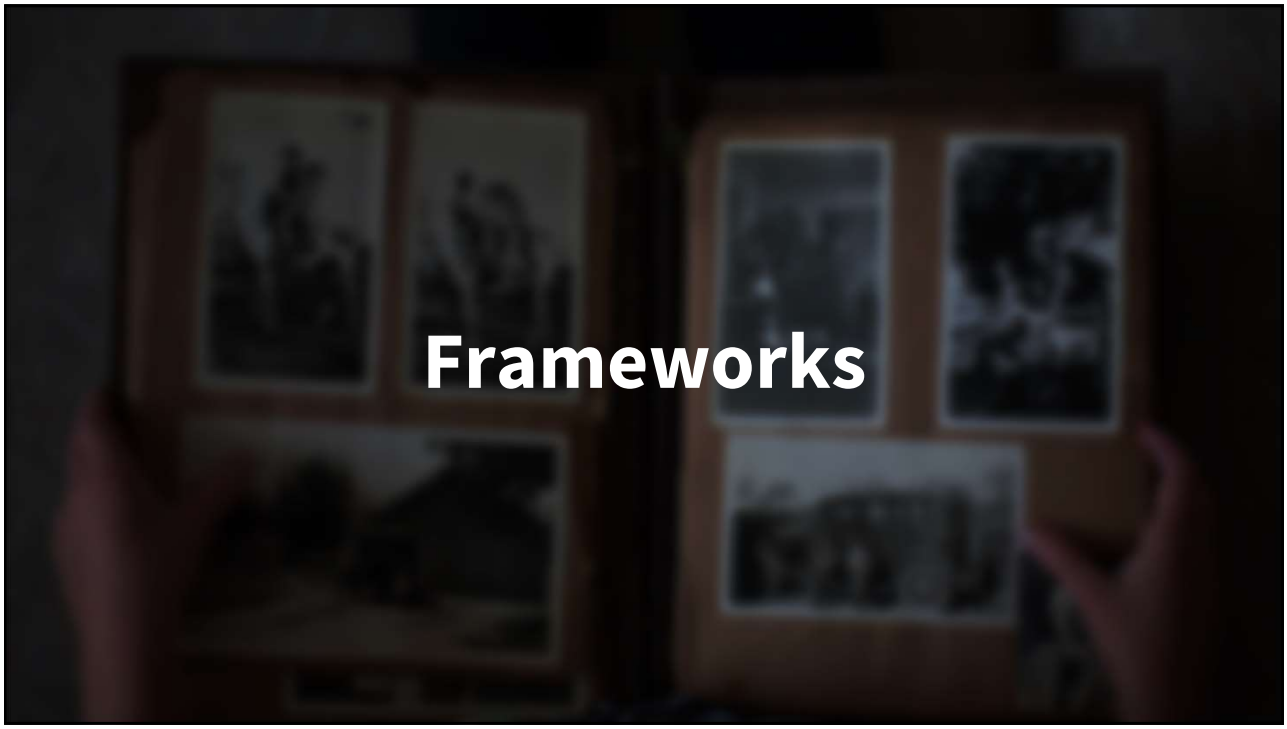
Decision

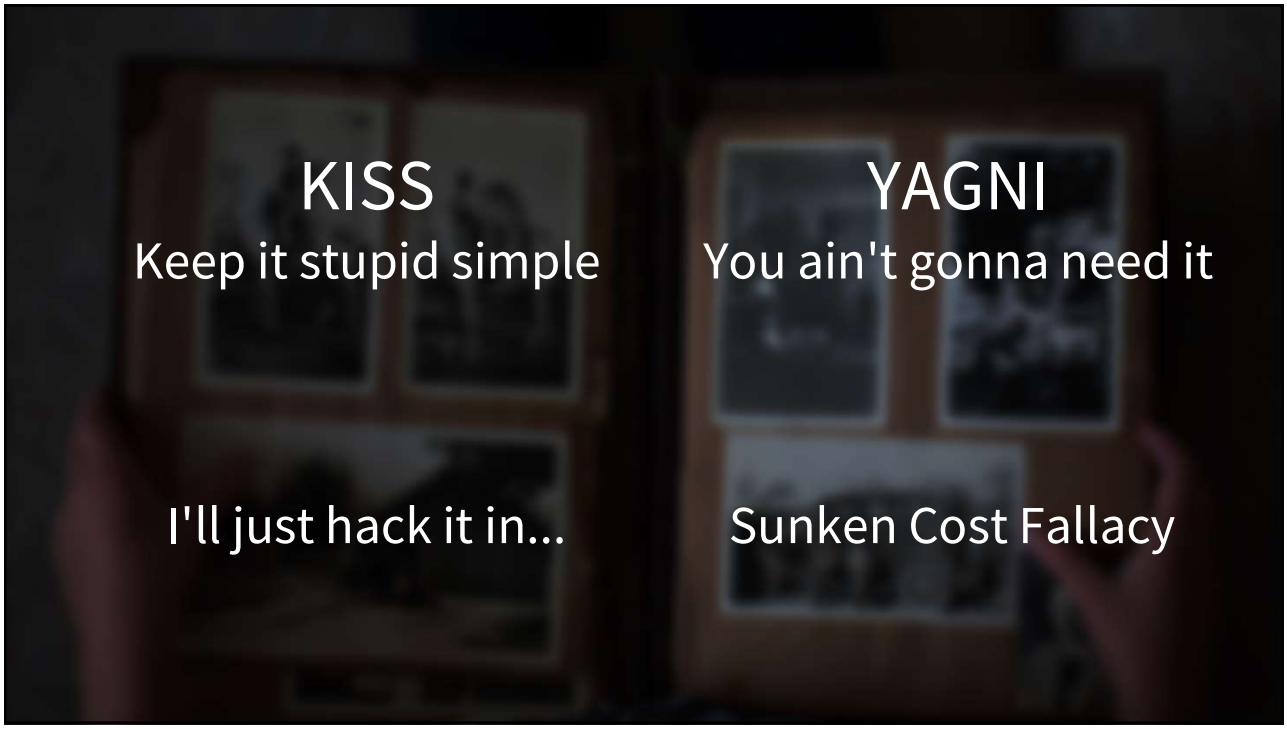
Rationale / Consequences

Discussed and Discarded Alternatives



Source: https://arc42.org/


Frameworks


KISS
Keep it stupid simple
I'll just hack it in...
YAGNI
You ain't gonna need it
Sunken Cost Fallacy

Do

- Use established libraries/frame
- Appropriate Complexity
- Limit the knowledge-stack

Do

- Keep Technical Debt/Bugs out in the open
- Monitor and improve code quality
- Use **renovate** to keep dependencies updated

Do

- Use Mutation Testing to validate test efficiancy
- Make tests as realistic as possible
  - Wiremock
  - Contract Testing
  - Test Containers

How can I help maintenance succeed?

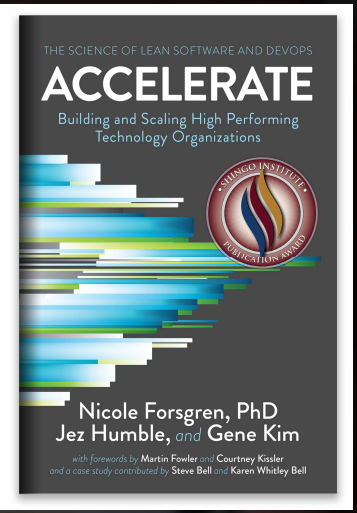
- Use ubiquitous language
- Add documentation
- Provide a stakeholder list
- Add logging
- Add monitor alerts

Situation: Manual deployments

Do

- Automate everything
- Good for your team:

  less burnout and
  higher job satisfaction



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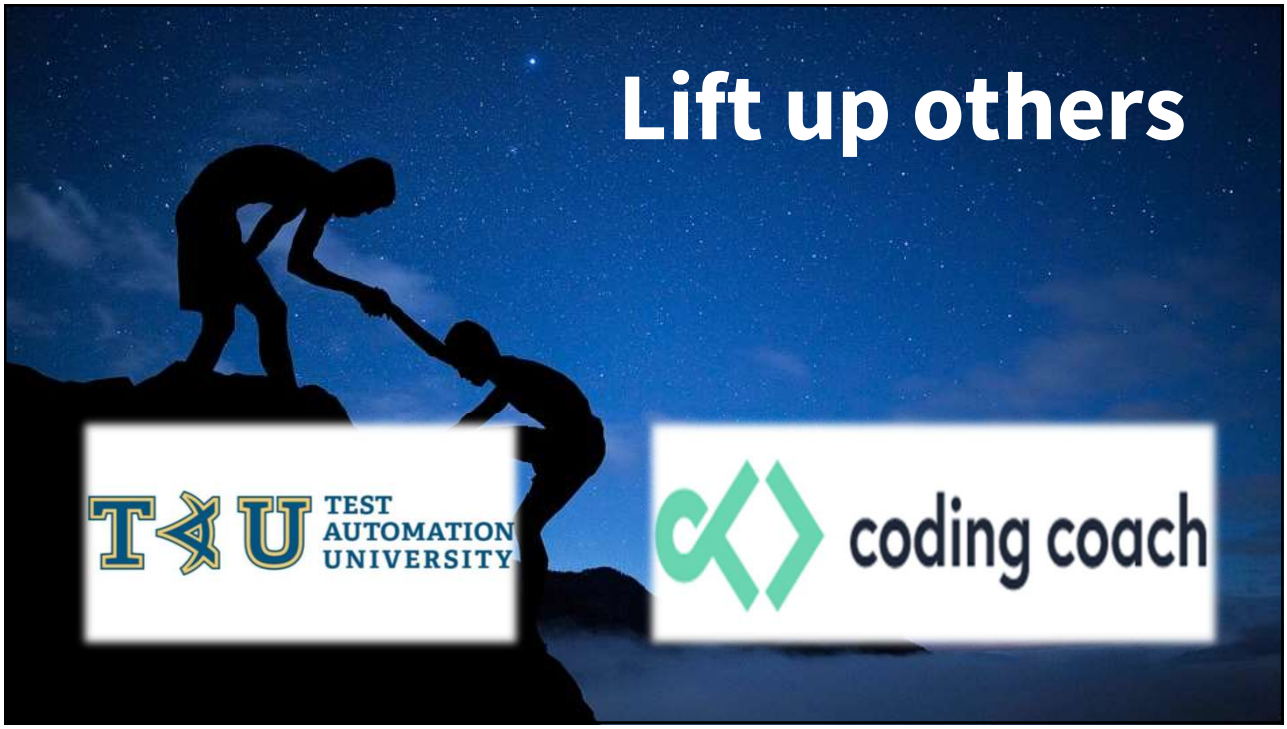
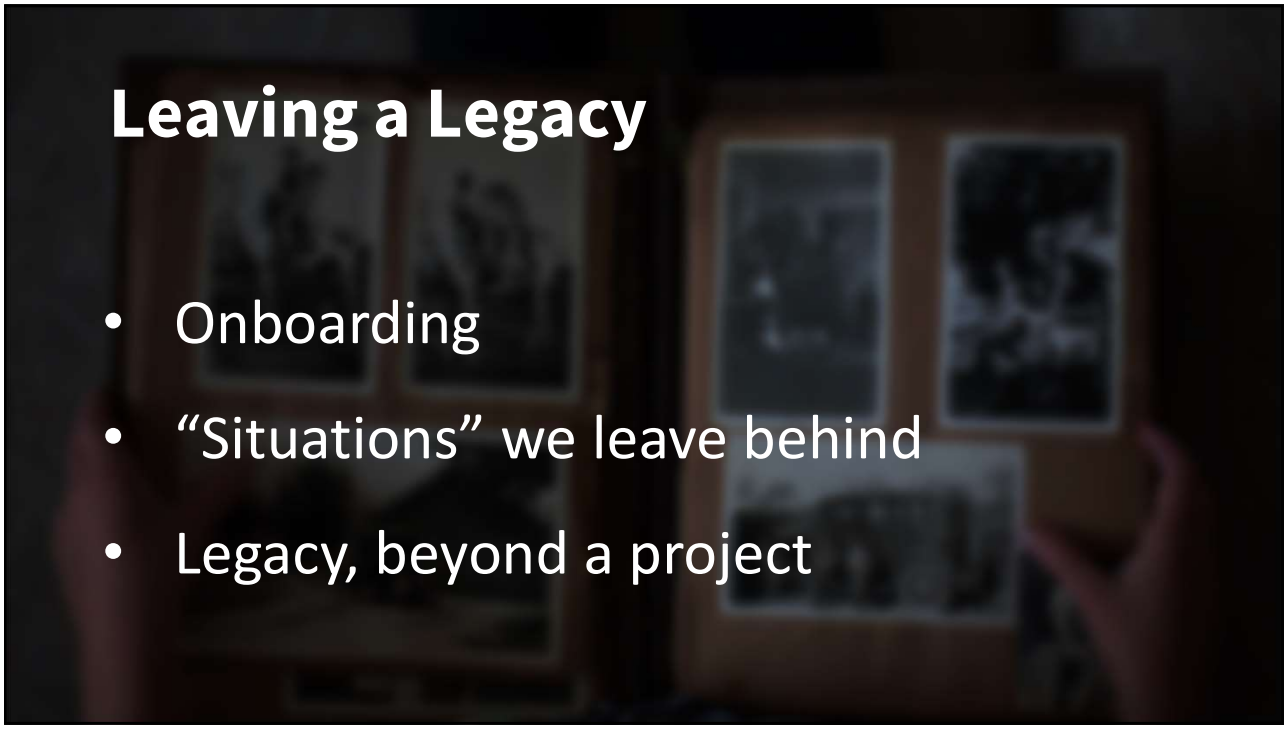
SUCCESS
go get it

Guide

Build Helpful tools
Apache Maven™
jqno/equalsverifier
EqualsVerifier can be used in Java unit tests to verify whether the contract for the equals and hashCode methods is...
30 Contributors
4k Used by
3 Discussions
594 Stars
77 Forks


Lift up others
TEST AUTOMATION UNIVERSITY
coding coach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Isn’t all this just “professionalism”?

Source: https://architectuul.com/architecture/monolith

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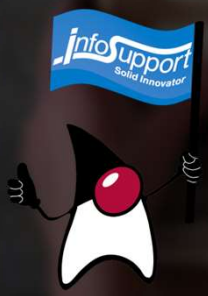
A guide to being kind to those who come after

Slides and additional content at:
https://tomcools.be/talks/jfall-legacy



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