



SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

YOW! **LONDON 2022**

Architecture Fitness Functions

@patkua

Organising and Governing
Evolutionary Architectures

GOTO Guide App

- Download the app
- Ask questions
- Rate sessions

Patrick Kua

20+ years experience

Agile Software Development

Organisational Change

Systems Thinking

Technical Leadership Development

#Architect #Developer #Coach #Leader #CTO

#Life-long learner #Author #Speaker

@patkua





TechLead
ACADEMY

<http://techlead.academy>

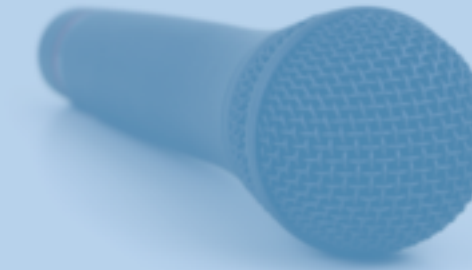
Shortcut to Tech Leadership

Accelerate Your Journey From Maker to Multiplier



Join a guided workshop designed for online learning
<https://www.patkua.com/shortcut-to-tech-leadership/>

Communicate Like a CTO



Grow your influence and be better understood
<https://techlead.academy/p/communication>

Engineering Manager Essentials

A Strong Foundation for Effective EMs



Uncover the core expectations of EMs with this guided online course
<https://www.patkua.com/em-essentials>

Systems Thinking Fundamentals

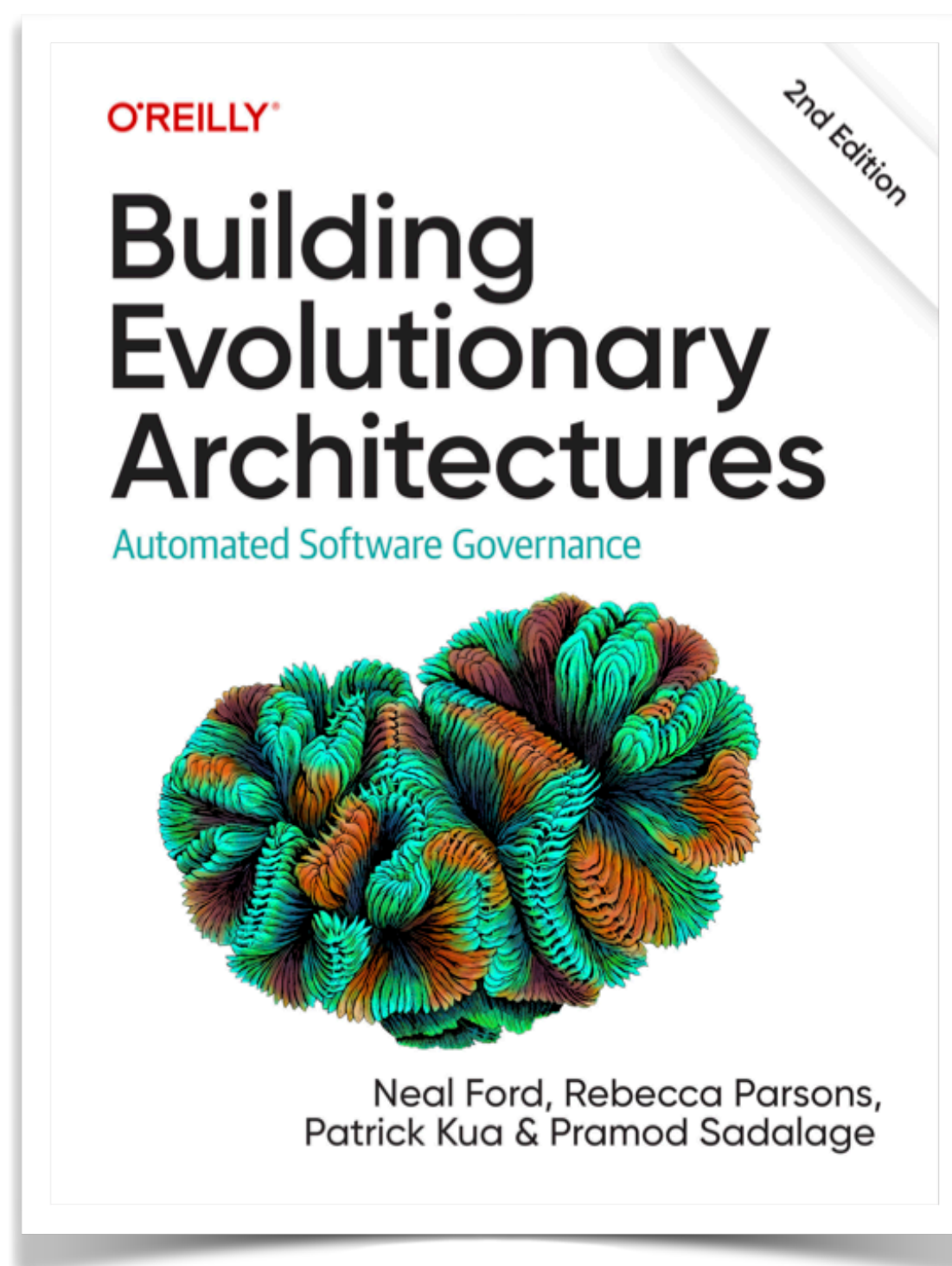


Manage systems, not people
<https://techlead.academy/p/systems-thinking-fundamentals>

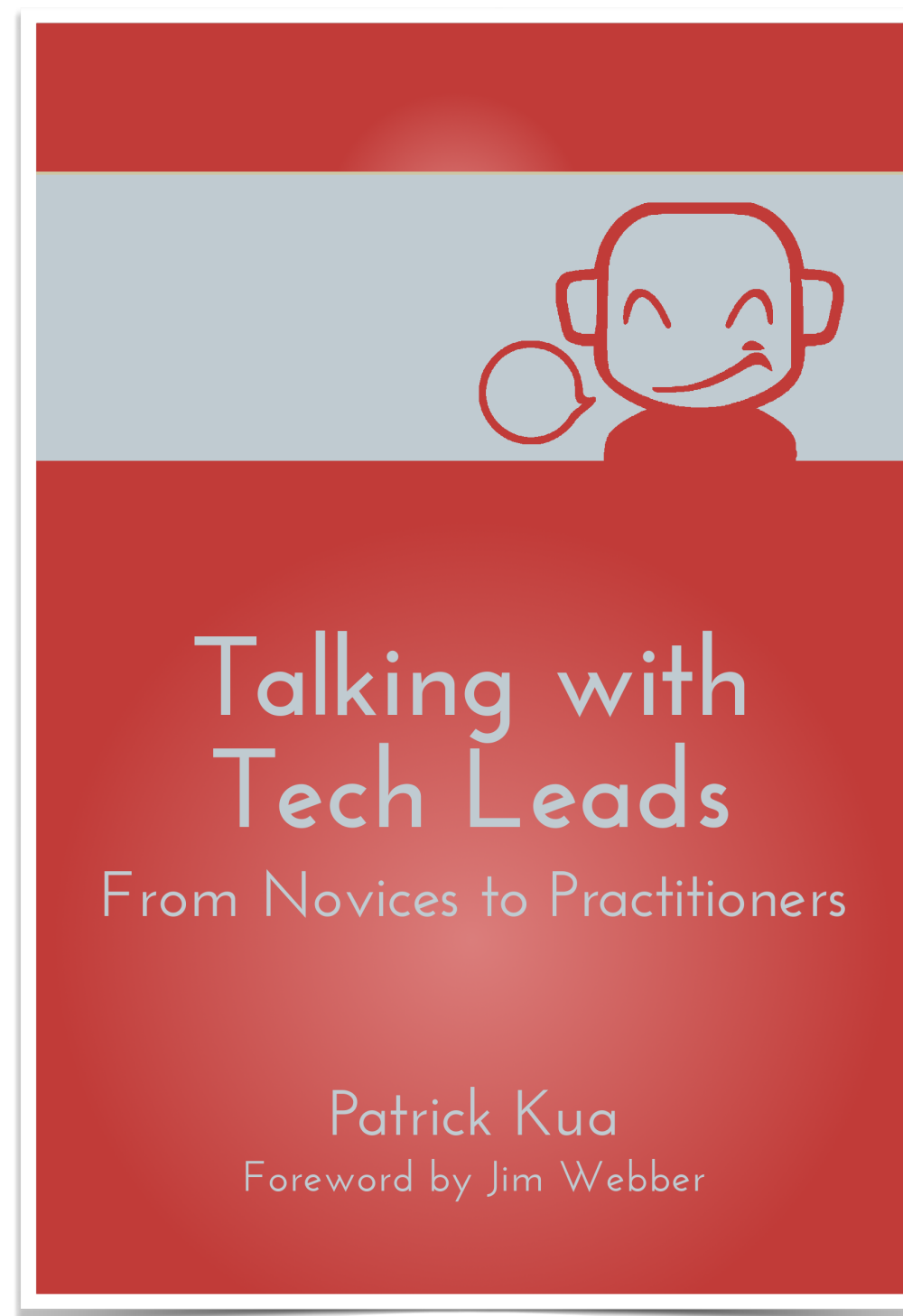
Time Management for Technical Leaders



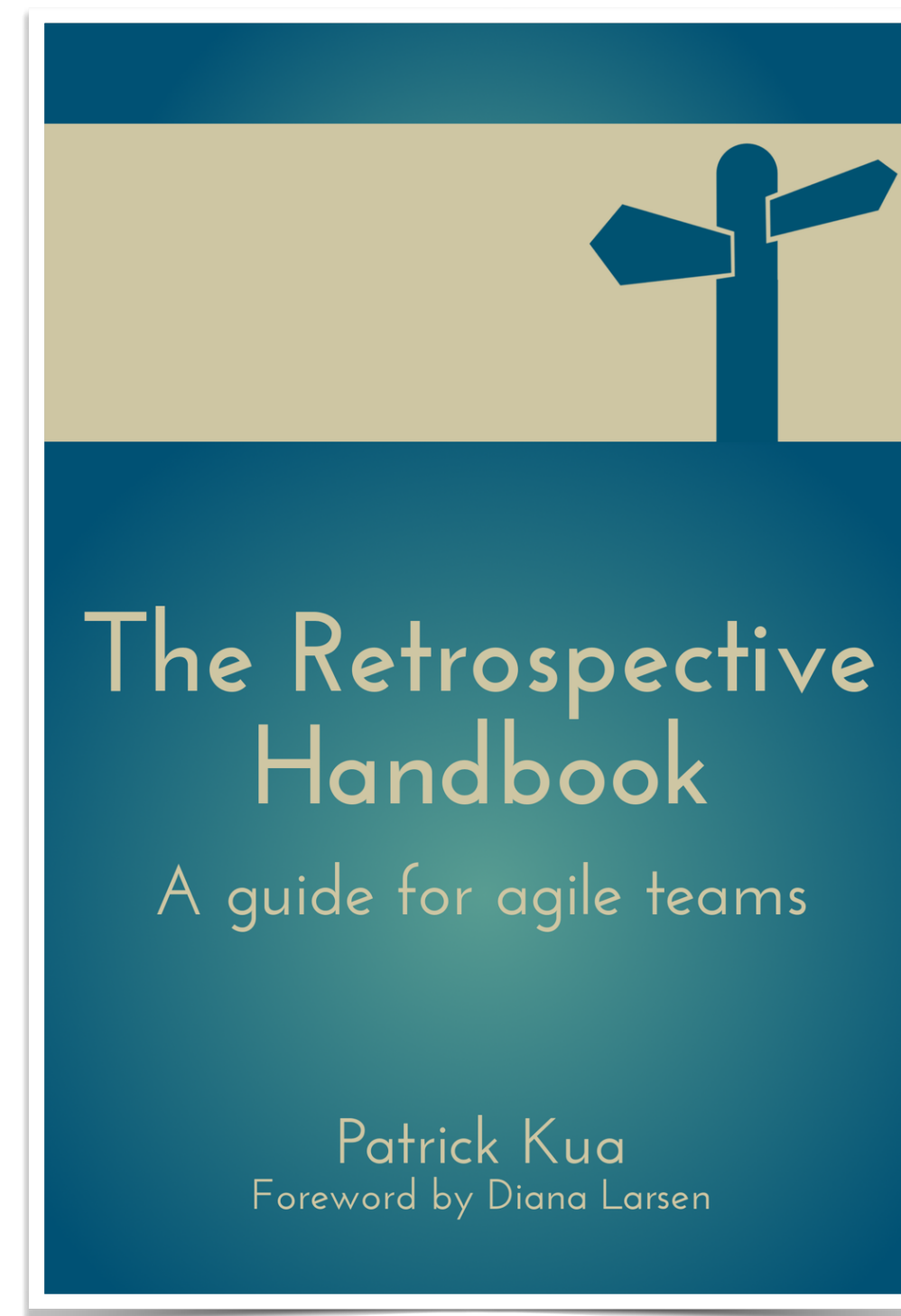
Productivity methods that pay back
<https://techlead.academy/p/time-management>



thekua.io/evolarch



thekua.io/twtl



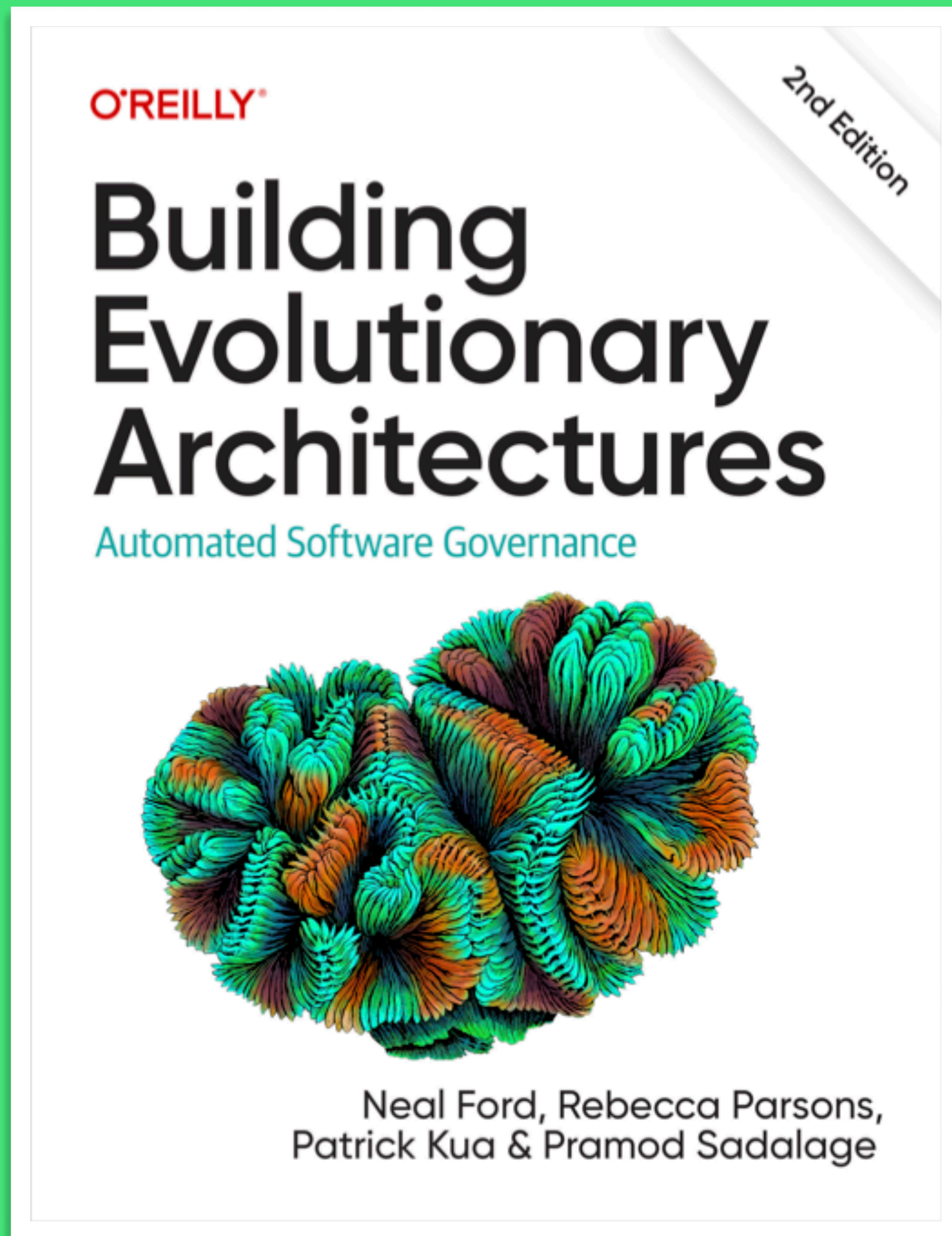
thekua.io/retrobook

#Architect #Developer #Coach #Leader #CTO

#Life-long learner #Author #Speaker

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2nd Edition out soon



@patkua

DEFINITION

An evolutionary architecture supports
incremental, guided change
as a first principle along
multiple dimensions



A vibrant, high-saturation photograph of a garden. A gravel path leads from the bottom center towards a two-story house in the background. The path is flanked by dense, colorful flowers and greenery. Above the path, a series of arched trellises covered in leafy vines create a tunnel effect. The house has a dark roof and light-colored walls. In the background, there are more trees and a hillside under a blue sky with some clouds. A white rectangular box with rounded corners is positioned in the upper right, containing the text "Software is like a garden" in a bold, dark font.

Software is like a garden



We can plan, but cannot control



What sort of garden do you want?

Architects = Software Gardeners



What sort of garden do you want?

How do many software
architects “garden”?

What is governance?

“The way that organisations are managed at the highest level and the systems for doing this”

Source: <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/governance>



What does **governance**
mean to you?



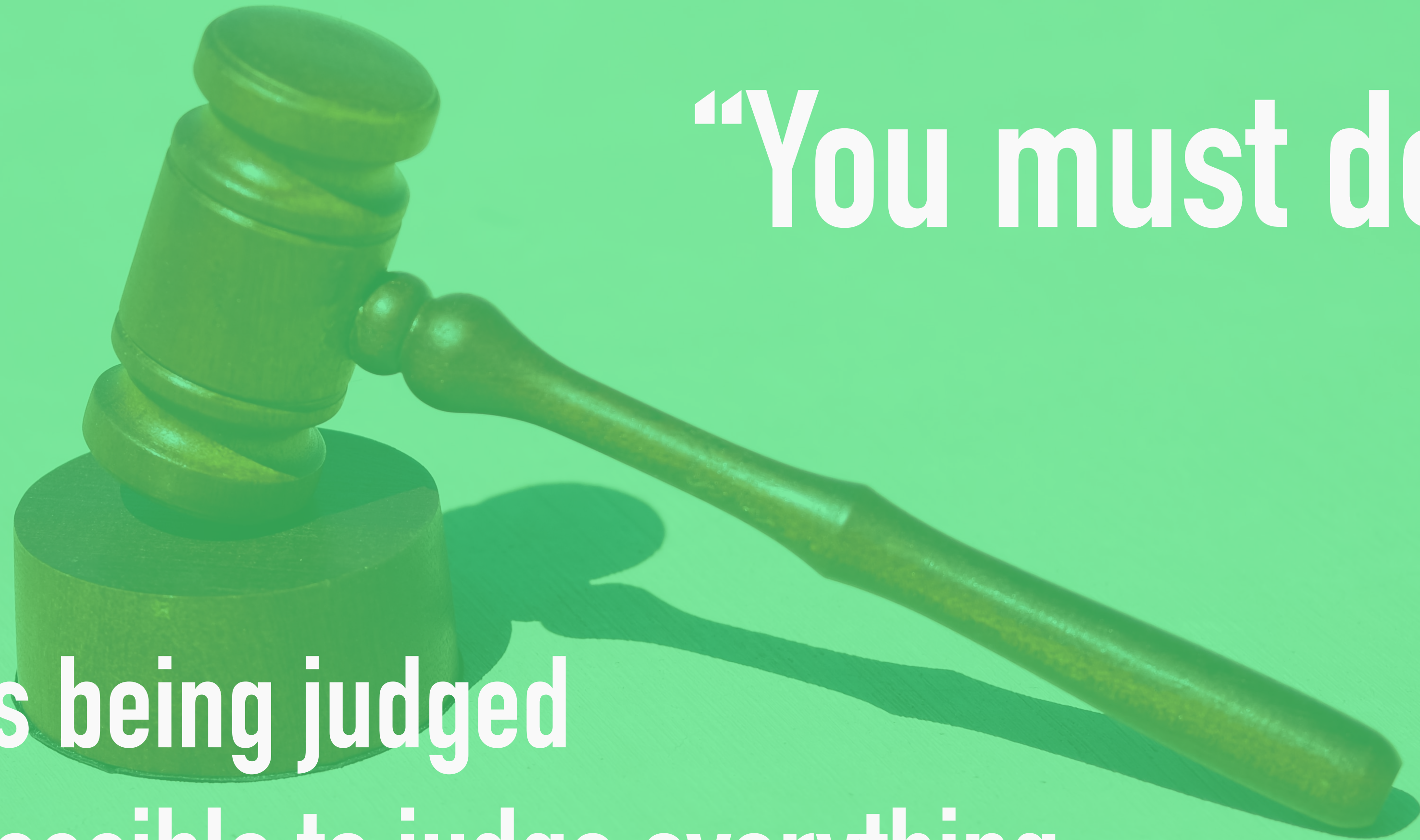
“You can’t do that” “Wrong”

“You must do that”



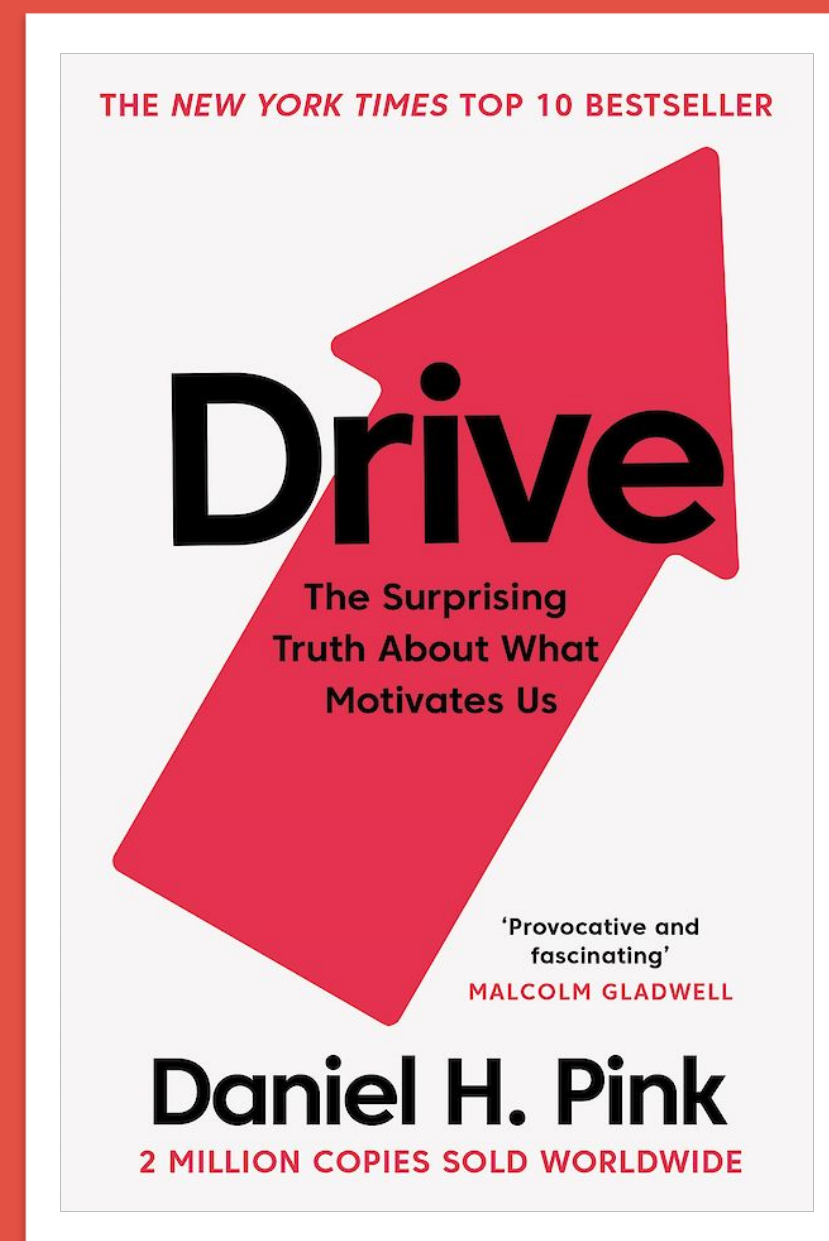
“You can’t do that” “Wrong”

“You must do that”

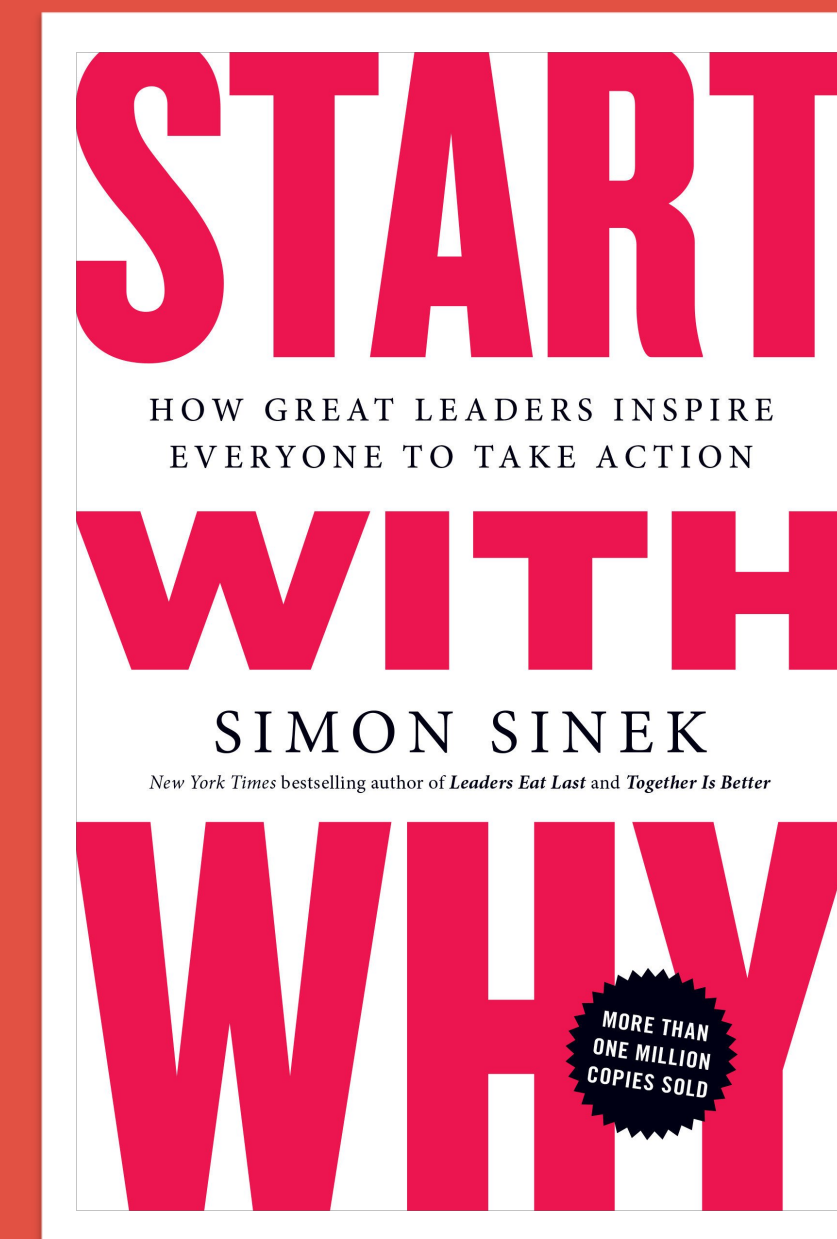


Nobody likes being judged
It's also impossible to judge everything

What's missing?

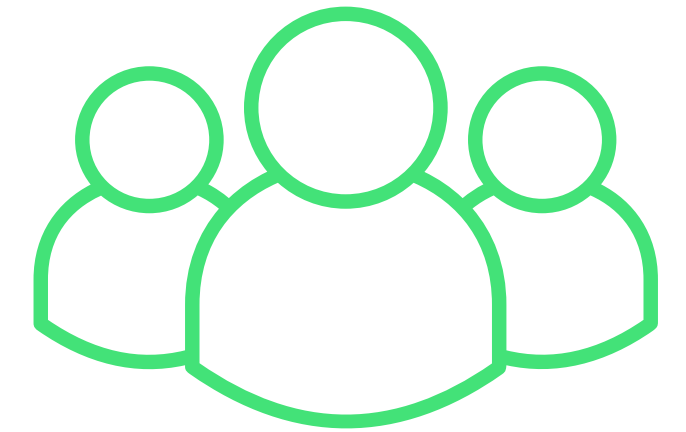
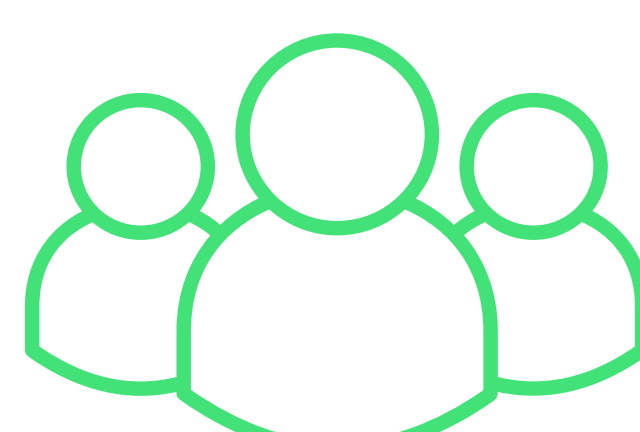
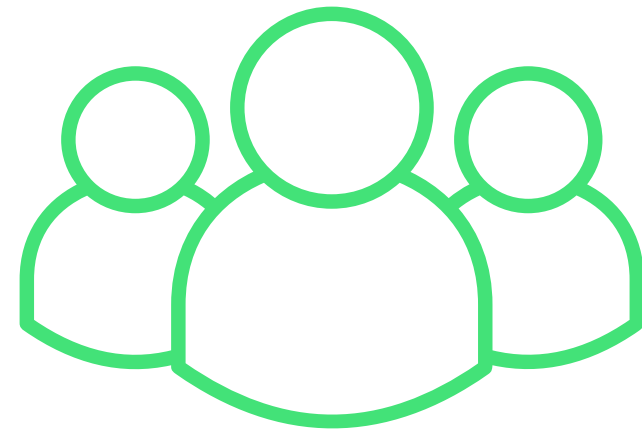
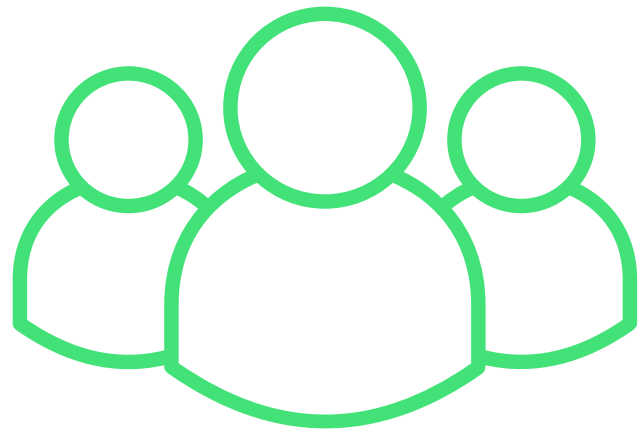


Autonomy



Context

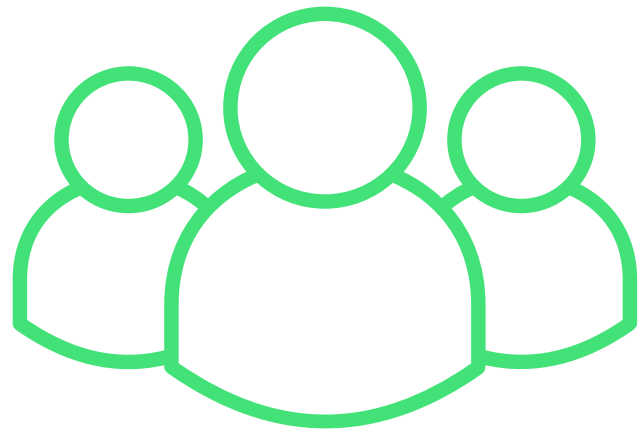
Example



4 independent teams, each building microservices,
empowered to make any technical choices.

Without any governance,
what might we imagine after 2 years time?

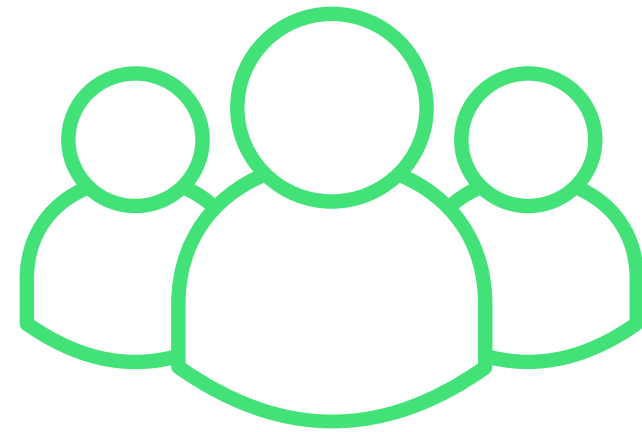
Example



React

Ruby on Rails

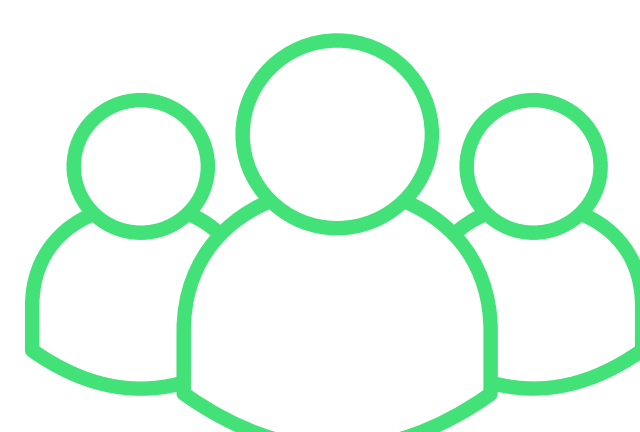
Selenium
RSpec



Vue

Spring

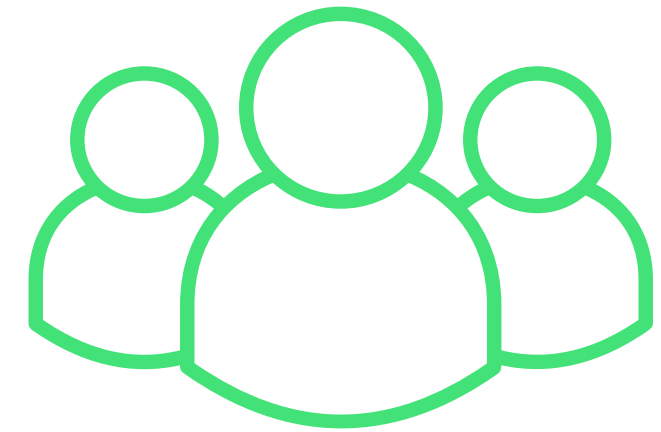
JUnit



Next.js

Micronaut

JBehave



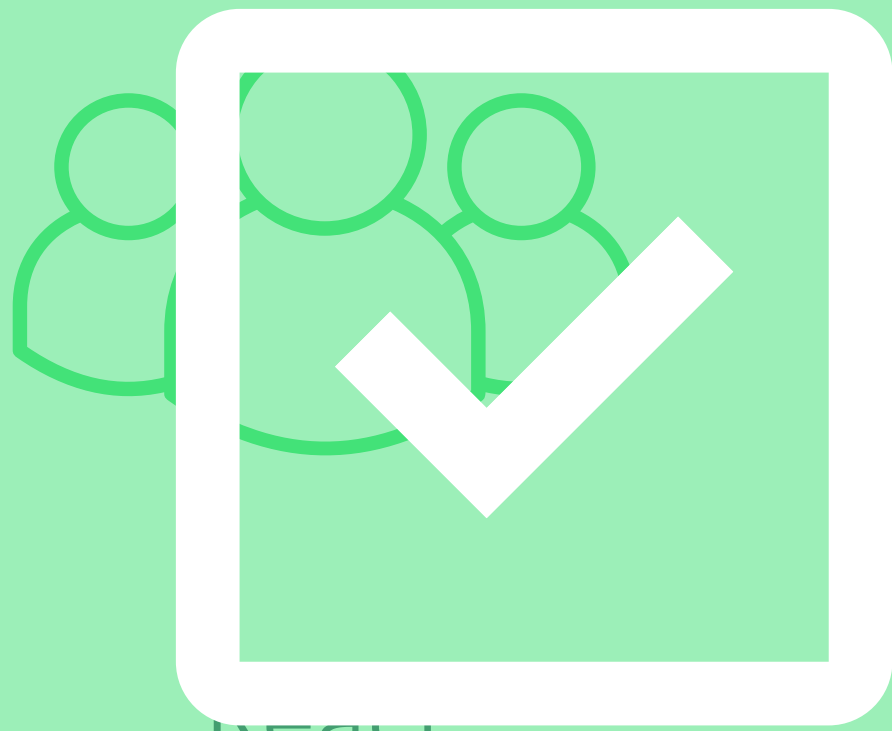
React

Ktor

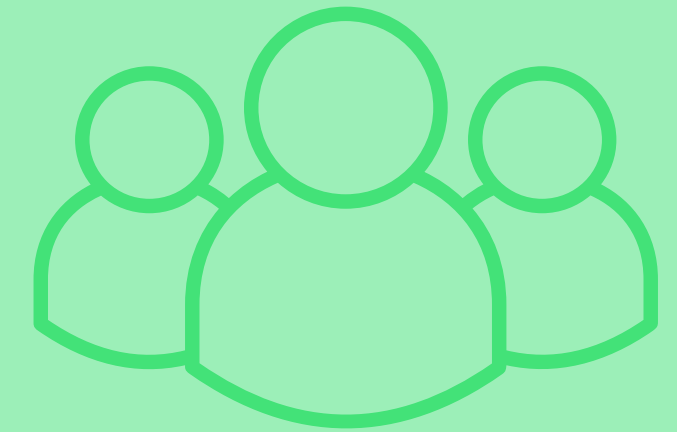
Spek

Note: The differences are not necessarily bad, but may be undesirable

Example



Autonomy



Alignment

Note: The differences are not necessarily bad, but may be undesirable

Rules and constraints
are important



Rules and constraints
are important

But implementation matters



What does nature do?



“Fit for the environment”



Evolutionary architectures
are **guided** with

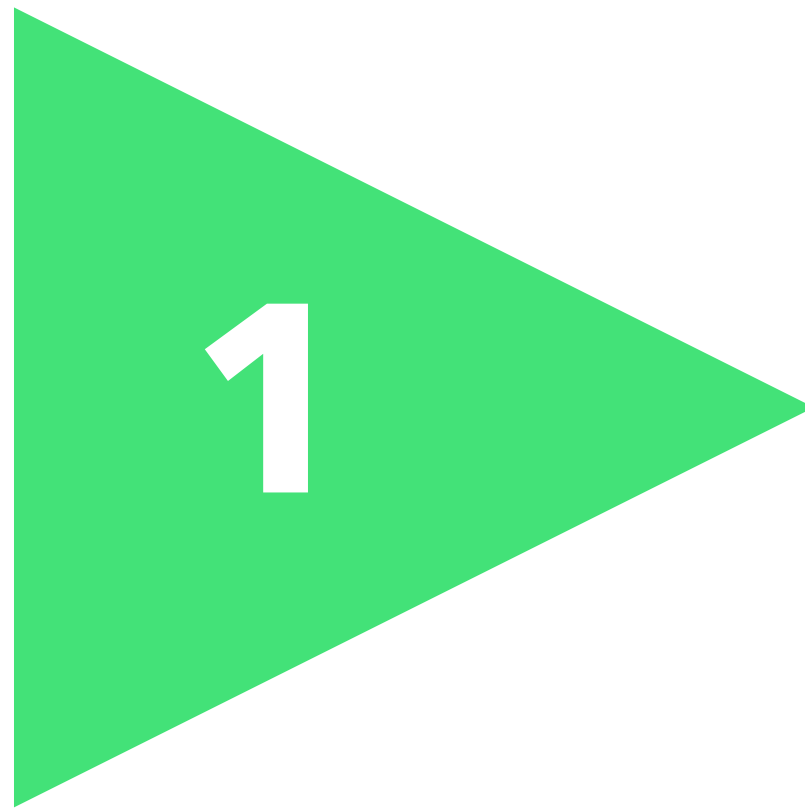
FITNESS FUNCTIONS

What is a fitness function?

"An **objective** function that measures how close a given solution fits to a particular goal"



Steps



Identify what you
care about



Fitness Functions

IMPORTANT

UNIMPORTANT

Strong audit trail

Large # of users

Low response time

Heavy legal compliance

Availability

Mobile responsive

Internationalisation & Localisation

Monitoring



Fitness Functions

IMPORTANT

UNIMPORTANT

System Quality Attributes
Cross Functional Requirements
Non Functional Requirements



Fitness Functions

IMPORTANT

UNIMPORTANT

Strong audit trail

Large # of users

Low response time

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Fitness Functions

IMPORTANT

Strong audit trail

Large # of users

Mobile responsive

Availability

UNIMPORTANT

Low response time

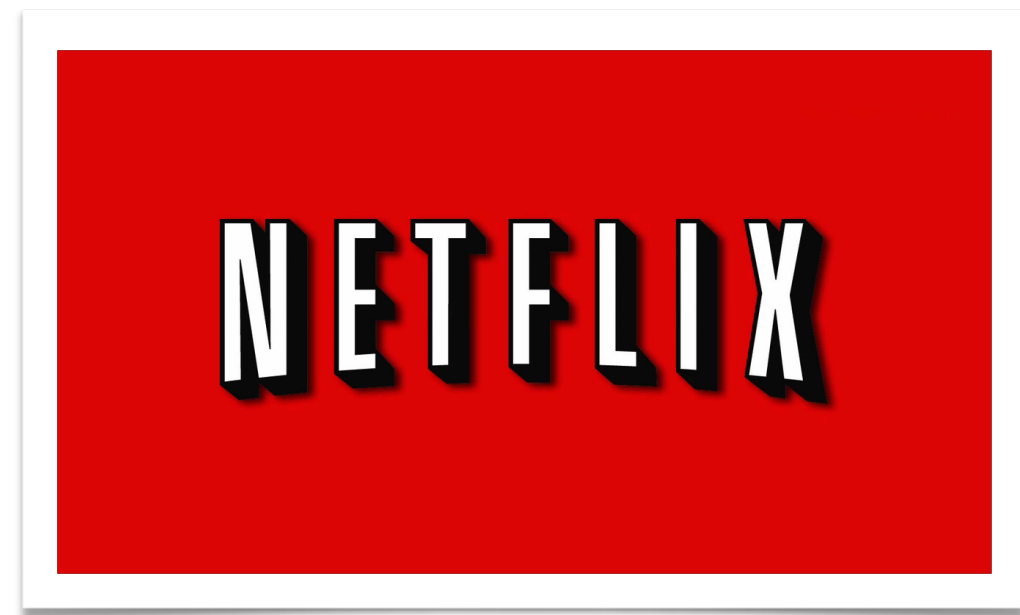
Monitoring

Internationalisation & Localisation

Heavy legal compliance



What is important?



Resiliency



Speed
Fail Fast



Strong consistency
Scale immediately



Tradeoffs



Simplicity



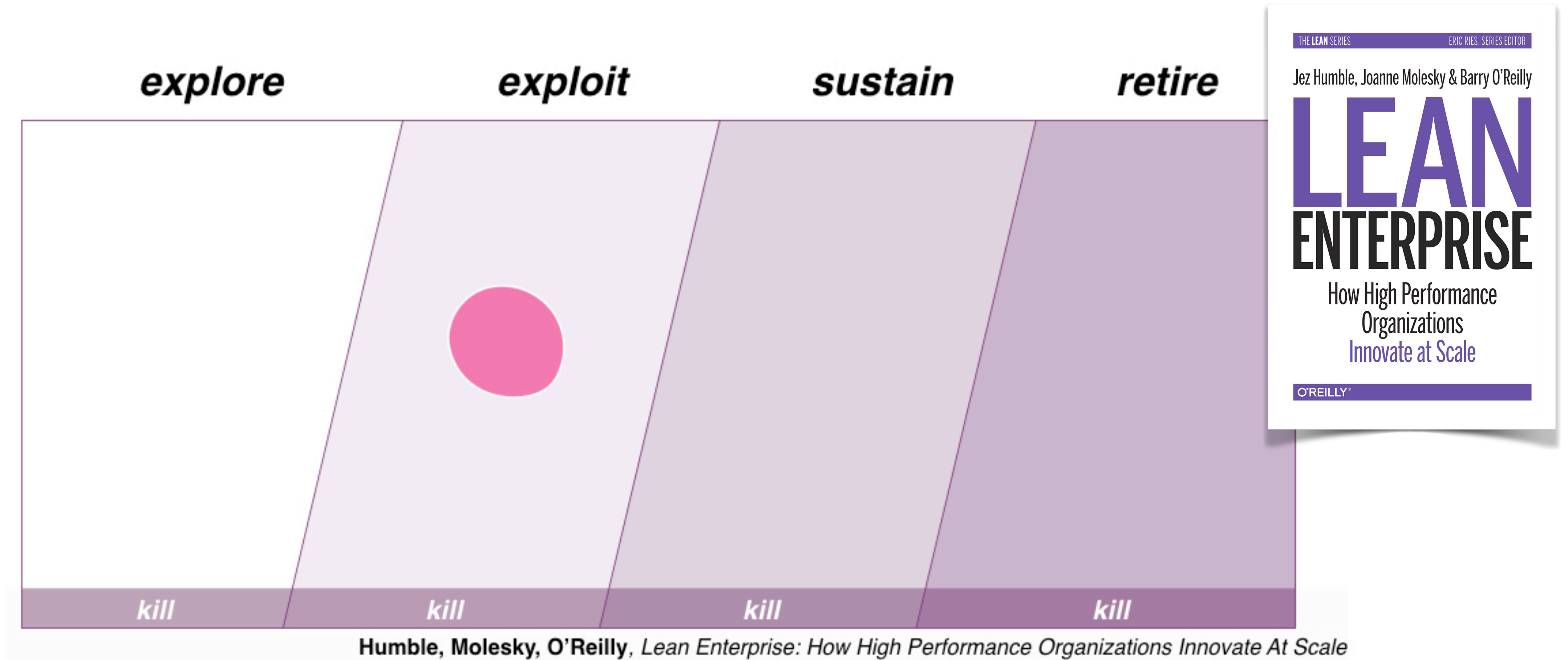
Significant duplication
Inconsistency



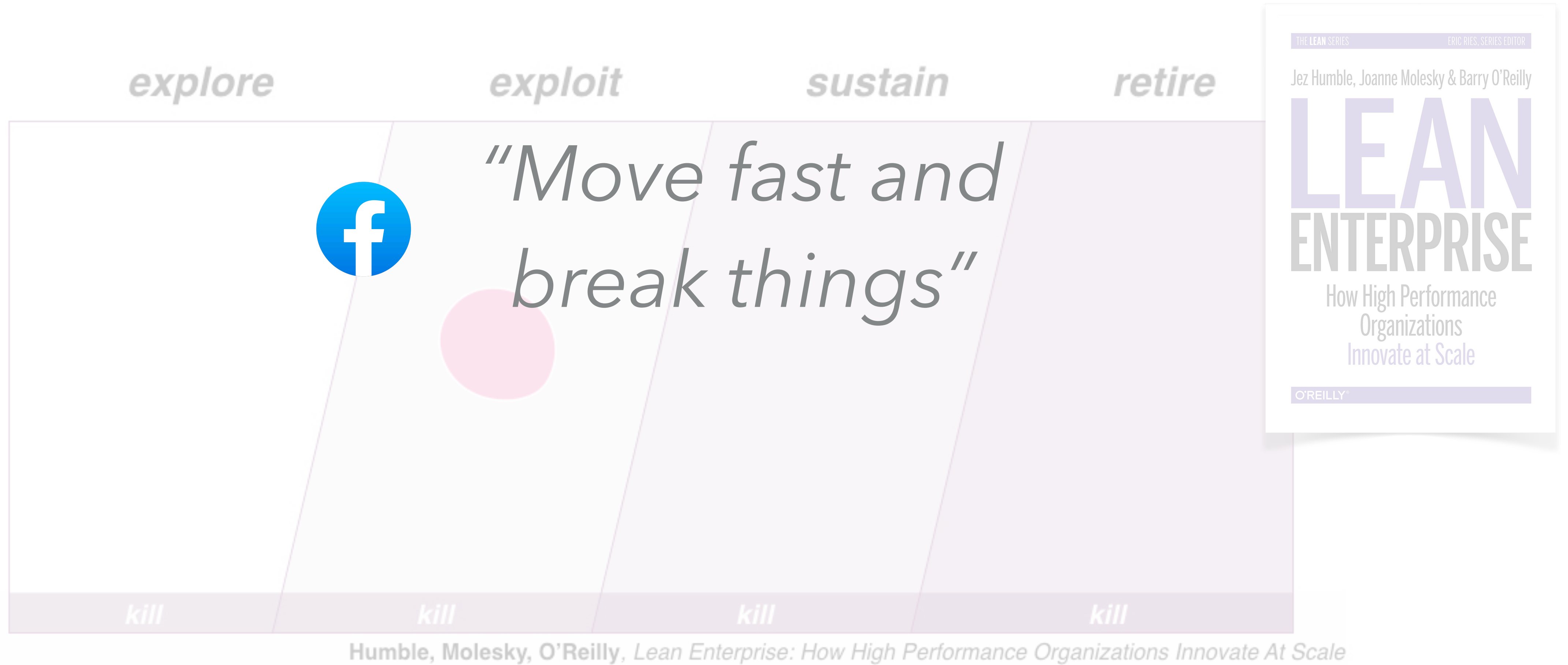
High coordination costs
"Google" only tooling



Fitness Changes Over Time



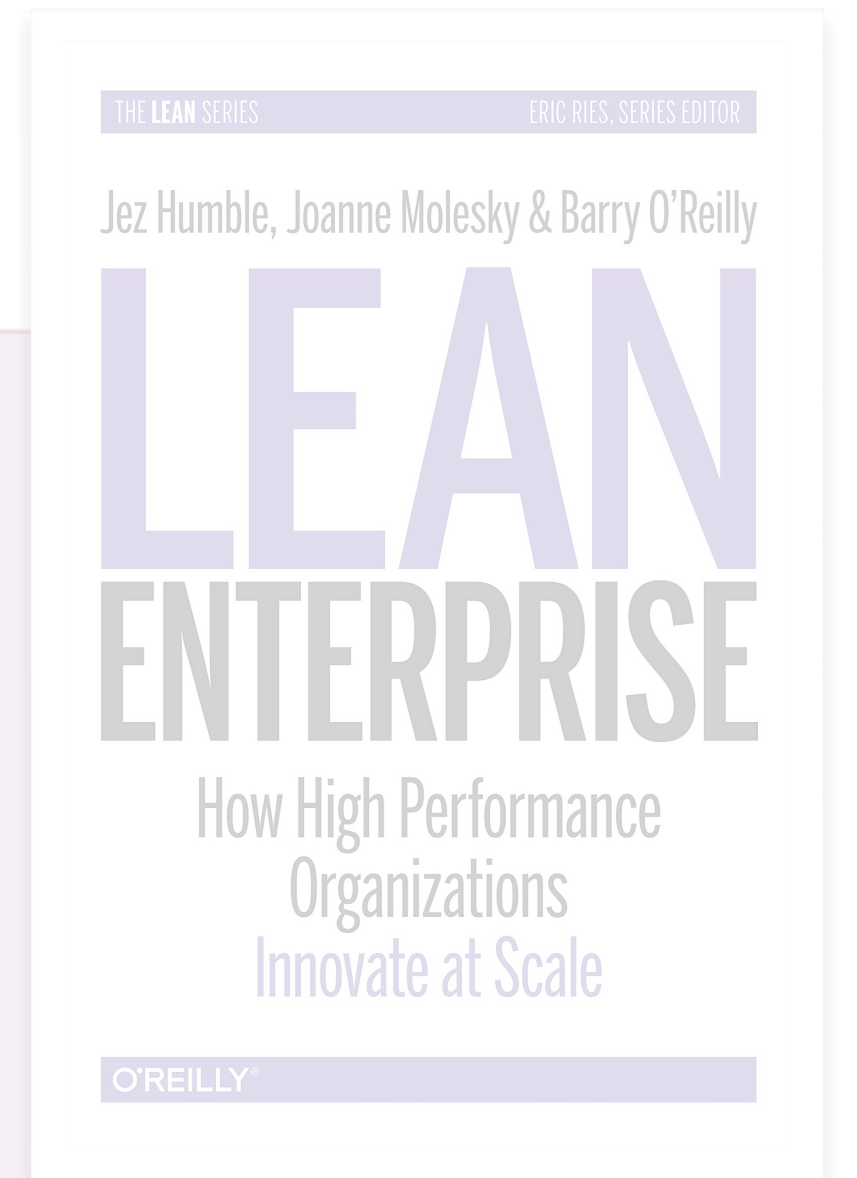
Fitness Changes Over Time



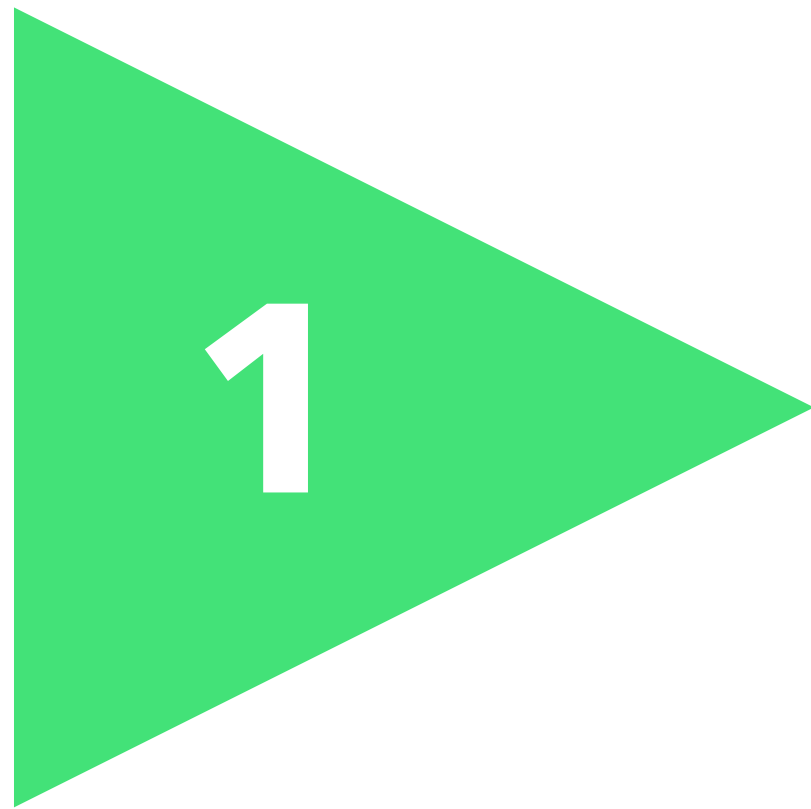
Fitness Changes Over Time



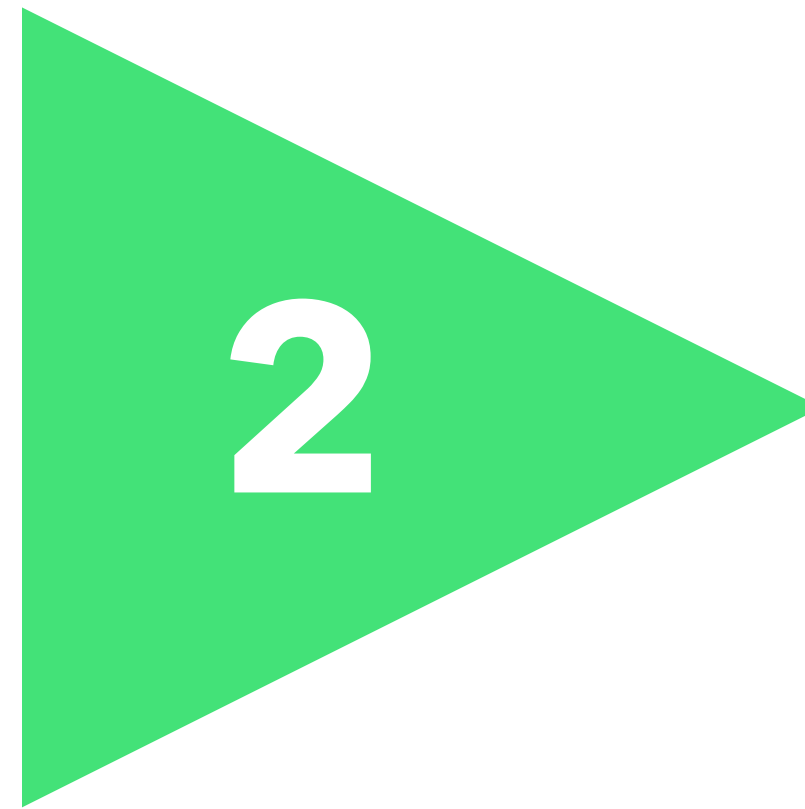
Humble, Molesky, O'Reilly, *Lean Enterprise: How High Performance Organizations Innovate At Scale*



Steps



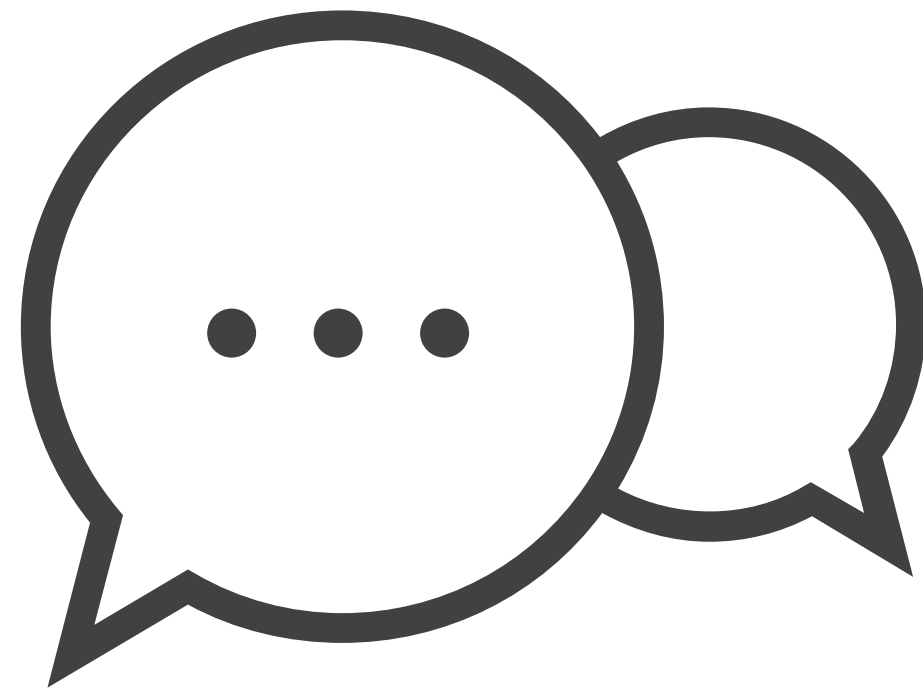
Identify what you
care about



Define what "good"
looks like



Example



Internationalisation & Localisation

Optimise for

> English
Latin-based languages

Don't optimise for

Non-latin languages

Why?

Target audience is mostly
Western Europe

Tradeoff

Longer content cycles



Example



Deployment Speed

Optimise for

Why?

Tradeoff

From monthly releases to
5+ per day

Quicker turn around in
case of bug fixes, etc

Investment in automation
Rearchitect parts



Joshua Seiden



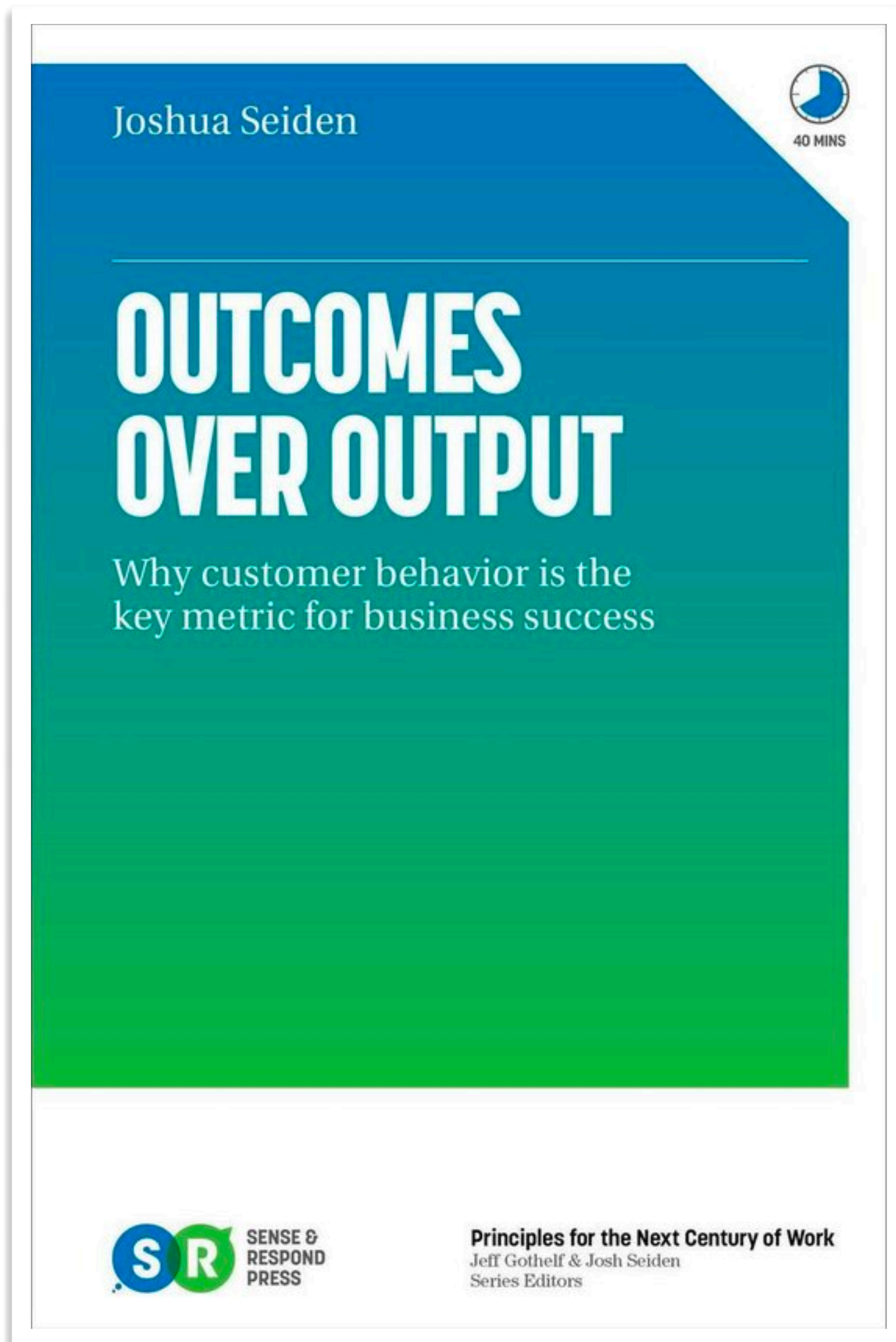
OUTCOMES OVER OUTPUT

Why customer behavior is the
key metric for business success



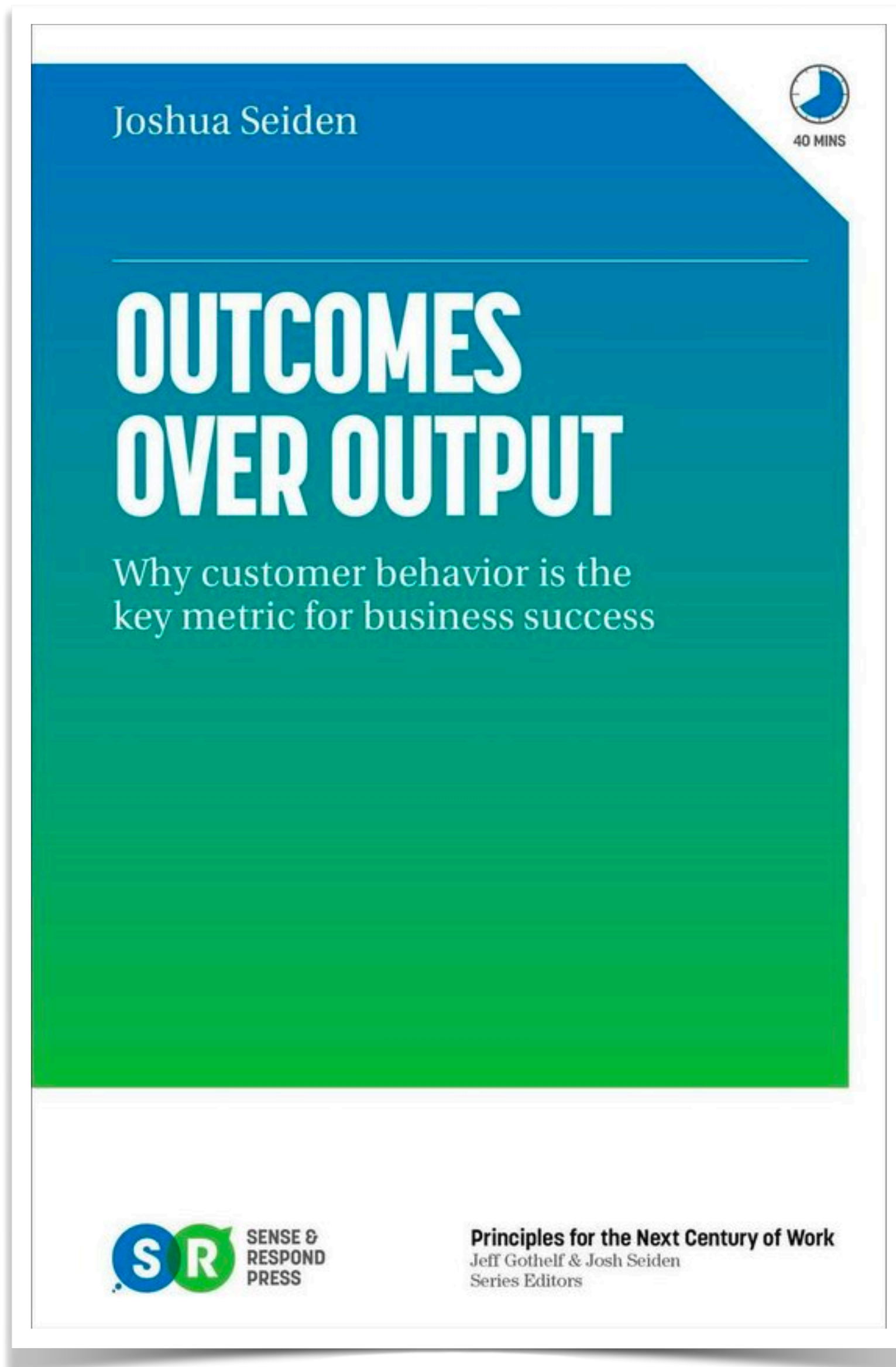
Principles for the Next Century of Work
Jeff Gothelf & Josh Seiden
Series Editors





Good product management



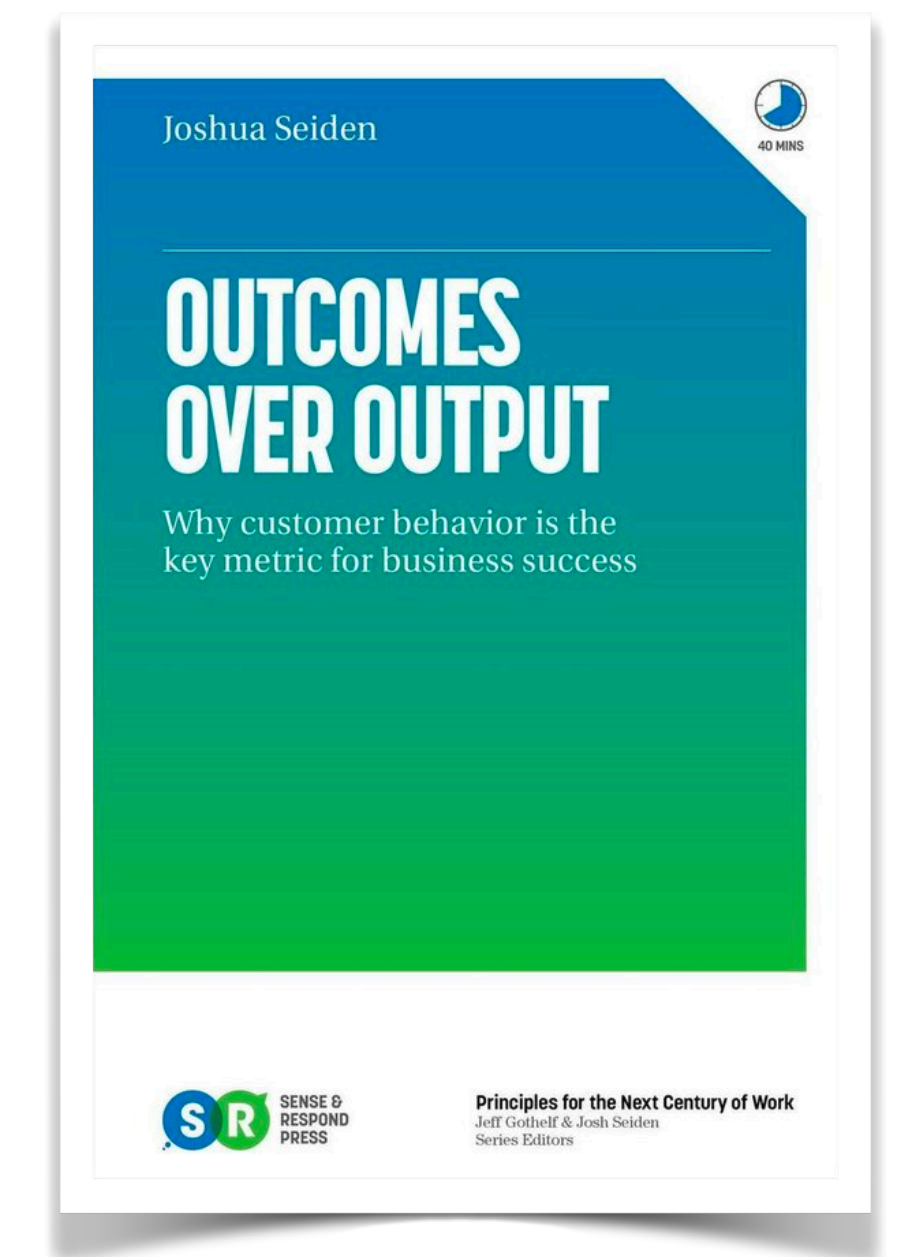


Good product management

Good technical leadership
(i.e. governance)



Fitness functions help us define a
“good outcome”
without specifying the implementation



Steps

1

Identify what you
care about

2

Define what "good"
looks like

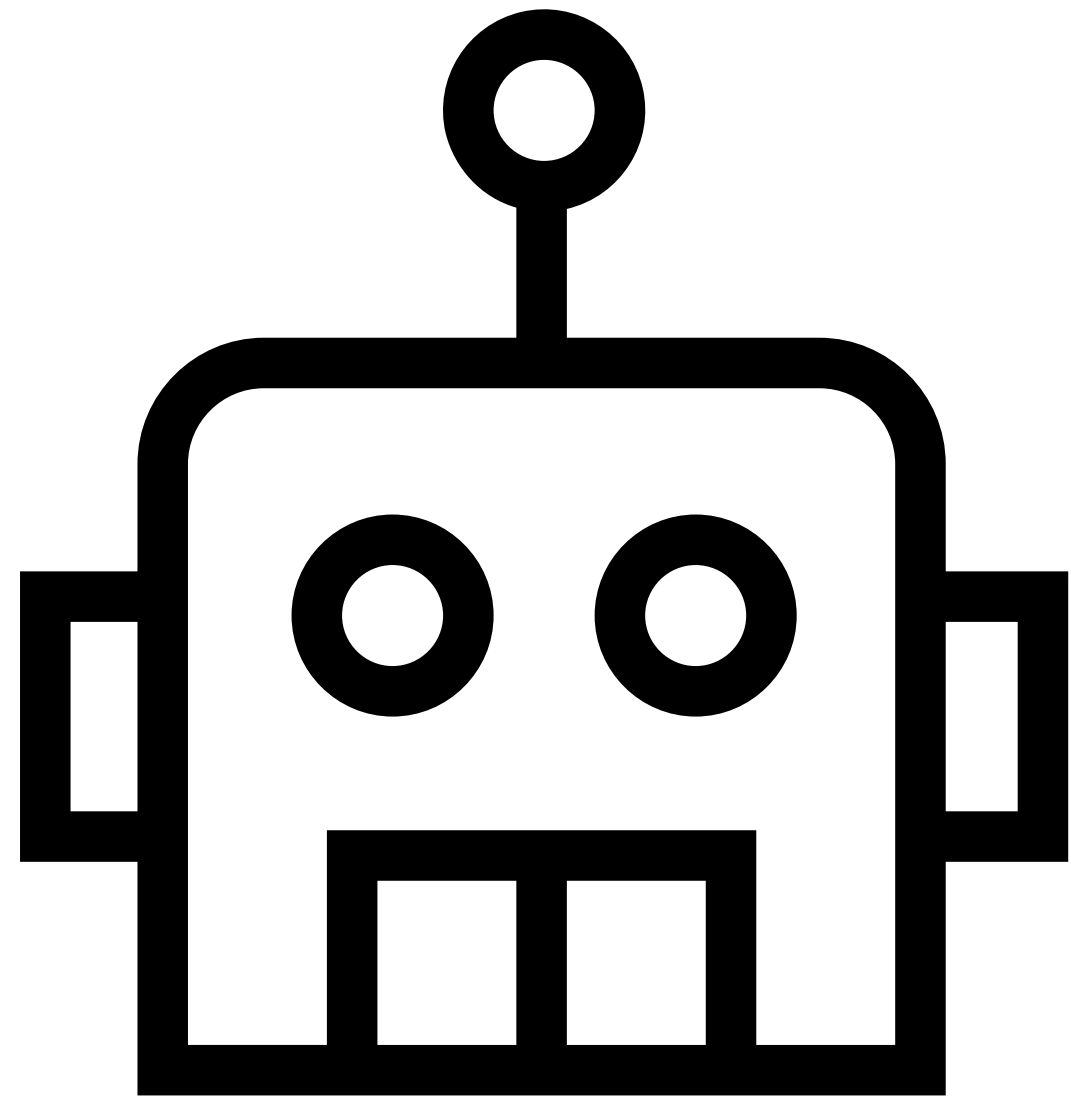
3

Define fitness
function(s)

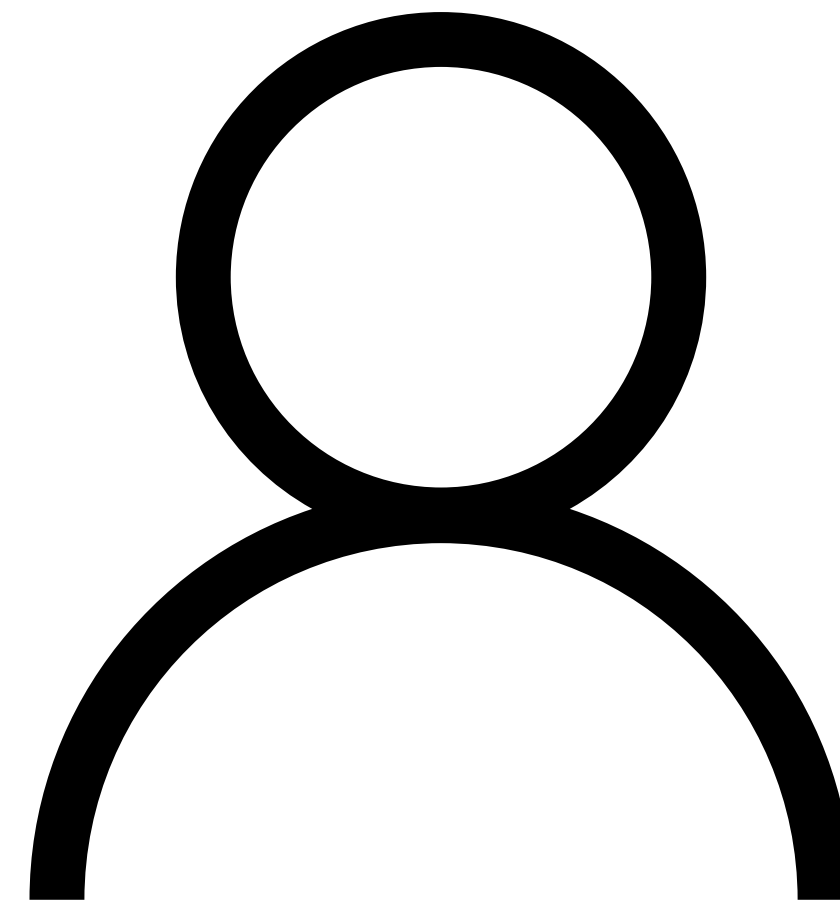




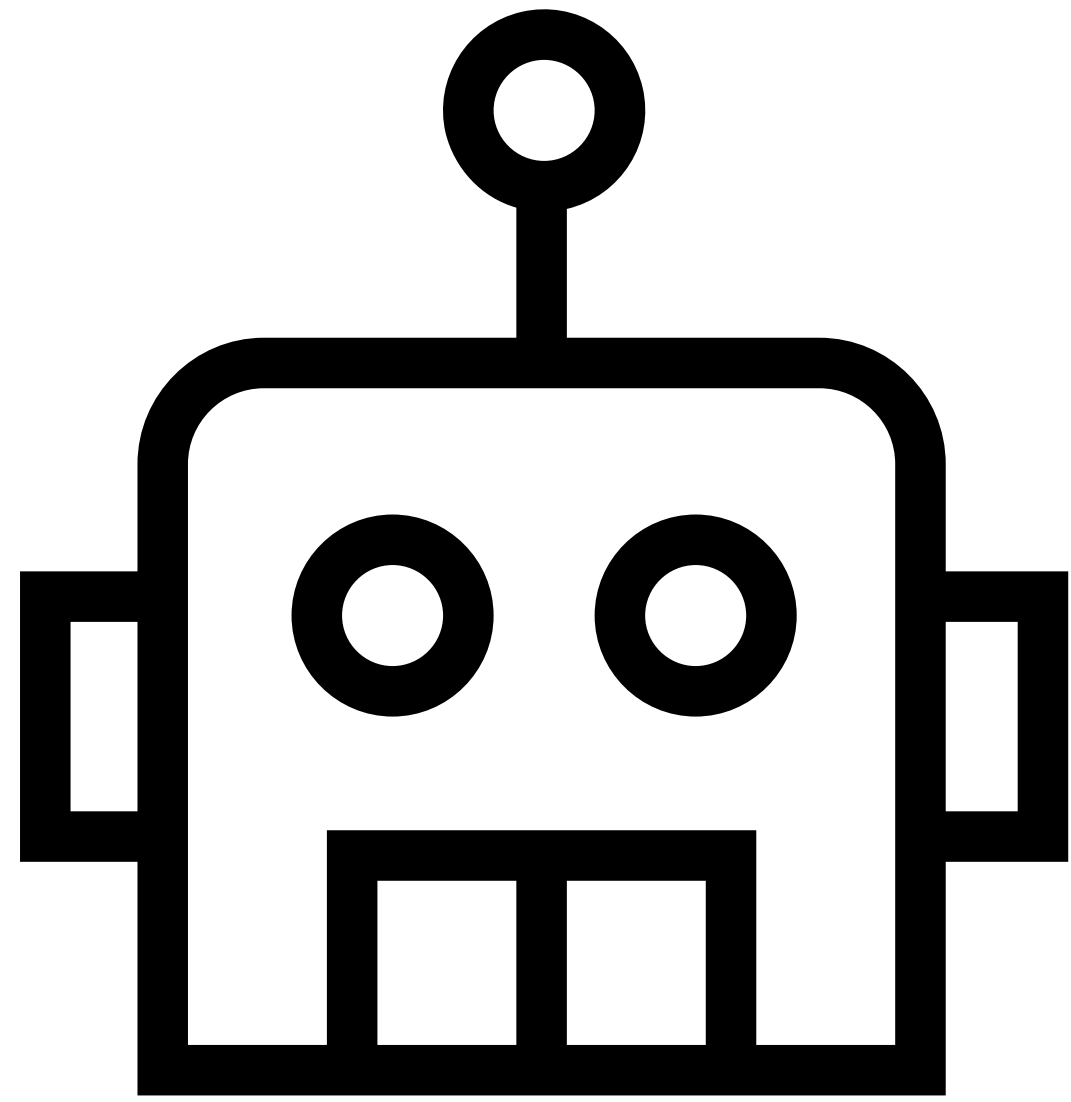
**Fitness functions
provide guardrails**



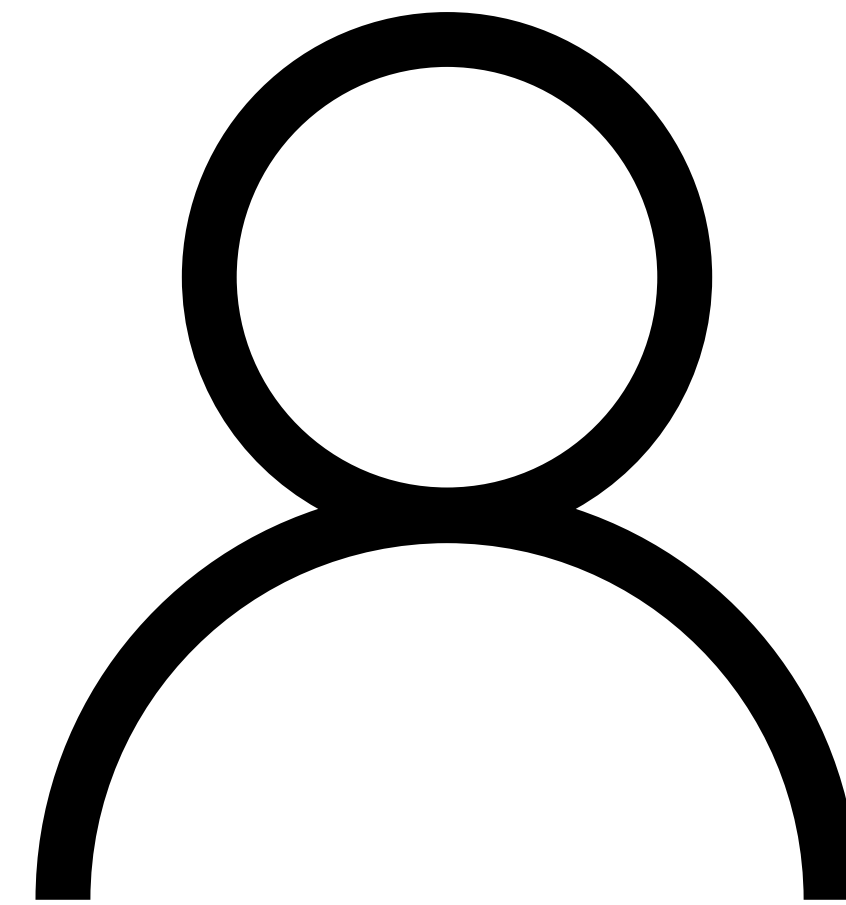
over







over



(Not always possible)



EXAMPLES

Challenge

How do you get teams to build resilient services?

Problem

We are building a streaming service that is used worldwide. We can't afford major downtime, therefore we want to make sure our systems are as resilient as possible

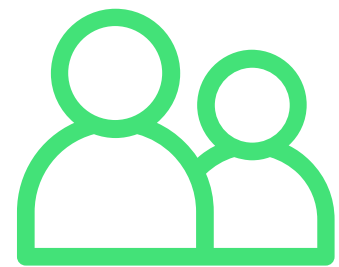


“Naive” Solution

Let's add a testing team who will focus on running resiliency tests



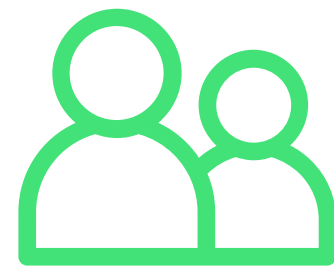
“Naive” Solution



Product
Team



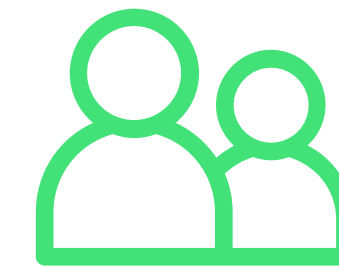
Product
Team



Product
Team



Product
Team



Product
Team



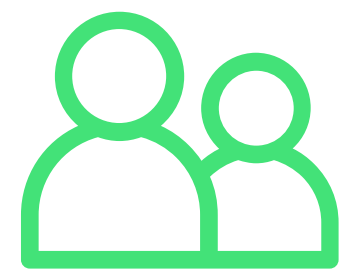
Product
Team



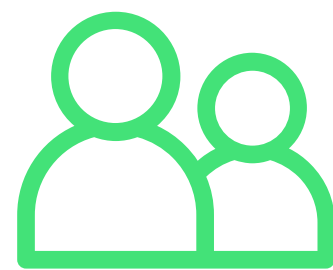
Testing
Team



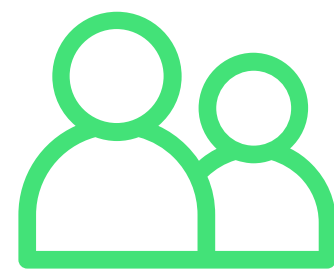
“Naive” Solution



Product
Team



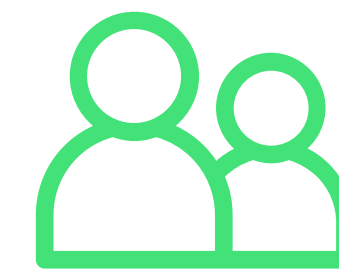
Product
Team



Product
Team



Product
Team



Product
Team



Product
Team

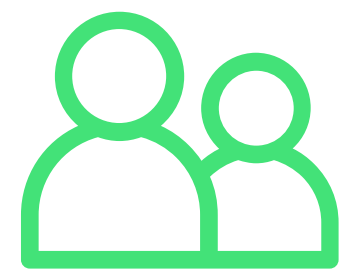
**What happens if we add
more product teams?**



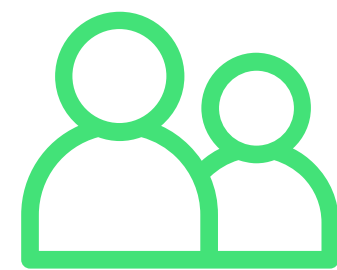
Testing
Team



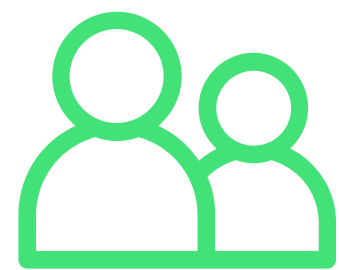
“Naive” Solution



Product
Team



Product
Team



Product
Team



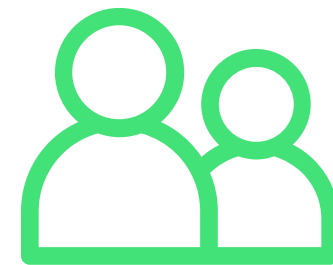
Product
Team



Product
Team



Product
Team



Testing
Team

**Default reaction: Add
more people**

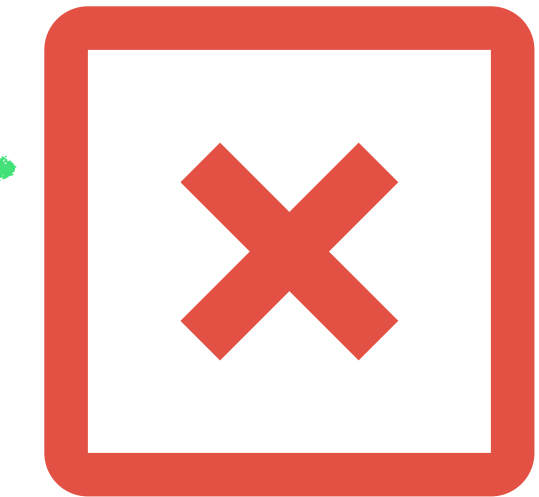


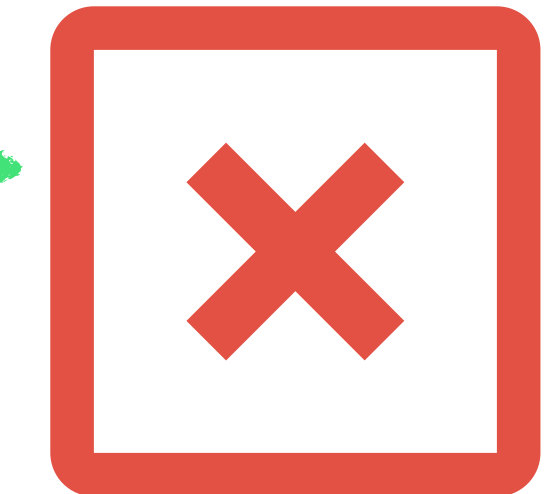
Can we scale this somehow?

Yes. Through automation

Birth of the Simian Army







Birth of the Simian Army



Automated
Continuous
Holistic



PS Simian Army also evolved



Chaos Monkey

<https://github.com/netflix/chaosmonkey>



Spinnaker's Swabbie

<https://github.com/spinnaker/swabbie>

Spinnaker

Future of Conformity Monkey



Tradeoffs

Initial investment

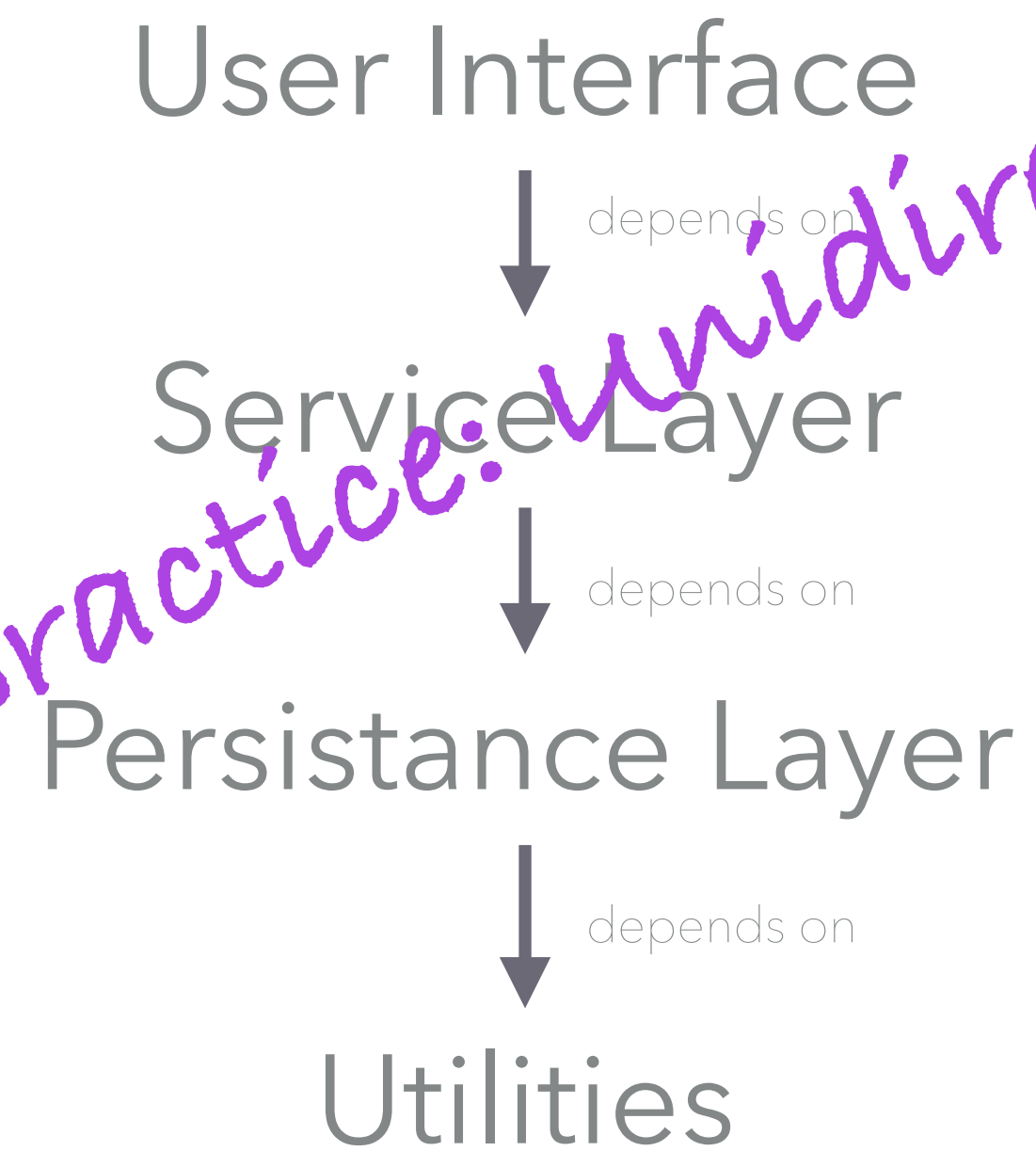
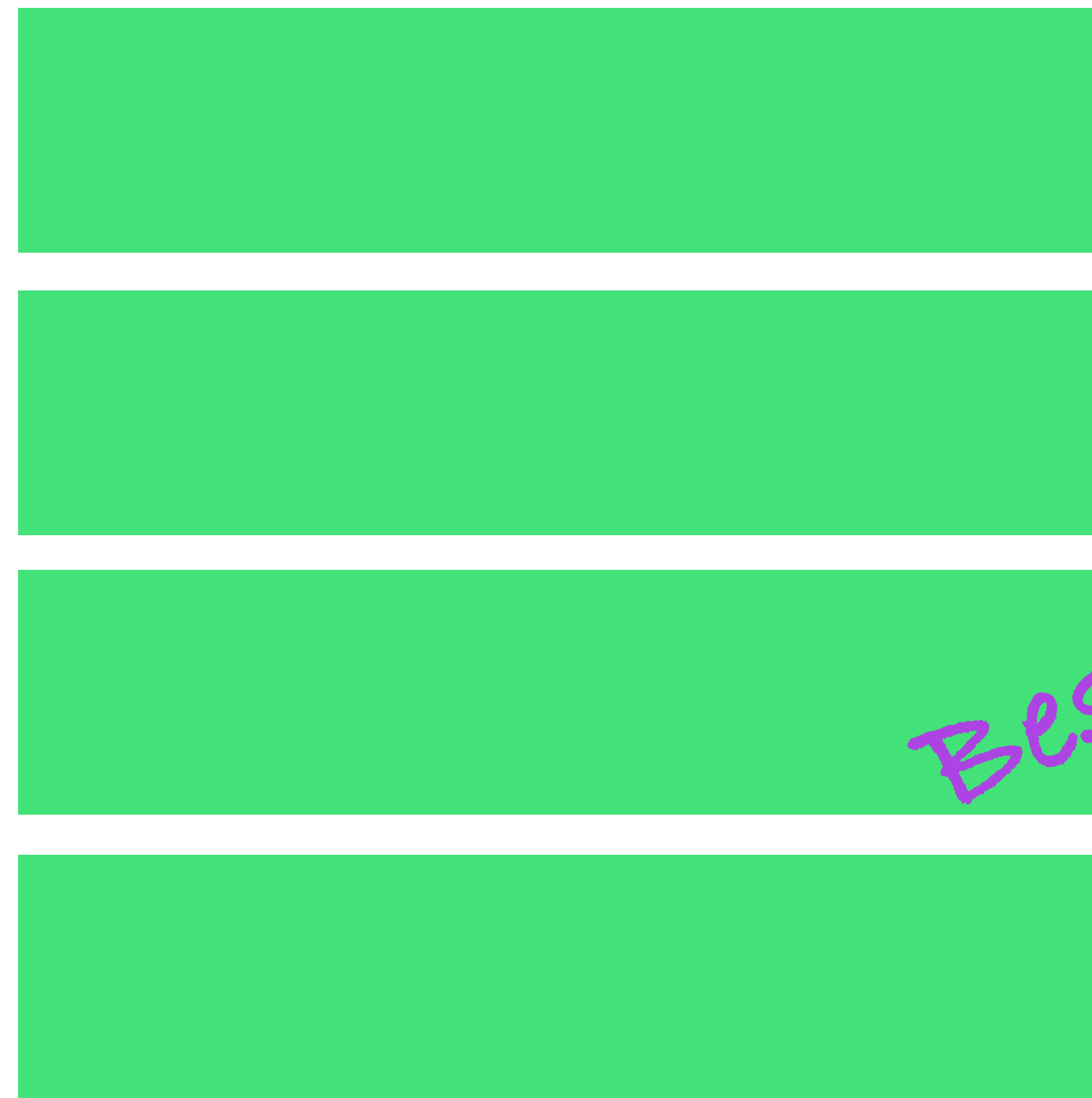
Slower to innovate



Challenge

How can you make sure teams are following a layered architecture?

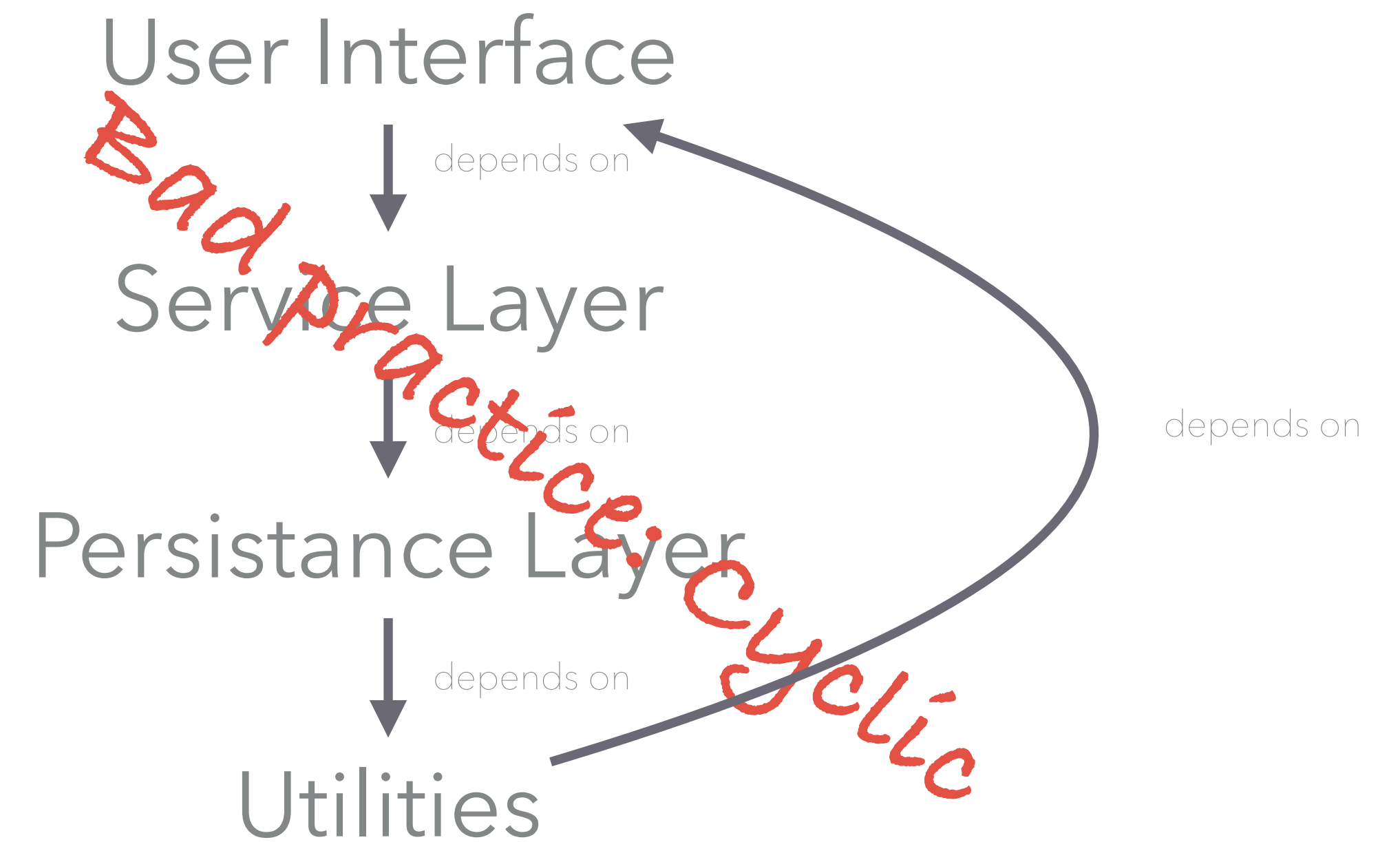
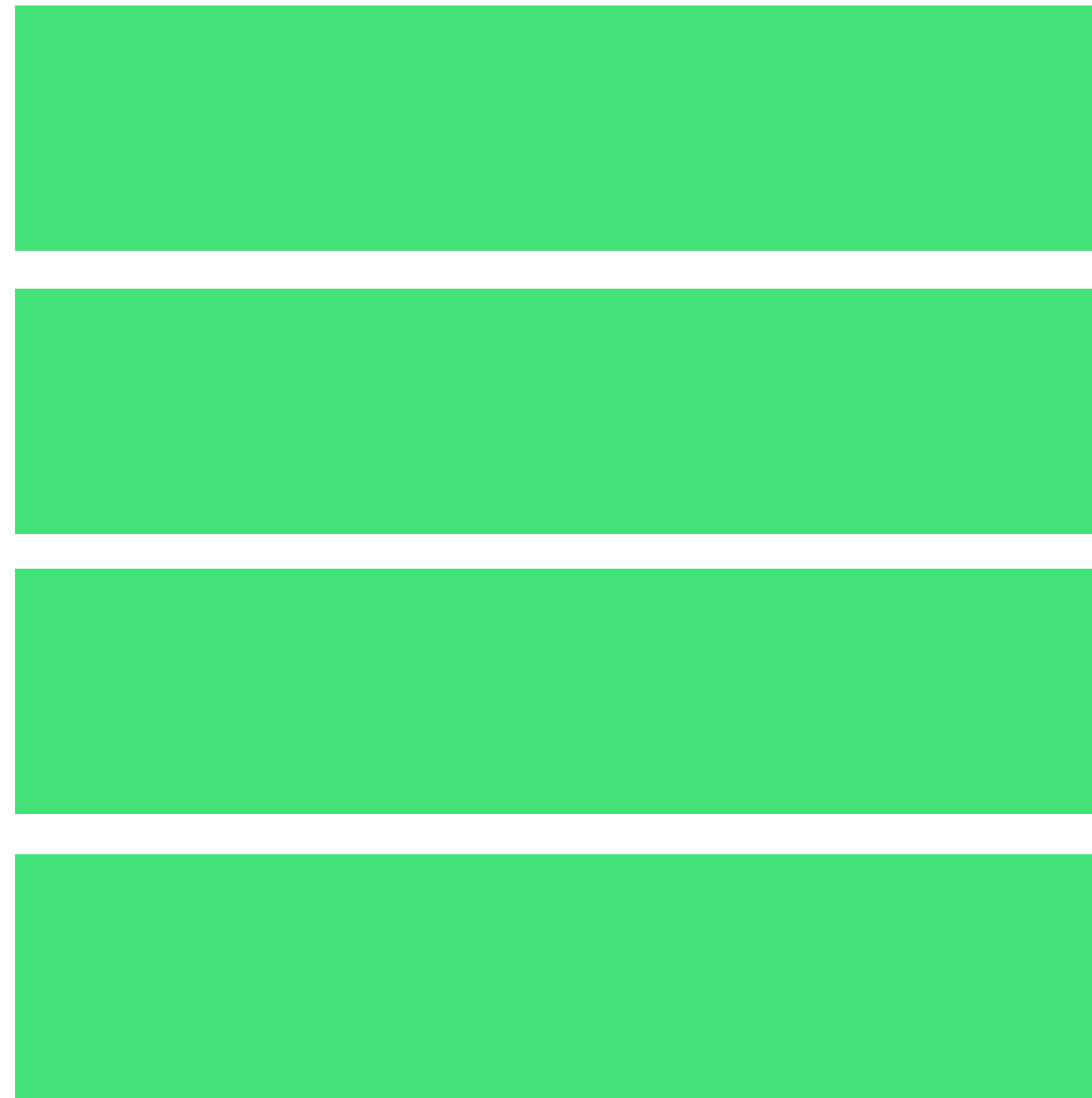
Layered Architecture



Best Practice: Unidirectional



Layered Architecture



“Naive” Solution



Code review

Design review

Architecture review



Fitness Function for Layering

```
@Test public void ensureNoCyclicDependenciesExist() {  
    Collection packages = jDepend.analyze();  
    assertFalse("Cycles exist", jDepend.containsCycles());  
}
```

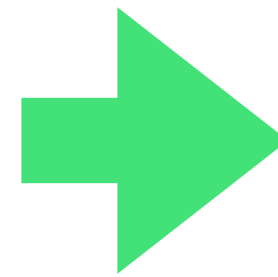


Fitness Function for Layering

```
@Test public void ensureCorrectLayering() throws Exception {  
    JDepend jDepend = buildNewJDepend();  
    DependencyConstraint constraint = new DependencyConstraint();  
    JavaPackage util = constraint.addPackage("com.thekua.util");  
    JavaPackage repository = constraint.addPackage("com.thekua.dao");  
    JavaPackage web = constraint.addPackage("com.thekua.web");  
  
    web.dependsOn(util);  
    repository.dependsOn(util);  
    web.dependsOn(repository);  
  
    jDepend.analyze();  
  
    assertTrue("Dependency layers violated",  
        jDepend.dependencyMatch(constraint));  
}
```



Multiple Implementations



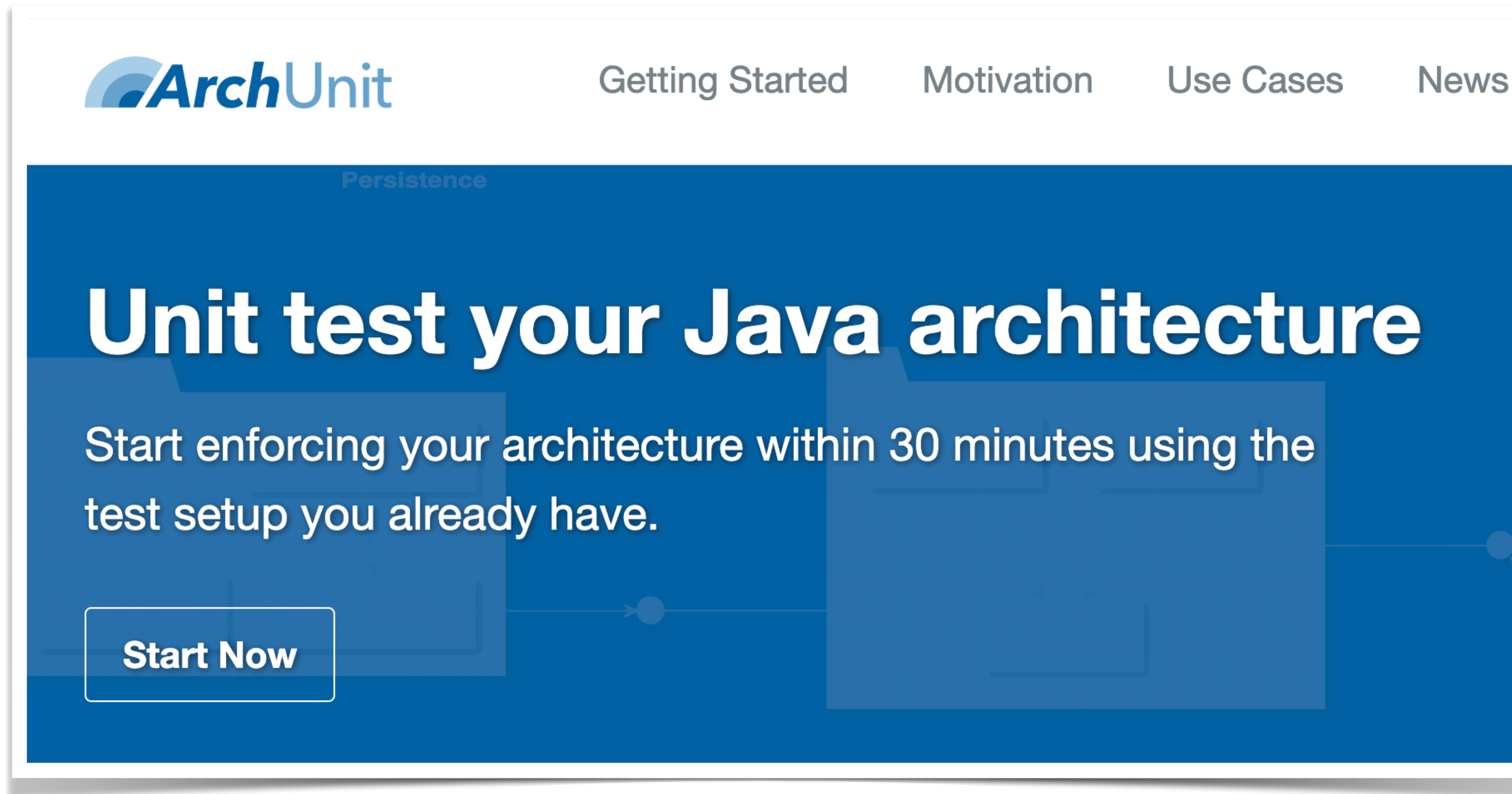
Fitness Function for Layering

Since Java 9

```
module com.thekua.web {  
    requires com.thekua.util  
    requires com.thekua.dao  
    ...  
}  
module com.thekua.dao {  
    requires com.thekua.util  
    ...  
}  
module com.thekua.util {  
    ...  
}
```



Fitness Function for Layering



The screenshot shows the ArchUnit website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the ArchUnit logo on the left and links for 'Getting Started', 'Motivation', 'Use Cases', and 'News' on the right. Below the navigation bar is a large blue hero section. In the top left of this section, the word 'Persistence' is written in a small, light blue font. The main heading of the hero section is 'Unit test your Java architecture' in large, bold, white text. Below this heading is a paragraph of white text: 'Start enforcing your architecture within 30 minutes using the test setup you already have.' At the bottom left of the hero section is a white button with the text 'Start Now' in blue. The background of the hero section features a faint, light blue architectural diagram with boxes and connecting lines.

ArchUnit

Getting Started Motivation Use Cases News

Persistence

Unit test your Java architecture

Start enforcing your architecture within 30 minutes using the test setup you already have.

Start Now



Fitness Function for Layering



```
...
@ArchTest
static final ArchRule services_should_not_access_controllers =
    noClasses().that().resideInAPackage("..repository..")
        .should().accessClassesThat().resideInAPackage("..web..");

@ArchTest
static final ArchRule persistence_should_not_access_services =
    noClasses().that().resideInAPackage("..util..")
        .should().accessClassesThat().resideInAPackage("..repository..");

...
```



Fitness Function for Layering

Automated

Triggered

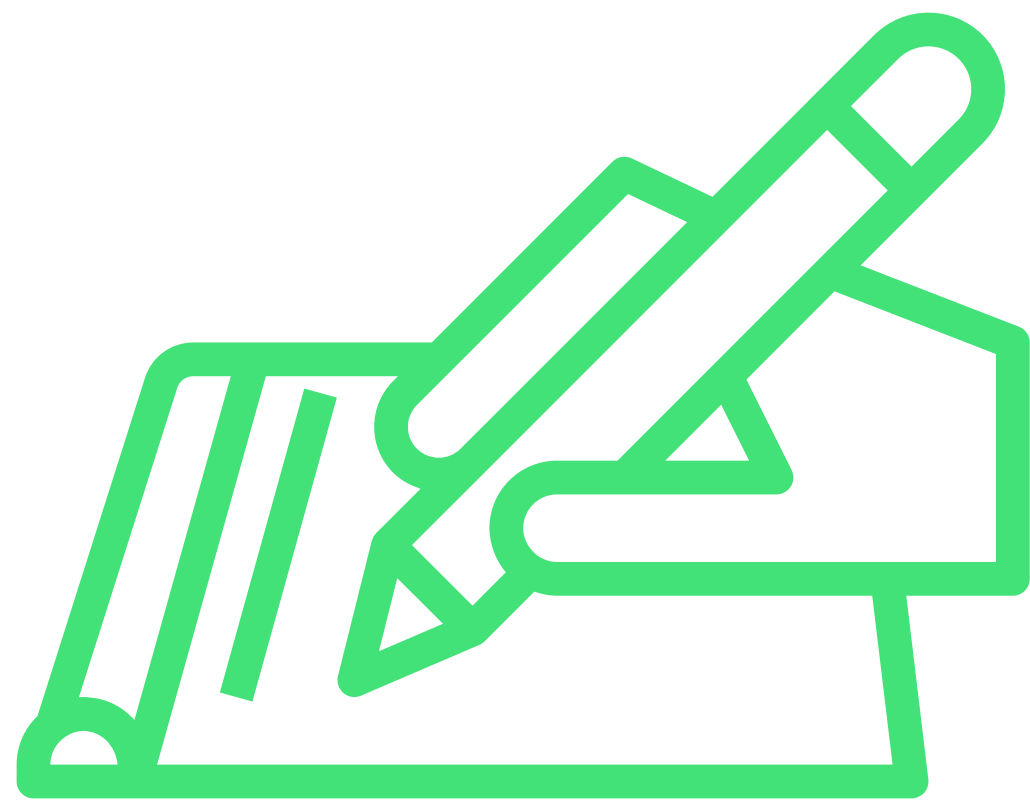
Atomic



Challenge

In a microservices environment, with lots of teams, how do you make sure each service is easily monitorable

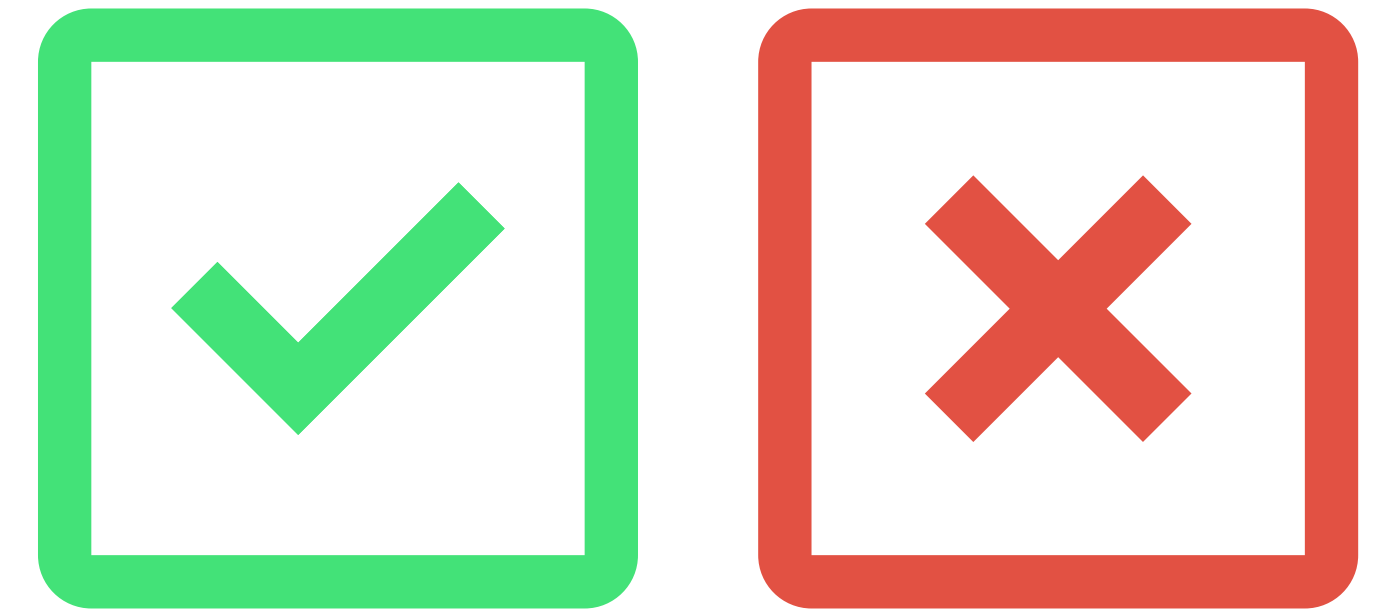
“Naive” Solution



Operations
requirement



Inspection



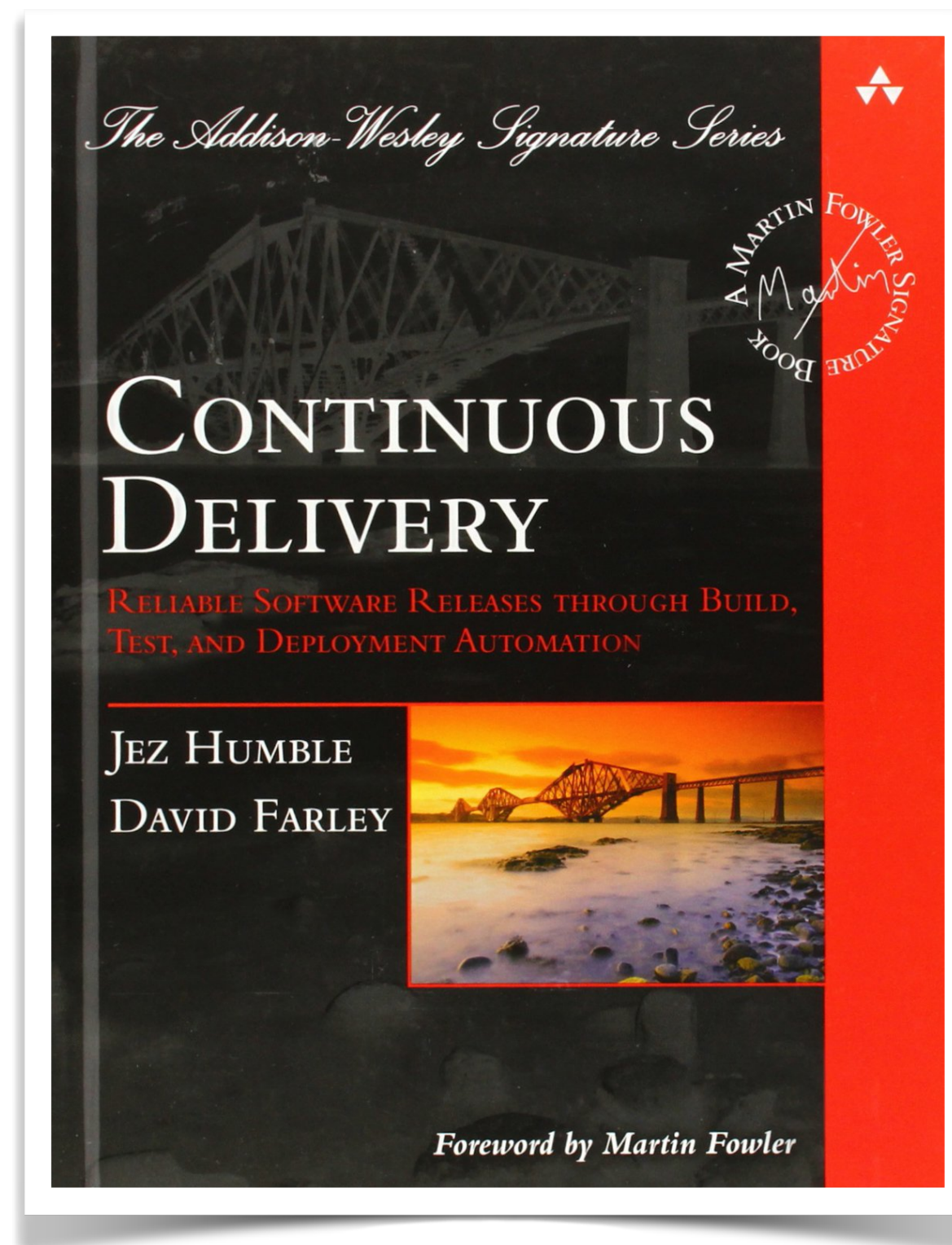
Right or wrong



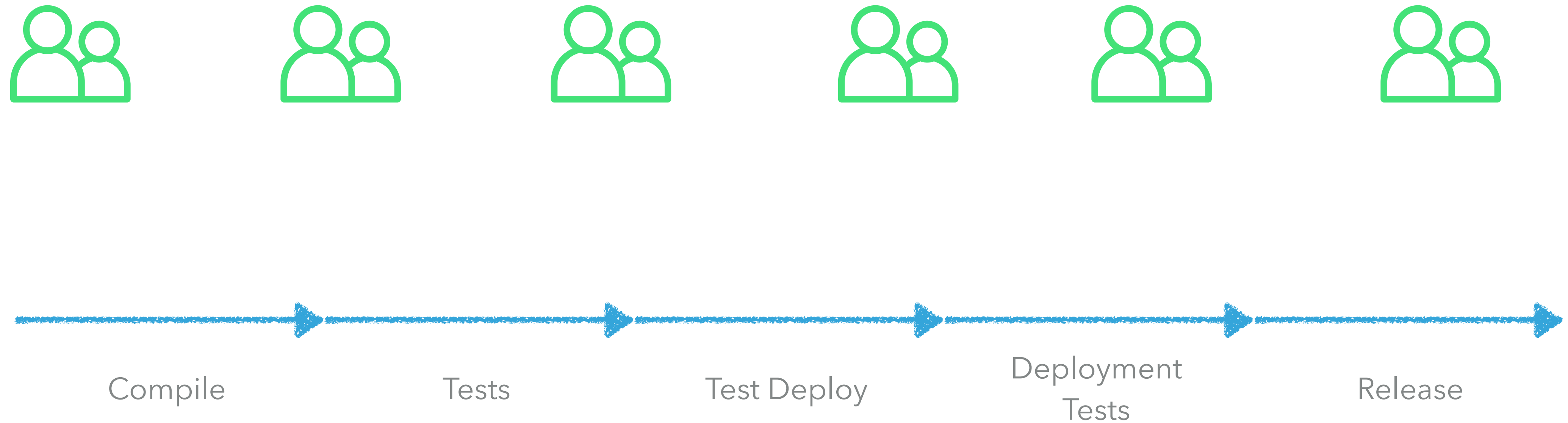
Remember this?



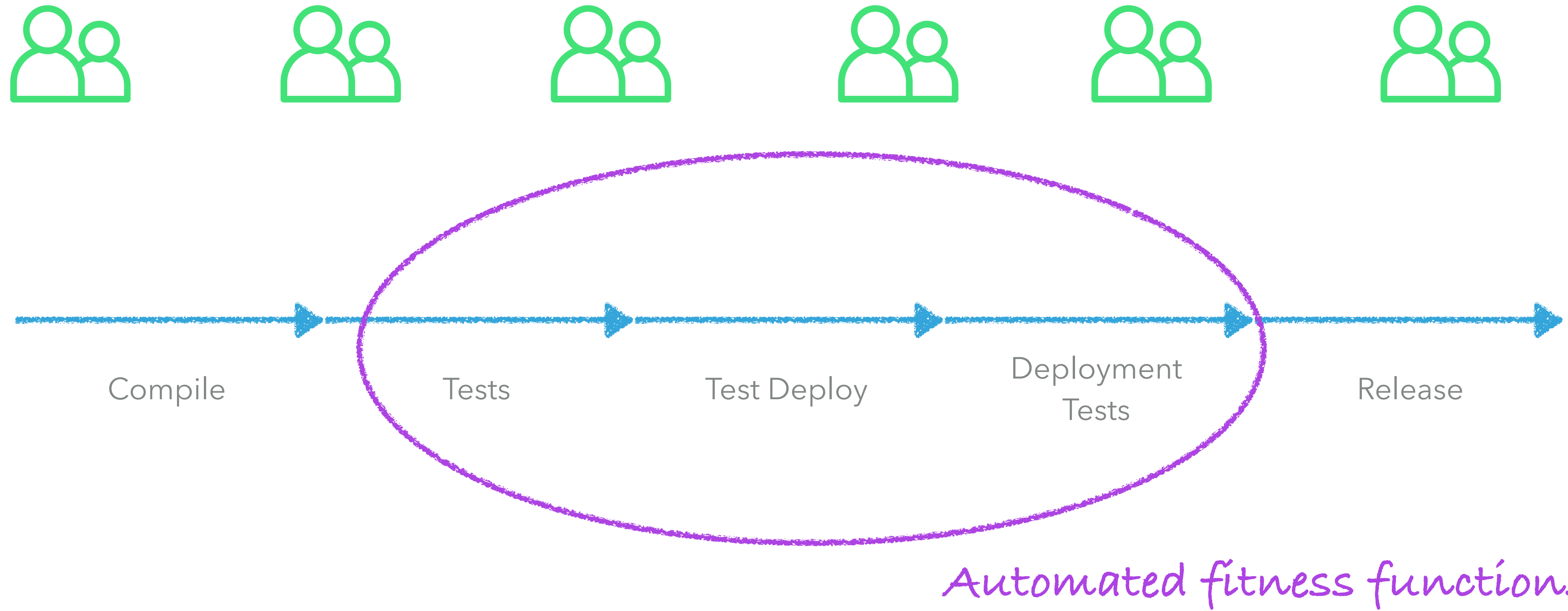
CD automation



CD automation



CD automation



Service is monitorable

Test code

```
@Test public void eachServiceHasAStatusPage() throws Exception {  
    ...  
    WebDriver webDriver = new ChromeDriver();  
    String STATUS_PAGE_LOCATION = "/location"  
    driver.get("https://service.host" + STATUS_PAGE_LOCATION);  
    ...  
}
```



Service is monitorable

Test code

```
@Test public void eachServiceHasAStatusPage() throws Exception {  
    ...  
    WebDriver webDriver = new ChromeDriver();  
    String STATUS_PAGE_LOCATION = "/location"  
    driver.get("https://service.host" + STATUS_PAGE_LOCATION);  
    ...  
    // assert status page contents here  
}
```



Service is monitorable

Automated

Triggered

Atomic



Challenge

How do you make sure content is understandable?

Think about a government website...



Think about a government website...

What comes to mind?



A stack of several books is shown, with the pages of the top book fanned out. The entire image is covered with a semi-transparent green filter. The text "What comes to mind?" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font across the lower portion of the image.

What comes to mind?



Reading skills

Children quickly learn to read common words (the 5,000 words they use most). They then stop reading these words and start recognising their shape. This allows people to read much faster. Children already read like this by the time they're 9 years old.

People also do not read one word at a time. They bounce around - especially online. They anticipate words and fill them in.

Your brain can drop up to 30% of the text and still understand. Your vocabulary will grow but this reading skill stays with you as an adult. You do not need to read every word to understand what is written.

This is why we tell people to write on GOV.UK for a 9 year old reading age.

"This is why we tell people to write on GOV.UK for a 9 year old reading age."

Source: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/content-design/writing-for-gov-uk>





Renew

You must renew your passport before you can travel if either:

- your passport has expired
- you do not have enough time left on it

How much time you need on your passport depends on the country you're visiting. [Check the entry requirements of the country you want to travel to.](#)

There are different rules if your [passport is lost, stolen or damaged](#) or you need to [change your name or personal details](#).

If your passport is burgundy or has 'European Union' on the cover, you can still use it as long as it's valid for travel.

Renew online

Use this service to renew your passport online. It costs £75.50.

You'll need:

- a [digital photo](#)
- a credit or debit card
- your passport

Renew online >



gov.uk

Manual

Periodic

Atomic



A green-tinted photograph of a staircase with graffiti on the walls and the text "Potential Next Step?" overlaid.

Potential Next Step?

Improved Tooling



Reading Time - <https://www.gov.uk/renew-driving-licence> All suggestions

Sentence length 7.6 Above average

Readability score 67 ⓘ

Your text is likely to be understood by a reader who has at least an 8th-grade education (age 13-14) and should be fairly easy for most adults to read.

Words 107 Speaking time 49 sec

Sentences 14

Readability Metrics compared to other Grammarly users

Word length 4.8 Above average

Sentence length 7.6 Above average

Readability score 67 ⓘ

Your text is likely to be understood by a reader who has at least an 8th-grade education (age 13-14) and should be fairly easy for most adults to read.

[DOWNLOAD PDF REPORT](#) [Close](#)

Bold Italic H1 H2 H3 Quote Bullets Numbers Link Write Edit

Renew your:

- full driving licence
- provisional driving licence

You'll need a valid DVLA licence to apply for a new licence online with DVLA.

There's a different way to:

- [renew your licence if you're 70 or over](#)
- [renew a 5-year bus or lorry licence](#)
- [renew a short-term medical driving licence](#)

You'll need to [apply for your first provisional licence](#) if:

- you've never applied for a provisional licence before

Readability

Grade 4

Good

Words: 112 Show More ▾

0 adverbs. Well done.

1 use of passive voice, meeting the goal of 3 or fewer.

0 phrases have simpler alternatives.

1 of 14 sentences is hard to read.

0 of 14 sentences are very hard to read.



Challenge

How do you make sure all dependencies are secure?



<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Log4Shell>

(Nov 2021)

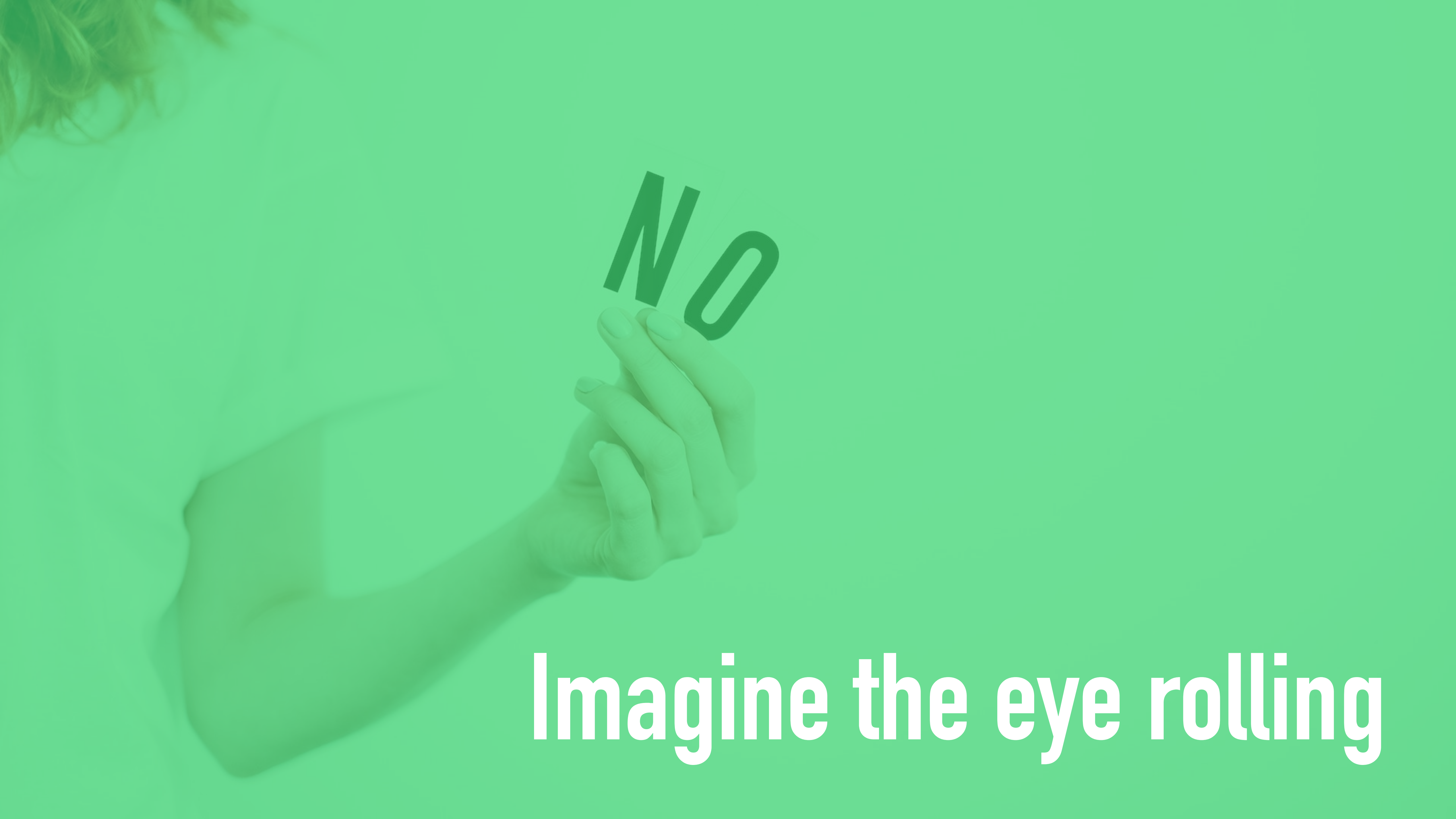


“Naive” Solution

“Security review”

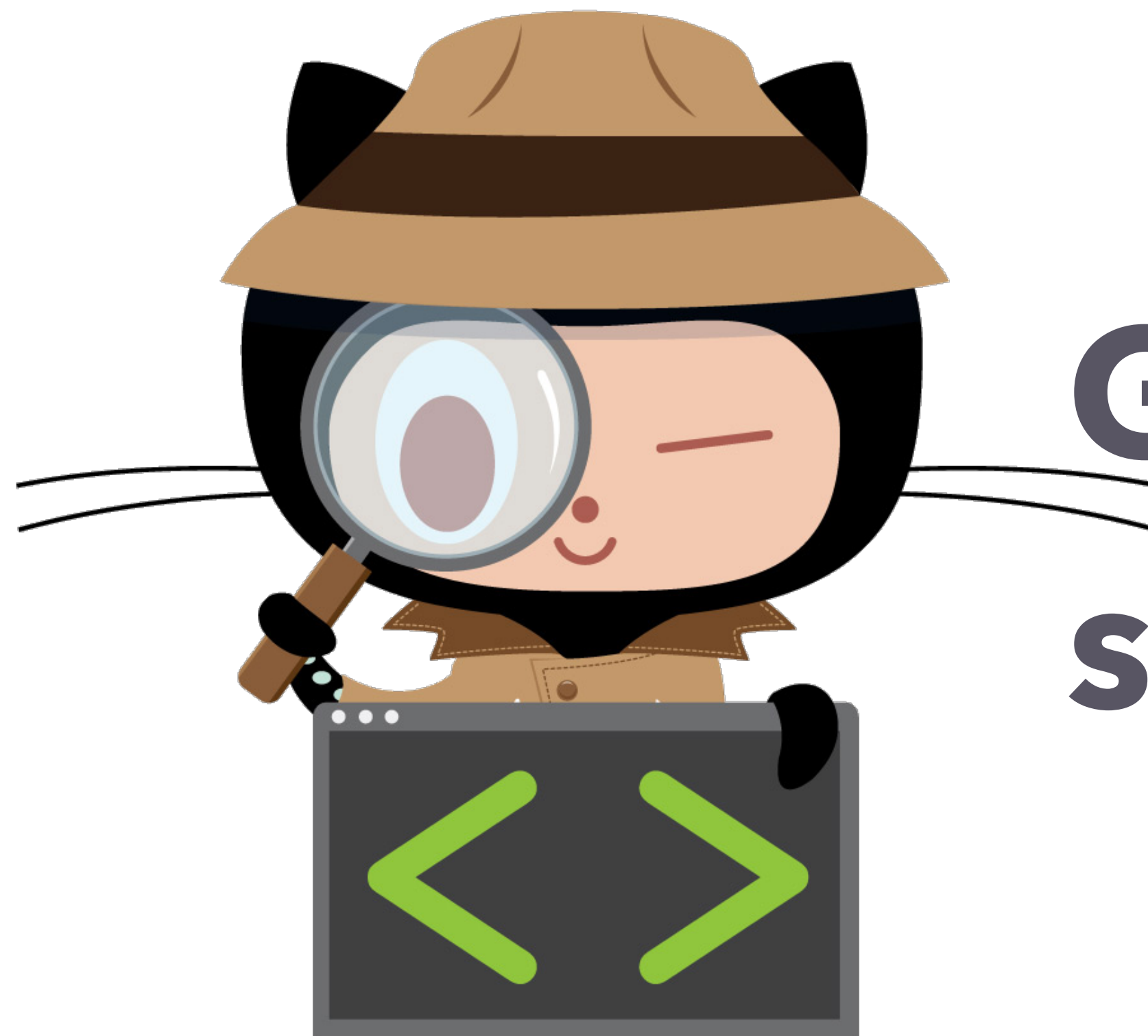
“Only approved libraries”





Imagine the eye rolling

GitHub



GitHub CVE scanning



GitHub Security Alerts

Alert

Security alerts

GitHub reviews every security vulnerability to identify and alert affected repositories. We source our vulnerability information from industry experts to provide the details project owners need to understand and remediate risks.

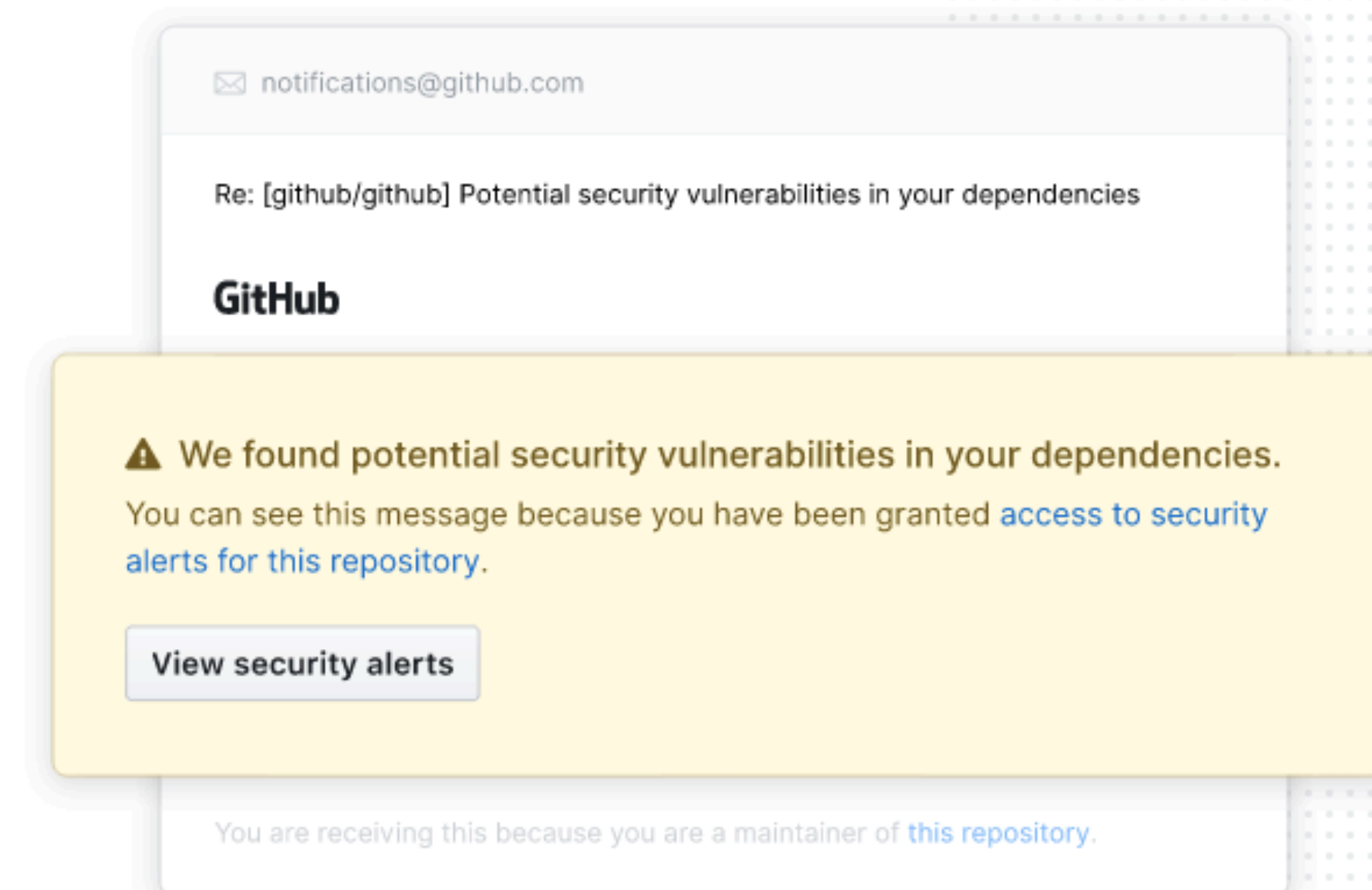
- **Research-driven vulnerability data**

GitHub tracks vulnerabilities in packages from [supported package managers](#) using data from security researchers, maintainers, and [the National Vulnerability Database](#)—including release notes, changelog entries, and commit details. All discoverable in the GitHub Advisory Database.

- **Helping everyone stay secure**

GitHub continuously scans security advisories for popular languages. We send security alerts to maintainers of affected repositories with details on the severity level and a link to relevant files.

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GitHub Security Alerts

Alert

Security alerts

GitHub scans every security vulnerability to identify and alert affected repositories. We source our vulnerability information from industry experts to provide the details project owners need to understand and remediate risks.



Low-effort

Research-driven vulnerability data
GitHub tracks vulnerabilities in packages from supported package managers using data from security researchers, maintainers, and the National Vulnerability Database—including release notes, changelog entries, and commit details. All discoverable in the GitHub Advisory Database.

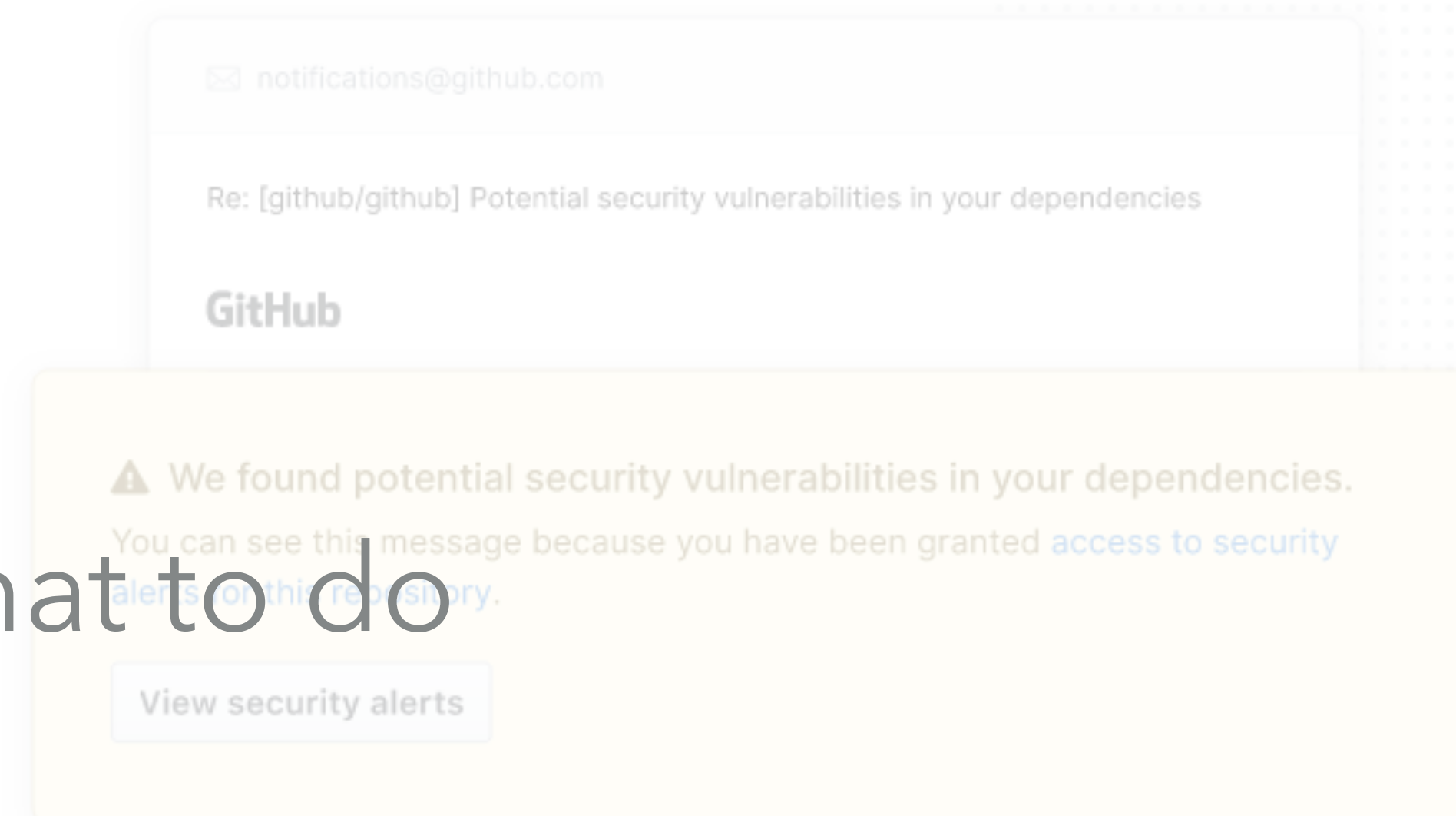


Decide what to do

Helping everyone stay secure
GitHub continuously scans security advisories for popular languages. We send security alerts to maintainers of affected repositories with details on the severity level and a link to relevant files.



Scales better than humans



GitHub

Automated

Continuous

Atomic



Challenge

How do you make sure prod servers are locked down?

Imagine this scenario



“Web servers should only have secure HTTPS (443) port open”



Imagine this scenario



How do you prove this is the case in production?

Production Support

On Call

SSH access



“Naive” Solution

Log on, once a week and review open ports



Improved Solution

Log on, once a week and review open ports

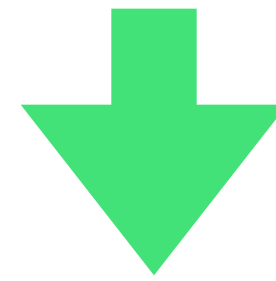


Automated script to report on ports of all machines



Improved Fitness Function

Log on, once a week and review open ports



Automated script to report on ports of all machines



Use DevSecOps tooling



Example with



<https://community.chef.io/tools/chef-inspec>

```
describe port(80) do
  it { should_not be_listening }
end
```

```
describe port(443) do
  it { should be_listening }
  its('protocols') { should include 'https' }
end
```



Other cool stuff



<https://community.chef.io/tools/chef-inspec>

```
# Disallow insecure protocols by testing
```

```
describe package('telnetd') do  
  it { should_not be_installed }  
end
```

```
describe inetd_conf do  
  its("telnet") { should eq nil }  
end
```





What sort of garden do you want?

Steps

1

Identify what you
care about

2

Define what "good"
looks like

3

Define fitness
function(s)



DEFINITION

An evolutionary architecture supports
incremental, guided change as a first
principle along
multiple dimensions



Evolutionary architectures
are **guided** with

FITNESS FUNCTIONS

Questions?

@patkua