

**THE 'BUSINESS' BEHIND MICROSERVICES:**  
**(LET'S NOT REPEAT THE MISTAKES OF SOA)**  
**ORGANISATIONAL, ARCHITECTURAL AND OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES**

Daniel Bryant

@danielbryantuk

[www.opencredo.com](http://www.opencredo.com)

# Business and People == “Fluffiness”?



03/10/2016

@danielbryantuk | @oakinger

# “Micro-fluffiness?”



03/10/2016

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# Key Messages

*The transition to implementing 'microservices' cannot be completed successfully with technology alone*

*- Think organisation, architecture, operations -*

*We require a holistic viewpoint for change, but we often resist.  
Challenge yourself, your team and your company*



# Who Am I?

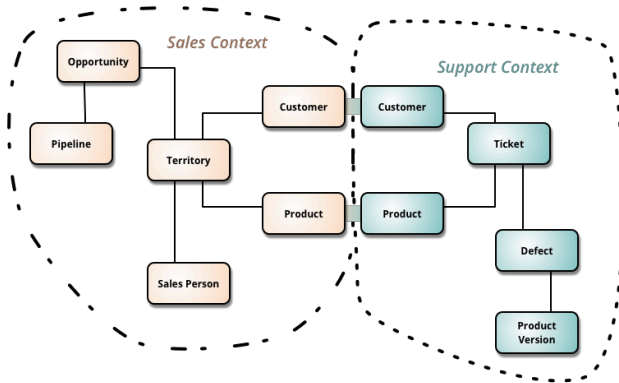


- Chief Scientist at OpenCredo
  - ✓ Digital/technical transformations
  - ✓ Java, Golang, CI/CD, DevOps
  - ✓ Microservices, cloud, containers
  - ✓ Maintainer of [museservicesweekly.com](https://museservicesweekly.com)

- London Java Community Associate
- Adopt OpenJDK and JSR
- InfoQ Editor, DZone MVB, Voxxed



# So, What are microservices?



*“Loosely coupled service oriented architecture with bounded contexts”*

**Adrian Cockcroft**

*“Applications that fit in your head”*

**James Lewis**



# So, What are microservices?

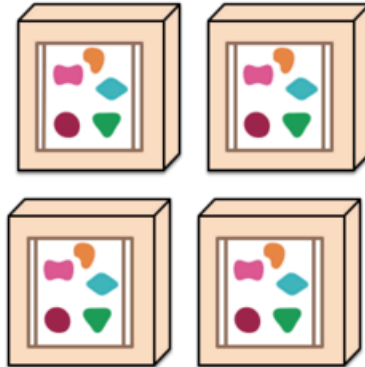
- Architectural **style** - build services around **biz capability**
- Single app composed of **multiple services**
- Services are individual processes, **individually deployable**
- **Lightweight** external communication (e.g. REST over HTTP)
- Potentially **polyglot** Language and Data stores
- **Minimum centralised** management

# Monolith vs microservices

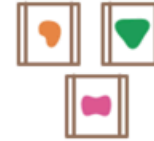
*A monolithic application puts all its functionality into a single process...*



*... and scales by replicating the monolith on multiple servers*



*A microservices architecture puts each element of functionality into a separate service...*



*... and scales by distributing these services across servers, replicating as needed.*

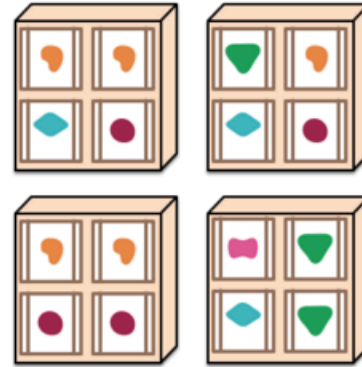


Figure 1: Monoliths and Microservices

[martinfowler.com/articles/microservices.html](http://martinfowler.com/articles/microservices.html)

**So, this appears familiar (Corba, SOA, etc)...**

Oh, Yes...

But this time it's Different...

Hopefully...

# The Perfect Storm?

- **Collaborative processes** (requirement for speed)
  - Agile, lean and Devops
- **Programmable infrastructure**
  - Config management, Cloud and containers
- **Open source**
  - Download, consume and contribute

*Over the last few years of working with clients at OpenCredo  
We have come to value:*

**products over projects**

**small inter-discipline teams over large homogeneous teams**

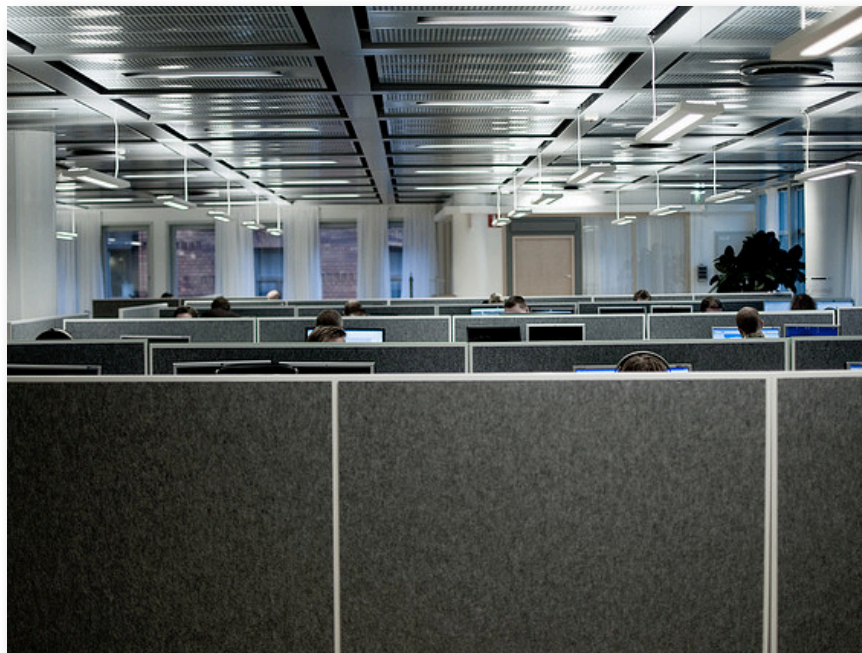
**multiple cohesive services over highly coupled monoliths**

**goal-driven technical leadership over command and control**

**automated continuous deployment over manual big bangs**

**individuals and interactions over processes and tools**

**Organisation, Architecture, (Dev)Operations**



# ORGANISATION: CONWAY WAS TELLING THE TRUTH...

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# Conway's Law

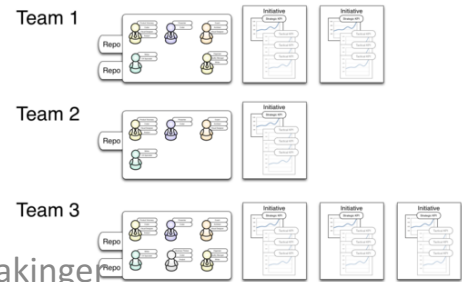
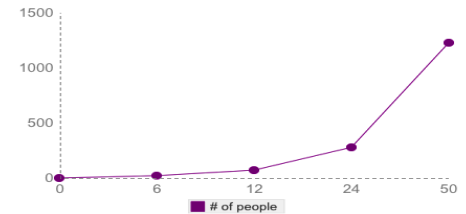
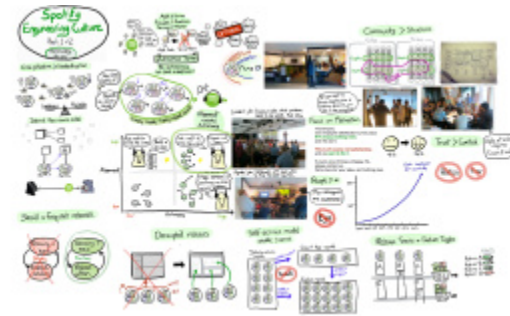


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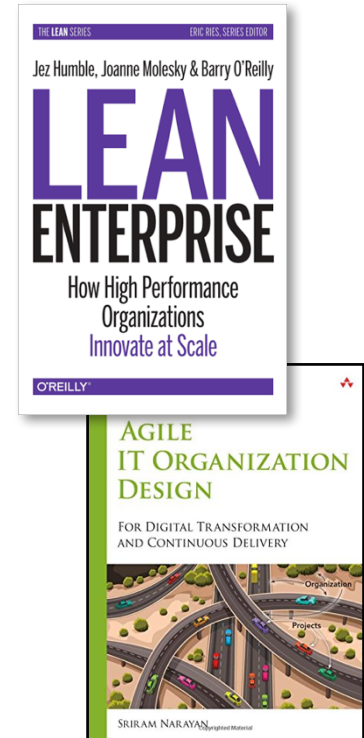
# Cross-functional Teams

- Spotify ([bit.ly/1C46ZKo](http://bit.ly/1C46ZKo))
  - Culture
- Amazon ([bit.ly/1F3Dgkm](http://bit.ly/1F3Dgkm))
  - Communication
- Gilt ([gi.lt/1rgyWvO](http://gi.lt/1rgyWvO))
  - Strategic alignment



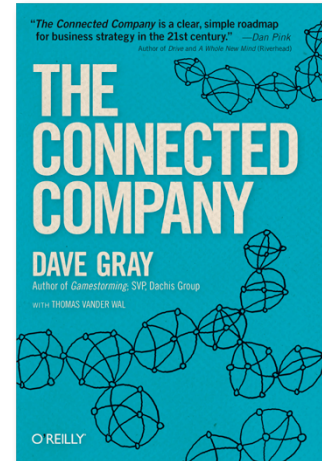
# Portfolio Planning

- Budget for capacity (#NoProjects)
- Predictable software development?
  - Chase verifiable value instead (KPIs)
- Business cases secure funding...
  - Switch to “value-driven” projects
  - “What problems can we solve by X?”

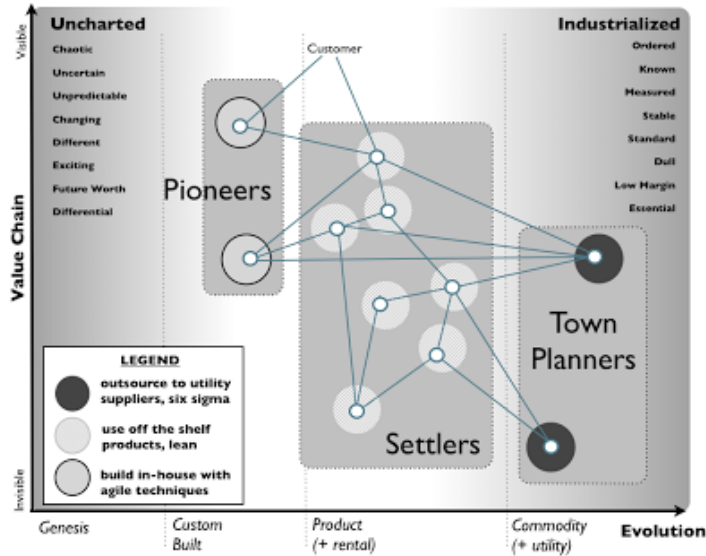


# A Word of Caution

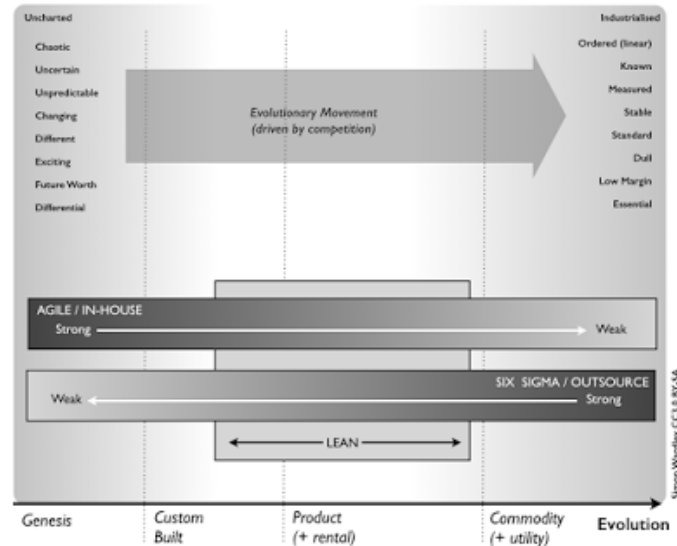
- Divided Companies
  - Traditional 'enterprise' organisation
  - Command and control, specialised, division of labour
  - Predictable in stable environments
  - **Six sigma, ESBs, and classical SOA**
- Connected Companies
  - Startups and forward-thinkers
  - Autonomous, fractal, service-focused
  - Adaptive in uncertain environments
  - **Agile/lean, REST, and microservices**



# Bi-Modal / Tri-Modal IT



Simon Wardley blogs extensively in this space...



[blog.gardeviance.org/2015/06/why-agile-lean-and-six-sigma-must-die.html](http://blog.gardeviance.org/2015/06/why-agile-lean-and-six-sigma-must-die.html)

# Organisational Values

**small inter-discipline teams** over large homogeneous teams

**products** over projects

**user impact** over customer requirements

**creating verifiable incremental value** over adding features

**incremental transformation** over big-bang “re-org”



**ARCHITECTURE. THINK MICRO, THINK MACRO, THINK LEADERSHIP**

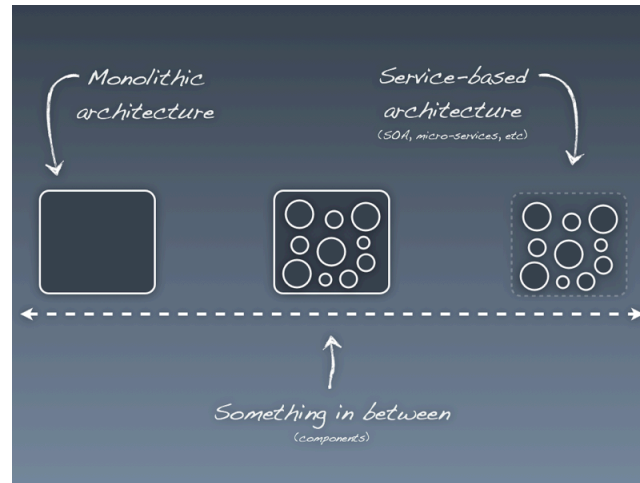
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# Architectural/Design Skills

*“If you can't build a [well-structured] monolith, what makes you think microservices are the answer?”*



*Simon Brown*  
[\(\[bit.ly/1n7D0vp\]\(https://bit.ly/1n7D0vp\)\)](https://bit.ly/1n7D0vp)



# Microservices in a nutshell

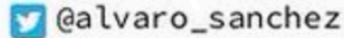
## Monolithic vs Microservices



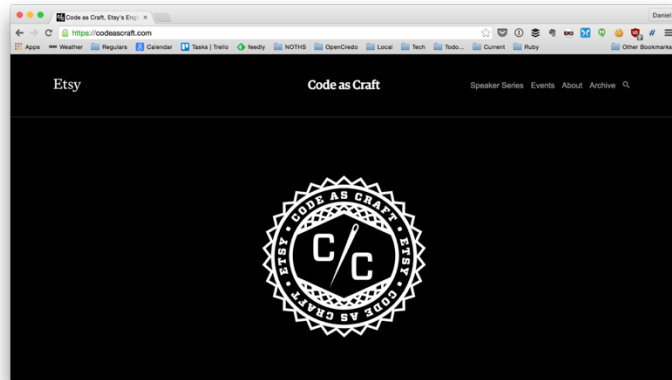
Monolithic



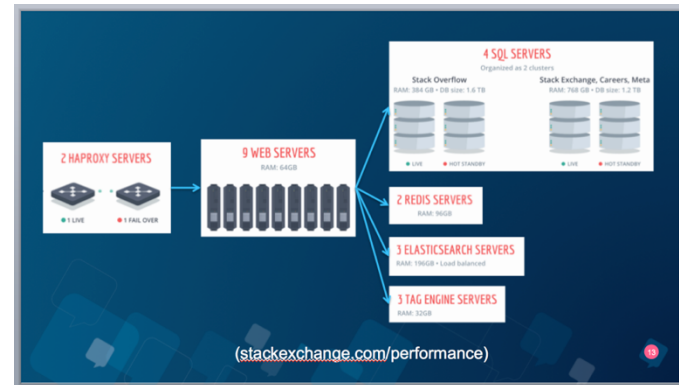
Microservices



# Architectural/Design Skills



[www.etsy.com](http://www.etsy.com)



[stackexchange.com](http://stackexchange.com)

# gilt.com (Are Awesome!)

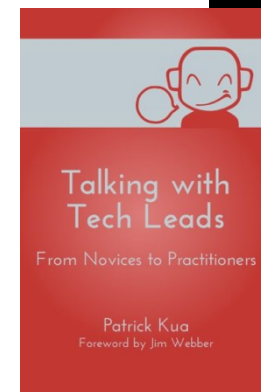
## driving forces behind gilt's emergent architecture

- team autonomy
- voluntary adoption (tools, techniques, processes)
- kpi or goal-driven initiatives
- failing fast and openly
- open and honest, even when it's difficult

[www.slideshare.net/trenaman/javaone-2015-scaling-micro-services-at-gilt](http://www.slideshare.net/trenaman/javaone-2015-scaling-micro-services-at-gilt)

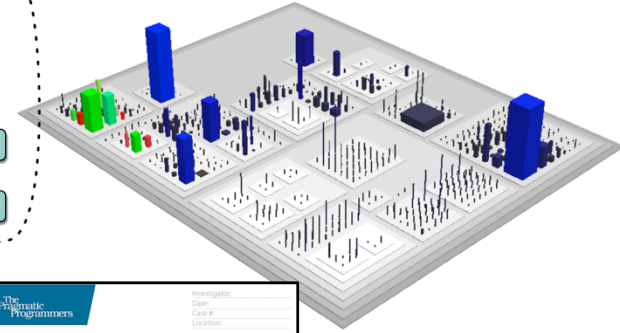
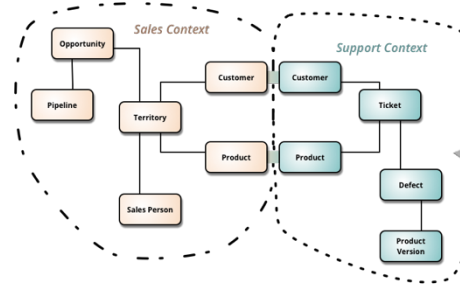
# Architecture, Minus the Ivory Towers

- Technical leadership ([bit.ly/1EUwpLI](http://bit.ly/1EUwpLI))
- Communication ([bit.ly/1la3u8o](http://bit.ly/1la3u8o))
- Empathy
- 'Just enough' up front design



# Migrating Architecture

- Find seams  
[bit.ly/1SwHryU](http://bit.ly/1SwHryU)
- Measure toxicity of code
- Standardise what matters (glue/infra)
- Patterns ([bit.ly/1GRch2v](http://bit.ly/1GRch2v))
  - Big bang
  - Change via copy/extraction
  - Strangle



# Design for “Replacability”

microservices **should be:**

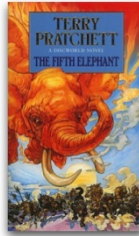
*cheap to replace*

*quick to scale*

*able to withstand failure*

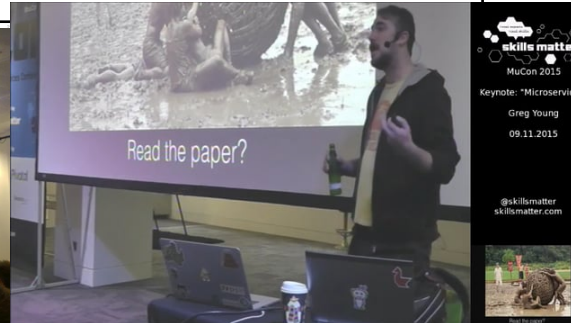
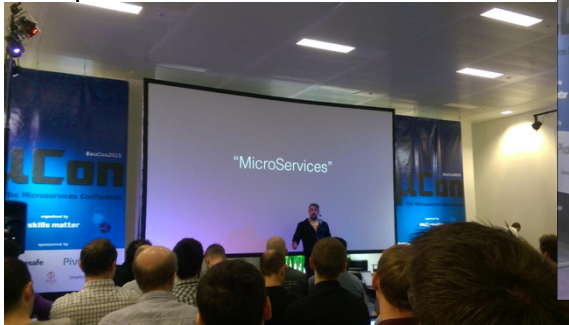
and **should** allow us to go as  
*“fast as possible”?*

## never done



“This, milord, is my **family's axe**. We have owned it for almost nine hundred years, see. Of course, sometimes it needed a **new blade**. And sometimes it has required a **new handle**, new designs on the metalwork, a little refreshing of the ornamentation . . . but **is this not** the nine hundred-year-old axe of my family? And because it has changed gently over time, it is still a pretty good axe, y'know. Pretty good.”

James Lewis  
[bit.ly/1Qy4g2d](http://bit.ly/1Qy4g2d)



Greg Young  
[bit.ly/1l0ir61](http://bit.ly/1l0ir61)

# Caution: Shiny Technology Ahead!

- Plenty of 'microservice' technology
- Emerging platforms and frameworks
  - Principles and practice should drive tooling
- How to choose?

# Key Skill: Evaluation

***“I will postpone using this shiny new framework until my peers have validated the proposed benefits with rigorous scientific experiments”***

- Said by no programmer  
...ever



# Matt Raible's Comparison Matrix

Criteria	Struts 2	Spring MVC	Wicket	JSF 2	Tapestry	Stripes	GWT	Grails	Rails	Flex	Vaadin	Lift	Play
Developer Productivity	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1.00	0.50	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.50	1.00
Developer Perception	0.50	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.50	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Learning Curve	1.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.50	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.50	1.00
Project Health	0.50	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.50	1.00	1.00	1.00
Developer Availability	0.50	1.00	0.50	1.00	1.00	0.50	1.00	0.50	1.00	1.00	0.50	0.00	0.50
Job Trends	1.00	1.00	0.50	1.00	0.50	0.00	1.00	0.50	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.50
Templating	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.50	1.00	1.00	0.50	1.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
Components	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.50	0.50	0.50	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
Ajax	0.50	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.50	1.00	1.00	0.50
Plugins or Add-Ons	0.50	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.50	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.50	1.00
Scalability	1.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.50	1.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1.00	1.00
Testing	1.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	1.00	1.00	0.50	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.50	0.50	1.00
i18n and l10n	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.50	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	1.00	1.00	1.00
Validation	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.50	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.50	0.50
Multi-language Support (Groovy / Scala)	0.50	0.50	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.50
Quality of Documentation/Tutorials	0.50	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.50	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Books Published	1.00	1.00	0.50	1.00	0.50	0.50	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.00
REST Support (client and server)	0.50	1.00	0.50	0.00	0.50	0.50	0.50	1.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
Mobile / iPhone Support	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.50	1.00	1.00	1.00
Degree of Risk	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.50
<b>Totals</b>	14.5	17	15	13.5	15	14	17	17.5	17	13.5	15.5	11.5	14

# Choose Boring Technology

## THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS (OF MICROSERVICES)

1. **LUST** - USING THE LATEST AND GREATEST TECH
2. **GLUTTONY** - EXCESSIVE COMMUNICATION PROTOCOLS
3. **GREED** - ALL YOUR SERVICE ARE BELONG TO US
4. **SLOTH** - CREATING A DISTRIBUTED MONOLITH
5. **WRATH** - BLOWING UP WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN
6. **ENVY** - THE SHARED SINGLE DOMAIN FALLACY
7. **PRIDE** - TESTING IN THE WORLD OF TRANSIENCE

12/08/15

@danielbryantuk

## PICK YOUR (TECHNICAL) BATTLES...

- AS DAN MCKINLEY SAYS, "CHOOSE BORING TECHNOLOGY"  
— OPTIMIZE GLOBALLY ACROSS ORGANISATION
- JAVA AND SPRING (BOOT) ARE PERFECTLY ACCEPTABLE
- ... AS ARE TOMCAT/JETTY

12/08/15

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[www.opencredo.com/2016/01/08/the-seven-deadly-sins-of-microservices-redux/](http://www.opencredo.com/2016/01/08/the-seven-deadly-sins-of-microservices-redux/)

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# Architectural Values

**multiple cohesive services** over a highly coupled monolith

**trust and empathy** over command and control

**autonomous goal-driven leadership** over chaos and anarchy

**implementing signals and performance indicators** over measuring vanity metrics



**OPERATIONS: AUTOMATE EVERYTHING (EXCEPT THE PEOPLE)**

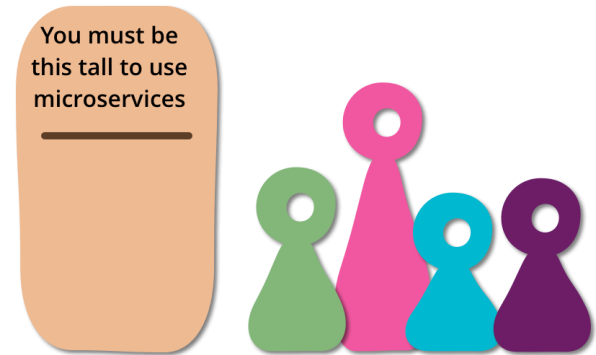
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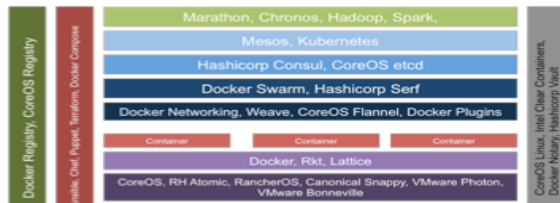
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# Microservices... Macro Operations

- Microservice Prerequisites ([bit.ly/1wljY58](https://bit.ly/1wljY58))
  - Rapid provisioning
  - Basic monitoring
  - Rapid application deployment
- In a nutshell...
  - DevOps
  - CI/CD



## Technology Choices



## Developing Locally

- Service virtualisation
  - Mountebank, Wiremock (Saboteur), Mirage
- 'Production-in-a-box' (IFTTT)
  - Docker Compose, Vagrant
- Environment leasing

## Always Remember...



## Building a Microservice Ecosystem: Some Assembly (Still) Required

Daniel Bryant  
@danielbryantuk

## Start with the Basics

- Health checks
  - Coda Hale (DropWizard) Metrics
  - Spring Boot actuator
- KPIs for apps (and business)
  - Assertions / invariants
  - Throughput
  - Queue length

## My Op

- BDD services API
  - Serenity BDD
- Contract tests (failure is a conversation)
- Component test and unit test (as normal)
  - Maven surefire/failsafe
- BDD critical paths throughout application
  - Including API journey

## Service / Multi-pipeline?

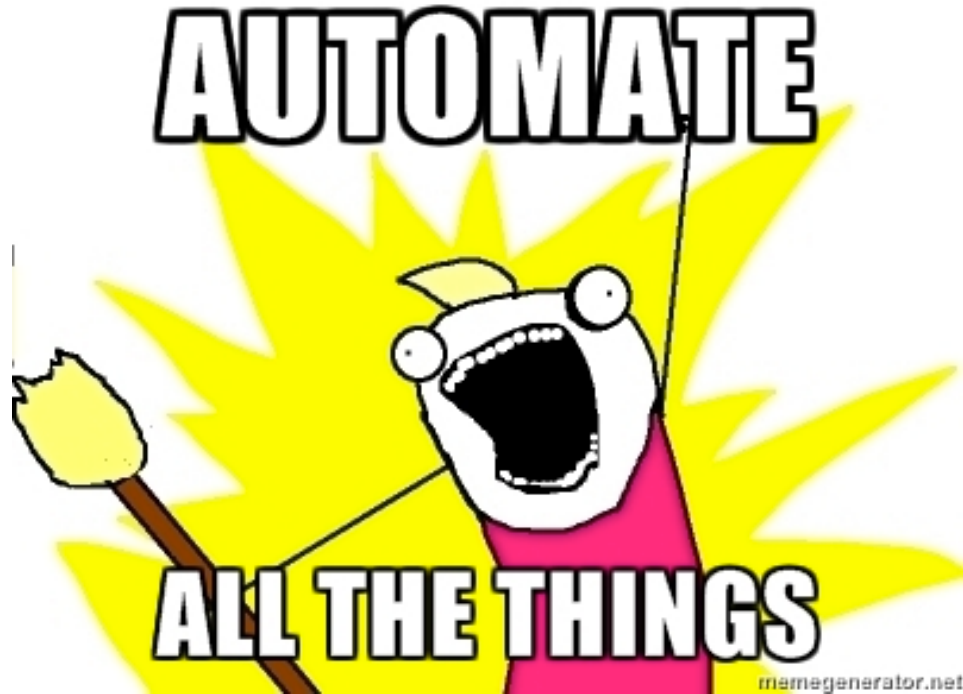


[www.opencredo.com/2015/10/31/javaone-building-a-microservice-development-ecosystem-video](http://www.opencredo.com/2015/10/31/javaone-building-a-microservice-development-ecosystem-video)

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# In the Beginning...



# Remind Others of the Benefits



A screenshot of a tweet from Daniel Bryant (@danielbryantuk) dated 3:08 PM - 9 Nov 2015. The tweet text reads: "The tools are not to replace people. They are to free up time for people to talk to each other..." Amen! Via @lawouach #muCon2015. The tweet shows 9 retweets and 3 likes, with a row of profile pictures for the users who interacted. At the bottom, there is a reply box with the text "Reply to @lawouach".

**Daniel Bryant**  
@danielbryantuk

"The tools are not to replace people. They are to free up time for people to talk to each other..." Amen! Via [@lawouach](#) [#muCon2015](#)

RETWEETS **9** LIKES **3**

3:08 PM - 9 Nov 2015

Reply to [@lawouach](#)



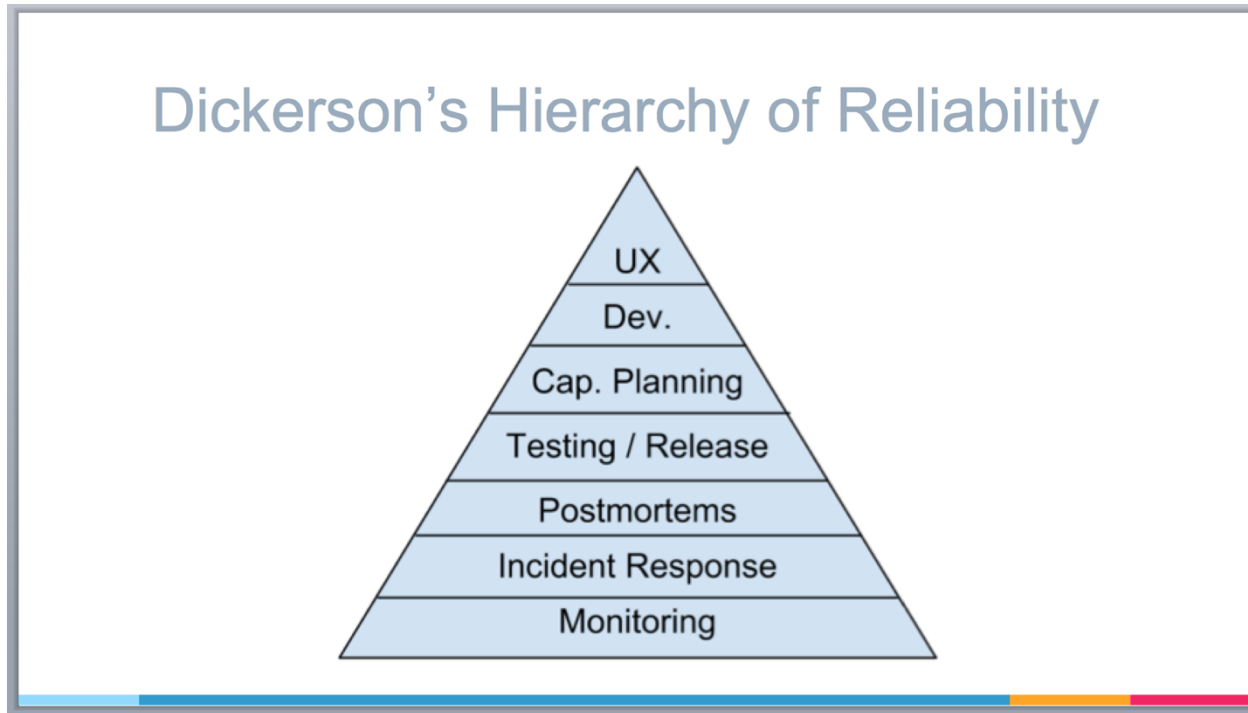
# ...and in the Middle (and the 'End')



03/10/2016

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# ...and in the Middle (and the 'End')



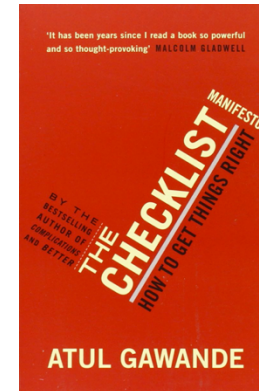
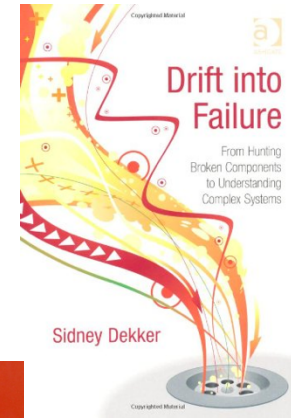
[www.infoq.com/news/2015/06/too-big-to-fail](http://www.infoq.com/news/2015/06/too-big-to-fail)

03/10/2016

@danielbryantuk | @oakinger

# Failing to Prepare, is Preparing to...

- Practice
  - Chaos, Gamedays, DiRT sessions
- Accountability
  - R.A.S.C.I.
- Engage 'system 2' thinking



# Helpful Processes

- BDD user journeys across system (via APIs)
  - ...and individual services
  - Don't forget 'ilities' (ZAP, Jmeter)
- Brendan Gregg's [USE](#) methodology
  - check utilization, saturation, and errors.
- Symptom-based Monitoring ([Ticketmaster](#))

# Operational Values

**designing for failure** over implementing extensive redundancy

**independent automated continuous deployment** over coordinated manual  
big bang releases

**programmable infrastructure** over manually-configured snowflakes

**Individuals and interactions** over processes and bureaucracy

**principles and practices** over tooling



## 5. **CHANGE MANAGEMENT** WITHOUT MANAGEMENT DOUBLE-SPEAK

03/10/2016

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# Change Management is Essential

- Fair process (three 'E's')
  - Engagement
  - Explanation
  - Expectation
- Leading change
  - Transformation is a process
  - Visualise the issues and goals
  - Communicate, plan, evaluate, learn



# (Visualising) Flow

Phil Calçado

About

## How we ended up with microservices.

Sep 8, 2015

• Microservices • Value Stream Mapping • SoundCloud •

Microservices

Interest over time

— microservice

2015

Google

When I was at application to both in preser bits are what wider audience

I am sorry to c much more w

Note: This po oversimplifies pretty good p

The Ne

When I first jo called v2. This Next SoundC.

[bit.ly/1VZOsIM](http://bit.ly/1VZOsIM)

## Process hacking

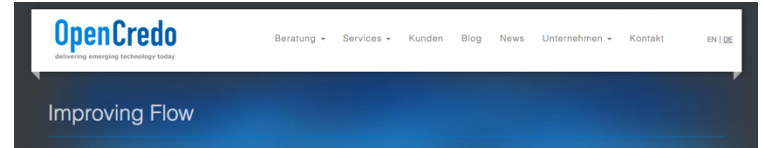
Prior to joining SoundCloud I had spent way too many years as a consultant, and one of the most valuable tools I've brought from this dark past was the concept of creating a *Value Stream Map*. I won't bore you with the *whys* and *hows* for this technique, but if the process described below sounds interesting at least now you know what to google for.

With a combination of informal interviews with different engineers and gathering data from our multiple automated systems, we were able to draw a map of our *actual process*, as opposed to the process we thought we had. I can't show you the actual document, but it wasn't too far away from the fictional example below:



The actual flow was something like this:

1. Somebody comes up with an idea for a feature. They then write a fairly lightweight spec, with some screen mockups, and stores that in a Google Drive document.
2. The spec stays in this document until somebody has time to actually work on it.
3. The very small design team would get the spec and design the user experience for it. This would then become a card in the Trello board owned by the Web team.
4. The card would sit on the Trello board for a while, at least a 2-weeks iteration, until an engineer was free to pick it up.
5. The engineer would start working on it. After converting the design into a proper browser-based experience using fake/static data, the engineer would write down what changes in the Rails API they would need for this experience to work. This would go into Pivotal Tracker, the tool of choice for the App team.
6. The card would sit on Pivotal until somebody from the App team was free to look at it, often taking another two-week iteration.
7. The App team member would write the code, integration tests and everything required to get the API live. Then they would update the Trello issue, letting the Web team know their part was done.



7 January, 2016  
By Noah Cantor

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## What Consultants Really Do

Good consulting is, by its nature, an act of collaboration. We recently helped a company with a variety of challenges – some architecture, some coding, some systems, some people, some process (normal consultancy challenges) – unique to this client. During the project, we formalised some things we had thought before, but which had never crystallised – all the work we did was transformative. Whether it's a code review, process review, DevOps implementation, or outright transformation, the primary goal is the same – improving flow. Flow (sometimes known as throughput) is the movement of raw materials through a system to become finished goods. It's analogy in the service industry is the movement of customer requirements through to usable solution. And we help improve it.

## The Challenges We Face

The company was on the verge of expansion. They had a legacy system that had been very good at getting them to where they were, but they weren't sure it would scale with them, and wanted an outside view to help them figure out what their next steps should be. We agreed to help them get an outside view on their current systems, processes, and people. We then spent a couple of weeks listening to staff – challenging, probing and digging. In the end we identified a handful of areas where changes would need to be made in order for them to realise their ambitions; some of them were technical, and some were non-technical. Both types of problems tend to be intertwined.

- Senior management disagreed about what the company focus on. Work that required collaboration between teams that answered to different managers didn't get done, or got done using a makeshift set of assumptions from each group, that ended up creating unresolvable conflict between the groups. This resulted in exacerbating problems caused by organisational silos; groups that should have been able to resolve their problems based on a shared understanding of their goals actually couldn't because problems filtered down from senior management that they weren't equipped to solve.
- The architecture wasn't suited for the scale they wanted to reach.

We wrote up our findings, in as much detail as we could, with as much guidance as we could put together, and delivered it. It was agreed that our feedback was accurate, and we were asked to help implement our ideas.

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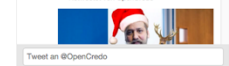
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# Have a Little Empathy...



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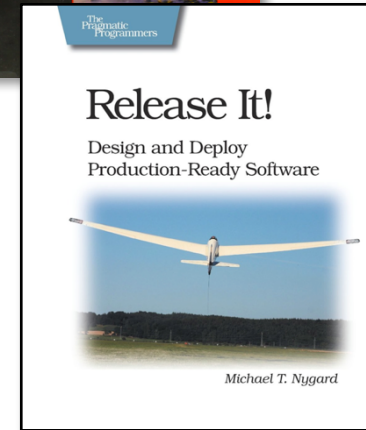
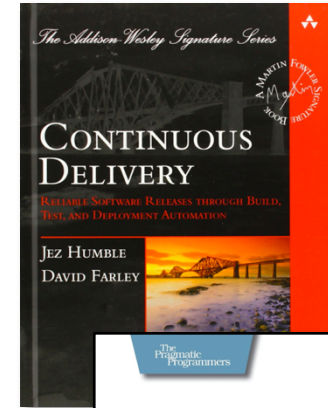
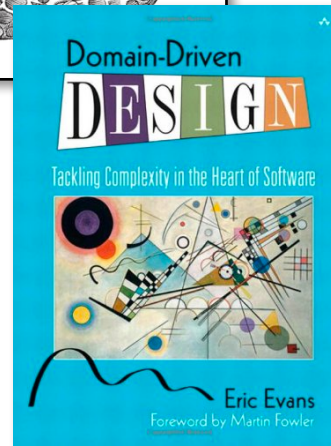
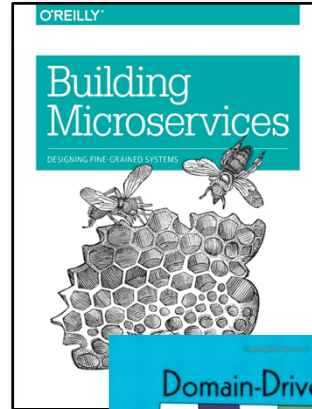
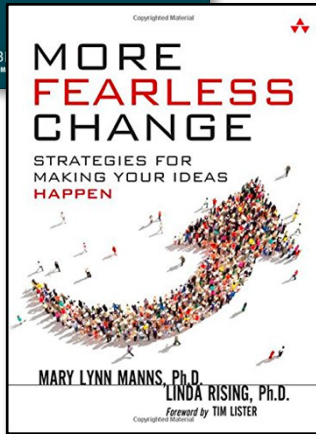
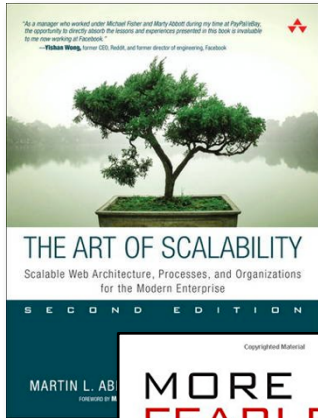
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# Some Bedtime Reading...



In summary...

# Organisation, Architecture, Operations

**products** over projects

**small inter-discipline teams** over large homogeneous teams

**multiple cohesive services** over highly coupled monoliths

**goal-driven technical leadership** over command and control

**automated continuous deployment** over manual big bangs

**individuals and interactions** over processes and tools

# A Big Thanks To...

OC OpenCredo



# THANKS... QUESTIONS?

We are hiring in UK and DE!

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**'Microservices Weekly' ([muservicesweekly.com](http://muservicesweekly.com))**

[www.opencredo.com/blog](http://www.opencredo.com/blog)

# Additional References

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