## Agile + DevOps EAST

A TECHWELL EVENT

#### К4

Keynote Thursday, November 8th, 2018 8:30 AM

#### **Empathy-Driven Development**

Presented by:

#### **Andrea Goulet**

Corgibytes

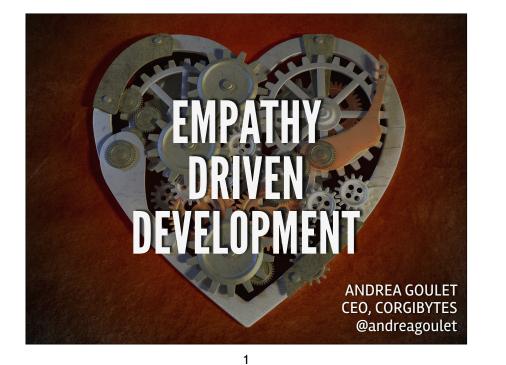
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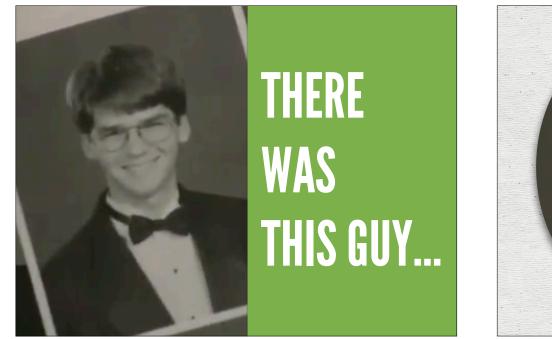
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#### **Andrea Goulet**

Andrea Goulet is the CEO of Corgibytes, a software development shop dedicated to maintaining and modernizing software applications and has been named by LinkedIn as one of the Top 10 Professionals in Software Under 35. She's the founder of LegacyCode. Rocks and hosts a podcast dedicated to changing the way we think about legacy code. You may recognize her from prominent industry publications such as the First Round Review, Hanselminutes, Software Engineering Daily, and more. Andrea is a sought after keynote speaker is currently working on her first book: Becoming Technical: Build an Amazing Career in Tech Starting at Square Zero. In her spare time, Andrea enjoys blogging about the intersection of social science and software. She loves watching her kids explore the world and is a sucker for a good physics documentary. You can recognize her by the JavaScript tattoo on her wrist.



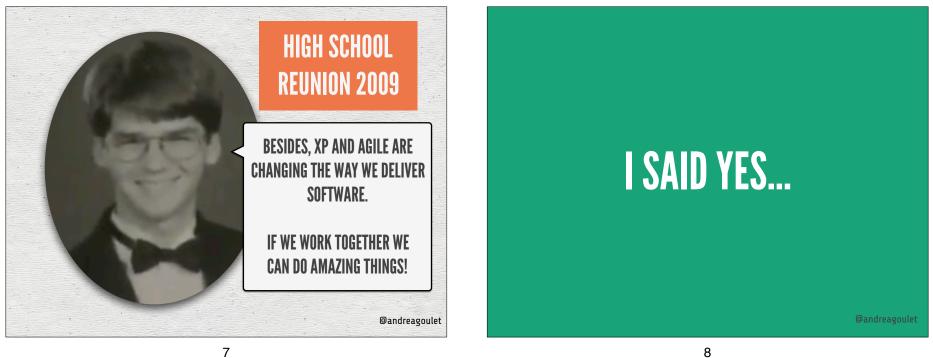












## A FEW YEARS LATER, SCOTT ASKED ANOTHER QUESTION...

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#### I SAID YES AGAIN...



#### IF I HADN'T FALLEN IN LOVE WITH THE GUY, I PROBABLY WOULD HAVE QUIT.

#### BUT I DIDN'T.

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#### WE TRANSFORM SLOW, SLUGGISH, SLOPPY SOFTWARE SYSTEMS INTO CODE THAT:

- GENERATES REVENUE
- LOWERS OPERATING COSTS
- REDUCES RISK

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#### OUR STRONG FOCUS ON COMMUNICATION AND EMPATHY IS CRUCIAL ON THESE PROJECTS

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#### HOW CAN WE MAKE SURE WE'RE USING EMPATHY AT EVERY STAGE IN THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS?

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#### **QUESTIONS FOR TODAY'S TALK**

WHAT IS EMPATHY?
 WHY DOES EMPATHY MATTER?
 WHAT IF WE IGNORE EMPATHY?
 HOW DO WE PRACTICE EMPATHY?

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## WHAT IS EMPATHY?

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#### "EMPATHY IS AT THE HEART OF REAL RATIONALITY."

-GEORGE LAKOFF

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#### **EMPATHY IS A SKILL** Developed by Listening & Understanding Applied by Perspective Taking

## **SIX TYPES OF EMPATHY**

Source: Practical Empathy by Indi Young

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## **MIRRORED EMPATHY**

#### STIMULATION OF MIRROR NEURONS IN YOUR BRAIN THAT CAUSES YOU TO ACT LIKE OTHER PEOPLE.

#### **USEFUL FOR ESTABLISHING RAPPORT.**

#### Source: Practical Empathy by Indi Young

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## **EMOTIONAL EMPATHY**

#### REFERRED TO "AFFECTIVE EMPATHY" IN PSYCHOLOGY Literature. You feel what someone else is feeling – like losing yourself with a character in a book or a movie.

Source: Practical Empathy by Indi Young

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## **EMPATHETIC CONCERN**

#### UPON SENSING EMOTIONAL EMPATHY, YOU CONSIDER YOUR RESPONSE AND ACT UPON YOUR FEELINGS.

Source: Practical Empathy by Indi Young

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## **PERSONAL DISTRESS**

#### SEEING DISTRESS IN ANOTHER CAUSES A SHARP MOMENT OF THE SAME DISTRESS.

Source: Practical Empathy by Indi Young

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## **SELF-EMPATHY**

## TURNING YOUR PURPOSEFUL DISCOVERY INWARD TO LEARN HOW YOUR OWN MIND REASONS AND REACTS

#### Source: Practical Empathy by Indi Young

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## **COGNITIVE EMPATHY**

#### PURPOSEFULLY DISCOVERING THE UNDERLYING THOUGHTS AND EMOTIONS THAT GUIDE SOMEONE ELSE'S BEHAVIOR.

#### A RATIONAL AND ANALYTICAL PROCESS.

Source: Practical Empathy by Indi Young

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#### **CORGIBYTES DEFINES EMPATHY AS: PROACTIVE PERSPECTIVE TAKING AND PROBLEM SOLVING.**

## WHY DOES EMPATHY MATTER?

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## **EMPATHY IS THE FASTEST WAY TO BUILD TRUST ON A TEAM**

#### **LEGACY CODE CODE WITHOUT TESTS** - Michael Feathers

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## LEGACY CODE CODE WITHOUT CONTEXT

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## **LEGACY CODE** CODE WITHOUT COMMUNICATION ARTIFACTS



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# SOFTWARE ARCHAEOLOGY







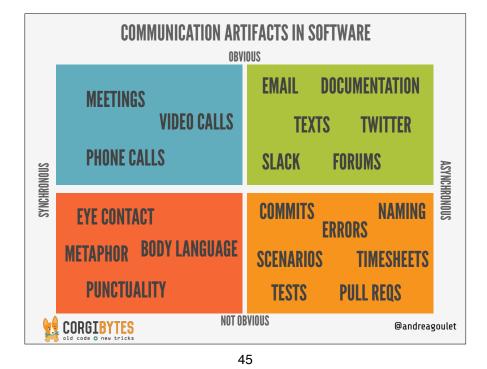
## ARE WE INTENTIONALLY LEAVING ARTIFACTS TO HELP PEOPLE WHO COME AFTER US?

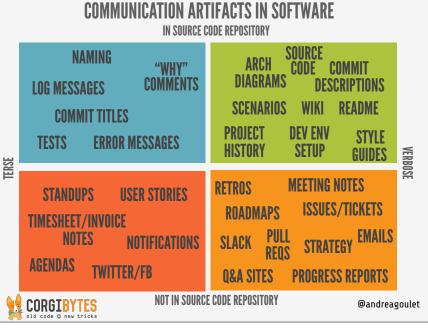
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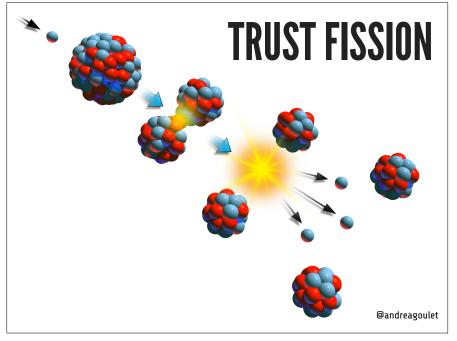


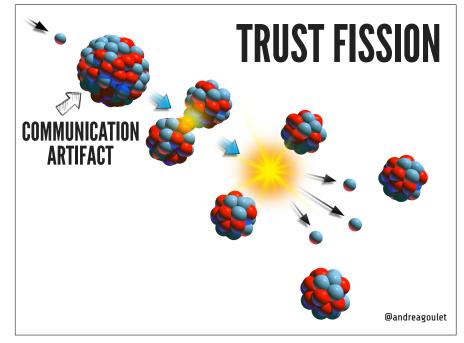
#### **EVERY ARTIFACT YOU DELIVER BUILDS TRUST**

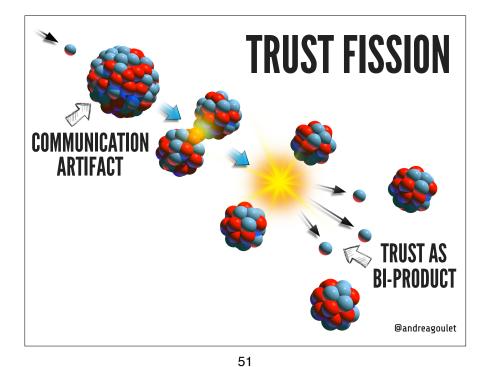
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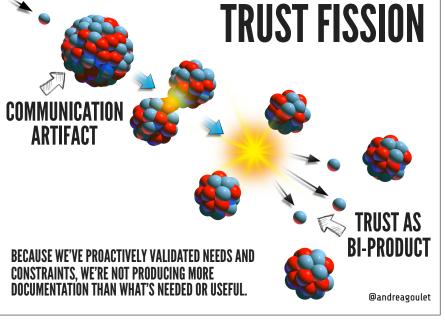


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## WHAT HAPPENS IF WE IGNORE EMPATHY?

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**HERO CULTURE** 

THE PROBLEMS WITH HEROES	
1. BEING A HERO IS ADDICTIVE	
2. NOT EVERYONE CAN BE A HERO	
3. HEROES HIDE DEEPER PROBLEMS	
4. HEROES INEVITABLY CREATE BURNOUT	
<b>5. HEROES SPAWN INFORMATION HOARDING &amp; TURF-BUIL</b>	DING
6. HEROES DISEMPOWER AND DON'T SCALE	

#### **ARE YOU REWARDING HEROIC ACTS?**

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- STAYING LATE
- WORKING OVERTIME
- NOT TAKING VACATION
- SACRIFICING FAMILY
- NOT ASKING FOR HELP
- WORKING ALONE

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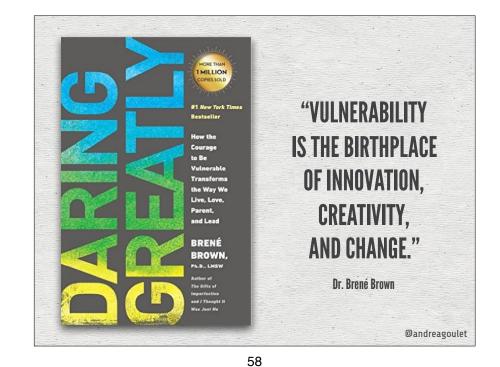
- FIGHTING FIRES
- WORKING WEEKENDS
- GHOSTING HOURS
- PUSHING THROUGH PAIN
- BEING A MARTYR
- SEEKING NINJA/10X DEVS

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Source: https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/six-ways-your-companys-hero-culture-killing-dan-kimble-mba/



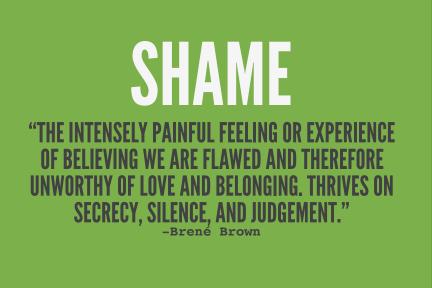


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urce: Brown, Brene. Daring Greatly: How the Courage to Be Vulnerable Transforms the Way We Live, Love, Parent, and Lead

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#### **DIVERSITY IS GOOD FOR BUSINESS**

"GENDER AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY ARE CLEARLY CORRELATED WITH PROFITABILITY, BUT WOMEN AND MINORITIES REMAIN UNDERREPRESENTED....COMPANIES IN THE FOURTH QUARTILE ON BOTH GENDER AND ETHNIC DIVERSITY ARE MORE LIKELY TO UNDERPERFORM THEIR INDUSTRY PEERS ON PROFITABILITY"

-McKinsey

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#### ACHIEVING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION REQUIRES CONSCIOUS EFFORT AND EMPATHY

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Source: https://www.mckinsey.com/business-functions/organization/our-insights/delivering-through-diversity



## **BIAS IN MACHINE LEARNING & AI**

"ANY TIME YOU HAVE A DATASET OF HUMAN DECISIONS, IT INCLUDES BIAS – WHOM TO HIRE, GRADES FOR STUDENT ESSAYS, MEDICAL DIAGNOSIS, OBJECT DESCRIPTIONS, ALL WILL CONTAIN SOME COMBINATION OF CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL, GENDER, RACE, OR OTHER BIASES."

-ROMAN YAMPOLSKIY

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## **BIAS IN MACHINE LEARNING & AI**

- POKÉMON GO: FEWER POKÉMON IN BLACK NEIGHBORHOODS
  LINKEDIN: HIGH-PAYING JOBS DISPLAY LESS FOR WOMEN
- GOOGLE: FACE RECOGNITION TAGS BLACK FACES AS GORILLAS
- CRIME PREDICTION: FALSELY FLAGS BLACK DEFENDANTS
- CREDIT SCORECARDS: ENTIRE REGION LABLED "AT RISK"

Source: https://www.techrepublic.com/article/bias-in-machine-learning-and-how-to-stop-it/ Source: https://www.propublica.org/article/machine-bias-risk-assessments-in-criminal-sentencing @andreagoulet Source: https://www.mckinsey.com/business-functions/risk/our-insights/controlling-machine-learning-algorithms-and-their-biases

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Source: https://www.techrepublic.com/article/bias-in-machine-learning-and-how-to-stop-it/

## **BIAS IN MACHINE LEARNING & AI**

"AN EFFECTIVE TECHNIQUE [FOR REDUCING BIAS] IS A "PRE-MORTEM" EXERCISE DESIGNED TO PINPOINT THE LIMITATIONS OF A PROPOSED MODEL AND HELP EXECUTIVES JUDGE THE BUSINESS RISKS INVOLVED IN A NEW ALGORITHM."

-McKinsey

#### WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR IDENTIFYING POTENTIAL BIAS IN OUR SOFTWARE AND HELPING OTHERS UNDERSTAND ITS IMPACT

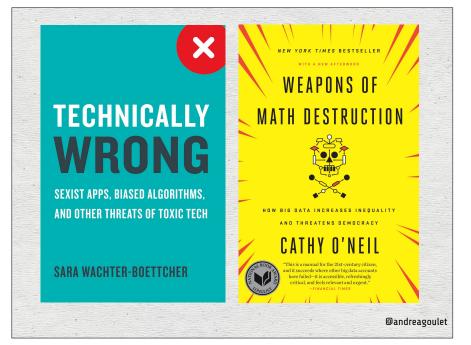
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urce: https://www.mckinsev.com/business-funct

sk/our-insights/controlling-machine-learning-algorithms-and-their-biases @andreagoulet



# HOW DO WE USE Empathy on a Technical team?

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## IF TDD CAN BE DISTILLED INTO RED, GREEN, REFACTOR

#### EMPATHY-DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT CAN BE DISTILLED INTO AUDIENCE & ACTION

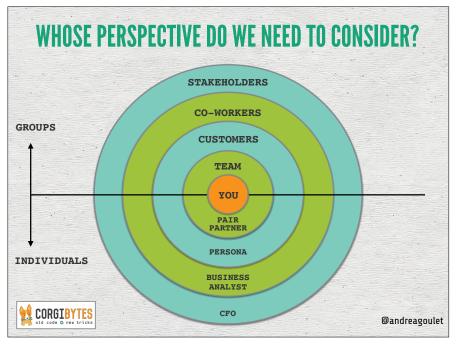
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AUDIENCE		ACTION							
INDIVIDUAL	DIVIDUAL CONTEXT		CONTEXT NEEDS		IDIVIDUAL CONTEXT NE				
CORGIBY	IFS				@andreago				

<b>STEP 1: IDENTIFY INDIVIDU</b>	ALS
1. START WITH THE GROUP 2. NARROW TO AN INDIVIDUAL	
"WE CAN PUT OURSELVES IN THE SHOES OF ONE WE CAN'T PUT OURSELVES IN THE SHOES OF N	
- SAM HORN	
Source: <u>https://samhornpop.wordpress.com/tag/the-empathy-telescope/</u>	@andreagoulet



# **STEP 2: CONSIDER CONTEXT**

- **1. WHAT'S THEIR ENVIRONMENT?**
- 2. HOW ARE THEY FEELING?
- 3. WHAT ARE THEY LIKELY TO DO?
- 4. WHAT HAVE THEY TRIED IN THE PAST?

#### IF YOU DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THESE QUESTIONS, RESEARCH INSTEAD OF MAKING ASSUMPTIONS.

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#### **STEP 3: DEFINE THEIR NEEDS**

- 1. WHAT'S THEIR PREFERENCE?
- 2. HOW DO THEY LIKE TO RECEIVE INFO?
- 3. WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE TO THEM?
- 4. WHAT WILL REDUCE THEIR STRESS?

#### IF YOU DON'T KNOW THE ANSWER TO THESE QUESTIONS, RESEARCH INSTEAD OF MAKING ASSUMPTIONS.

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## **LISTENING SESSIONS**

- HELP THE SPEAKER FEEL SAFE ENOUGH TO TRUST YOU WITH THEIR INNER REASONING. AVOID SHAME AND CRITICISM. JUST LISTEN.
- GOAL IS TO UNDERSTAND DEEPER LEVEL PROCESSES (NOT TO GIVE FEEDBACK)
- LISTEN FOR 3 COMPONENTS (REASONING, REACTIONS, GUIDING PRINCIPLES)

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- LET THE SPEAKER LEAD THE CONVERSATION
- FOLLOW PEAKS & VALLEYS (HIGH LEVEL & DEEP TOPICS)

Source: Practical Empathy by Indi Young

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#### THINGS TO AVOID IN LISTENING SESSIONS

- "FEELING" QUESTIONS (IT'S NOT A THERAPY SESSION)
- ASKING ABOUT PROPOSED SOLUTIONS
- MAKING ASSUMPTIONS (ASK CLARIFYING QUESTIONS)
- USING THE WORD "I" (KEEP THE FOCUS ON SPEAKER)

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- SWITCHING TOPICS ABRUPTLY
- SHAME, BLAME, NAME CALLING, JUDGEMENT
- INJECTING YOUR OWN OPINION

Source: Practical Empathy by Indi Young

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#### **QUESTIONS FOR EXPLORING INTENT**

- WHAT WERE YOU THINKING WHEN YOU MADE THAT DECISION?
- TELL ME YOUR THINKING THERE.
- WHAT WAS GOING ON IN YOUR HEAD?
- WHAT WAS ON YOUR MIND?
- HOW DID YOU REACT?

Source: Practical Empathy by Indi Young

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AUDIENCE			ACTION		
INDIVIDUAL	CONTEXT	NEEDS	BEST Action	FEASIBLE Action	ARTIFACTS To create

# STEP 4: WHAT'S THE IDEAL SOLUTION? 1. WHAT'S THE IDEAL SOLUTION? 2. WHAT WOULD MAKE THE BIGGEST IMPACT? 3. IF YOU HAD NO CONSTRAINTS, WHAT ACTION WOULD YOU TAKE?

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- **1. WHAT CONSTRAINTS DO YOU HAVE?**
- 2. WHAT'S POSSIBLE GIVEN THOSE?
- 3. WHAT'S THE NEXT BEST ALTERNATIVE?
- 4. WHAT'S THE LEAST YOU CAN DO

#### THAT WILL ADD VALUE?

#### **STEP 6: CREATE ARTIFACTS**

- **1. EXECUTE FEASIBLE ACTIONS**
- 2. THINK THROUGH VARIOUS CHANNELS

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3. NOT COMPLETE UNTIL THIS PART IS DONE

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#### TECHNICAL EMPATHY MIGHT FEEL SLOW AND BURDENSOME AT FIRST (JUST LIKE TDD).

#### OVER TIME AND WITH PRACTICE, THIS PROCESS WILL BECOME INTUITIVE.

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## LET'S LOOK AT AN EXAMPLE

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COMMUNICATION ARTIFACT: WRITING AN ERROR MESSAGE FOR A BOOKK	EEPING APP	COMMUNICATION	ARTIFACT: WRIT	NG AN ERROR M	ESSAGE FOR A BO	OKKEEPING APP	
						ΑΟΤΙΟΝ	
			AUDIENCE			ACTION	
		INDIVIDUAL	CONTEXT	NEEDS	BEST Action	FEASIBLE Action	ARTIFACTS To create
CORGIBYTES old code @ new tricks	@andreagoulet	old code @ new	TES tricks				@andreagoulet

AUDIENCE			ACTION		
INDIVIDUAL	CONTEXT	NEEDS	BEST Action	FEASIBLE Action	ARTIFACTS TO CREATE
USER					
CODCTRY	TEC				@andreag

COMMUNICATION	ARTIFACT: WRITI	ING AN ERROR MI	ESSAGE FOR A BO	OKKEEPING APP		
AUDIENCE			ACTION			
INDIVIDUAL	CONTEXT	NEEDS	BEST Action	FEASIBLE Action	ARTIFACTS TO CREATE	
USER						
CORGIBY	TES			1	@andreagou	

AUDIENCE			ACTION		
INDIVIDUAL	CONTEXT	NEEDS	BEST Action	FEASIBLE Action	ARTIFACTS TO CREATE
FREELANCE ARTIST (MALIK)					
	TFQ				@andreag

COMMUNICATION	ARTIFACT: WRITI	NG AN ERROR MI	ESSAGE FOR A BO	OKKEEPING APP		
AUDIENCE			ACTION			
INDIVIDUAL	CONTEXT	NEEDS	BEST Action	FEASIBLE Action	ARTIFACTS To create	
FREELANCE ARTIST (MALIK)						
CUSTOMER SUCCESS MANAGER (TIARA)						•
						а.
CORGIBY	TES tricks				@andreago	ulet

AUDIENCE			ACTION			
INDIVIDUAL	CONTEXT	NEEDS	BEST Action	FEASIBLE Action	ARTIFACTS TO CREATE	
FREELANCE ARTIST (MALIK)						
CUSTOMER SUCCESS MANAGER (TIARA)						
DEVELOPER (YOU)						

AUDIENCE			ACTION		
CONTEXT	NEEDS	BEST Action	FEASIBLE Action	ARTIFACTS To create	
USING THE APP, ON The GO, Feeling Distracted					
RESPONDING TO SUPPORT TICKET, PRESSURE TO REPLY & RESOLVE QUICKLY					
FIXING A BUG, SIX MONTHS SINCE YOU'VE LOOKED AT THE CODE					
	USING THE APP, ON THE GO, FEELING DISTRACTED RESPONDING TO SUPPORT TICKET, PRESSURE TO REPLY 6 RESOLVE QUICKLY FIXING A BUG, SIX MONTHS SINCE YOU'VE LIOKED AT	USING THE APP, ON THE GO, FEELING DISTRACTED RESPONDING TO SUPPORT TICKET, PRESSURE TO REPLY 6 RESOLVE QUICKLY FIXING A BUG, SIX MONTHS SINCE YOU'VE LOOKED AT	UNITEXT     NEEDS     ACTION       USING THE APP, ON THE GO, FEELING DISTRACTED	CUNIEXT     NEEDS     ACTION     ACTION       USING THE APP, ON THE GO, FEELING DISTRACTED     Image: Constraint of the second support ticket, pressure to reply & resolve quickly     Image: Constraint of the second support ticket, pressure to reply & resolve quickly       FIXING A BUG, SIX MONTHS SINCE YOU'VE LOOKED AT     Image: Constraint of the second support ticket, pressure to reply down the second second support ticket, pressure to reply down the second second support ticket, pressure to reply down the second sec	

AUDIENCE			ACTION		
INDIVIDUAL	CONTEXT	NEEDS	BEST Action	FEASIBLE Action	ARTIFACTS To create
FREELANCE ARTIST (MALIK)	USING THE APP, ON THE GO, FEELING DISTRACTED	RESOLUTION, CLEAR ACTIONS TO TAKE			
CUSTOMER SUCCESS Manager (Tiara)	RESPONDING TO SUPPORT TICKET, PRESSURE TO REPLY & RESOLVE QUICKLY	ACCURATE INFORMATION THAT'S EASY TO REFERENCE			
DEVELOPER (YOU)	FIXING A BUG, SIX MONTHS SINCE YOU'VE LOOKED AT THE CODE	MINIMAL CONTEXT SWITCHING, EASY TO UNDERSTAND PROBLEM & EDGE CASES			

AUDIENCE			ACTION		
INDIVIDUAL	CONTEXT	NEEDS	BEST Action	FEASIBLE Action	ARTIFACTS TO CREATE
FREELANCE ARTIST (MALIK)	USING THE APP, ON THE GO, FEELING DISTRACTED	RESOLUTION, CLEAR ACTIONS TO TAKE	VALIDATE FRUSTRATION, SECOND PERSON, ACTIVE VOICE, LINK TO A VIDEO TUTORIAL		
CUSTOMER SUCCESS MANAGER (TIARA)	RESPONDING TO SUPPORT TICKET, PRESSURE TO REPLY & RESOLVE QUICKLY	ACCURATE INFORMATION THAT'S EASY TO REFERENCE	REFERENCE CODE IN ERROR MESSAGE, UPDATE RESPONSE LIBRARY		
DEVELOPER (YOU)	FIXING A BUG, SIX MONTHS SINCE YOU'VE LOOKED AT THE CODE	MINIMAL CONTEXT SWITCHING, EASY TO UNDERSTAND PROBLEM & EDGE CASES	FIX ALL THE BUGS, INCLUDING EDGE CASES		

AUDIENCE			ACTION		
INDIVIDUAL	CONTEXT	NEEDS	BEST Action	FEASIBLE Action	ARTIFACTS TO CREATE
FREELANCE ARTIST (MALIK)	USING THE APP, ON THE GO, FEELING DISTRACTED	RESOLUTION, CLEAR ACTIONS TO TAKE	VALIDATE FRUSTRATION, SECOND PERSON, ACTIVE VOICE, LINK TO A VIDEO TUTORIAL	VALIDATE FRUSTRATION, SECOND PERSON, ACTIVE VOICE, DOCUMENT IDEA OF TUTORIAL	
CUSTOMER SUCCESS MANAGER (TIARA)	RESPONDING TO SUPPORT TICKET, PRESSURE TO REPLY & RESOLVE QUICKLY	ACCURATE INFORMATION THAT'S EASY TO REFERENCE	REFERENCE CODE IN Error Message, UPDATE Response Library	CREATE ISSUE TO DOCUMENT REFERENCE CODE IDEA	
DEVELOPER (YOU)	FIXING A BUG, SIX MONTHS SINCE YOU'VE LOOKED AT THE CODE	MINIMAL CONTEXT SWITCHING, EASY TO UNDERSTAND PROBLEM & EDGE CASES	FIX ALL THE BUGS, Including Edge Cases	FIX EDGE CASES WHEN THEY ARISE	

COMMUNICATION ARTIFACT: WRITING AN ERROR MESSAGE FOR A BOOKKEEPING APP							
AUDIENCE			ACTION				
INDIVIDUAL	CONTEXT	NEEDS	BEST Action	FEASIBLE Action	ARTIFACTS TO CREATE		
FREELANCE ARTIST (MALIK)	USING THE APP, ON THE GO, FEELING DISTRACTED	RESOLUTION, CLEAR ACTIONS TO TAKE	VALIDATE FRUSTRATION, SECOND PERSON, ACTIVE VOICE, LINK TO A VIDEO TUTORIAL	VALIDATE FRUSTRATION, SECOND PERSON, ACTIVE VOICE, DOCUMENT IDEA OF TUTORIAL	WELL-WRITTEN ERROR MESSAGE, WIKI UPDATE		
CUSTOMER SUCCESS MANAGER (TIARA)	RESPONDING TO SUPPORT TICKET, PRESSURE TO REPLY & RESOLVE QUICKLY	ACCURATE INFORMATION THAT'S EASY TO REFERENCE	REFERENCE CODE IN Error Message, UPDATE Response Library	CREATE ISSUE TO DOCUMENT REFERENCE CODE IDEA	GITHUB ISSUE		
DEVELOPER (YOU)	FIXING A BUG, SIX MONTHS SINCE YOU'VE LOOKED AT THE CODE	MINIMAL CONTEXT SWITCHING, EASY TO UNDERSTAND PROBLEM & EDGE CASES	FIX ALL THE BUGS, Including Edge Cases	FIX EDGE CASES WHEN THEY ARISE	SELF-REVEALING CODE, TESTS, COMMIT MESSAGE, GITHUB ISSUE, JOURNAL ENTRY		
CORGIBYTES @andreagould							

#### audiences = new AudienceList() for each individual in individuals context := determineContext(individual) needs := determineNeeds(individual, context) 10 audiences.add(individual, context, needs) end constraints := determineConstraints() EMPATHY 14 15 actions := new ActionList() 16 for each audience in audiences bestAction := determinePotentialActions( ALGORITHM 18 audience) 19 feasibleAction := determineRealisticActions( 20 audience, constraints) extraArtifacts := determineAdditionalArtifacts( 22 canDo - communicationArtifact) 23 24 actions.add(bestAction, feasibleAction, extraArtifacts) 25 end 26 deliver(actions.format()) 28 29 for each extraArtifact in actions.extraArtifacts 30 produce(extraArtifact) 31 end 32 end

function produce(communicationArtifact)
individuals := Individual.mightFindValue(

communicationArtifact)

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#### **KEY TAKEAWAYS**

- EMPATHY IS A TECHNICAL TOPIC
- EMPATHY IS A SKILL YOU CAN DEVELOP THROUGH PROACTIVE PERSPECTIVE TAKING AND PROBLEM SOLVING
- WITHOUT EMPATHY, WE GET AN UNDESIRABLE CULTURE THAT MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO DELIVER QUALITY SOFTWARE
- EMPATHY DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT = AUDIENCE & ACTION
- INVOKE CURIOSITY, RESPECT, AND LISTENING TO VALIDATE Assumptions or when you don't have enough data.

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