

Welcome to Explore-a-stand!

A Quick Introduction

Software Engineer | Technical Leader | Self Professed Nerd

Present:

- Distinguished Engineer at Westpac NZ
- Master's of Engineering student at the University of Auckland

Previously:

- 2004 - 2014 - Software Engineer
- 2014 - Present - Technical Leader



The Impact of AI on Software Engineering



A Very Hot Topic



Deer Valley, Utah, February 2026



San Jose, California, April 2026

I Met Some Awesome People!



Kent Beck



Gene Kim

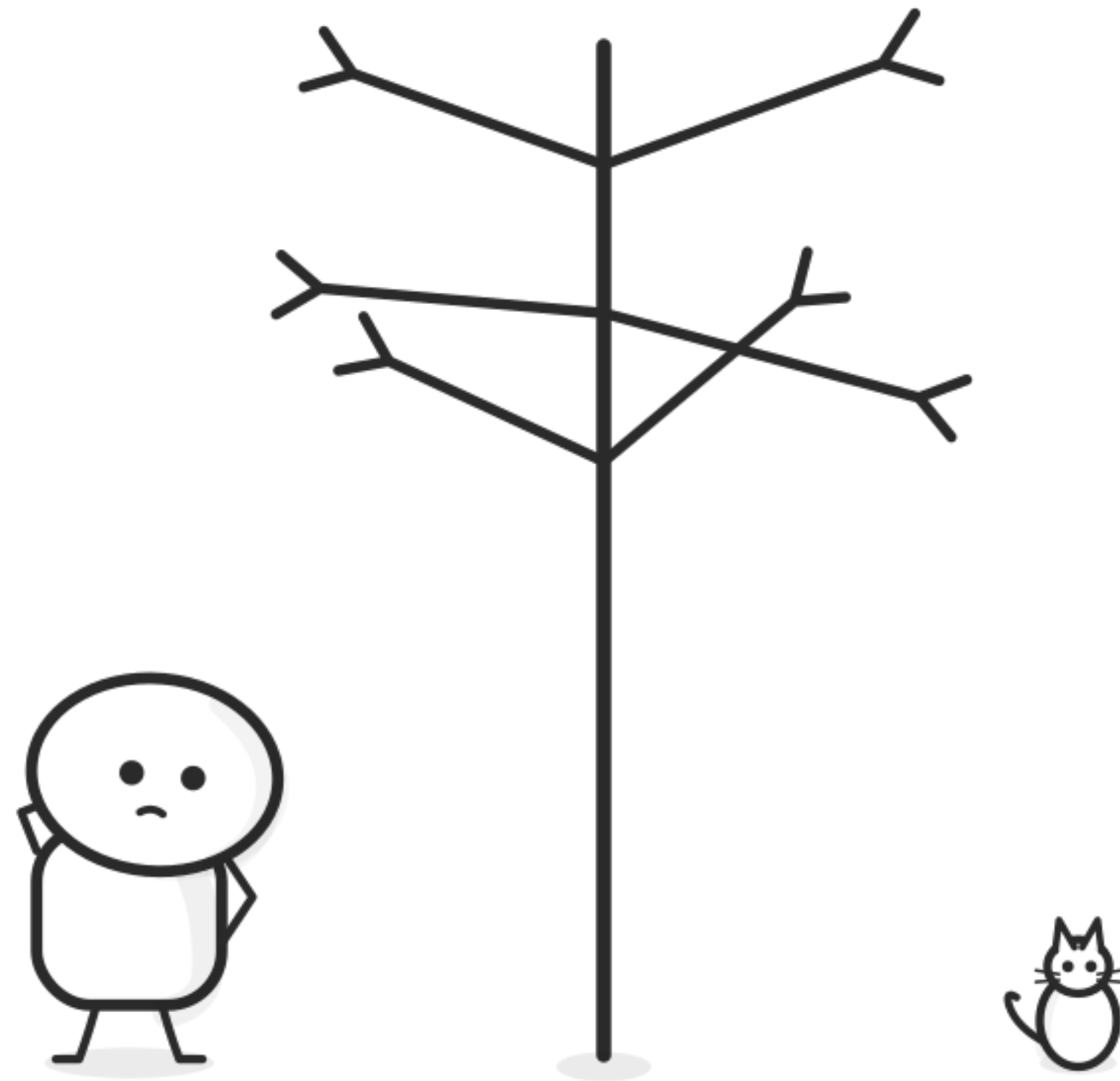


Charity Majors



Erik Meijer

Nobody Has It All Figured Out



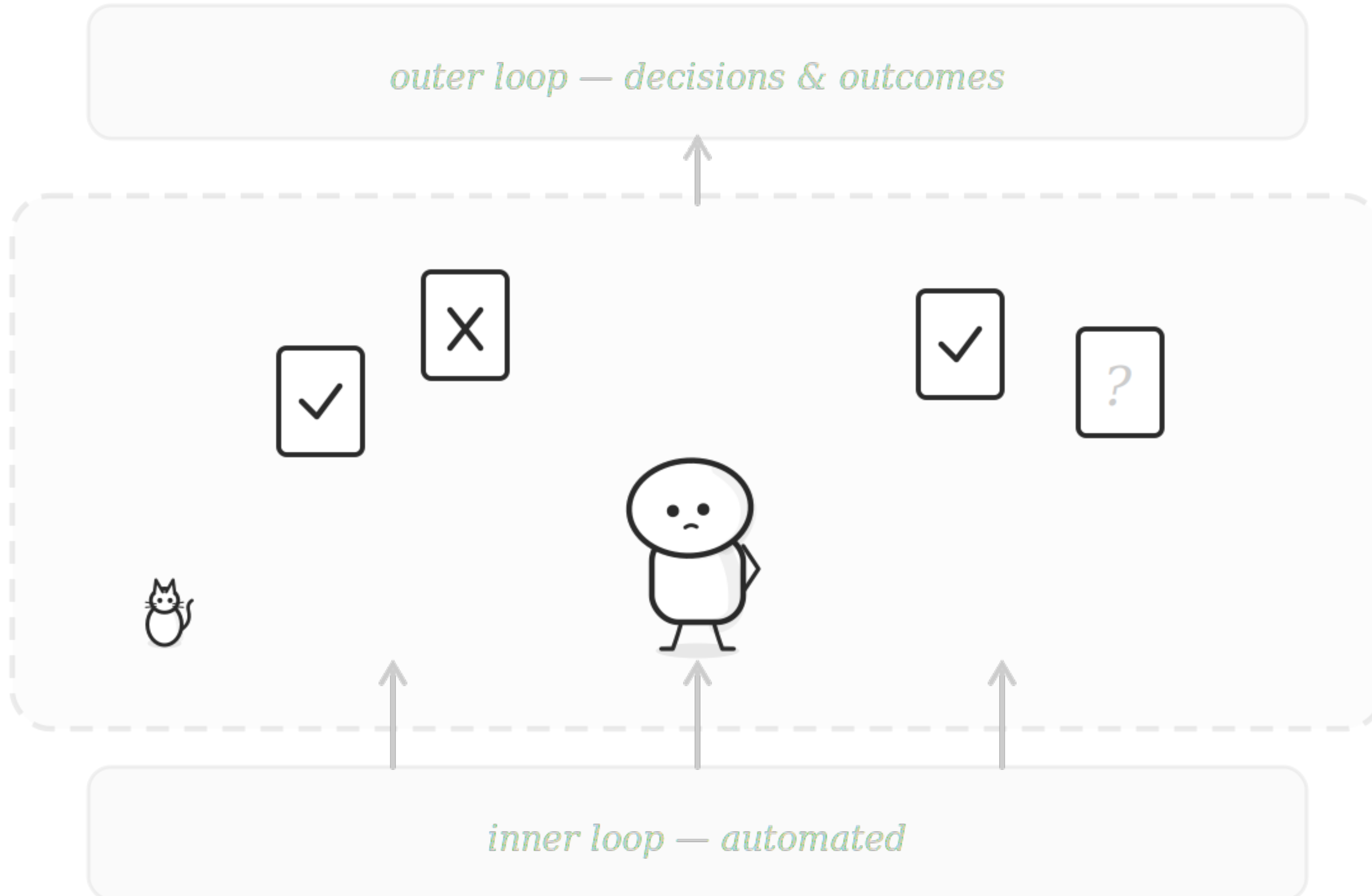
We've All Been Rebooted



Kent Beck



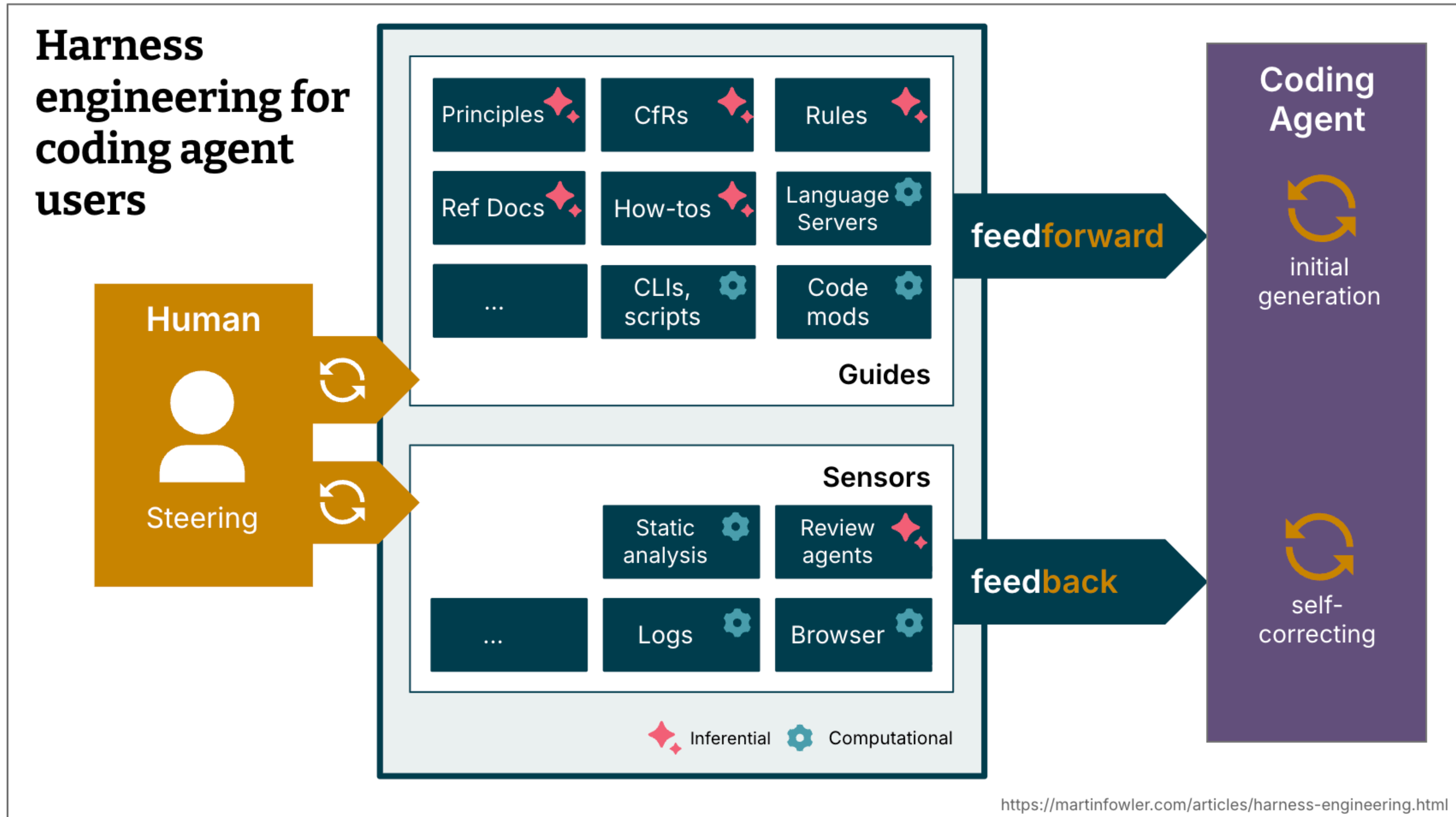
The Middle Loop: Supervisory Engineering



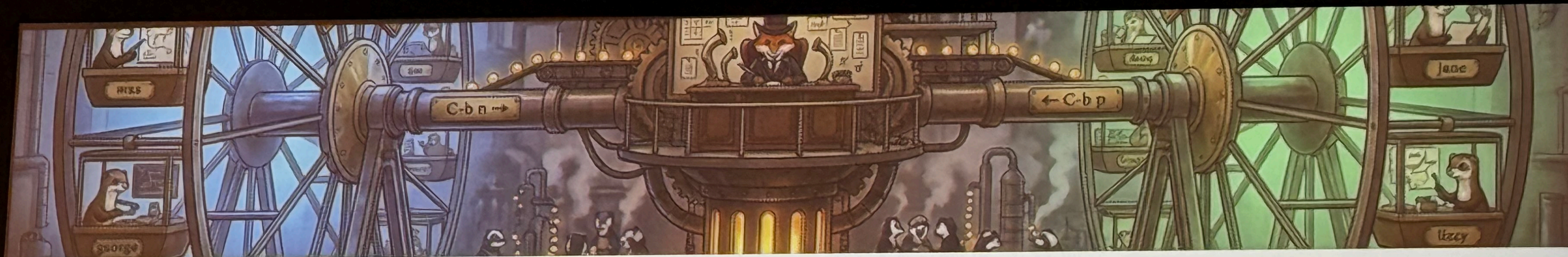
Where Does The Rigour Go?



Birgitta Böckeler



Steve Yegge's Predictions



Agent Crews: The Ninth Box

After orchestrators comes something new: *crews* — teams of bespoke, dedicated agents built to watch, validate, and check each other.

01

Set Up a Queue Agent

An agent responds to hooks and events, processes data, and takes actions on a work queue.

03

Define Watcher Agents

Other agents whose sole job is to monitor your main agent. Together, they form the Crew.

02

Apply Multi-Agent Consensus

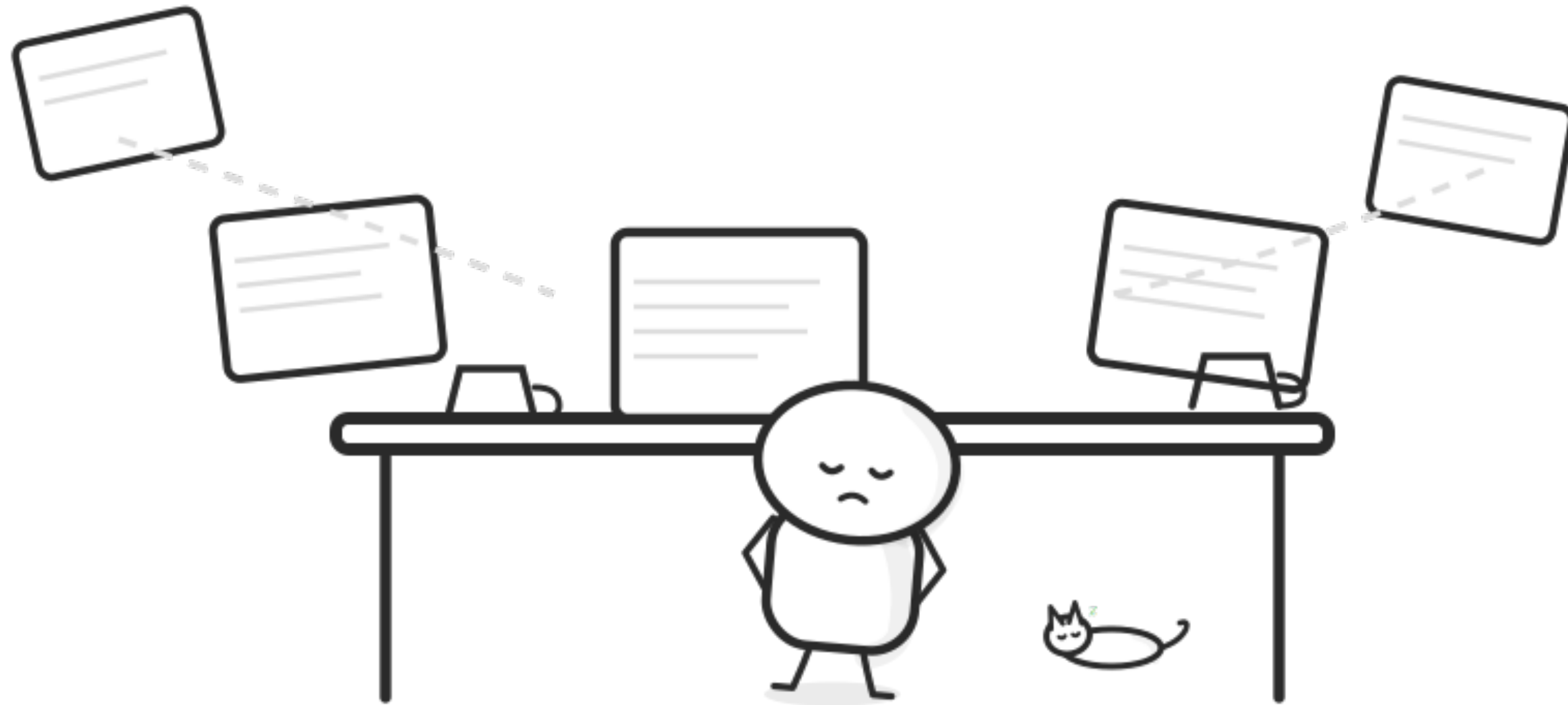
Your primary guardrail. The correct approach for resilience against the Bitter Lesson.

04

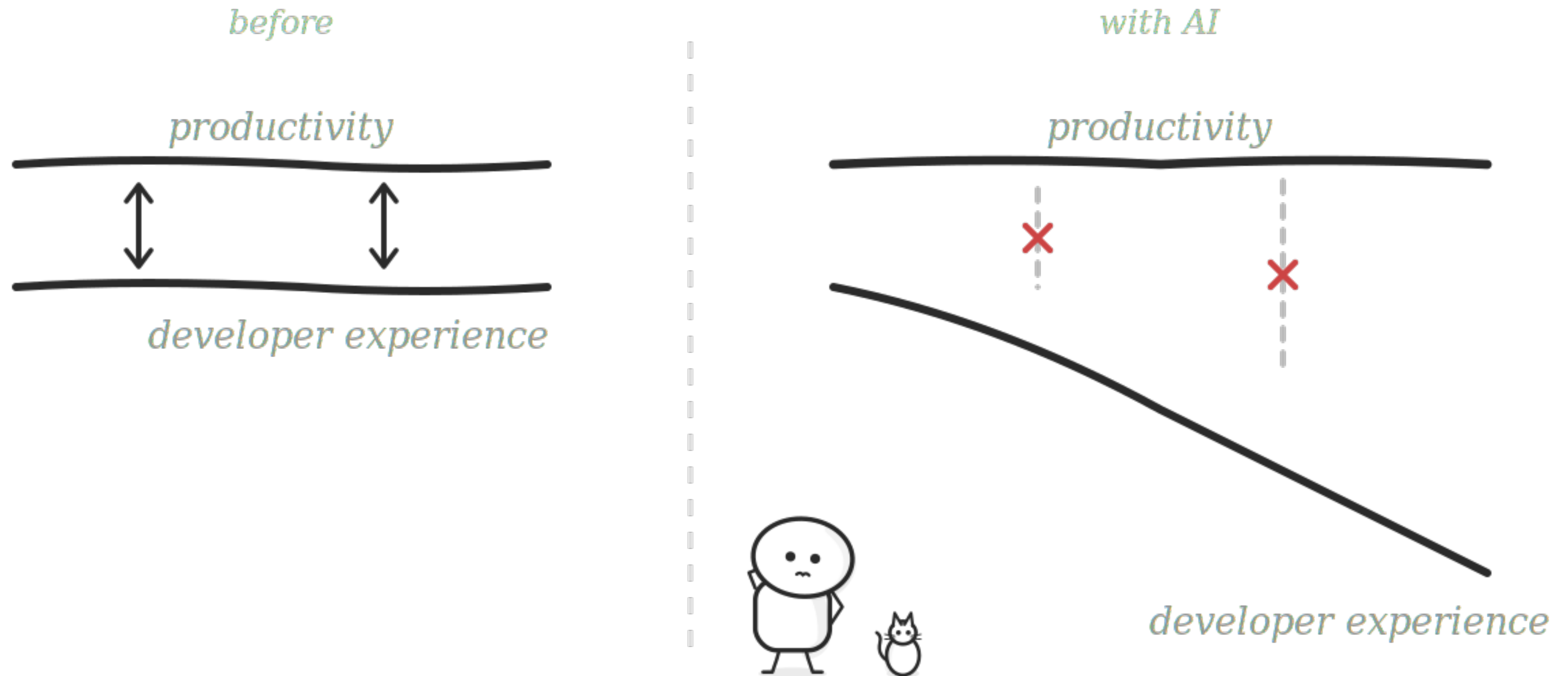
Declare in Gas City

Packs are like Docker images. Crews are like runtime containers. Define them declaratively.

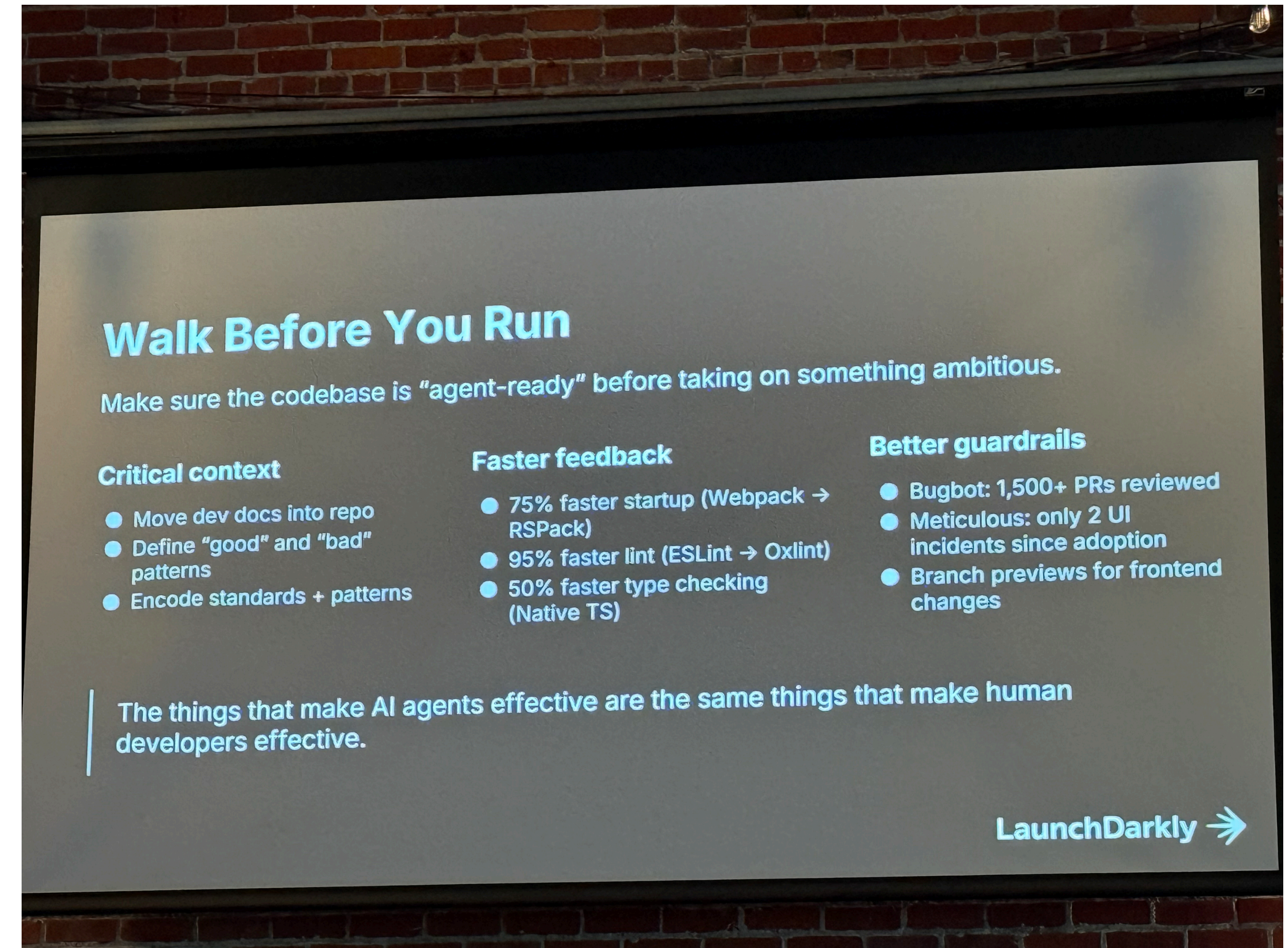
Fun, But Also Addictive and Exhausting



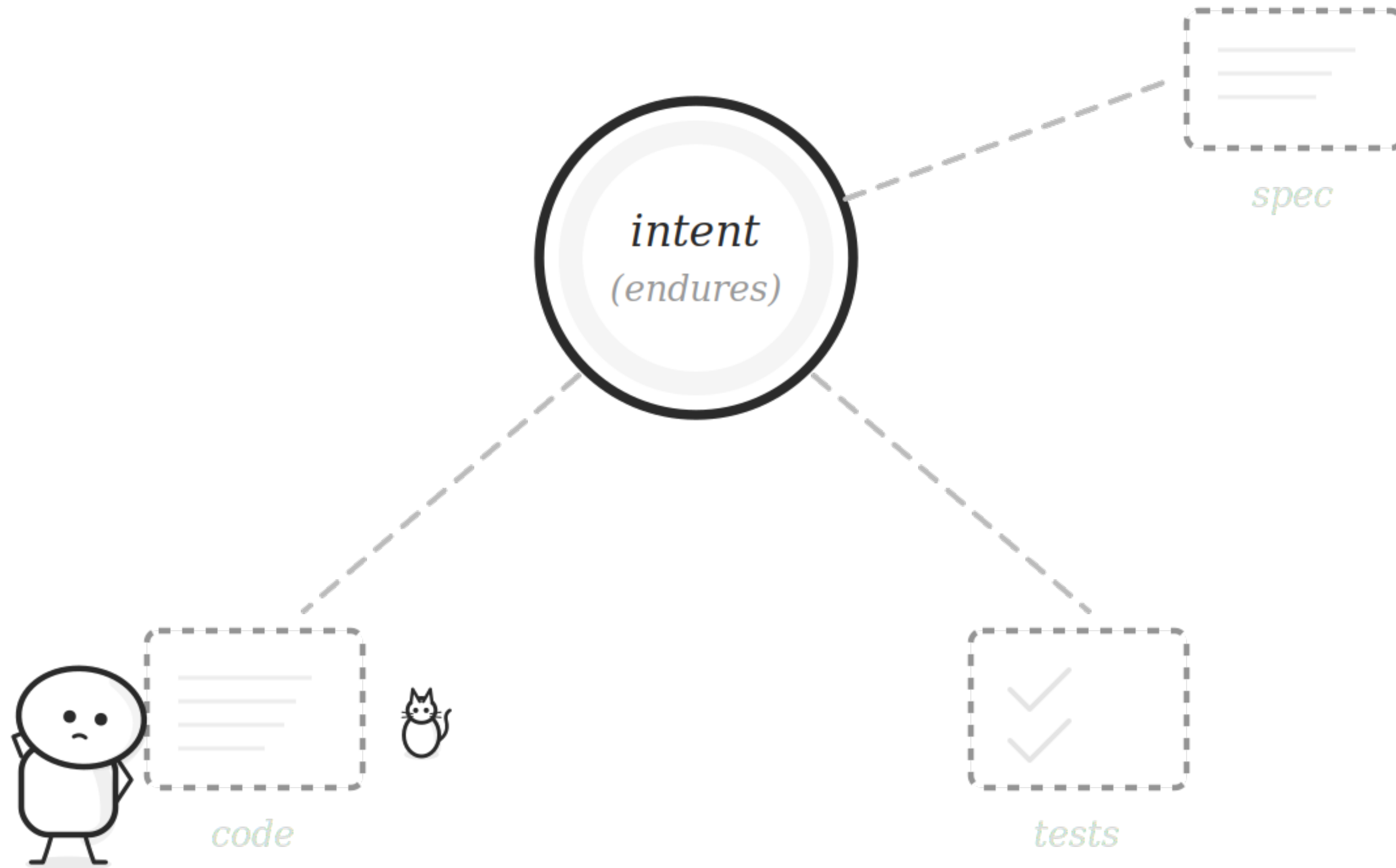
The Productivity-Experience Paradox



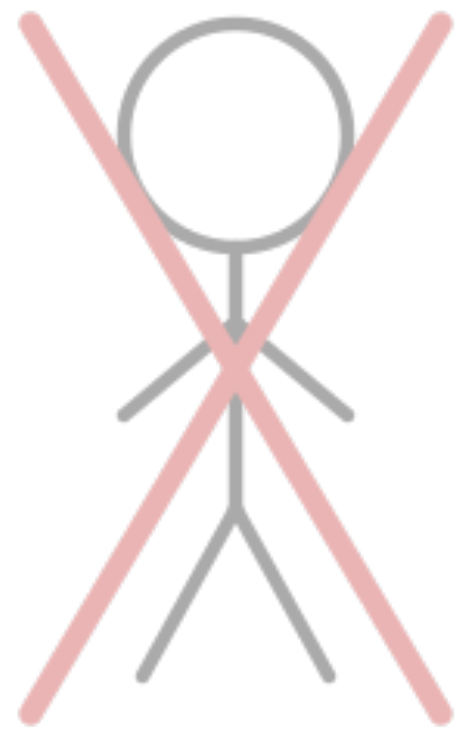
AI-Friendly Repos



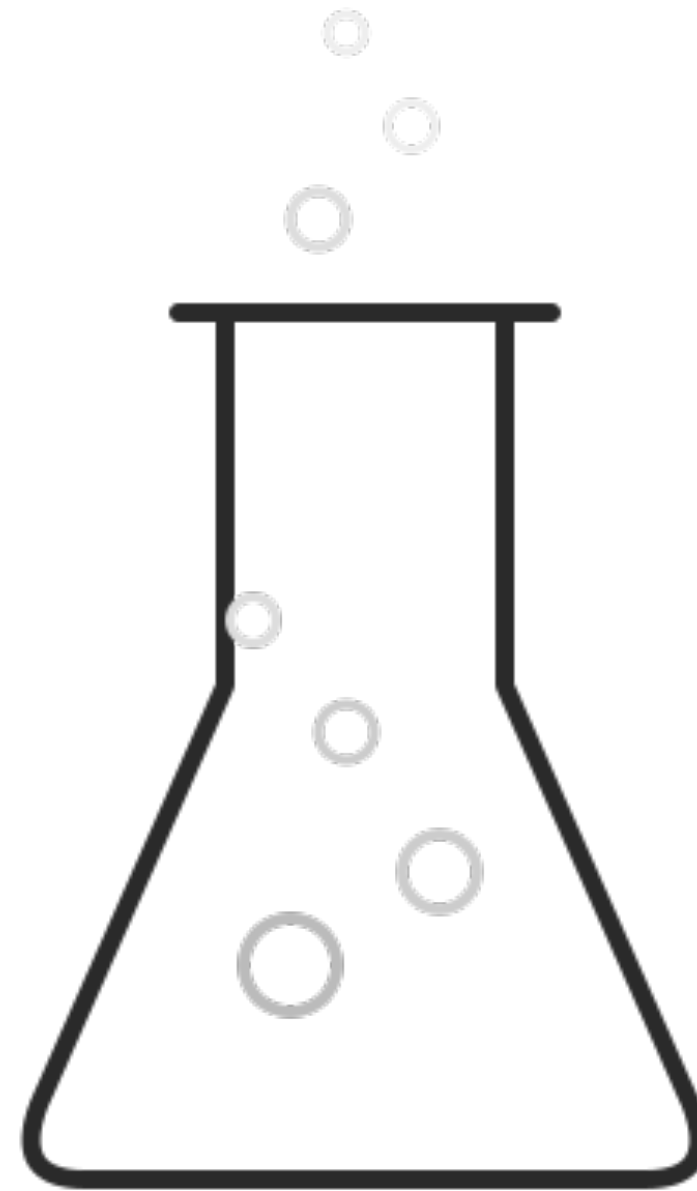
Code as a Projection



Conceptualising Agents



not human



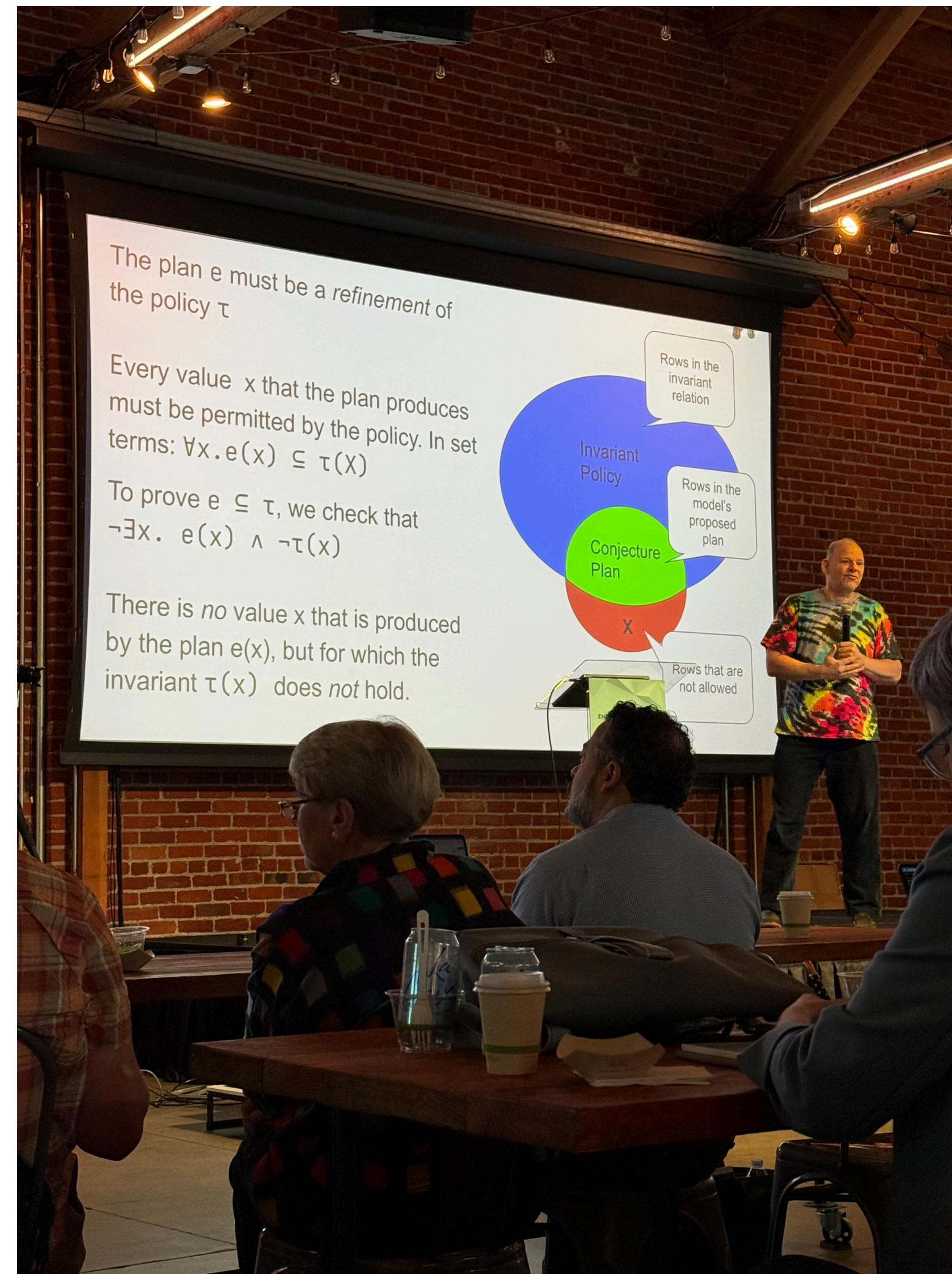
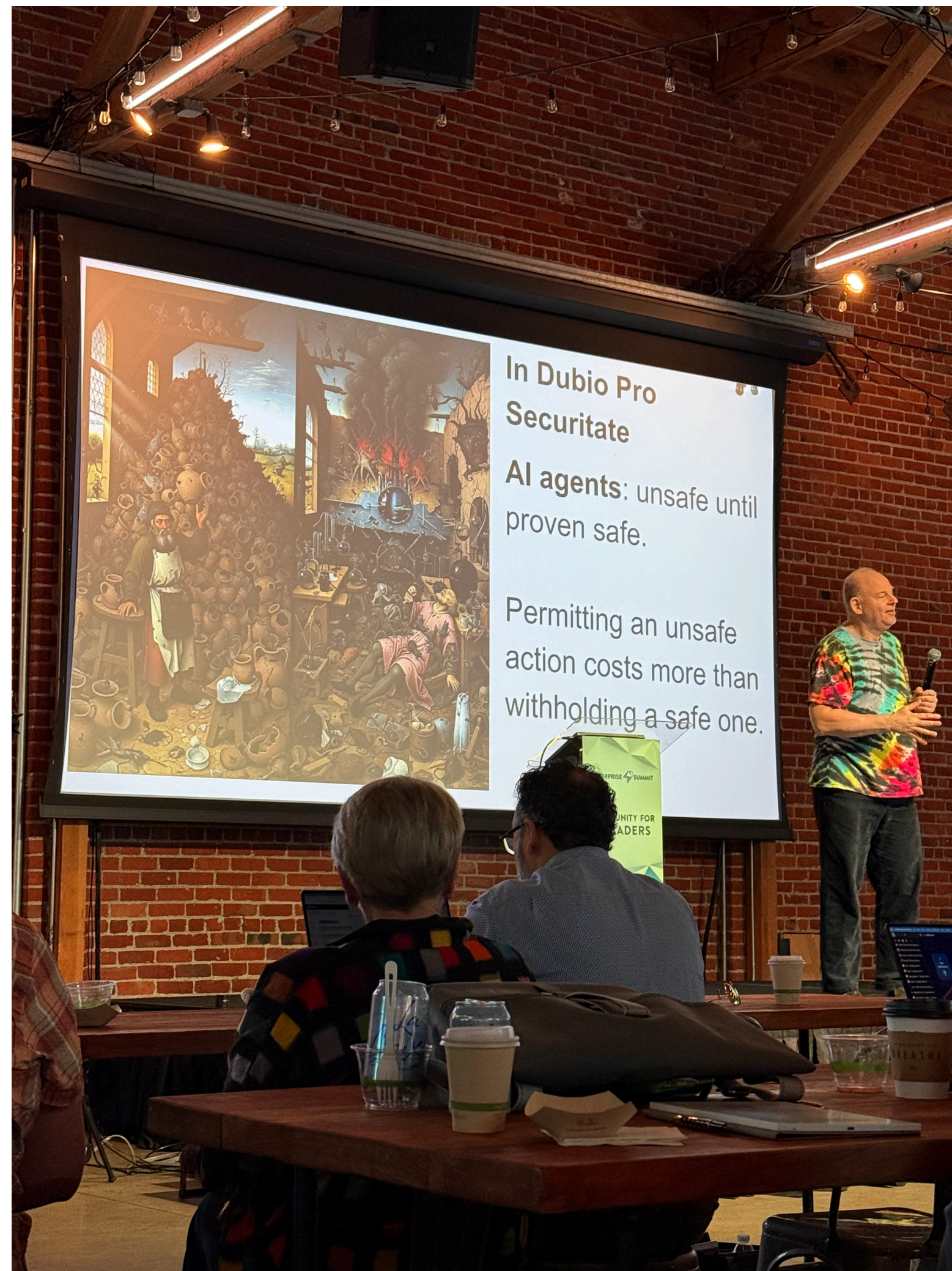
engineer the constraints



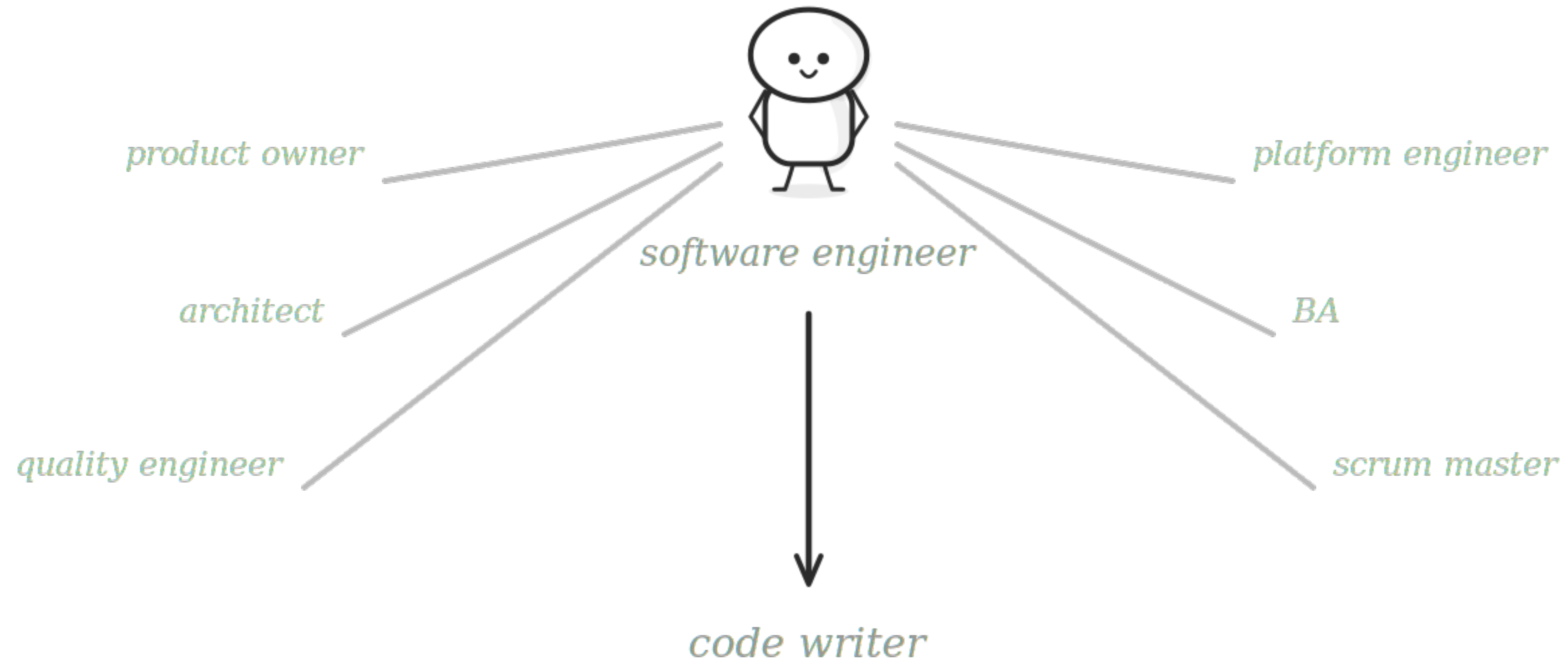
not API



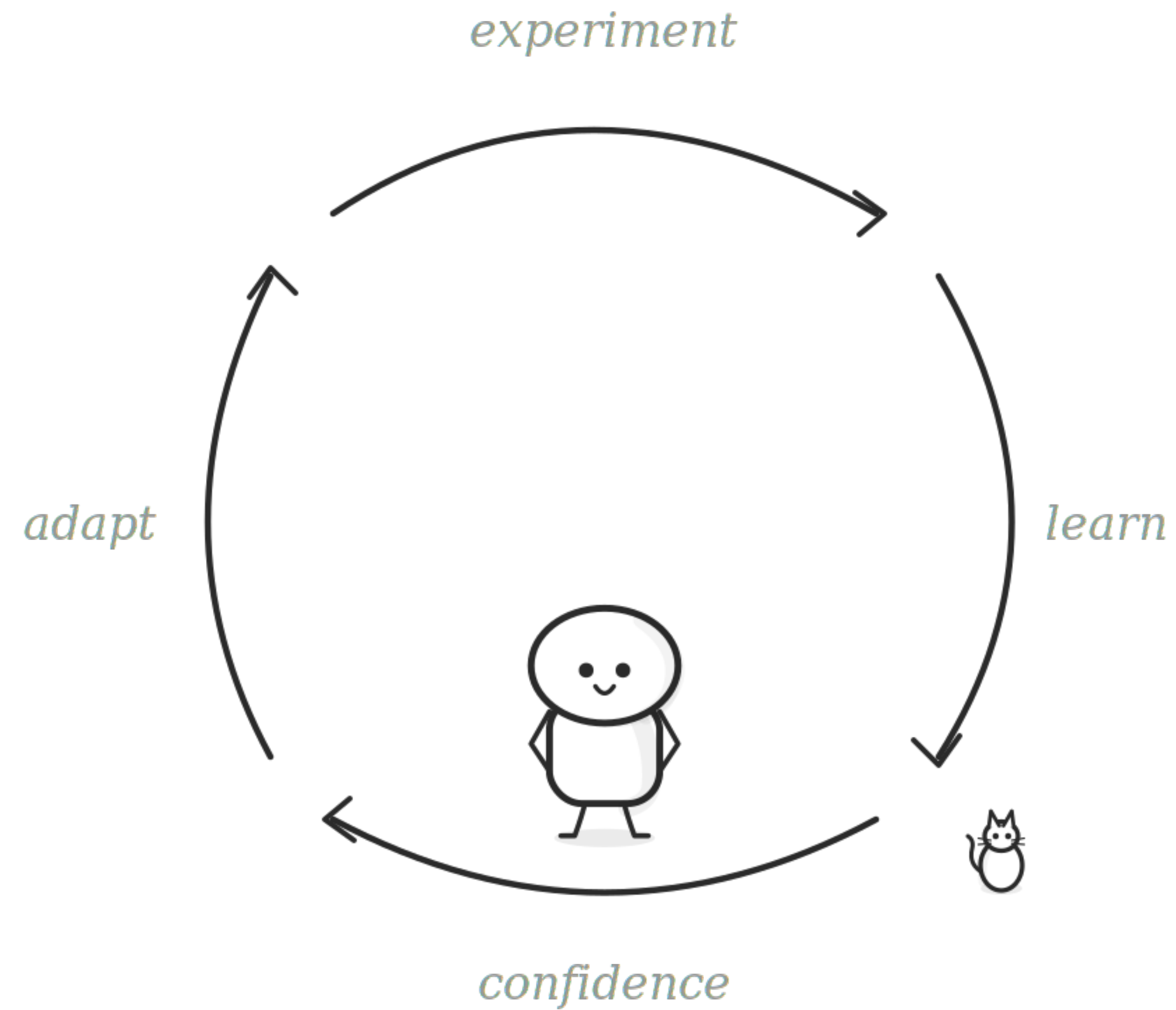
Trust Through Formal Verification



The Specialisation Trap



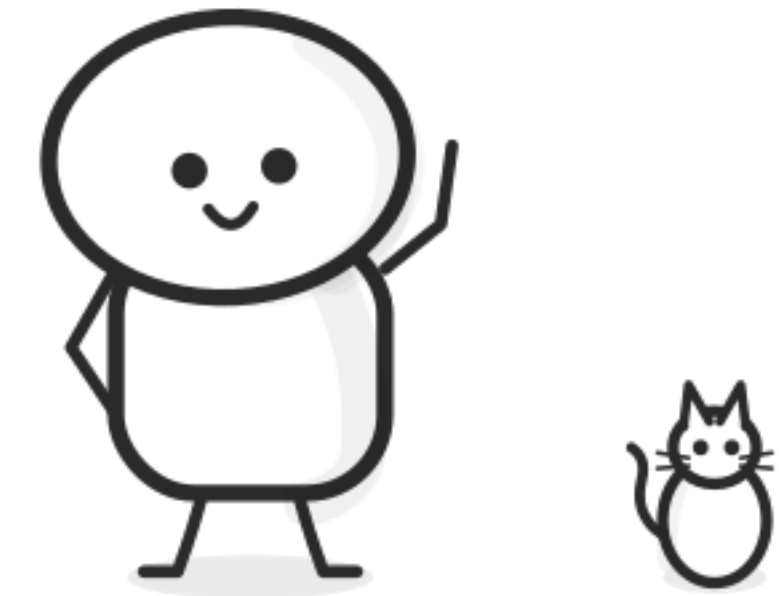
Mindset Over Circumstance



Navigating Your Own Journey

1. Be curious and play like you mean it
2. Direct, don't just use
3. Build and protect the harness
4. Pace yourself, and develop intuition
5. Find the cool problems
6. Seek out breadth, and back yourself

Thank You!



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