Kicking the complexity habit

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Complexity

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“It really shouldn’t be this difficult”
Know your enemy

Identifying complexity

Reducing complexity

Avoiding complexity
Identifying complexity
We do what we know

http://www.freemarketcenter.com/systems/causal_loops/

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Painkillers are everywhere!

Architecture
Enterprise mandates

Design
Undirected local choices

Tools
IDEs
Build automation

Techniques
TDD

Process
too much, too little

Organisation
Conway’s Law

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Reducing complexity

✓ Monitor your cognitive load

✓ See what’s really there - and question it

✓ Use consistent idioms and principles
  - Principles + Context = Practices
  - Difference is data

✓ Familiarity is not the same as Simplicity
  - Use fresh eyes. “What’s the dumbest thing..?”
A tale of two cities...
The real other city
Avoiding complexity

✓ Complexity is the default state
  - There isn’t a “physics”, just local decisions
  - It grows one day at a time

✓ Consistency at scale is a daily choice
  - Agree idioms and guiding principles

✓ Strive for simplicity
  - Choose tools and techniques that make it easier
Summing up

Complexity is the default condition

Simplifying is always an option

Consistency is the key

It really shouldn’t be this difficult
Thanks for listening

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