

TECHNICAL DEBT

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WHAT IS IT?



Bill that companies have to pay with money, time and resources



The result of prioritizing speedy delivery over perfect code



TYPES

- Unintended/accidental technical debt
- Intended technical debt
- Bit rot technical debt

	Reckless	Prudent
Deliberate	"We don't have time for desing"	"We must ship now and deal with the consequences"
Accidental	"What's layering?"	"Now we know how we should have done it"

SYMPTOMS



CODE SMELLS



SPAGHETTI CODE



SHOTGUN SURGERY

CAUSES



TIME PRESSURE



CONSTANT
CHANGE

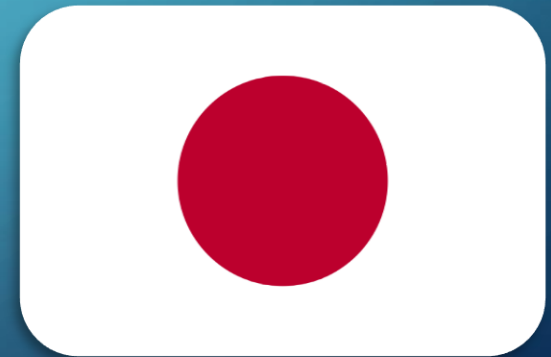


OUTDATED
TECHNOLOGY

EXAMPLE

A company in Canada developed a good product for its local customers. Based on local success, the company decided to extend the market to the rest of Canada and immediately faced a new challenge: addressing the 20% of Canada that uses the French language in most aspects of life. The developers labored for a week to produce a French version of the product, planting a global flag for French = Yes or No as well as hundreds of if-then-else statements all over the code. A product demo went smoothly, and they got the sale!

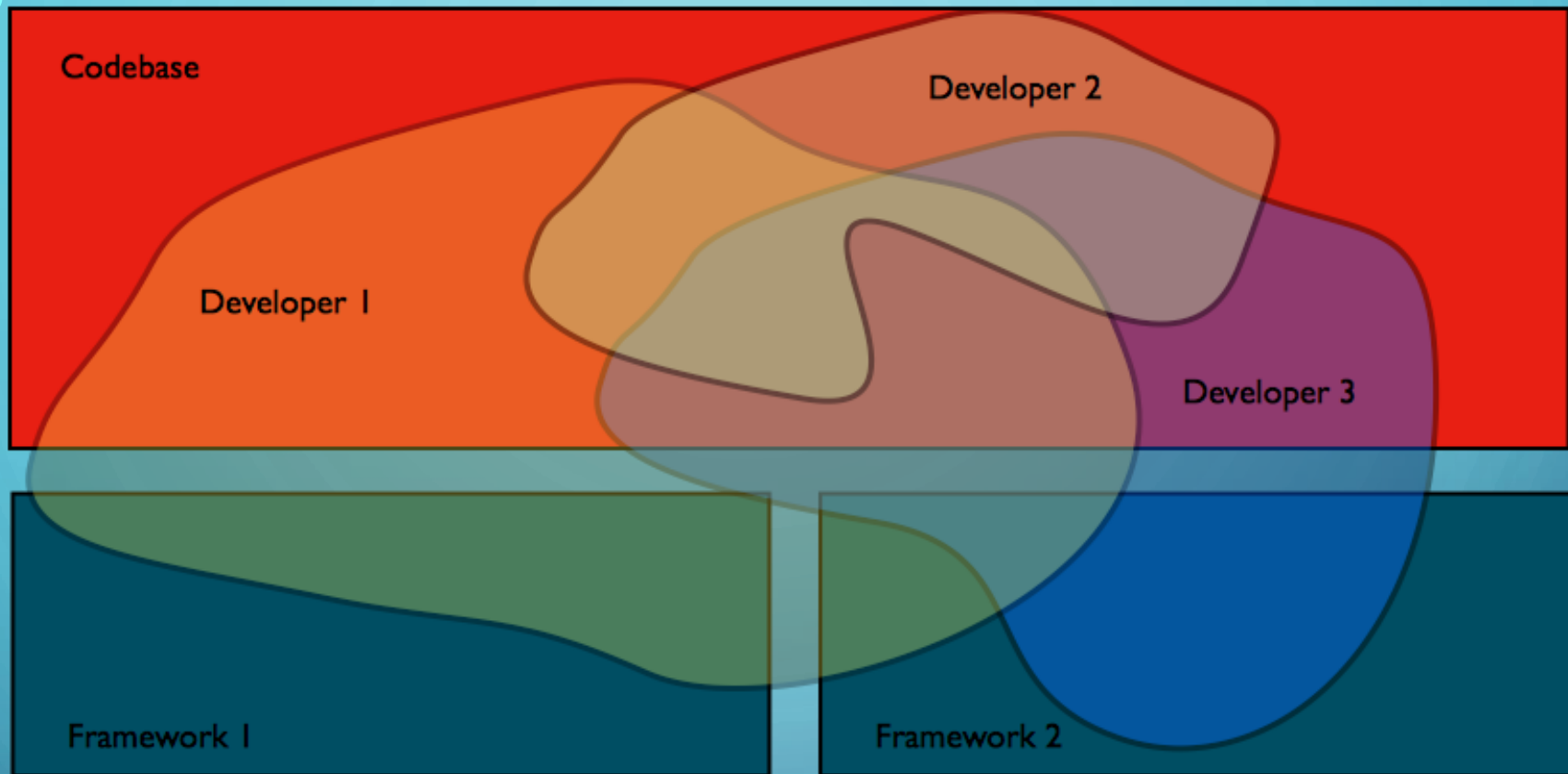
Then, a month later, on a trip to Japan, a salesperson proudly boasted that the software was multilingual, returned to Canada with a potential order, and assumed that a Japanese version was only one week of work away. Now the decision not to use a more sophisticated strategy--such as externalizing all the text strings and using an internationalization package--was badly hurting the developers. They would not only have to select and implement a scalable and maintainable strategy but also must undo all the quick-and-dirty if-then-else statements.



INTEREST PAYMENTS AND SNOWBALL

Facebook had to develop a completely new virtual machine for it to be ran at their servers, as it was less risky than fixing the problem at source code.





BUS FACTOR

IS TECHNICAL DEBT BAD?

It is a part of every software development project

Sometimes it cannot be avoided

It becomes an issue when ignored



QUESTIONS?

Technical Debt



Customer's view



Developer's view

