Leading in Context

Pat Shields
Staff Engineer @ Stripe

l have a secret

Context

Types of context

- Domain
- Culture
- Portfolio
- Strategy
- Gaps
- Macro

Leading in context is the key challenge of a staff engineer

Durable Leadership

Dealing with new context

- Acknowledge the change
- Let go of preconceptions and the need to have them
- Drive clarity on the context

Anticipating change

- Dig deep until you hit first principles
- Network, learn to keep a secret
- Understand your most visible users and competitors

The most effective staff engineers are able to lead even when context changes

Growth for the adaptable

What do you want?

- Money/prestige
- Work-life balance
- Relationships/mentorship
- Deep work
- Staying in the code
- Social good
- Fun/sense of belonging

Adaptability to new context leads to an increase in opportunities. Choose wisely.

Thank you.
Enjoy the day.
Good luck.