Supporting a First-Time Tech Lead

Bekah Suttner Cheek

Tech Lead

What's a tech lead?

TL Is

The Person Who

- Understands how the technical pieces fit together

- Is responsible for preparing technical work for the team

- Answers questions on technical direction and vision

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TL Is Not Necessarily

The Person Who

- Has the deepest technical knowledge

- Holds the most senior title

- Has the most years of experience

Challenges

Of Being a First-Time Tech Lead

Challenges

As a First-Time Tech Lead

1. How do I measure progress?

Challenges

As a First-Time Tech Lead

2. When is a story ready?

Challenges

As a First-Time Tech Lead

3. How do I fight perfectionism?

Advice

For a First-Time Tech Lead

1. Establish Momentum

1. Establish Momentum - How You Can Support

- Pair on backlog work

- Record a walkthrough video

Advice

For a First-Time Tech Lead

2. Ask Questions Regularly

2. Ask Questions Regularly - How You Can Support

- Schedule regular touchpoints

    - Keep the time on the calendar initially

- Start a running shared document

    - Set aside dedicated time to respond

Advice

For a First-Time Tech Lead

3. Keep the Team Involved

3. Keep the Team Involved - How You Can Support

- Schedule weekly refinement meetings

- Compile a list of stories to review by a certain time

Advice

For a First-Time Tech Lead

4.   Take Good Notes

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4. Take Good Notes - How You Can Support

- Think about note-taking system up front

- Consider what makes notes good

  - Searchable

  - Easy to reorganize

  - Easy to copy into other tools

- Ask about favorite note-taking tools

Advice

For a First-Time Tech Lead

1. Establish Momentum
2. Ask Questions Regularly
3. Keep the Team Involved
4. Take Good Notes

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bit.ly/3DDLOXH

Bekah Suttner Cheek

mail@bekahcheek.com