# It's time to pay off your Management Debt



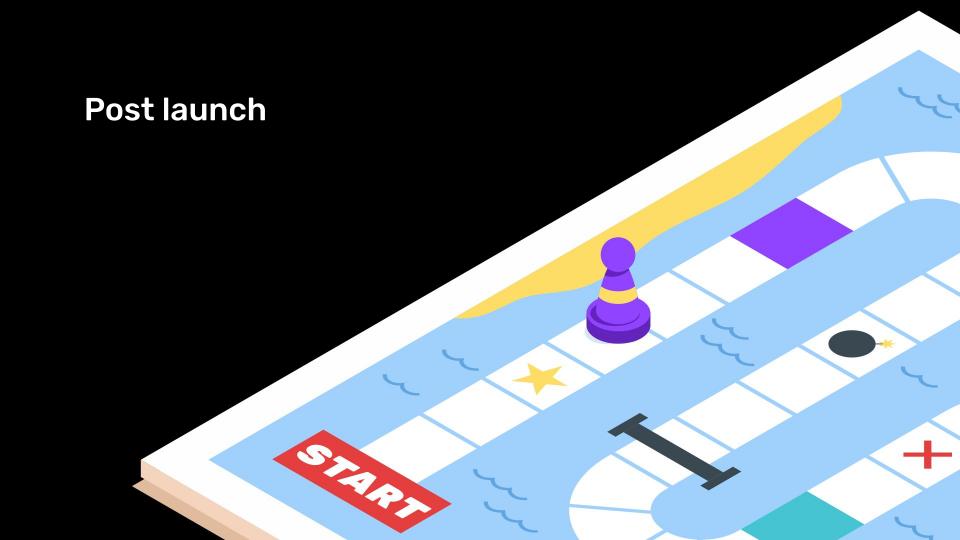
Engineering Managers IL

# Lemonade

Senior Director of Engineering









## How did we get here?





## What's the big deal?



Tech debt?



Management debt?

### **Management Debt**

/ˈmæn.ədʒ.mənt det/ PHONETIC RESPELLING



#### Noun

The result of a management decision that prioritizes short term benefits over expensive long-term consequences.

#### **Tech Debt**

#### **Management Debt**

Short-term benefit

**/** 

Accrues interest rate

#### **Tech Debt**

**Management Debt** 

Solvable by any level X

# It's not just about tech debt, it's about management debt

# Understanding management debt



**Organizational** 



Management practices & skills



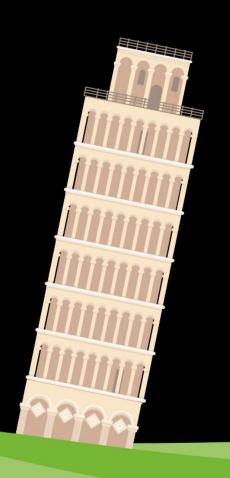


**Organizational** 



Management practices & skills







**Organizational** 



Management practices & skills





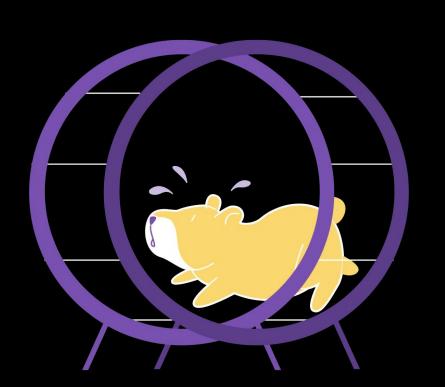


**Organizational** 



Management practices & skills





## Your turn

## Cultivating a culture of awareness





Inherited debt



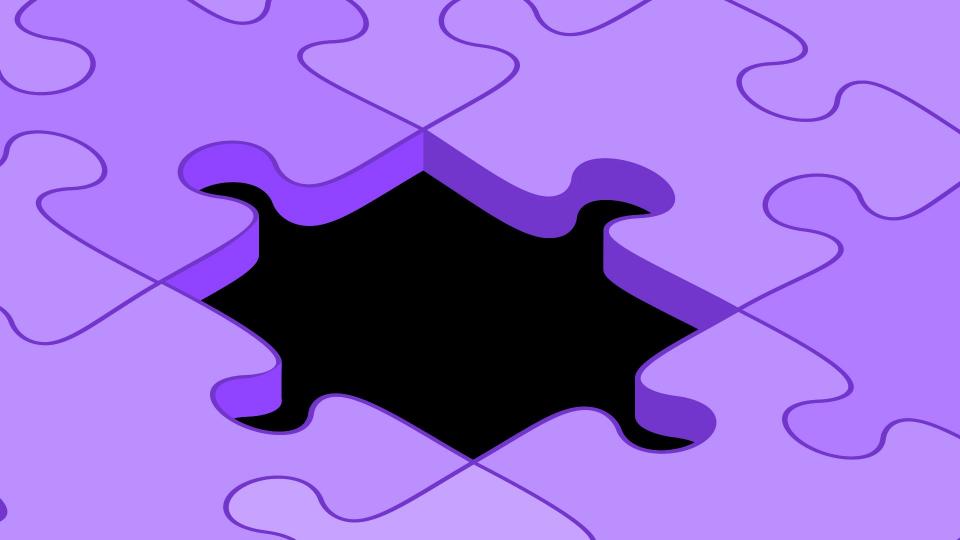
**Created debt** 



Inherited debt



**Created debt** 



#### Identifying management debt



# The true cost of management debt



#### Bankruptcy







# Solutions



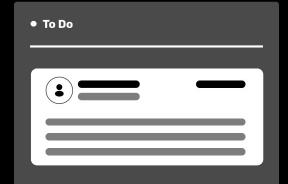
# Framework

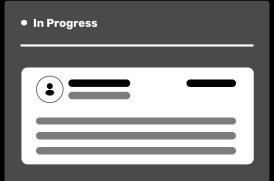
Managing existing debt

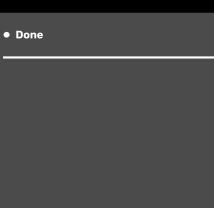
Creating new debt

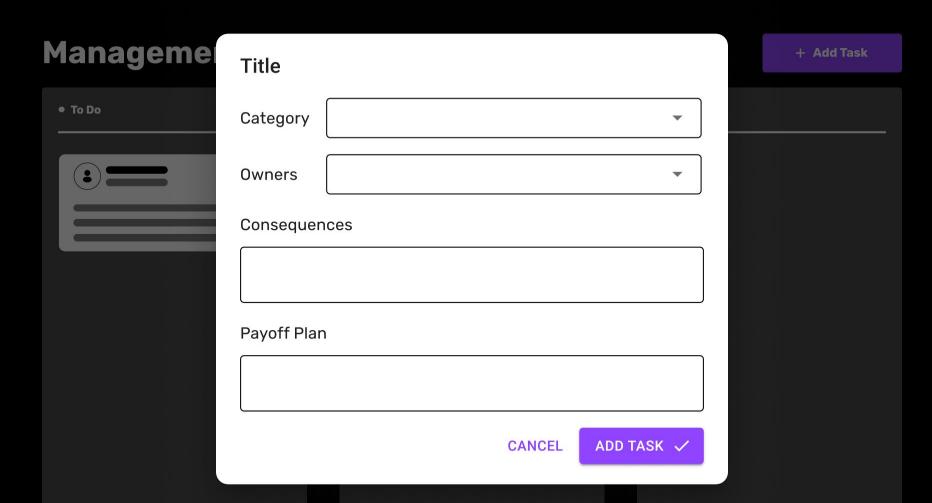
#### **Existing debt**

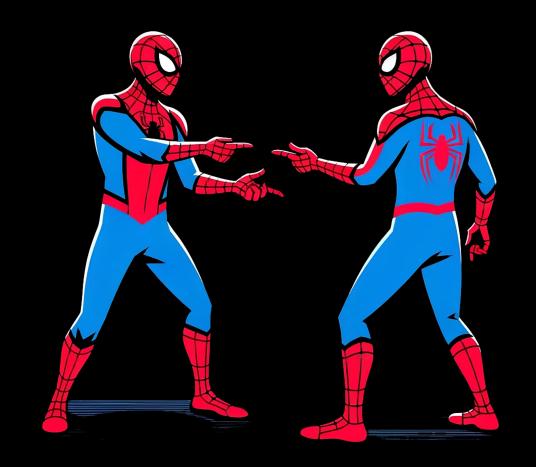
### Management debt backlog













#### Teams without clear ownership

Organizational Category **Owners** Daniel

Consequences

Overhead & inefficiencies

Payoff Plan

Clear ownership || assign new domain

CANCEL

ADD TASK 🗸







#### Limited BE background

Category Management

**Owners** 

Daniel, Naor

Consequences

Tech leadership gap

Payoff Plan

Technical training

CANCEL

ADD TASK 🗸



#### New debt

## **Decision making model**

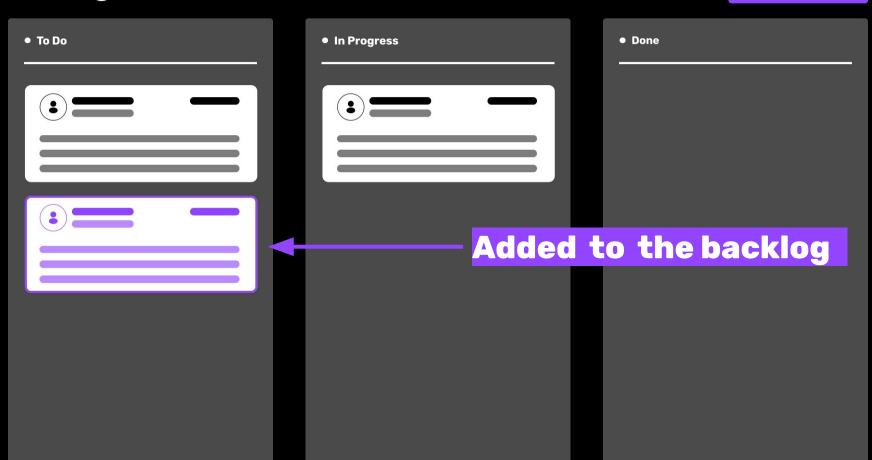


- 1. Why is this debt critical in the short-term?
- 2. What are the long-term consequences?
- 3. How do we plan to pay it off?
- 4. Who's responsible for managing this debt?

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Recruiting, alignment

#### What are the consequences?

Remote team challenges, tech risk

#### How to pay it off?

Boost communication, build bridges, tech leads support

#### Who's responsible?

Me and the group tech leadership forum

Recruiting, alignment

#### What are the consequences?

Remote team challenges, tech risk

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#### Who's responsible?

Me and the group tech leadership forum





Missing manager, impact on team and group

#### What are the consequences?

Atmosphere, growth and retention

#### How to pay it off?

Prioritize people and fix relationships

#### Who's responsible?

Me

Missing manager, impact on team and group

#### What are the consequences?

Atmosphere, growth and retention

#### How to pay it off?

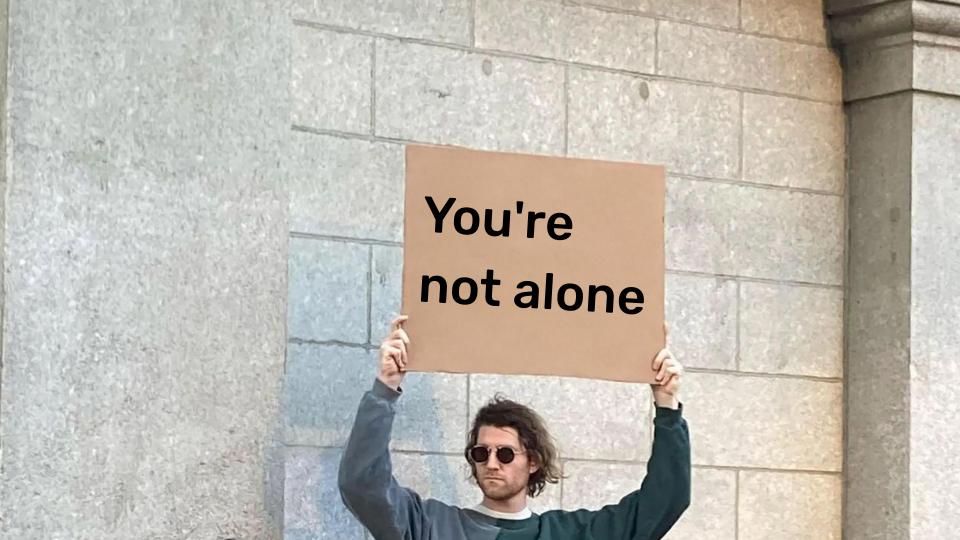
Prioritize people and fix relationships

#### Who's responsible?

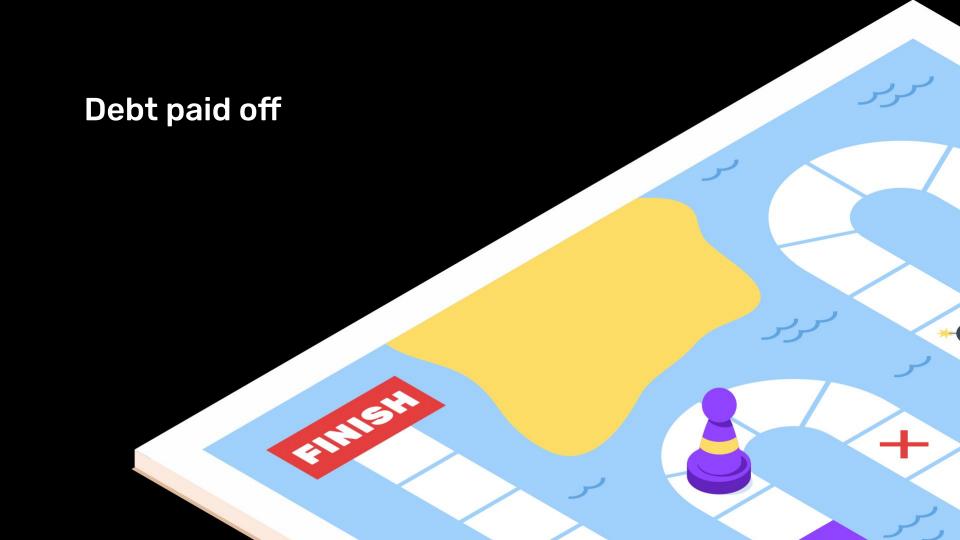
Me

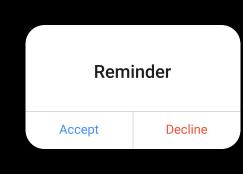


### **Grooming the backlog**









## Thank you!

Daniel Korn | X @korndaniel1



Engineering Managers IL

# Lemonade

Director of Engineering





Engineering Managers IL

# Lemonade

Senior Director of Engineering





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Senior Director of Engineering





Raise your hand





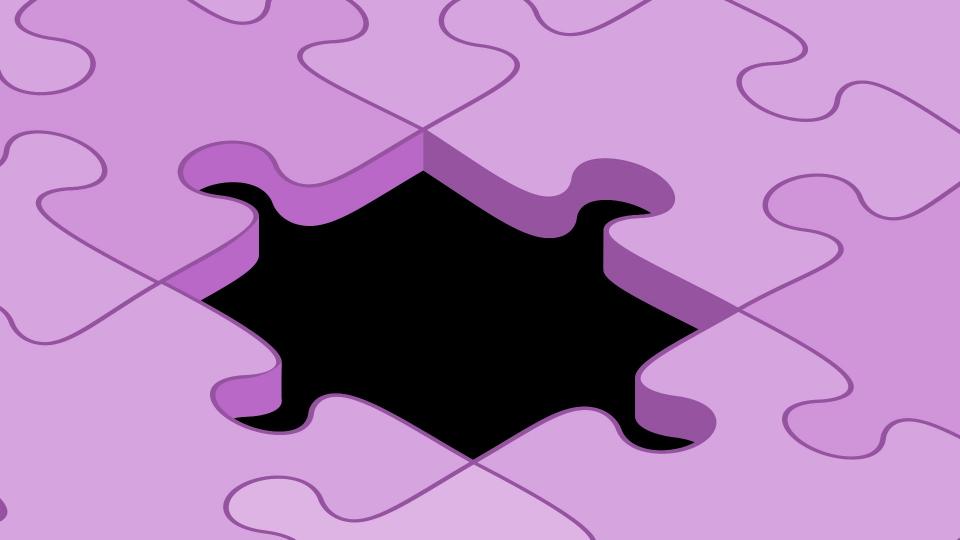














### Types of Management Debt



#### **Organizational**

- Compensation (pay)
- Titles
- Structure

### Types of Management Debt



#### Management practices & skills

- Technical leadership
- Delivery management
- People development

### **Types of Management Debt**



#### People

- Edit me
- Edit me
- Edit me

