

Better Code

Better code is better than perfect code because you can get better, but you will never be perfect.

Daniel A. Lewis



A LITTLE ABOUT ME

I've worked in many different settings.

As a solo developer I wrote a network management suite for a global tech services company.

A LITTLE ABOUT ME

I've worked in many different settings.

In a development team of two I've played the role of mentor and lead architect.

A LITTLE ABOUT ME

I've worked in many different settings.

I worked directly with a senior VP to solve a pretty major software licensing problem.

A LITTLE ABOUT ME

I've worked in many different settings.

As a member of a Scrum team I learned all about AGILE (or at least SCRUM)

A LITTLE ABOUT ME

I've worked in many different settings.

In a legacy codebase of 1M+ lines I found myself lost in the matrix (and learned VB and SQL)

A LITTLE ABOUT ME

I've worked in many different settings.

In a marketing department I found my-self
building pretty things.

A LITTLE ABOUT ME

I've worked in many different settings.

As a member of a small team I've learned how to be a better team member.

A LITTLE ABOUT ME

I've worked in many different settings.

I've worked on a project that is on its way to the Smithsonian.

A LITTLE ABOUT ME

I've worked in many different settings.

And just recently I had an app go viral and cleared 1M page views in two weeks.

A LITTLE ABOUT ME

I have a **BIG** ego

I've taken credit for things that others help to make happen.

A LITTLE ABOUT ME

I have a **BIG** ego

I've been resistant to change.

A LITTLE ABOUT ME

I have a **BIG** ego

I think I know more than other programmers on my team and in my company.

A LITTLE ABOUT ME

I have a **BIG** ego

I forget (or don't want) to ask for help.

A LITTLE ABOUT ME

I have a **BIG** ego

I think my way of doing things is the best way.

A LITTLE ABOUT ME

I have a **BIG** ego

I like to rewrite other peoples code (even if when I'm done it does the same thing).

A LITTLE ABOUT ME

In hind-sight I've found

I've written some really bad code.

A LITTLE ABOUT ME

In hind-sight I've found

Others are pretty smart and have some amazing knowledge.

A LITTLE ABOUT ME

In hind-sight I've found

I like asking for help and learning from others.

A LITTLE ABOUT ME

In hind-sight I've found

My team suffers when I silo myself off.

A LITTLE ABOUT ME

I'm a **FAILURE!**

I've been too proud to admit I was failing.

A LITTLE ABOUT ME

I'm a **FAILURE!**

I've seen things that should change and not done anything about them.

A LITTLE ABOUT ME

I'm a **FAILURE!**

I've hacked things together just to make it work.

A LITTLE ABOUT ME

I'm a **FAILURE!**

I've blamed others on my team for my own failures.

A LITTLE ABOUT ME

I'm a **FAILURE!**

I've shipped bad code.

A LITTLE ABOUT ME

I'm a FAILURE!

AND YOU WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH?



SO ARE YOU!

SO WE HAVE TO ASK OUR SELVES....

How do we get better?

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

We need to be more humble.

Assume we're flawed and will write bad code.

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

We need to be more humble.

Seek more knowledge and understanding.

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

We need to be more humble.

Ask others for help.

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

We need to be more humble.

Give credit to others.

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

We need to be more humble.

Give back to the community.

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

We need to be more humble.

Do everything we can to get better.

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

How do **athletes** get better?

Training

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

How do **athletes** get better?

Conditioning

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

How do **athletes** get better?

Practice

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

How do **athletes** get better?

Proper diet

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

How do **athletes** get better?

Learning from their teammates and coaches

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

How do **athletes** get better?

Try and Fail over and over

"I've missed more than 9000 shots in my career.
I've lost almost 300 games.
26 times, I've been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed.
I've failed over and over and over again in my life.
And that is why I succeed."

Michael Jordan

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

How do **students** get smarter?

Daily instruction

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

How do **students** get smarter?

Homework

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

How do **students** get smarter?

Studying and Reading

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

How do **students** get smarter?

Quizzes, Tests, and Reports.

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

How do **students** get smarter?

Peer study groups

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

How do **students** get smarter?

Get things wrong and find the answers.

“You Don't Know What You Don't Know.”
Dunning–Kruger effect

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

How do **teams** learn to function as a team?

Talk to each other

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

How do **teams** learn to function as a team?

Use the same playbook

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

How do **teams** learn to function as a team?

Have a common goal

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

How do **teams** learn to function as a team?

Work together daily

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

How do **teams** learn to function as a team?

Learn each team members abilities

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

How do **teams** learn to function as a team?

Evaluate their successes and failures

"I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work."
Thomas A. Edison

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

As an **individual** how can you improve?

Work on different projects

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

As an **individual** how can you improve?

Work in different languages

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

As an **individual** how can you improve?

Read other peoples code

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

As an **individual** how can you improve?

Contribute to Open Source Projects

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

As an **individual** how can you improve?

Have other people read your code

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

As an **individual** how can you improve?

Try not to use the same approach over and over

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

As an **individual** how can you improve?

Try something hard

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

As an **individual** how can you improve?

Be willing to fail – and admit it

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

As an **individual** how can you improve?

Talk to other developers

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

As an **individual** how can you improve?

Learn design patterns

- Factory Pattern
- Repository Pattern
- Prototype Pattern
- Singleton Pattern
- Inversion Of Control
- etc...

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

As an **individual** how can you improve?

Learn best practices

- Proper Naming Conventions
- Single Responsibility principle
- KISS
- Portability
- Unit Testing
- Readability
- etc...

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

As an **individual** how can you improve?

Learn Anti Patterns

- Gold plating
- Stovepipe system
- Big ball of mud
- Circular dependency
- God object
- Cargo cult programming
- etc...

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

As a **team** how can we improve?

Communication between team members

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

As a **team** how can we improve?

Shared Coding Standards

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

As a **team** how can we improve?

Collaboration on projects

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

As a **team** how can we improve?

Pair Programming

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

As a **team** how can we improve?

Shared Ownership of Code

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

As a **team** how can we improve?

Code Reviews

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

As a **team** how can we improve?

Team Presentations

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

As a **team** how can we improve?

Team learning activities

HOW DO WE GET BETTER?

As a **team** how can we improve?

No Individual Metrics

FINAL THOUGHTS

How should **YOU** handle failure?

I hate to fail!

FINAL THOUGHTS

How should **YOU** handle failure?

Small failures don't hurt as much (but you don't learn as much)

FINAL THOUGHTS

How should **YOU** handle failure?

Big failures can and will crush you

FINAL THOUGHTS

How should **YOU** handle failure?

Don't crawl in a hole and give up.

FINAL THOUGHTS

How should **YOU** handle failure?

Figure out why it happened.

FINAL THOUGHTS

How should **YOU** handle failure?

Identify what **YOU** could have done differently

FINAL THOUGHTS

How should **YOU** handle failure?

Identify what your team could have done differently

FINAL THOUGHTS

How should **YOU** handle failure?

Find others who have had similar failures

FINAL THOUGHTS

How should **YOU** handle failure?

Find other who have succeeded in doing what
you were unable to do

FINAL THOUGHTS

How should **YOU** handle failure?

After you understand the failure completely
take action.

FINAL THOUGHTS

How should **YOU** handle failure?

Move forward and try something else

FINAL THOUGHTS

How should **YOU** handle failure?

Try not to make the same mistakes more than twice.

FINAL THOUGHTS

How should **YOU** handle failure?

And if all else fails.....

FINAL THOUGHTS

How should you handle failure?

Browse the internet for pictures of kittens



Do something today to make yourself better tomorrow!