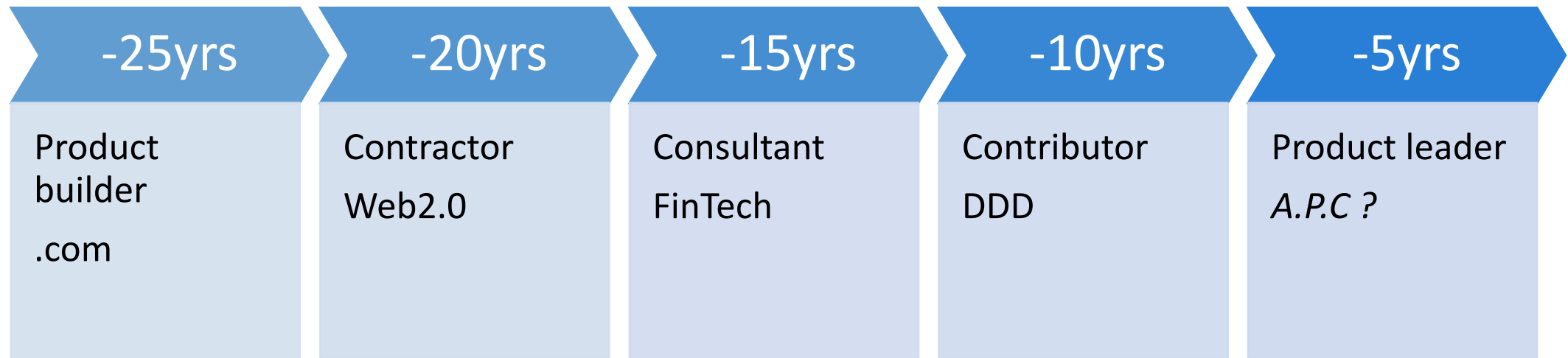


A grayscale illustration of a mountain landscape. In the foreground, a winding river flows through a valley. The middle ground features steep, rocky mountainsides with several evergreen trees. In the background, more mountain peaks are visible under a cloudy sky. A solid blue horizontal bar is positioned at the bottom of the image.

Layers of Leadership Tension

Lee Campbell



LeeCampbell.com

Leadership
Challenges

Start Up
Challenges

Direction

Teamwork
Challenges

Maps and
Measures

Org
Challenges

Driver Trees

Paths and
Practice

Coordinated
Strategy

Part 1

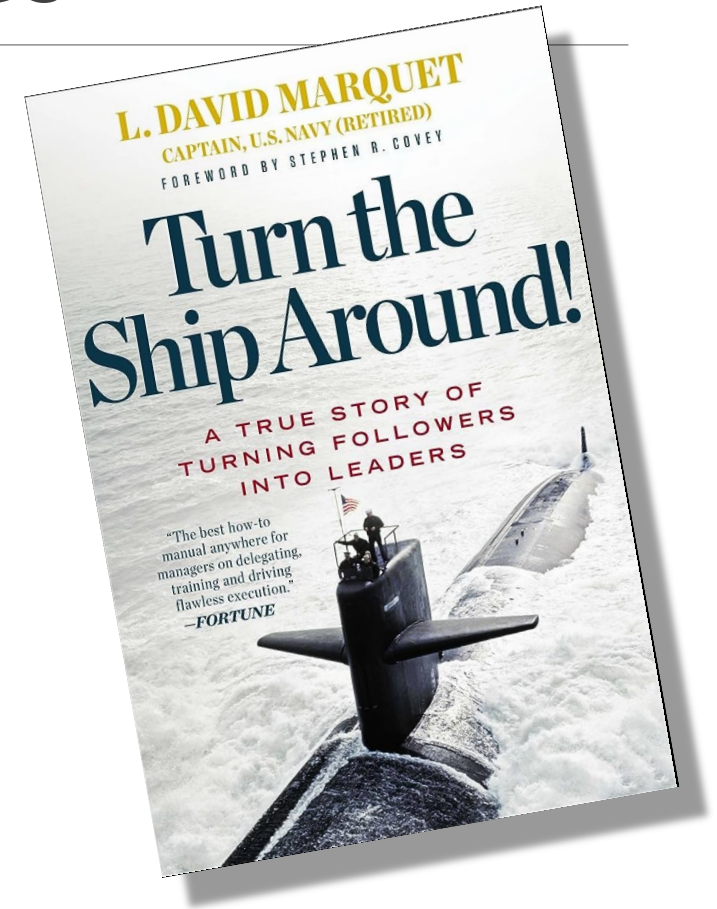
Leadership Challenges

Product Leadership Challenges

- Working on different things
- Working different ways
- Variation in skills
- Compensating behaviours

Product Leadership Challenges

- Working on different things
- Working different ways
- Variation in skills
- Compensating behaviours
- **Control without competency is Chaos**



Team Leader Concerns

- People
- Delivery
- Operations

Team Leader Concerns

- People
- Delivery
- Operations
- *Revenue capability*
- *Revenue potential*
- *Revenue actualization*

Team Success

ISSUES

- Being trusted
- Being valued
- Being aligned

Team Success

ISSUES

- Being trusted
- Being valued
- Being aligned

ACTIONS

- *Build it right, run it right*
- *Right thing, right time*
- *Right people, right place*

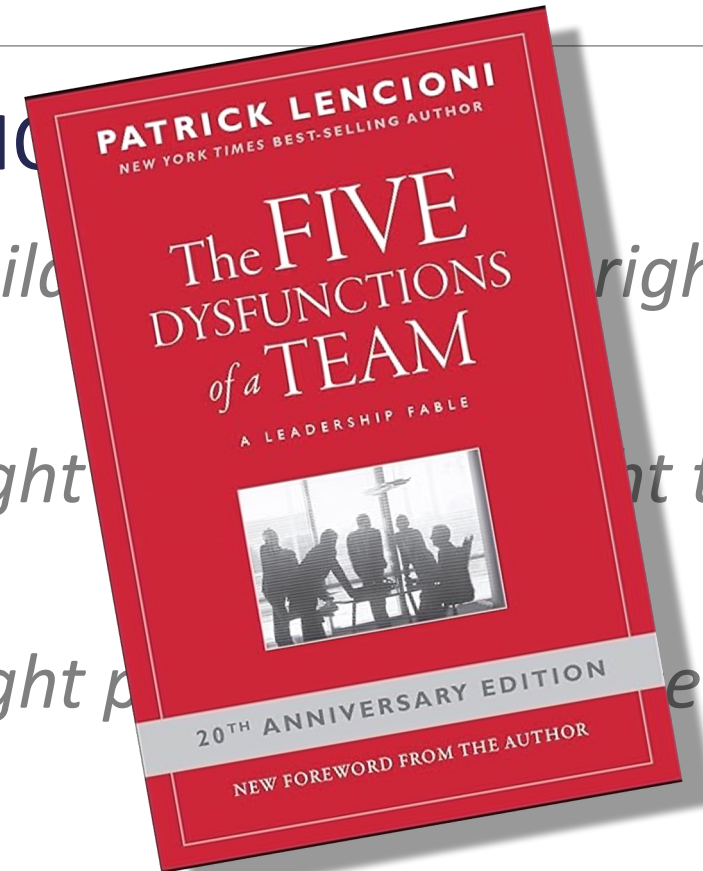
Team Success

ISSUES

- Being trusted
- Being valued
- Being aligned

ACTIONS

- Build trust
- Right people
- Right process
- Right time
- Right place



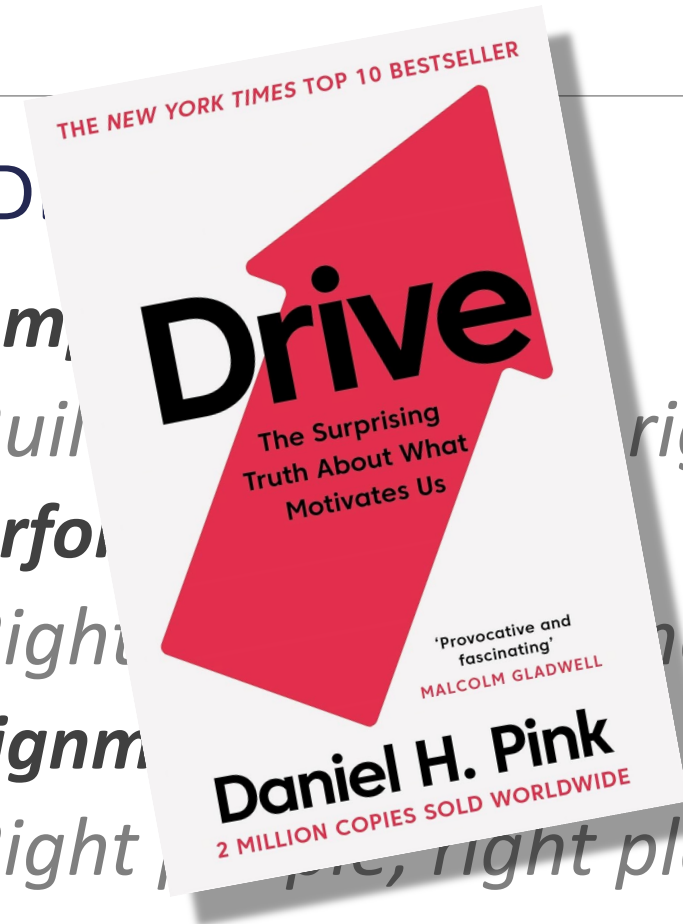
Team Success

PEOPLE'S ISSUES

- Being trusted
- Being valued
- Being aligned

LEADERSHIP

- **Comp**
 - **Build**
 - **Perfor**
 - **Right**
 - **Alignm**
 - **Right**
- right*
ne
me, right place



Team Success

PEOPLE'S ISSUES

- Being trusted
- Being valued
- Being aligned

LEADERS' ISSUES

- **Competency**
 - *Build it right, run it right*
- **Performance**
 - *Right thing, right time*
- **Alignment**
 - *Right people, right place*

Competency

Performance

Alignment

~~Leadership
Challenges~~

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Challenges

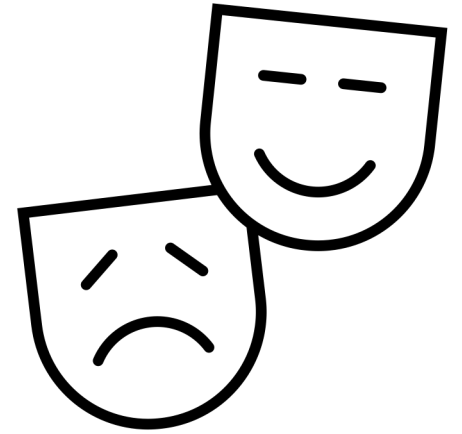
Driver Trees

Paths and
Practice

Coordinated
Strategy

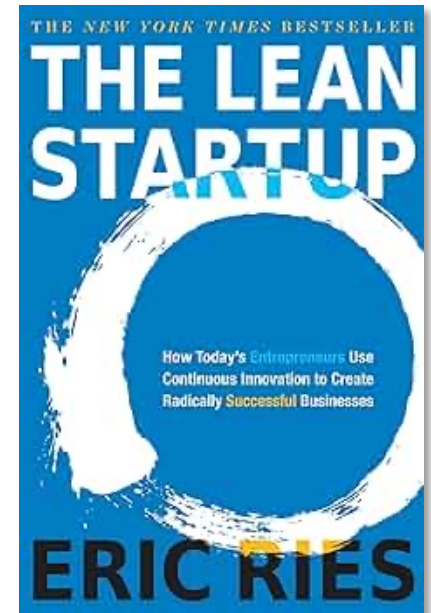
Part 2

Start-up challenges



Start-up drama

- Hire good people, get out their way
- Optimize for adaptability
- Validated Learning



Start-up drama

- Inconsistent
- Unpredictable
- Fragile

Start-up Drama - Tension

- Fast
- Reckless
- Autonomy
- Divergent
- Team
- Mobbing/Burn out
- Top talent
- Workforce volatility

Finding a way

-  Direction
-  Map
-  Path



~~Leadership
Challenges~~

~~Start Up
Challenges~~

Direction

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Challenges

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Measures

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Challenges

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Practice

Coordinated
Strategy

Direction



Direction – Reference Example



Sid Palas ✓ @sidpalas · Mar 10

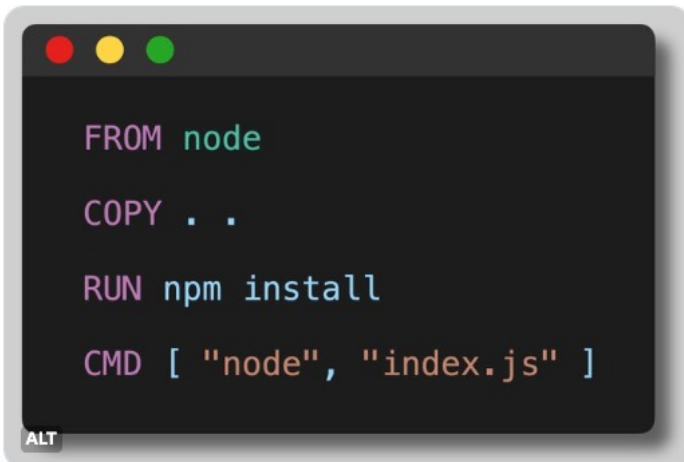
This is a valid Dockerfile for a NodeJS application. It is also a pile of 🍷!

We can improve:

- 🗝 Security
- 🚀 Build speed
- 👁 Clarity

Follow along as we go from 🍷 to 🍷!

(code in alt text)



💬 215

↻ 1,708

❤ 8,513

📊 869.6K



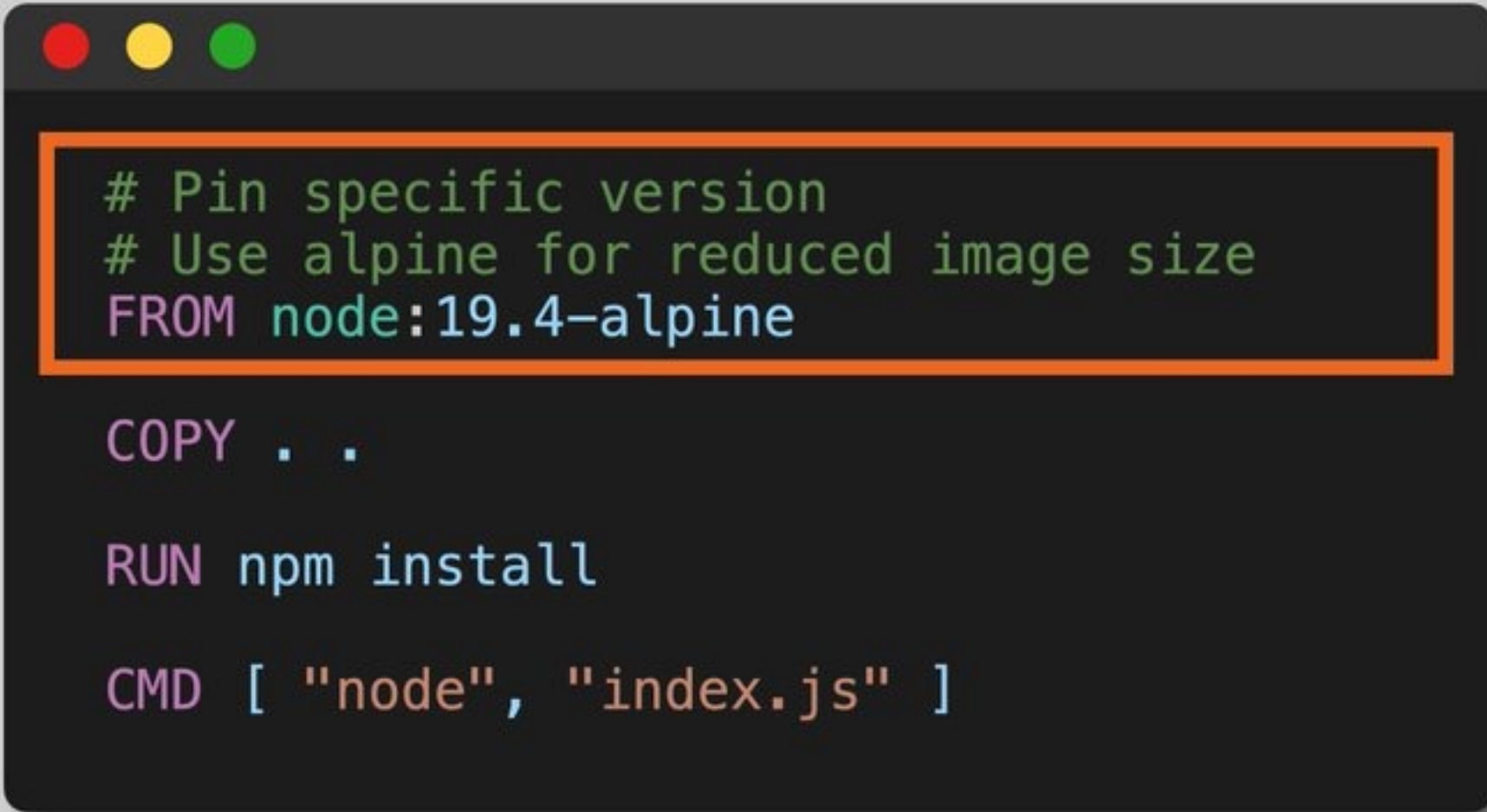


```
FROM node
```

```
COPY . .
```

```
RUN npm install
```

```
CMD [ "node", "index.js" ]
```

```
# Pin specific version  
# Use alpine for reduced image size  
FROM node:19.4-alpine
```

```
COPY . .
```

```
RUN npm install
```

```
CMD [ "node", "index.js" ]
```




```
# Pin specific version
# Use alpine for reduced image size
FROM node:19.4-alpine
```

```
# Specify working directory other than /
WORKDIR /usr/src/app
```

```
COPY . .
```

```
RUN npm install
```

```
CMD [ "node", "index.js" ]
```



```
# Pin specific version for stability
# Use alpine for reduced image size
FROM node:19.4-alpine
```

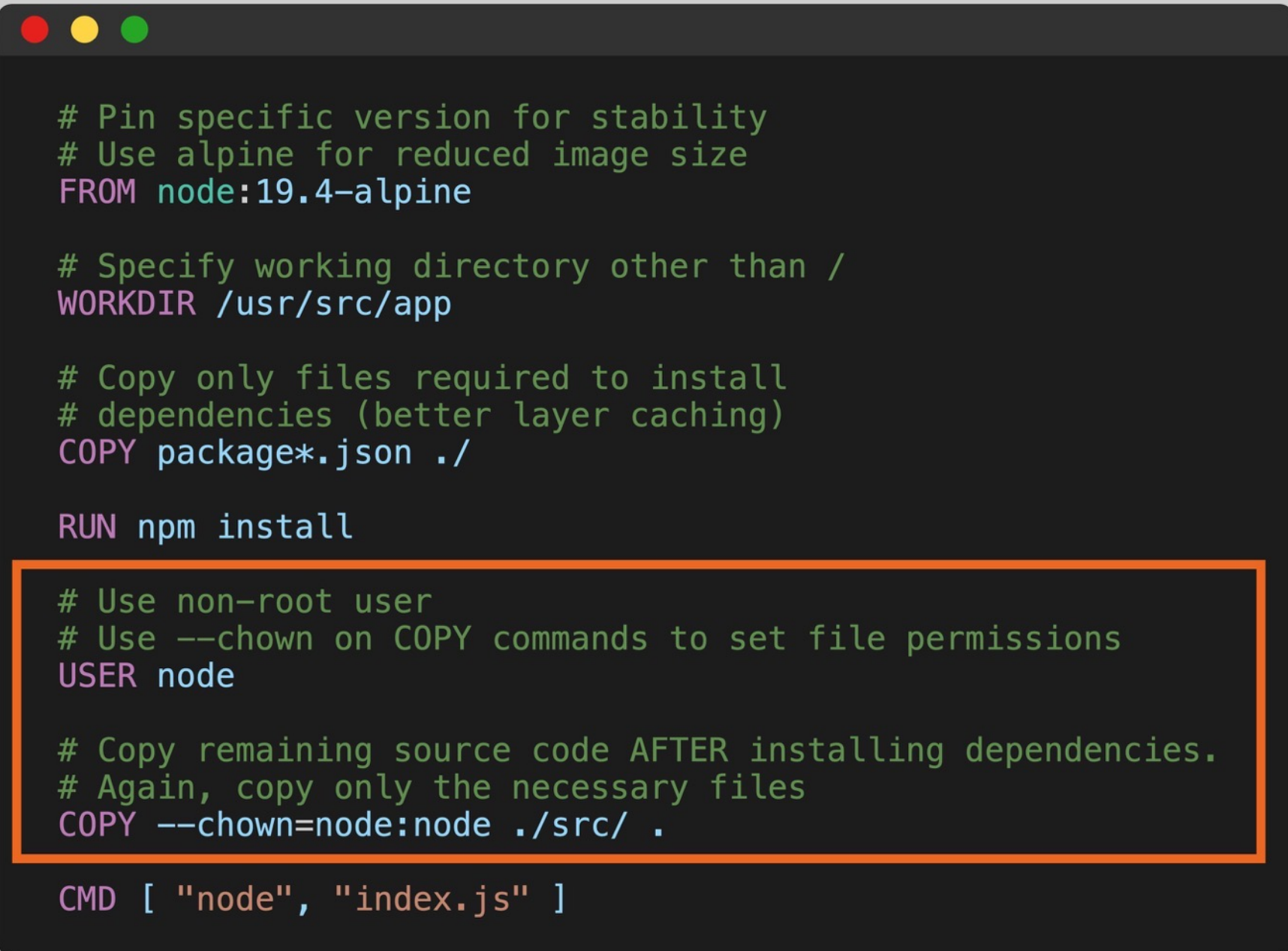
```
# Specify working directory other than /
WORKDIR /usr/src/app
```

```
# Copy only files required to install
# dependencies (better layer caching)
COPY package*.json ./
```

```
RUN npm install
```

```
# Copy remaining source code AFTER installing dependencies.
# Again, copy only the necessary files
COPY ./src/ .
```

```
CMD [ "node", "index.js" ]
```



```
# Pin specific version for stability
# Use alpine for reduced image size
FROM node:19.4-alpine

# Specify working directory other than /
WORKDIR /usr/src/app

# Copy only files required to install
# dependencies (better layer caching)
COPY package*.json ./

RUN npm install
```

```
# Use non-root user
# Use --chown on COPY commands to set file permissions
USER node

# Copy remaining source code AFTER installing dependencies.
# Again, copy only the necessary files
COPY --chown=node:node ./src/ .
```

```
CMD [ "node", "index.js" ]
```

```
# Pin specific version for stability
# Use alpine for reduced image size
FROM node:19.4-alpine

# Set NODE_ENV
ENV NODE_ENV production

# Specify working directory other than /
WORKDIR /usr/src/app

# Copy only files required to install
# dependencies (better layer caching)
COPY package*.json ./

# Only install production dependencies
RUN npm ci --only=production

# Use non-root user
# Use --chown on COPY commands to set file permissions
USER node

# Copy remaining source code AFTER installing dependencies.
# Again, copy only the necessary files
COPY --chown=node:node ./src/ .

CMD [ "node", "index.js" ]
```



```
# Pin specific version for stability
# Use alpine for reduced image size
FROM node:19.4-alpine

# Set NODE_ENV
ENV NODE_ENV production

# Specify working directory other than /
WORKDIR /usr/src/app

# Copy only files required to install
# dependencies (better layer caching)
COPY package*.json ./

# Install only production dependencies
RUN npm ci --only=production

# Use non-root user
# Use --chown on COPY commands to set file permissions
USER node

# Copy remaining source code AFTER installing dependencies.
# Again, copy only the necessary files
COPY --chown=node:node ./src/ .

# Indicate expected port
EXPOSE 3000

CMD [ "node", "index.js" ]
```

@SIDPALAS

```
# Pin specific version for stability
# Use alpine for reduced image size
FROM node:19.4-alpine

# Set NODE_ENV
ENV NODE_ENV production

# Specify working directory other than /
WORKDIR /usr/src/app

# Copy only files required to install
# dependencies (better layer caching)
COPY package*.json ./

# Install only production dependencies
# Use cache mount to speed up install of existing dependencies
RUN --mount=type=cache,target=/usr/src/app/.npm \
    npm set cache /usr/src/app/.npm && \
    npm ci --only=production

# Use non-root user
# Use --chown on COPY commands to set file permissions
USER node

# Copy remaining source code AFTER installing dependencies.
# Again, copy only the necessary files
COPY --chown=node:node ./src/ .

# Indicate expected port
EXPOSE 3000

CMD [ "node", "index.js" ]
```

@SIDPALAS

```
# Pin specific version for stability
```

```
FROM node:19.6-alpine AS base
```

```
# Specify working directory other than /  
WORKDIR /usr/src/app
```

```
# Copy only files required to install  
# dependencies (better layer caching)  
COPY package*.json ./
```

```
FROM base as dev
```

```
RUN --mount=type=cache,target=/usr/src/app/.npm \  
    npm set cache /usr/src/app/.npm && \  
    npm install
```

```
COPY . .
```

```
CMD ["npm", "run", "dev"]
```

```
FROM base as production
```

```
# Set NODE_ENV  
ENV NODE_ENV production
```

```
# Install only production dependencies  
# Use cache mount to speed up install of existing dependencies  
RUN --mount=type=cache,target=/usr/src/app/.npm \  
    npm set cache /usr/src/app/.npm && \  
    npm ci --only=production
```

```
# Use non-root user  
# Use --chown on COPY commands to set file permissions  
USER node
```

```
# Copy remaining source code AFTER installing dependencies.  
# Again, copy only the necessary files  
COPY --chown=node:node ./src/ .
```

```
# Indicate expected port  
EXPOSE 3000
```

```
CMD [ "node", "index.js" ]
```

Search: “sidpalas dockerfile”

@SIDPALAS


```
# Pin specific version for stability
```

```
FROM node:19.6-alpine AS base
```

```
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```

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CMD ["npm", "run", "dev"]
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EXPOSE 3000
```

```
CMD [ "node", "index.js" ]
```



Search: “sidpalas dockerfile”

@SIDPALAS

Direction – Performance Expectations

- Same quality, but different speeds
- → overload the stars
- → can't make plans

Direction – Performance Expectations

- Provide a reference of what good looks like
- Set time expectations to perform

Direction – Business Outcomes

Not Business Outcomes:

- “Deploy Kubernetes cluster”
- “Update WebAPI”
- “Partition topic”

Direction – Business Outcomes

Estimation:

- Are we estimating on the same thing?
- Who designed the “thing”?
- Why is ~~effort~~ time the only negotiable

Direction – Business Outcomes

Estimation:

- Assumes the solution
- Negotiates on the wrong thing
- Spends cognitive energy on the wrong thing

Direction – Business Outcomes

Business outcomes:

- Reduce closures from failed checks
- ...

Direction – Business Outcomes

Business outcomes:

- Reduce closures from failed checks
 - by notifying sales of accounts under credit check
- Increase C2L
 - by reducing page load times
- Increase registration rate
 - by reducing user interaction count



Direction

PRINCIPLE

- Competency (What)
- Performance (How)
- Alignment (Why)

IMPLEMENTATION

- Reference Example
- Performance Expectations
- Outcome focused

~~Leadership
Challenges~~

~~Start Up
Challenges~~

Direction

Teamwork
Challenges

Maps and
Measures

Org
Challenges

Driver Trees

Paths and
Practice

Coordinated
Strategy



Part 3

Teamwork Challenges

Teamwork Challenges – People

- Who does what and when?
- Where can I innovate?
- How do I grow and get promoted?

Teamwork Challenges - Systems

- What should this system do?
- Scrappy not Crappy?
- Gold plating?
- Is Tech Debt bad?

Leadership
Challenges

Start Up
Challenges

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Maps and Measures

1. Roles and Responsibilities
2. Quality of Service
3. Measurable outcomes



Maps - Roles & Responsibilities

- Who is accountable for missed deadlines and outages
- What are your steps for promotion
- How do you ensure constant business delivery

Maps - Roles & Responsibilities

- Define skill sets
- For each role, define
 - Expected competency
 - Organizational scope it applies to
- Create a Competency Matrix

Maps - Roles & Responsibilities

	Title 1	Title 2	Title n
Plan it			
Build it			
Ship it			
Run it			

Maps - Roles & Responsibilities

	Junior	Senior	Principal
Plan it	Attends planning	Plans a team's project	Guide multiple Seniors
	Can identify business goals	Aligns plans to business goals	Ensures team's plans are aligned
Build it	Contributes to development	Accountable for development for team	Defines development practices across teams
	Can identify Tech Debt	Documents tech debt	Approves tech debt
Ship it	Deploys code	Releases features	Defines Release process
	Keeps build green	Keeps builds fast	Coaches CI/CD
Run it	Can identify the team SLOs	Ensures team SLOs are measured	Defines SLOs for multiple teams
	Attends Incident Response training	First responder for team	Incident Commander for multiple teams

Maps - Roles & Responsibilities

	Junior	Senior	Principal
Plan it	Attends planning	Plans a team's project	Guide multiple Seniors
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Maps - Roles & Responsibilities

		Junior	Senior	Principal
Plan it				
Build it				
Ship it				
Run it				

Maps - Roles & Responsibilities

Search: "Circle CI Competency Matrix"

Search: "SFIA" or "CMM"

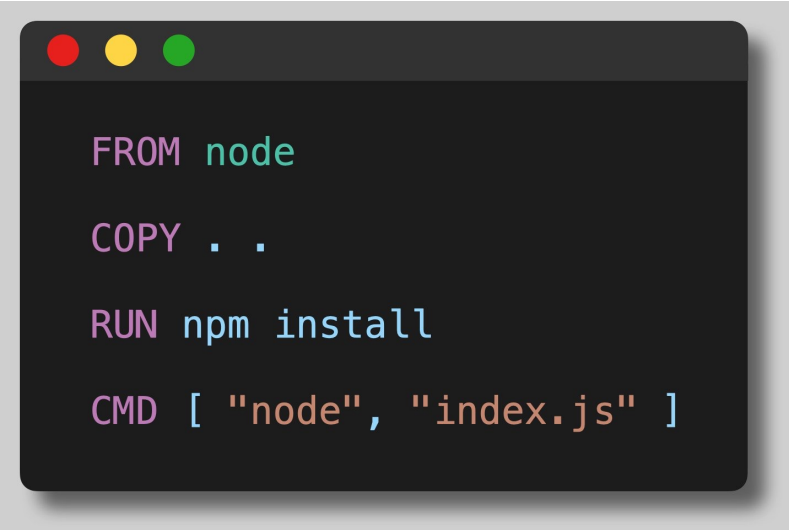
CircleCI Engineering Competency Matrix [public version]						
File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Extensions Help						
Search Menus 100% View only						
	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	License: This document is licensed under	Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0)				
2	Key area (5)	Attribute / value (15)	Theme (27) (Competency)	Competency		
3	Engineering Competency Matrix Guidelines & FAQ			E1	E2	E3
4	Title			Associate Engineer	Engineer	Senior Engineer
5	Focus				execution of work	
6	scaling of competencies			within task	within epic	within team
7	Technical skills	Writing code		Writes code with testability, readability, edge cases, and errors in mind.	Consistently writes functions that are easily testable, easily understood by other developers, and accounts for edge cases and errors. Uses docstrings effectively.	Consistently writes production-ready code that is easily testable, easily understood by other developers, and accounts for edge cases and errors. Understands when it is appropriate to leave comments, but biases towards self-documenting code.
8			Testing	Knows the testing pyramid. Writes unit tests, sometimes with help from more senior engineers.	Understands the testing pyramid, writes unit tests in accordance with it, as well as higher level tests with help from more senior engineers. Always tests expected edge cases and errors as well as the happy path.	Understands their team's testing approach, and uses quality metrics to identify gaps. Works with their team to recommend solutions that are in accordance with accepted testing frameworks and the testing pyramid.
9		Debugging & observability	Debugging	Understands the basics of debugging and the tools used for it.	Uses a systematic approach to debug issues located within a single service.	Proficient at using systematic debugging to diagnose all issues located to a single service. Uses systematic debugging to diagnose cross service issues, sometimes with help from more senior engineers.
10			Observability	n/a (not applicable at this level)	Is aware of the organization's monitoring philosophy and the operational data for their team's domain.	Is aware of the organization's monitoring philosophy. Helps tune and change the monitoring on their team accordingly. Is aware of the operational data for their team's domain and uses it as a basis for suggesting stability and performance improvements.
11		Understanding Code		Is able to gain context within team's domain with help from more senior engineers.	Understands a portion of the team's domain, can gain sufficient context to work productively in that portion.	Understands their team's domain at a high level and can gather sufficient context to work productively within it. Has expertise in a portion of their team's domain.
12	Software design & architecture	Software Architecture		Is aware of overall service architecture. Designs basic functions with an awareness of overall service architecture, avoiding duplication across codebases	Designs functions that are aligned with the overall service architecture.	Consistently designs code that is aligned with the overall service architecture. Utilizes abstractions and code isolation effectively.
13						Architects services and systems using well accepted design patterns to allow for iterative, autonomous development and future scaling.

Maps - System Maturity

- What is expected of my system?
- Should I be doing
 - Chaos Engineering or Reactive Programming?
 - Distributed Tracing or Security Patches?
 - Disaster Recover Planning or Data Mesh?

Maps - System Maturity

1. *[Step 1]*
2. *[Step 2]*
3. Provide a reference of what good looks like



```
FROM node  
COPY . .  
RUN npm install  
CMD [ "node", "index.js" ]
```

A terminal window with a dark background and light-colored text. The window has three colored circles (red, yellow, green) in the top-left corner. The text inside the window is a Dockerfile snippet with four lines: 'FROM node', 'COPY . .', 'RUN npm install', and 'CMD ["node", "index.js"]'. The text is color-coded: 'FROM' is pink, 'node' is green, 'COPY' is pink, '.' is light blue, 'RUN' is pink, 'npm' is light blue, 'install' is light blue, 'CMD' is pink, '[' is light blue, '"' is orange, 'node' is orange, ',' is orange, 'index.js' is orange, and ']' is light blue.

Maps - System Maturity

1. Define your technology choices
2. Limit your technology choices
3. Provide a reference of what good looks like

Maps - System Maturity

- Define your technology choices
- Limit your technology choices
- Provide a reference of what good looks like



Maps - System Maturity

	1-Adhoc	2-Consistent	3-Systematized	4-Strategic
Plan it				
Build it				
Ship it				
Run it				

Maps - System Maturity

	1-Adhoc	2-Consistent	3-Systematized	4-Strategic
Plan it	Work is communicated	Work is planned	Work is prioritized	Priorities align with other teams
	System workload is known	Planned workloads	Workloads are cataloged	Workloads are elastic
Build it	Documented coding standards	Reference Example	Coding standards enforced	ADRs
	Trunk Based	Pinned versions	SemVer Releases	Automated Release
Ship it	Releases are communicated	Releases are gated by independent QC	Rollback/forward is planned	Rollback is automated
	Infra documented	Infra is tagged	Infra as Code	Policy as Code
Run it	Logging	Traces & Metrics	SLIs and SLOs	Error Budgets
	On call policy	On call roster	Incident Response	DR trained

Maps - Measurable Outcomes

Business outcomes:

- Reduce closures from failed checks **from 10 to 2 per month**
- ...

Maps - Measurable Outcomes

Business outcomes:

- Reduce closures from failed checks **from 10 to 2 per month**
 - by notifying sales of accounts under credit check **within 5min**
- Increase C2L **from 50% to 80%**
 - by reducing page load times **to under 2s**
- Increase registration rate **from 10% to 20%**
 - by reducing user interaction count **from 18 to <10**



Maps and Measures

PRINCIPLE

- Competency (What)
- Performance (How)
- Alignment (Why)

IMPLEMENTATION

- Competency Matrix
- Maturity Models
- Measurable outcomes

~~Leadership
Challenges~~

~~Start Up
Challenges~~

Direction

~~Teamwork
Challenges~~

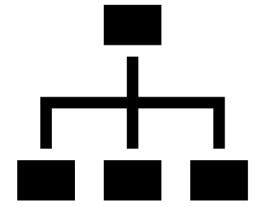
~~Maps and
Measures~~

Org
Challenges

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Strategy



Part 3

Organizational Challenges

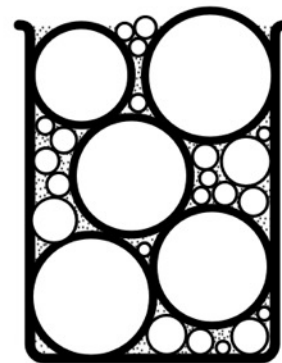
Organizational Challenges

- Big projects never get prioritized
- No time for “Weeding and Feeding”
- Performance expectations are hard to meet

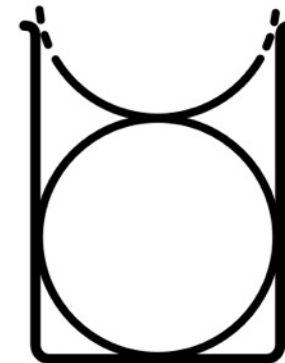
Organizational Challenges

Strategic Failure

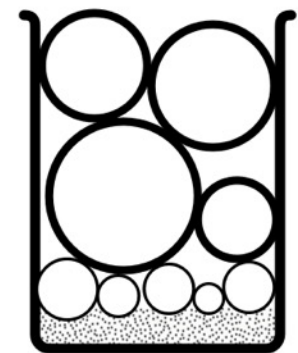
- KPIs, OKRs and “Rocks”
 - Solution in the outcome
 - Disconnection between work and goal
 - Metrics you can’t directly affect



theory



reality



practice

Organizational Challenges

Strategic Failure

- **Solution is the outcome**
 - “Move to the cloud”
 - “Implement [Technology] by End of Year”
 - “Adopt [Process]”

Organizational Challenges

Strategic Failure

- **Disconnect between work and goal**
 - Goal is “Reduce Cost-Per-Install”
 - Work is “Adopt Material design”
- Goal is “Move to cloud”
- Work is “Upgrade database”

Organizational Challenges

Strategic Failure

- **Metrics you can't directly affect**
 - CPA (Cost per Acquisition) / CPI (Cost per Install)
 - ROAS (Return on Ad Spend)
 - Customer Retention Rate

~~Leadership
Challenges~~

~~Start Up
Challenges~~

Direction

~~Teamwork
Challenges~~

~~Maps and
Measures~~

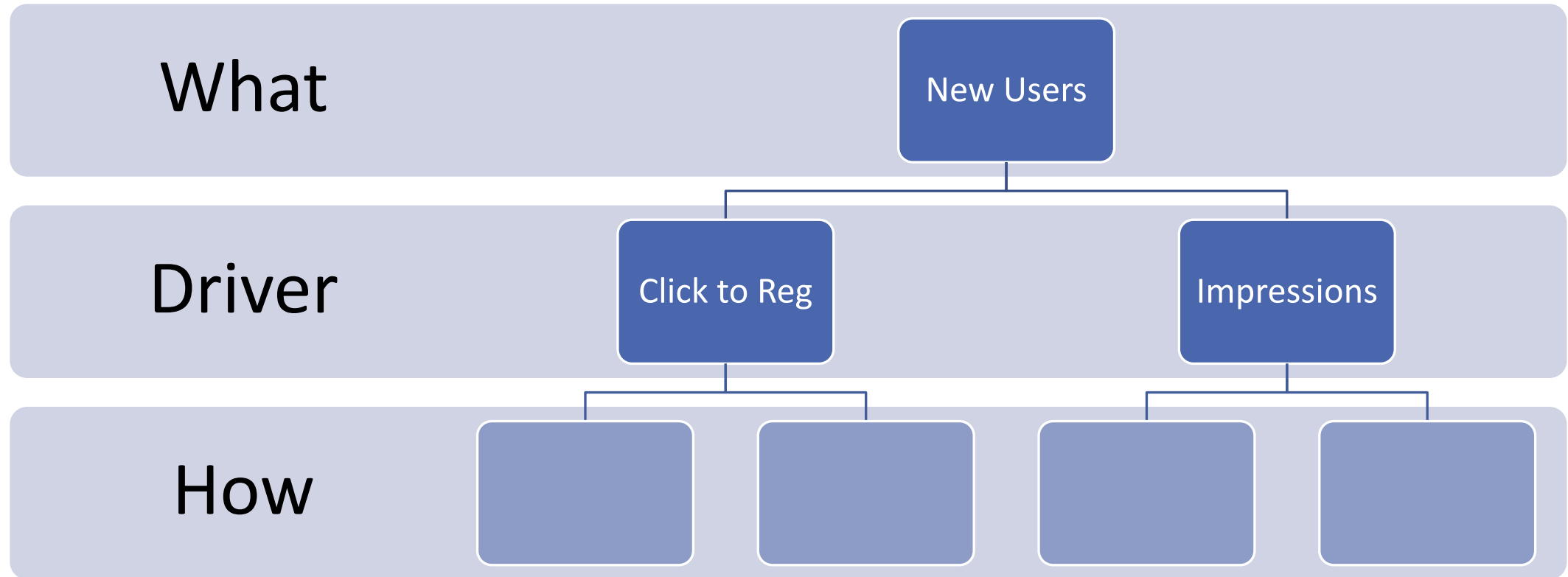
~~Org
Challenges~~

Driver Trees

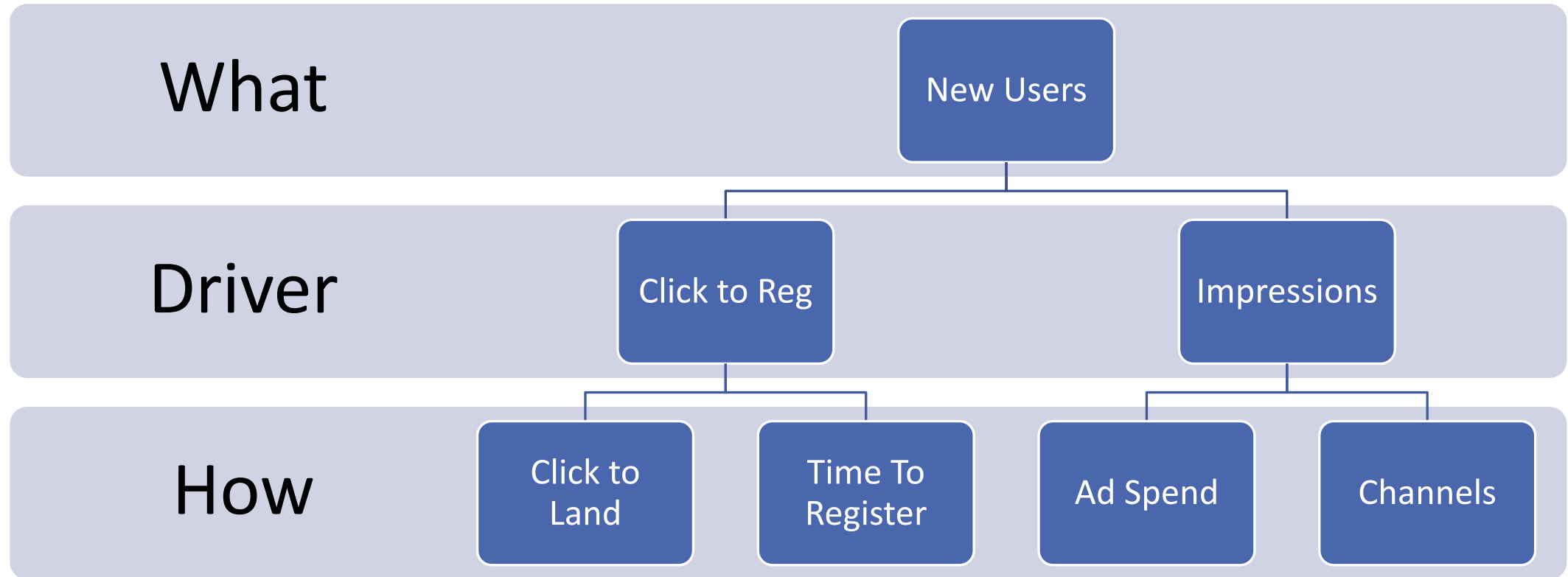
Paths and
Practice

Coordinated
Strategy

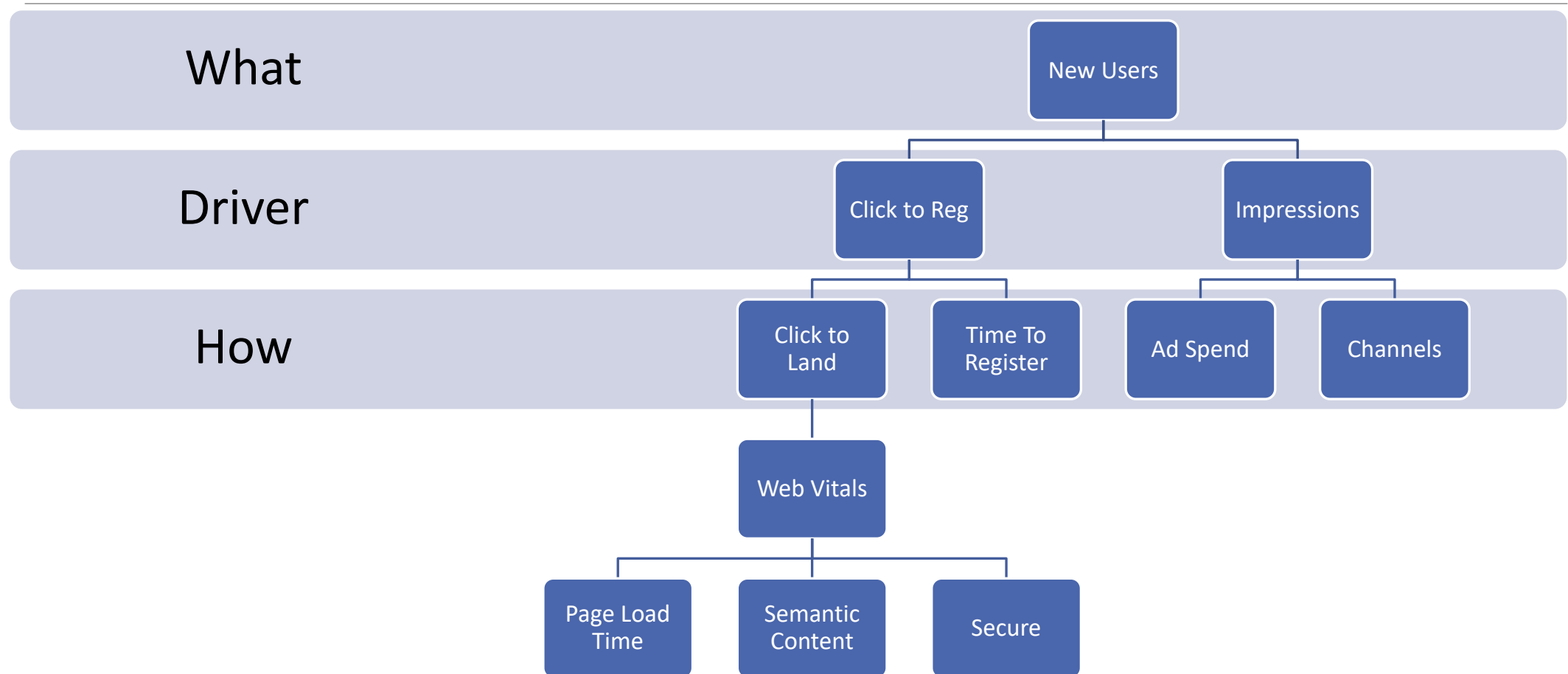
Driver Trees



Driver Trees



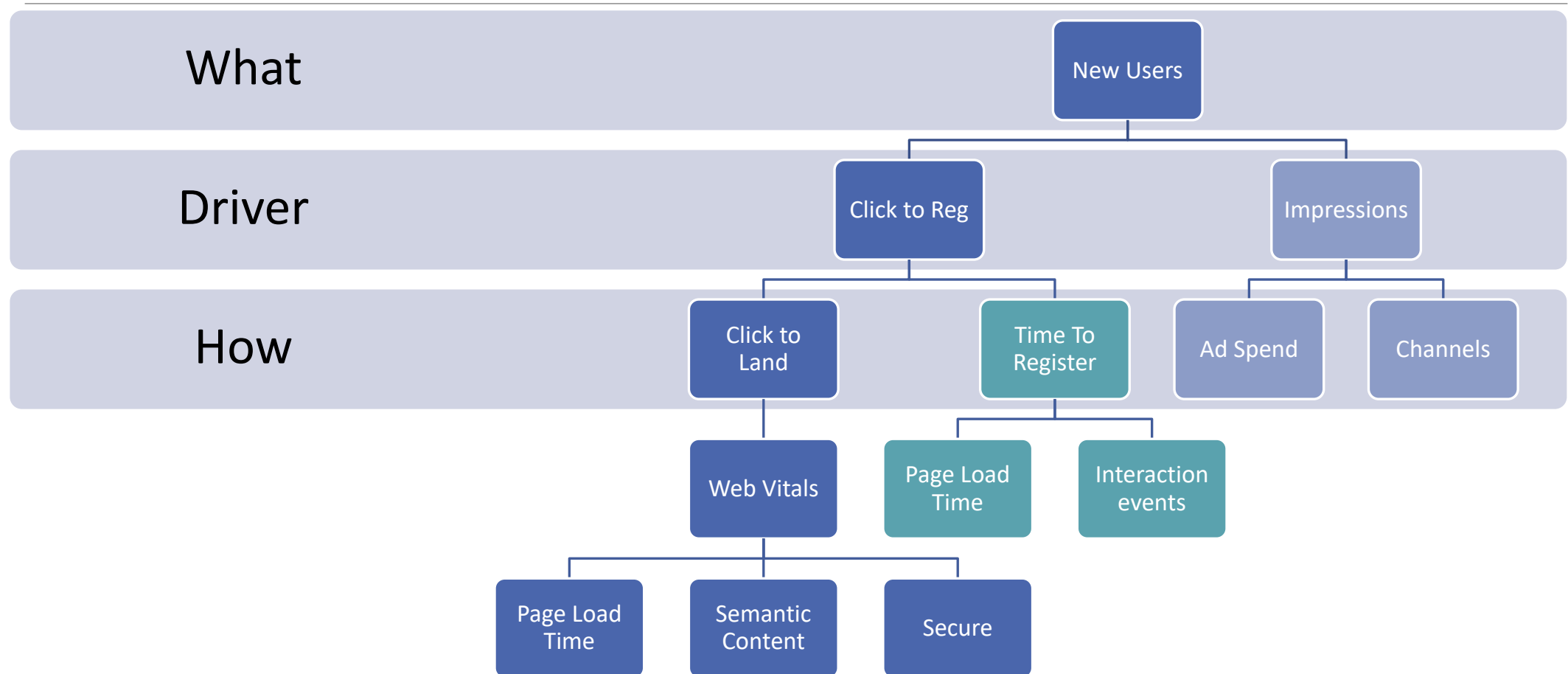
Driver Trees



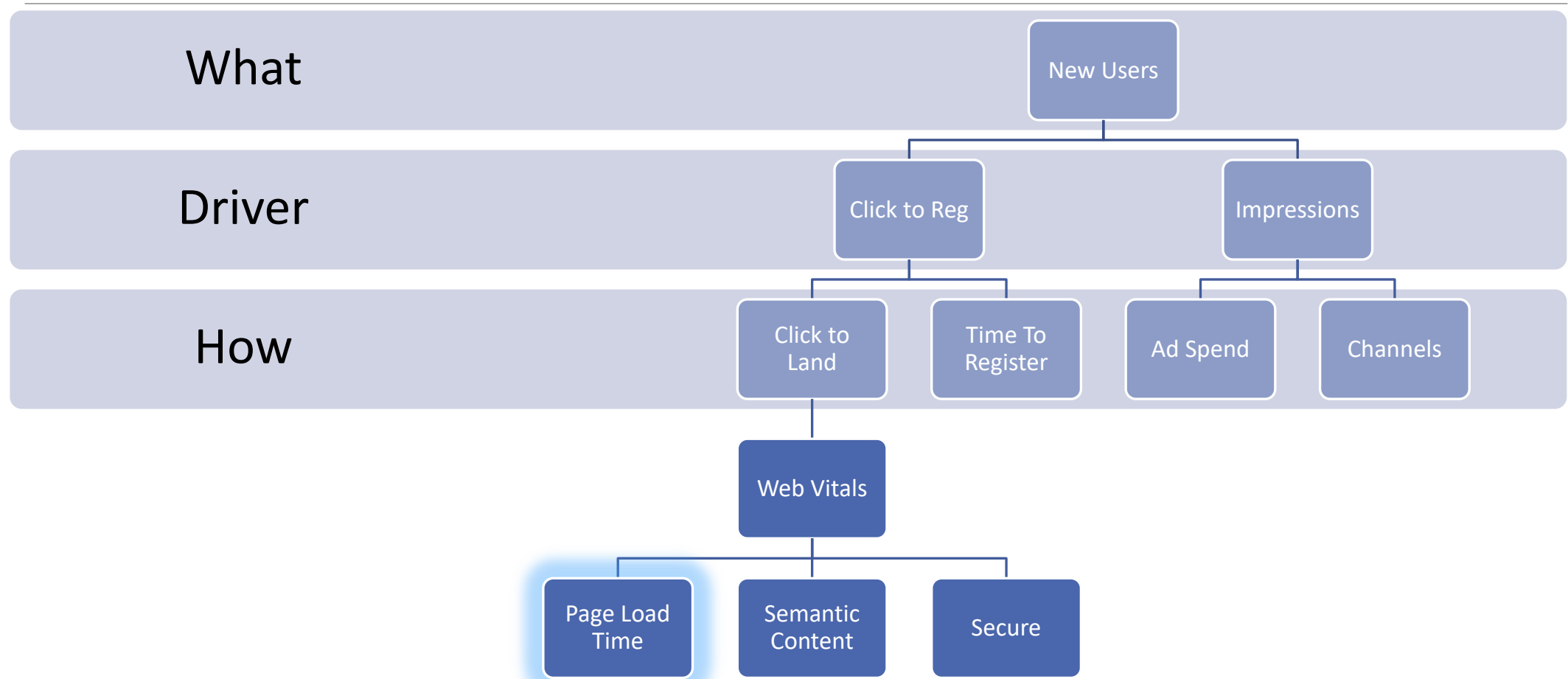
Driver Trees

- Driver trees
 - Find levers you can manipulate directly
 - Make bets on the efficacy on which lever to pull
 - Have a unified language

Driver Trees



Driver Trees



~~Leadership
Challenges~~

~~Start Up
Challenges~~

Direction

~~Teamwork
Challenges~~

~~Maps and
Measures~~

~~Org
Challenges~~

~~Driver Trees~~

Paths and
Practice

Coordinated
Strategy

Paths & Practice Learning and Development

- Self directed learning
- Learning by sharing
- Learn by doing
- Certification



Paths & Practice Performance

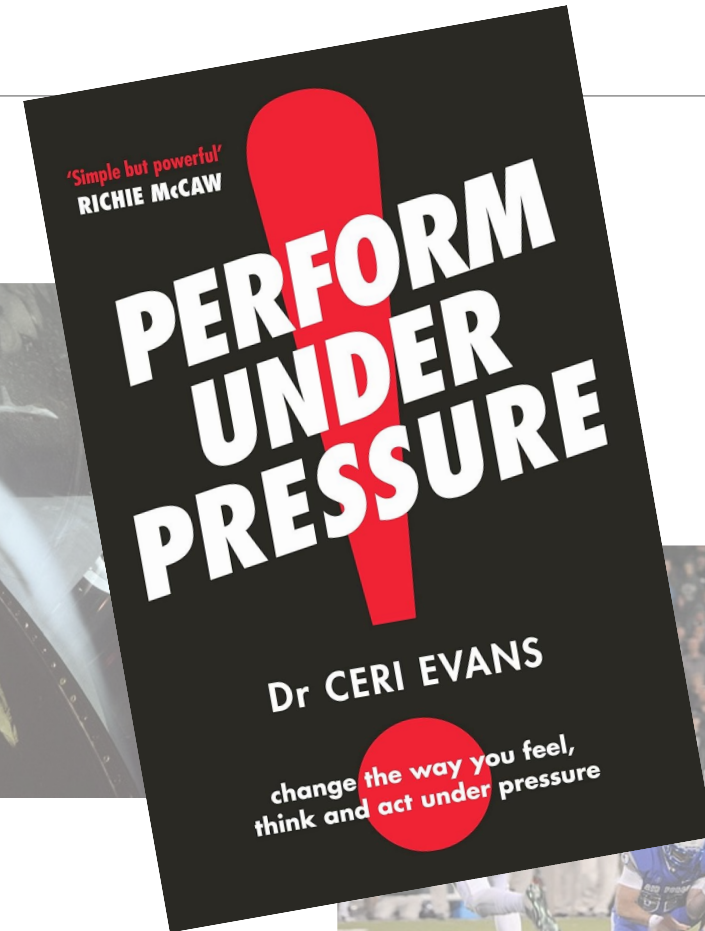
- Same quality, but different speeds
- → overload the stars
- → can't make plans
- Path to performance



Paths & Practice Performance



Paths & Practice Performance





GET BETTER SOON

**I KNOW YOU'RE NOT SICK,
I JUST THINK YOU CAN BE BETTER.**

Paths & Practice Performance

- Identify your “Performance Moments”
- Agree terms of engagement
- Practice!

Paths & Practice Performance

- Identify
 - Incident Response
- Agree
 - Triage, Escalate, Resolve
 - 5 targeted events
- Practice!
 - 5min rounds
 - Fake incident
 - Real tooling



Paths & Practice Performance

- Performance Moments
 - Incident Response
 - Project Planning
 - Risk Management
 - Crucial Conversations
 - Pairing

Paths & Practice

PRINCIPLE

- Competency (What)
- Performance (How)
- Alignment (Why)

IMPLEMENTATION

- Learning and Development
- Practiced Performance
- Driver Trees

~~Leadership
Challenges~~

~~Start Up
Challenges~~

Direction

~~Teamwork
Challenges~~

~~Maps and
Measures~~

~~Org
Challenges~~

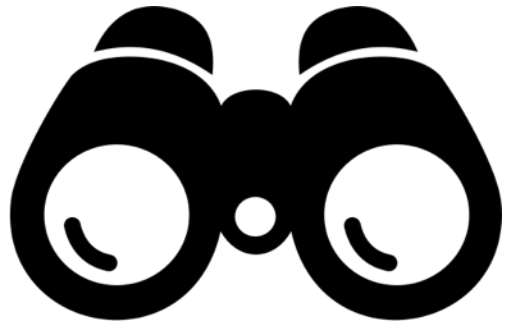
~~Driver Trees~~

~~Paths and
Practice~~

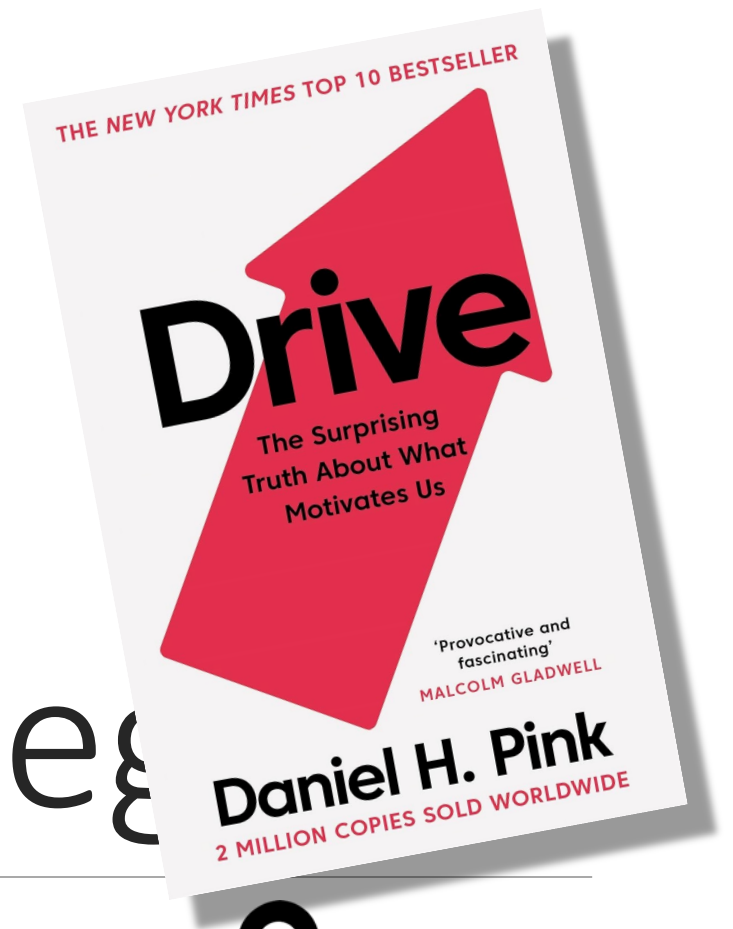
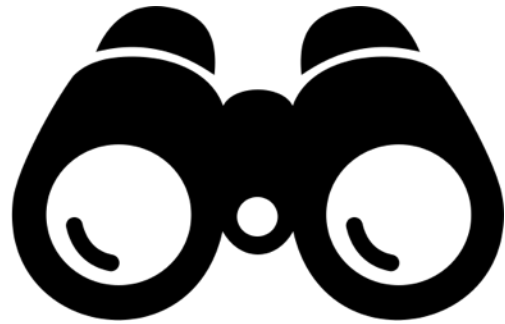
Coordinated
Strategy



Coordinated Strategy



Coordinated Strategy



Team Success

PEOPLE'S ISSUES

- Being trusted
- Being valued
- Being aligned

LEADERS' ISSUES

- ***Competency***
- ***Performance***
- ***Alignment***

Coordinated Strategy



Competence

Reference
Examples

Competency
Matrix

Learning and
Development

Performance

Performance
Expectations

Maturity Model

Practiced
Performance

Alignment

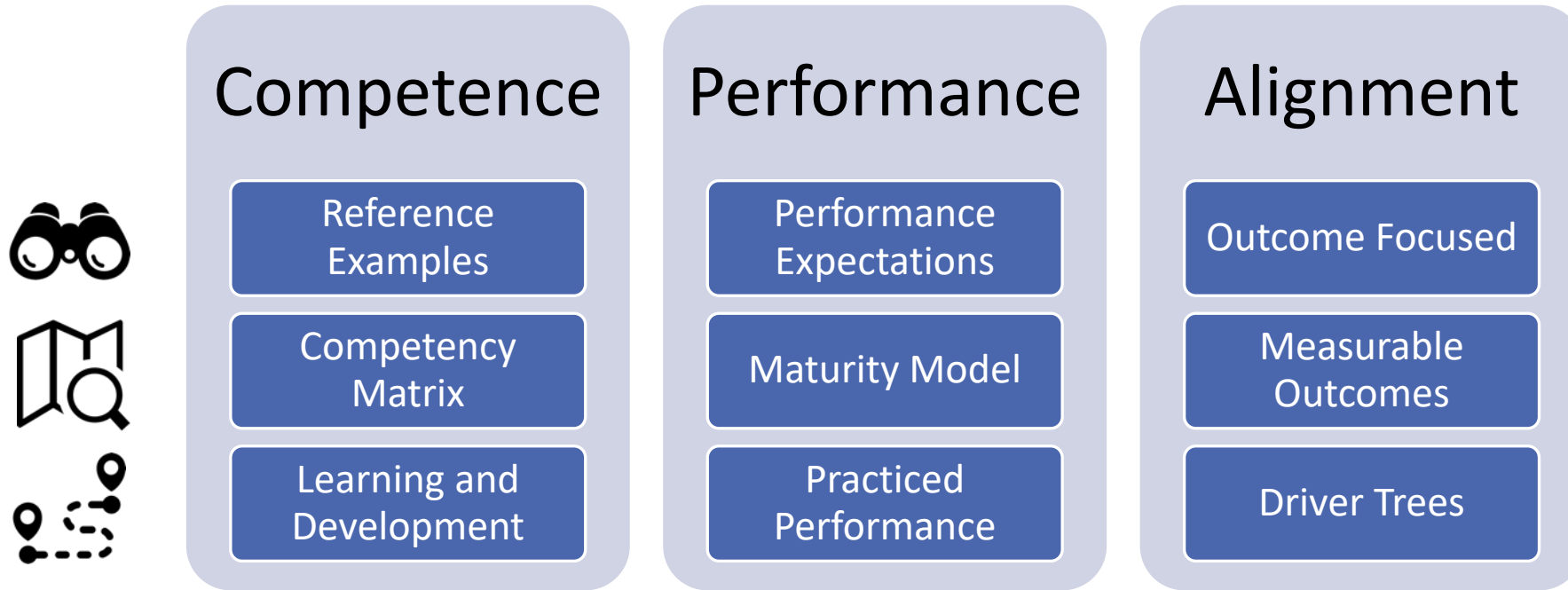
Outcome
Focused

Measurable
Outcomes

Driver Trees

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Layers of Leadership



Questions....?

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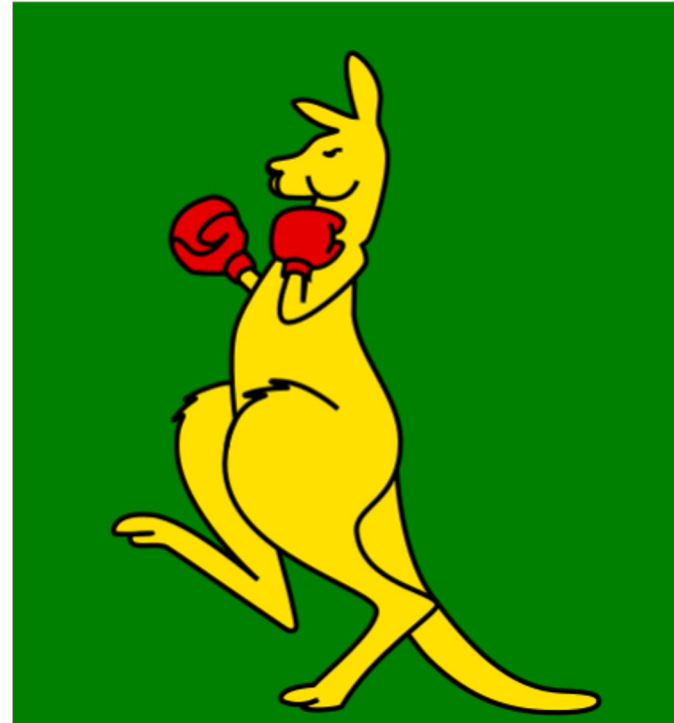
Lee's list

- ***Competency***
- ***Performance***
- ***Alignment***



Rhys' (Lee's Twin) Ozzie Translation

- ***Be fully sick***
- ***Crush it***
- ***Don't stuff up, mate***



Wardley Maps vs Driver Trees

DRIVER TREES

Understand the business better

Shared language

Focus on **measures**

WARDLEY MAPS

Understand the business better

Shared language

Focus on **needs**

Design From Genesis to Commodity