

# Stop thinking „legacy”

it limits you!



@LAFK\_pl, consultant / trainer @



# Within these 20 minutes

1. Legacy, means?
2. About language and how it shapes you
  1. And how „legacy code” does that
3. What it's about? (knowledge)
4. So if not „legacy” then...?



@LAFK\_pl, consultant / trainer @



# Legacy – meaning?

How people define legacy code



@LAFK\_pl, consultant / trainer @



# Dictionaries to the rescue!

1. Denoting software or hardware that has been superseded but is difficult to replace because of its wide use (adjective)
2. (adjective; computing) of a computer system that has been in service for many years and that a business still relies upon, even though it is becoming expensive or difficult to maintain
3. 3. (modifier) surviving computer systems, hardware, or software; legacy network, legacy application
4. 5. of or pertaining to old or outdated computer hardware, software, or data that, while still functional, does not work well with up-to-date systems (adjective).



@LAFK\_pl, consultant / trainer @



# Dictionaries tell us legacy

1. is difficult to replace because of its wide use
2. Is still relied upon, even though it is becoming expensive or difficult to maintain
3. survives!
4. while still functional, does not work well with up-to-date systems

Perhaps...



@LAFK\_pl, consultant / trainer @



**The only thing that distinguishes legacy code from non-legacy is tests. Or rather lack thereof.**



Legacy code is code without tests.



Michael Feathers – Working Effectively with Legacy code , paraphrased



**Legacy code is code that you're afraid of, but is too valuable or big to toss away.**



Jeremy Miller – Code Better blog





**Legacy code scares you but you  
can't toss it away.**



Jeremy Miller – Code Better blog, paraphrased



# Legacy then...

1. Is difficult to replace because of its wide use
2. Is still relied upon, despite being expensive or difficult to maintain
3. Survives!
4. While still functional, does not work well with up-to-date systems
5. Has no tests
6. Scares you but you can't toss it away



@LAFK\_pl, consultant / trainer @



## Legacy then...

1. Is difficult to replace because of its wide use
2. Is still relied upon, despite being expensive or difficult to maintain
3. Survives!
4. While still functional, does not work well with up-to-date systems
5. Has no tests
6. Scares you but you can't toss it away

**NOT GOOD ENOUGH!**



@LAFK\_pl, consultant / trainer @



# Language shapes thoughts

or I believe in Sapir-Whorf hypothesis, precise communication, well-chosen words and am impressed by experiments of folks like Lera Boroditsky



@LAFK\_pl, consultant / trainer @



# Experiments and studies

1. Aborigens
2. Fictional city of Addison
3. Bi-lingual people
4. Pointing blame
5. Recognizing colours



@LAFK\_pl, consultant / trainer @



# Legacy code limits you

1. Not my code, not my problem
2. I won't go there
3. I only added a line
4. Let's rewrite it

**Reluctance to  
change, to own, to  
fix, to even touch**



@LAFK\_pl, consultant / trainer @



# Untamed code

Because it's about knowledge



@LAFK\_pl, consultant / trainer @





# Programming, Motherfucker

Do you speak it?

Are you afraid of code?

Are you afraid of the unknown?

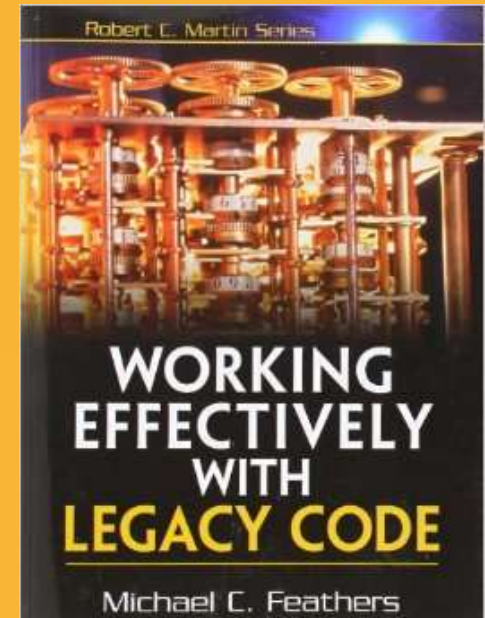


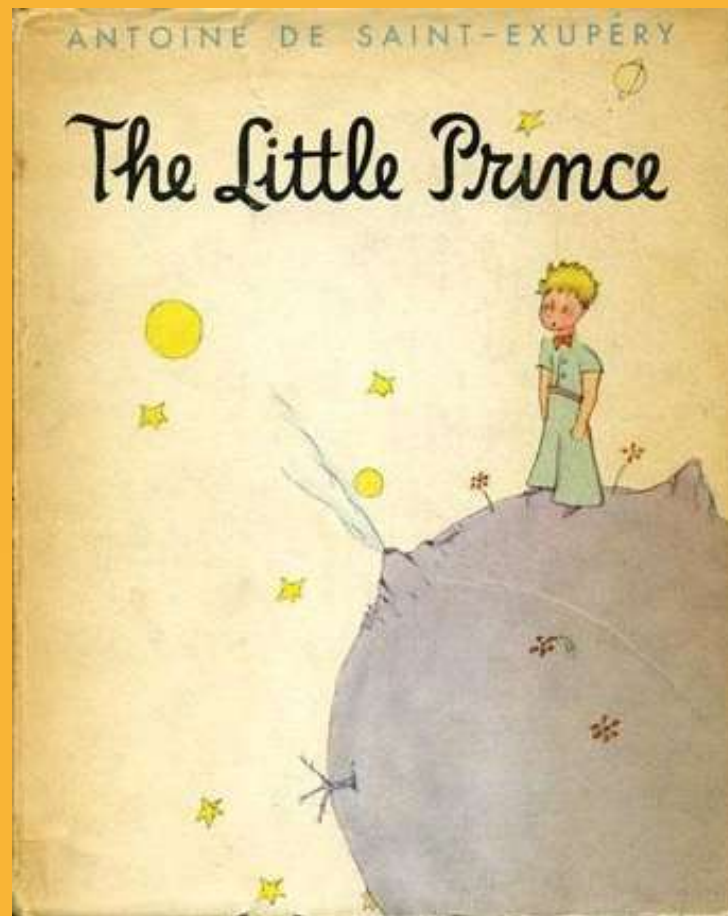
@LAFK\_pl, consultant / trainer @





# Proven methods to handle legacy are about knowledge





@LAFK\_pl, consultant / trainer @



# Please - tame me!

One only understands the things that one tames.

Men have no more time to understand anything.  
They buy things all ready made at the shops.



# Challenge your thinking

Recipe is simple. Don't be afraid.



@LAFK\_pl, consultant / trainer @



# Say **untamed** code



@LAFK\_pl, consultant / trainer @



# Get the knowledge - tame it



@LAFK\_pl, consultant / trainer @



**It's yours, by all means.**

**If it ain't make it so.**



@LAFK\_pl, consultant / trainer @



