Creating Clean, Readable and Expressive Executable Specifications
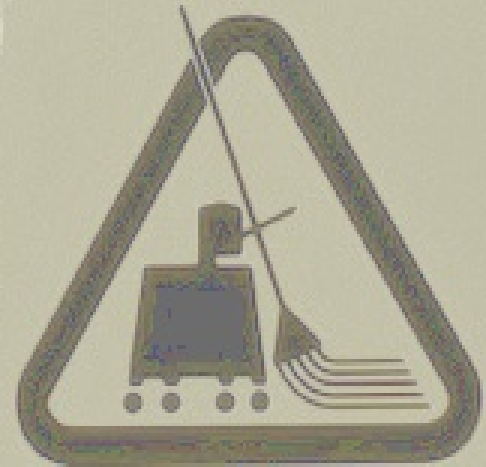
ETC 2016

Peter Kofler, 'Code Cop'
@codecopkofler
www.code-cop.org

Peter Kofler

- Ph.D. (Appl. Math.)

- Professional Software Developer for 15 years

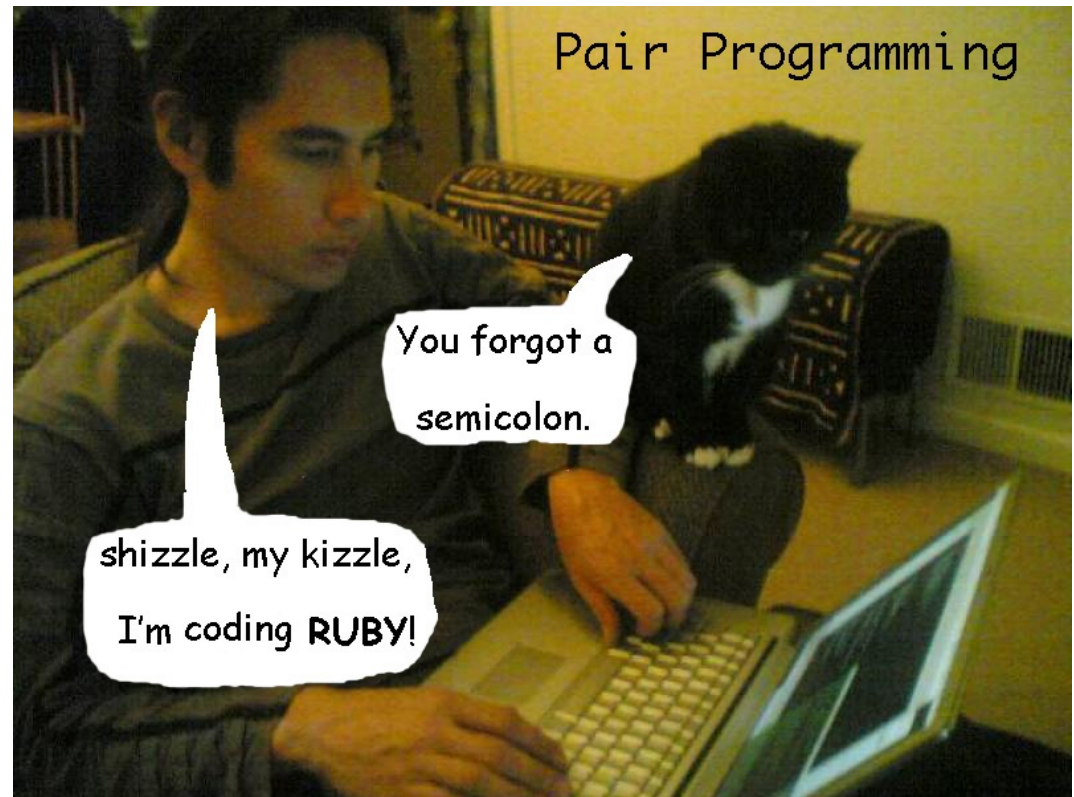- "fanatic about code quality"

- Freelance Code Mentor

I help development teams with

- Professionalism

- Quality and Productivity

- Continuous Improvement

Mentoring

- Pair Programming

- Programming Workshops

- Deliberate Practice, e.g. Coding Dojos

Developing Quality Software Developers

Coding Dojo Mindset

- Safe place outside work

- We are here to learn

- Need to slow down

- Focus on doing it right

- Collaborative Game

Clean, Readable and Expressive?
(Buzzword Alarm ;-)

Readable?

- **Easily** read; **legible**:
  e.g. a readable typeface.
- **Enjoyable** or **interesting** to read:
  e.g. a readable story.

- What if a test suite would be a readable document at the same time?

Expressive?

- Full of expression; **meaningful**:
  e.g. an expressive shrug.
- **Effectively** conveying **thought**:
  e.g. an expressive glance.

- What if tests revealed their intend?
  Would express what should happen?

Clean?

- **Free from dirt** or marks:
    e.g. a clean kitchen floor.
- **Without imperfections** or errors:
    e.g. a clean edge.

- What if all your tests would be nicely structured and consistent?

Expectations?

Welcome to the Gilded Rose

The existing inventory system

- We have **items** to sell. Items degrade in quality the older they get.

- All items have a **SellIn value** which denotes the number of days we have to sell the item.

- All items have a **Quality value** which denotes how valuable the item is.

Requirements

- At the end of each day our system lowers both values for every item.

- Once the sell by date has passed, Quality degrades twice as fast.

- The Quality of an item is never negative.

- The Quality is never more than 50.

Special Item: Brie

- *Aged Brie* actually increases in Quality the older it gets.

Backstage Passes

- *A backstage pass* increases in Quality as it's SellIn value approaches (by a complex formula)

- but Quality drops to 0 after the concert.
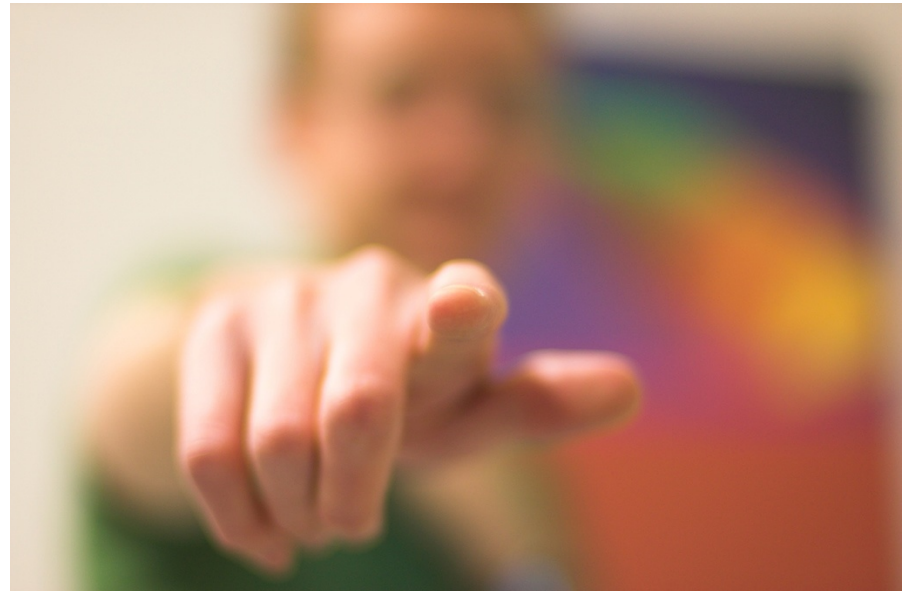
Special Item

- *Sulfuras*, a legendary item, never has to be sold or decreases in Quality.

Create a test suite that is a readable document at the same time!

Closing Circle

- What did you learn today?

- What surprised you today?

- What will you do differently in the future?

Peter Kofler

@codecopkofler

www.code-cop.org

Kata by

Emily Bache

@emilybache

http://coding-is-like-cooking.info/2013/03/writing-good-tests-for-the-gilded-rose-kata/

CC Images

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