Embracing Nihilism as a Software Development Philosophy and the Birth of the Big Book of Dead Code
Hi, I'm Ryan Bergman
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I work for John Deere Intelligent Solutions Group
...and yes we are the ones making the robot tractors that will one day take over the world.
Today's Topic: The Danger of Dead Code
Dead code is not just unexecuted code.

```java
if (false) {
    zombie.eat(brains)
}
```
It can also be features...
Feature usage on a typical system

Standish Group Study Reported at XP2002 by Jim Johnson, Chairman
How much does it cost in...dev time

http://xkcd.com/303/
"as a user with clippy on, I would expect clippy to know about new feature x .... "
and complexity
This is the story of a team that turned on its own project in order to survive
Once upon a time, there was a company with an aging app...
It had problems...

1 Client == 1 Instance
It was written in an outdated language
Setup was slow
It was a little buggy
We will start from scratch!
First they needed a spec of everything they ever wanted it to be
The work was too much for existing staff. So the "new" system was outsourced to contractors.
Development couldn't say no to any idea. No matter how silly...

C#   JAVA

Yes!
Development Starts

"The first 90 percent of the code accounts for the first 90 percent of the development time. The remaining 10 percent of the code accounts for the other 90 percent of the development time."

—Tom Cargill, Bell Labs
Communication was poor and spread across the world
Directives Changed But Old Code Was Never Cleaned Up.
Once the app was finally delivered....
The instance problem was fixed.

1 Instance == n clients*

* we had no idea what "n" was
The app was slow
and it was VERY buggy
The developers spent 6 months just getting it to work.
... and started leaving
Revolution ensued
A Plan Was Devised.

CLEAN ALL THE THINGS!
Total # Of MS Projects in Solution
Build / Test Cycle Time
We Needed to Visualize The Purge For Management

```ruby
Repo.new(".").commit_diff(commitHash).each do |dif|
  dif.diff.each_line do |line|
    if(line[0,1] == '-')
      result << line[1,line.length].gsub(' ','').gsub(/\n/, '').gsub(/\r/, '')
    end
  end
end
puts result.scan(/.{1,120}/).join("\n")
```
It ended up looking like this...

line 63495
So we printed it out....
For over 500 pages.
Book Contents
A Lucene Based Search Engine
Wired to NHibernate
A Central Conflict Resolving Scheduling Graph
A Custom .Net Dependency Manager and Build Tool (written in Perl)
Two Entire Custom Reporting Engines
Hopes, Dreams, Resume Padding
Impact on Management
Strong aversion to overdoing it on requirements
A desire to be involved in the day to day process of developers.
Also a reluctance to allow developers to go off on big technical yak hunts.

"But Captain....if we don't replace the hibernate MVC session container repository factories the developers will be super sad!"
Impact on Developers
Nihilism

"Extreme skepticism, maintaining that nothing has a real existence."
Not limited to 80's industrial bands
or Ingmar Bergman movies
"He who fights with monsters should look to it that he himself does not become a monster. And when you gaze long into an abyss the abyss also gazes into you."
Concentration on producing the "simplest solution that might possibly work"

YAGNI

KISS

MMF
Test Coverage

- # Production Classes
- # Unit Tests
- # Fitness Tests
Lines of Code Over Time
Files Over Time

![File Count Over Time Graph](image)

- **x-axis**: Dates from 2008-07-01 to 2012-01-01
- **y-axis**: File Count ranging from 25000 to 55000

The graph shows a steady increase in file count from 2008 to 2012, with a slight spike in 2009.
Net Lines Added
Questions? Want More?

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