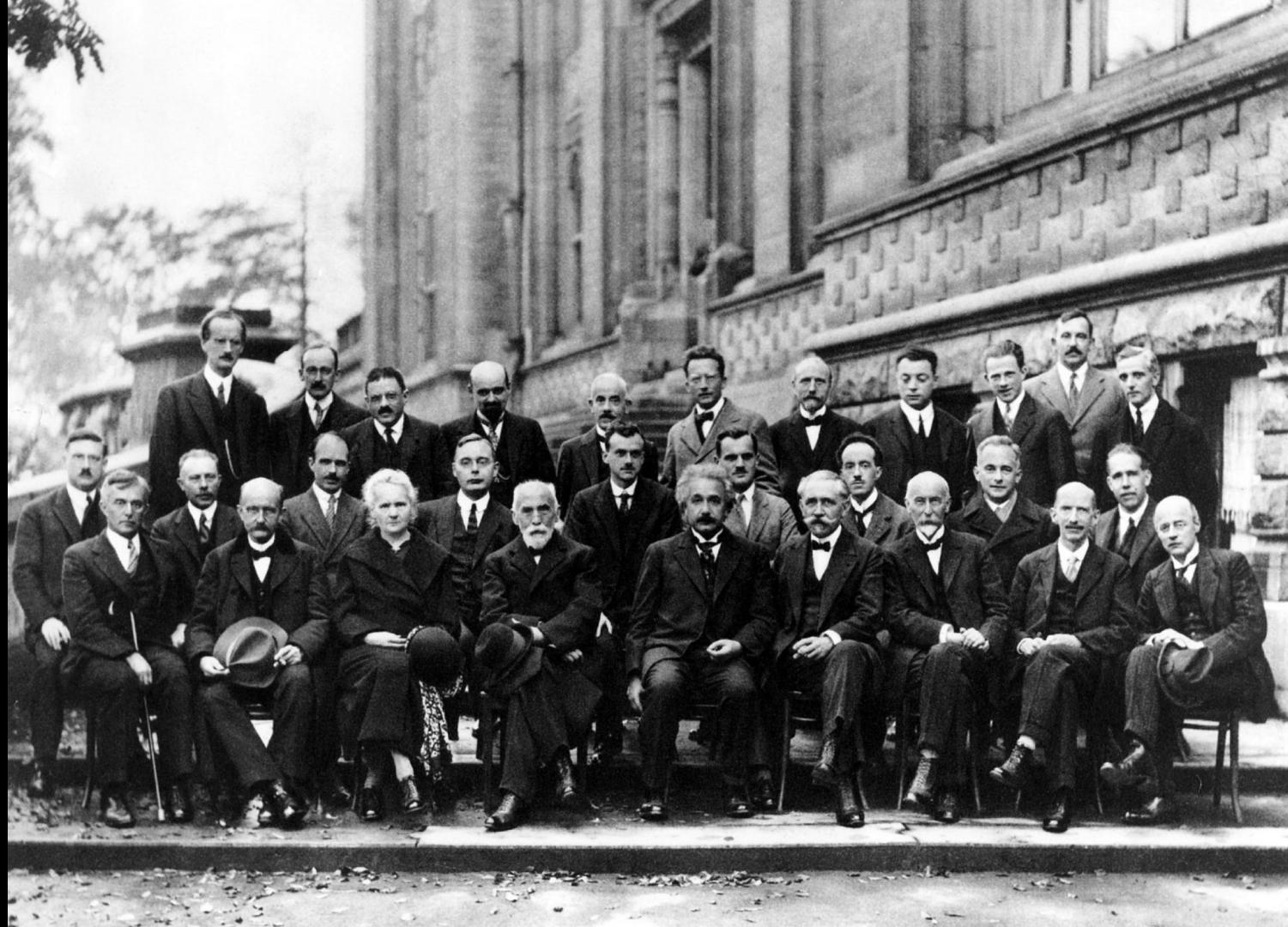


Unified Theory of SRE

[@EmilStolarsky](#)

[emil.dev](#)





Story Time

A brief history of “SRE”

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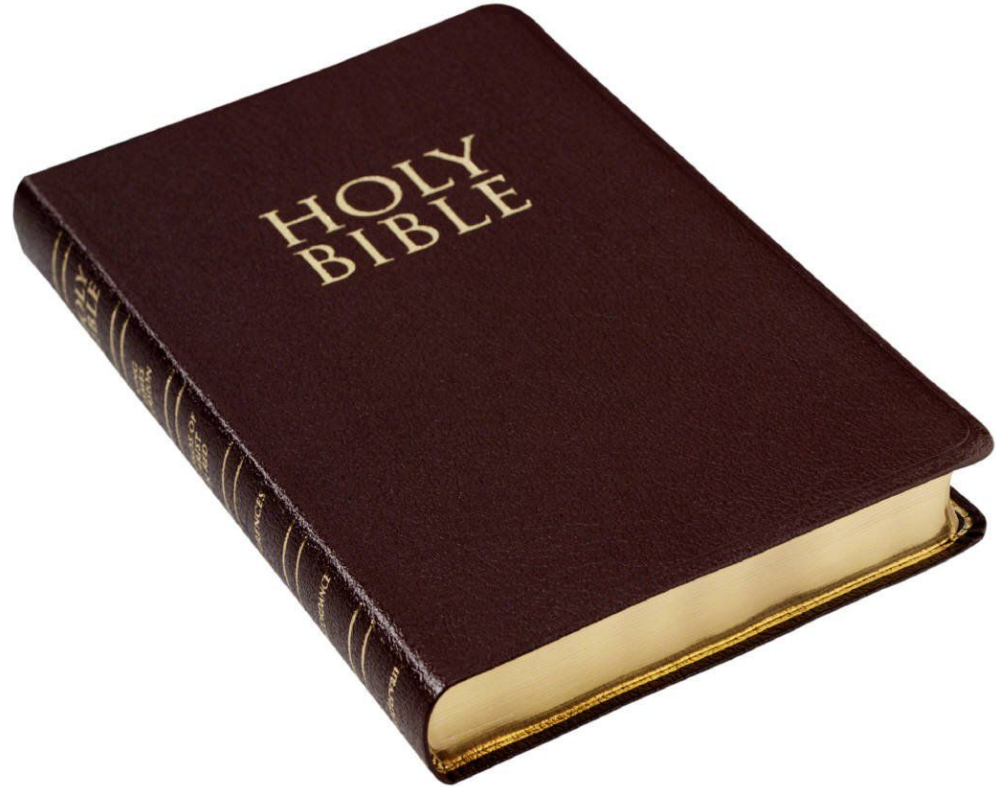
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- 2016 - “Site Reliability Engineering” book is released

Let's talk about the book..

Let's talk about the book..



Let's talk about the book..

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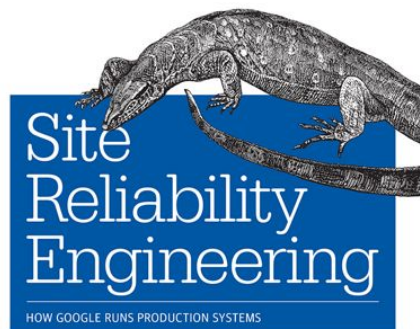


Edited by Betsy Beyer, Chris Jones,
Jennifer Petoff & Niall Murphy

Let's talk about the book..

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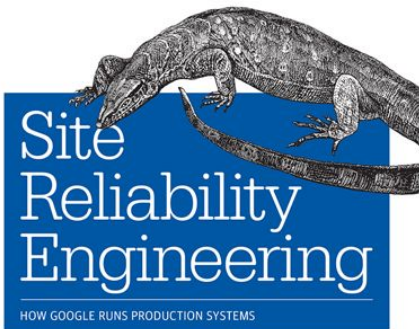


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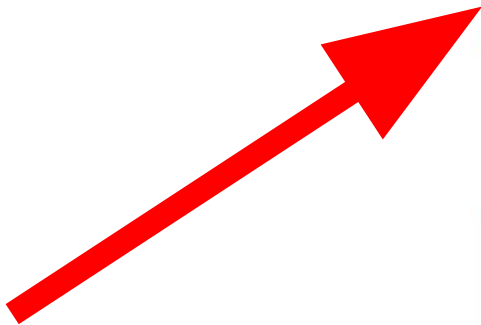
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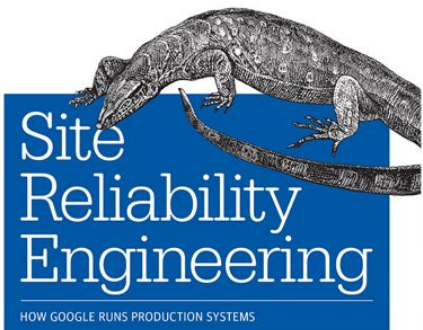
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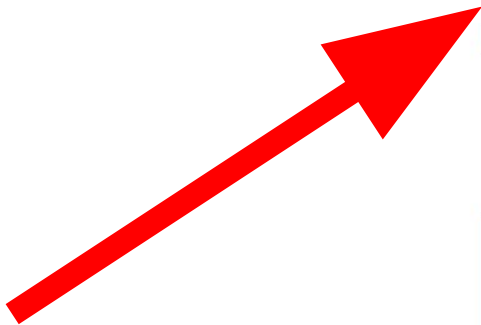
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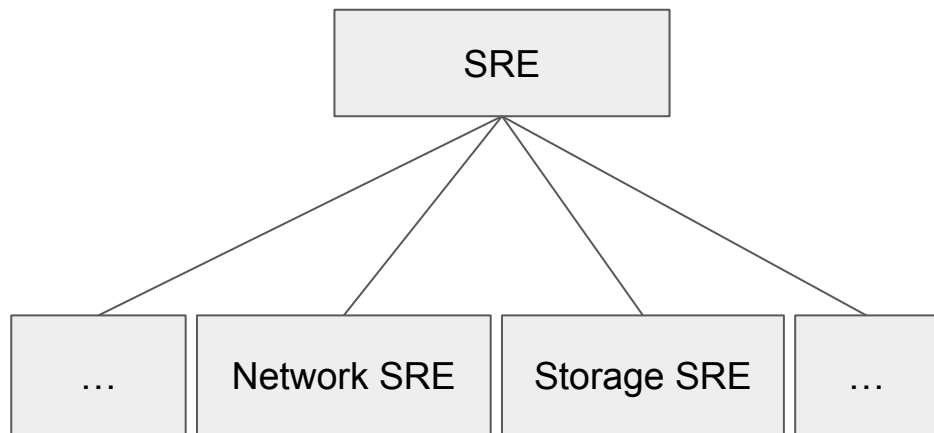
**BUT WAIT,
THERE'S MORE**



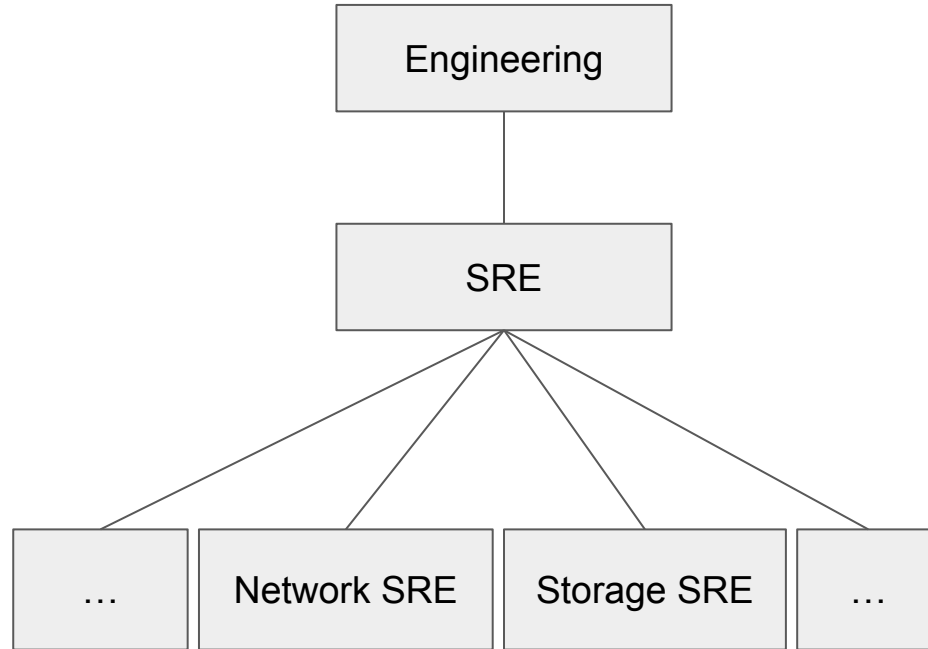
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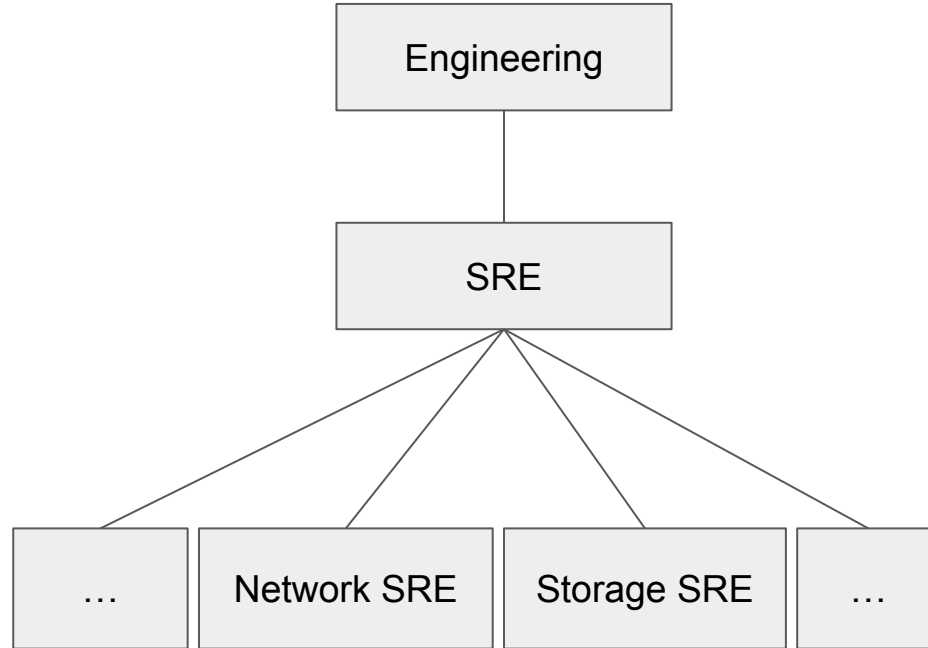
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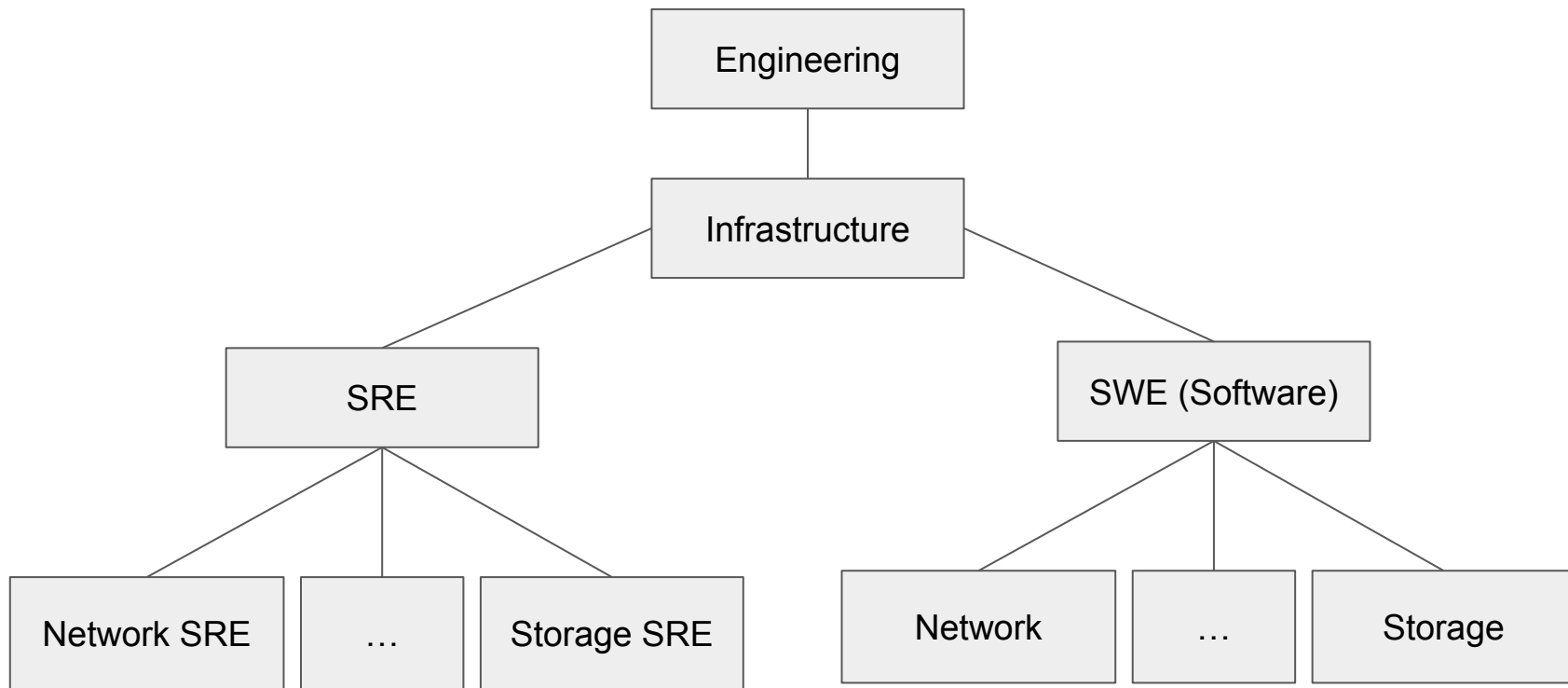
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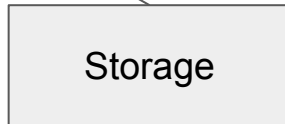
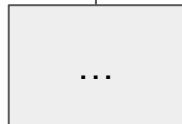
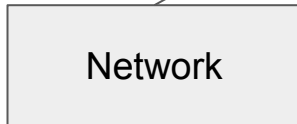
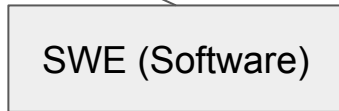
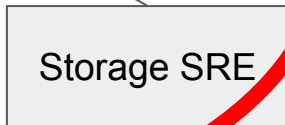
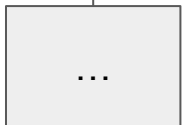
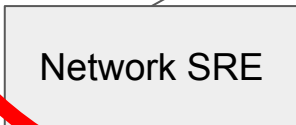
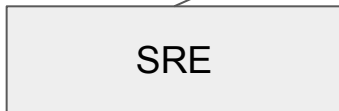
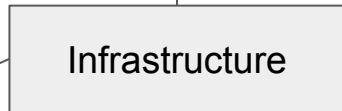
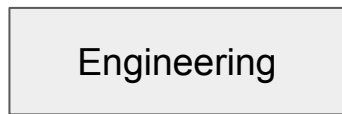


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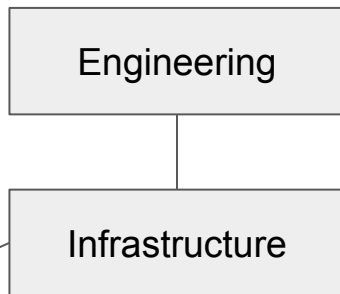
Let's talk about the book..

1200+ SREs

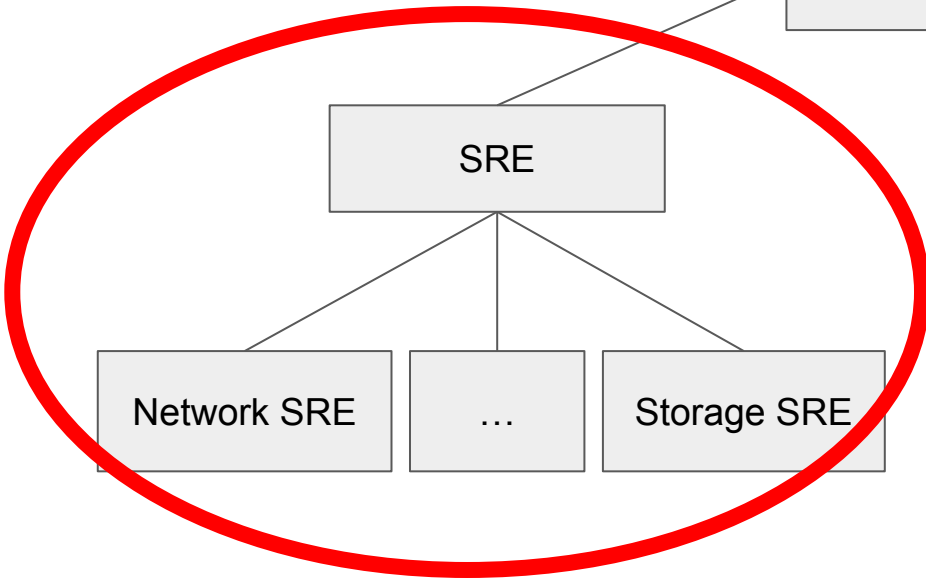
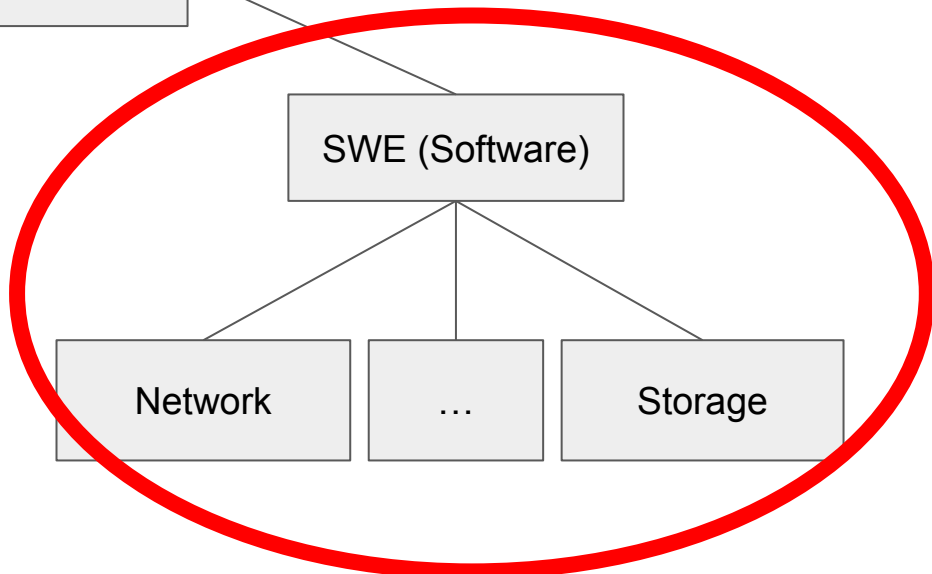


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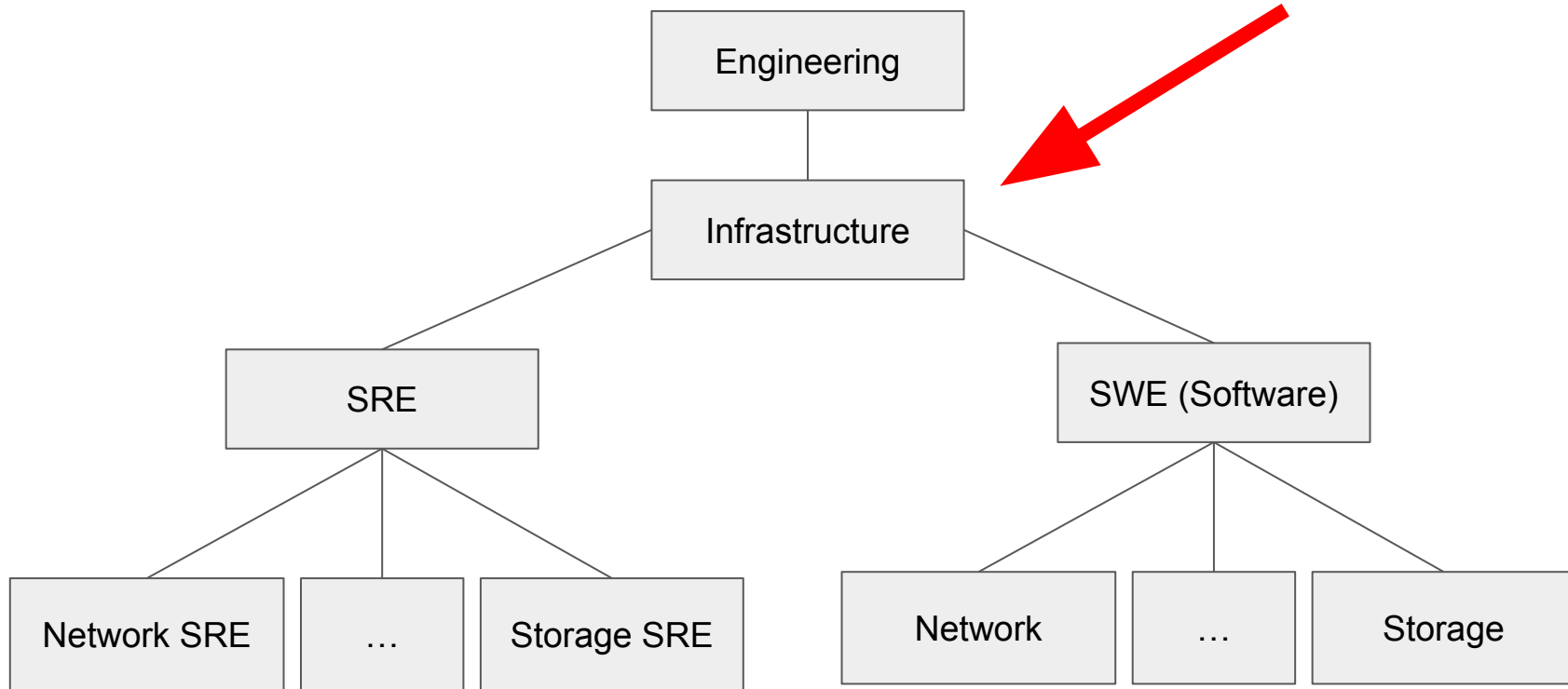


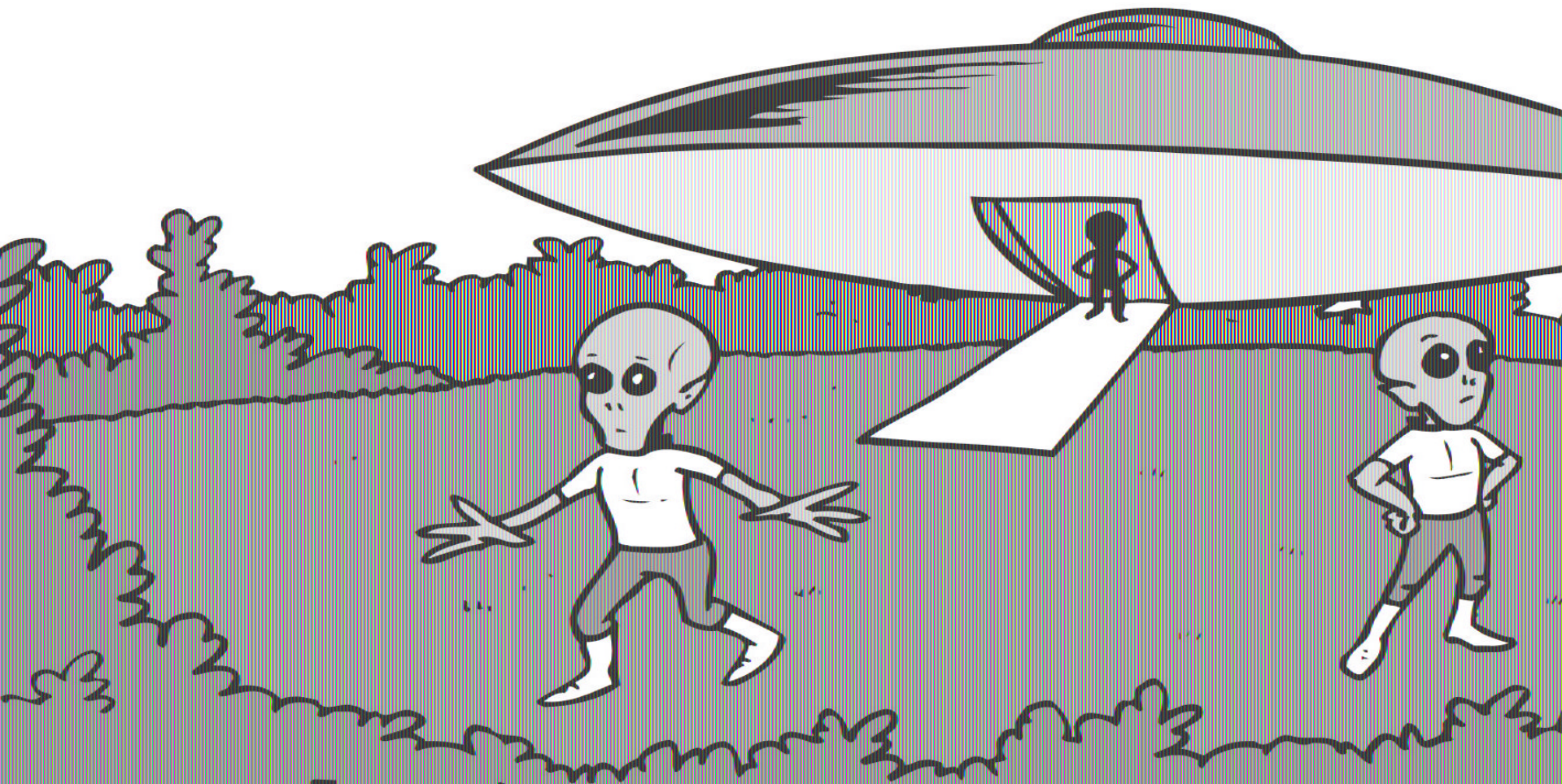
**AT LEAST
1200+ SWEs**

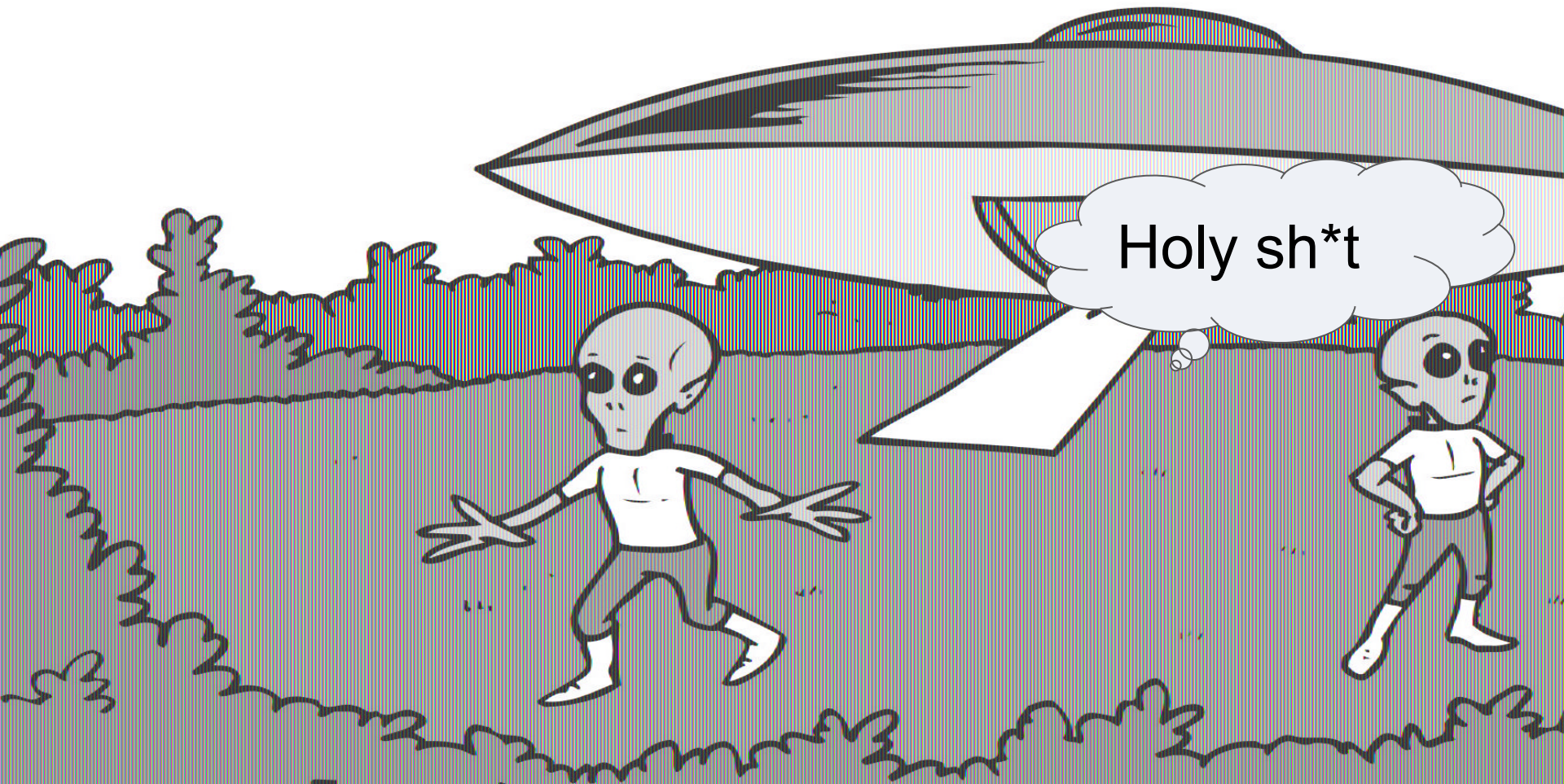


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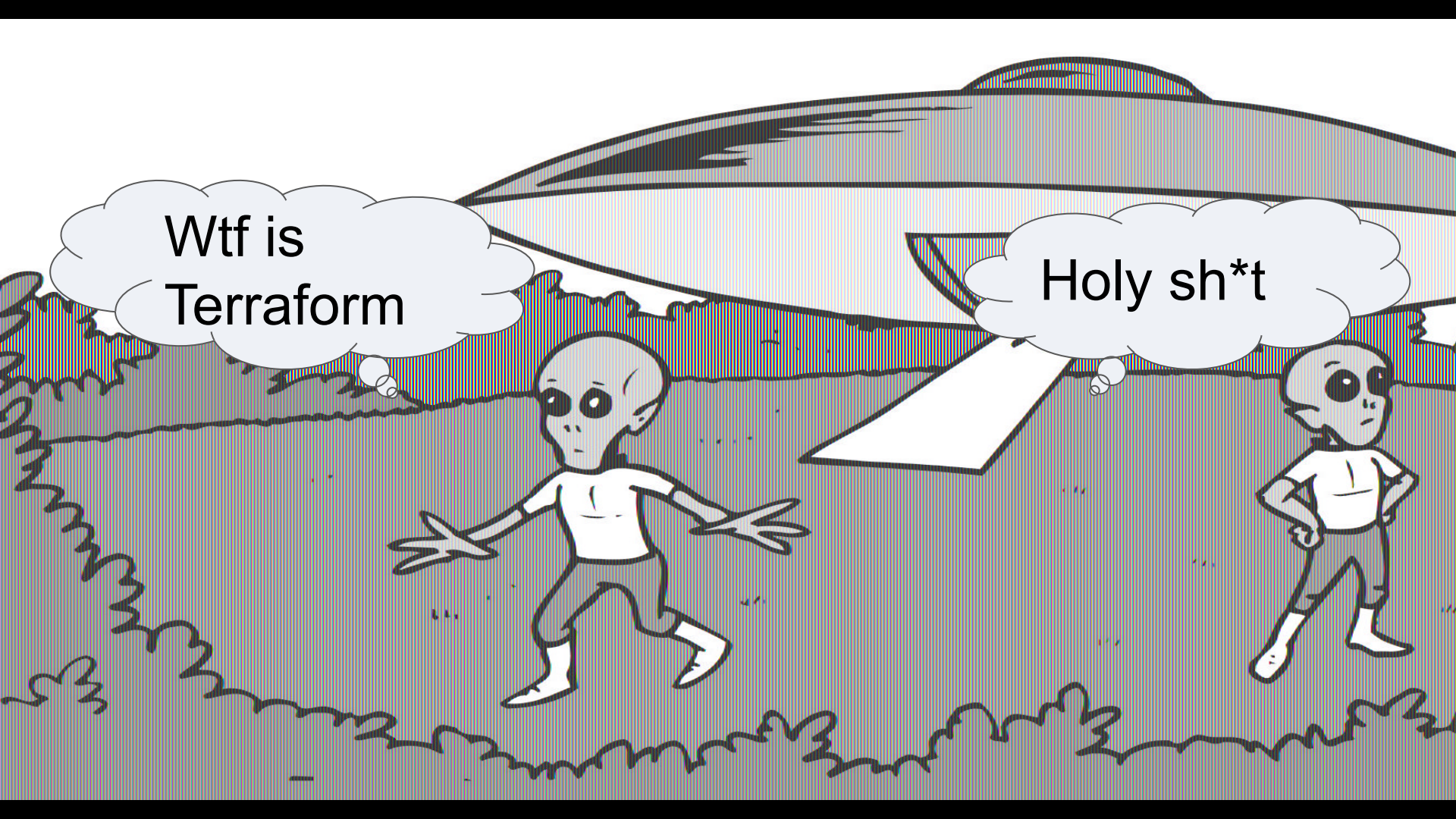
2400+ Engineers





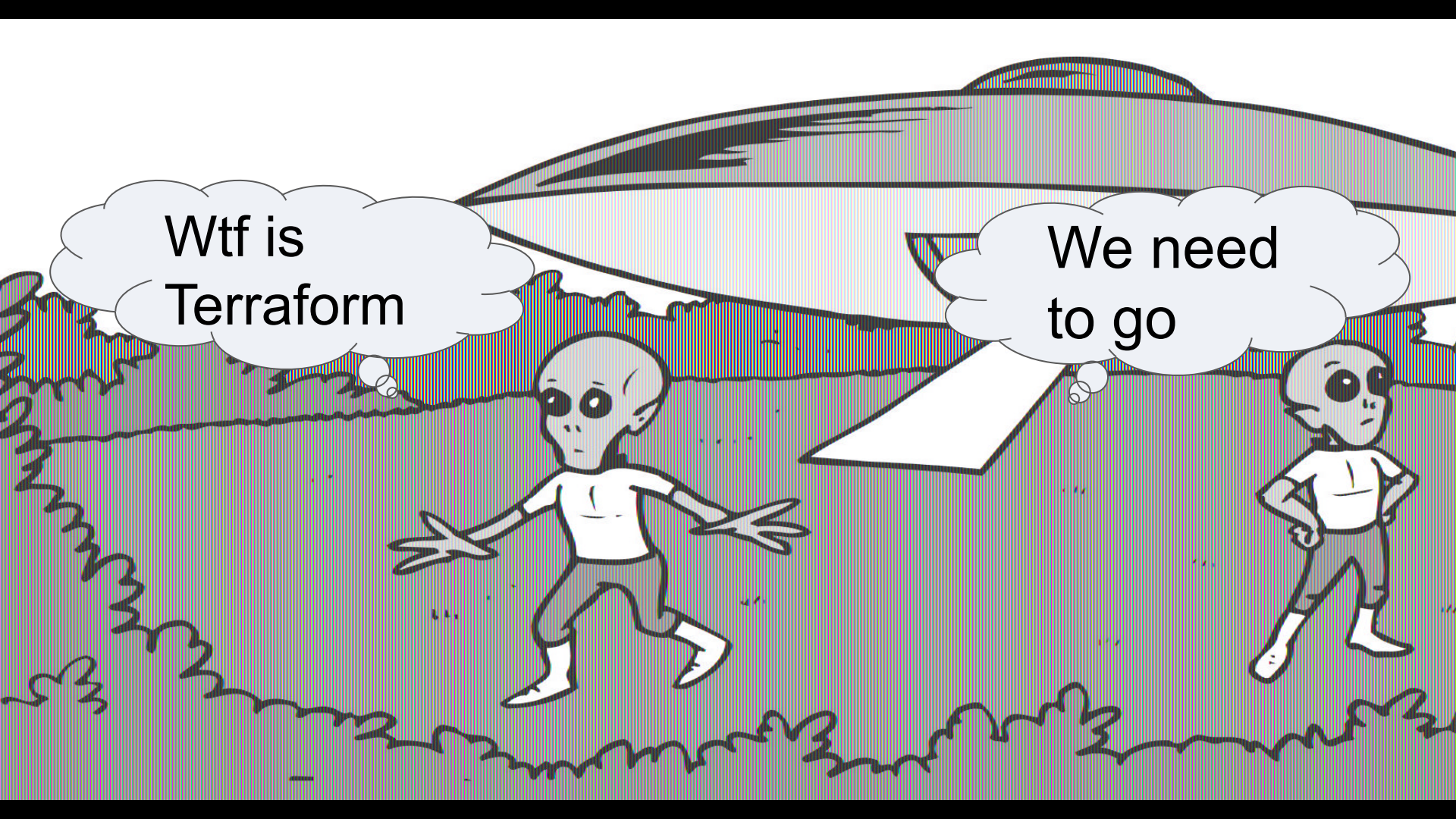


Holy sh*t



Wtf is
Terraform

Holy sh*t



Wtf is
Terraform

We need
to go

The SRE foundation has cracks

Rebuilding SRE



wiggler “cleancore era”

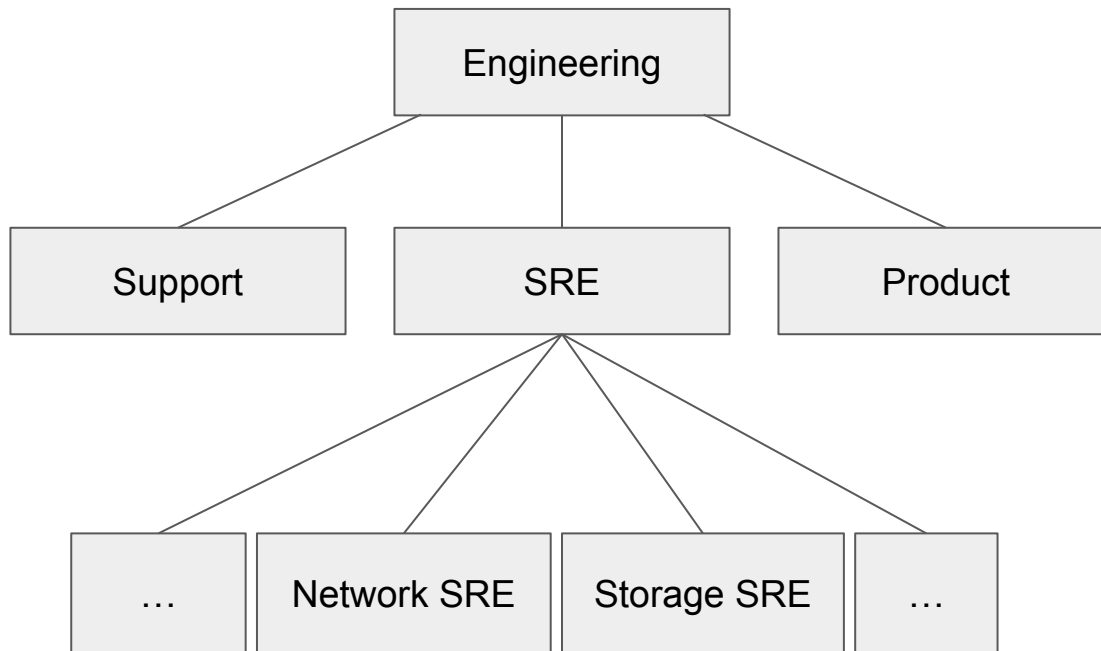
@16kbps

google: i have made SREs
angels: you fucked up a perfectly good programmer is
what you did. look at it. it's got anxiety

11:07 PM · May 2, 2021 · Twitter Web App

Rebuilding SRE for Startups

Rebuilding SRE for Startups



Rebuilding SRE for Startups

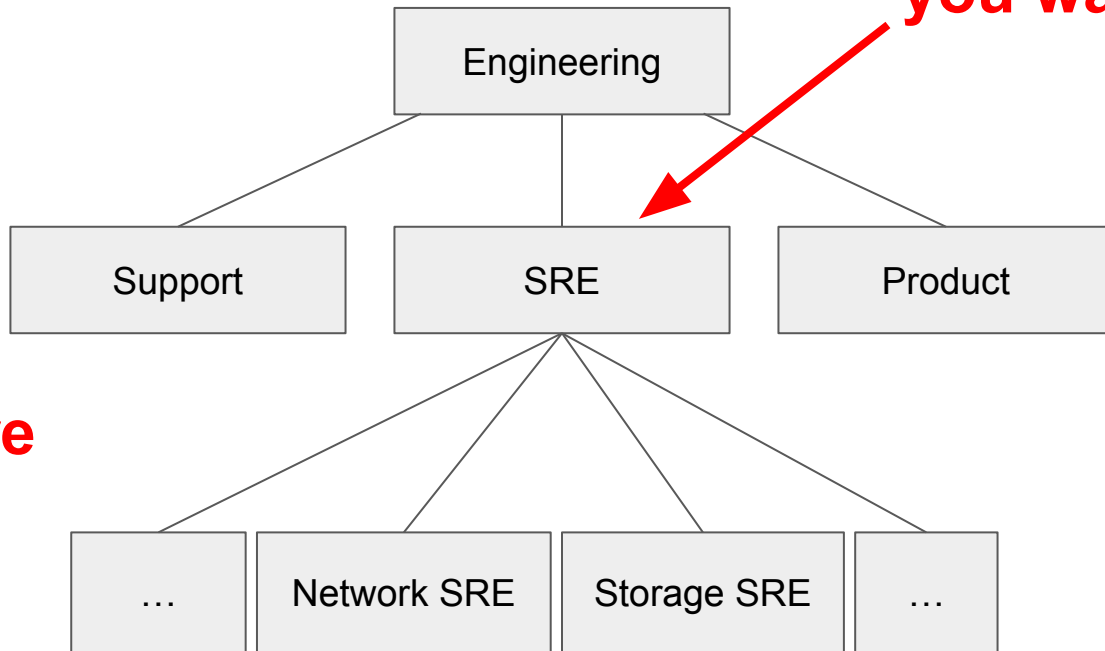
**Call it whatever
you want** 🙄

SRE

Platform

DevOps

Infrastructure



Rebuilding SRE - Startups vs. Real Business™

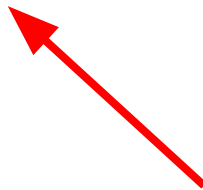
- Real Business™ (Default Alive)
 - Has customers that we can SRE
 - Focusing on reliability justifies existence of SREs
- Startup (Default Dead)
 - Hasn't found Product-Market Fit, maybe even no customers
 - Product velocity is all that matters

Rebuilding SRE - Velocity vs. Reliability

- At startups, the most valuable SRE work is increasing velocity
- The number #1 focus is developer infrastructure:
 - Developer Environments
 - Integration testing/Staging/CI system
 - Deploys
- Bare minimum production work to get it running

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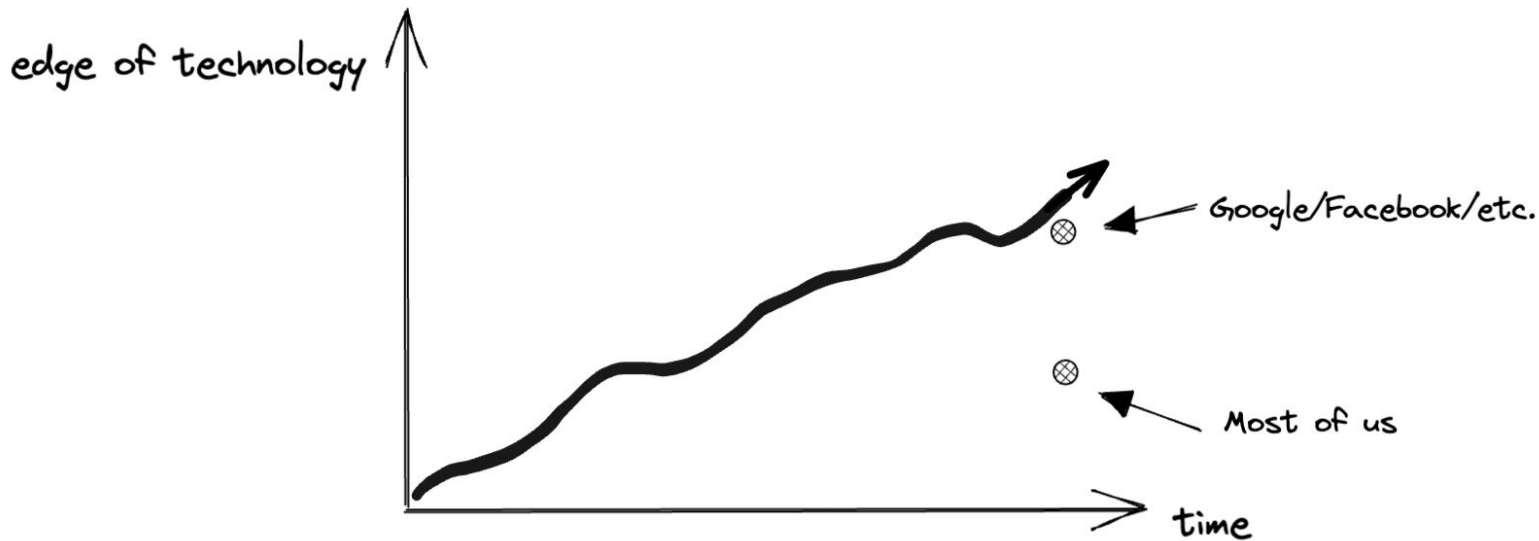
That's right, no Kubernetes

Rebuilding SRE - Future Proofing

- Certain classes of infrastructure work gets really painful over time
- Foundational components that's easiest to setup on day 0
- The crux is to know when it's future proofing or over-engineering

- Examples:
 - Network/VPC design
 - IAM/Authentication

Rebuilding SRE - Technology



FAANG+ companies operate at the edge of technology while the rest of us have much simpler needs.

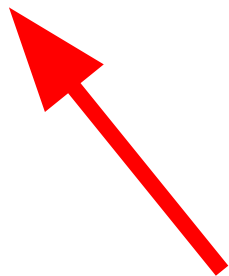
Rebuilding SRE - Technology

- The services we operate are all the same (and relatively simple)
- We should be standardizing our designs as a community
- Use boring technology* that doesn't cost any innovation tokens

* - I can't explain it any better than <https://boringtechnology.club/>

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Rebuilding SRE - Service Level Objectives

- Difficult to make a compelling argument for SLOs at a startup
- What you believe matters probably won't, faster than you think
- Instead, work on defining “values” in relation to the product
 - Serve stale data OR return an error?
 - Be down for many small customers OR one big one?
 - etc.

Rebuilding SRE - Incident Reviews

- A lot of incident review rituals are for large organizations
- Is every incident worth learning from?
- What is the slim version of a *valuable* incident review?

Rebuilding SRE - On-Call

- What does a healthy on-call look like when you can't put enough engineers on a pager?
- Brings into question at what point there should even be a pager

Thank You!

[@EmilStolarsky](#)

[emil.dev](#)