

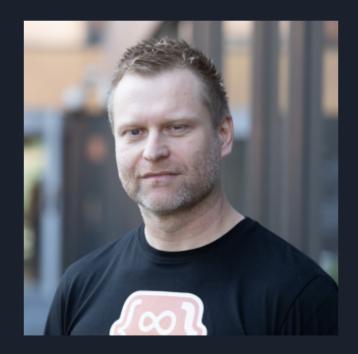
# The End of the IT Manager

Being a tech lead in a modern IT organization

Marcin Pakulnicki

Qcon LDN, March 2020

#### Meet the tech lead:)



Marcin Pakulnicki IT Chapter Lead @ ING Bank 2016 - 2019

IT Tribe / IT Area Lead @ ING Bank 2019 - present



#### What is a 'Tech Lead'?

Lead developer

IT Chapter Lead

Is a senior developer

Is a manager of 8 - 20 software developers

## ING Bank Netherlands & Belgium Digital Channels & Daily Banking



























What's in it for you?

From a bank to a tech company

#### What's a modern tech organisation?



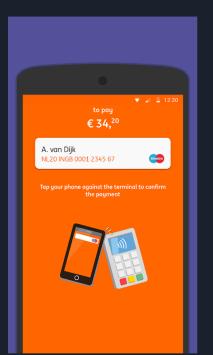


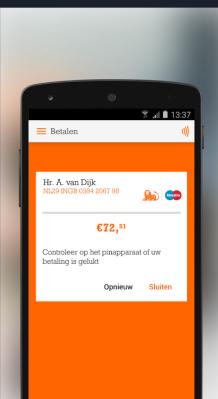


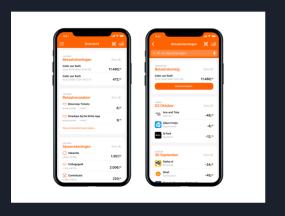
**Booking.com** 



#### ING on its way to be the Netflix of banking

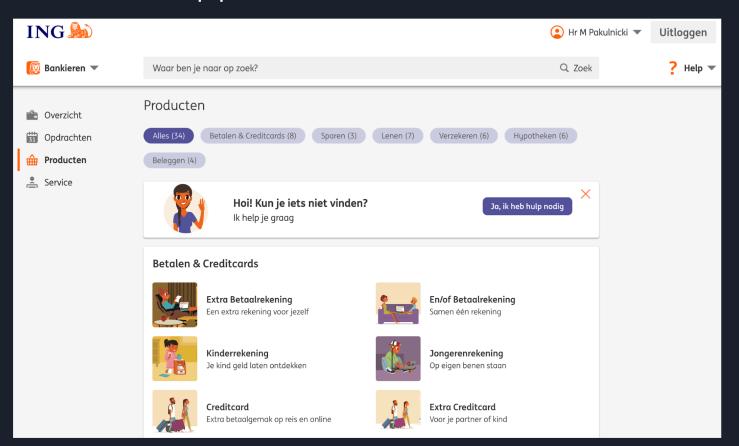


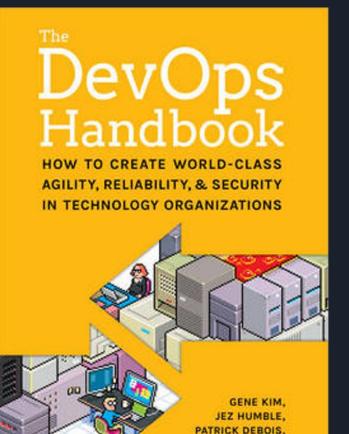






#### The same apps / tech stack voor NL + BE





KE THE DORA DEVOPS K-RAY ASSESSMENT AND SEE WHERE YOU STAND

& JOHN WILLIS

PERSONNEL BY JOHN ALLERAM

## THE SCIENCE OF DEVOPS **ACCELERATE** Building and Scaling High Performing Technology Organizations Nicole Forsgren, PhD Jez Humble and Gene Kim

#### Flow

Fast from development to production: A.o trunk based development, continuous integration, containerized build pipelines

#### Feedback

Shift left of fully automated testing, Monitoring, alerting, logging, Code scan, OWASP check, shift left of Risk

#### Culture

Blameless post-mortems, Code reviews, mastery time, improvement / engineering culture, One learning organisation Organisational structure

Front end developers

Backend developers

Operations engineers

"Level 4" managers

Release / change/ delivery managers

Infra managers

Lead developers

Testers

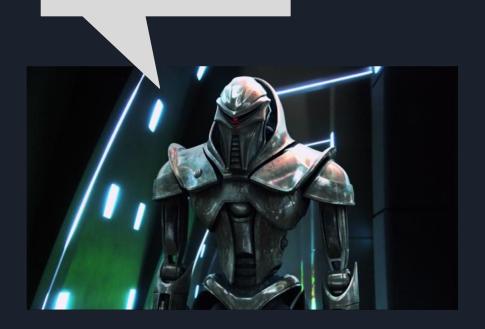
Test managers

Project manager

Scrummaster

**Product Owner** 

### These roles are now gone



#### 2016 - now: shift left & Spotify way of work

Dev Engineer

"IT Engineer"

**Ops Engineer** 

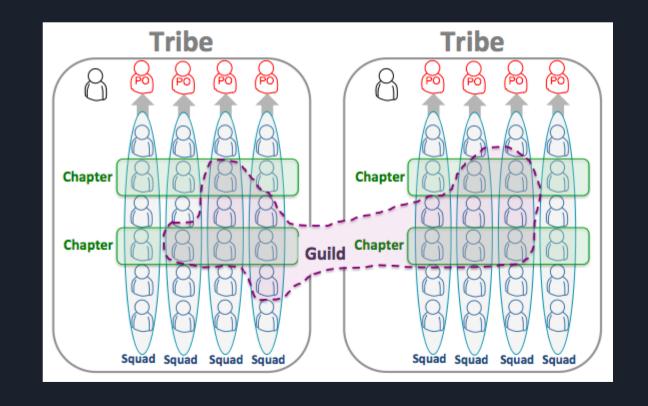
IT Chapter Lead

IT Tribe Lead

**Customer Journey Expert** 

Chapter Lead

Business Tribe Lead



#### Conclusion: tech company in transition

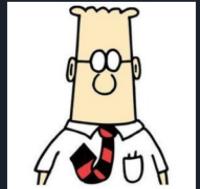
- ★ ING builds 1 app and tech stack for banking
- ★ Consolidating IT of ING BE + NL and onwards.. ("One App")
- ★ From silos to working in squads Biz + DevOps
- ★ Shift left development, testing, deployment and risk / yes! /
- ★ Squads are autonomous
- ★ Engineering culture en one learning organization

The IT manager is dead ... enter IT Chapter Lead

#### The core of the transforming role

Don't forget to ask my approval ...





I'm still a software engineer!

I am part of a team as well!

from WHAT to HOW

#### The core of the transforming role

from MANAGE to LEAD (and coach)

#### The core of the transforming role

from MBA to TECH

how do I grow...

from Software Engineer to IT Chapter Lead

#### Technical impact

#### Software development improvement

You're one of the devs!

#### Behavioural impact

#### Way of work improvement

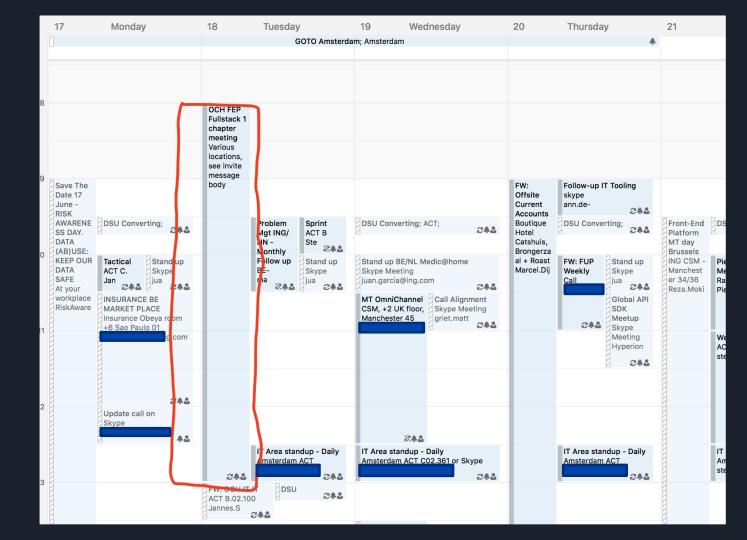
...in the squads you oversee

#### The transforming role ... to conclude

- ★ The IT manager role becomes obsolete (in fact it obstructs the transformation into a modern IT organization)
- ★ The focus shifts (from what, manage & mba to how, lead & tech)
- ★ Impact of improvement is important, not responsibility

The job of the IT Chapter Lead ... in practice

Chapters



#### tinker

/'tɪŋkə/

verb
gerund or present participle: tinkering

 attempt to repair or improve something in a casual or desultory way.

"he spent hours **tinkering with** the car"

synonie try to mend/improve, work amateurishly on, fiddle with, play (about/around) with, toy with men:

#### Chapter meeting format

- 1 x per week 3 or 4 hours
- Start small with groups of 2 or 3 engineers
- Projects should not be longer than 3 months
- Idea not good? Let it die fast, start something new
- Chapter members are also judged on results in chapter
- No commitment? You're on your way out (of ING)
- We work together on site (not from home)



Out of 10 experiments...

One will be used by the bank, will end up used by customers

5 you'll throw away, will die early

2 will be contributions to other projects, repo's

2 will be implemented in the squad

Engineering / squad work

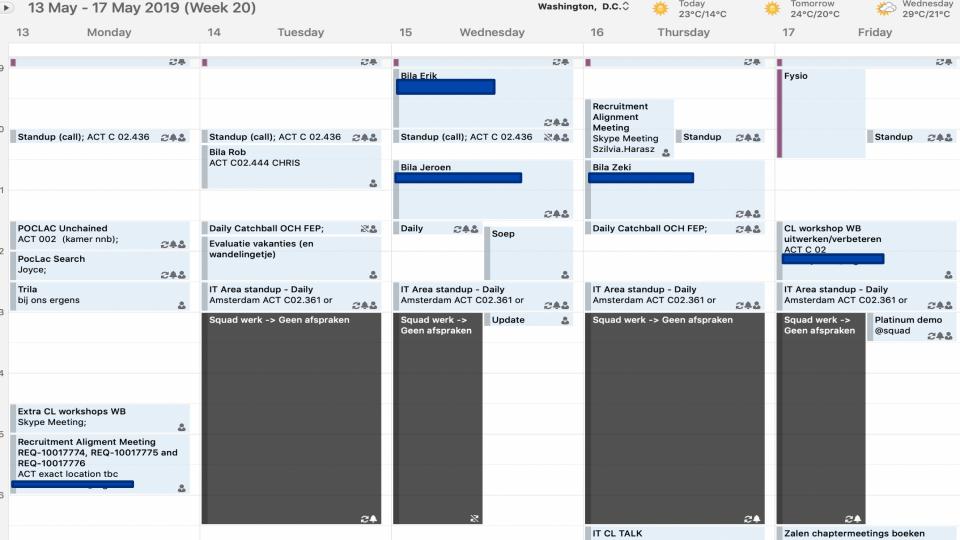
#### Squad and chapter: two teams



Chapter time, mastery



Squad time, delivery for customers

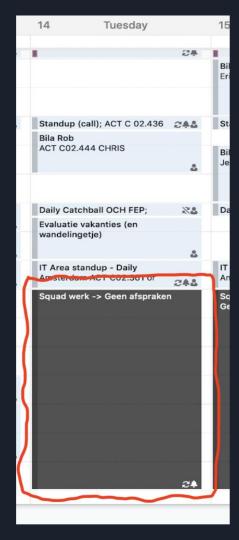


• Up to 60% of your FTE time should be squad work

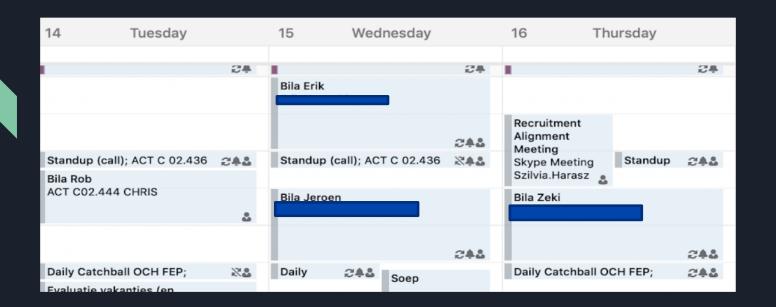
Program as much as possible for real stories on backlog

• Challenging to keep continuity in code with many distractions

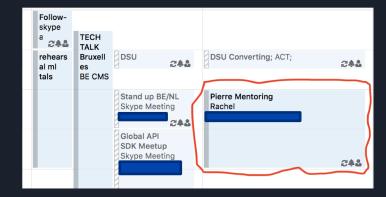
• CL also has (delegated) responsibility of the teams' apps



Mentoring and coaching



- Facilitating chapter members in their career development.
- Mentoring your successors



# Knowledge transfer & engineering culture

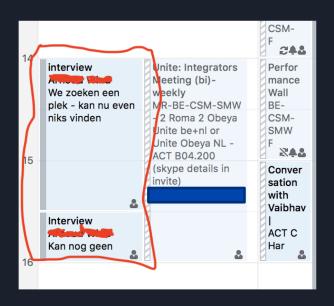
- Participating in hackathons
- Organising internal meetups, guild meetings, conferences

Tuesday

IT Area Event: Omnichannel SAVE THE DATE: Front End Platform Amstelstroom. IT AREA EVENT / Oudekerk aan de call for Amstel presentations Amstelstroom @ Ouderkerk a/d Amstel

Google IO live stream (keynote) & drinks Amsterdam AMP Filmzaal (AMP I 00.050) Hiring, onboarding

- Setting up programming challenges for new candidates
- Doing job interviews with new candidate chapter members
- Time consuming, so it's all about setting standards and best practices.



HR stuff (sighs)

Ordering laptops, hours approvals, sick leave, etc..



Systems access management for chapter members

#### The job of the IT Chapter Lead ... to conclude

- ★ It is all about tech, getting new tech properly into the company
- ★ And also about people (skills), coaching, mentoring
- ★ Spend time in your squad
- ★ It's recruitment
- ★ It's HR tasks of your own chapter
- ★ It's running after impediments the squads in your IT Tribe raise
- ★ It's about running the Chapter meetings and make these projects successful

Nobody told me ...

Pitfalls and learnings ... from the trenches



#### There's no such thing as a 40hr work week, pal

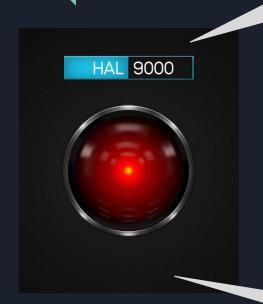


## You are also part of a squad

... or you might end up as an IT manager



#### **Keep coding (for PRODUCTION)**



```
st The computed result must be within 1 ulp of the exact resu]
 * Results must be semi-monotonic.
  @param a the base.
  @param b the exponent.
 * @return the value {@code a}<sup>{@code b}</sup>.
public static double pow(double a, double b) {
   return StrictMath.pow(a, b); // default impl. delegates to St
* Returns the closest {@code int} to the argument, with ties
* rounding to positive infinity.
```

...And that's more than approving merge requests in Gitlab...

#### The product owner is also part of a chapter

Where are my engineers?!



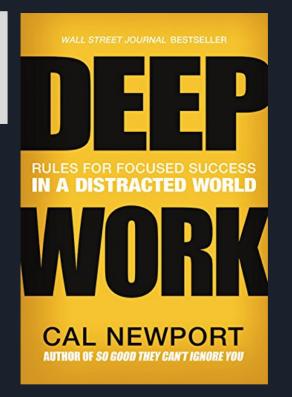
But dear product owner, you are in a chapter too.

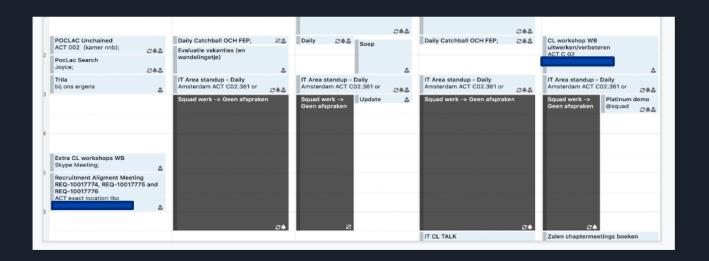


# Turn off your email client / silence your phone

How can I finish my code when I'm being interrupted all the time.







Stick to that schedule for months in a row

# The chapter is also a team

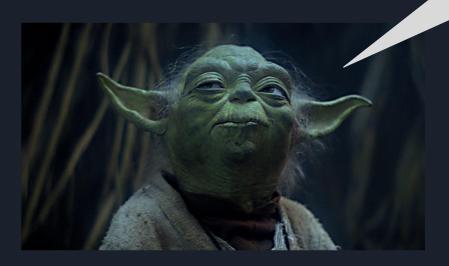


**Everybody** contributes!



#### Don't worry about not being the expert

A lead you can be, without being an expert.



## It is the best job ever!

Is there a better job?



No, it's the best job!



Questions?

