// KCD Budapest · 2026

Escaping the DevOps Hamster Wheel of Busywork

Piotr · DevOps Senior Manager · IGT

// METRICS

ARE YOU HERE?

// METRICS

ARE YOU HERE?

Priority Shifting

"I thought when you agree to this urgent thing, you would do both."

// METRICS

ARE YOU HERE?

Priority Shifting

"I thought when you agree to this urgent thing, you would do both."

Emergency

No SLA, no boundaries for your time,
no issues can wait,
no permanent solutions

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“Fair” Trade

Capped Raises, while asking why you cannot do more and more for the team

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Burnout

You're passionate about work but resentful about recognition

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Capped Raises, while asking why you cannot do more and more for the team

Burnout

You're passionate about work but resentful about recognition



DON’T WORRY

You are not alone!

// AGENDA

WHAT YOU GET

00	ONE LESSON	REMEMBER! REMEMBER! REMEMBER!
01	Social Proof	Where have I gone
02	The Hamster Wheel	Open Your Eyes Sheeple!
03	Break the Cycle	Universal Advices
04	Get the Wheel	Be Bold, Be Brave

The One Lesson

// ONE LESSON

The House Always Wins!

// ONE LESSON



😉 But you can count the cards

The House Always Wins!

// SECTION · BLUE

01

Social Proof

// SENIOR DEVOPS MANAGER · IGT

Piotr



Cloud Native DevOps,
who enable to seize scaling opportunities in bold product-based business through automation & lean approach.

// SENIOR DEVOPS MANAGER · IGT

Piotr

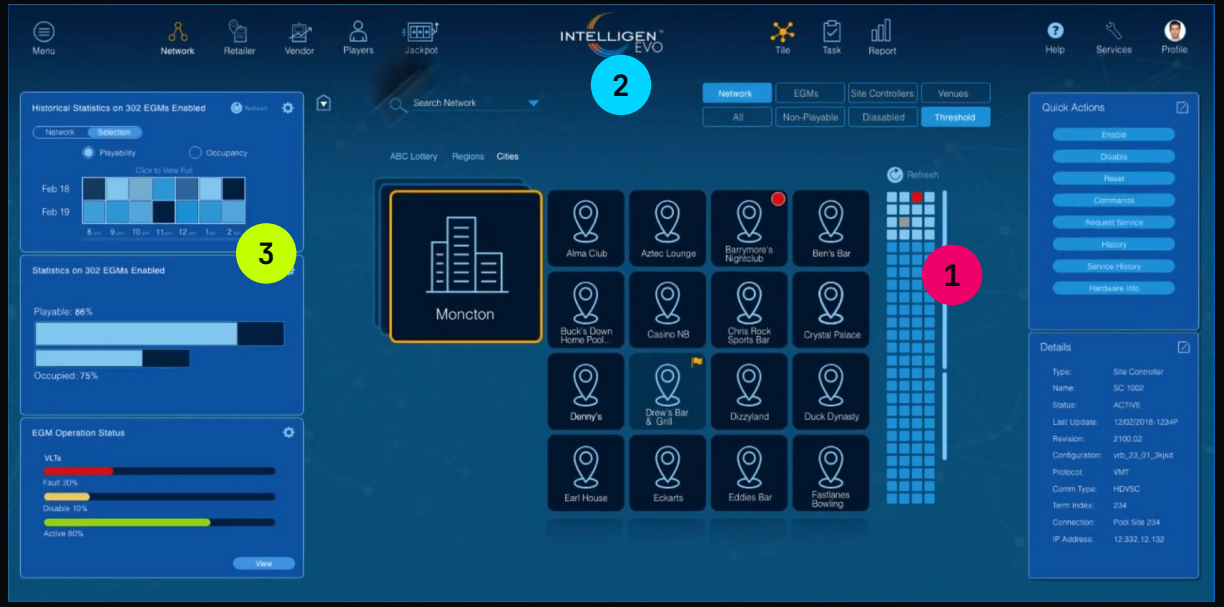
25 clients (★★★★★ stars)
saved millions euros,
built for thousands,
mentored dozens,
/now
    leads team of 8,
    🔥 still on-hands,



Cloud Native DevOps,
who enable to seize scaling opportunities in bold product-based business through automation & lean approach.

// SOCIAL PROOF

Intelligen EVO



1 **Cloud Native**

Next-gen system for thousands of distributed VLTs

2 **Central System**

manage day2day operations, market to players, and revenue

3 **Deeper insights**

monitor and control across with precision

// SENIOR DEVOPS MANAGER · IGT

Piotr

13 years in IT (by mistake)
🏄 1+ year of sabbatical
storyteller & speaker,
community builder,



Cloud Native DevOps,
who enable to seize scaling opportunities in bold product-based business through automation & lean approach.

// SENIOR DEVOPS MANAGER · IGT

Piotr

I like fast vehicles,
Rapid Prototyping,
Scifi, RPGs, Game Design,
Probabilistic Analysis,
& Hawaiian Shirts,

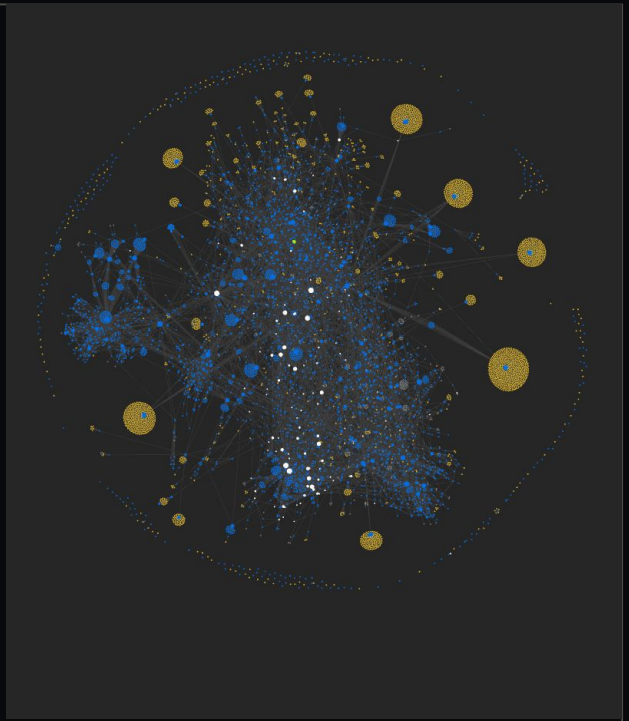


Cloud Native DevOps,
who enable to seize scaling opportunities in bold product-based business through automation & lean approach.

// SENIOR DEVOPS MANAGER · IGT

Piotr

Obsidian Fanboy
with Hand Curated
Second Brain
of 6953 files 🧠



Cloud Native DevOps,
who enable to seize scaling
opportunities in bold
product-based business
through automation & lean
approach.

// SENIOR DEVOPS MANAGER · IGT

Piotr

Values:

„Automation is Oxygen”

„Culture Eats Strategy”,

„Velocity Wins”



The One Lesson

// ONE LESSON

The House Always Wins!

// ONE LESSON



😉 But you can count the cards

The House Always Wins!

// SECTION · RED

02

The Hamster Wheel

// THE HAMSTER WHEEL

The LIE

// THE HAMSTER WHEEL

The LIE

You have been sold

// THE HAMSTER WHEEL

The LIE

You have to play their game

// THE HAMSTER WHEEL

The LIE

You don’t have to play their game

// THE HAMSTER WHEEL

The LIE



You don’t have to play their game

// THE HAMSTER WHEEL

Never play fair in a game where others cheat

// TRAP OF PRODUCTIVITY

Machines need to be productive. People need to be effective.

// TRAP OF PRODUCTIVITY



// TRAP OF PRODUCTIVITY



01 · BUSY BUSY BUSY

Busier you are

→ less time

to make yourself visible.

// TRAP OF PRODUCTIVITY



01 · BUSY BUSY BUSY

Busier you are

→ less time

to make yourself visible.

02 · + DEFAULT

Invisible Work

= No Reputation

= No Power

// TRAP OF PRODUCTIVITY



01 · BUSY BUSY BUSY

Busier you are

→ less time

to make yourself visible.

02 · + DEFAULT

Invisible Work

= No Reputation

= No Power

03 · + WASTE

Interruptions
On-Call
Support
Filling Tickets
Writing Yamls
DevOps Trashcan

// TRAP OF PRODUCTIVITY



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Busier you are

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// TRAP OF PRODUCTIVITY

Invisible work



// TRAP OF PRODUCTIVITY

Invisible work

Glue Work

Just isn't impactful enough



// TRAP OF PRODUCTIVITY

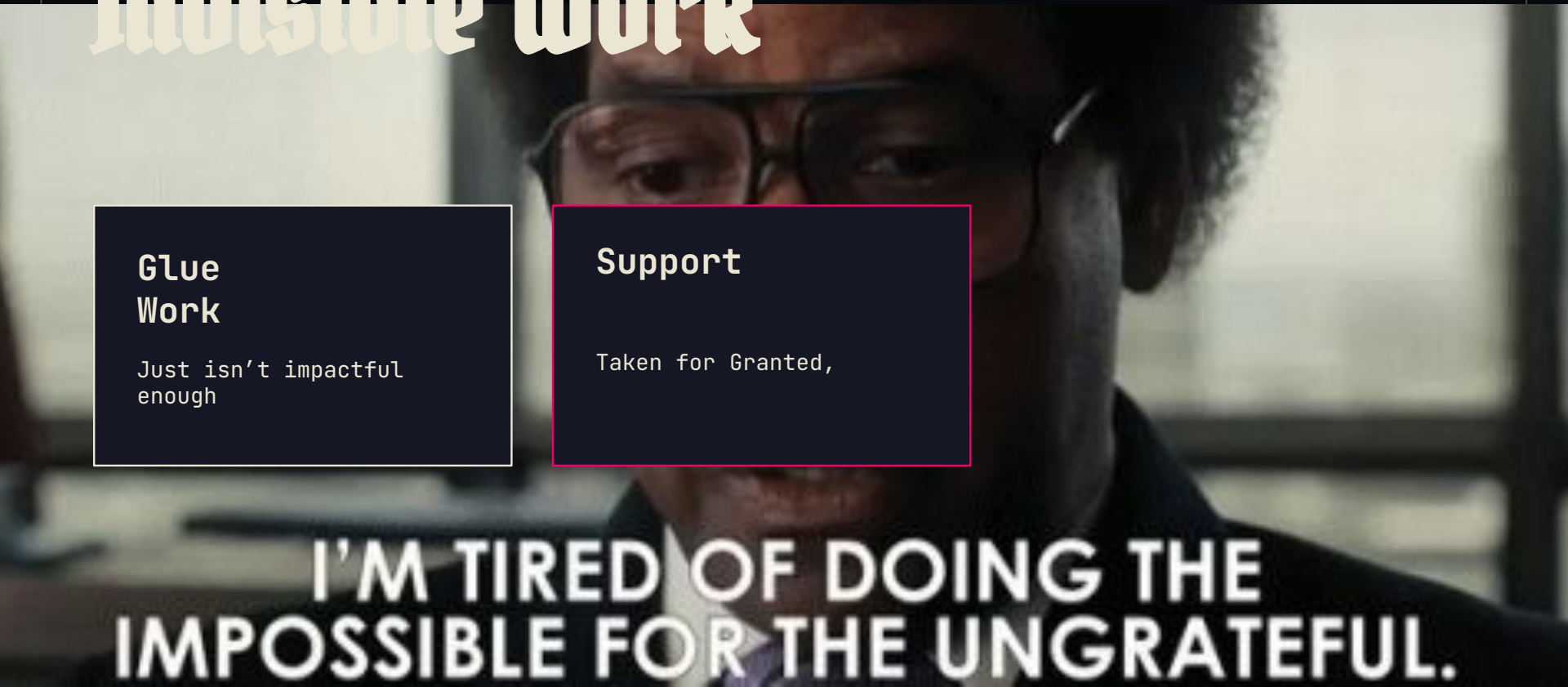
Invisible work

Glue Work

Just isn't impactful enough

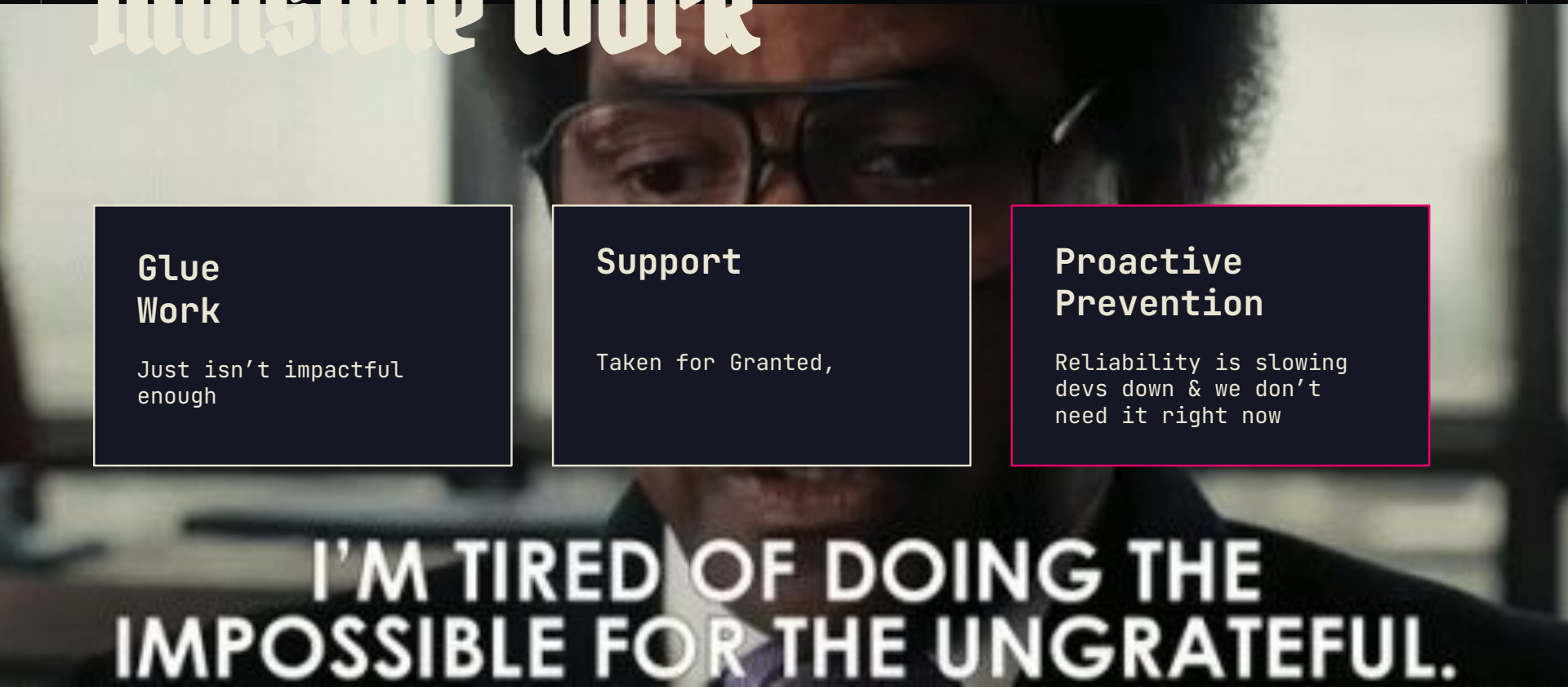
Support

Taken for Granted,



// TRAP OF PRODUCTIVITY

Invisible work



Glue Work

Just isn't impactful enough

Support

Taken for Granted,

Proactive Prevention

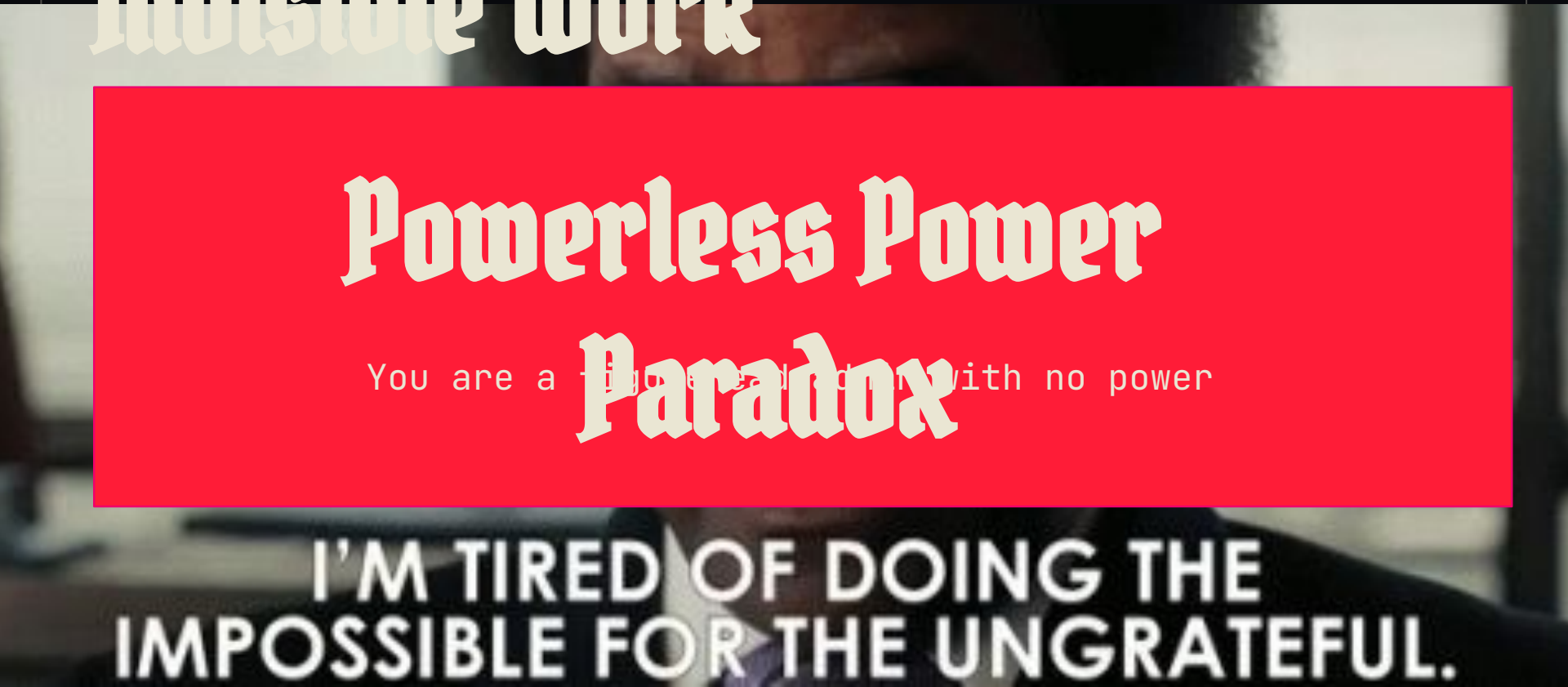
Reliability is slowing devs down & we don't need it right now

// TRAP OF PRODUCTIVITY

Invisible work

Powerless Power Paradox

You are a figurehead [illegible] with no power



// YOUR VALUE

90%

How good your Boss looks thanks to you.

Your Manager is judged by your output.

// YOUR VALUE

10%

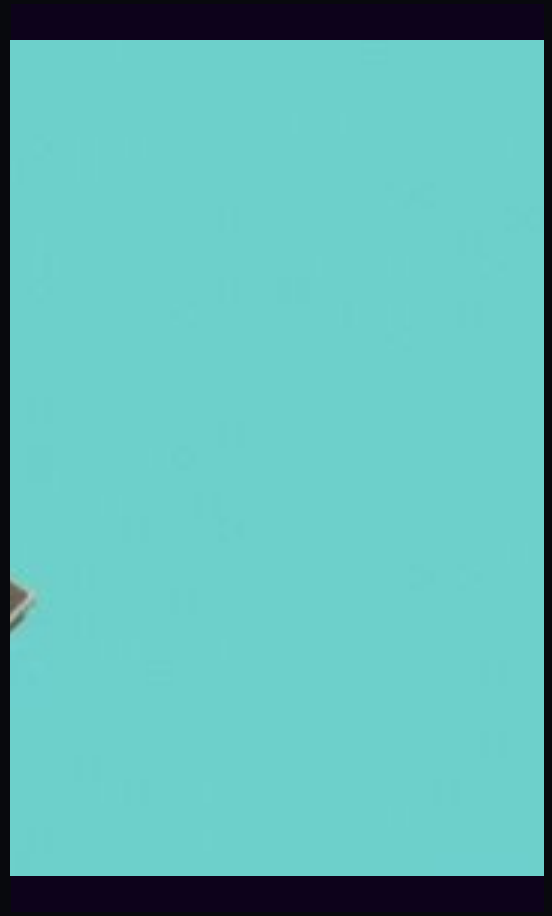
How much You’ve done

// YOUR VALUE

00%

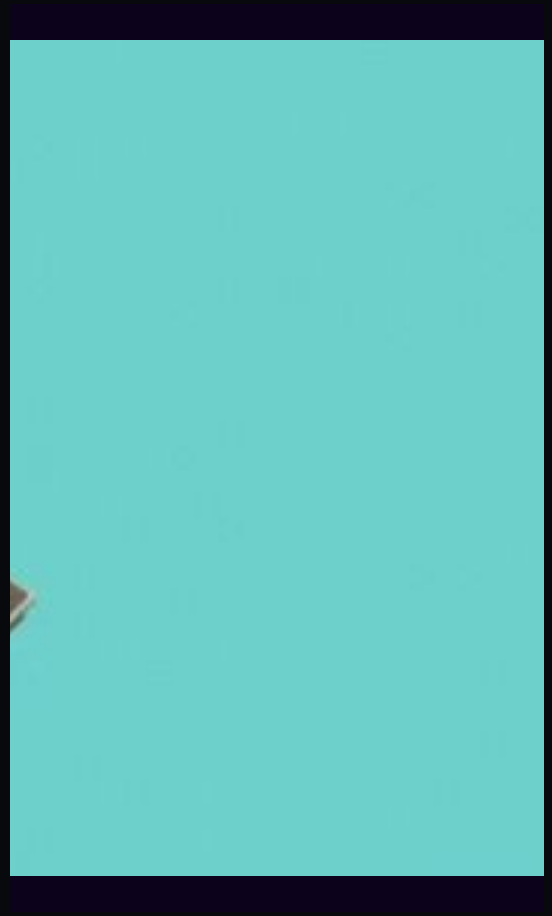
How hard you worked

// HARDPILL



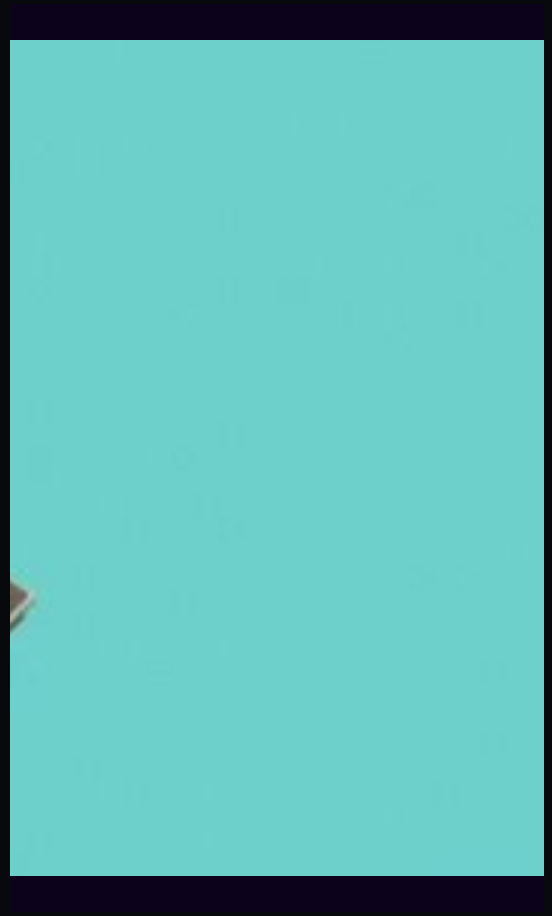
// HARDPILL

Slowing Your Growth



// HARDPILL

Slowing Your Growth
Slowing Your Career



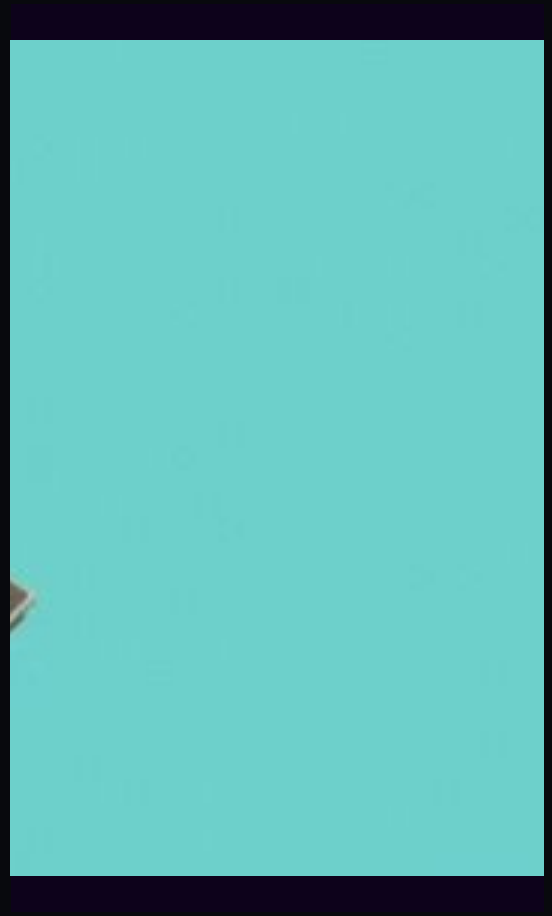
// HARDPILL

Slowing Your Growth
Slowing Your Career
Less Purpose



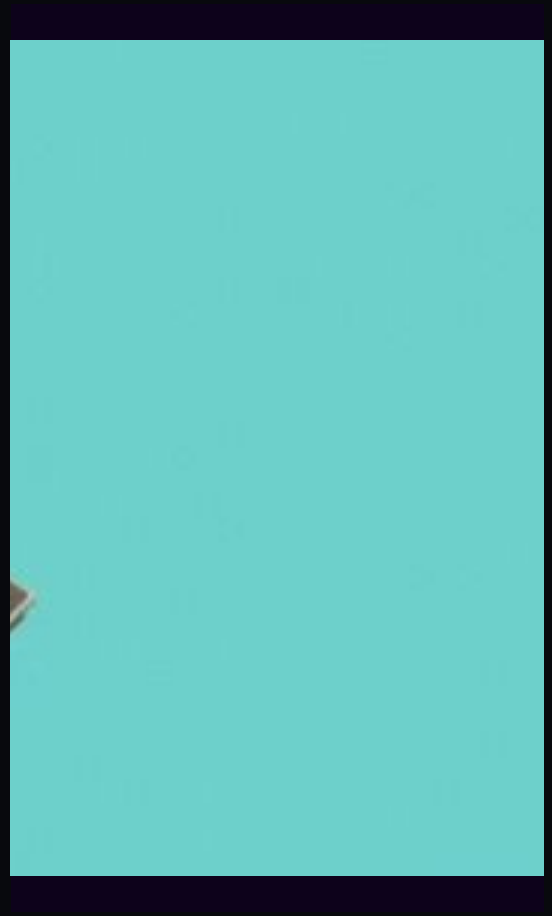
// HARDPILL

Slowing Your Growth
Slowing Your Career
Less Purpose
Less Impact



// HARDPILL

Slowing Your Growth
Slowing Your Career
Less Purpose
Less Impact
Less 💲 💲



// HARDPILL

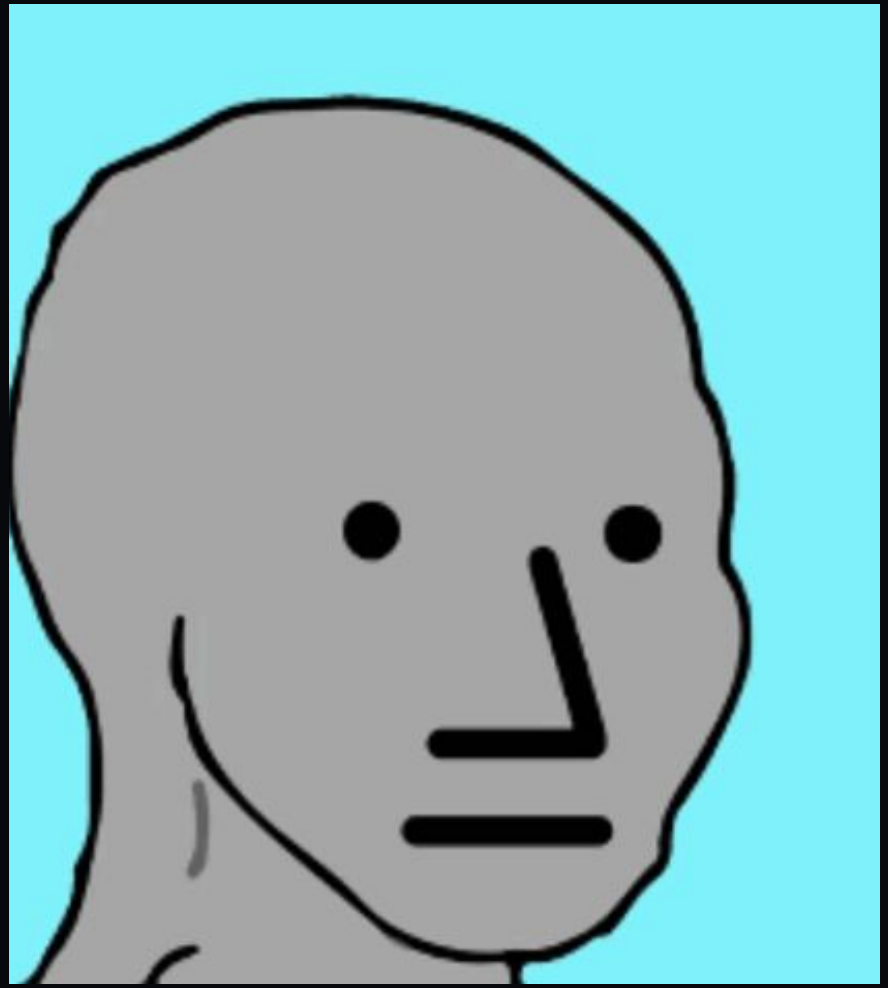
Slowing Your Growth
Slowing Your Career
Less Purpose
Less Impact
Less 💲 💲
More Burnout



// SECTION · RED

03

Break the Cycle



// HARDPILL

YOU ARE NOT THE MAIN CHARACTER

- you are an employee



// HARDPILL

NO TRUE LEVERAGE

Not because of malice

- short memory
- changing situation
- better at the game
- fear

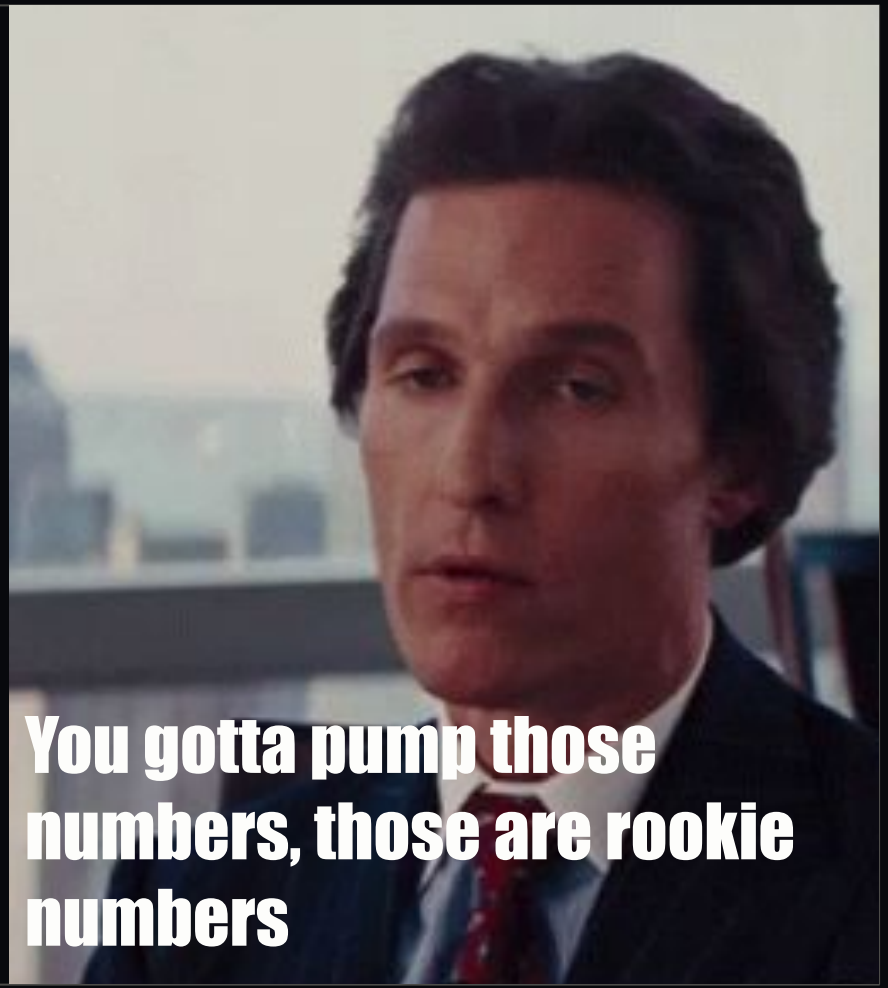
// BREAK THE CYCLE

Measure toil!



// BREAK THE CYCLE

Weaponize Goodhart Law.



// BREAK THE CYCLE

OVER-

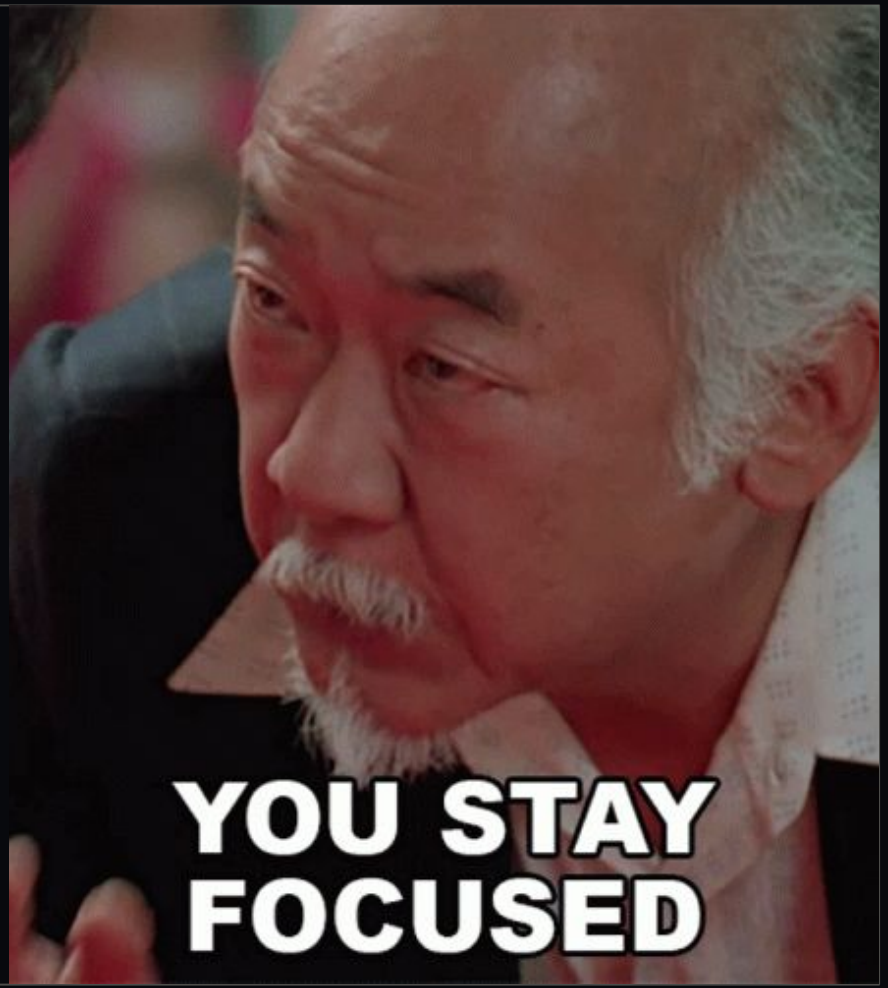
communicate

before being asked.



// BREAK THE CYCLE

Limit WP.



// BREAK THE CYCLE

Understand SHIPPING.



// BREAK THE CYCLE

Your default is giving 80%



// SECTION · GREEN

04

Get the Wheel



// TIER 1

3 THINGS



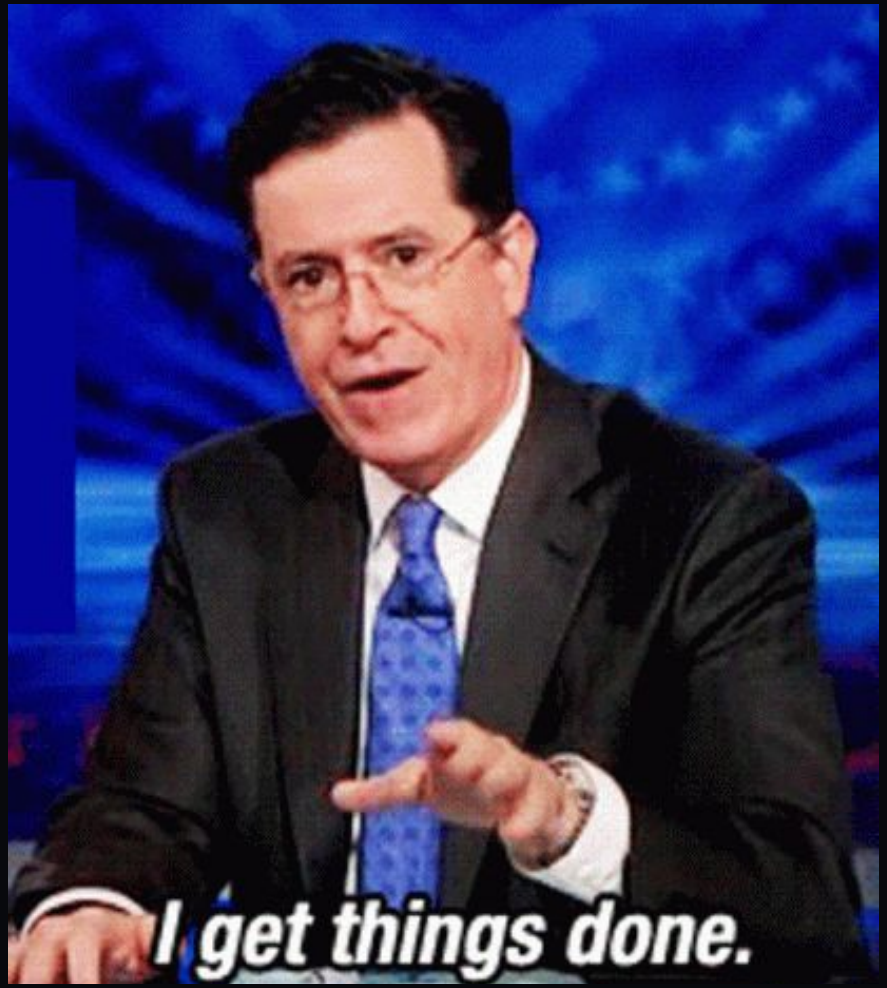
// TIER 1

3 THINGS EQUALS

90%

OF YOUR VALUE

// TIER 1



HIGH AGENCY

// TIER 2

THE ART OF NOT NOW

// TIER 2

THE ART OF NOT NOW

01

Not Everything is a Priority

There can be only be one number one

// TIER 2

THE ART OF NOT NOW

Not Everything is a Priority

01

There can be only be one number one

Not everything is Urgent

02

Loud is not due.

// TIER 2

THE ART OF NOT NOW

Not Everything is a Priority

01

There can be only be one number one

Not everything is Urgent

02

Loud is not due.

Don’t say “No”

03

because...

// TIER 2

THE ART OF NOT NOW

Not Everything is a Priority

01

There can be only be one number one

Not everything is urgent

02

Loud is not due.

Don’t say “No”

03



// TIER 2

THE ART OF NOT NOW

// TIER 2

THE ART OF NOT NOW

INSTEAD



// TIER 2

THE ART OF NOT NOW

INSTEAD



DO

Put in Backlog.
right next to Lost Faberge Eggs

// TIER 2

THE ART OF NOT NOW

INSTEAD



DO

Put in Backlog.
right next to Lost Faberge Eggs

Show Costs
delays | risks

// TIER 2

THE ART OF NOT NOW

INSTEAD



DO

Put in Backlog.
right next to Lost Faberge Eggs

Show Costs
delays | risks

Do Improv.
Yes, Scope A + Timeline B, **and Resource C!**

// TIER 2



Force Management to make a DECISION

// TIER 2



Force Management to make a DECISION

FUN FACT

They are paid to do that.

// TIER 3

KEEP THE SCORE

// TIER 3

KEEP THE SCORE



01 · KEEP BRAG LIST

// TIER 3

KEEP THE SCORE



01 · KEEP BRAG LIST



02 · KEEP BETS LIST

// TIER 3

KEEP THE SCORE



01 · KEEP BRAG LIST



02 · KEEP BETS LIST



03 · KEEP INSIGHT CACHE



// TIER 4

DON'T ASK FOR PERMISSION



// TIER 4

DON'T ASK FOR PERMISSION

GIVE GRACE PERIODS

// TIER 5

EMAILS ARE TURN-BASED COMBAT

// TIER 5

EMAILS ARE TURN-BASED COMBAT

You never win,
👎 zero inbox
👎 shortcuts
👎 LLMs

// TIER 5

EMAILS ARE TURN-BASED COMBAT

You never win,
👎 zero inbox
👎 shortcuts
👎 LLMs

Time Box

// TIER 5

EMAILS ARE TURN-BASED COMBAT

You never win,
👎 zero inbox
👎 shortcuts
👎 LLMs

Time Box

Snooze

// TIER 5

EMAILS ARE TURN-BASED COMBAT

You never win,
👎 zero inbox
👎 shortcuts
👎 LLMs

Time Box

Snooze

Schedule

// TIER 5

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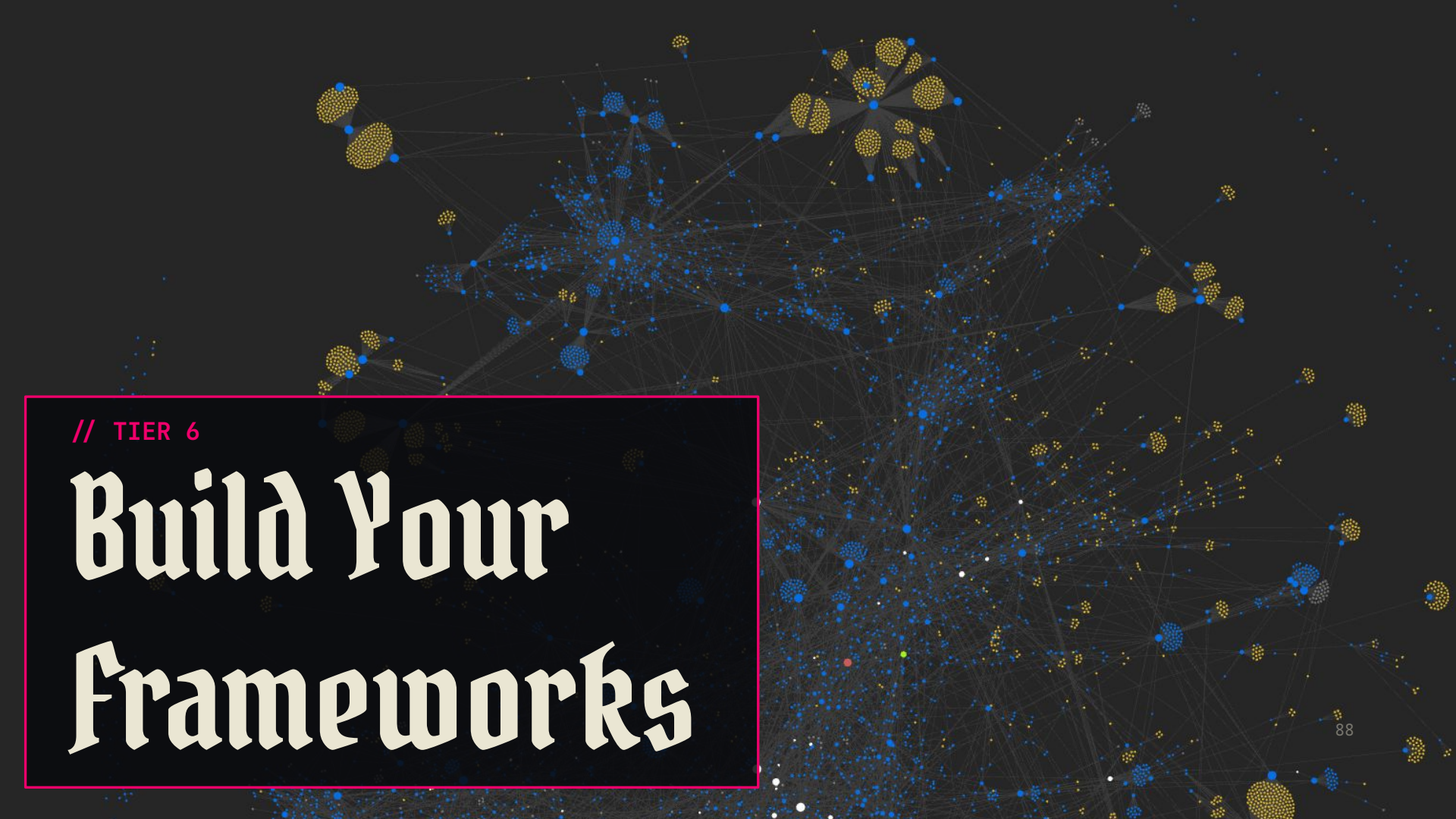
Time Box

Snooze

Schedule

NORTH STAR

CHOOSE WHEN THE TURN HAPPENS



// TIER 6

Build Your Frameworks

// TIER 6

MY SECOND BRAIN IN NUMBERS



// TIER 6

MY SECOND BRAIN IN NUMBERS

2017

MY FIRST PERSONAL KANBAN

Now Running

Year Summary (2017)
Weekly Retros (2018)
Monthly Check (2020)
Q. Checkpoint (2025)

// TIER 6

MY SECOND BRAIN IN NUMBERS

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2021

SECOND BRAIN START

-13 apps

0 Regrets

// TIER 6

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2021

SECOND BRAIN START

-13 apps

150000 lines of text
2+ GB

0 Regrets

2026

1662 AREA FILES

Distilled from:

1283 Articles
266 Books
552 YT Videos
135 Websites
2004 Inspirations
120 Recommendations

// TIER 6

MY SECOND BRAIN IN NUMBERS

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MY FIRST PERSONAL KANBAN

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0 Regrets

2026

1662 AREA FILES

Distilled from:

1283 Articles
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2004 Inspirations
120 Recommendations

63

Completed Projects

5 ACTIVE
32 “NEXT” Projects
13 in the Freezer

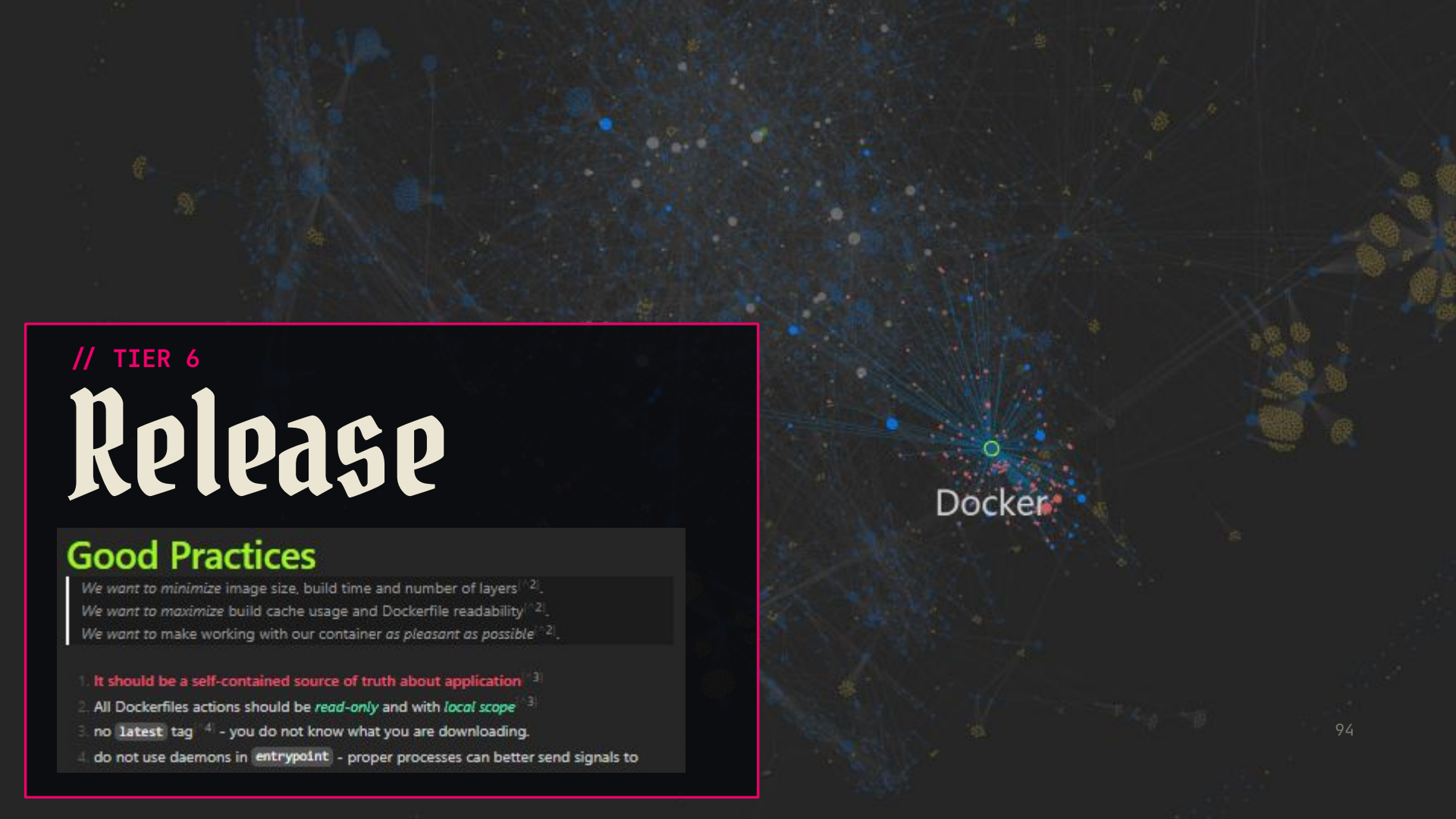
// TIER 6

Release

Good Practices

> *We want to minimize* image size, build time and number of layers [2].
> *We want to maximize* build cache usage and Dockerfile readability [2].
> *We want to* make working with our container *as pleasant as possible* [2].

1. It should be a self-contained source of truth about application [3]
2. All Dockerfiles actions should be *read-only* and with *local scope* [3]
3. no `latest` tag [4] - you do not know what you are downloading.
4. do not use daemons in `entrypoint` - proper processes can better send signals to



// TIER 6

Release

> Content Creation is Automated Networking [3]

> *Reading is faster then listening, being is faster than watching* [2]

Original Content

This note is for my Branding [4], Contributions, Articles, Presentations, Demos and Ides for those. Showing of my skills, knowledge and person

You're an expert writer [1], A thought leader is someone who, through their content, actions, and expertise, shapes the conversations happening in their field [5]. If you are doing things the right way, your reader will change how they see the world through your text [1].

- Produce High-Quality Content - Blog Posts, Whitepapers and e-books, videos and webinars. Your writing needs to be VALUABLE - *it's the only important thing!* [1]



// TIER 7

LEVERAGE AI

- for disposable writing
- for learning
  - critic after you
- mechanical work
- not for reading & summarizing
  - unless it’s Jira



// TIER 7

LEVERAGE AI

Think of how stupid the average person is, and realize half of them are stupider than that.

- George Carlin





// TIER 8

PICK

ONE RULE

TO BREAK



/ TIER 9

SOMETIMES YOU JUST CANNOT WIN

// ONE LESSON

The House Always Wins!

// ONE LESSON



😉 But you can count the cards

The House Always Wins!

// KCD Budapest · 2026

Go be Unreasonable

Questions. Hot takes. Disagreement welcome.

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linkedin.com/in/pgtrebacz

instagram/voidorn.one

