

# How to turn a doomed project around.

From despair to bright future  
in a few simple (but not easy) steps.

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# **Chapter I**

In which we set the scen  
and the journey begins

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# The brief is a breeze

- A strong team of in-house developers
- Advanced projects
- Needs? No big deal. Simple bug-fixing in a project that is about to be retired.
- We use Scrum/Agile





# But things are never what they seem

- Developers with great business knowledge but no system scalability know-how
- No best practices in place
- No working processes
- No testers at all. In fact, no QA despite declarations
- Scrum almost non-existent
- Every single change in the app causes surprise bugs all over the place
- No automation





# **Chapter II**

In which we discover just how  
bad things really are

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# And so the struggle begins

- No trust towards our developers
- It takes three months to get a tester on board
- First unit tests and JavaScripts implemented
- Communication is hard (if it's there at all)





# Thing get tough

Two of the key team members get depressed and demotivated.

No kidding ☹️

# **Chapter III**

In which the truth is boldly told  
and weird things start happening

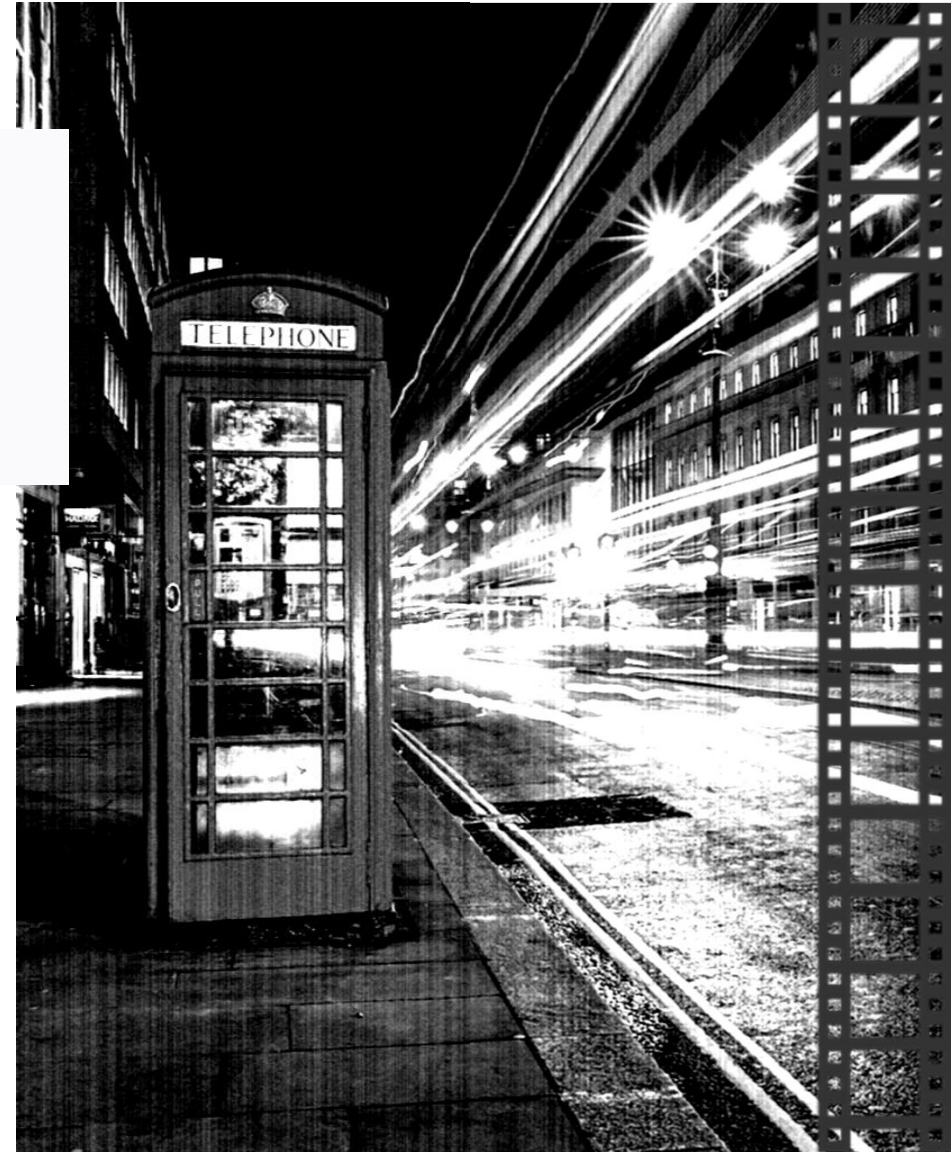
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# Our PM visits London with a suicide mission

We give the Client honest feedback.  
Luckily, it is taken seriously.

Key players from PGS Software stay in London  
for a week to meet and talk to the Clients' team...  
...who in turn visits our offices and works with us  
on transferring the knowledge about their key products.



# **Chapter IV**

In which hope is resorted

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# A new product – a new beginning

Client's brief:

- It's a finished product
- Well written
- Unit tests across the board
- Small optimization required
- Scaling roadmap in place





# There are major challenges

The code is decent but the road to technical excellence remains long.


Unit tests are there but they do not follow good practices. Minor changes have much too big an impact on code coverage.

Performance is a mess. The app stops working with 300 concurrent users.

Architecture choices prevent further growth.







But that's  
what we're  
here for.  
A serious  
discussion  
finally begins

- We discuss scalability and architecture.
- Decision: re-write of the key module
- A complete documentation is prepared.
- New architecture designed and implemented.
- Many bugs fixed throughout the implementation of the new piece.
- Security improves dramatically.





The results are  
outstanding

- TDD and ATDD used
- Over 1000 tests prepared
- The new documentation is used as a best practice for any new project started by the Client
- We prepare workshops for the Clients' dev team about the solutions we used

In 6 months only 3 issues reported out of which two are related to the environment and only one is a bug in the code itself.





But  
what's most  
important

Trust.  
Both ways.



# **Chapter V**

The hero succeeds and prepares  
for new challenges

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# New products on the horizon

- We work together with the Client on new products
- The Customer loves the prototypes
- Our Tech Lead is now a part of the Technical Lead Council
- We like working together!

To be continued!





# Epilogue

- The morale of the story?
- Making software is easy. Making great software is hard and requires specialization.
- Simply employing developers doesn't cut it. It takes years of gradual, iterative improvement and a massive investment in knowledge and thought leadership.
- The road to success? Concentrate on your core business. Find a partner you can trust and build your business with them.





# What's behind our technical expertise

**We organize workshops and conferences on a massive scale. Thought leadership is our no. 1 priority, not an add-on.**

- In 2016 we've organized and contributed to around 60 conferences and workshops.  
**That's around two events per week with thousands of participants.**
- Our Software Talks meetings have now become a recognizable brand
- We organize trainings and workshops for the brightest of students from top Polish tech Universities.
- We excel at QA, including a massive experience in continuous delivery.

**We keep investing in improving our projects, processes and communication.**

- We organize specialized trainings for our PMO, Head staff, Team Leaders, internship leaders
- We organize soft skills trainings to boost communication. Public speaking trainings included.
- We use Agile Coaching in several projects
- We organize training for technical experts responsible for recruitment



Let us help you grow your business.  
Thank you.







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