



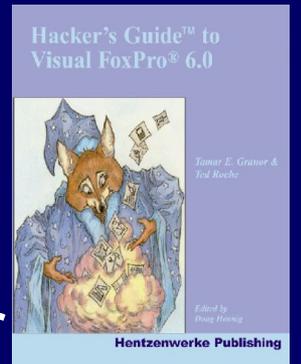
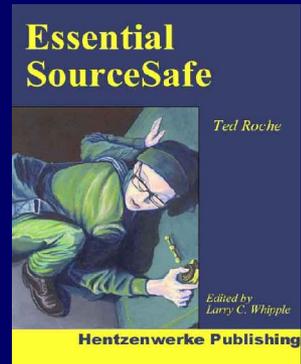
Proper Programming Practices

Ted Roche

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<http://www.tedroche.com>

Who is Ted Roche?



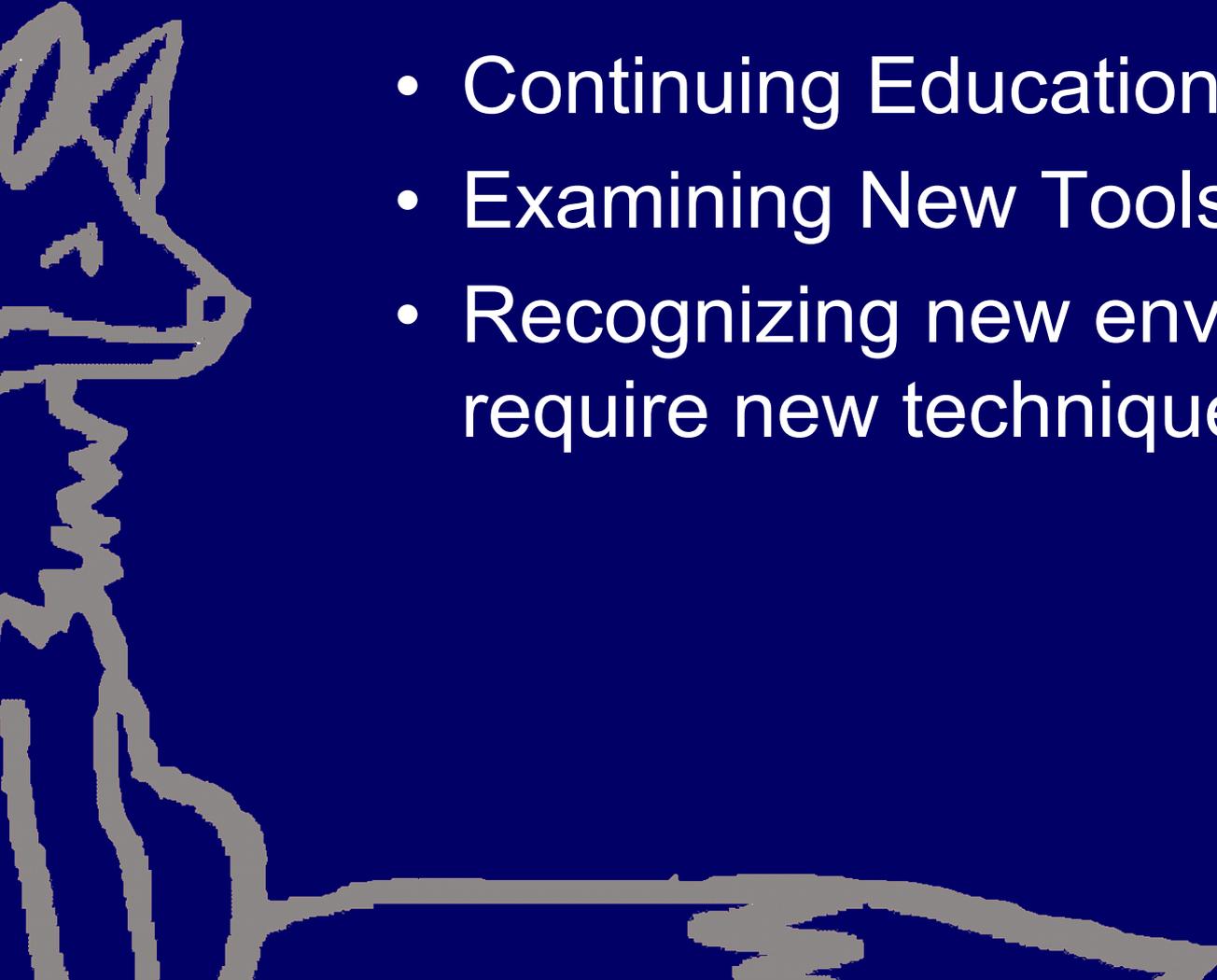
President of TR&A, LLC Consulting
Microsoft Certified Solution Developer,
Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer
Co-Author of Hacker's Guide to VFP 6
Author of Essential SourceSafe
Microsoft Support MVP



Great Lakes Great
Database Workshop 2001

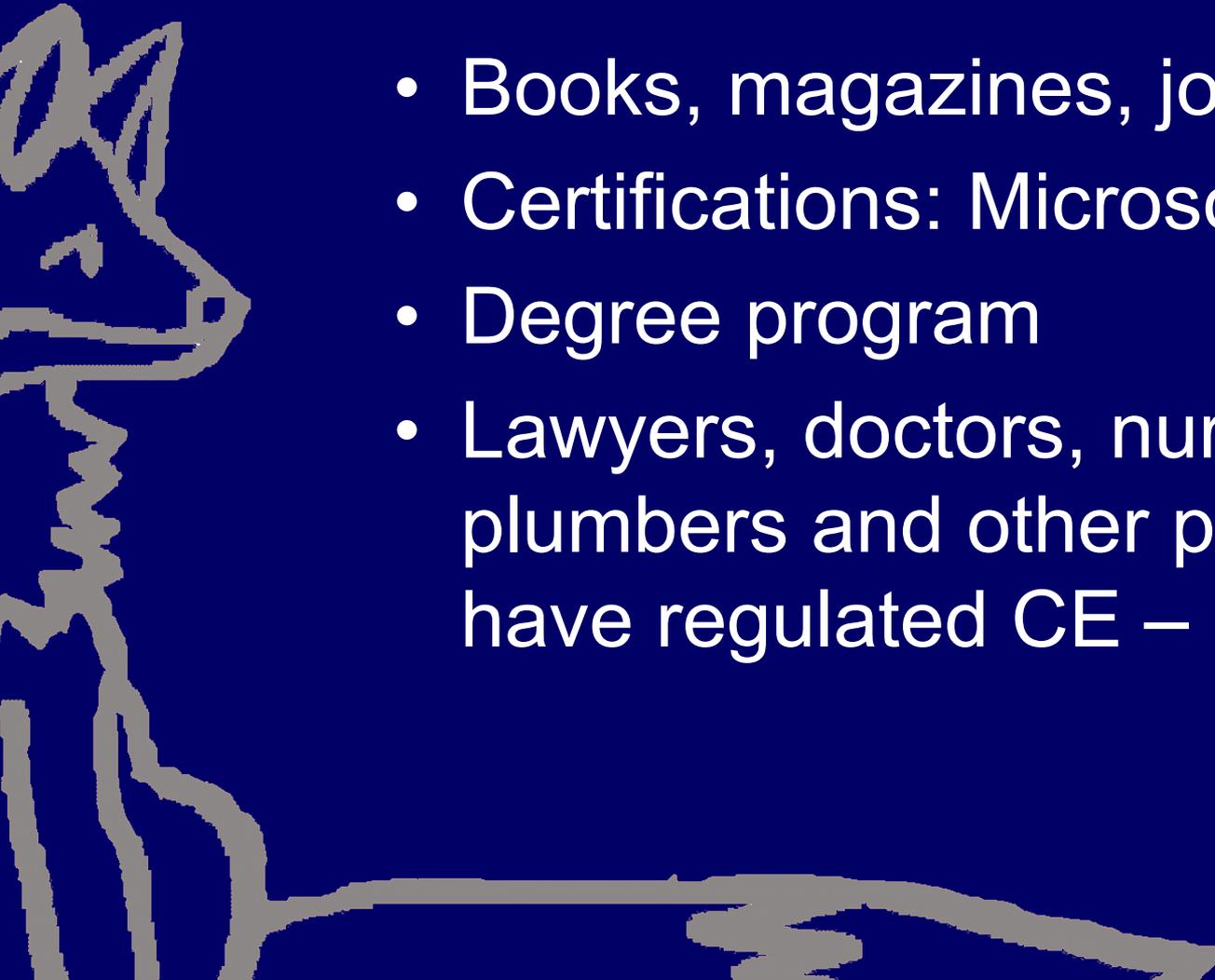
Proper Programming Practices

- Continuing Education
- Examining New Tools
- Recognizing new environments require new techniques



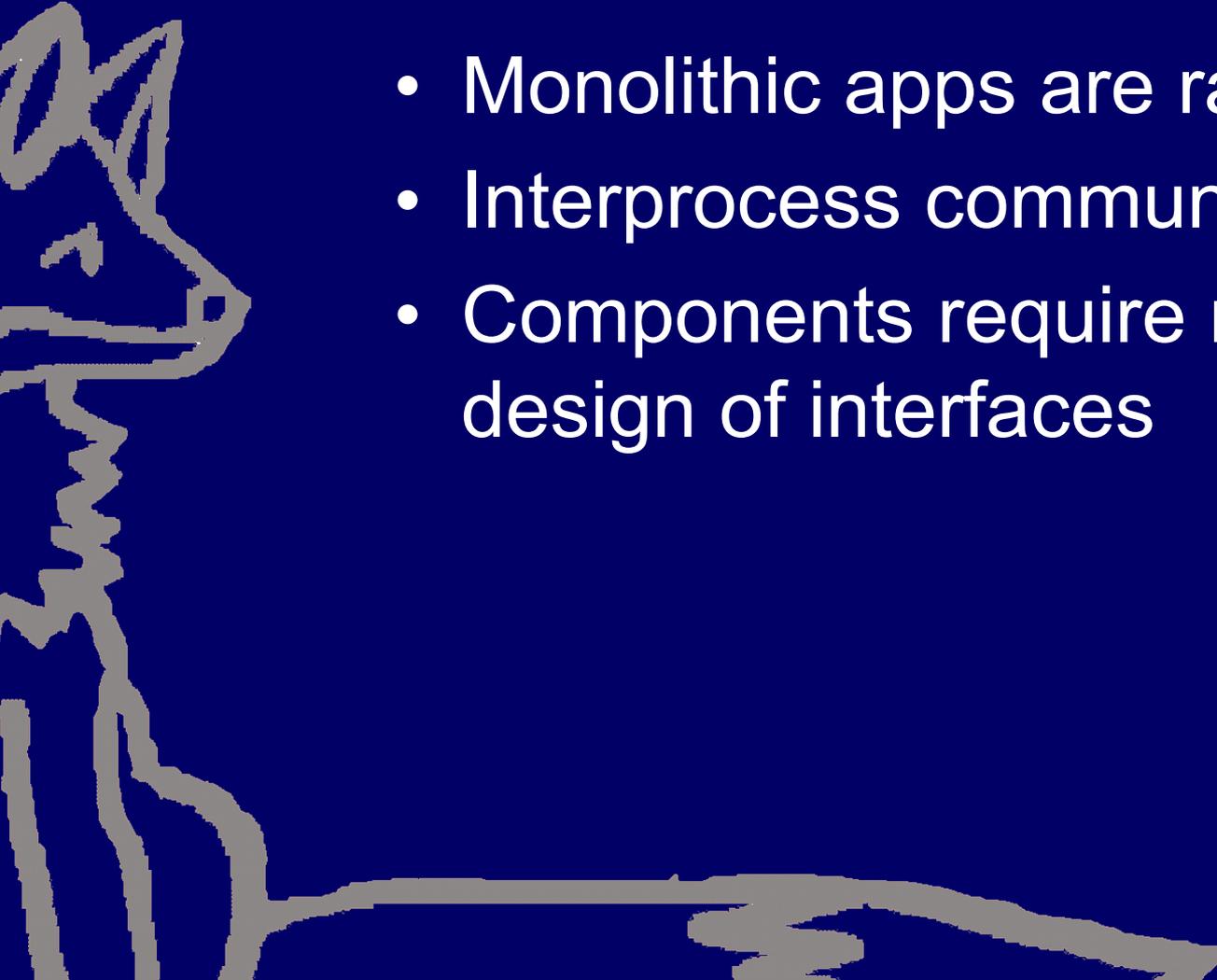
Continuing Education

- Books, magazines, journals, forum
- Certifications: Microsoft, ICCP
- Degree program
- Lawyers, doctors, nurses, EEs, plumbers and other professionals have regulated CE – it's coming.



New Tools

- Monolithic apps are rare
- Interprocess communications
- Components require more care in design of interfaces



New Techniques

- Extreme Programming
- Agile Methodology
- Refactoring
- QA techniques: review, walk-through, side-by-side coding
- Effects of scale on quality



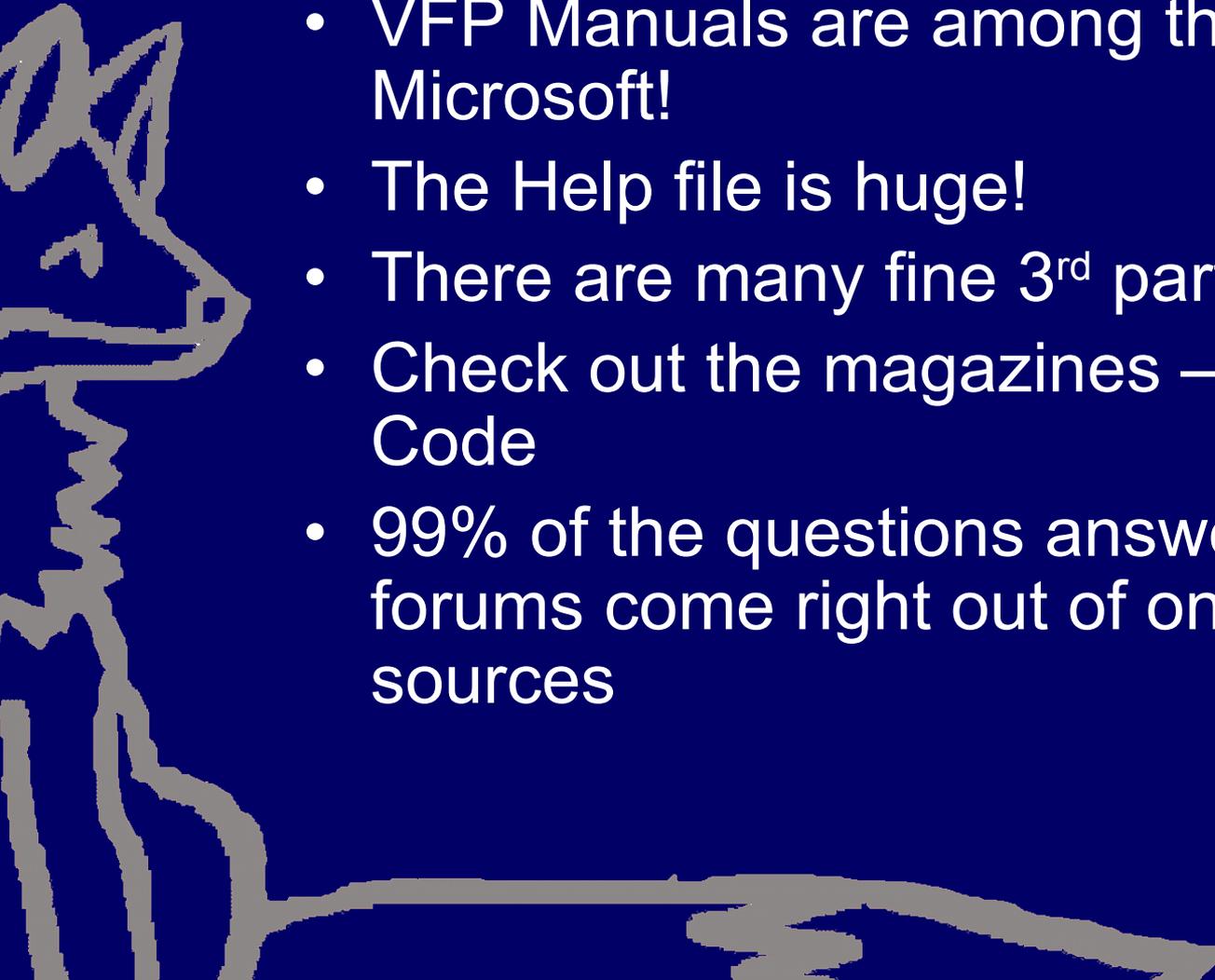
Putting It All Together

- Read The Fine Manuals
- Be One With The Fox
- Use A Framework
- Get A Support Group
- Sharpen The Saw
- Top Ten Mistakes



Read The Fine Manuals

- VFP Manuals are among the best in Microsoft!
- The Help file is huge!
- There are many fine 3rd party books
- Check out the magazines – Foxtalk, FPA, Code
- 99% of the questions answered on the forums come right out of one of these sources



Be One With The Fox

*When you choose to ride the tiger,
you must go where the tiger goes*

- Learn the FoxPro Way of coding



Get A Support Group

- How many have solved a problem by explaining it to someone else?
- On-line forums: UT, CompuServe, FoxForum.com
- Newsgroups: Microsoft and uunet
- User Groups: monthly, free (or cheap), networking opportunity

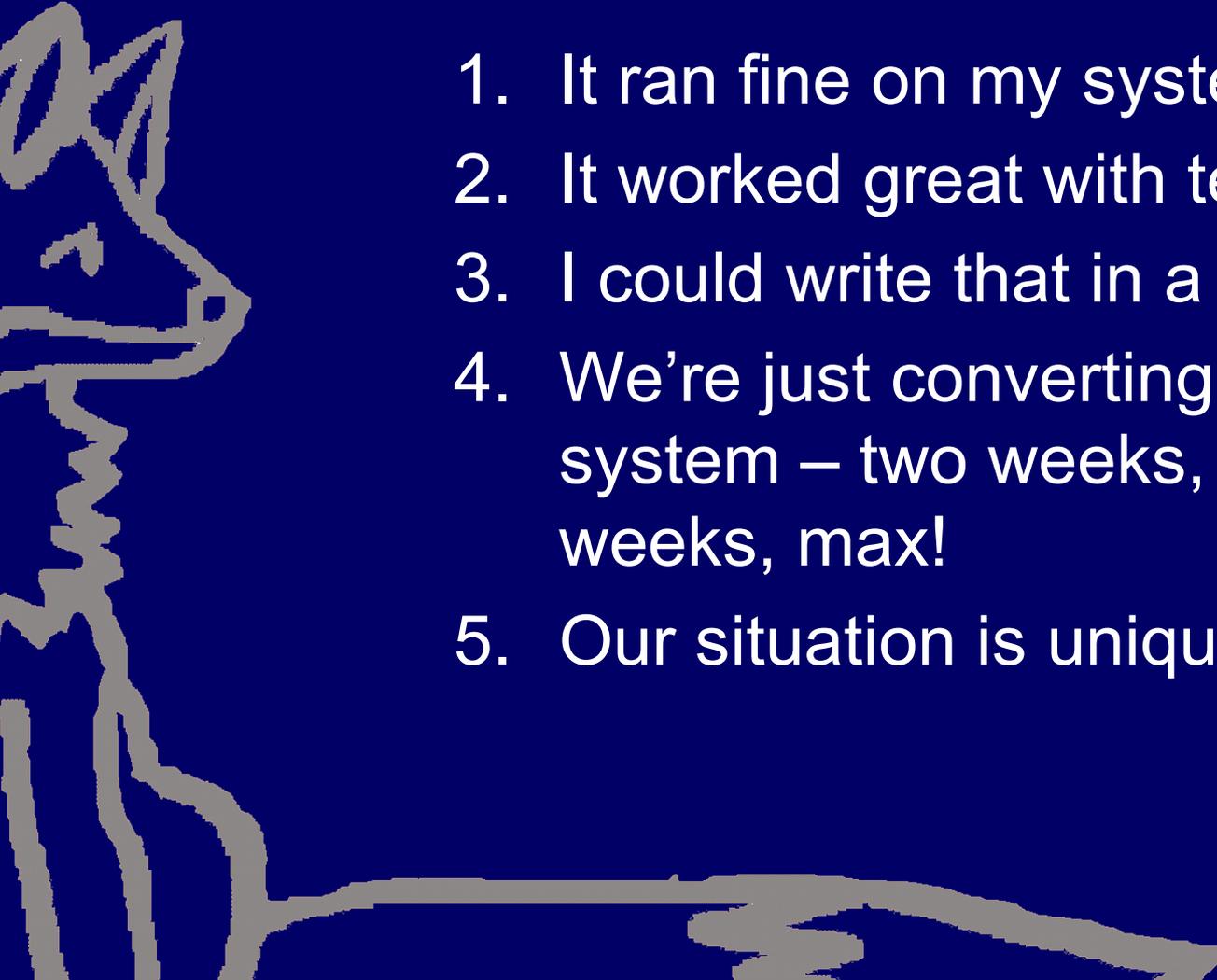
Sharpen The Saw

- None of us know it all (except maybe Calvin)
- Improve your development and consulting techniques by:
 - Attending conferences
 - Reading journals
 - Participating online
 - Reading books (in and out of the industry)



Top Ten Mistakes

1. It ran fine on my system!
2. It worked great with ten records!
3. I could write that in a week!
4. We're just converting an existing system – two weeks, maybe four weeks, max!
5. Our situation is unique...



Top Ten Mistakes

1. We don't have time to document it now...
2. I know how the system should work...
3. Upper management has no idea what we do.
4. But, what if....
5. Those who fail to learn from the past...
... will be past by those of us who have!



Summary

- Continuing education ensures continued professionalism
- New tools help improve coding
- Quality improvements required for highly-scalable applications



Thank you!

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