Distributed, Yet Focused

High-Impact Remote Teams





Lower Costs, Higher Satisfaction.

\$11,000 Per Employee Per Year!



No Commute,

More Time.

https://www.axios.com/2023/01/24/remote-work-saved-workers-72-minutes-per-day-study-finds

Access to Talent, Global and Diverse.

4x More Applicants, +21% Diversity!

47% More Productive!

Productivity, Focus and Flexibility.

https://www.apollotechnical.com/working-from-home-productivity-statistics/

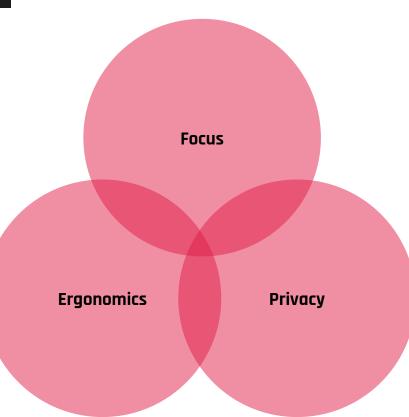
Employer Brand, Modern Culture.

25% Lower Turnover Rate!

Working from Home

Working from Home: Expectation vs. Reality

Working from Home

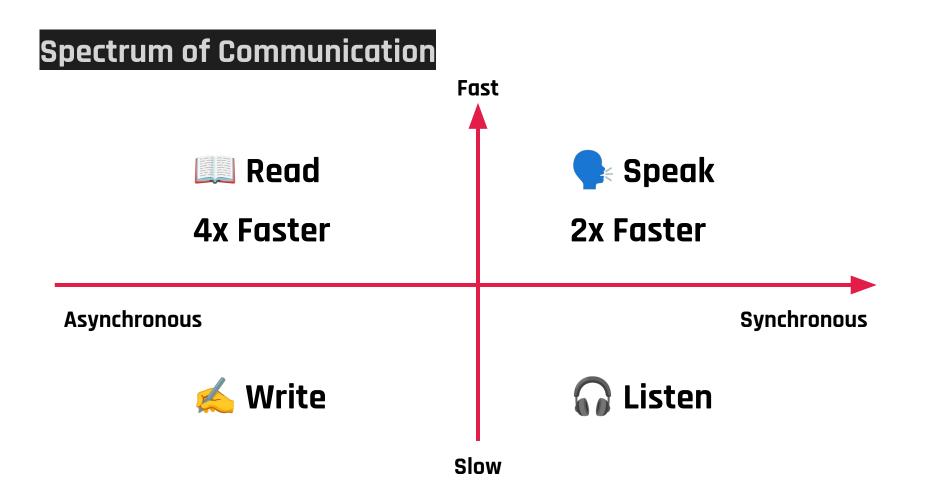


Remote Work ≠ Home Office

Intentional Communication

Spectrum of Communication





Async: Impact-Focused

Deep Work, Real Contributions.

Sync: Alignment-Focused

Fast Clarity, Structured Interaction.

Living Artifacts Measure Results Planned Social Interactions Intentionally Built Culture

Remote – Engage – Produce – Loop

Living Artifacts

When You Find Out Work Gossip and Can't Wait to Tell Your Coworkers

Information Spreads Naturally

Office

Knowledge Must Be Spread Intentionally

Remote

Set Up an Operating System & Document Your Rituals

Format	When	Who	Owner
Weekly Checkout	Thursdays 11:00	Full	Rotating
Retro	After Initiative and / or after cooldown	Full	Rotating
Team Days	on demand	Full	@Klaus Breyer
Daily	Daily 11:30	Building (in cycle) Product (out cycle)	Rotating
Shaping	Between Cycles	Building (only 1 tech)	

Asynchronous Request for Comments Table

Name	Yes Yes, if	Date
@Klaus Breyer	Yes, if we have agreed and documented the open questions	Mar 12, 2025
		Mar 18, 2025
		Mar 14, 2025
		Mar 14, 2025

Put a TL;DR on Top of Every Document

Automated Linting & Formatting

🕒 By 🛛 🖓 🖽 1 min 🗠 7 🤤 Add a reaction 💀 Attachments

Implemented by Community

TLDR

- Reintroduce linting and formatting in the backend.
- Ensure a consistent codebase.
- Improve developer experience.
- Prevent unnecessary PR churn caused by inconsistent styles.

Appetite

1 week

Context

Agree on Your Communication Expectations

Tool	Purpose / Use	Expected Response-Time	Responsible for Accounts
MS Teams	 Default to transparency @mentioning Quick Ideas	multiple times a daylatest: within a working day	IT Service Desk
E-Mail	Customer facing collaboration		IT Service Desk
Message (SMS / WhatsApp / etc.)	Only for high urgency topicsProduction related Issues	Within working hoursWithin: 2h	
Phone Call	Production related IssuesEmergency / Last resort		
Miro	 Product Development Miro - Structure 	Nobody expects that Miro is monitoredUsed for collaboration	IT Service Desk

Asynchronous Rolling Agenda

Inbox

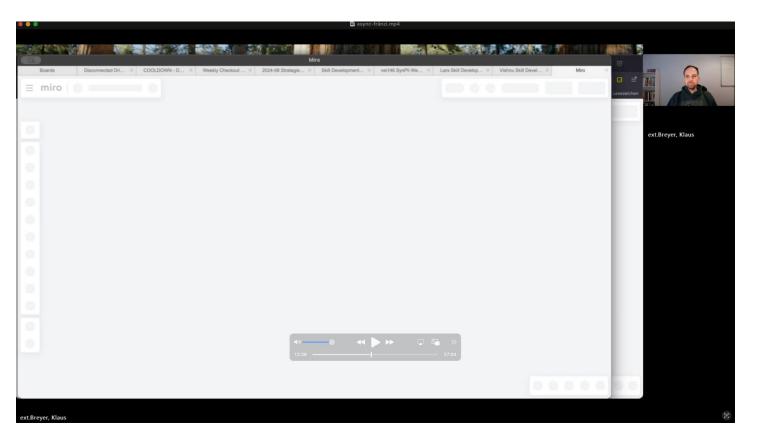
- @Klaus Breyer Follow up of actions from Async Collaboration Retro Style
- @Klaus Breyer Future of Retro?

_____ Timezone

2024-03-13

- @Klaus Breyer Front Page
- @Klaus Breyer Rollout?
 - Today: Removing Featureflags, edding account
 - Monday: Rest of the users

Record a Video Instead of Having a Meeting



Everybody's Own README

Hi, I'm Molly

I'm looking forward to getting to know you! This document is not intended to replace or override the relationship and mutual understanding we will build as we work together. Its intention is to give you an idea of how I think and how I work.

My role as a tech lead

TL;DR: I am here to make sure our team is successful, happy, and working on the things that are most important to help our customers, improve our product, and improve our business.

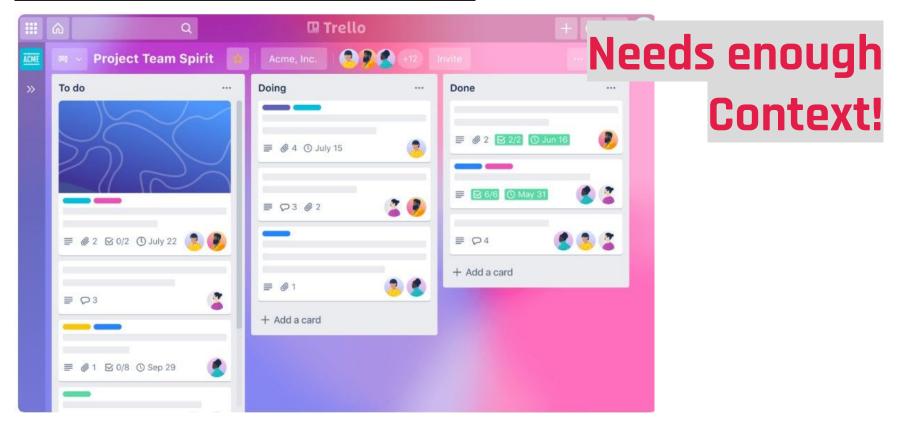
More granularly:

- 1. I am here to make sure you are both successful and happy: I want you to improve your technical skills, grow your career, enjoy your work, and believe in both our team's and our company's mission.
- 2. I am here to make sure our team is successful and pointed in the right direction. You might hear Dharmesh talking about <u>aligning vectors</u>: I am here to make sure our team is all aligned and pushing in the same direction.
- 3. I am here to make sure our team is getting what we need from other teams, and that other teams are getting what they need from us; I'm also here to help make sure we are working on the right things, which is not necessarily everything we're asked to do.
- 4. I write some code too!

Teams Document Themselves Like an API

- Code
- Versioning
- Wiki & Docs
- Practices & Principles
- Communication
- Work information
- Other

Ticket Systems for Reactive Work



Work Like You Code: Leave an Audit Trail

Approach Async Work with Eventual Consistency

Measure Results

Shut Up and Measure only Outcomes!

Productivity = Butts in Seats

Office

Productivity = Outcomes

Remote

Leadership in Remote Teams

Remote teams need alignment processes, not micromanagement.

Set the goal, then step back → Balance guidance and trust

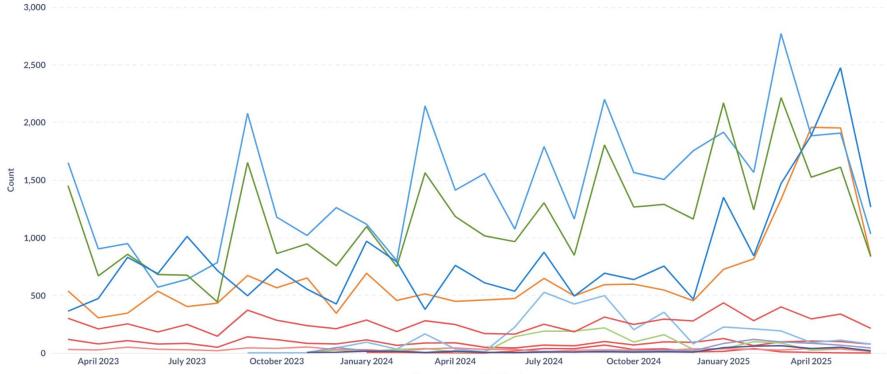
Middle managers are crucial

- \rightarrow Keep operations running
- \rightarrow Drive change across the org

KPI Available to Everyone

	May 8th	May 1st	Apr 24th	Apr 17th	Apr 10th	Apr 3rd
	16 876	16 573	16 343	16 271	16 220	16 118
	12 553	12 550	12 453	12 534	12 512	12 481
	326	262	90	45	153	155
	21	25	37	36	53	63
	0	1	0	0	0	0
	658	574	597	502	640	579
▼	3	3	5	8	10	4
•	14	18	23	17	28	18
	323	333	293	325	394	384
↓	15% (49)	15% (51)	13% (38)	12% (40)	15% (58)	14% (53)
₩	84% (274)	86% (282)	87% (255)	87% (285)	85% (336)	86% (331)
▼	87	135	100	109	129	128
↓ 2	35% (31)	54% (72)	44%	51% (56)	50% (65)	42% (55)
L	65% (56)	46% (63)	56%	48% (53)	50% (64)	58% (73)

Dashboards



 $\mathsf{Events} \to \mathsf{CreatedAt:} \, \mathsf{Month}$



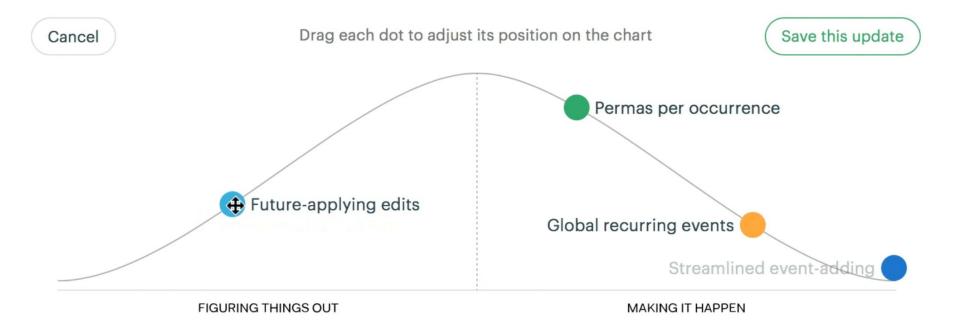
E Heartbeat 2025#19

Updated May 09 😡

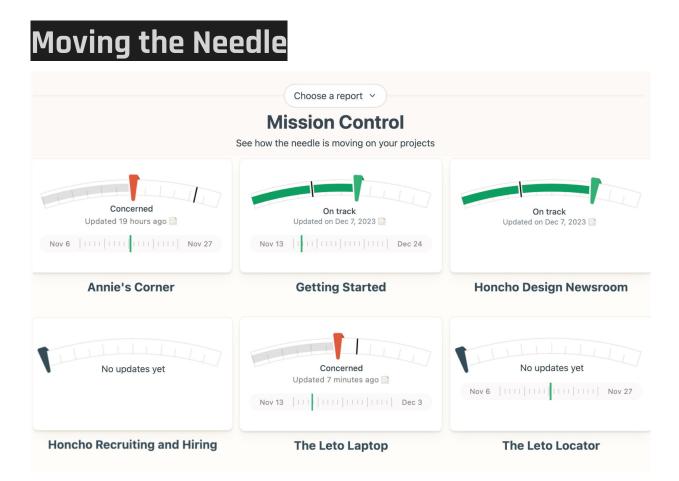


	Progress	Problems	Plans
Product	 Calls with regarding Documented Feedback received via email regarding FAQ ger eas Update still pending with 	 Calendar Tetris Still 10 <u>Flagged issues</u> in Reactive Work 	 Prep the frames for the next cycle & road mapping session Customer Communication for Initiative Call next week with on API & departments
Engineering	 Working on Reactive tasks and preparing for prioritization 	webapp env vars	• Prioritization on Monday

Hill Charts



https://basecamp.com/hill-charts



Reinforce Behavior Through Reporting Structure

Planned Social Interactions

When You're Trying to Be Spontaneous, but You're Too Much of a Planner

4210 W 9 5

SPERVERSPITU

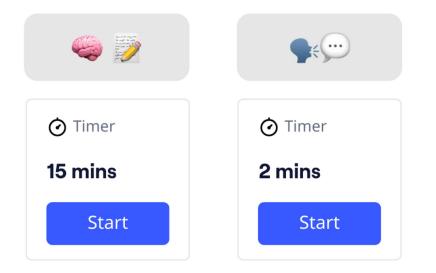
Spontaneous Social Flow

Office

Planned Social Interactions

Remote

Timer: Structured Time in Meetings



Rotating Moderator for Reinforced Flows & New Perspectives



Moderator Rotation







Round Robin: Make Sure Everyone Is Heard



Continuous Onboarding Curriculum

How to work together

Торіс	Resources	Completed?
Access to all tooling	🛠 Tools	@ @
Meetings & Rituals	🐼 Rituals	0
Vacation Calendar	Vacation Process	0
Development Process	Z Development	0
Team - add yourself!	👬 Team	@
Shape Up Intro	Shape Up Intro <u>Stated 12 defendence</u> <u>Stated 12 defendence</u> Stated 12 defendence Stated 12 defendence St	
	2024-07-04 Shape Up Intro for edding easy	/check.pdf

What the App Does and What Users Do With It

How to Work Together

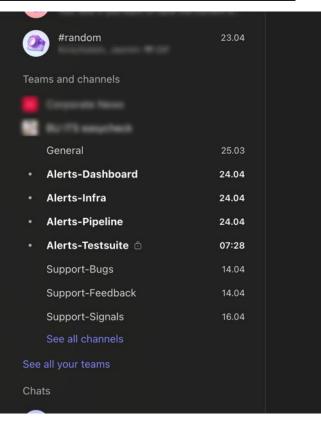
Ecosystem

Codebase + Architecture

How to Deploy

Make MS Teams Actually Usable (by Emulating Slack)

•••	ů.			> _ Q	Ċ
ے Activity	Chat	q	<u>د</u> ~	() #g	Approvals
E Chat	Unread Channels	Chats Meeting c	hats		E E
					Apps
Calendar	ø #ops		24.04		
OneDrive	e #gtm		16.04		
Info Center	#productdev	elopment	24.04		
OneNote	#initiative-bu	uilding	24.04		
Planner	#initiative-de User added	evops	14.04		
L Shifts	#initiative-op	DS	24.04		
C alls	#team		24.04		



Have A Proper Channel Setup

Team Channels

#team-search, #team-payments, #team-checkout-daily, #team-login-tech, #team-suche-support

Product Area Channels

#product-checkout, #product-login, #product-feedback, #product-ideas

Guild & Tech Channels

#guild-frontend, #guild-devops, #guild-ux, #tech-decision-log, #infra-status, #incident-response, #releases

Leadership & Transparency Channels

#leadership, #product-leads, #engineering-leads, #all-hands, #company-news, #strategy

Culture & Social Channels

#random, #fun, #coffee-chat, #shoutouts, #memes, #kudos, #thanks, #onboarding

#random



Management as "Connective Tissue".

You Need Clear Communicators — Start With Yourself!

Intentionally Built Culture

I've Ordered the Pre-Waffle Party Egg Bar Social for Everyone!

Sense of belonging (automatic)

Office

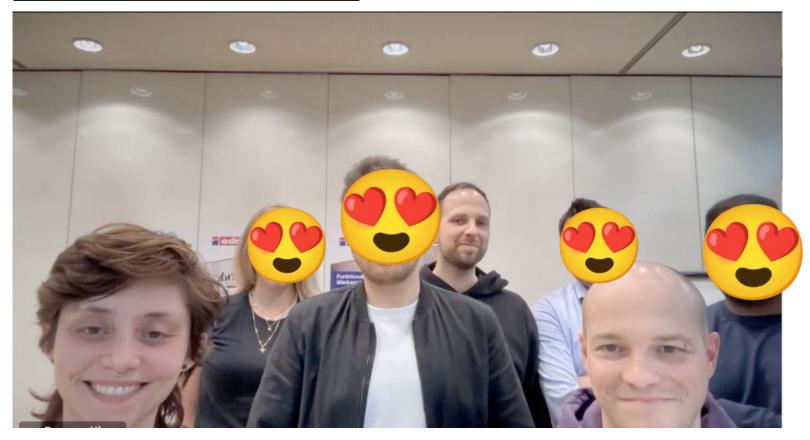
Intentionally Built Culture

Remote

Identify & Enforce Memes!



Meet regularly in person!



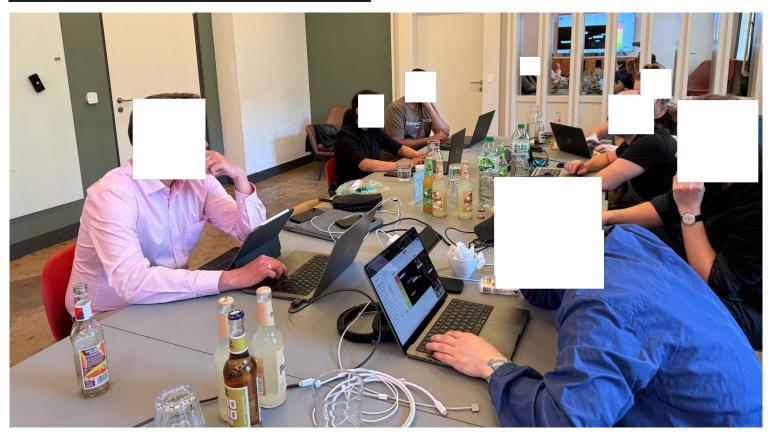
Rotate Cities For Team Days

- Everyone shares the travel and organizational effort
- New environments spark fresh ideas and energy
- Travel effort is shared more fairly over time

Create Bonding Moments in Real Life



Treat everyone as remote.



Building Culture Remotely Is Awkward — and Essential!

Remote - Engage - Produce - Loop

When a Colleague Asks Me if I Am Free for a Quick Chat.

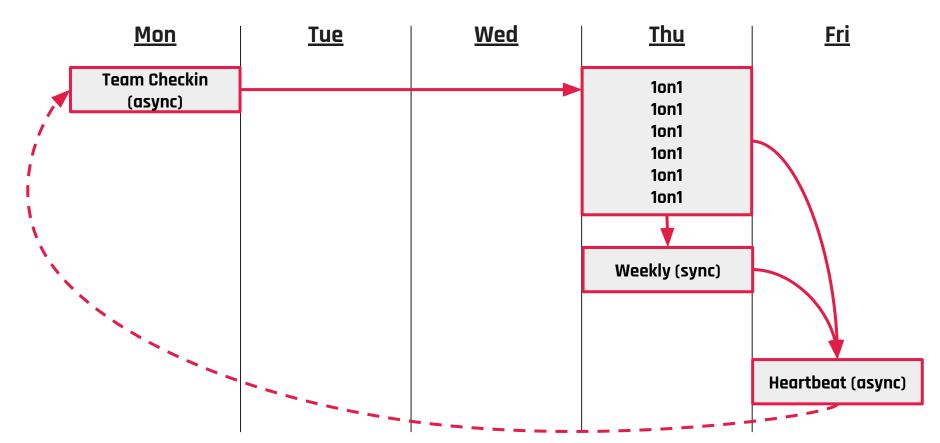
Quick chats & informal updates

Office

Structured communication formats

Remote

Anatomy of a Week



Async Checkin



ext.Breyer, Klaus 14.10.24 08:40 Failed

Checkin

& Focus: Tech Strategy Session

Other things on my plate:

- Finishing shaping
- A couple more Skill Development Sessions
- Clearing data privacy topics with Jessica (Sentry)

As written: I won't make it to the daily on Mon, Tue, or Wed for various reasons. If anything needs my attention, please ping me directly.







- Mood Checkin in Miro
- Professions Heartbeat (Sales,
 Support, Engineering, Product, ..)
 - KPI
 - Progress / Problems / Plans
- Initiatives Heartbeat
 - Hillchart
 - Moving the Needle

- Rolling Agenda
- Missing Reviews of Async
 Documents
- Vacations in Miro Calendar
- Offtopic

Rotating Moderator!

Weekly - Mood Checkin

On a scale of classical art, how are you feeling today?



So, on this cat-scale, how do you feel today?



On a scale of German beer label monks, how are you today?



Google: "mood scales"!

Weekly - Vacation Calendar

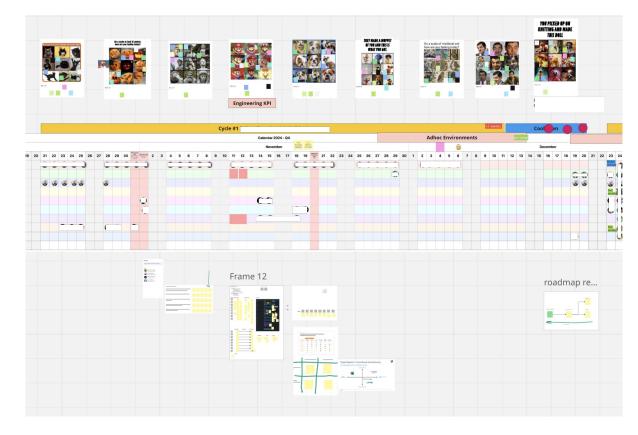
March																																	
26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
			2																														
					i A	JOR	3	101	igh			192											6										
					3		3	3				3																					
																																	-
		·																															

https://www.v01.io/posts/2024-calendar-whiteboards/

Weekly - Personal / Offtopic



Weekly - Everything Together in 1 Miro Board



Minimize Number of Tools per Meeting!

Weekly - Rolling Agenda

Actions

☑ (@Klaus Breyer Docs Page:	/
	give examples to the GPT together with	
	Hubspot: Pipeline and Automation	

Inbox

- **@Klaus Breyer** Shaping starts. Start with rewriting your frame and asking for feedback before you start shaping.
- @Klaus Breyer next team day date and schedule.
- @Klaus Breyer Process

Weekly - Review Check

Labelled content

This list shows content tagged with the following label:

review

To add a label to the list of required labels, choose '+ labelname' from Related Labels.

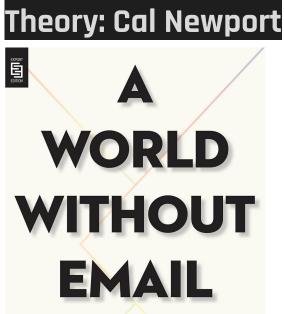
```
        2025-Q3 Product Strategy (e yesterday at 7:30 AM • Klaus Breyer review

        10 - Posthog for Full Product Tracking (Software Development) Jun 17, 2025 • Klaus Breyer review
```

This Level of Structure

For. Every. Meeting!

Closing Thoughts

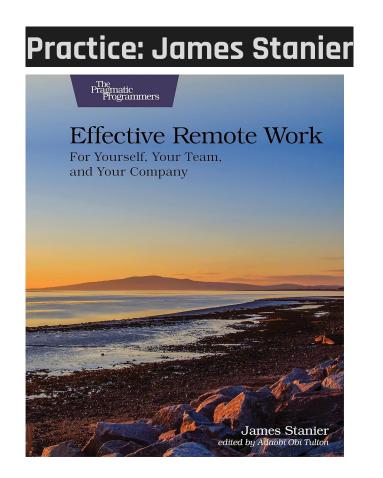


REIMAGINING WORK IN AN AGE OF COMMUNICATION OVERLOAD



NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF DIGITAL MINIMALISM AND DEEP WORK

https://amzn.to/3TtbixU



Inspiration: David Marquet

L. DAVID MARQUET CAPTAIN, U.S. NAVY (RETIRED) FOREWORD BY STEPHEN R. COVEY

Turn the Ship Around!

A TRUE STORY OF TURNING FOLLOWERS INTO LEADERS

David Marquet is the kind of leader who comes around only once in a generation... His ideas and lessons are invaluable' SIMON SINEK author of Start with Why



https://amzn.to/448l6SK

Example: 37 Signals

Signals Basecamp HEY ONCE

The 37signals Guide to Internal Communication

The how, where, why, and when we communicate. Long form asynchronous? Real-time chat? In-person? Video? Verbal? Written? Via email? In Basecamp? How do we keep everyone in the loop without everyone getting tangled in everyone else's business? It's all in here. 37signals

Example: Gitlab

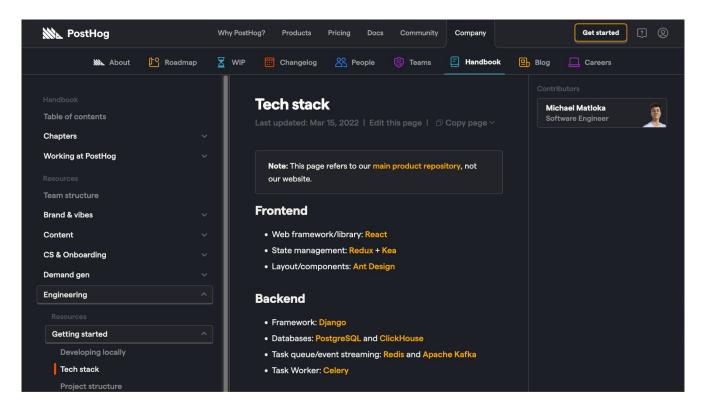
🛃 The GitLab Handbook

🖶 GitLab 🛛 TeamOps 🗧 Handbook 🛛 😫 Job Families

Q Search 🔳 🔣

Handbook () **People Group** 4 Company About GitLab About the Handbook Anti-Harassment Policy Global Volunteer Month Values Handbook Changelog Mission Handbook Escalation Hiring Handbook Usage Inclusion & Diversity Vision Contribution Guide Labor and Employment Notices Strategy Editing the handbook Communication Leadership Handbook Style Guide Learning & Development Culture Handbook maintenance Onboarding TeamOps Offboarding CEO Readme Office of the CEO Spending Company Money E-Group Weekly Talent Assessment Environmental, Social, and Team Member Relations Philosophy Governance **Total Rewards** Tools and Tips

Example: Posthog



Remote Work Means

- More Autonomy
- More Asynchronous Work
- More Uninterrupted Time Blocks
- Smaller Teams
- More Freedom
- More Trust

Over Communicate & Default to Trust!

About me

Leading Remote Teams Since the Age of 18

CTO Digital Agency buddybrand GmbH

CPO & CTO Influencer Marketplace BuzzBird GmbH

https://www.buzzbird.de/insights/

Built llot **Business Unit** (Interim) **Voith GmbH &** Co. KGaA

VOITH



Klaus Breyer v01.io

<u>v01.io/2025-alphalist-remote</u>



