MINDSET OF SUCCESSFUL AUTOMATION

20th September, 2023 by Benjamin Meixner

GET THE SLIDES

github.com/maixnor/talks

AUTOMATION?

COFFEE

- Roast
- Granularity
- Amount
- Water Pressure
- Duration

COFFEE...

- Milk?
- Sugar?
- Foam?

YOUR MINDSET

of successful automation

BUT HOW?

- clear triggers
- simple states and results
- reliable notification

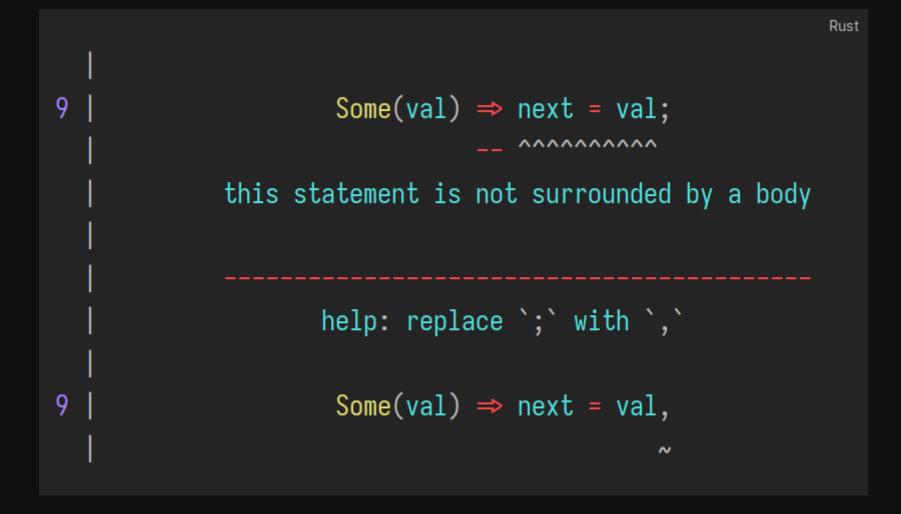# BACK TO COFFEE

enough about coffee

"AUTOMATION"

MINDSET

of successful automation

DETAILS

If you don't understand the details of your business you are going to fail.

— Jeff Bezos

```rust
mut iter ⇒ loop {
    let next;
    match iter.next() {
        Some(val) ⇒ next = val;
        None ⇒ break,
    };
    let x = next;
    let () = { println!("{x}"); };
},
```

```
                                                                    Rust
    |
  9 |                    Some(val) ⇒ next = val;
    |                              -- ^^^^^^^^^^
    |
    |          this statement is not surrounded by a body
    |
    |
    |   -----------------------------------------------------
    |
    |              help: replace `;` with `,`
    |
  9 |                    Some(val) ⇒ next = val,
    |                                          ~
```

```rust
match iter.next() {
    Some(val) => next = val, <--
    None => break,
};
```

Detail Automation makes sure the details are correct.

MENTAL OVERHEAD

THE *TASK* IS SIMPLE

- but...
- but...
- but...
- but,..
- but...
- but...

REDUCE MENTAL OVERHEAD

TDN

task	solution
product validation	Tests
file handling	Deployment
notifying people	Notification

TESTS

DEPLOYMENT

NOTIFICATION

WHY EVEN TEST?

Humans

PROTECTION

GOOD COP, NEUTRAL COP, BAD COP

NEUTRAL TESTS

- reliable

GOOD TESTS

GOOD TESTS

1. fast

GOOD TESTS

1. fast
2. reliable

GOOD TESTS

1. fast
2. reliable
3. obvious

FAST

The probability of bounce increases 32% as page load time goes from 1 second to 3 seconds.

— Google/SOASTA Research, 2017.

OBVIOUS

Red vs. Green

GHERKIN SYNTAX

```gherkin
Scenario: eat 5 out of 12
  Given there are 12 cucumbers
  When I eat 5 cucumbers
  Then I should have 7 cucumbers
```

TESTS

DEPLOYMENT

NOTIFICATION

PACKAGING

DEPLOYMENT

- one invocation
- 2 results

```
$ git push
```

0

STAGING

TESTS

DEPLOYMENT

NOTIFICATION

CHANNELS

- Instant Message
- Email
- UI Element

WHAT TO NOTIFY?

- just failures
- complete success
- partial success
- all activity

the people shall choose

THE *TASK* IS SIMPLE

- but Tests
- but Packaging
- but...
- but,..
- but Deployment
- but Notification

THE *TASK* IS SIMPLE

- ~~but Tests~~
- ~~but Packaging~~
- but...
- but,..
- ~~but Deployment~~
- ~~but Notification~~

THE TASK *IS* SIMPLE

- but...
- but,..

THE TASK *IS* SIMPLE
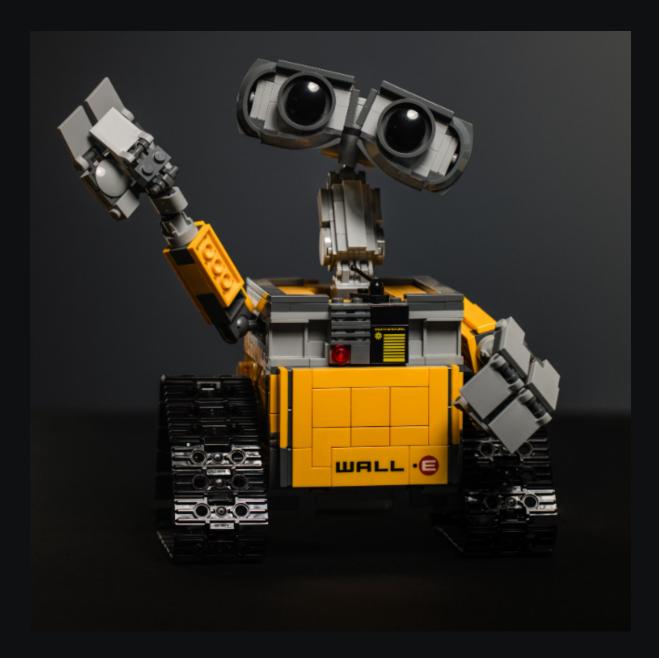
- but...
- but,..

WE TRIED

... but it did not work

SIT

- Simple
- Intuitive
- Trustworthy

COMPLEXITY

THE BEST CODE …

KISS

Keep it simple, stupid

Do one thing. Do it well.

— Unix Philosophy

~~COMPLEXITY~~

SIMPLICITY

DOCUMENTATION

Documentation is a love letter that you write to your future self.

— Damian Conway

- --help
- README.md
- Swagger
- Gherkin Tests
- Knowledge Base

Incorrect documentation is often worse than no documentation.

— Bertrand Meyer

~~DOCUMENTATION~~

INTUITION

FLAKY

REPEAT

HONESTY

I'm not upset that you lied to me, I'm upset that from now on I can't believe you.

— Friedrich Nietzsche

~~FLAKYNESS~~

TRUST

CONFIGURATION BACKUP

PACKAGE

TRANSFER

ORGANISE

MOVE

NOTIFICATION

WRAP IT UP

- tests, deployments and notifications
- remove mental overhead
- simple, intuitive, trustworthy

MINDSET

==

NOTHING