Using developer portals to enhance developer happiness (and productivity!)

Why Spotify created and shared Backstage.io

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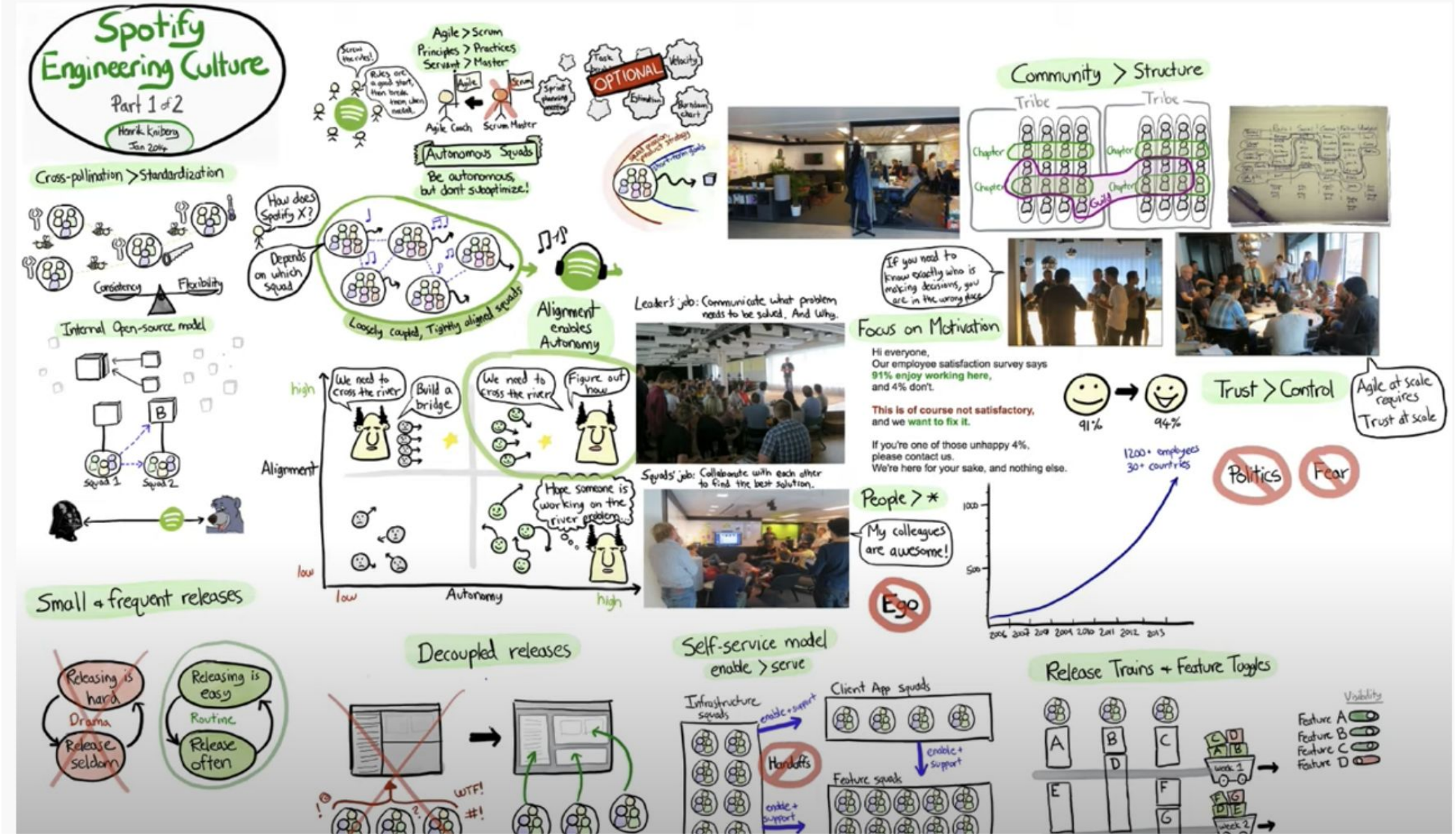
What we'll talk about today:

- What causes developer unhappiness?
- How Spotify created a developer portal to solve developer happiness
- Create your own: Open source Backstage developer portal platform
- Demo: Enhancing your dev portal with the Stack Overflow plug-in
- Q&A

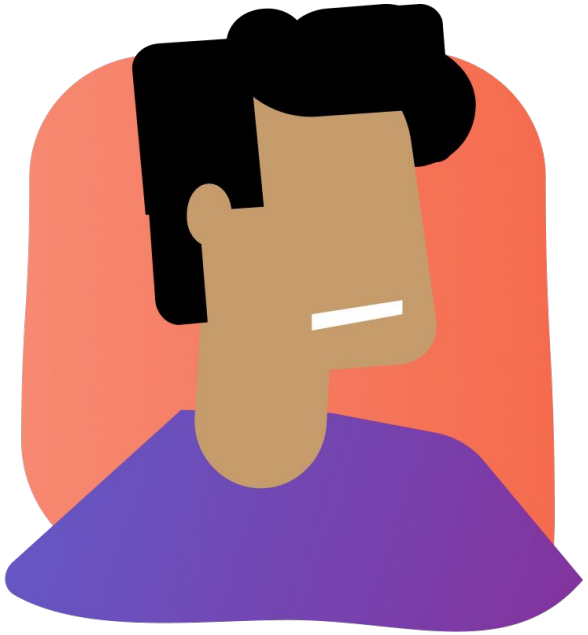
Developer culture can be complex and confusing:



Spotify Engineering Culture, Part I

Spotify developers faced several common challenges:

- Slow onboarding time
- Trying to organize many developer tools and systems
- Finding documentation – and the owner of the documentation
- Keeping documentation and knowledge up to date



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Other organizations face similar problems:

- 2 out of 3 of developers encounter a knowledge silo once a week
- One quarter of developers spend more than an hour each day searching for answers, and 62% spend more than 30 minutes/day
- Nearly half (46%) of developers spend 30 minutes a day answering their coworkers' questions

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Source: Stack Overflow 2022 Developer Survey

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Spotify set out to prioritize developers and their software to create the most effective developer experience (DX) in the world

Scan to submit your questions

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Components of a good Developer Experience

A seamless onboarding experience

A sense of belonging and community

The ability to deploy code quickly

Access to the right tools

Access to information and collaboration

Support for learning and development

Smooth interoperability

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Developer portals improve DX

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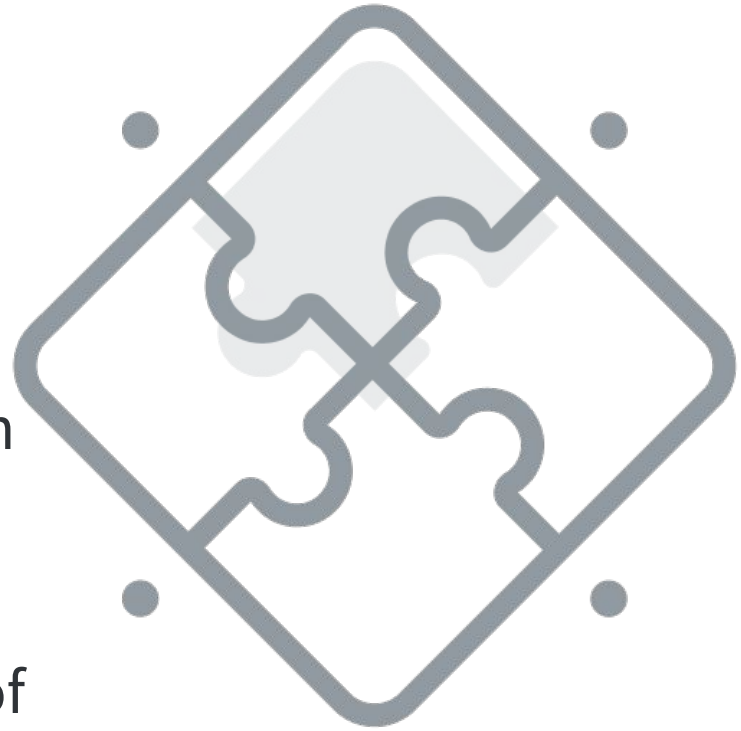
A developer portal = one frontend for your entire infrastructure



- Unifies all your tooling, services, apps, data, and docs with a single, consistent UI
- Makes sense of everything in your ecosystem, regardless of how and where individual components are running
- Let developers focus on what they do best (leading to much less activity in #aaargh Slack channel)

How does a great developer portal improve happiness?

Developers can:

- Onboard with fewer hiccups or frustrations
- Explore the entire software ecosystem, finding the tools they need
- Collaborate with others across the org
- Manage all the software they own in one location
- Create new software quickly, following best practices
- Stay focused on the work they love

Backstage is an open source developer portal platform

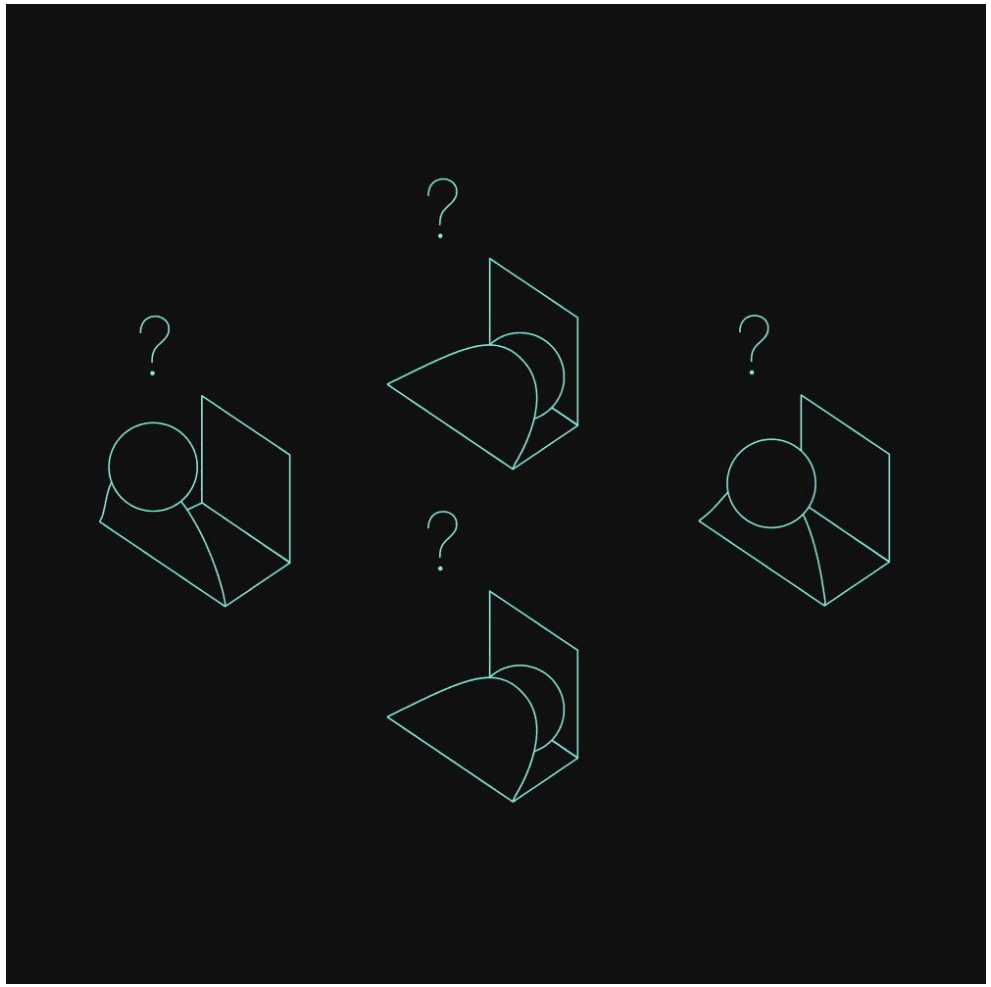
Created and shared by Spotify, Backstage lets any **organization**:

- Identify their needs and set up a dev portal that solve those
- Manage the complexity of a scaling org and software ecosystem.
- Turn infrastructure chaos into rocket fuel.

Backstage is an open source developer portal platform

Created and shared by Spotify, Backstage lets any **developer**:

- **Create** new software in seconds, aligned to your best practices
- **Manage** all the software they own in one centralized location
- **Explore** the entire software ecosystem, enabling collaboration across the org.



Combine Backstage and Stack Overflow for even more happiness!

With the Stack Overflow plug-in, you can pull Stack Overflow for Teams knowledge from directly into your dev portal

- Speed up time to answers
- Specify the tags or keywords you want the plug-in to sync to focus results
- Avoid searching through entire, lengthy documentation write-ups

Want to contribute? Find relevant links at https://bck.st/links.

Live Demo of plug-in

Build a culture of knowledge sharing and collaboration with developer portals and Stack Overflow

- Developers are collaborative on complex, interesting problems
- Developers are more self-sufficient during onboarding, on day-to-day tasks and solving common roadblocks
- Reduces complexity
- Scales with your organization

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Audience Q&A Session

ⓘ Start presenting to display the audience questions on this slide.

Thank you for joining us!