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How to take control of code quality

Joel Chippindale — CTO at Unmade

London Python Meetup Feb 2020

@joelchippindale

“

I am not **allowed** to spend sufficient time on code quality

Many , many software engineers

Do you feel that
you are spending **sufficient time**
improving the quality of your code?

Do you feel that
you are spending **too little time**
improving the quality of your code?

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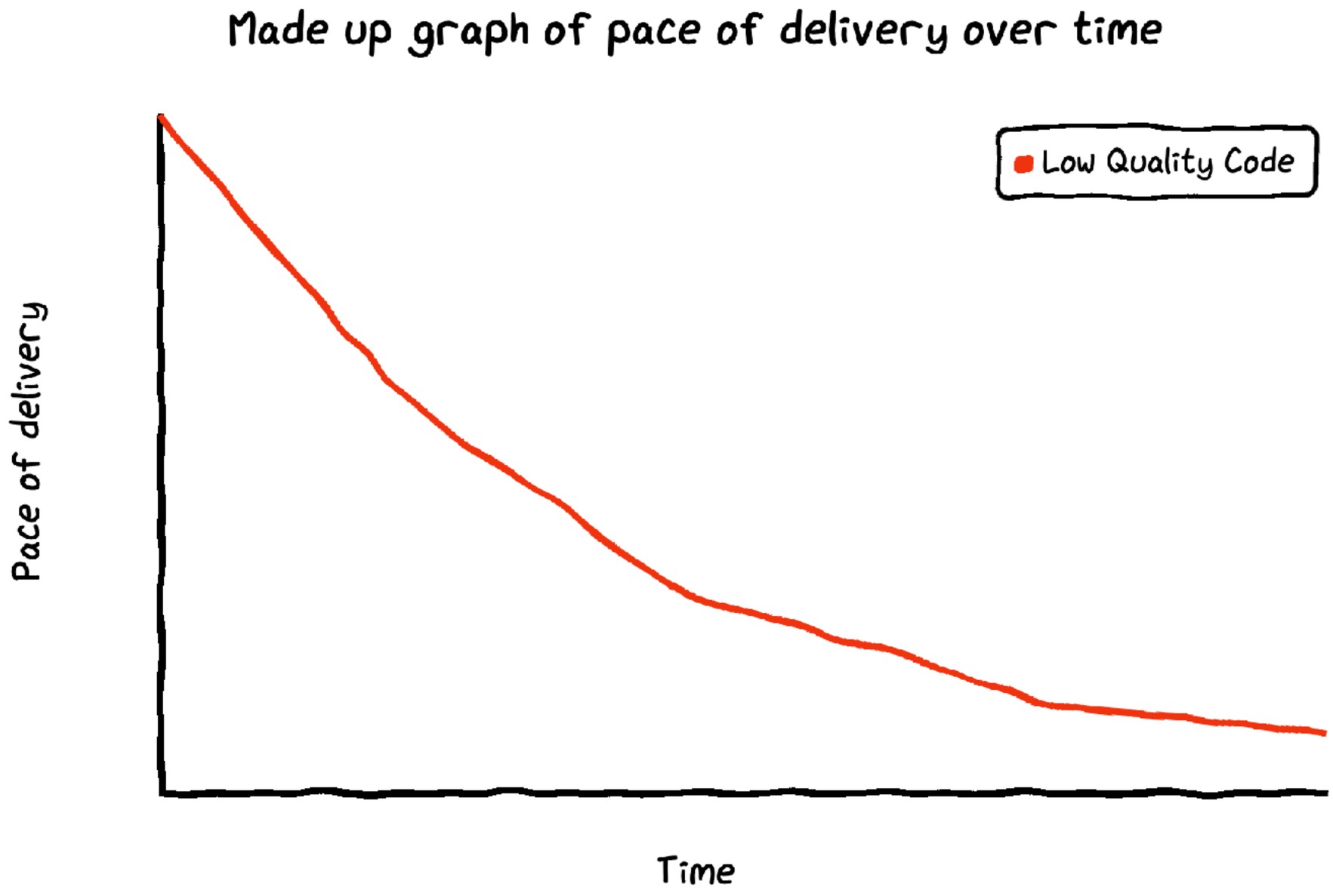
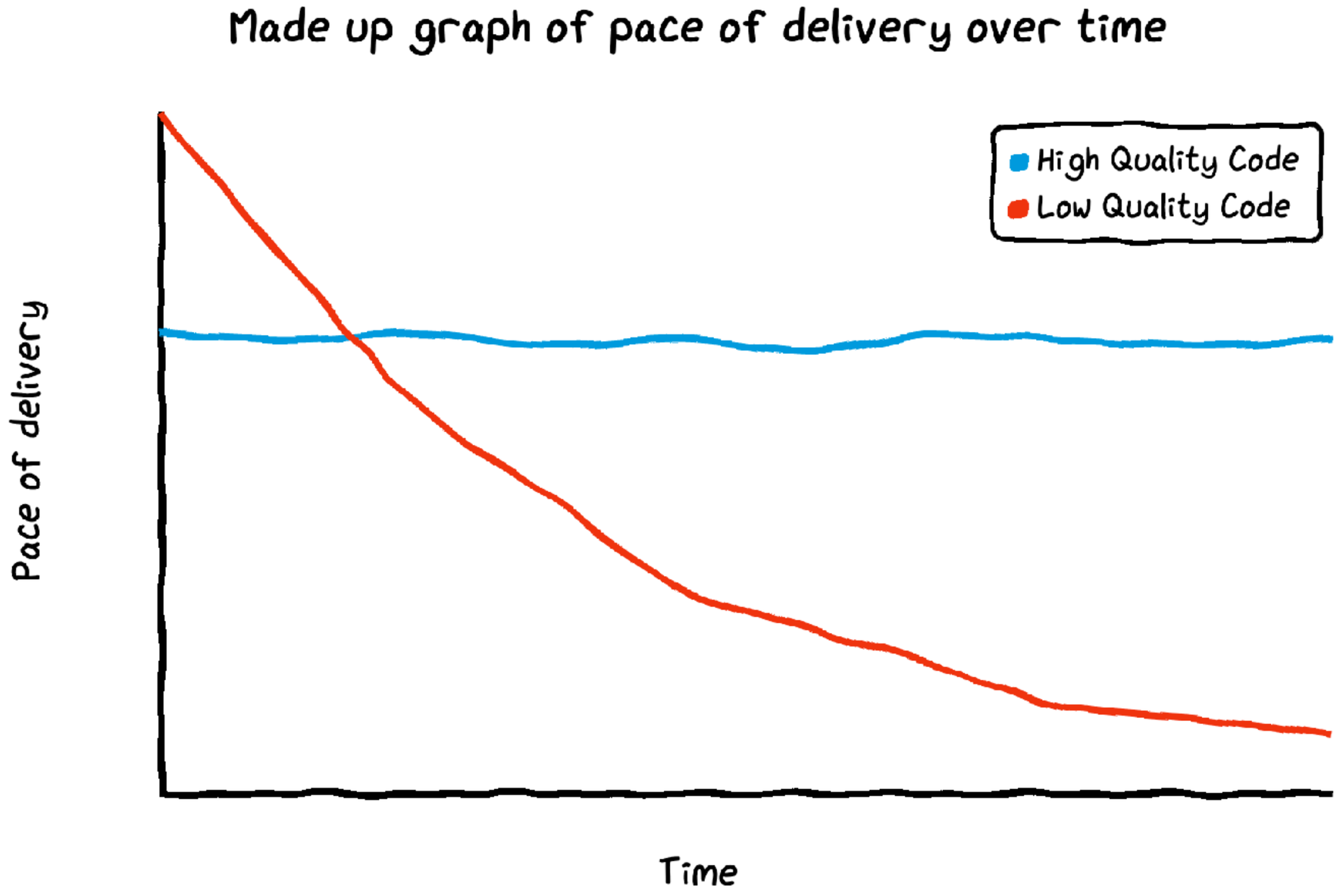
WHAT DO WE MEAN BY HIGH QUALITY CODE?


Made up graph of pace of delivery over time
Low Quality Code
Pace of delivery
Time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High quality code is easy to keep changing

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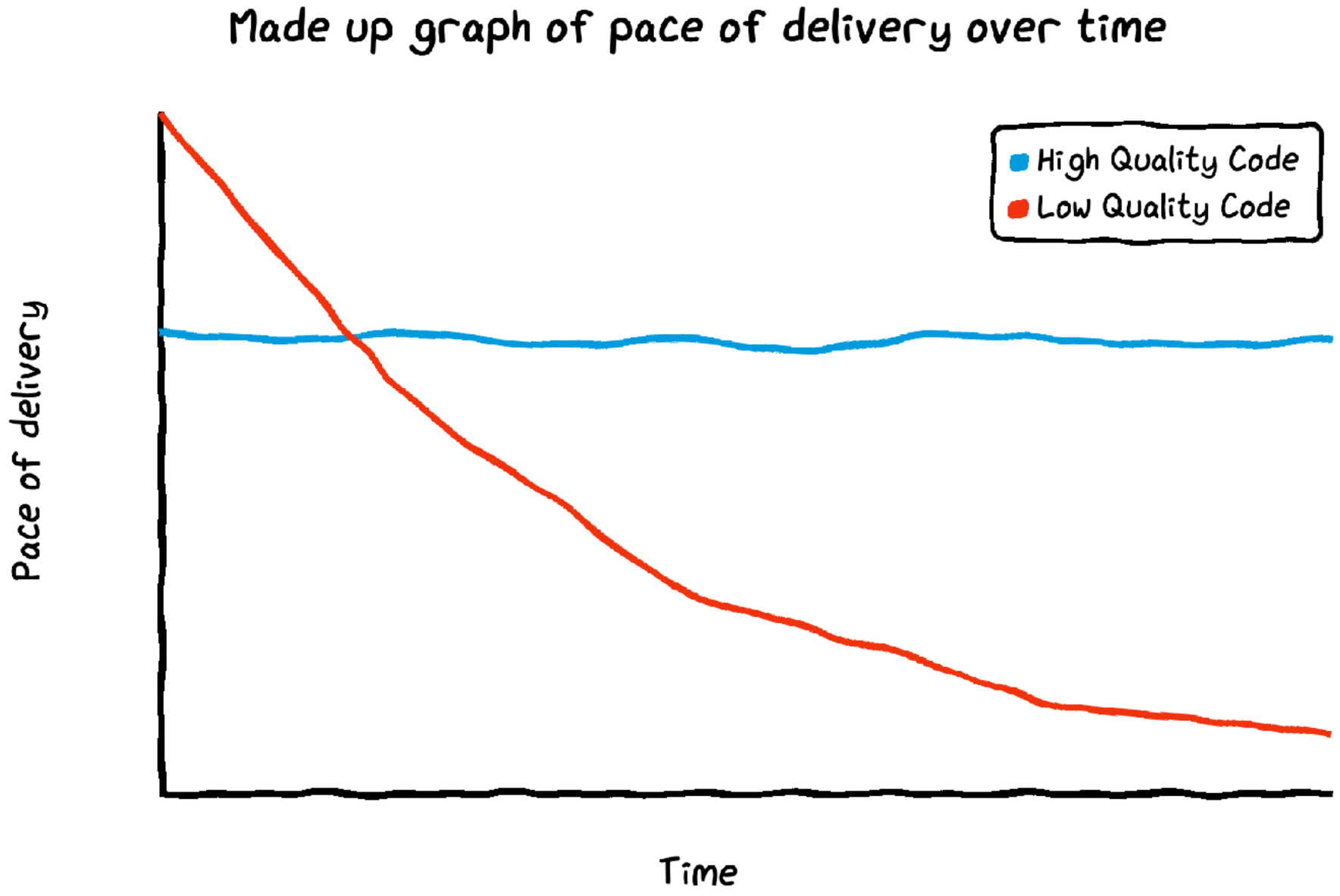
Agile processes promote sustainable development. The sponsors, developers, and users should be able to maintain a constant pace indefinitely.

Agile Principle No 8. - https://agilemanifesto.org/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WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CODE QUALITY

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BUILD TRUST TO MAINTAIN CODE QUALITY

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10:40 AM

1. Speak in terms that make sense to others

“

We need to refactor the model classes to reduce technical debt before we can work on that

What we say

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“
Blah blah...have to whiffle the slithy toves and gimble the frumious Bandersnatch...blah blah blah
[it's going to be slow and delayed]
What they hear

2. Show that you value the same things

“

Our highest priority is to satisfy the customer through early and continuous delivery of valuable software

Agile Principle No 1. - https://agilemanifesto.org/

3. Don't bullshit

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PRACTICES TO SUPPORT CODE QUALITY

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1. Shape the solution

2. Scout rule

Image by Joan (CC BY-NC) - https://www.flickr.com/photos/joanbrebo/38545144506

“

Continuous attention to technical excellence and good design enhances agility.

Agile Principle No 9. - https://agilemanifesto.org/

3. Make a quantified case for larger improvements

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IN SUMMARY

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We are responsible for code quality

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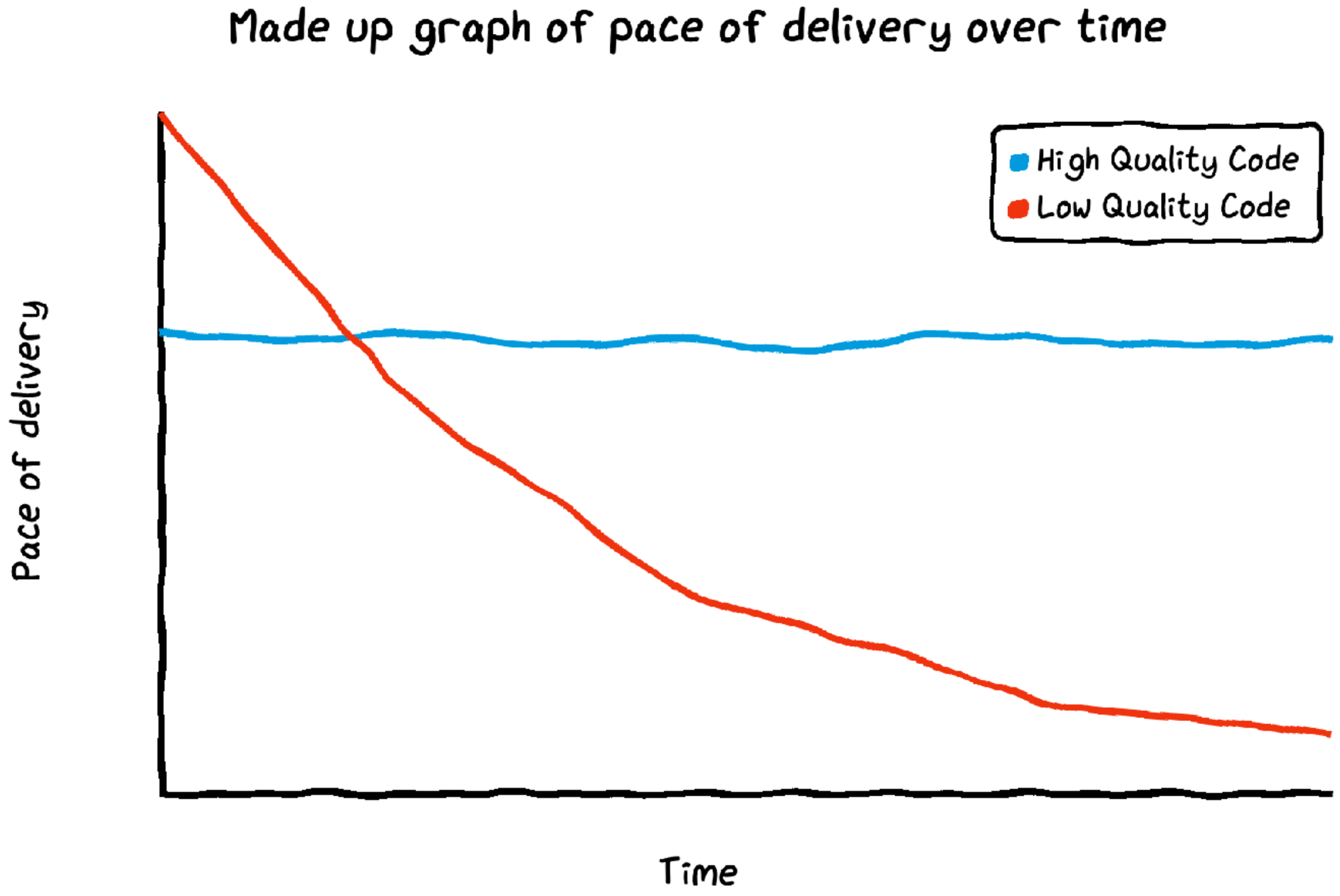
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1. Shape the solution
2. Scout rule
3. Make a quantified case for larger improvements

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THANK YOU

Joel Chippindale - CTO at Unmade - @joelchippindale

Further reading and watching

- Principles behind the Agile Manifesto - https://agilemanifesto.org/principles.html
- Running an Agile Principles study group - https://medium.com/making-unmade/running-an-agile-principles-study-group-7744774da053
- Towards an understanding of technical debt - http://laughingmeme.org/2016/01/10/towards-an-understanding-of-technical-debt/
- Technical debt - Bad metaphor or the worst metaphor? - https://ronjeffries.com/articles/015-11/tech-debt/
- Why not fix your technical debt? - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TNcJqyNWTNY
- Intercom's engineering principles - https://www.intercom.com/blog/intercom-product-principles/