



# 40 Years of Trying To Play Well With Others

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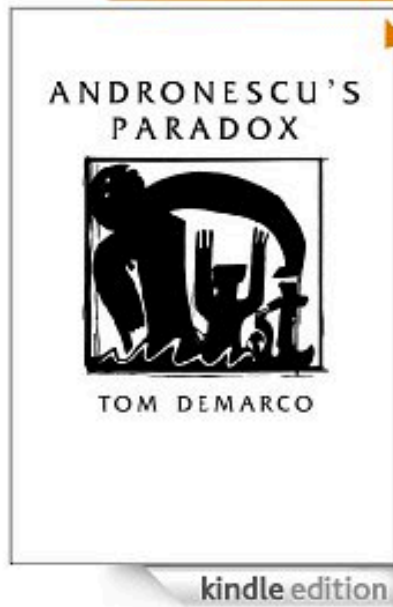
**March 6, 2014**

# A Colleague and Pal for 36 Years!



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## Andronescu's Paradox [Kindle Edition]

[Tom DeMarco](#)  (Author)

★★★★★  (1 customer review)

Digital List Price: \$2.99 [What's this?](#)

Kindle Price: **\$2.99** includes free wireless delivery via **Amazon  
Whispernet**

- Length: 590 pages (estimated)
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### Best Books of the Month

Looking for something good to read? Browse our editors' picks for the [Best Books of the Month](#) in fiction, nonfiction, mysteries, romance, and much more.

# I want to tell you 9 stories

1. I Go To Brown University
2. My First Job
3. My Boss Leaves
4. A Team Leader for One Year
5. The Summer of '75
6. Here Comes The Judge!
7. A Guild of Talkers & Writers
8. Uncle Sam Wants You.
9. God Bless The Child.



# 1. I Go To Brown University



It is 1968; I am a Freshman.

# Fred Wang



PHOTO: KEN SCHLES

# Why I told you this story...

I started writing code as a fun experience. If you don't get innate pleasure from writing code, it's time to move on.

## 2. My First Job

I go to Wall St.  
and become a  
programmer for  
American Express.



# I Think This is Normal.

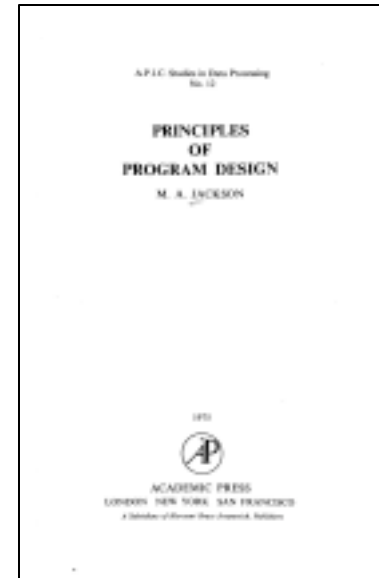
- We all get 2 months + full time training

# I Think This is Normal.

- We all get 2 months + full time training
- My boss's boss's boss is 29 years old.

# I Think This is Normal.

- We all get 2 months + full time training
- My boss's boss's boss is 29 years old.
- I meet Michael Jackson.



## My First Genius Mentor



## Why I told you this story...

- I discover that software making is deeply intellectual work.
- I discover that it is very exciting, and rewarding, to be around people who are way ahead of you.
- I come to believe that the profession of software making is in a renaissance.

# 3. My Boss Leaves...



for London, and I learn what it is like to work for someone who doesn't trust you.

Why I told you this story...I leave, and start to get serious about project management and project dynamics.

# 4. A Team Leader for One Year...

and an employee for 3 hours.



Thanks for the title, John Irving.

# 4. A Team Leader for One Year...

and an employee for 3 hours.



Why I told you this story...I learn that putting together a team may be the most important work for many projects.

# 5. The Summer of '75

Ed Yourdon gives a seminar on  
“Structured Design”

...and I end up with a  
new job.



Yes, that's Ed!

# And My Life Explodes. Inside:



<- P.J. Plauger

Steve McMEnamin

John Palmer

James Robertson

Matt Flavin

Suzanne Robertson

Lou Mazzucchelli

Tom Plum

Tom DeMarco

Patricia Duran

Gary Schuldt III

Mike Silves

Brian Dickenson

Meilir Page-Jones

**The Night in San Francisco...**

# And My Life Explodes. Outside:

Larry Constantine

David Parnas

Gerry Weinberg

Niklaus Wirth



<-Harlan Mills Barry Boehm

Tom Gilb





# Why I told you this story...

# Why I told you this story...

To Name-Drop the hell out of all the senior citizens in this audience.

# Why I told you this story...

This is your family tree.

The software industry has changed greatly since 2001, but many engaged people were planting the seeds for years.

# 6. Here Comes The Judge!

I become a panelist for  
The American Arbitration Association.



- It takes two
- It is always emotional
- The magic finger

# Why I told you this story...

June 23, 2004 Salt Lake City

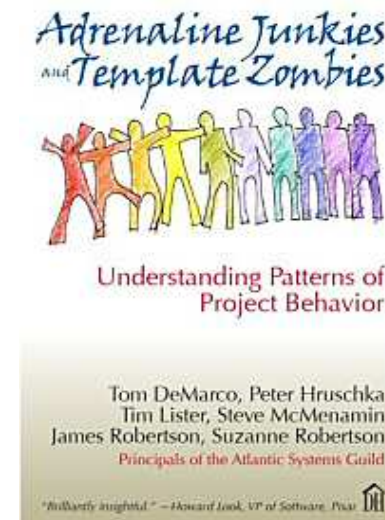
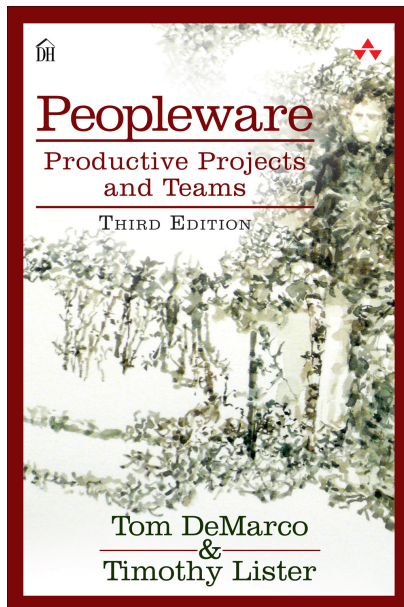
# Why I told you this story...

June 23, 2004 Salt Lake City



The Dead Fish!

# 7. A Guild of Talkers & Writers









# Why I told you this story...

- It's great to know that your colleagues have your back.
- Writing is a great way to distill your ideas and opinions.
- This conference is all about moving an idea out of one thick skull and into another.

# 8. Uncle Sam Wants You.

In 1992, I Join The Airlie Council.

Vic Basili  
Grady Booch  
Peter Chen  
Christine Davis  
Tom DeMarco  
Jim Highsmith  
Capers Jones  
Lou Mazzucchelli  
Tom McCabe  
Ken Orr  
Roger Pressman  
Larry Putnam  
Ed Yourdon



# Why I told you this story...

A large team of egomaniacs worked through their differences, and delivered an excellent set of products.

Wouldn't it have been great to be a fly on the wall at Snowbird 2001?



"I personally didn't expect that this particular group of agilites to ever agree on anything substantive... Speaking for myself, I am delighted by the final phrasing [of the Manifesto]. I was surprised that the others appeared equally delighted by the final phrasing. So we did agree on something substantive."

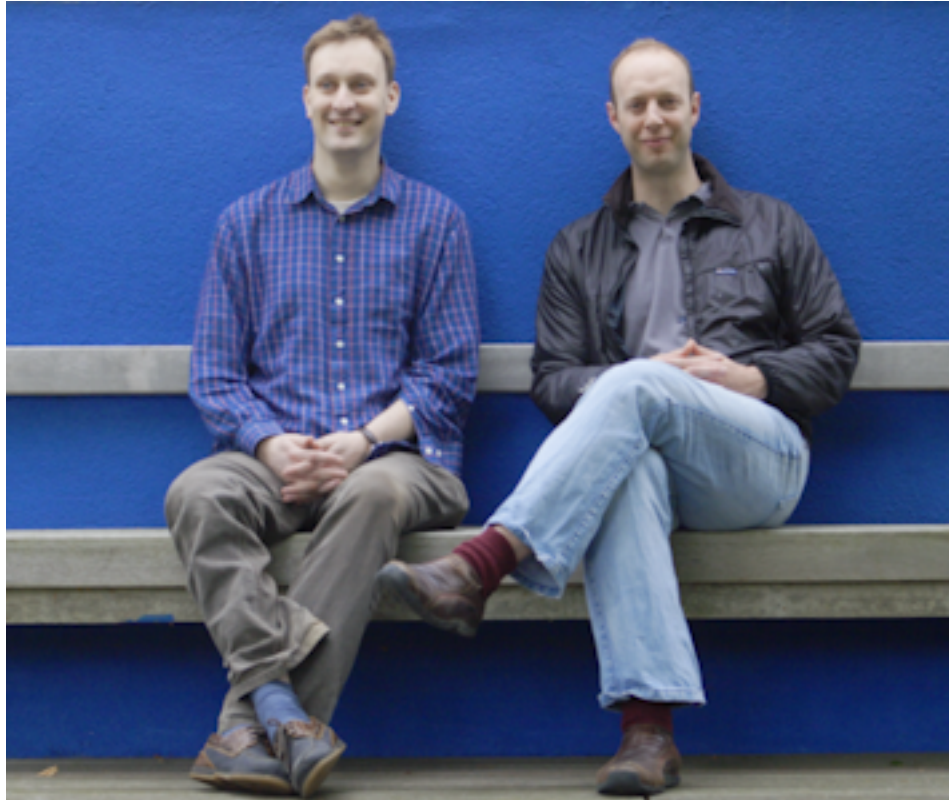
**Your team has a great chance!**



?



# 9. God Bless The Child.



Don't be an asshole.

No matter how smart you are, or how good you are at narrowly-defined tasks, there is no room for you here if you're an asshole.

# Why I told you this story...

I am sure that there are many Red Gates out and about.

More are being born every week.

If your work is not an innate pleasure, use your feet.

Life is too short. Make your own career.



We have all come a long way from the start of our careers. I hope you and I still have a long way to go.

Take the ride, and bring your friends.

[tlister@systemsguild.com](mailto:tlister@systemsguild.com)









And Here We All Are Now.

Feel The Breeze of Time.

