@DBSMASHER

WORKING WITH YOUR DBA IN A DEVOPS WORLD
@DBSMASHER...AKA SILVIA BOTROS

- Principal DBA @ SendGrid
- Nearly 6 years
- Accidentally a DBA
SENDGRID

- 55,000+ paying customers in 100+ countries
- 1 trillion emails processed
- > 50% of the world’s email addresses receive emails through SendGrid
  - Within the last 12 months
“Unifying the operations and engineering teams under one umbrella”

— Wikipedia
NEW BIG PRODUCT FEATURE...A STORY

- Product asks for feature
- Make stories
- Assign points
- Write some code
- Test in ... some environment
- Deploy
- Profit??

- .....hold up
YES..THERE IS A TWIST TO THIS HAPPY STORY
"LET'S HIRE A DBA"
“BUT WE TESTED!”

- How many users were in your test?
- How much variation in load did you test?
- Do you know your peak achievable load?
- Did you test your assumptions about the database?
- Are you afraid of this new product succeeding?
EVERYTHING IS TERRIBLE
IT'LL GET BETTER....

I PROMISE.
HERE ARE STEPS YOU CAN TAKE
TECHNOLOGY CATALOG

Know *why* you are using a given tool

‘Boring’ doesn’t have to mean not challenging

credit: Coda Hale
ONE DOES NOT SIMPLY
ADD A NEW TOOL TO THE STACK
THINGS TO CONSIDER

▸ Are you already multi datacenter/multi AZ?
▸ What kind of data is going into this new thing?
▸ Draw a line between that data and your monthly invoices
▸ Can you *really* not use something already in your stack for this?
“A complex System that works is invariably found to have evolved from a simple system that worked.”

– John Gall
WRITE THINGS DOWN

Know your stakeholders

Spoiler: it is NOT just product or even just the customers

Ops?

InfoSec?

Finance?

ETL?
“The rule is, in the absence of information, humans will fill up the vacuum”

– Rands
ARCHITECTURE REVIEW. IT’S A GOOD THING

- Who needs to be there?
  - Those building the thing
  - Those looking to learn
  - Those who care
- This is NOT a technical smackdown
COLLECTIVE EXPERIENCE IS AN ASSET

5) specialization is not a bad thing. specialization is how we scale and do capitalism! the problem is when this becomes compartmentalizing.
FIRE DRILLS

A cross functional exercise

Documented

Published internally
There's technical debt, then there's technical subprime mortgages with exploding balloon payments.
TECH DEBT IS NOT JUST IN CODE

- Databases are the ultimate rug to your tech debt fairy dust
- Success breeds tech debt in your data-stores
- Only so much adding an index can do
- Changing the wheels at 100 mph
"You can outsource the tasks, but you can't outsource the caring" -@mipsytipsy
#serverlessconf
A product manager informed about your tech debt is an asset

Be honest to the business about incurred tech debt
REMEMBER . . .

Stability is a feature; And it better be one before customers flock out

Stability is a full company effort
FINALLY, YOU DON’T NEED TO HIRE A DBA TO DO ALL THIS

"if someone is asking you who owns the database, it's probably you" ~ accidental dba facts