Delete This

Decommissioning Servers At Scale

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What Will be Covered

- FB growth and the need for decons
- A brief history of decons at FB, or “Spreadsheet Hell”
- First steps in decom automation
- SEVs: AKA outages, incidents
- Beyond decons
Growth and the need to decom
Growth and the need to decom

- Advances in compute hardware
- Obsolescence
- Increase in error rate with age
Decom: easy mode

- Find machines that need junking
- Identify running services
- Give replacements
- Ping oncalls, ask to migrate
- SMASH
A brief history of decons
A Brief History Of Decom's

• Spreadsheets
• More spreadsheets
• Human-intensive process
• Did I mention spreadsheets?
• Variable time step: service migration
A Brief History Of Decom

• Services: heterogenous neighbours
• Here’s where we spreadsheeted
• Also, ticketing the oncall
• But they have shit to do
• So we beg and plead using any means
• Well except RFC 1149
• Tribal knowledge, yay!

“Delete This”, Anirudh Ra, @DeletingThat
A Brief History Of Decoms

• The last chap holds everyone back
• To err is human, to not would be nice
• Sllooooooooodddddddddddddddddddddd
• oooooooow process
First steps
First Steps

• Built a UI: reduce spreadsheet usage
• Make verification easier
• Framework for automation
• Bail out conservatively to oncall
• Task state machine: retries, complete
#movefast
(no automation is an error too)
First Steps
And Moving Fast

• `def migrate(retiring, replacement)`
• Simple prototype
• Reusable handlers, or examples
SEVs, outages, incidents
SEV: cache killer
Remember, meetings were made for slaughter.
SEV: cache killer
SEV: humans don’t read (pls read dis tho)
Service migrations beyond decoms