Actionable Code Ownership

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About Me

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Boxing, cocktails, cosmology
Why is it important to think about ownership?
Why is ownership difficult?

- Re-orgs
- Generalists: Those who seem to know a surprising amount about everything
- Tech Debt
What things are important to think about in ownership?

Accountability vs Initiative
Common Responsibilities
Lines of code vs Functionality

Homefeed teams owns homefeed code vs Homefeed team owns homefeed.py
How to define Ownership?

- Ownership can take many different forms
- What sort of responsibilities are you trying to distribute?
- What is feasible to ask teams to take on?

**IMPORTANT**: Define contract between owners & platform
  - Two-way conversation
  - Versioning
Technical Solutions

- Ownership should be codified and queryable
- Many solutions - decorators, file annotations, context managers, formatted comments
- Easy look up: Slack integration, etc
- Validation + DB update on commit
- Easily repeatable audit of PagerDuty settings

```python
@owned_by("homefeed")
def homefeed_endpoint():
    ...

-> on import
OWNED_ENTITIES = set()
REGISTEREDOWNERS = set()

-> query DB & Pagerduty
Making Ownership Actionable

Empowering owners

- Ability to set custom “settings” on API endpoints
- Self-serve dashboards and metrics
- Standard alerts that route to owners
- Runbooks, guides
- **IMPORTANT:** Encourage self-service, emphasize code -> feature relationship

```python
@owned_by("homefeed")
@api_endpoint(
    qps=settings.ENDPOINT_LOW_QPS,
    criticality=settings.ENDPOINT_CRITICAL
)
def homefeed_endpoint():
    ...
```
Communications

- Clear message of expectations
- Marketing ownership as a new feature rather than a new responsibility - focus on the WHY
- Identify single engineer POC (in addition to manager) for onboarding
- Patience
Thank you!