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**Surviving the
Claudepocalypse**



About me

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Disclaimer 🏛️

Something has changed

New expectations

Plausible code 🙄

- Looks like the real thing
- But quickly falls down even with superficial use



Trusted code 🤝

- Human effort has been spent
- Reviewed and tested
- A human can stand behind it



Proven code 🏆

- Code that survived contact with reality
- It has been lived with
- As valuable now as it ever was



Cognitive debt is the real tax

- Teams keep shipping while understanding less
- Velocity first, bill later

What does cognitive debt look like?

- Uncontrollable churn
 - Code starts piling up faster than it is understood
- Review quality drops
 - Nobody has a real mental model of the code
 - Effort shift from creating the PR to reviewing it
 - Developers start resenting doing reviews
- Context is lost
 - Nobody knows why decisions were made

Survival guide

1. Dive in

Survival guide

2. Boring work first

- Start with boring, low-risk change
- Easy to review, failure obvious
- Low risk != low value

Survival guide

3. Release your inner hoarder



Pain is your superpower

- Agents don't feel pain
- Developers do



You can outsource your thinking, but you can't outsource your understanding.

Who survives the Claudepocalypse?

- Judgment matters
- Taste matters
- Systems thinking matters
- Tradeoff analysis matters
- Being able to explain what the system is doing and why matters
- Saying no matters

The person who doesn't give up their understanding

Thank you