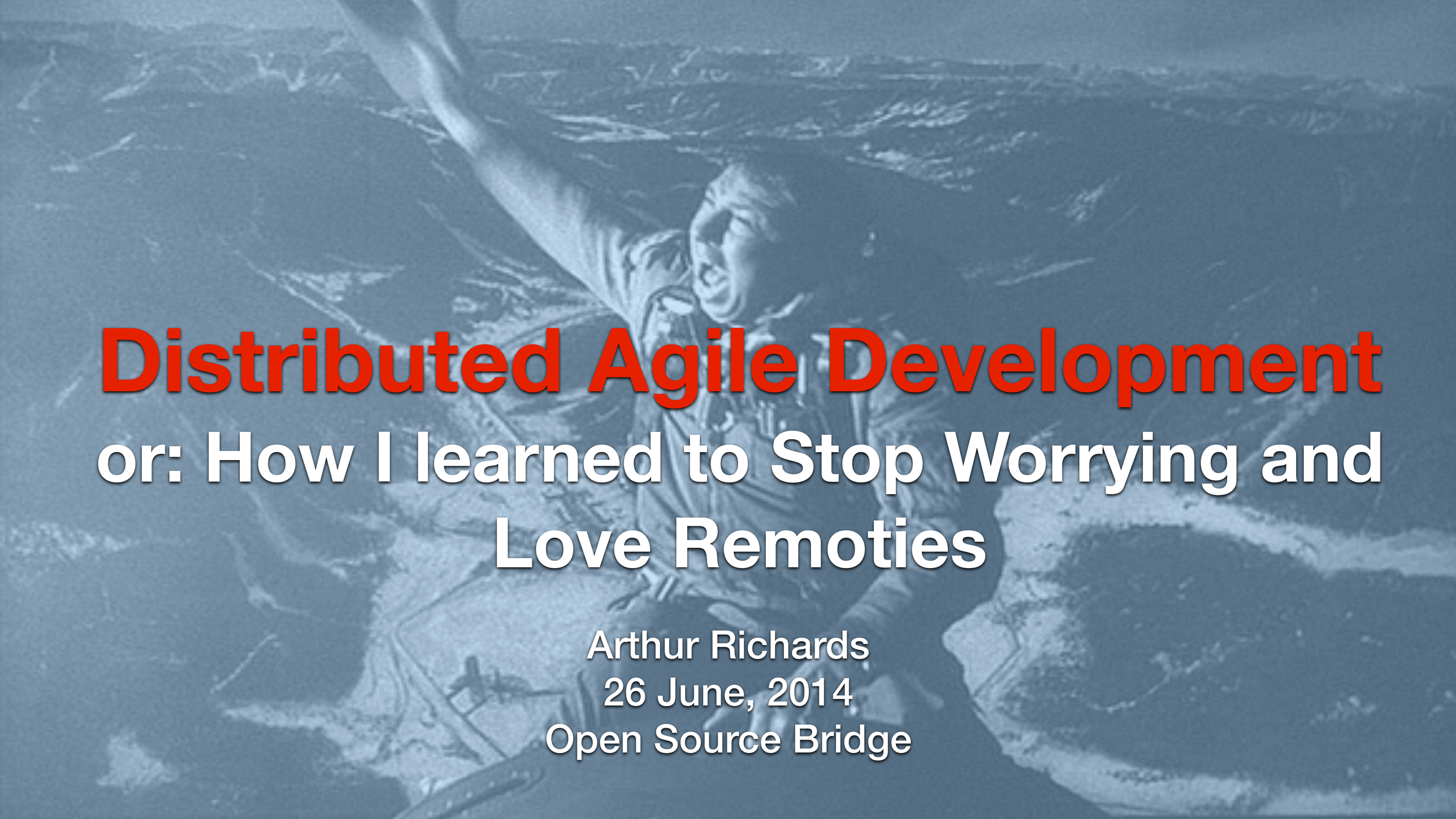


Distributed Agile Development

or: How I learned to Stop Worrying and Love Remoties

Arthur Richards

26 June, 2014

Open Source Bridge

Mobile Web Engineering, Wikimedia Foundation

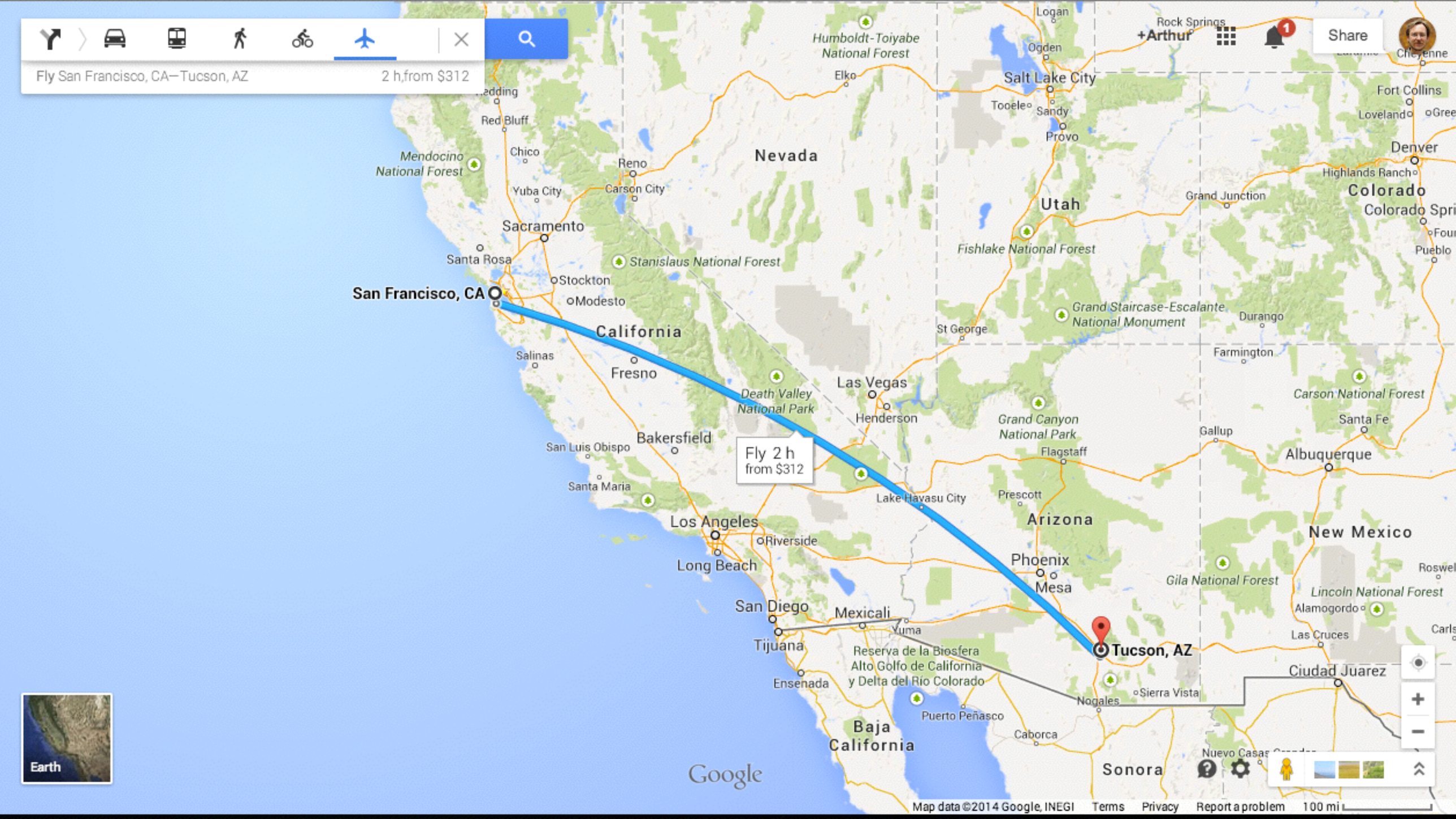
embracing remotenes will help you WIN

no pain,
no gain

we are ALL remote

but… face-to-face conversation?

WMF HQ 2012


Fly San Francisco, CA—Tucson, AZ
2 h,from $312
Share
Fly 2 h
from $312
San Francisco, CA
Tucson, AZ
Nevada
Utah
Colorado
California
Arizona
New Mexico
Baja California
Sonora
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest
Mendocino National Forest
Stanislaus National Forest
Fishlake National Forest
Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument
Death Valley National Park
Grand Canyon National Park
Carson National Forest
Gila National Forest
Lincoln National Forest
Reserva de la Biosfera Alto Golfo de California y Delta del Río Colorado
Logan
Rock Springs
Arthur
Ogden
Salt Lake City
Tooele
Sandy
Provo
Elko
Red Bluff
Chico
Reno
Carson City
Yuba City
Sacramento
Santa Rosa
Stockton
Modesto
Salinas
Fresno
Bakersfield
San Luis Obispo
Santa Maria
Las Vegas
Henderson
St George
Lake Havasu City
Prescott
Flagstaff
Phoenix
Mesa
Los Angeles
Riverside
Long Beach
San Diego
Tijuana
Mexicali
Yuma
Ensenada
Puerto Peñasco
Caborca
Nogales
Sierra Vista
Ciudad Juarez
Las Cruces
Alamogordo
Albuquerque
Gallup
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Grand Junction
Denver
Highlands Ranch
Colorado Springs
Pueblo
Fort Collins
Loveland
Cheyenne
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Map data ©2014 Google, INEGI
Terms
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Report a problem
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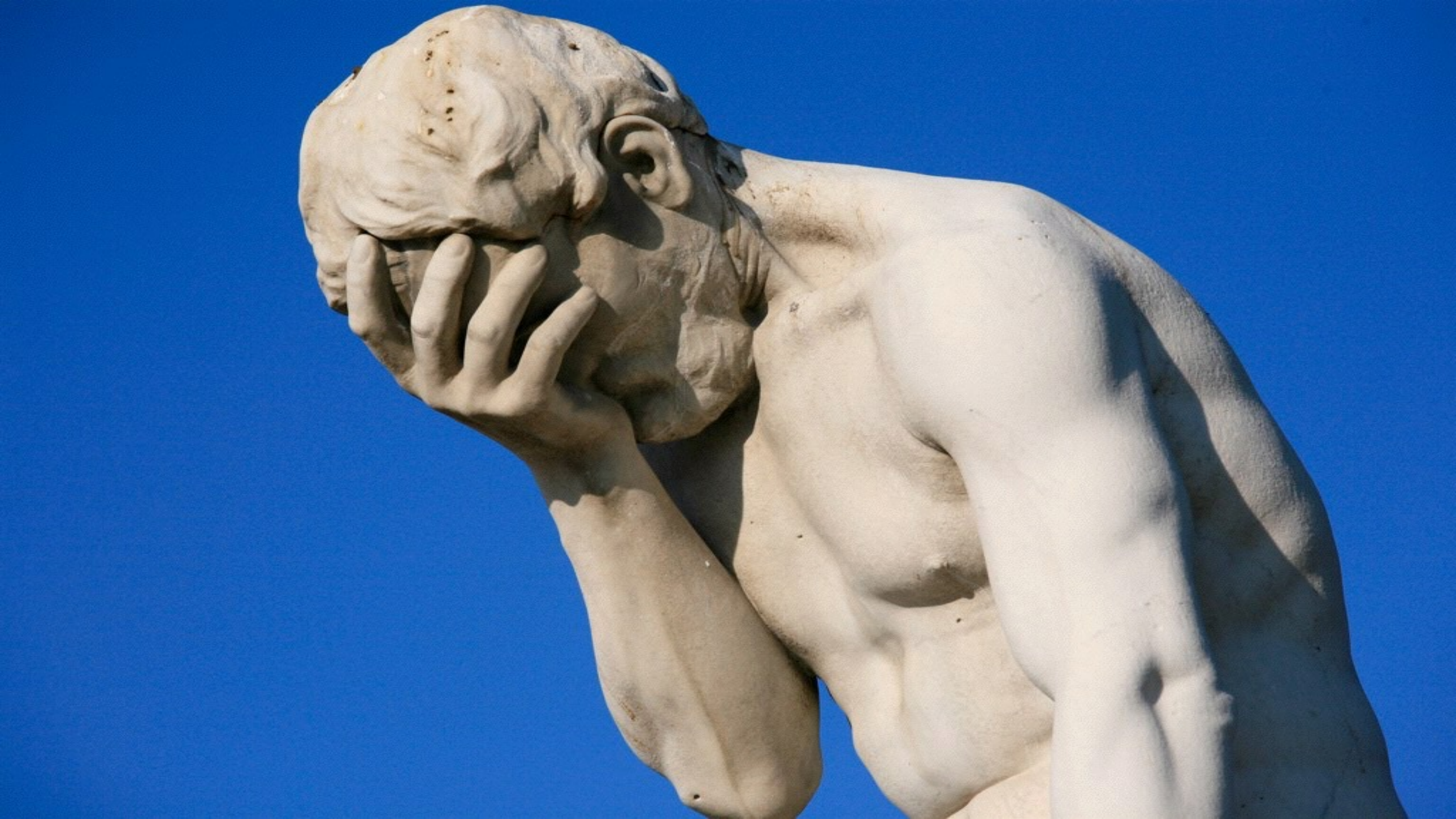

Distribution exacerbates communication problems

In crisis,
there is
opportunity

workflow problems become obvious

work tracked…
on a wiki

multiple people setting priorities

when is it DONE?!

context switching

what should I do next?!

AhHa!

collocation

OBSCURES

bad practices

go agile!

agile does
NOT
solve problems

it EXPOSES them

communication

rituals

tools

norms

if it didn’t happen on the mailing list…

text based?

it’s a trap!

rule of 3

face to face,
from time to time

1979-80

We are ALL Remote

WFH, travel, sick, etc

resillience

freedom

huge
hiring pool

diversity

coverage

team satisfaction = better product

But the agile principle says…

‘The most efficient and effective method of conveying information to and within a development team is face-to-face conversation.’

DUH

‘The most efficient and effective method of conveying information to and within a development team is face-to-face conversation.’

Gospel? No!

cost vs benefit?

virtual face-to-face

‘Responding to change, over following a plan’

technology
has changed

should the principle change?

Wrapping it up

embracing remoteness and agile helped us kick @$$

distribution highlights problems

remote = opportunity

discovering practices and tools

fail -> WIN!

thanks!

want a job?

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@awjrichards

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-FIN-