

# Without Simplicity, there's no Agility

Russ Miles

Simplicity *itself*

*or*

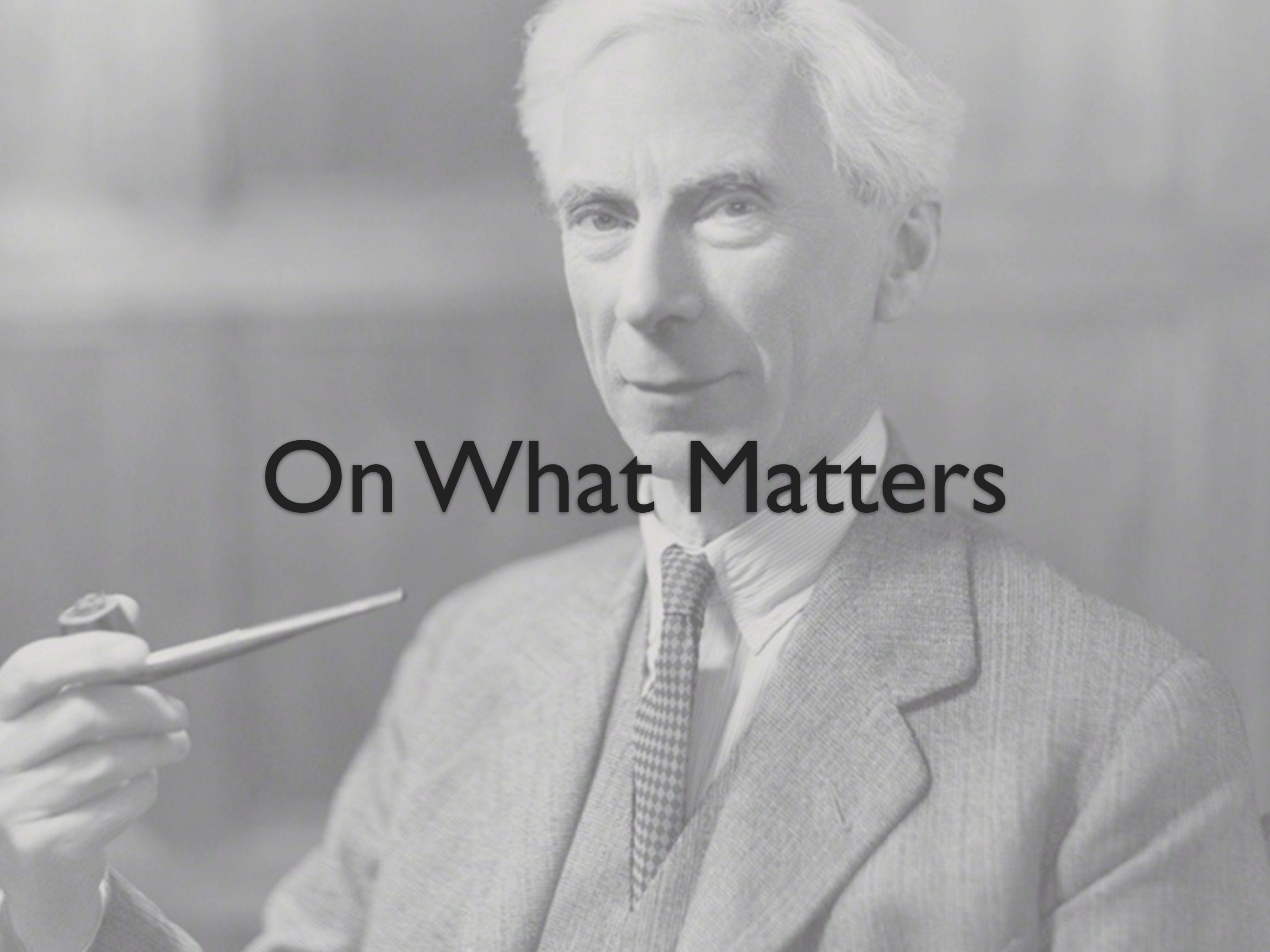
**Let's stop polishing the  
Process Turd.**

***Or...***



**Let's stop polishing the  
Process Turd  
(quite so much)...**

or  
(more politically  
correct)...



# On What Matters



A close-up photograph of a baby's face. The baby has large, bright blue eyes and a slightly pouting mouth. The skin is fair and smooth. The background is blurred, showing a hint of a pink and white striped garment.

**Aren't we there  
already?**

A Story... (again)

Story I



**Forces against Agility?**



# Managing Natural Emergence

# Entanglement

# Human Comprehension

**Assumptions...**

# Problems of Software Development

**How do I avoid Over  
Production?**

**How do I create and  
maintain software that  
adapts as fast as the  
needs placed upon it?**

## Problems

How do I avoid Over Production?

How do I create and maintain software that adapts as fast as the needs placed upon it?

## Chapters

Patterns of...

Building the Right Thing

Building the Right Thing, Right

Simplifying Processes

Simplifying Runtime

Simplifying Tools



# Axioms

**Your software's first  
role is to be useful**

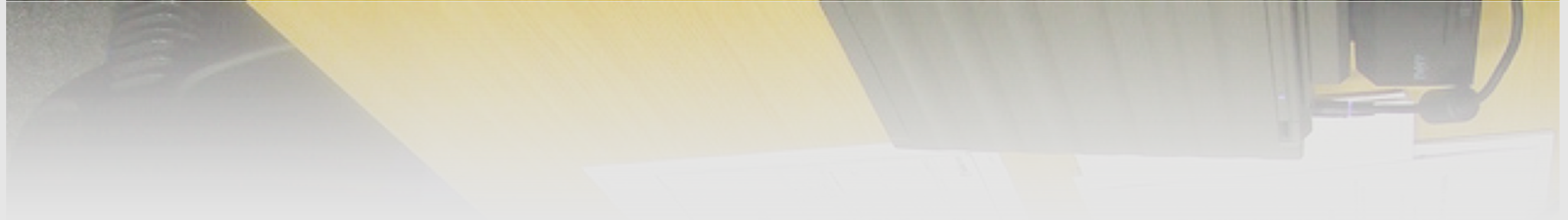
**The best software is  
that which is not  
needed at all**

**Human comprehension  
is King**

# Mechanical Sympathy is Queen

Software is a process of  
***R & D***

Software Development  
is an  
*extremely challenging*  
Intellectual Pursuit













# 3 Areas to Address

*1) A means of exploring,  
recognizing and delivering  
the right thing*

*2) A means of organizing  
work that embraces  
change*

*3) A means of managing  
the natural constraints of  
your software so that it  
can adapt*

***“Adaptable Software”***

# Simplicity (in Software)

## My working definition



*“Reduction to the point  
that any further  
reduction will remove  
important value”*

**Where Simplicity Sits**

# *Reducing Entanglement*

**Complex  $\Rightarrow$  Simple  $\Rightarrow$  Over-simplified**

**Started off with 5  
Principles**

THE LAWS OF  
SIMPLICITY

DESIGN, TECHNOLOGY, BUSINESS, LIFE



John Maeda

"Maeda is the Master of Simplicity."

—Andrea Ragnetti, BOARD OF MANAGEMENT, ROYAL PHILIPS

# Principles

- Organise
- Separate
- Reduce
- Hide
- Adapt

**Simplified...**  
**for Software**



# Principles

**Organise => Reduce  
=> Encapsulate**

*Reduce Entanglement,  
Increase Comprehension*

**O.R.E.**

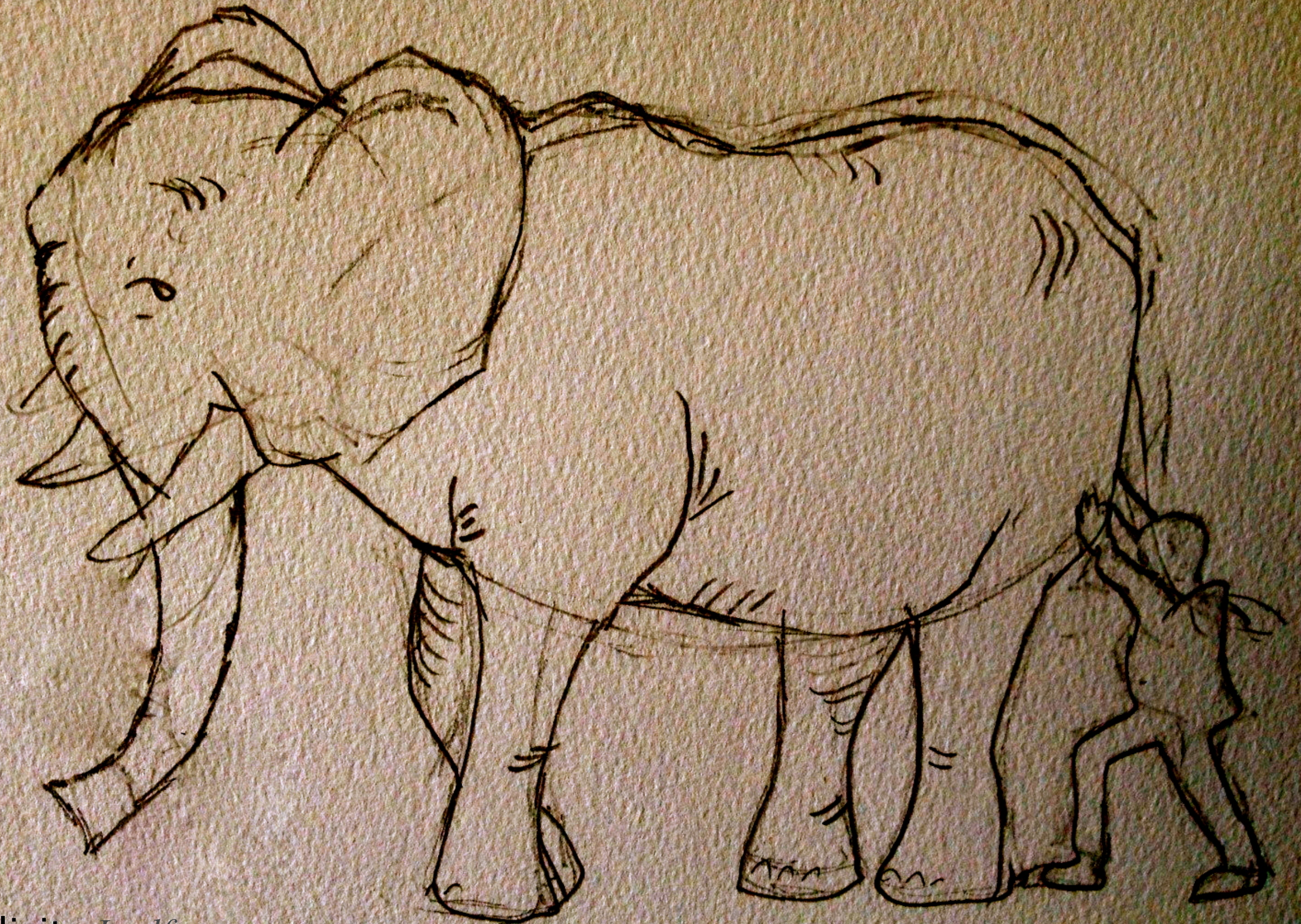
*What's the goal?*





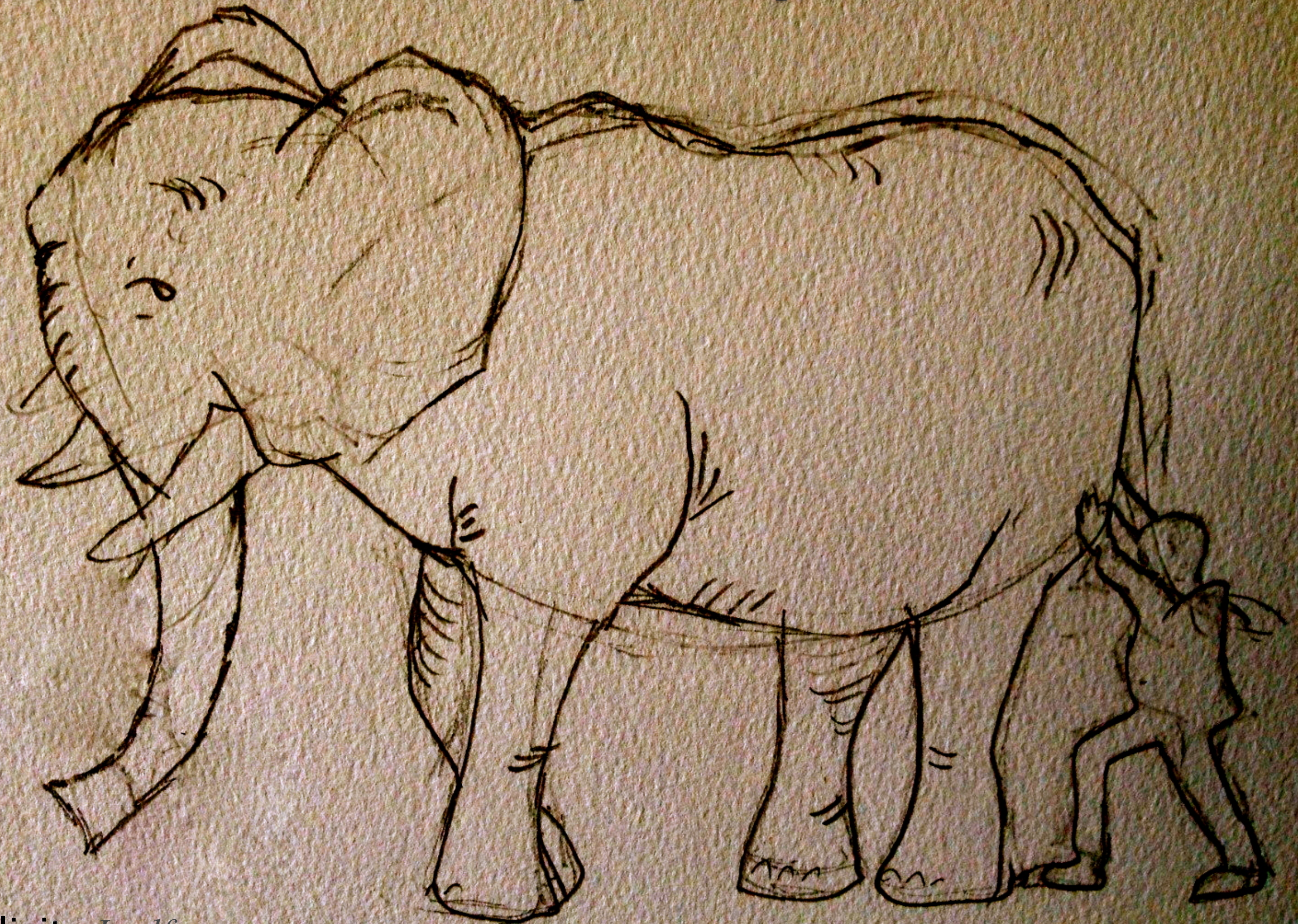
“The Elephant in the  
Standup”







# *Simplicity*





**“Count the Concerns”  
pattern**

It's not about  
*Cardinality*

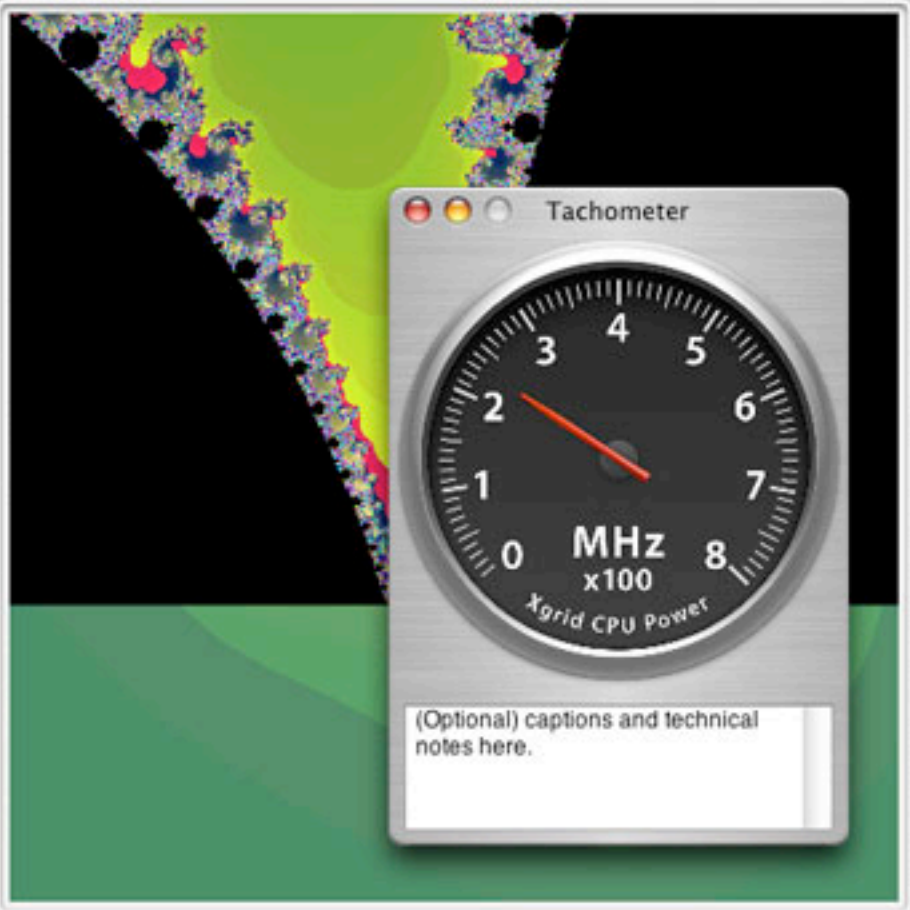
**We recognise and  
embrace it when we  
see it**

Mandelbrot - Untitled

Status: Job finishing

Current image

X: -0.834166666666667  
Y: -0.186666666666665  
Width: 0.175



The image shows a portion of the Mandelbrot set fractal, rendered in various colors (black, green, yellow, red, blue) against a black background. A tachometer window is overlaid on the image, displaying a needle pointing to approximately 2.5 on a scale from 0 to 8, labeled 'MHz x100' and 'Xgrid CPU Power'. Below the tachometer is a text box with the placeholder '(Optional) captions and technical notes here.'

The Mandelbrot job type allows you to specify a region of the Mandelbrot set to plot.

Show help

Automatic tour

The automatic tour zooms the image along preset paths.

Stop

Next image

Click and drag on the image to select a portion to zoom in on.

X: -0.834166666666667  
Y: -0.186666666666665  
Width: 0.175

Use Altivec if available

Show image

<<

Time to calculate image:  
67.520 seconds

**Sometimes it's Tricky**

```
assertEquals(  
    uut.toString(),  
    “Rachmaninov”);
```

**DRY...**



**Navigating the Options?**

# Impact Mapping

# Real Options

# Summary

A conference room with a large elephant cutout in the background. The room has a red carpet, a large circular skylight, and several people sitting around a table. The text is overlaid on the image.

***Simplicity helps us beat  
the Elephant(s) in the  
Standup***

**O.R.E.**

**Organise =>**

**Reduce =>**

**Encapsulate**

**Emergence is natural**



# Adaptable Software Wins

# Thank-you

[russell.miles@simplicityitself.com](mailto:russell.miles@simplicityitself.com)  
@russmiles

**Simplicity** *itself*