

Cliff Jumping for Amateurs & Other Illuminating Stories

**Mike Sutton
QCon SF 2010**

human learner
valuable outcomes
developer joy
chilled XP father diverse Scrum joy
OpenSpace tools fun conversations
sharing practitioner visualiser experienced
linchpin collaboration value
Ruby java happiness
Rails connector activist games agile
entrepreneur practioner Improv
collaborator community
husband 18years
Lean coach play



Courage Under Fire

**A big media
and telecoms
company**

A difficult CTO

**A team under
siege...**

**their Scrum
Master (me)**

**and a very critical
project.**



The Team was facing a **very difficult challenge**

**Life was frustrating for
the Team**



they could not
challenge the
imposed
solution



the stakes were high and made higher!



and 'help' was on the way



The Team Was Imploding

**Then we made a
breakthrough...**



**‘What Would
Need To
Change for Us
To Do What The
Business
Need?’**



The Team needed to Own the Solution



**The Team self organised to emerge
a credible alternative**



That night, Dave bought the beers



the untapped wisdom and energy of
the Team was **unleashed**



They delivered.

**Slightly more than the
minimum features and
slightly ahead of time**



...Dave bought **many many** beers



**What
Happened
Next?**



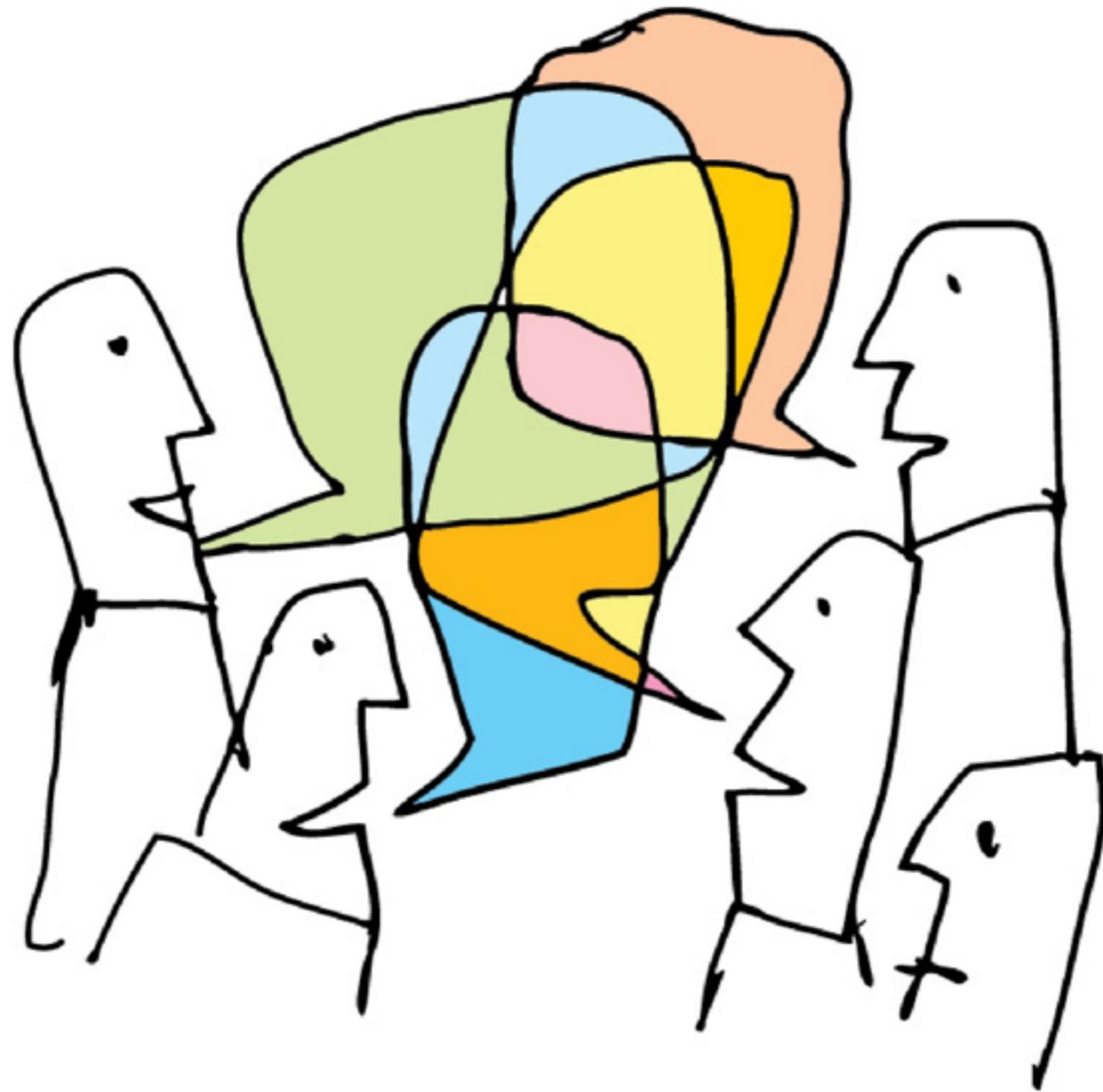
The Team was disbanded



Dave left.



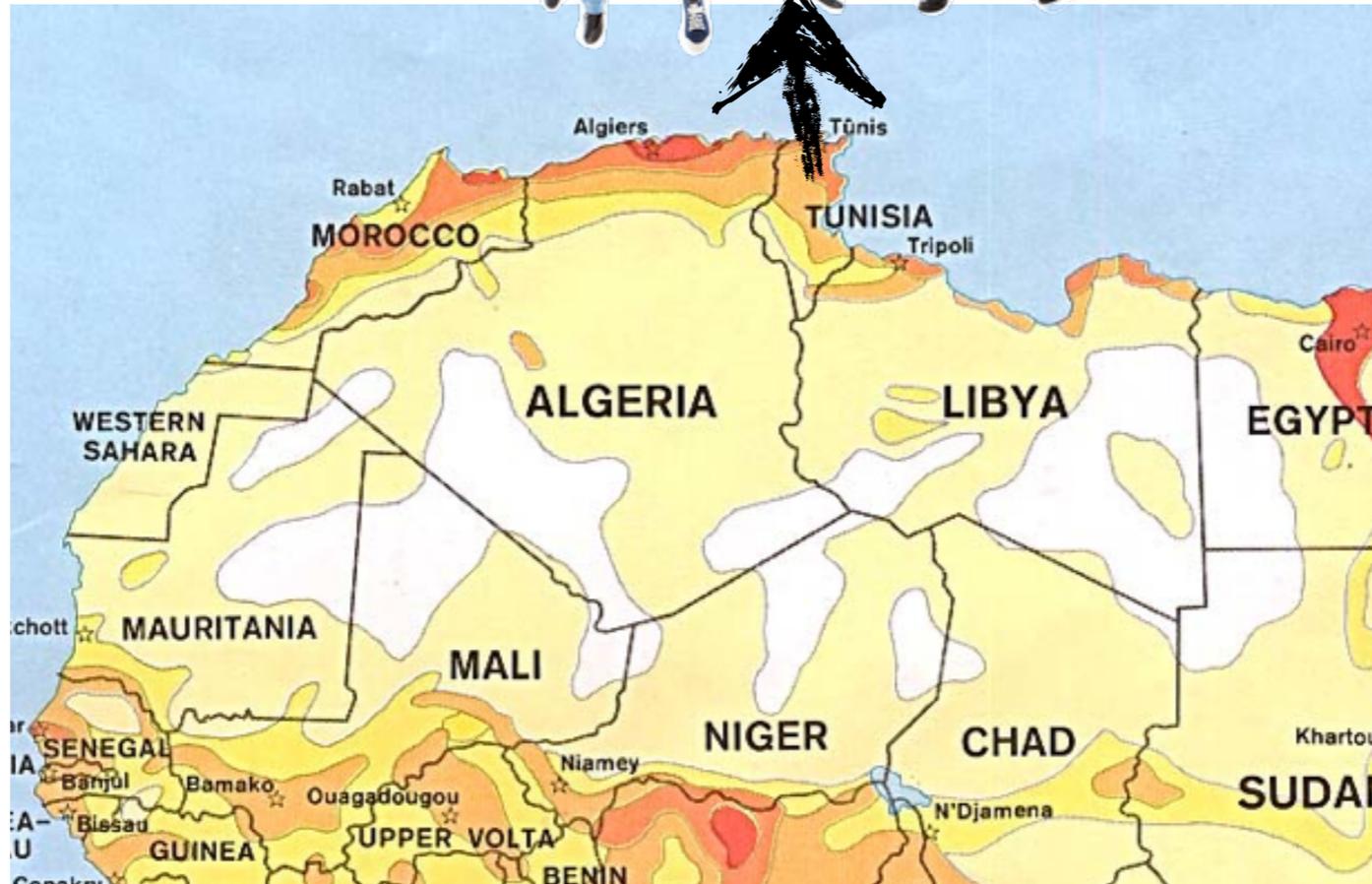
But Something Special Had Happened



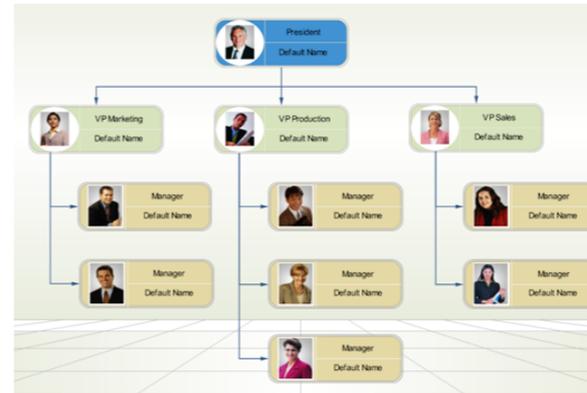
Questions?

Cliff Jumping for Amateurs





I coached a lovely group of people in Tunisia



They were new to lots of things



They were new to **each other**



Our first sprint!

Teleconferencing tools
to the US suck!

I can't work in
this heat :(

**We don't trust
each other...**

We Retrospected.



Draw Your Experience



Tell A Story of the Future, Together.



without trust, things could only get worse.

What Would You Do?

We tried...



Having a party!



**We Watched
Some Sports**



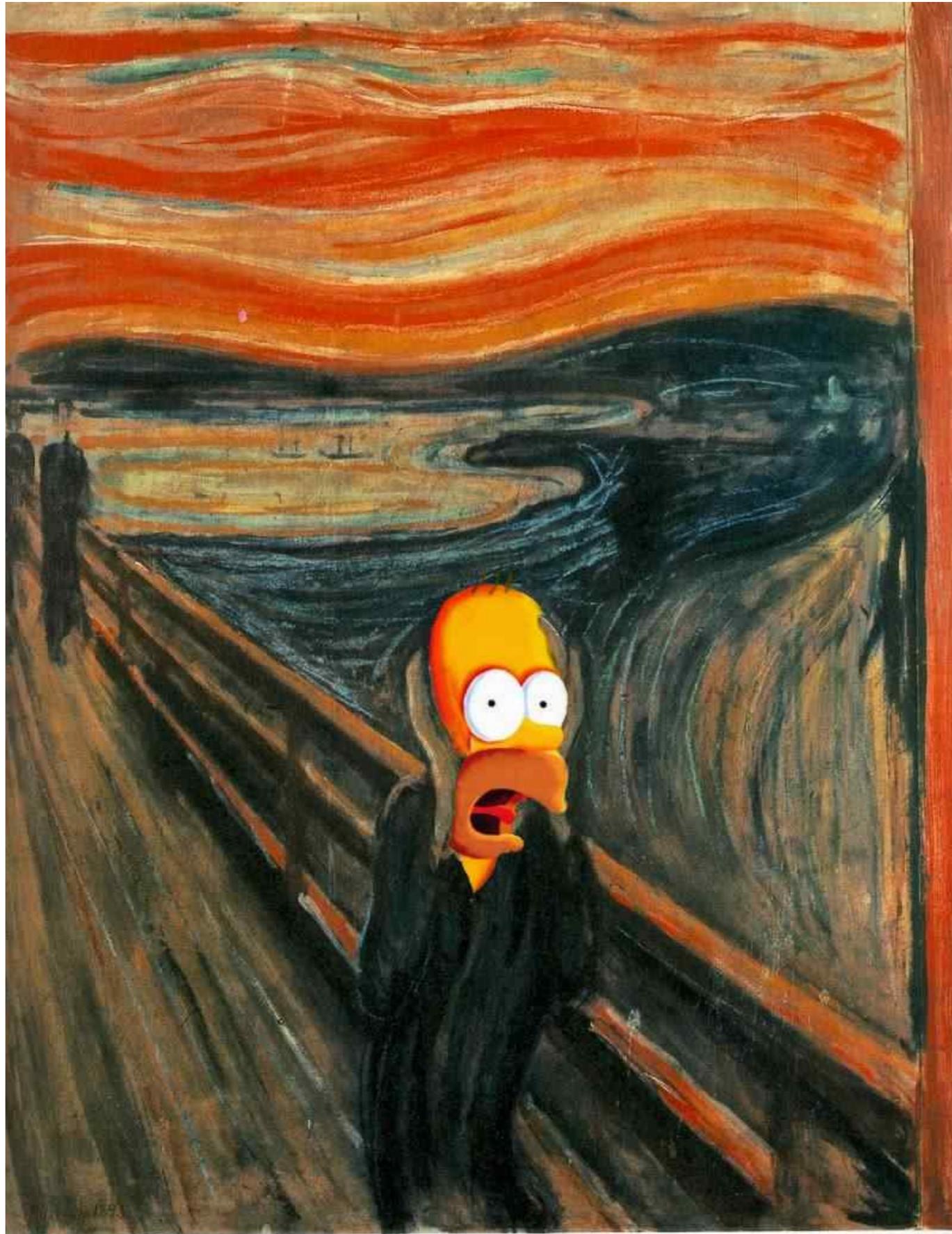
We Had A Movie Night



Strong relationships are built on shared and deep experiences.



**time to
jump off
cliffs?**



**Every Jump is
Scary**



having friends to share it with helps

**What
happened
next?**



the next sprint was better



**we recognised what we had
done made a difference**



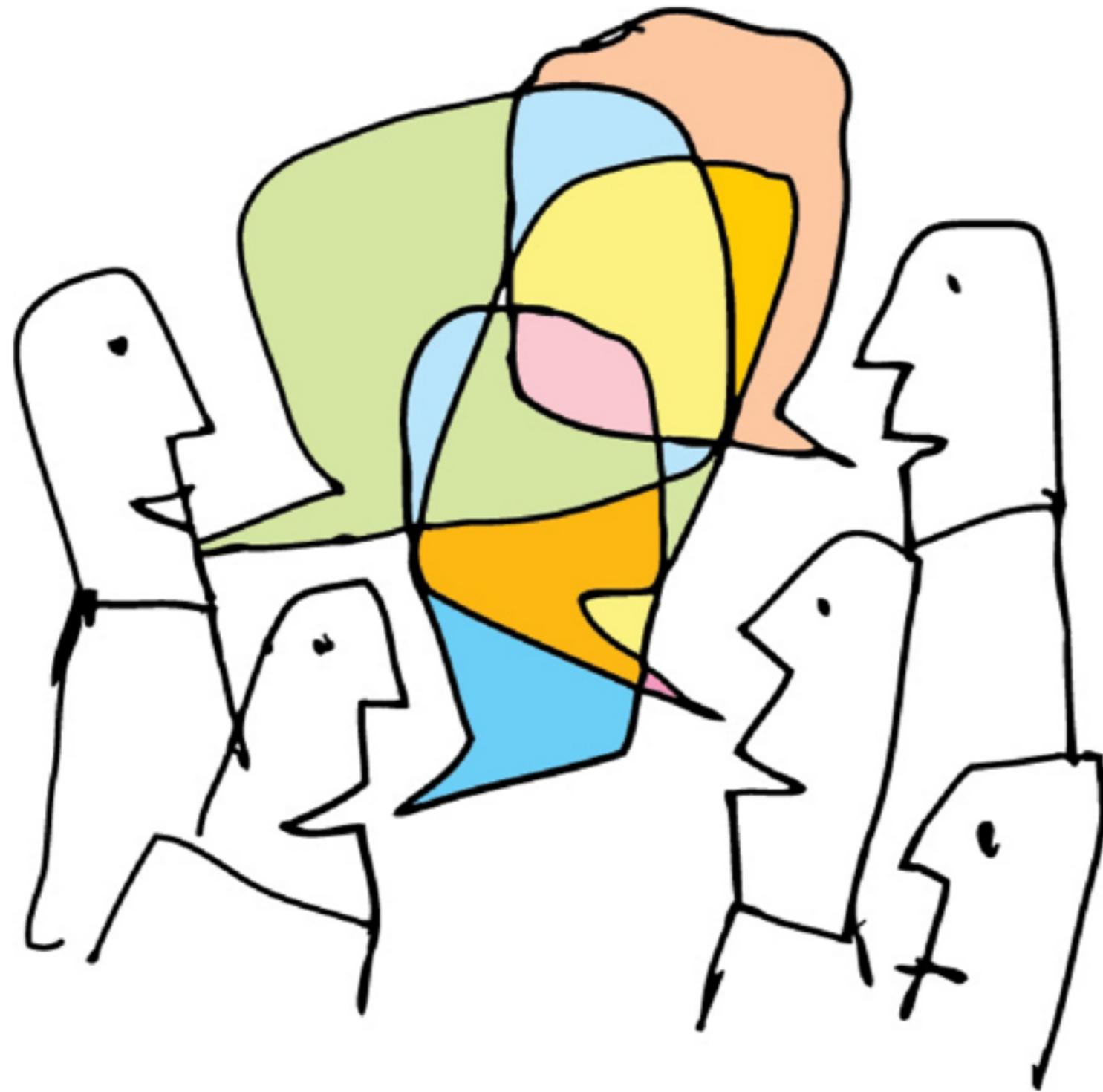
**From a positive
shared experience...**

**We discovered
TRUST,
COMMITMENT and
FRIENDSHIP**



**and the team emerged...
and changed its name !**

**Ladies & Gentlemen, I give
you...**



Questions?

**Thank you for letting me share
my stories with you**

I'd love to hear some of yours.



Twitter: @mhsutton
<http://wizewerx.com>