

Promoted from Dev to Team Lead: 8 things they didn't tell me





Dan Lines

Co-Founder & COO
LinearB.io
(former VP Engineering)

Live in So Cal

Just had a baby girl

Host “Dev Interrupted” pod

Obsessed with dev team culture

It's been a wild ride

January 2007

First job:
Developer

February 2009

Promoted:
Team Lead

January 2013

Promoted:
Director

December 2014

Promoted:
VP Engineering



“Don’t worry... you’re going to be great”

— my boss, Michael



Many of our skills don't translate

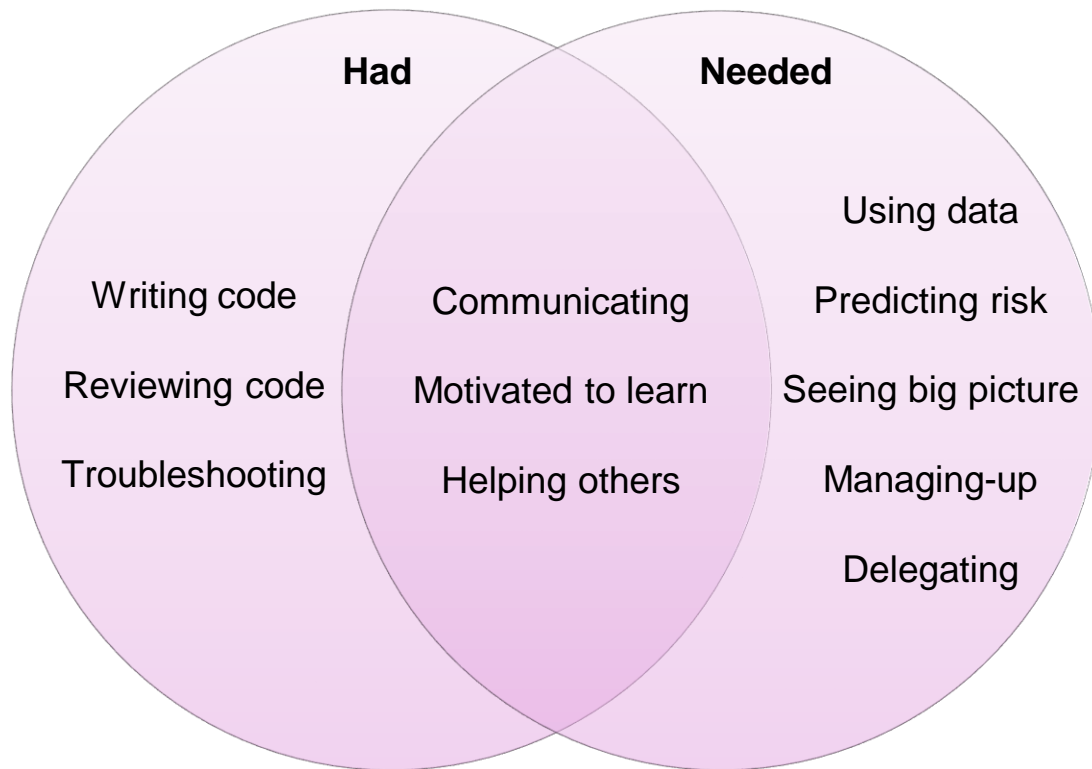


75%

of the issues we face
as dev team leads
are not technical



Skills I had versus skills I needed





**8 things
they didn't tell me**
(that I learned the hard way)

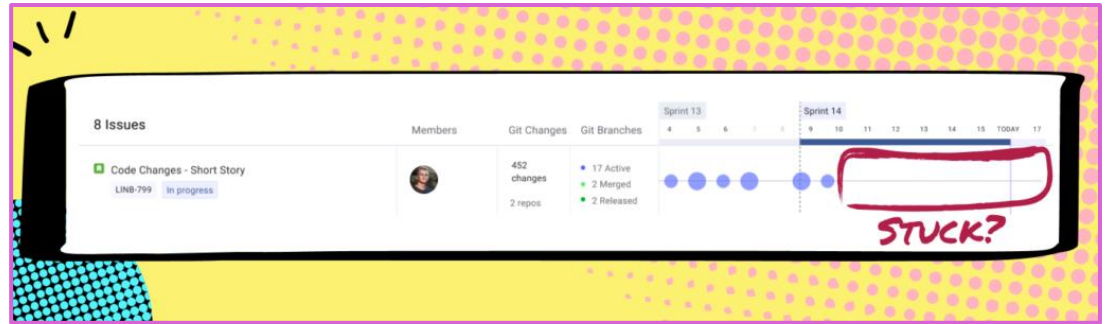
#1 Detect risk early with questions

Qs for yourself

What are our leverage points for this sprint?

Does everyone know their top priority for the day/week?

Use your stand-up



Qs for your team

What's your feature rollout plan?

What are you thinking for scalability testing?

#2 Keep instincts, change behavior

Slow down, ask questions

Drop the Superman act

Teach, don't do



#3 Invest in your ecosystem



Going from Dev to Team Lead expands your ecosystem by

3-5X



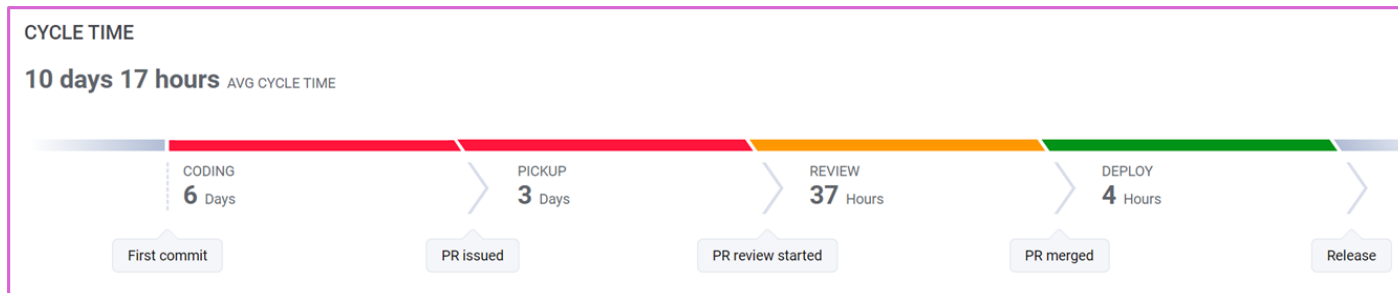
#4 Use metrics to translate engineering to execs



Educate them on your world

Don't be afraid to share details

Help them advocate for your team



Get our metrics dashboard and runbook at linearb.io/metrics-runbook



Includes:



Metrics scorecard templates

Meeting PPT templates

How-to videos & guides



Read about the other 4 things they didn't tell me

<https://linearb.io/blog/promoted-from-dev-to-team-lead-8-things-they-didnt-tell-me/>



I ❤️ Dev Leaders

Let's connect!



linearb.io/dev-interrupted-community



linearb.io/dev-interrupted-podcast

dan@linearb.io | linkedin.com/in/dan-lines