

# If I were in charge, I'd #fail

Or, how software development best practices can work for newsrooms, too.

Erika Owens  
@erika\_owens

# #FAIL

## Why fail?

# Coding culture: Not just hoodies and headphones

**Software development best practices can help a newsroom:**

- Fail fast
- Fail often
- Fail smart

# Fail fast: Plan and iterate

## Plan for iteration:

- Break the project into segments
- Roll out the project in stages
- Build detailed requirements and flowcharts for newsroom workflows and processes

# Fail fast: Plan and iterate

We do this already.

# Fail often: Agile execution

- **Stay on task:** Daily standup meeting
- **Document, document, document:**  
Tools to help track progress, issues
- **Keep on task:** Display and communicate about your plans, workflows

# Fail often: Agile execution

Summary:		
Reporter:	erikao	
Description:	<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; height: 200px; width: 100%;"></div>	
Type:	defect ▼	Priority: blocker ▼
Component:	archives ▼	Keywords: <input type="text"/>
Cc:	<input type="text"/>	Targeted completion date: <input type="text"/>
Estimated Number of Hours:	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Add Hours to Ticket: <input type="text" value="0"/>
Total Hours:	<input type="text" value="0"/>	Erika's to do list: <input type="checkbox"/>
Monitor:	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Assign to:	<input type="text"/>	

# Fail smart: Evaluate and collaborate

- **Quality assurance:** Engage your reader community.
- **Staff to staff "code review":** present feedback and suggestions.
- **Followthrough:** Be transparent about updates and accountable to one another



# Fail smart: Evaluate and collaborate

Support each other as a  
team (and as a community)

# And then, you dance!



## Thank You

Special thanks to [@lisawilliams](#), [@d6](#), [Mayfirst/PeopleLink](#), and [The Notebook](#).

Please contact me with any questions or if you want to talk tech (specifically drupal, civiCRM, women who tech) and journalism.

Erika Owens

[@erika\\_owens](#)