

While there is confusion in the definition of Technical Debt, it's a core issue that companies can no longer ignore. The size and impact of technical debt varies by company, but every IT organization has some form of it. Organizations must take steps to identify their debt and provide stable, predictable and secured IT service to all of their stakeholders. The irony is that the level of interest in technical debt by most companies is surpassed by the interest accrued for that technical debt. It's considered an ugly project/program to invest in, and *on the face of it* provides little innate business value. But upon closer inspection, responsible technical debt management does provide very real value.

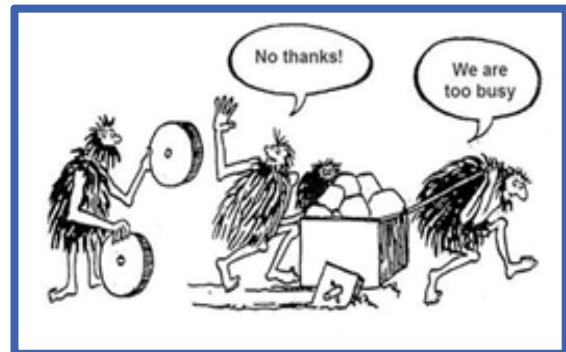
### Our Focus

Like a financial debt, the technical debt incurs interest payments, which come in the form of extra effort that are incurred in the future development and support of IT services. We focus on the foundational practices and processes that can reduce an organization's interest rate on that debt, make sure the right payments are made on time or eliminate the debt, all together. We put an emphasis on processes that are needed to sustain the level of risk and cost that either do not exist or are not followed consistently.

### Our Approach

Paragon has developed a proven process for uncovering and reducing technical debt. We always take into consideration the impact for all stakeholders – business and IT. We help you to calculate the “interest” you are accruing and paying in terms of risk, efficiencies, growth and cost. Our goal is to help you to identify, quantify and create a plan to retire your technical debt. We consider the following 4 types of technical debt:

- ▶ **Deliberate technical debt:** When an organization decides to advance a project in order to achieve a business initiative
- ▶ **Accidental Debt:** When software and systems go unsupported and unpatched due to operational pace inadequacies
- ▶ **Outdated Design:** Products or solutions are superseded by version revisions or enhanced solutions
- ▶ **Bit Rot:** Code revisions over time that increase support, testing and update costs over time and increase the risk of system instability



### What You Can Expect

Each company's technical debt risk profile is different, but as a rule, you can expect to:

- ▶ **Understand and Identify** your technical debt. What are the most risky or highest priority opportunities?
- ▶ **Calculate the Cost** to run the system/application and the expected savings to be derived once it's retired (Operational TCO), including replacement costs
- ▶ **Identify and Fix.** Uncover the problems, severity and the time and cost to fix debt-rich systems
- ▶ **Secure Sponsorship and Budget.** Learn the skills to sell debt elimination projects to executive and financial stakeholders.
- ▶ **Build Debt Reduction and Elimination** into new IT projects as you replace existing technology

### About Paragon Solutions Group:

Paragon Solutions Group helps IT teams more effectively interact with the rest of the business to enable growth and agility. Our progressive approach to IT maturity and our focus on measurable outcomes provides IT organizations with the perspective, methodology and tools to build a strong foundation that serves and is valued by all of IT's stakeholders.