# Spring into action by taking a closer look at your software assets!

Winter is soon coming to an end and now is a good time to take a fresh look at the technical health of your software assets. Understanding the constant evolution of applications in your portfolio is a critical activity of responsible software management, from monitoring and paying down technical debt to understanding simple changes in the distribution of technologies used by your teams. A simple spring-cleaning review can help guide next quarter's development and help strategically steer your development teams to being as productive as possible.

## Silverthread recommends the following 3 simple guidelines for conducting an effective spring-cleaning review:

1. **Perform an inventory of all of your software assets and their supporting applications.**

   It may come as a surprise but performing an activity as simple as counting the number of number of files, lines of code, and languages used in a portfolio of applications tends to be an often overlooked first step in understanding the effectiveness of software development teams. Many software owners are caught off-guard when a new technology is silently introduced, or when hiring needs change due to the continued adoption of newer languages (or the continued maintenance of legacy).

2. **Assess technical debt from more than one perspective.**

   Many software analysis tools will judge the overall technical health of a codebase by looking at a single dimension: code quality. While assessing the health of individual lines of code in a software asset is important, research has

shown assessing the health of the interconnections across files has just as much if not more impact on your team's performance. Spring is a great time to perform a fresh assessment of your applications both using traditional code quality tools, and more modern design quality tools to create the fullest picture of your application's technical debt.

3. **Verify what you think you have is actually what you have.**

   Lastly, one of the most overlooked elements of responsible software management is to take a moment and check that what is actually implemented in the codebase matches what is described in the architecture documentation. Not only does this make onboarding new team members faster, but it also makes sure fewer unnecessary mistakes are made when your team members each have a different understanding of how the software is assembled. Take this time to open your software architecture specifications and make sure it is still reliable – better yet, use modern tools to track your software architecture automatically.

As we move into spring there has never been a better time for a bit of software development introspection. Here at Silverthread, we take the time to use our own tools on our own software to be sure our technical team always has the most accurate and up-to-date information to monitor the composition of our codebases, strategically manage technical debt, and control the evolution of our software architecture.

Contact us to learn how to do the same

Know someone who would benefit from this newsletter? Share it with them!