

Best of Both Worlds: **Remote Pairing in Action**

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Overview

- what is Outpace?
- pros and cons of traditional work settings
- benefits of remote pairing
- developer setup and tools
- process with videos
- q & a

Outpace Systems

- revolutionizing enterprise software
- founded in February 2013
- entirely remote
- 50 employees - half developers, half business





working from an office vs working from home



Working at an Office

- pros
 - in person collaboration
 - easy access of all members of the team
- cons
 - commute
 - distance between teams and offices
 - relocation

Working from Home

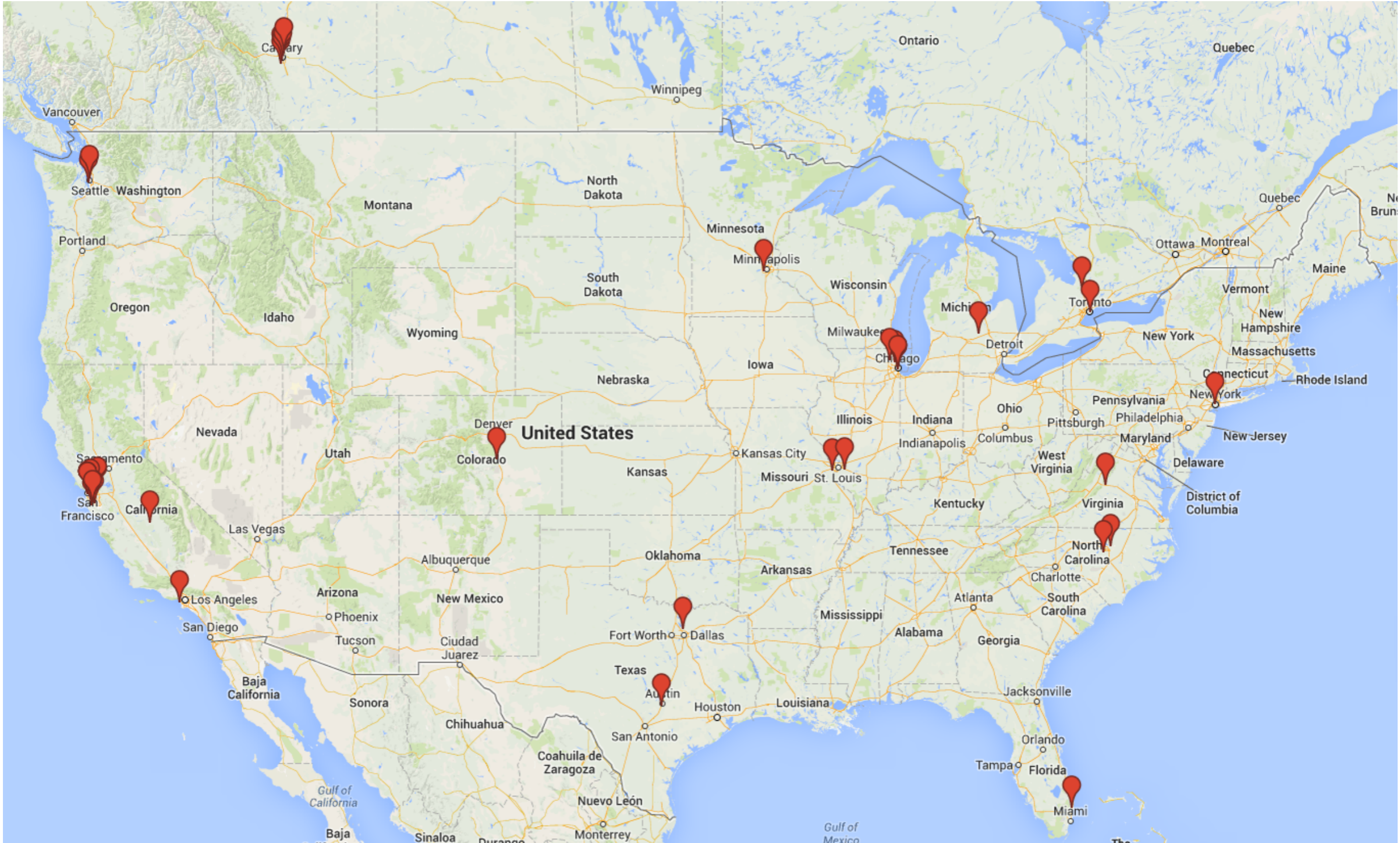
- pros
 - no commute
 - flexible schedule
 - work from anywhere
 - playing with pets
- cons
 - difficulty collaborating with office team
 - lack of motivation
 - loneliness

Solution:

Remote Pair Programming

- **screen sharing to pair across any two locations**
- **continuous interaction and knowledge sharing**
- **no commute**
- **hiring pool = the whole world**

Outpace Employee Locations



Developer Setup

- dual Thunderbolt Monitors
- Macbook Pro
- reliable high speed internet



Developer Tools

- screen sharing - OSX screen share, tmux, screen
- editors - Emacs, VI, IntelliJ, LightTable
- languages - Clojure, ClojureScript
- source control - Git
- QA and production environments - AWS

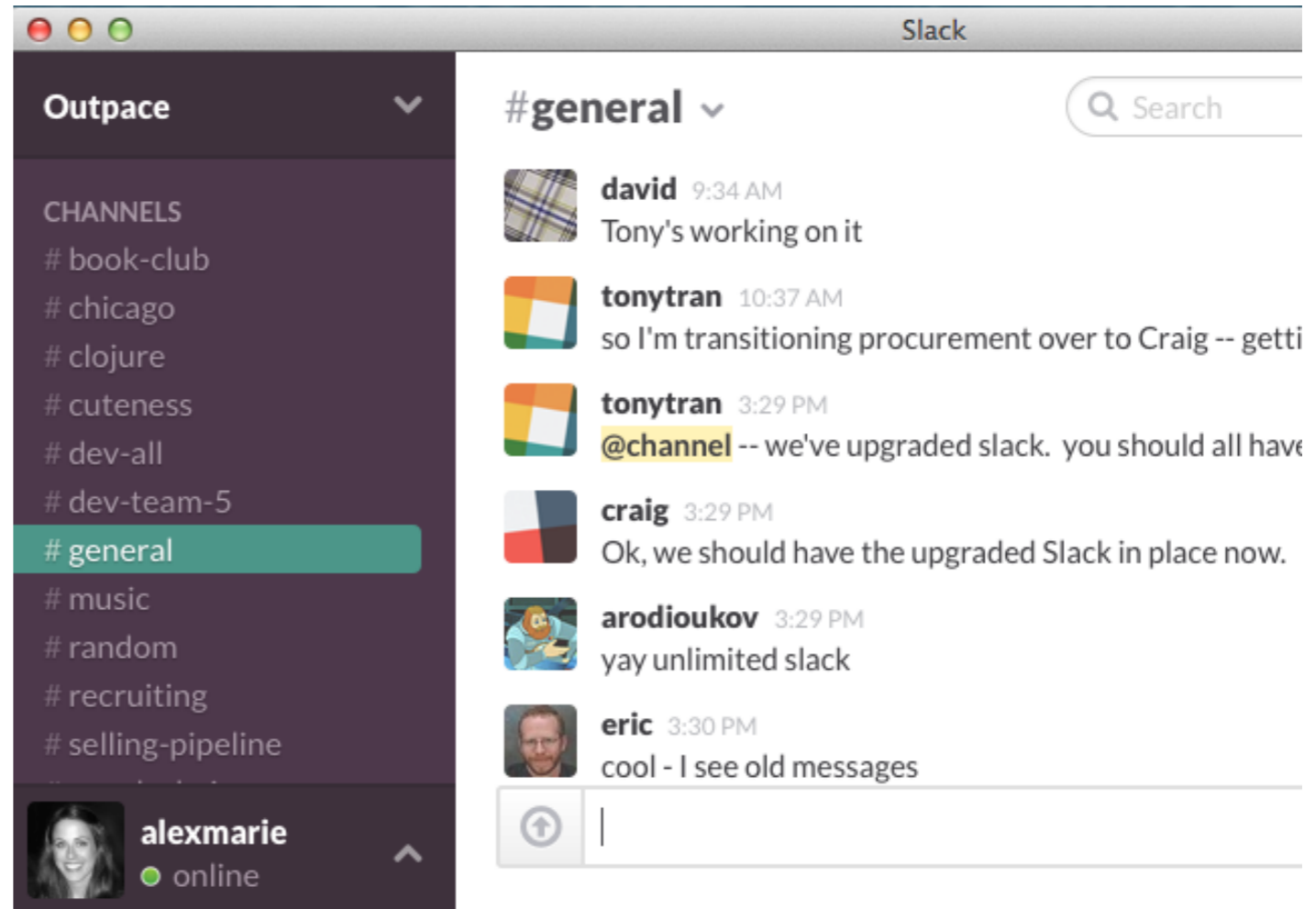
Communication Tools

- ease and accessibility
 - video chat
 - email
 - IM
- transparency
 - status of projects and teams

Video Chat



Email and IM



Work Tracking



A screenshot of a Trello board titled "Sales Analysis Tool" with a "Private" lock icon. The board is organized into four columns: "Prioritized", "In Progress", "Ready To Deploy", and "Deployed". Each column contains several cards with text describing tasks or requirements. The "Prioritized" column has three cards: "Seller should be able to compare sales between two sales periods", "Seller should be able to compare personal sales against global sales", and "PROFIT!!". The "In Progress" column has three cards: "Seller should be able to see sales broken out by purchase type", "Seller should be able to filter by One Time Purchasers or Repeat Purchasers", and "Seller should be able to access SAT in IE8... :-(". The "Ready To Deploy" column has four cards: "Seller should be able to filter by Average Order Quantity", "Seller should be able to filter by SKU", "Seller should be able to filter by Model Category", and "Seller should be able to filter by client City and State". The "Deployed" column has two cards: "Seller should be able to query sales for a specific Sales Window" and "Upon querying sellers should see list of sales within the window that match the criteria". Each card includes a "Add a card..." button at the bottom and small profile icons of team members. The browser address bar shows the URL "https://trello.com/b/FR9a0agy/sales-analysis-tool".

Our Process

- daily 'stand ups' with dev and business members
- impromptu meetings throughout the day
- code reviews with other devs before pushing
- release frequently throughout the day

Stand Up

- zoom meeting
- approximately 8 people with business analysts
- discuss prior and current day's work
- split off in pairs

Stand Up



Pairing

- **choose a driver to start**
- **various styles - TDD, ping pong**
- **short breaks throughout the day**

Impromptu Meetings

- invite business analysts into zoom with questions
- screen sharing allows clear explanations of questions

Impromptu Meeting

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying a Trello board for 'Sales Analysis Tool'. The board is organized into four columns: 'Prioritized', 'In Progress', 'Ready To Deploy', and 'Deployed'. Each column contains several cards with user stories. A video call window is overlaid on the right side of the board, showing two participants.

Browser Tabs: customer_mvp/clojure/src, Outpace Systems, Inc., (4) Sales Analysis Tool | Tr, Sales Analysis Tool

Browser Address Bar: https://trello.com/b/FR9a0agv/sales-analysis-tool

Browser Bookmarks: Outpace Mail, Drive, AWS, New Relic, Outpace Systems, Inc., Your Dashboard, Google+, Trello, Jenkins, UI, Google Maps, Starwood QA, Kata

Trello Board: Sales Analysis Tool (Private)

- Prioritized**
 - Seller should be able to compare sales between two sales periods
 - Seller should be able to compare personal sales against global sales
 - PROFIT!!
 - Add a card...
- In Progress**
 - Seller should be able to see sales broken out by purchase type
 - Seller should be able to filter by One Time Purchasers or Repeat Purchasers
 - Seller should be able to access SAT in IE8... :-{
 - Add a card...
- Ready To Deploy**
 - Seller should be able to filter by Average Order Quantity
 - Seller should be able to filter by SKU
 - Seller should be able to filter by Model Category
 - Seller should be able to filter by client City and State
 - Add a card...
- Deployed**
 - Seller should be able to query sales for a specific Sales Window
 - Upon querying sellers should see list of sales within the window that match the criteria
 - Seller should be able to log in to his or her profile
 - Add a card...

Video Call Participants: Two participants are visible in the video call window on the right side of the screen.

Code Reviews

- call in another dev (pair) before commit
- spreads knowledge beyond pairs

Challenges

- pairing across time zones
- white board tools
- standardization across teams
- communication between teams

Questions?

Thanks

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