

From Homogeneous Monolith to Radically Heterogeneous Microservices Architecture

Chad Fowler

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a white business card. The person is wearing a dark suit jacket, a light blue dress shirt, and a striped tie with blue, red, and white diagonal stripes. The background is blurred, focusing attention on the hand and the card.

Chad Fowler
Systems Euthanizer

@chadfowler

HELLO WORLD!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

build a todo list application

Web

Images

Videos

Shopping

Ne

About 228,000,000 results (0.97 seconds)

What is Wunderlist?

Wunderlist is available on iPhone, iPad, Mac, Web, Android, Windows and Windows Phone

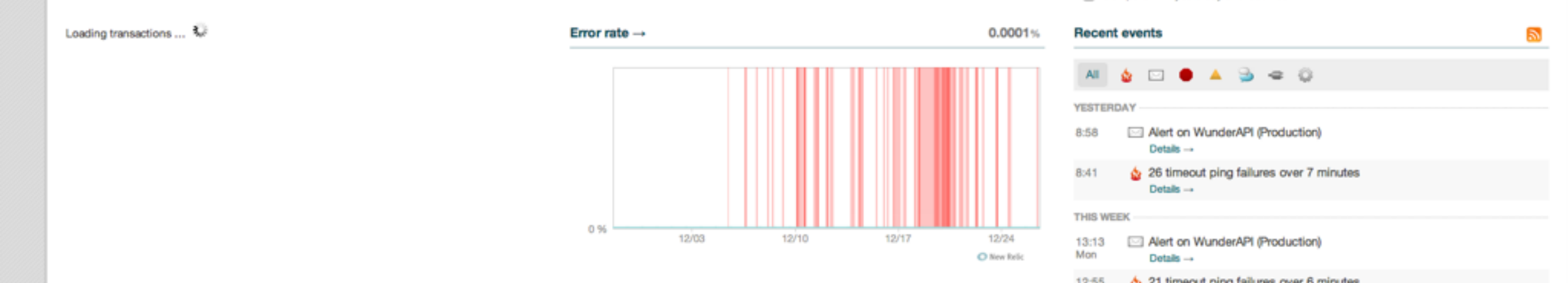
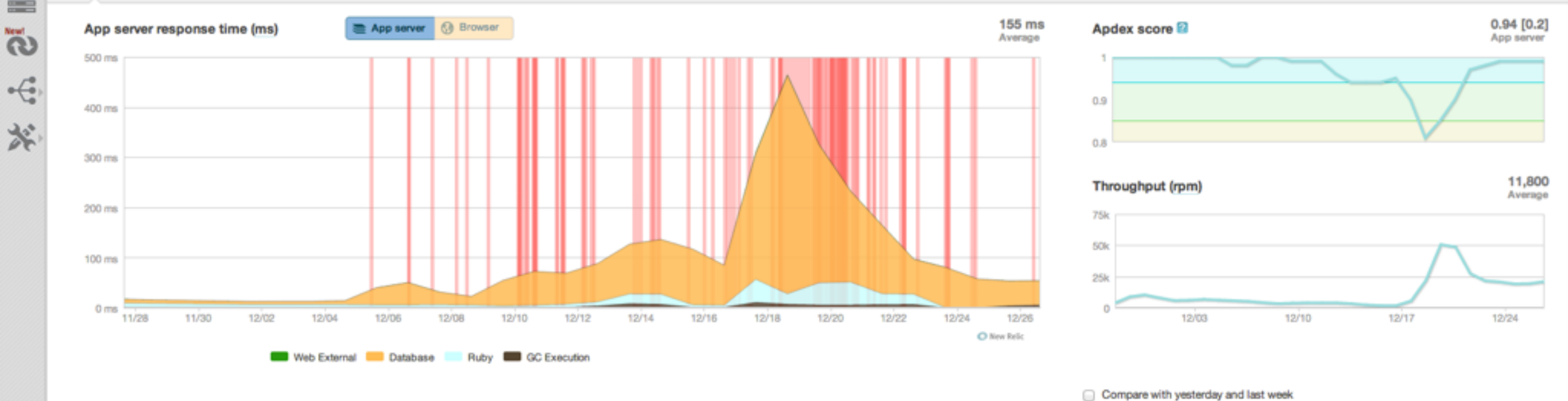




The wait is over, it's time to unwrap Wunderlist 2

December 18, 2012 - [427 Comments](#)

Just in time for Christmas, we're super excited to deliver you Wunderlist 2. Available on iPhone, Mac, Android, Windows and the Web, Santa's little helpers, aka our entire team, have worked tirelessly day and night to bring this early Christmas gift to you. So, without much further ado let's rip off the gift wrap and take a closer look at Wunderlist 2 - your beautiful and simple to-do list. When you first unwrap Wunderlist 2 you'll notice it's available for your iPhone, Mac, Android, Windows PC and Web Browser. Select your device of choice and let's get started. Once you login we have a...



193 servers	Apdex score	Resp. time	Throughput	CPU usage	Memory
ip-10-208-11-106 1 instance	0.850.2	541 ms	8 rpm	1 %	186 MB
ip-10-208-11-233					

WunderAPI (Production) End user 1.61 1.33 ppm App server 46.3 ms 25.6k rpm 0.00 err%

Recent events

YESTERDAY

8:58 Alert on WunderAPI (Production) Details

8:41 26 timeout ping failures over 7 minutes Details

THIS WEEK

13:13 Mon Alert on WunderAPI (Production) Details

12:55 Mon 21 timeout ping failures over 6 minutes Details

11:16 Mon Alert on WunderAPI (Production) Details

121 timeout ping failures over 31 minutes Details

Every
is

thing
fine!



A scene from the movie 'The Planet of the Apes' showing a large black monolith standing in a rocky landscape at sunset, with several apes in the background.

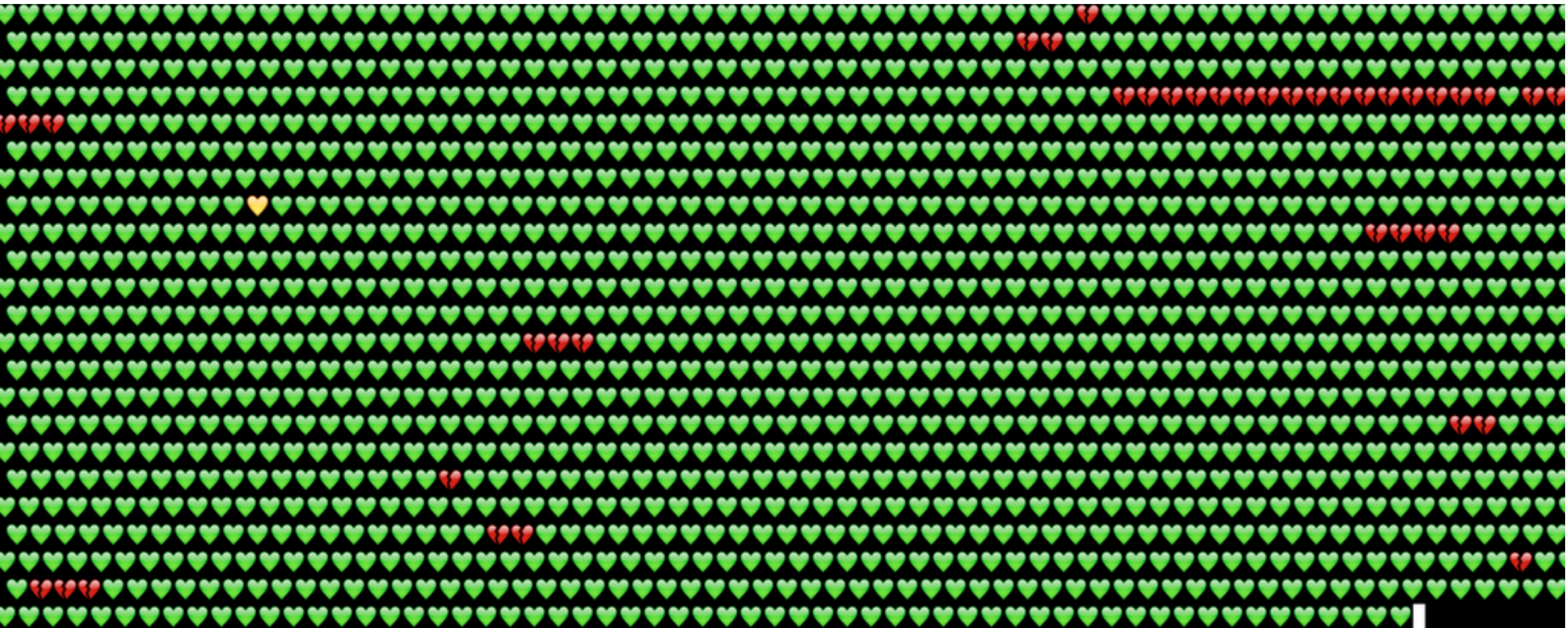
One Monolithic Application

One Monolithic Database



One (*Backend*)
Language (*Ruby*)

Test suite slow and brittle






Caching
required
for
survival

Deployment was terrifying



A black and white photograph showing five white, oval-shaped eggs resting on a dark, textured surface. The surface appears to be soil or a similar material, with numerous thin, light-colored roots or fibers visible, some extending across the foreground and background. The eggs are arranged in a loose, somewhat circular pattern. The lighting is soft, highlighting the smooth texture of the eggs against the rough, dark background.

**Logic
buried in
abstractions**

Fear

Uncertainty

Doubt

Legacy

@chadfowler

Systems Euthanizer

Chad Fowler

the passionate programmer, author, speaker, musician, technologist, CTO

[Blog](#) [About](#) [Speaking](#) [Books](#) [Interviews](#) [Contact](#) [Archives](#)

2006.12.27

The Big Rewrite

This is the first in a series of articles, discussing why many software rewrite projects end badly and what to do to avoid some of the ways I've seen them go astray.

You've got an existing, successful software product. You've hit the ceiling on extensibility and maintainability. Your project platform is inflexible, and your application is a software house of cards that can't support another new feature.


You've seen the videos, the weblog posts and the hype, and you've decided you're going to re-implement your product in Rails (or Java, or .NET, or Erlang, etc.).

Beware. This is a longer, harder, more failure-prone path than you expect.

Throughout my career in software development, I've been involved in Big Rewrite after Big Rewrite. I suspect it's because I have an interest in learning eclectic computer languages, operating systems, and development environments. Not being just-a-Java-guy or just-a-Windows-guy has led to me becoming a serial rewriter. I've been on projects to replace C, COBOL, PHP, Visual Basic, Perl, PLSQL, VBX (don't ask!) and all manner of architectural atrocities with the latest and greatest technology of the day.

recruijogyl of tpe qayl

and all manner of architectural atrocities with the latest and greatest technology of the day. I suspect it's because I have an interest in learning eclectic computer languages, operating systems, and development environments. Not being just-a-Java-guy or just-a-Windows-guy has led to me becoming a serial rewriter. I've been on projects to replace C, COBOL, PHP, Visual Basic, Perl, PLSQL, VBX (don't ask!) and all manner of architectural atrocities with the latest and greatest technology of the day.

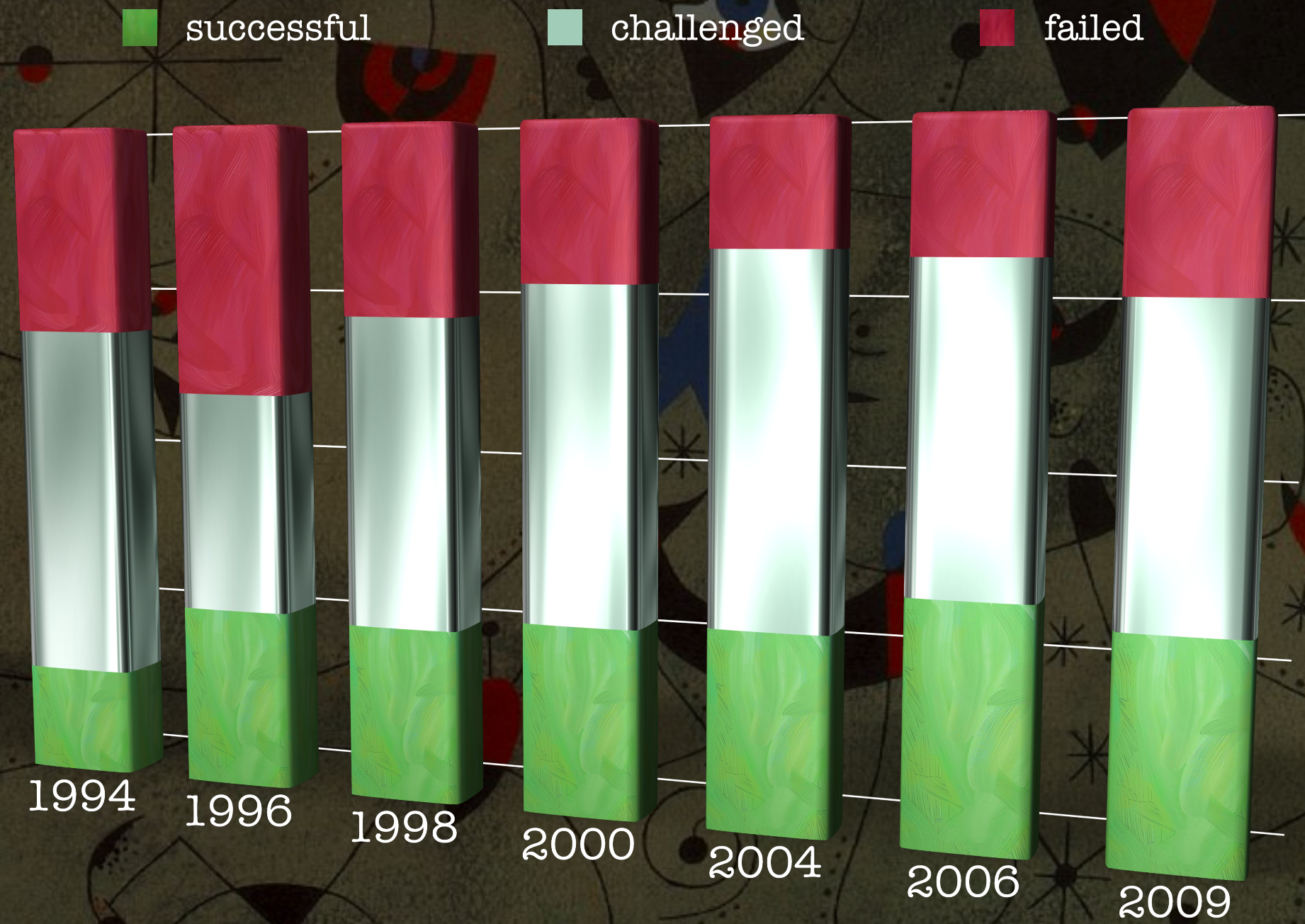


1 *a legacy from a great aunt*: BEQUEST, inheritance, heritage, endowment, gift, patrimony, settlement, birthright; formal benefaction.

“legacy”

2 *a legacy of the wars*: CONSEQUENCE, effect, upshot, spin-off, repercussion, aftermath, by-product, result.







For business software that's deployed, the average life expectancy is five years.*

(I made this up)

OH SH*T!

Joel on Software

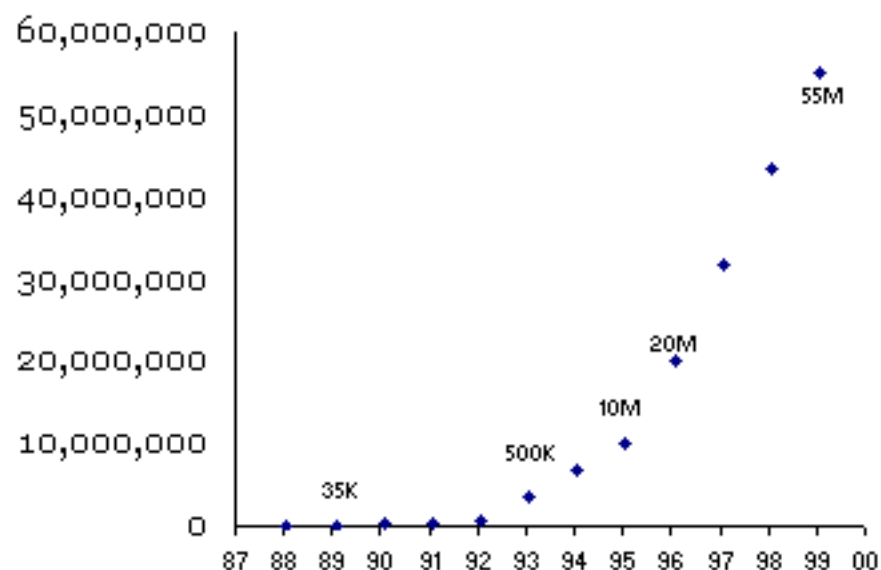
Joel on Software

Good Software Takes Ten Years. Get Used To it.

by Joel Spolsky

Saturday, July 21, 2001

Have a look at this little chart:



[File a CV](#) and let the great jobs come to you!

Wanted: [Golden Website & Database Developers at BullionVault](#) (London, England). See this and other great job listings on [the jobs page](#).

 stackoverflow careers

How do you CREATE
Legacy software?

richard p. gabriel

Design Beyond Human Abilities



“Biological systems are very much larger than anything (coherent)
that people have built”

“When a cell is not healthy, an outside cell that’s part of the immune system can command the cell to destroy itself without spreading toxins.”



homeostasis

Homeostasis

Definition

noun

(Science: Biology)

(1) The tendency of an organism or a cell to regulate its internal conditions, usually by a system of feedback controls, so as to stabilize health and functioning, regardless of the outside changing conditions

(2) The ability of the body or a cell to seek and maintain a condition of equilibrium or stability within its internal environment when dealing with external changes



What is a cell?



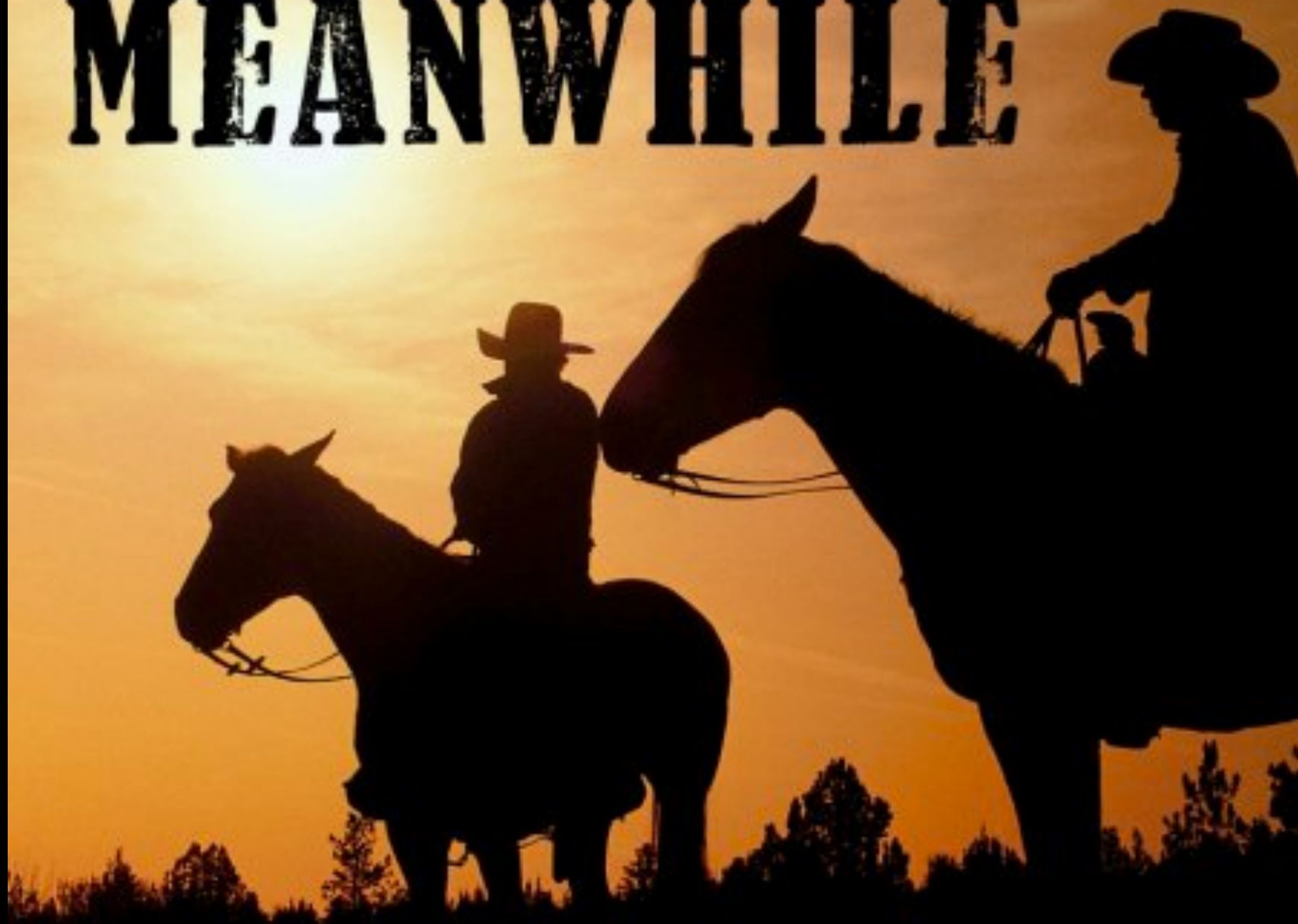
What is a system?

When do you build a *system* vs. a cell?

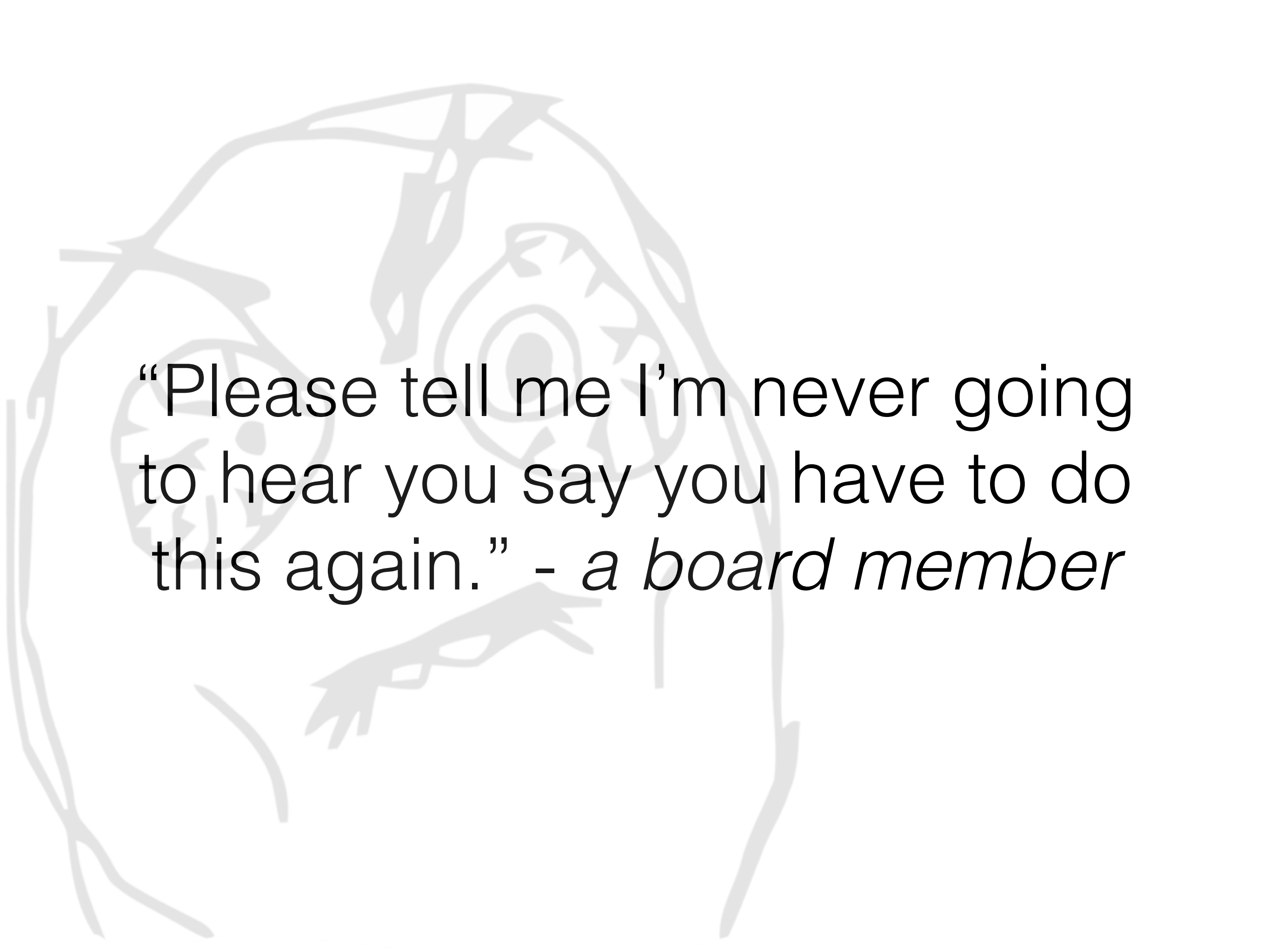
Are you building the right one now?

If we get these right, can
we build systems that
outlive us?

MEANWHILE



BACK AT THE RANCH



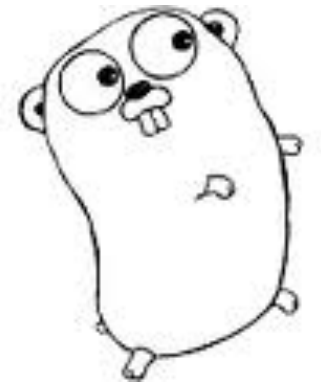
“Please tell me I’m never going to hear you say you have to do this again.” - *a board member*

How do you CREATE
Legacy software?



elixir

Heterogenous By Default



```
%w.rack tilt date INT TERM..map{|l|trap(1){$r.stop}rescue require l};$u=Date;$z=($u.new.year + 145).abs;puts "== Almost Sinatra/No Version has taken the stage on #{$z} for development with backup from Webrick"
$u=Module.new{extend Rack;a,D,S,q=Rack::Builder.new,Object.method(:define_method),/@@ *([^\n]+)\n(((?!@@)[^\n]*\n)*)/m
%w[get post put delete].map{|m|D.(m){|u,&b|a.map(u){run->(e){[200,{"Content-Type"=>"text/html"},[a.instance_eval(&b)]]}}}}
Tilt.mappings.map{|k,v|D.(k){|n,*o|$t|=($u._jisx0301("hash, please");File.read(caller[0][/^[:]+/]).scan($){|a,b|h[a]=b};h);v[0].new(*o){n="#{n}"?n:$t[n.to_s]}.render(a,o[0].try(:[],:locals)||{}))}}
%w[set enable disable configure helpers use register].map{|m|D.(m){|*_,&b|b.try :[]};END{Rack::Handler.get("webrick").run(a,Port:$z){|s|$r=s}}
%w[params session].map{|m|D.(m){q.send m}};a.use Rack::Session::Cookie;a.use Rack::Lock;D.(:before){|&b|a.use Rack::Config,&b};before{|e|q=Rack::Request.new e;q.params.dup.map{|k,v|params[k.to_sym]=v}}}
```

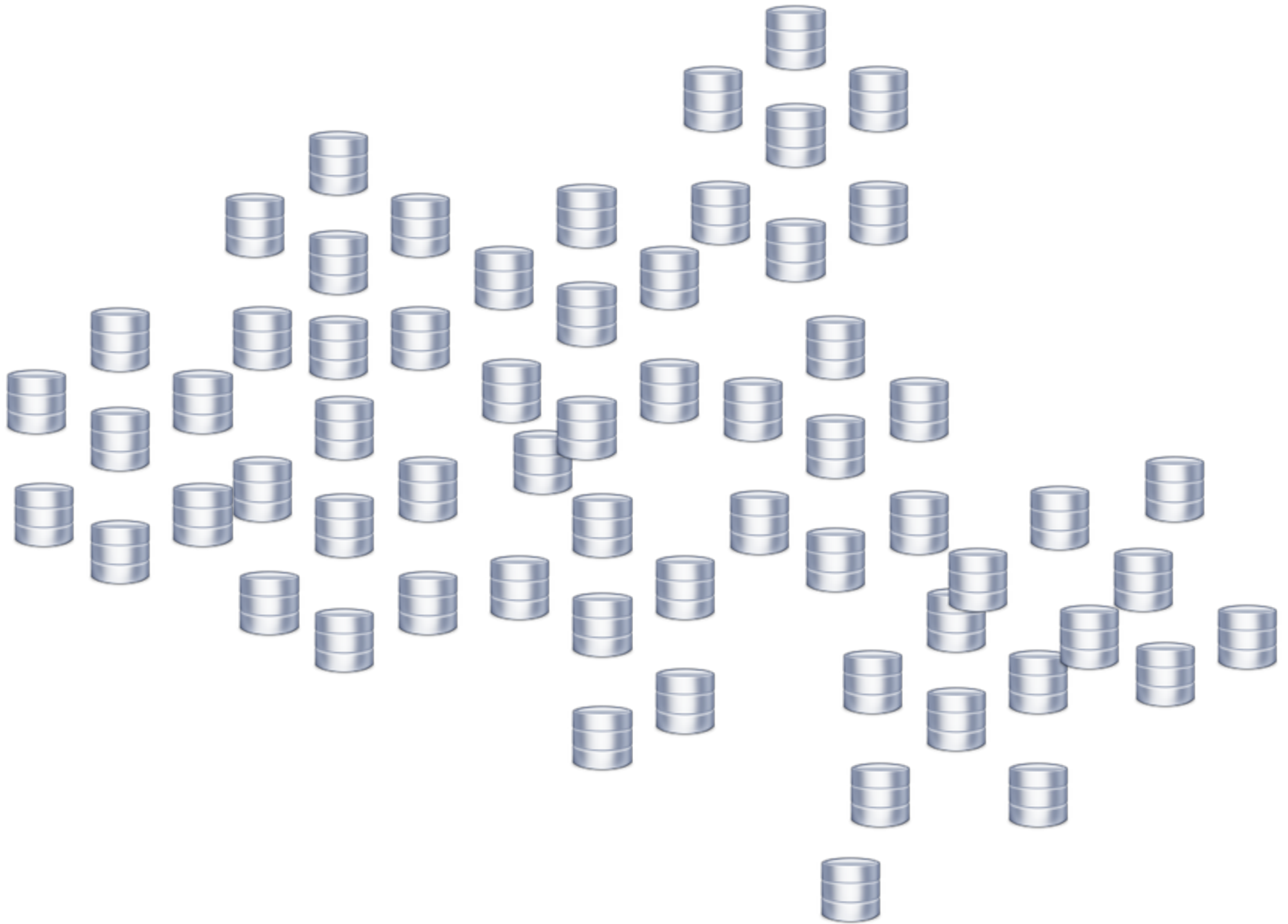
Code is “this big”

Disposable Software



PLEASE
DO NOT
TOUCH

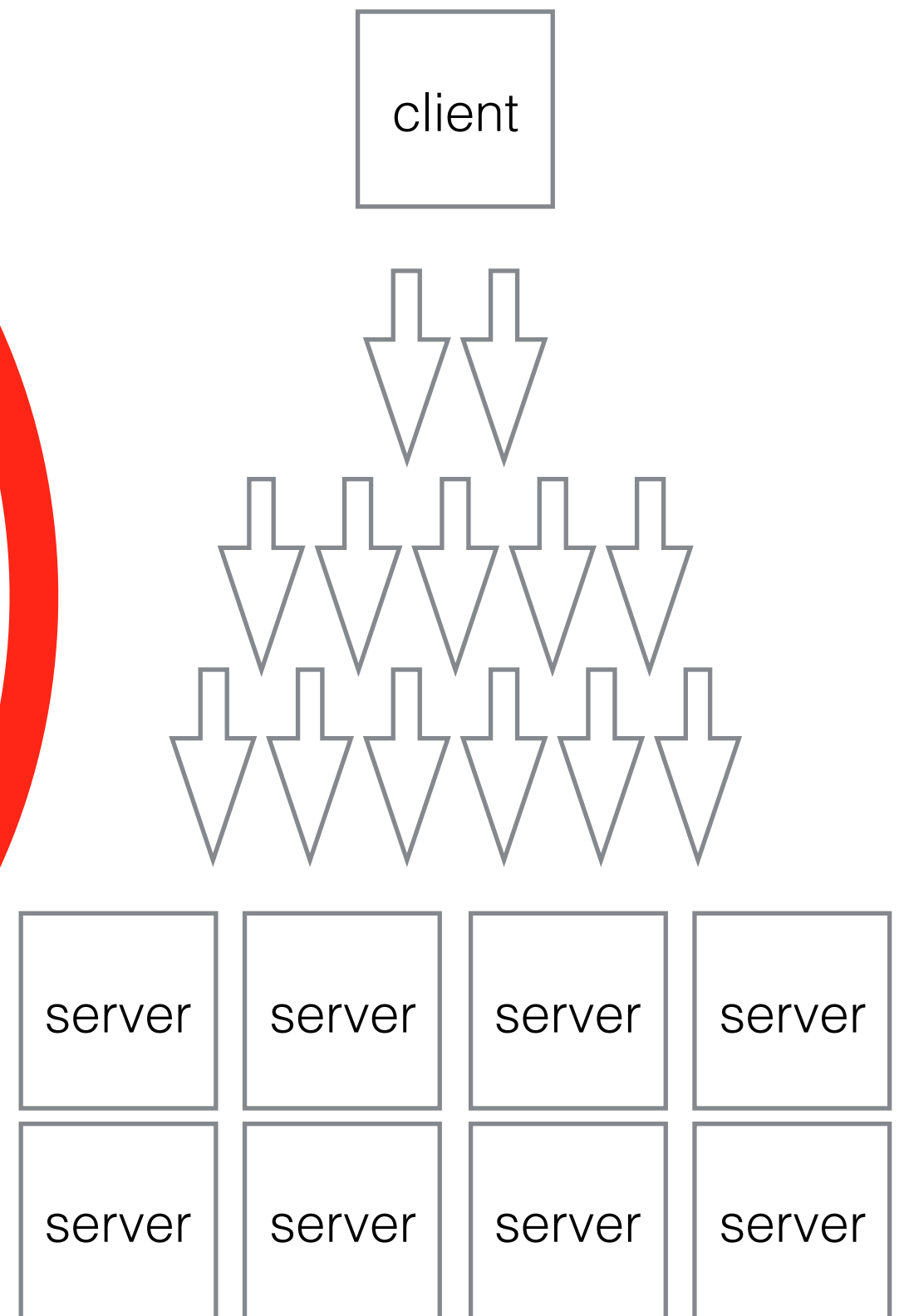
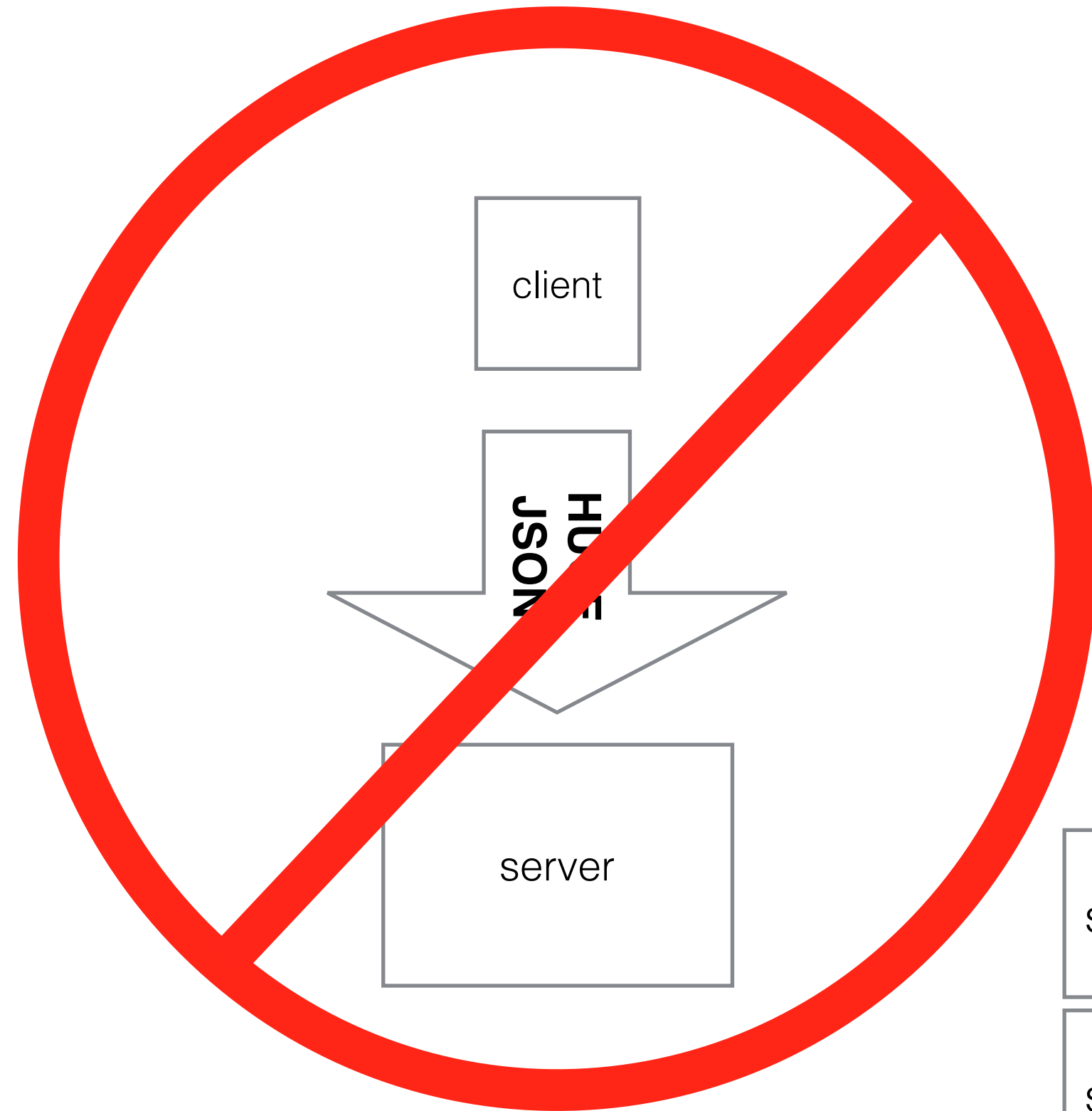
tiny databases



Many tiny services

```
→ wake-repo git:(master) find config -name manifest.json | wc -l  
151
```


tiny requests



re-usable services >
re-usable components



Nodes
are
Disposable

Immutable Deployments

*Never Upgrade Software
on an Existing Node*

Threw away Chef



Chef

“wake” = “wunder-make”

```
3. chad@Chads-MBP-2: ~/Documents/monolith (zsh)
→ monolith wake info as_files
0) AS_files-pgbouncer_production ec2-54-75-141-98.eu-west-1.compute.amazonaws.com 10.85.20.104 i-145e1557 2014-09-27T03:07:27.000Z b ami-a2e43fd5
   m3.medium
1) AS_files_production           ec2-54-78-168-3.eu-west-1.compute.amazonaws.com 10.193.130.101 i-99e5d27c 2014-11-05T09:34:17.000Z a ami-0c58fa7b
   c3.xlarge
2) AS_files_production           ec2-54-216-126-12.eu-west-1.compute.amazonaws.com 10.97.19.136 i-9be5d27e 2014-11-05T09:34:17.000Z a ami-0c58fa7b
   c3.xlarge
3) AS_files_production           ec2-54-74-167-255.eu-west-1.compute.amazonaws.com 10.33.40.43 i-9ae5d27f 2014-11-05T09:34:17.000Z a ami-0c58fa7b
   c3.xlarge
4) AS_files_production           ec2-54-78-199-87.eu-west-1.compute.amazonaws.com 10.83.139.59 i-1d3f3b5e 2014-11-05T09:34:18.000Z b ami-0c58fa7b
   c3.xlarge
5) AS_files_production           ec2-54-220-210-198.eu-west-1.compute.amazonaws.com 10.101.2.226 i-1e3f3b5d 2014-11-05T09:34:18.000Z b ami-0c58fa7b
   c3.xlarge
6) AS_files_production           ec2-54-73-148-53.eu-west-1.compute.amazonaws.com 10.86.7.5 i-1f3f3b5c 2014-11-05T09:34:18.000Z b ami-0c58fa7b
   c3.xlarge
7) AS_files_production           ec2-54-170-187-191.eu-west-1.compute.amazonaws.com 10.91.128.160 i-87bba7c5 2014-11-05T09:34:19.000Z c ami-0c58fa7b
   c3.xlarge
8) AS_files_production           ec2-54-216-255-152.eu-west-1.compute.amazonaws.com 10.126.137.96 i-a3b7abe1 2014-11-05T09:34:19.000Z c ami-0c58fa7b
   c3.xlarge
9) AS_files_production           ec2-54-195-205-215.eu-west-1.compute.amazonaws.com 10.89.144.222 i-a2b7abe0 2014-11-05T09:34:19.000Z c ami-0c58fa7b
   c3.xlarge
→ monolith █
```



```
→ monolith wake describe-elb ical
total running: 6
revision: 394d1a8af207e3923345f5de4112c984f5c4e836
image_id: ami-a0a609d7
  a 2
    in service: i-54e2bab1 i-53e2bab6
  b 2
    in service: i-5abe9319 i-5bbe9318
  c 2
    in service: i-cefdfb8c i-cffdfb8d
→ monolith wake scale -a ical -n 3
Removing 3 instances...
wake contract -a ical -e production -n 3 -t AS
Terminating 3 instances...
wake terminate i-54e2bab1 i-53e2bab6 i-5bbe9318
Deregistered i-54e2bab1 i-53e2bab6 i-5bbe9318 from ELB
Waiting for 10 secs..
{
  "TerminatingInstances": [
    {
      "InstanceId": "i-53e2bab6",
      "CurrentState": {
        "Code": 32,
        "Name": "shutting-down"
      }
    },
  ],
}
```

[🏠](#) » [All Repos](#) » activities

url <https://github.com/6wunderkinder/activities>

manifest [show manifest](#)

travis build unknown

production Servers ([calculate cost](#))

AS	count	3 <div></div>
	current ami	👍 ami-a2e653d5 - 63a166bc8 (22 days ago)
	instances	show instances

experimental Servers ([calculate cost](#))

AS	count	0 <div></div>
	current ami	nothing deployed
	instances	show instances

Last Commits (upto 10)

To force a rebuild an ami, you can `git commit --allow-empty -m "Rebuild ami"`.

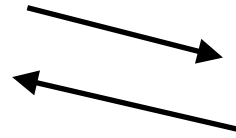
commit	author	commit time	last ami	last ami's env
63a166bc89 - change default logo to https	Chad Fowler <chad@chadfowler.com>	22 days ago	ami-a2e653d5	production
64059e7453 - Grey border	Timothy Achumba <tim@6wunderkinder.com>	about a month ago	ami-12c76765	production

multi-tiered architecture

- Socket
- Proxy
- English
- German
- “Write layer”

Message Queuing

- Standardized Mutation flow
- Feeds real-time synchronization to clients
- Feeds anything else, by convention



“real time”



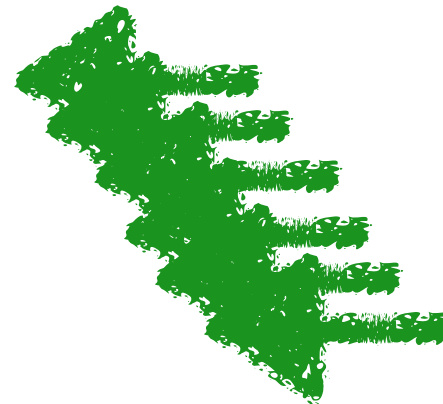
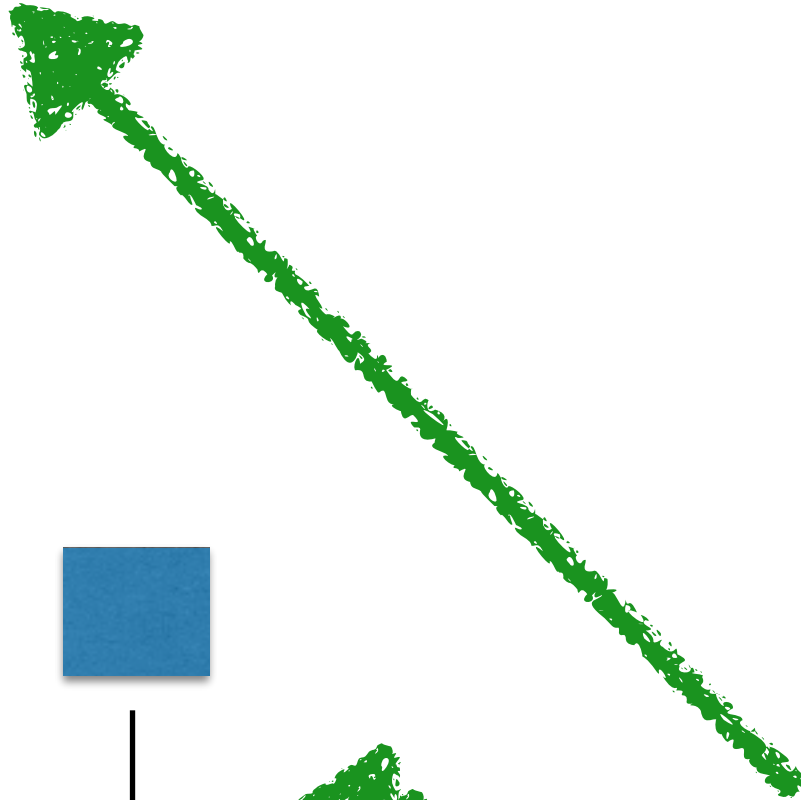
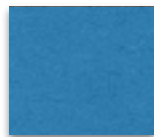
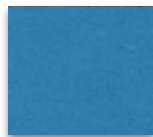
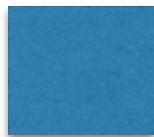
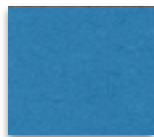
“smart”
proxy



authorization



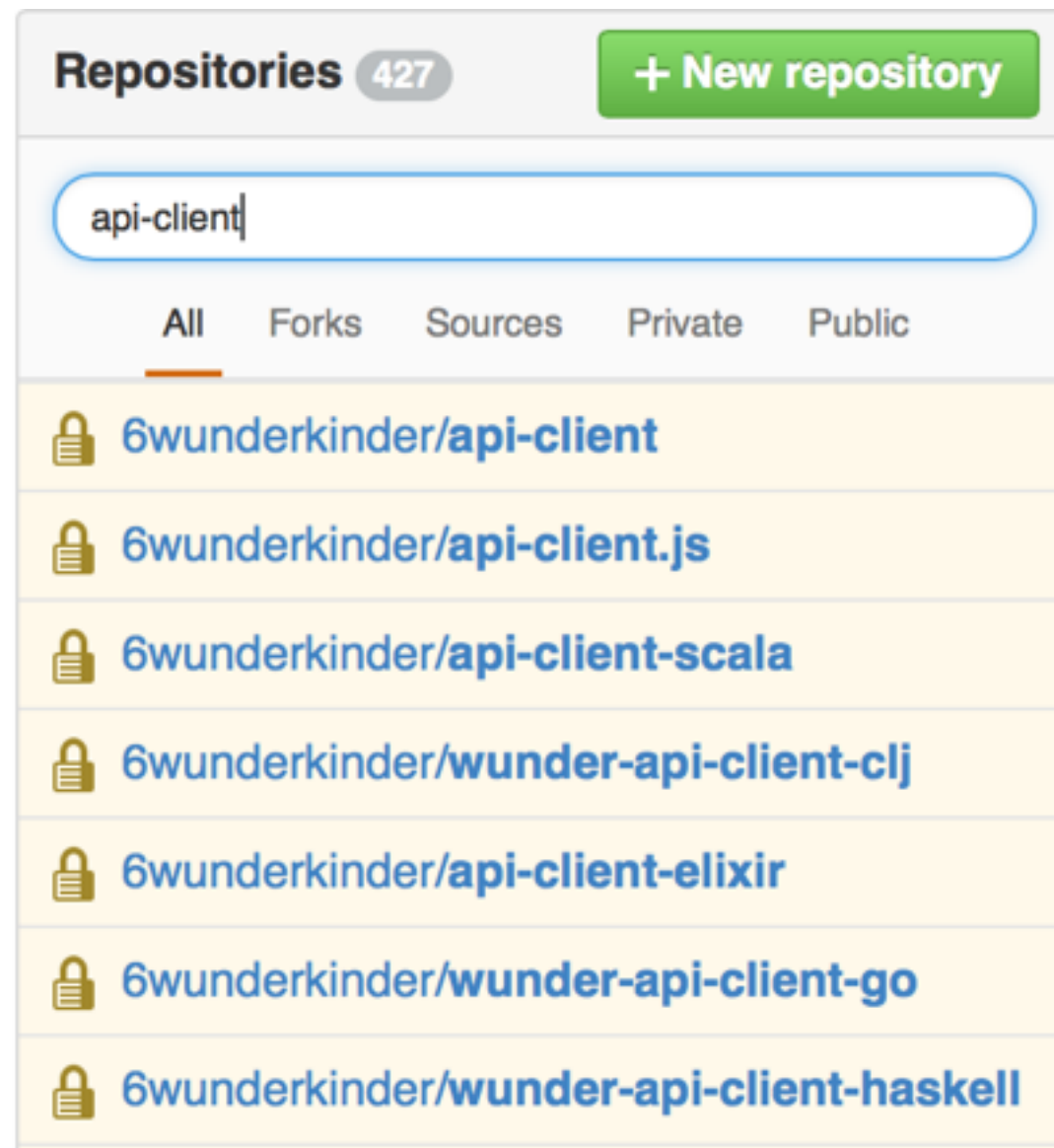
authentication



Convention Over Configuration

```
for service in $SERVICE_NAMES; do
  rails new $service -m service_template.rb
  cd $service
  git init
  git add . && git commit -m "Initial commit"
done
```


Convention Over Configuration



Service Resolution

YAML -> JSON -> Auto-generated JSON -> Consul

<https://codeascraft.com/2011/02/15/measure-anything-measure-everything/>

Measure Anything, Measure Everything



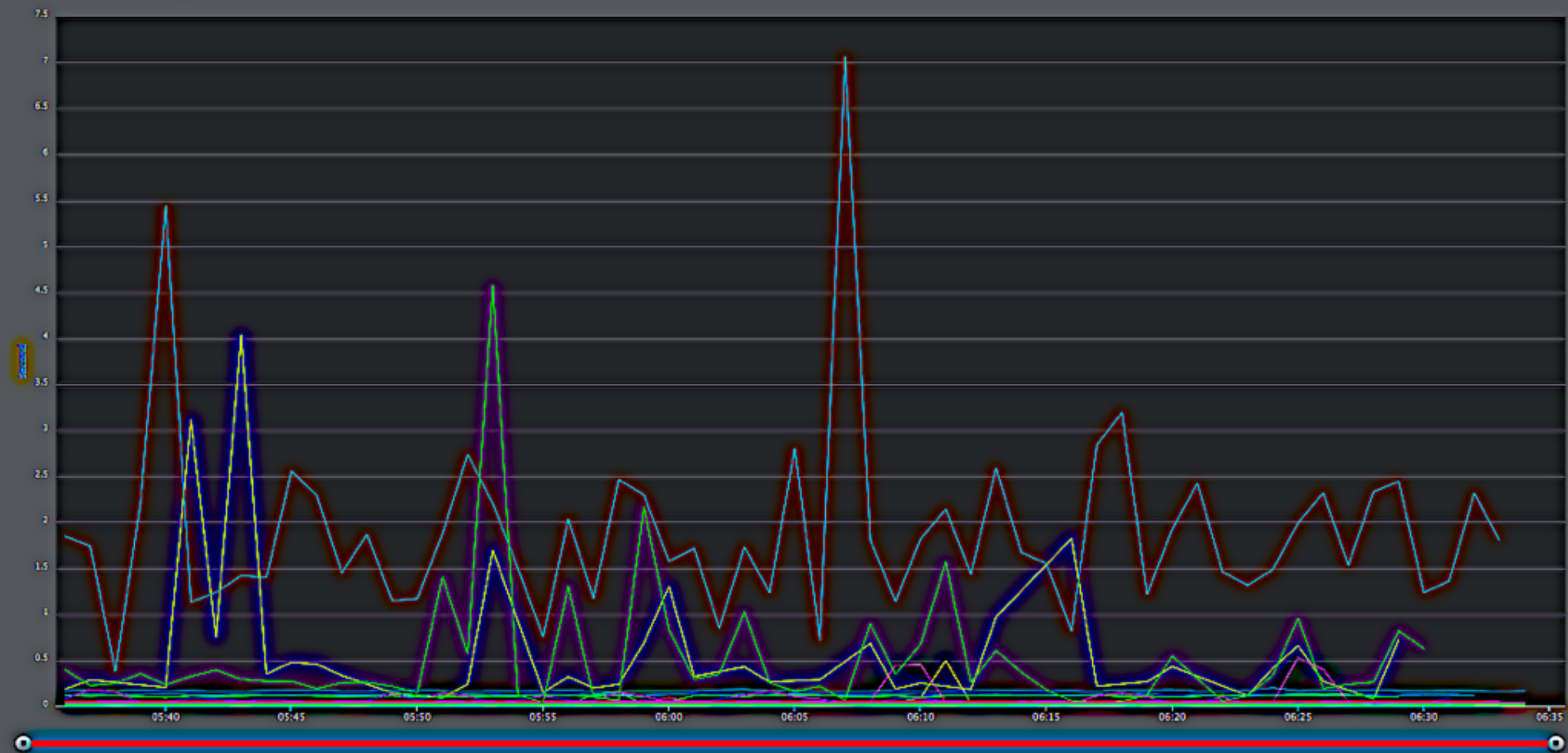
Posted by **Ian Malpass** on February 15, 2011

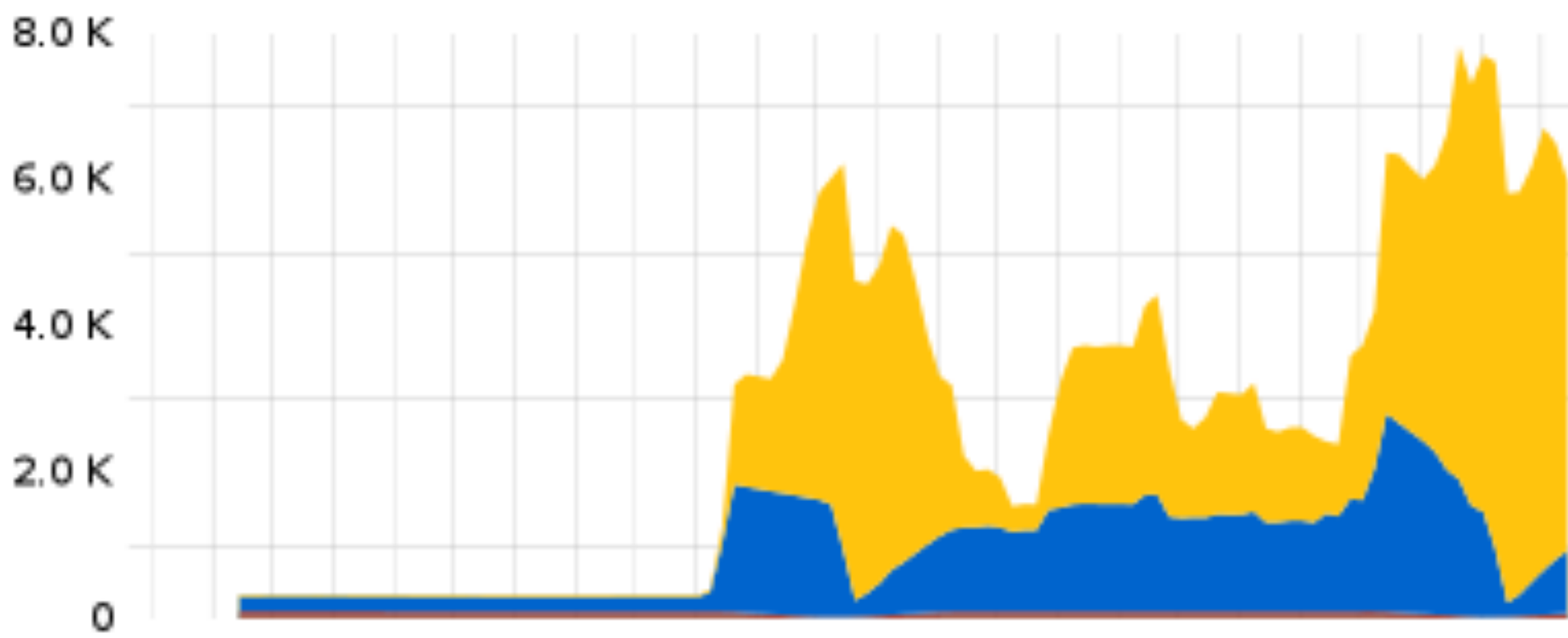
If Engineering at Etsy has a religion, it's the Church of Graphs. If it moves, we track it. Sometimes we'll draw a graph of something that isn't moving yet, just in case it decides to make a run for it. In general, we tend to measure at three levels: network, machine, and application. (You can read more about our graphs in Mike's [Tracking Every Release](#) post.)

AWS.ELB.Latency

24 NOV 07, 14 05:35 AM - NOV 07, 14 06:35 AM

UTC





How We Migrated

- Removed joins
- Separated databases
- New features prototyped new service approach (comments, files)
- New features prototyped real-time/mutation approach (comments)
- Replace database connections in old API with new APIs (some ran as long as 7 months)
- Test under crazy load/behavior (next slide)

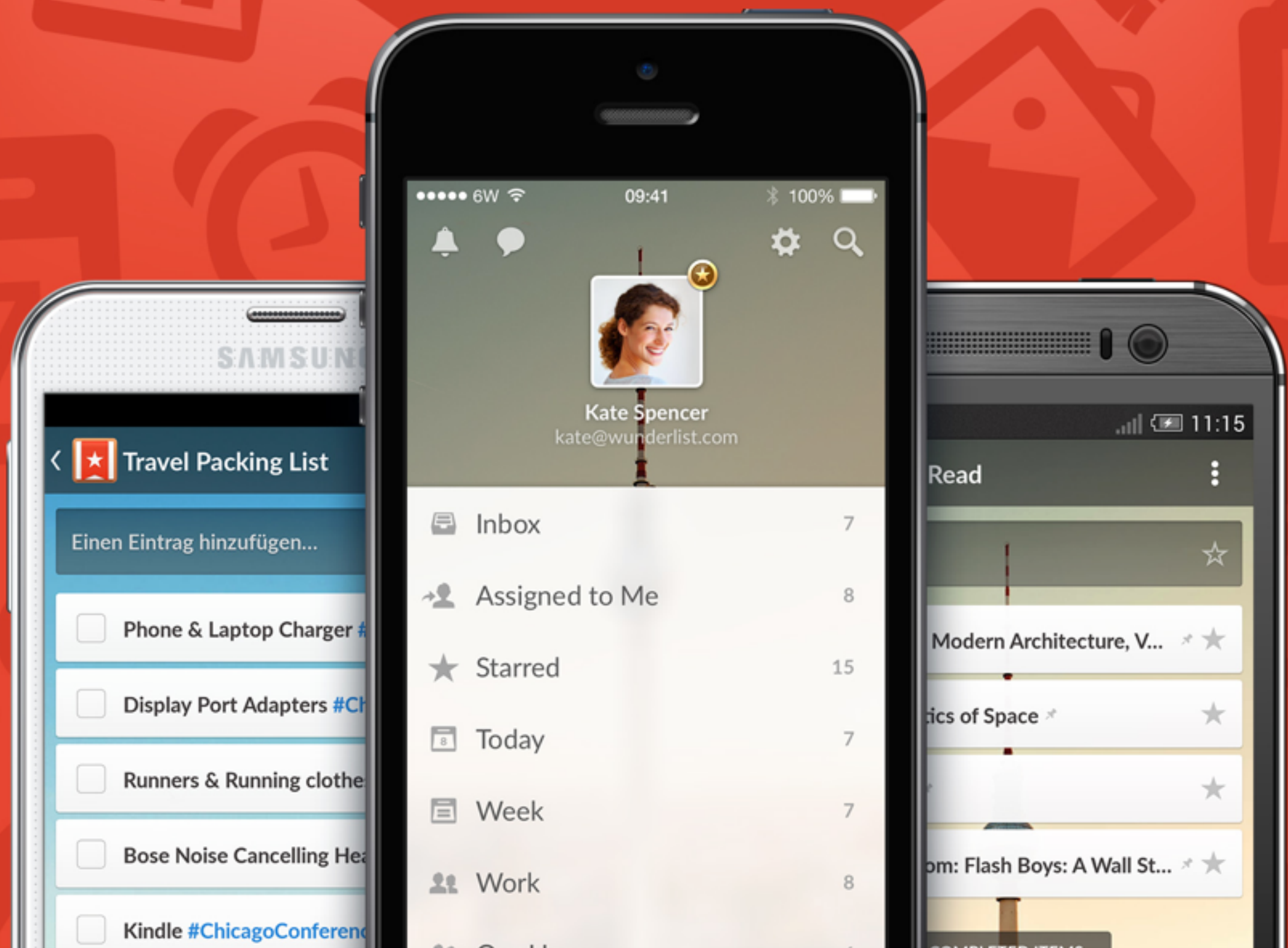
Böse Gurken

```
def receive = {  
  case CreateUsers(userCount) => {  
    val user = context.actorOf(Props(classOf[GurkeUser]))  
    user ! SignUp  
    user ! LogIn  
    user ! CreateGurken  
  }  
}
```

```
def receive = {  
  case Tick => {  
    roughlyHalfTheTime { createAList }  
    prettyOften { createATask }  
    roughlyHalfTheTime { completeATask }  
    // and so much many more actions...  
  }  
}
```

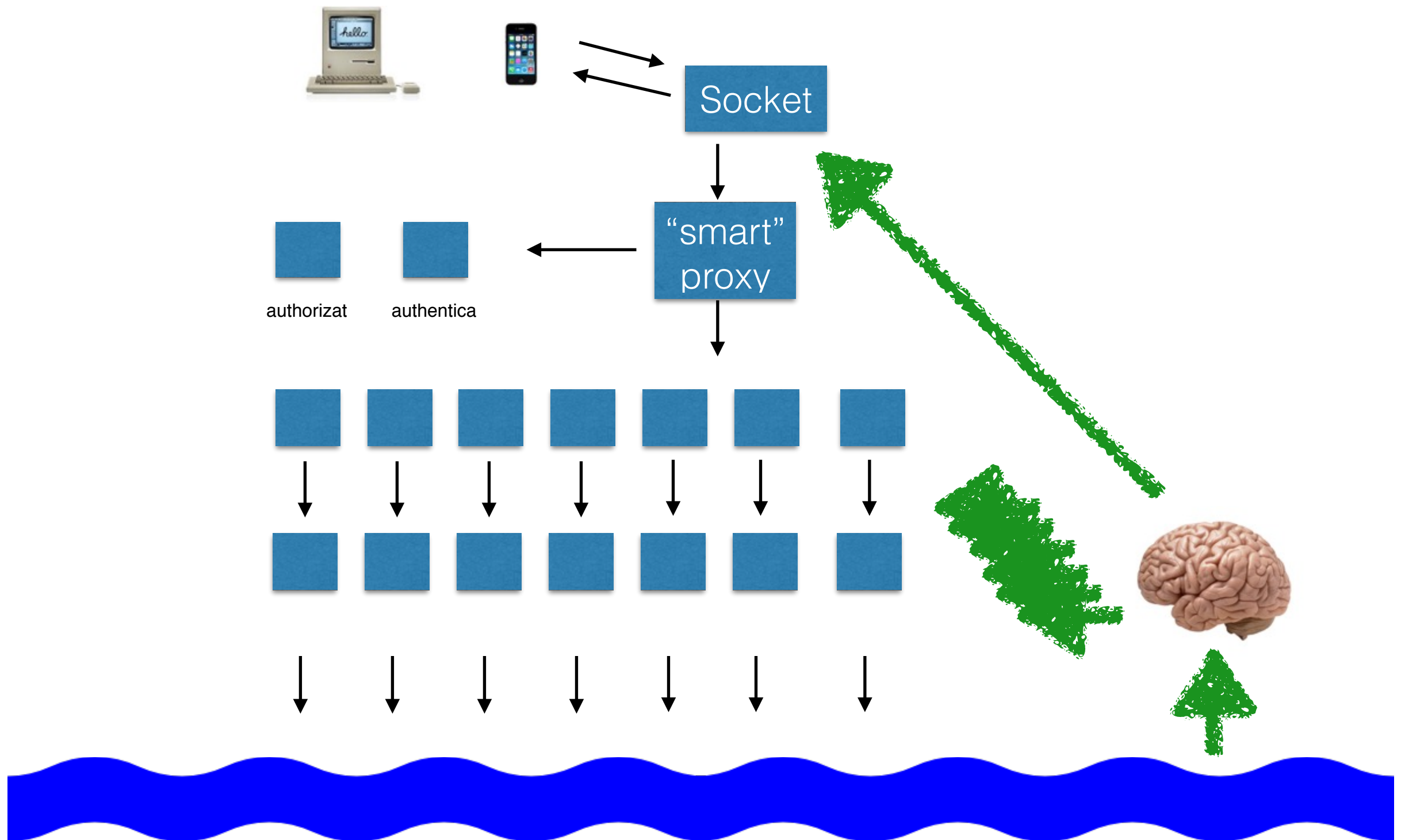


<https://medium.com/tales-from-6w/saving-our-bacon-with-evil-cucumbers-2e3d26cebacc>



Wunderlist 3 is Here

The Big *Little* Rewrites



The Future

homeostasis

Homeostasis

Definition

noun

(Science: Biology)

(1) The tendency of an organism or a cell to regulate its internal conditions, usually by a system of feedback controls, so as to stabilize health and functioning, regardless of the outside changing conditions

(2) The ability of the body or a cell to seek and maintain a condition of equilibrium or stability within its internal environment when dealing with external changes



**Global
async
validation
middleware**

Cost Reduction

- Make it work
- Make it fast
- Make it cheap

http://hans.io/blog/2015/05/05/spot_instances/

Hans Hasselberg [Home](#) [About](#)

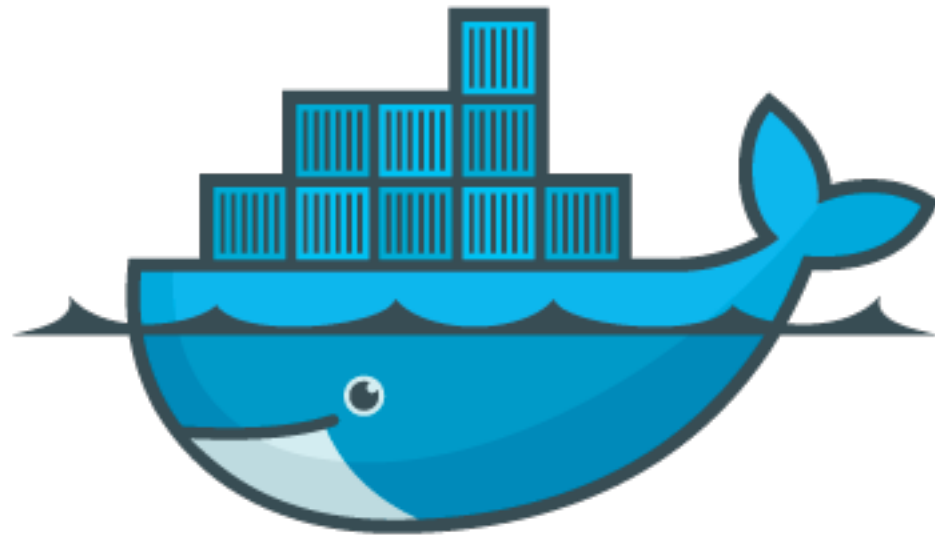
How we use AWS Spot Instances

05 May 2015

Spot instances are just like normal ondemand instances from Amazon Web Services(AWS). There are two differences: they can be way cheaper and they can go away any time. At [6Wunderkinder](#) we want to use them because of the savings. We are planning to use spot instances just like we use ondemand now. This blog post will explain how we deal with spot instances and the risk of losing them.



Deployment Speed



docker



Francesco Cesarini
@FrancescoC



Following

As we get more & more sophisticated
microservice implementations, each one
grows their own crappy version of Erlang:
infoq.com/news/2015/04/n...



RETWEETS

31

FAVORITES

26



1:24 AM - 25 Apr 2015



Reply to @FrancescoC



Chad Fowler @chadfowler · 8h

@FrancescoC reflecting on whether we have created a crappy Erlang at
@Wunderlist



Investigate: How does
this work in client code?



Refactor to Monolith

CHICAGO

INTERNATIONAL
SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT
CONFERENCE 2015

goto;
conference

Questions?

*Please remember to evaluate via the GOTO
Guide App*