



# INSTAGRAM UNDER THE HOOD

Django Under the Hood 2016  
Carl Meyer



Instagram

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carl.j.meyer

Follow



...

10 posts

84 followers

110 following

Carl Meyer







4,200,000,000



EVERY DAY

2,300,000,000,000



# DJANGO REINHARDT

AND THE QUINTET OF THE HOT CLUB OF FRANCE



## DJANGOLOGY

180g VINYL

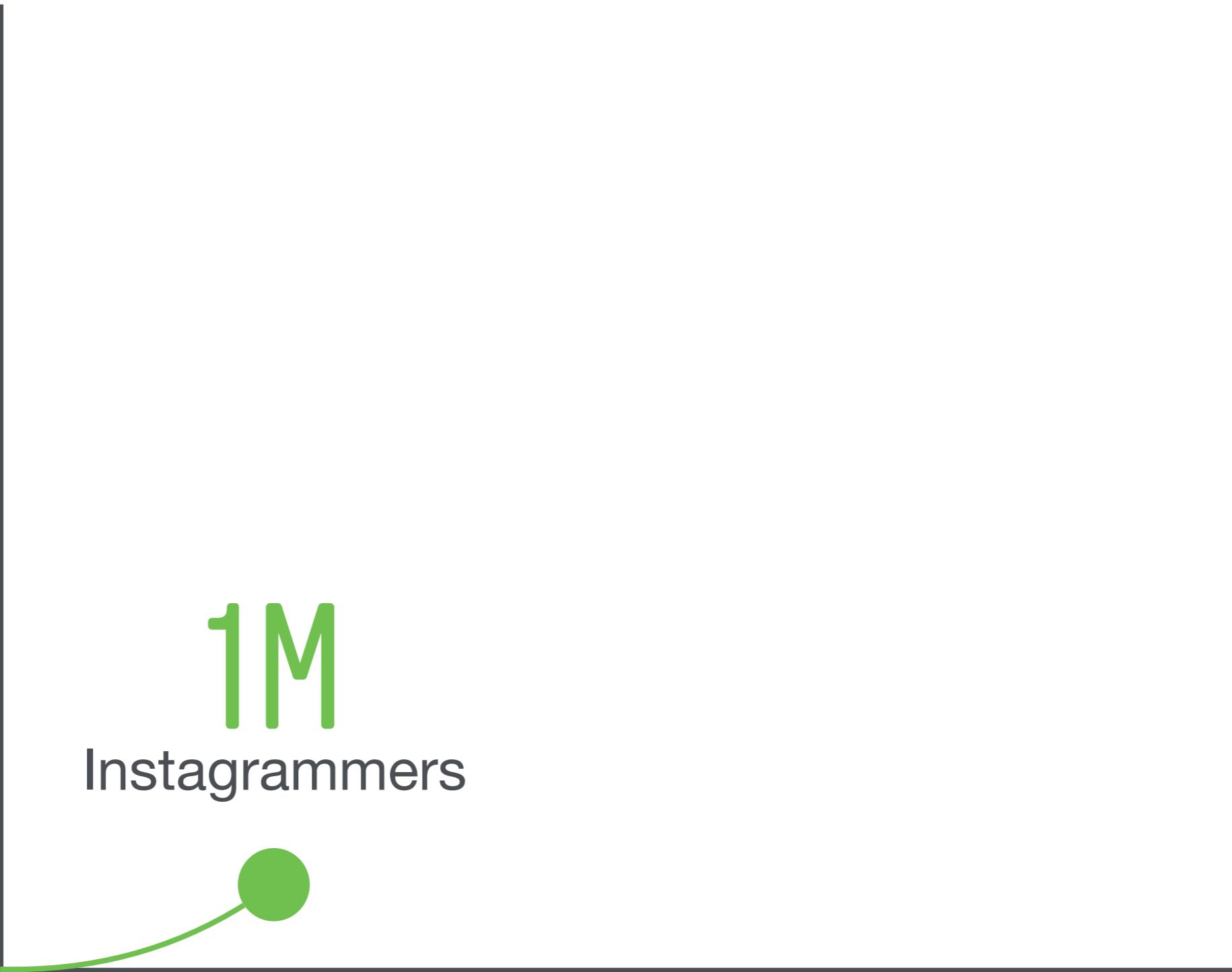


October  
2010

**"SUPER EASY SET-UP...  
ONE WAY OF DOING THINGS...  
EASY TESTING."**



— **Mike Krieger**



1M

Instagrammers

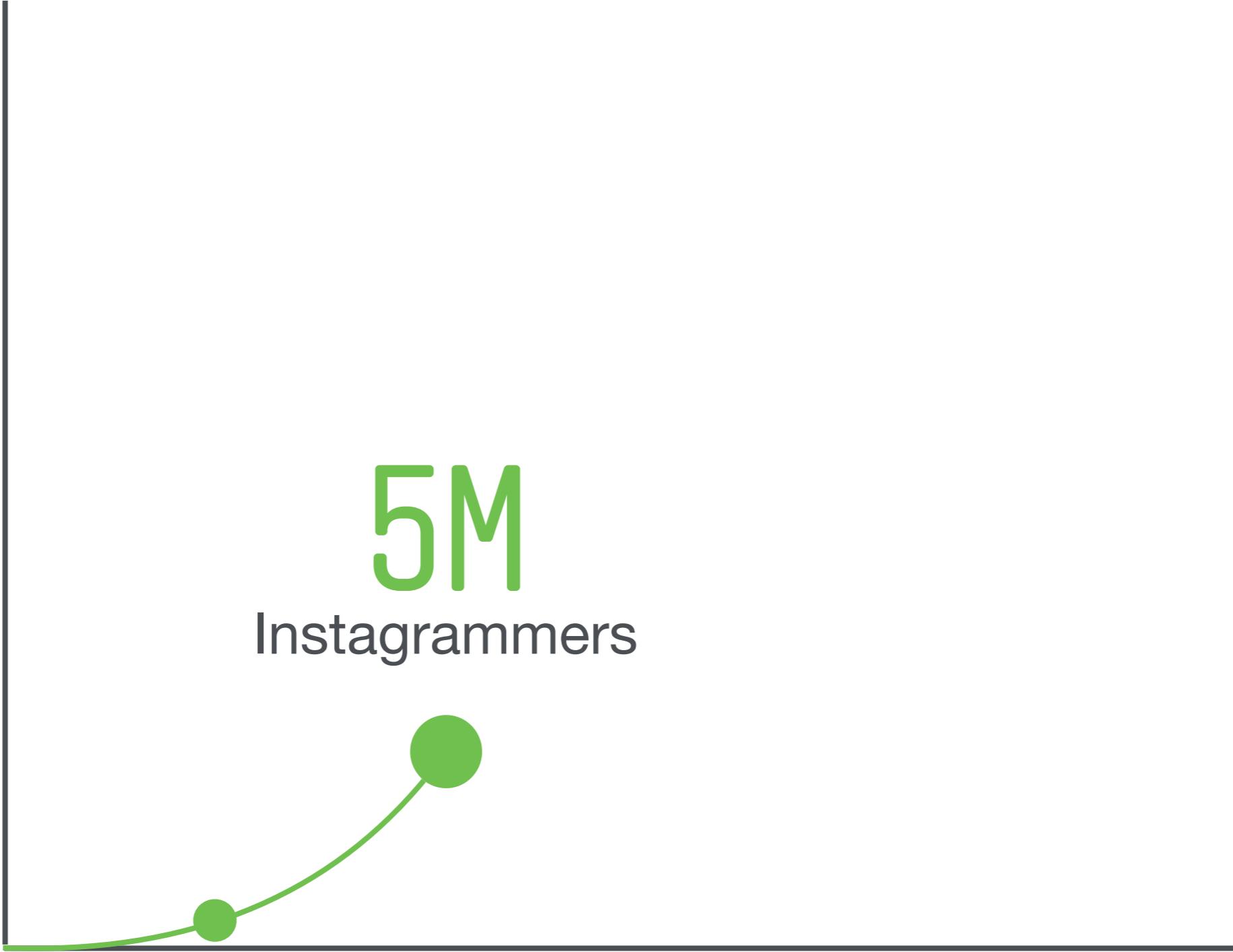
December  
2010







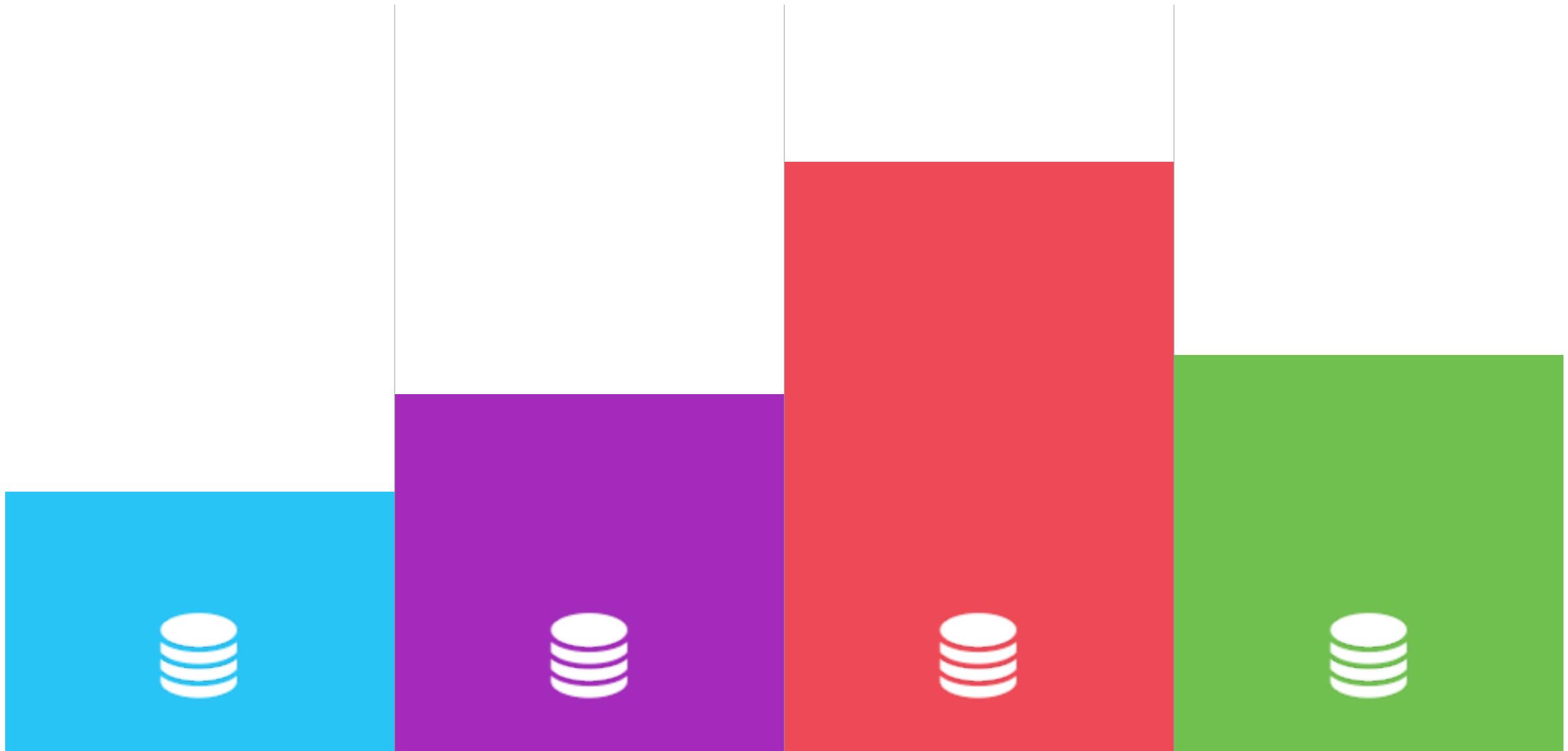




5M

Instagrammers

June  
2011



USERS

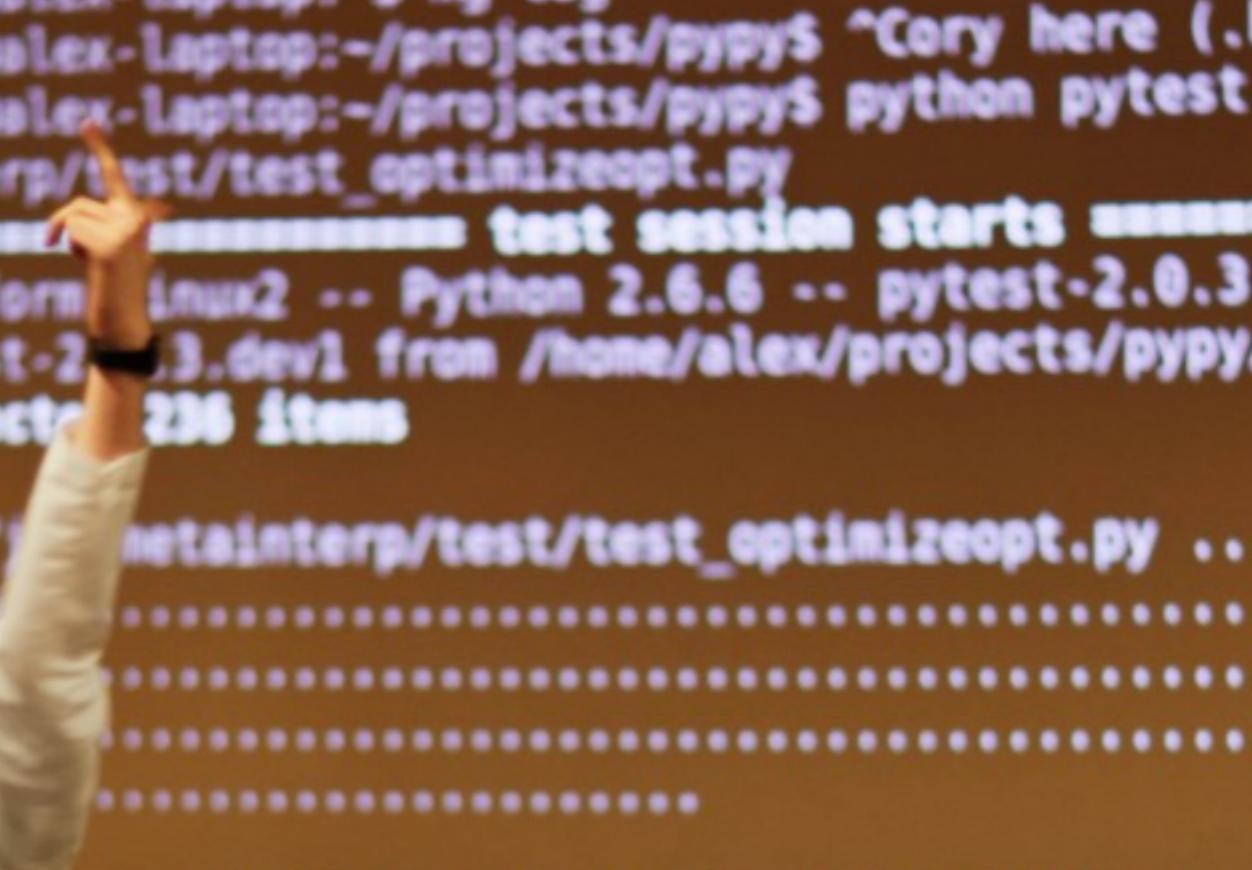
MEDIA

LIKES

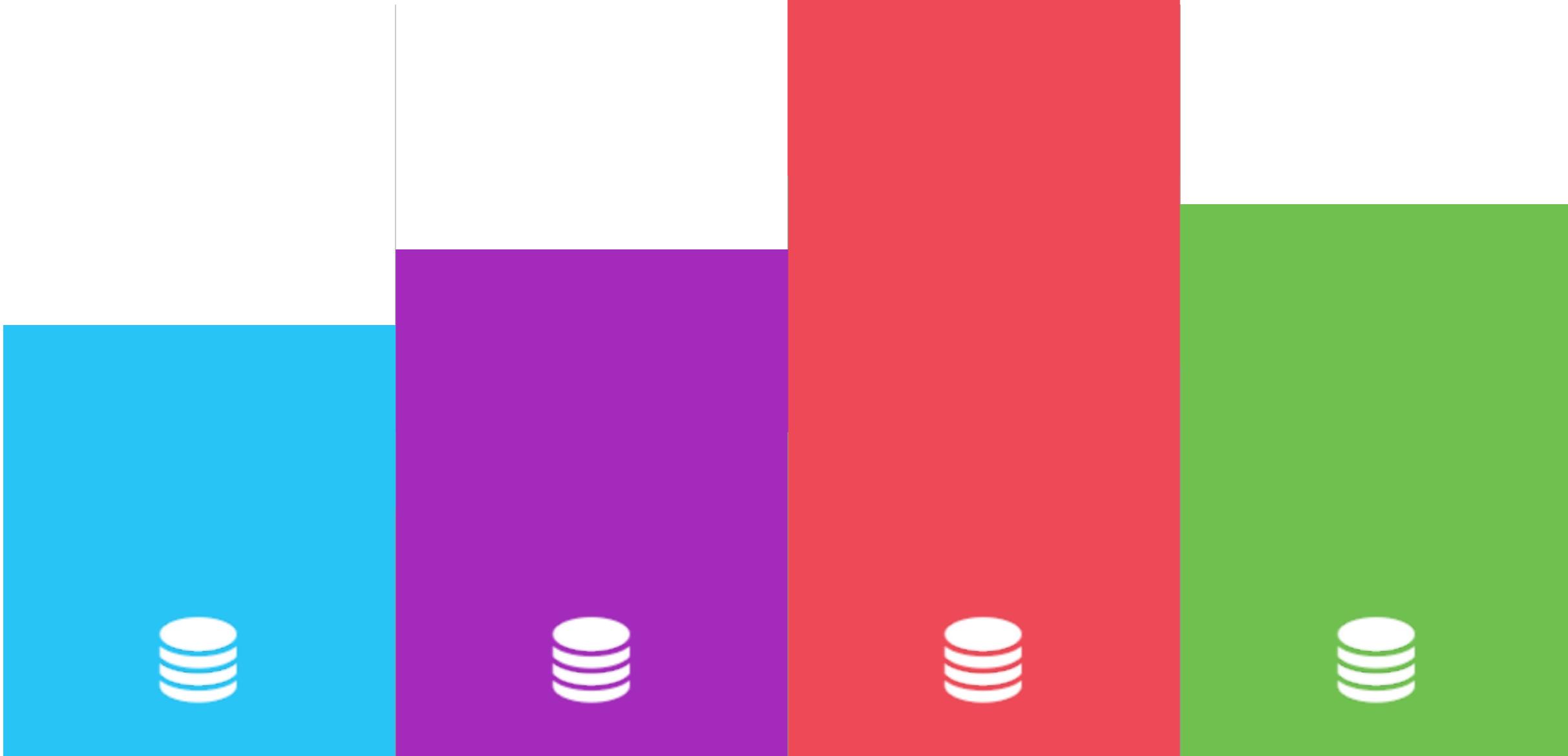
COMMENTS

```
class VerticalPartitionRouter(object):  
    DB_FOR_MODEL = {  
        'likes.like': 'likes',  
        'comments.comment': 'comments',  
        'media.media': 'media',  
    }  
  
    def _db_for(self, model_or_obj):  
        label = model_or_obj._meta.label_lower  
        return self.DB_FOR_MODEL.get(label, 'default')  
  
    def db_for_read(self, model, **hints):  
        return self._db_for(model)  
  
    def db_for_write(self, model, **hints):  
        return self._db_for(model)  
  
    def allow_relation(self, obj1, obj2, **hints):  
        return self._db_for(obj_1) == self._db_for(obj_2)
```

```
alex@alex-laptop:~$ hg log  
alex@alex-laptop:~/projects/pypy5 ~Copy here (.hg n  
alex@alex-laptop:~/projects/pypy5 python pytest.py  
aiinterp/test/test_optimizeopt.py  
..... test session starts .....  
platform: linux2 ... Python 2.6.6 ... pytest-2.0.3.dev  
pytest-2.0.3.dev1 from /home/alex/projects/pypy/pyt  
collected 236 items  
  
pypy/aiinterp/test/test_optimizeopt.py .....
```







USERS

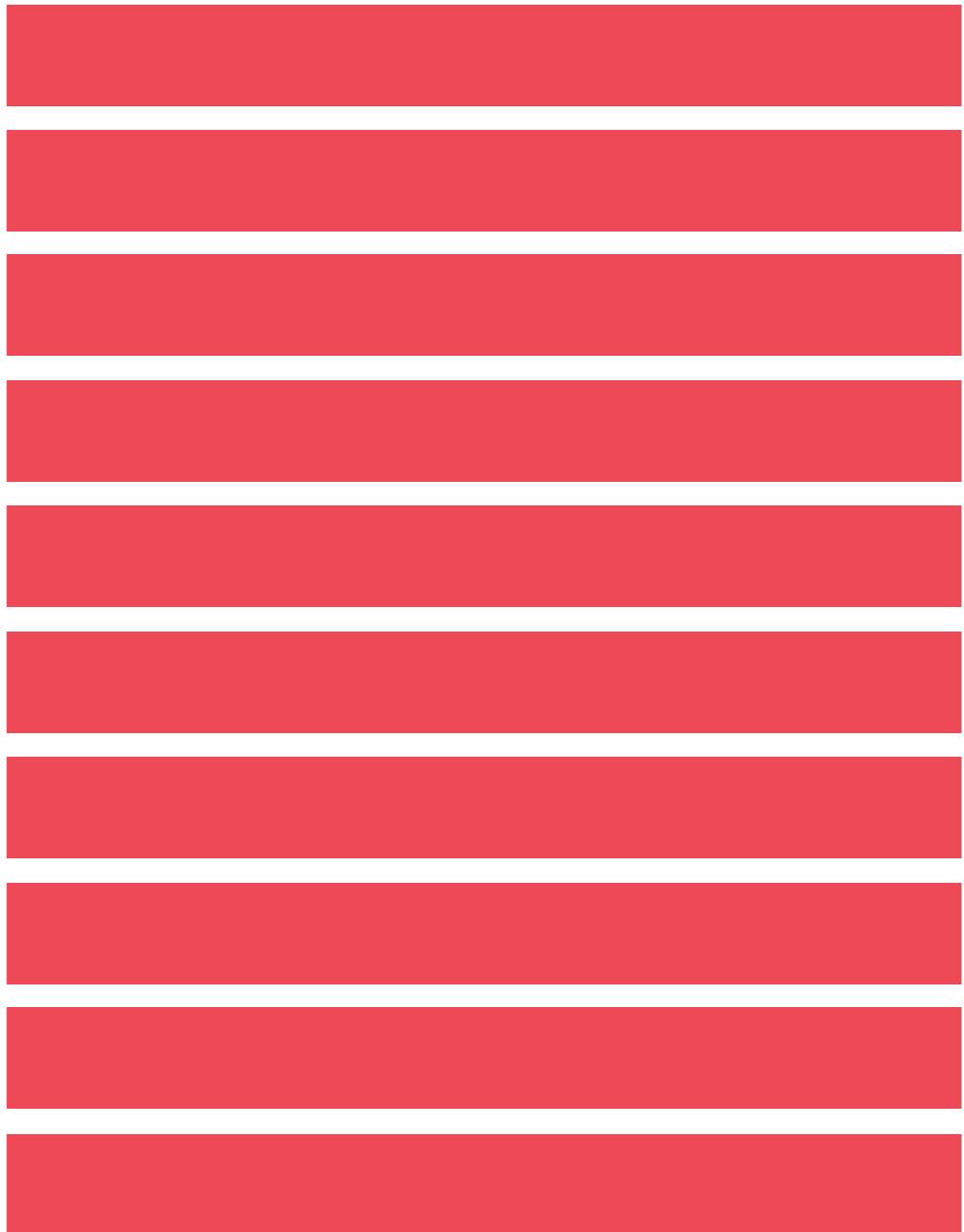
MEDIA

LIKES

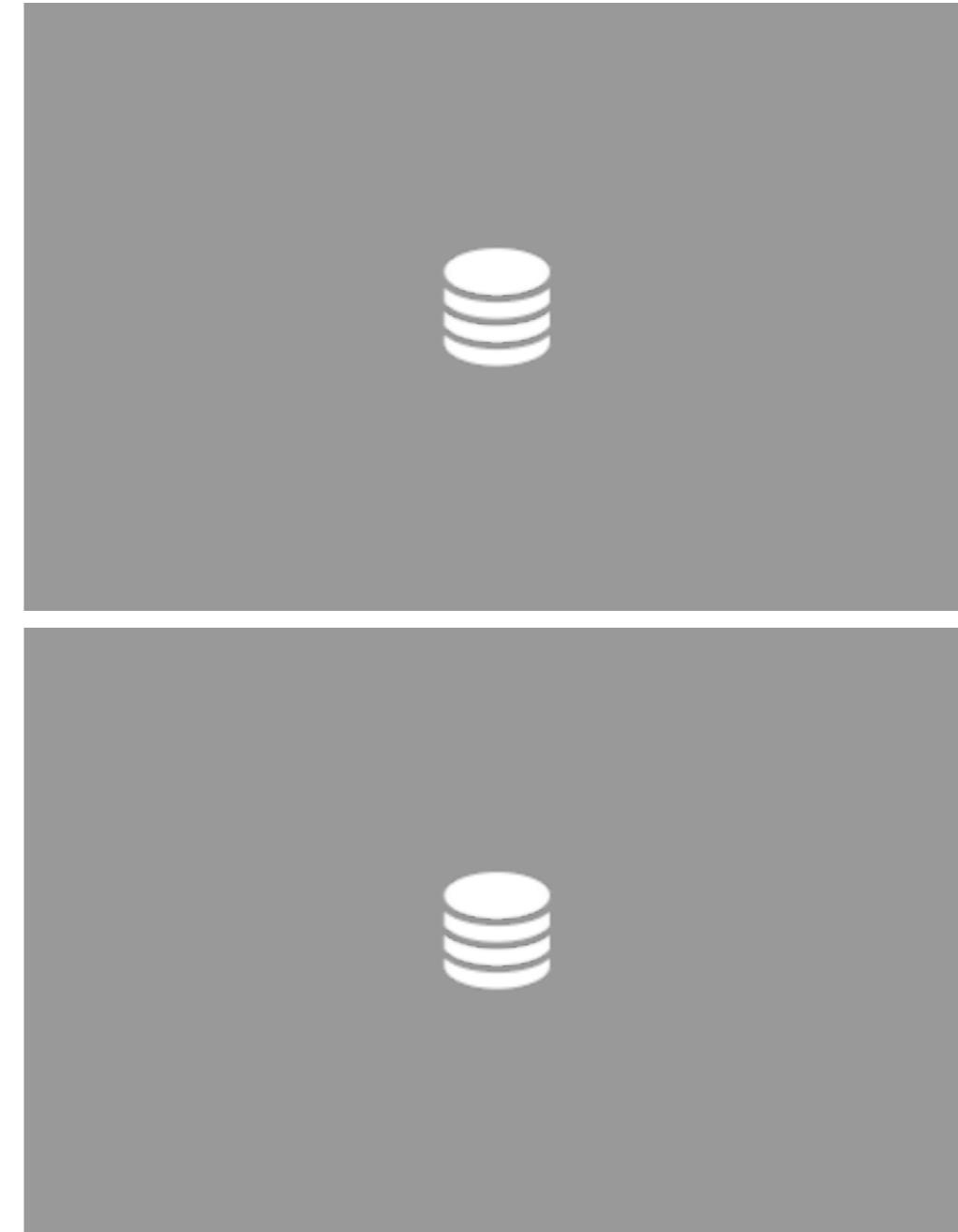
COMMENTS



## LOGICAL SHARDS

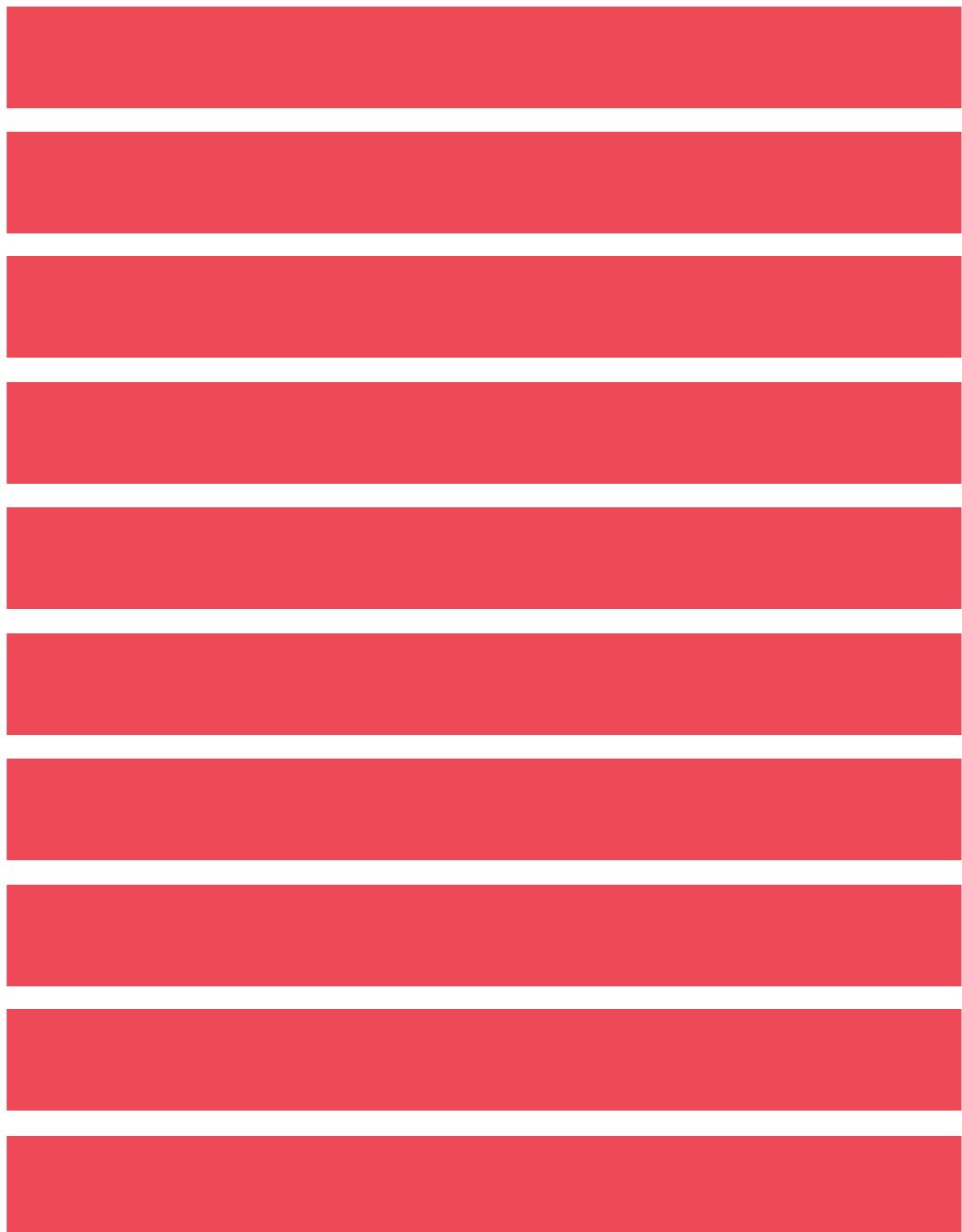


## PHYSICAL SERVERS



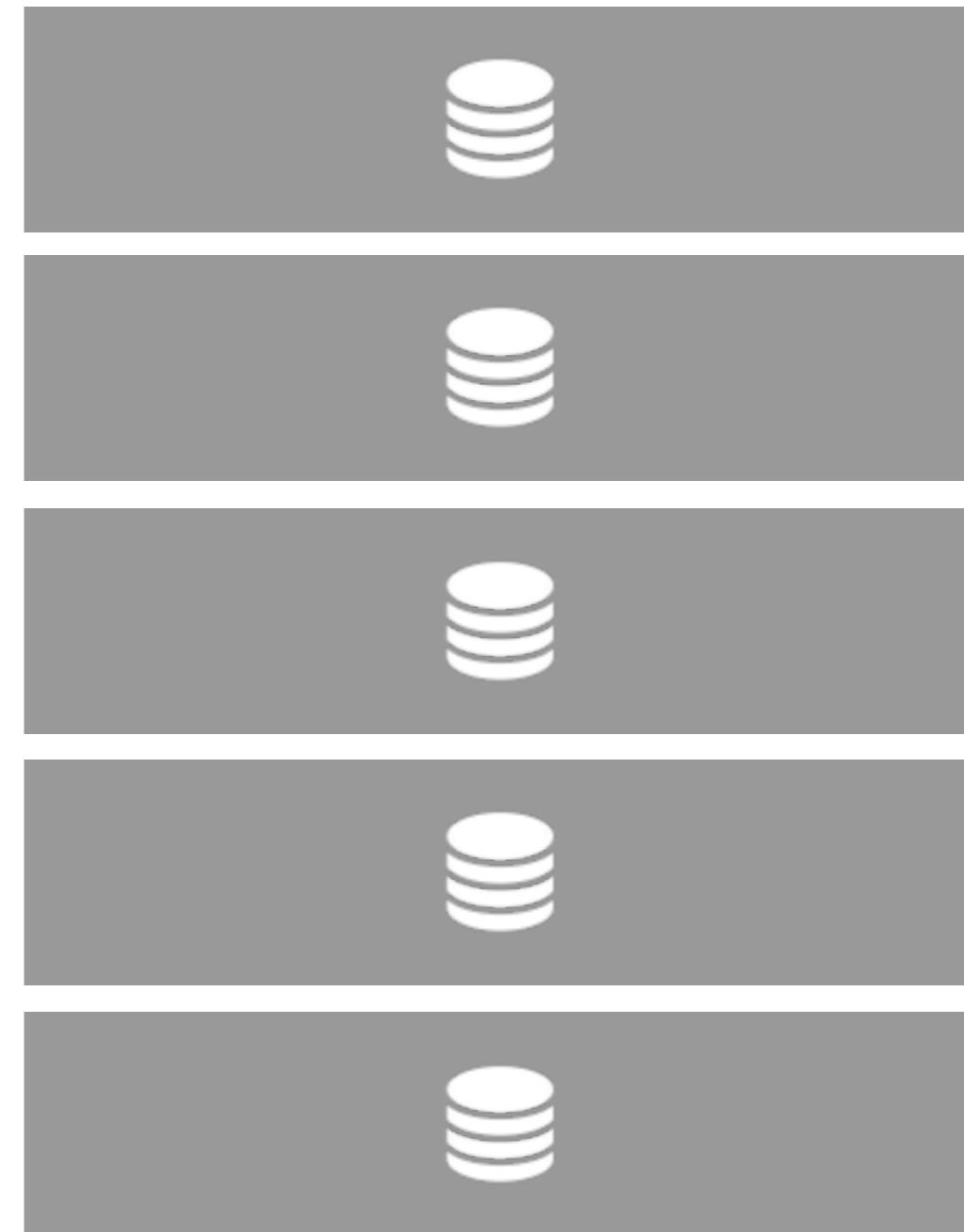
(PG SCHEMAS)

## LOGICAL SHARDS



(PG SCHEMAS)

## PHYSICAL SERVERS



commit 5c7034fa8b934569cce5c1bf4bb202f2f3f18bc9

Author: Mike Krieger

Date: Tue Jul 19 23:47:26 2011 -0700

**WIP**

```
class ShardedObject(object):
    def insert(self, shard_on_id, from_table, values):
        shard, db = get_conn_for_shard_key(shard_on_id)
        cursor = db.cursor()
        placeholders = ', '.join([
            "%(%s)s" % key) for key in values.keys()])
        columns = ', '.join(values.keys())
        insert_statement = (
            "INSERT INTO idb%s.%s (%s) VALUES (%s)" %
            (shard, from_table, columns, placeholders))
        )
        cursor.execute(insert_statement, values)
        db.commit()
```

# SHARDED UNIQUE IDS

138726300013410905

TIMESTAMP

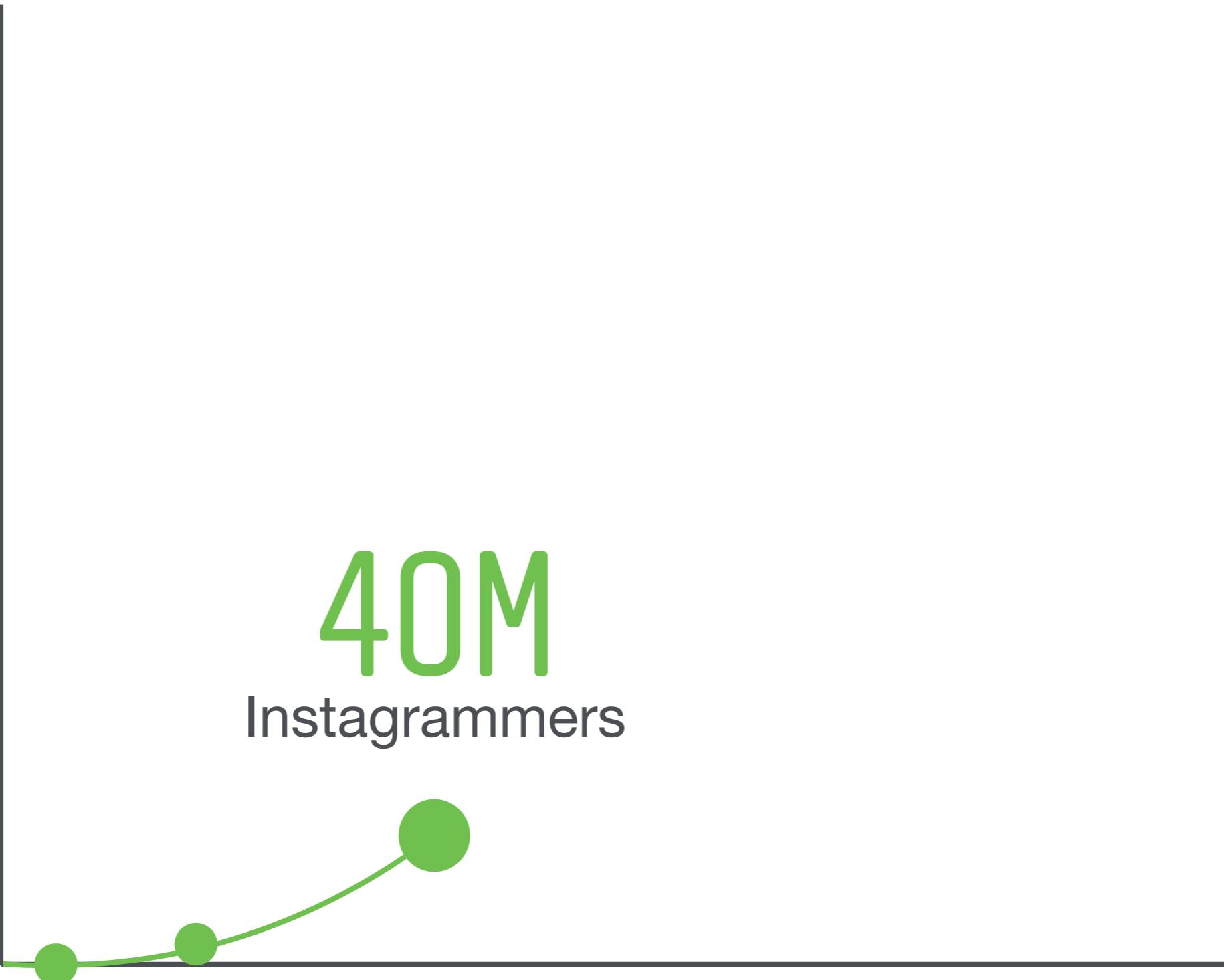
SHARD ID

SEQUENCE

```
CREATE OR REPLACE FUNCTION insta5.next_id...  
CREATE TABLE insta5.our_table (  
    "id" bigint NOT NULL DEFAULT insta5.next_id(),  
    ...rest of table schema...  
)
```



**JUSTIN  
BIEBER**



40M

Instagrammers

April  
2012

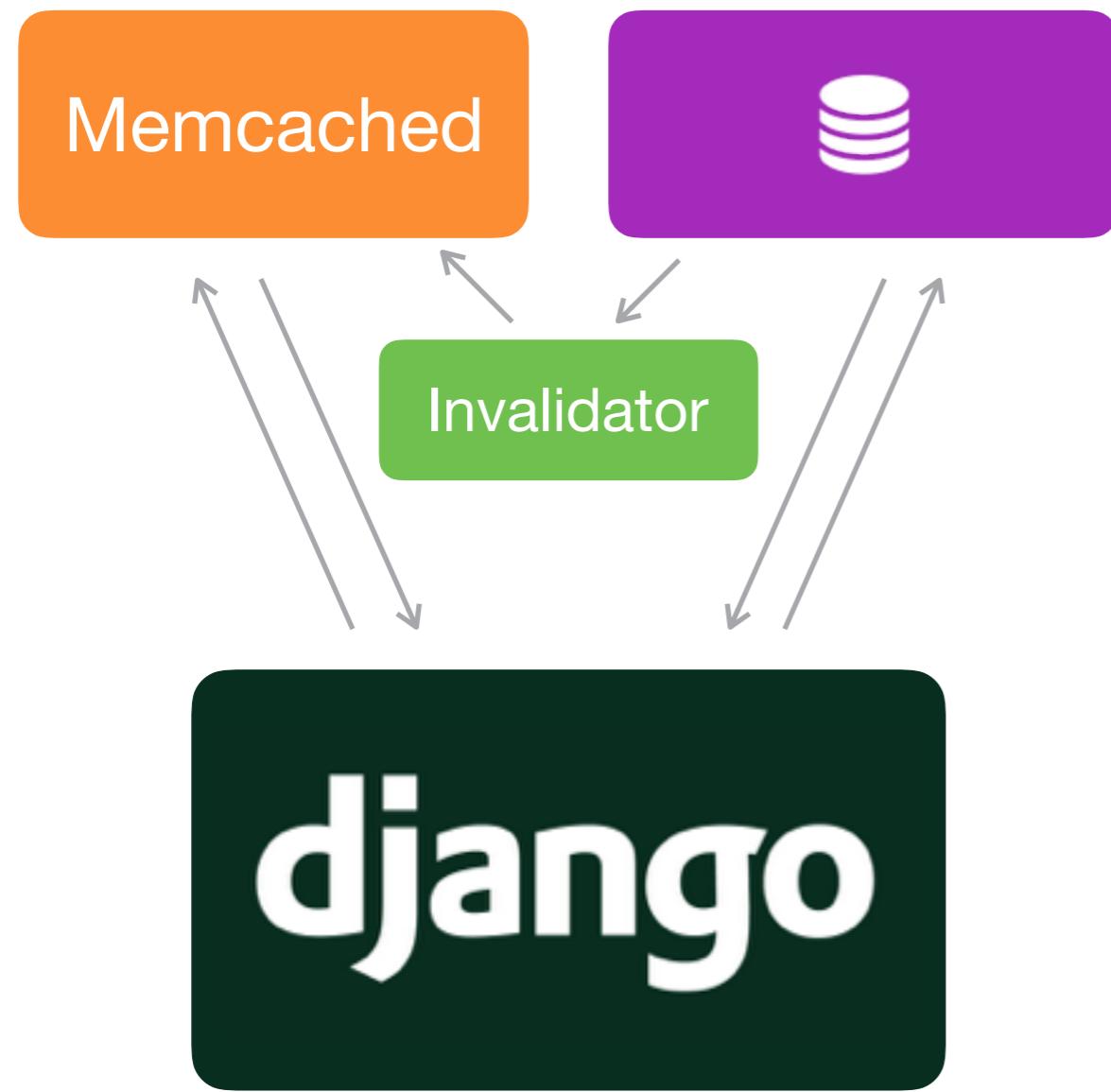
Memcached



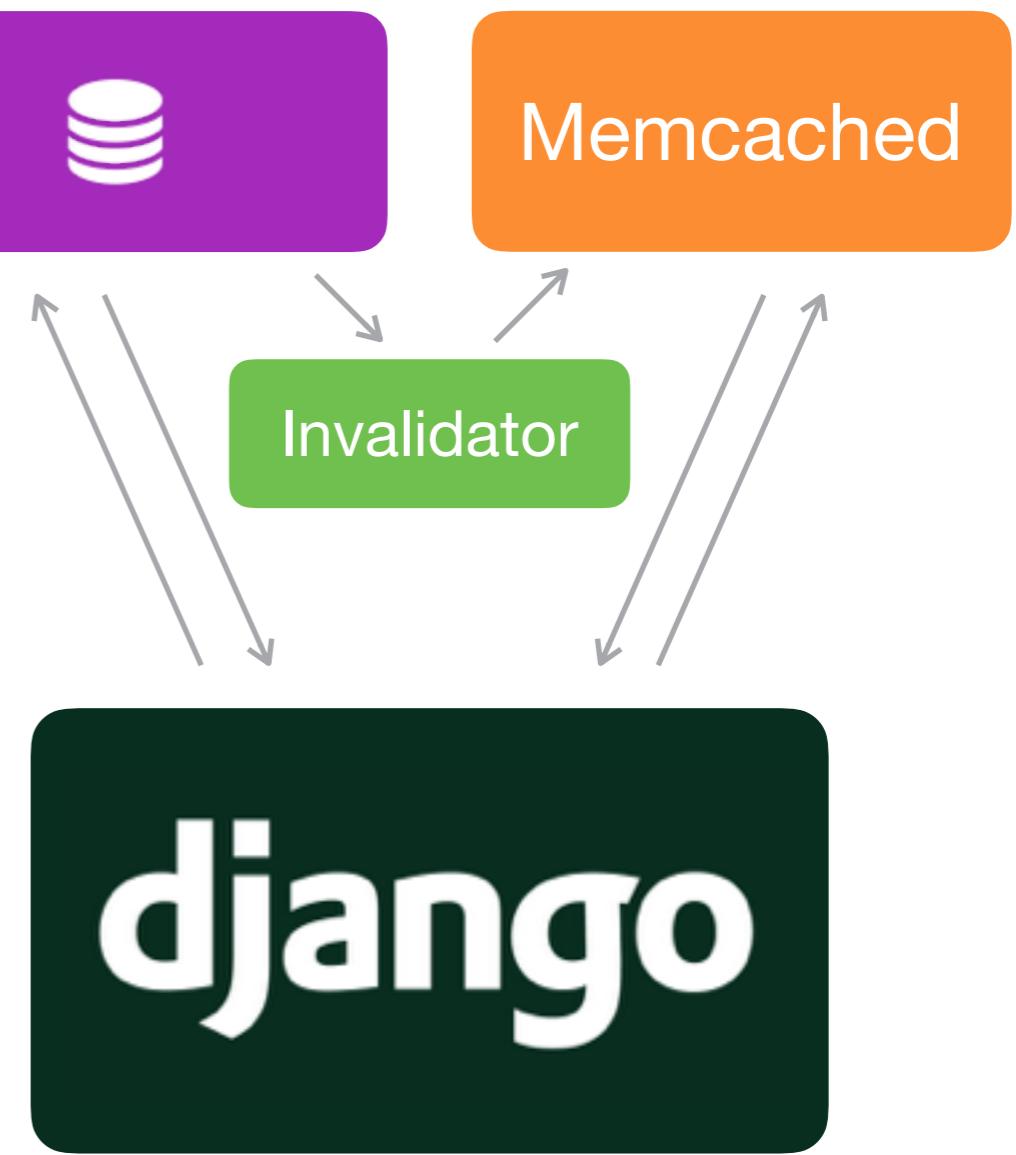
django

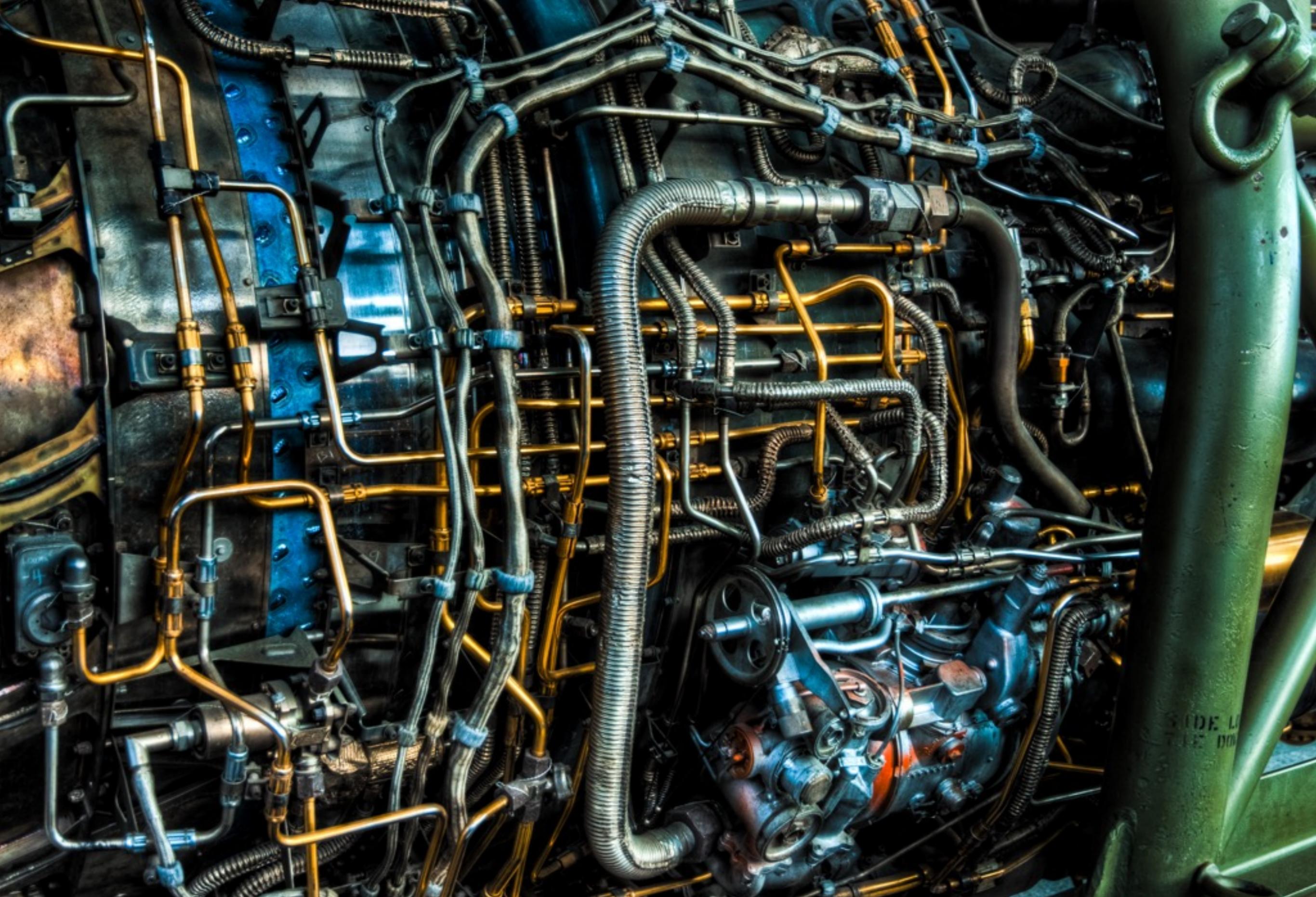


## Data center A



## Data center B





# MULTI-REGION CACHE INVALIDATION



*straight-to-reality*

CONTEMPLATING THE TAO

# TAO



Memcached

Memcached

Memcached

Memcached

Memcached



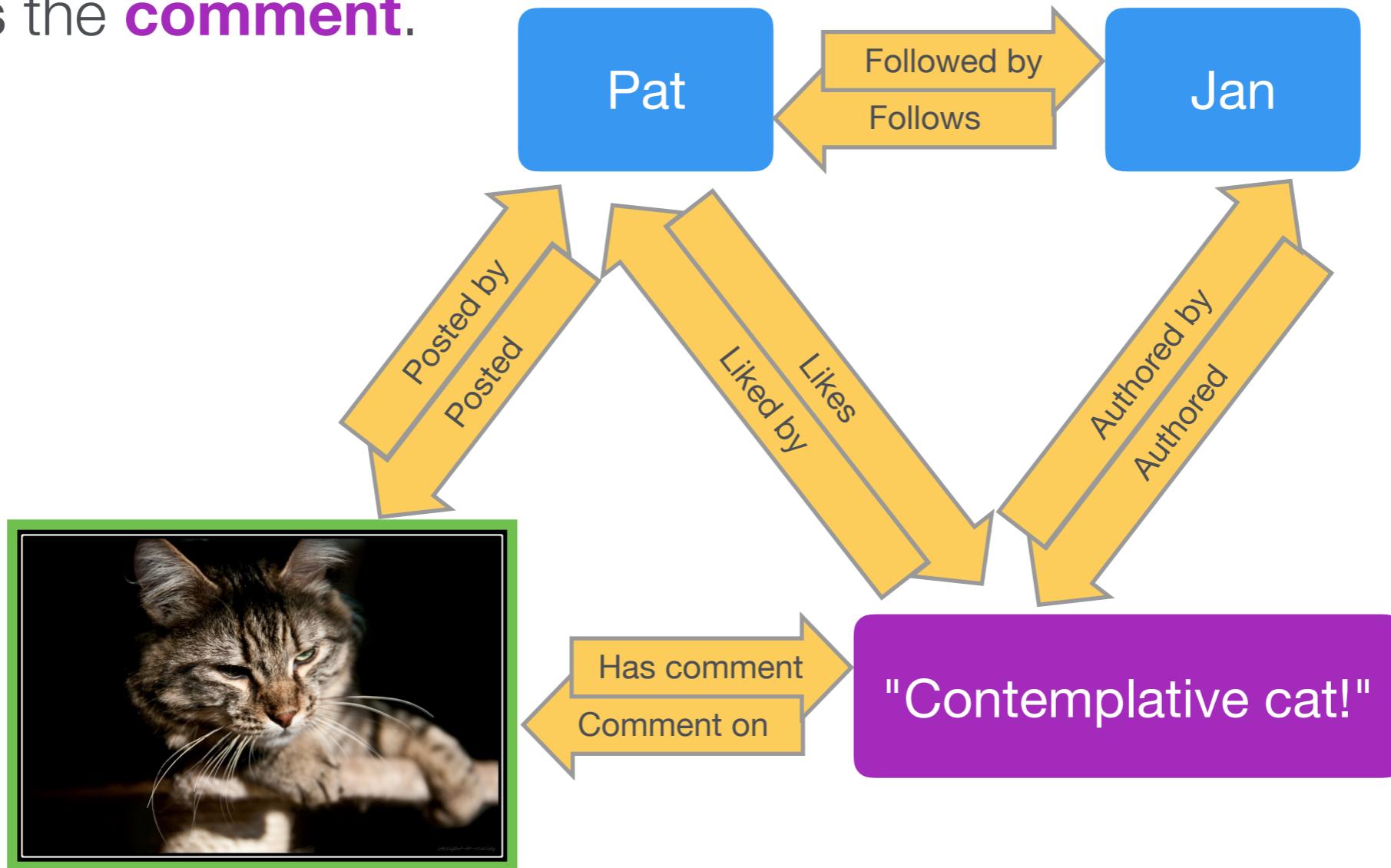
# TAO DATA MODEL

**Jan follows Pat.**

**Pat posts a photo.**

**Jan authors a comment on the photo.**

**Pat likes the comment.**

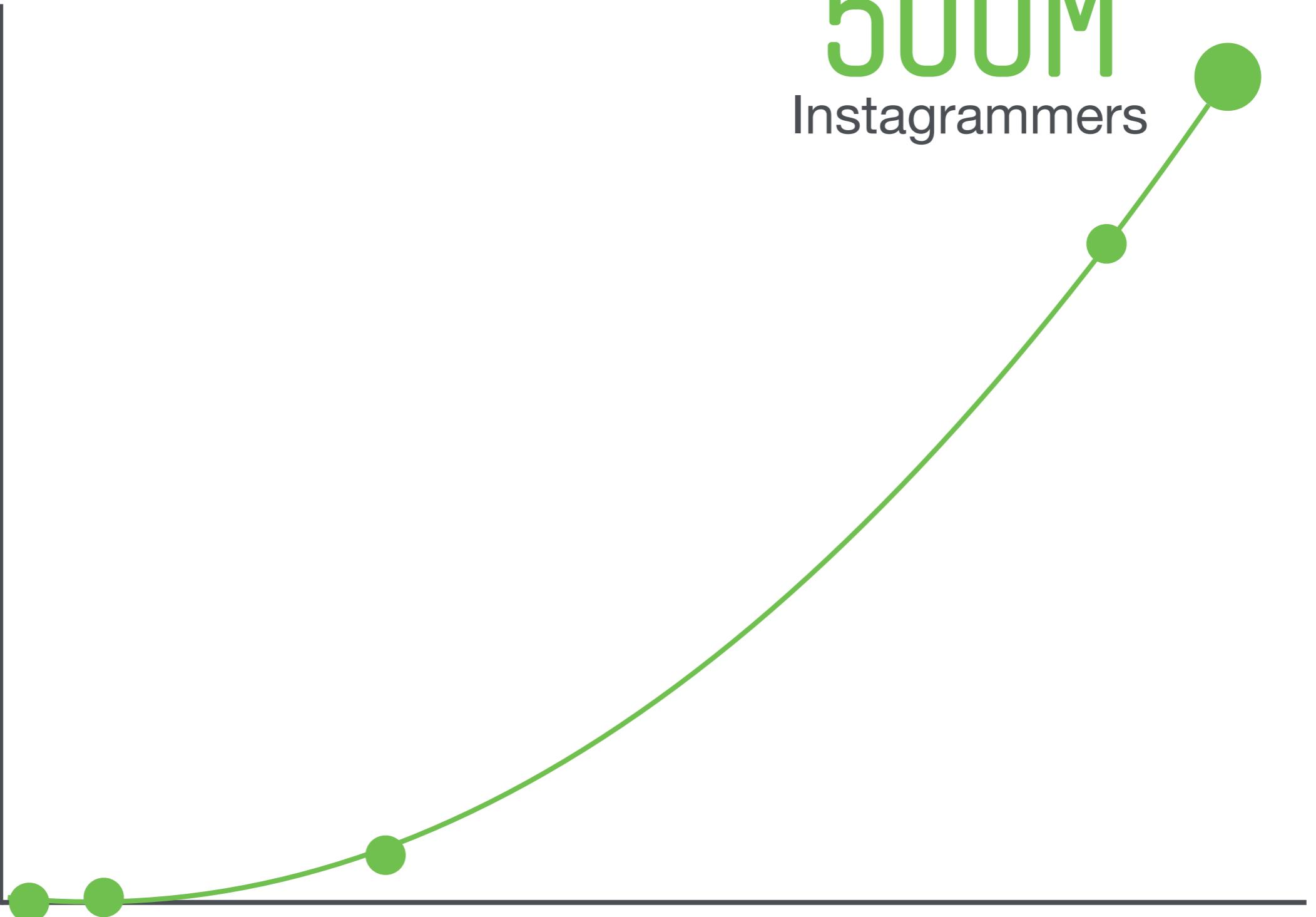




*straight-to-reality*

CONTEMPLATING THE TAO





**500M**  
Instagrammers

June  
2016

# UPGRADING DJANGO

"JUST KEEP FIXING  
UNTIL THE TESTS PASS."

# INSTAGRAM:

---

Now compatible with  
Django 3.1™

[1.3 + 1.8]

# INSTAGRAM:

---

Now compatible with  
Django

1.8!

# OUR (MONKEY) PATCHES

- 1 Don't recompile URL regexes for every active language.

---

- 2 Don't try to load translations from an app with no locale directory.

---

- 3 Unlazified settings!

# UNLAZY ALL THE SETTINGS!

```
from django.conf import settings

def force_unlazified_settings():
    for key in dir(settings):
        settings.__dict__[key] = getattr(settings, key)
```

# INSTAGRAM:

---

Now compatible with  
Django

1.8!

(and fast as ever)

500M+  
Instagrammers

Today!

# Proxygen

## Django & uWSGI

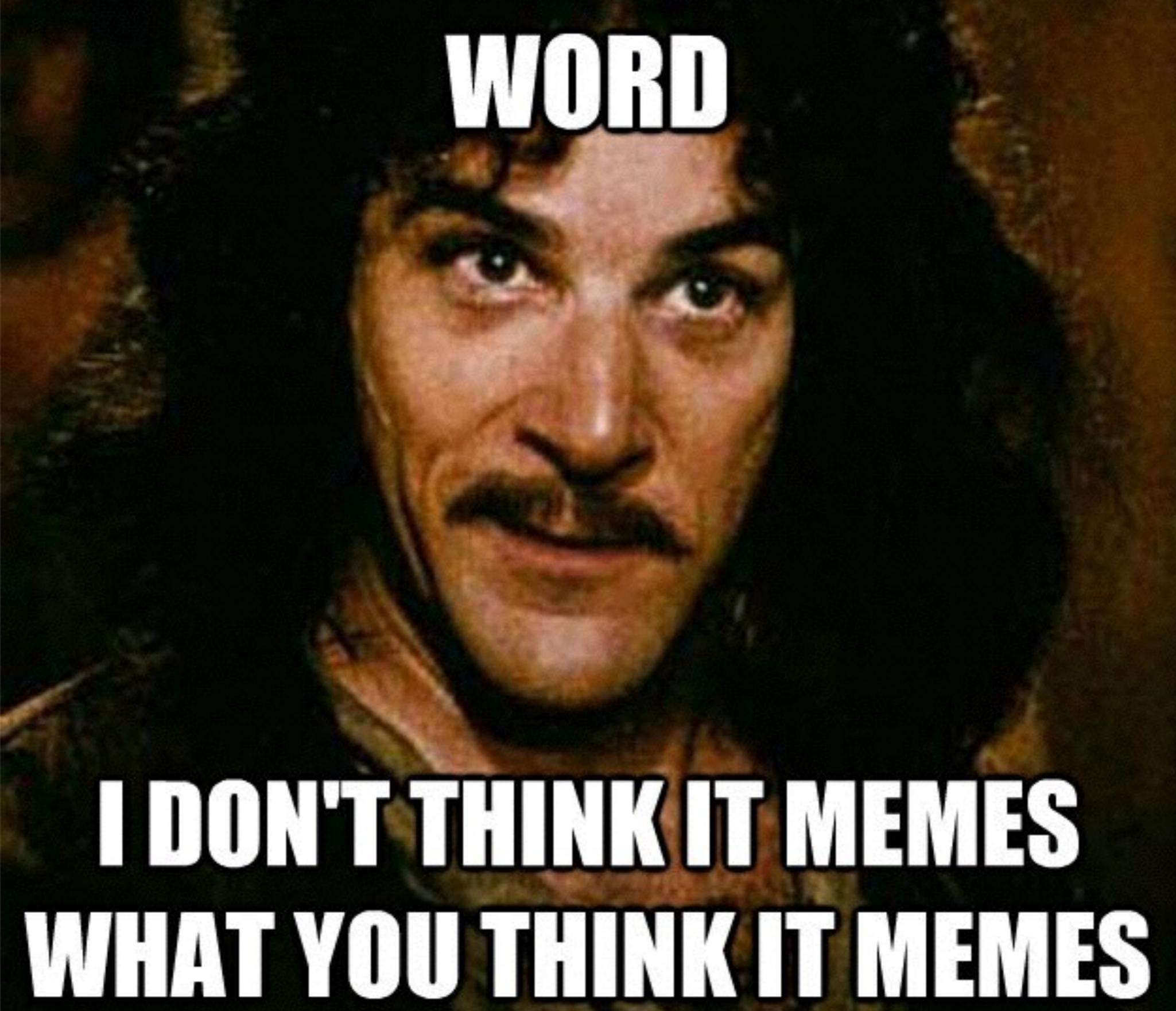
TAO

Cassandra

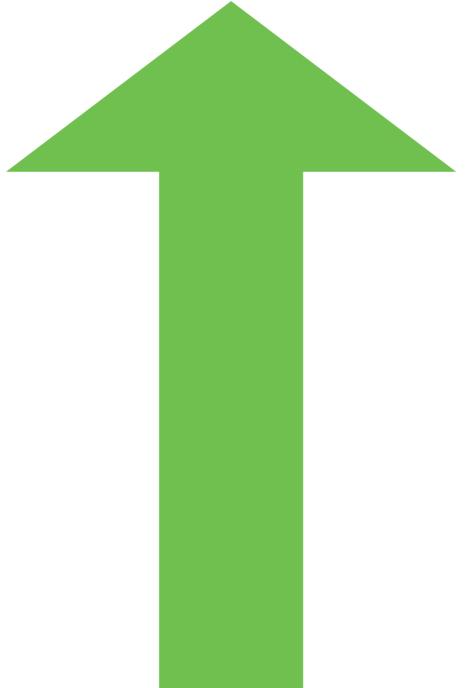
Everstore

Celery &  
RabbitMQ

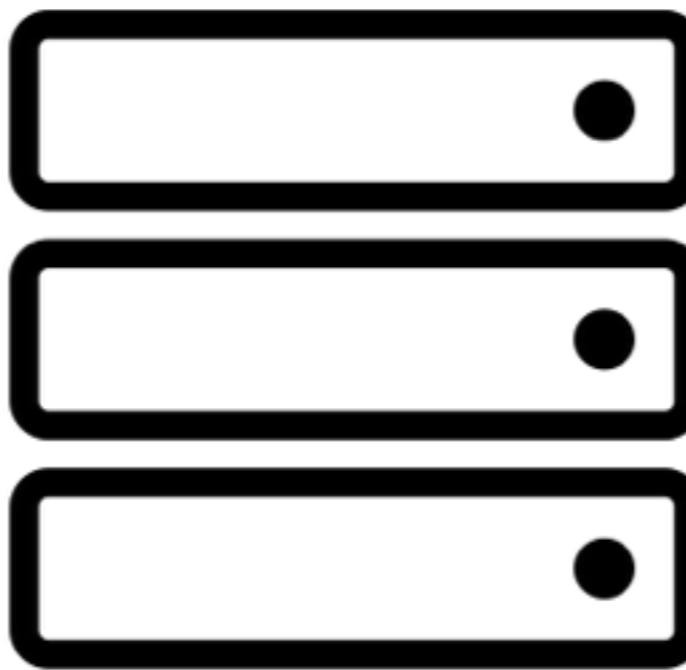
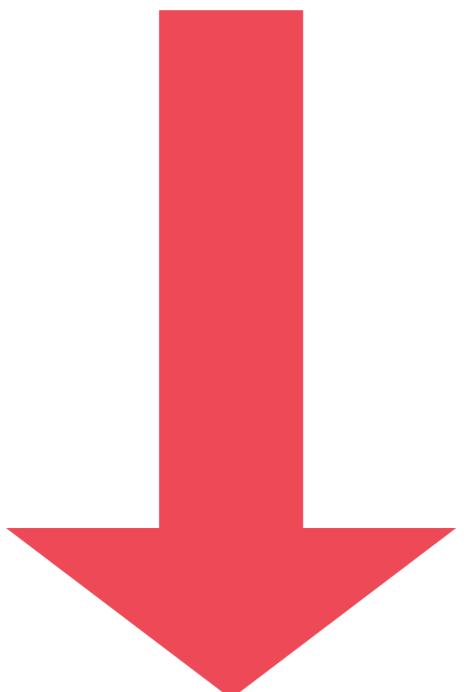
**YOU KEEP USING THAT  
WORD**



**I DON'T THINK IT MEMES  
WHAT YOU THINK IT MEMES**

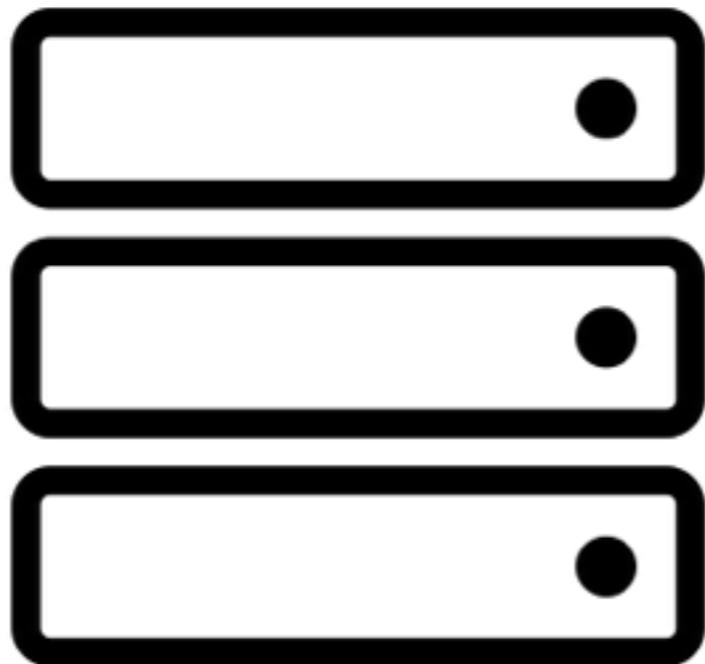


.....





.....



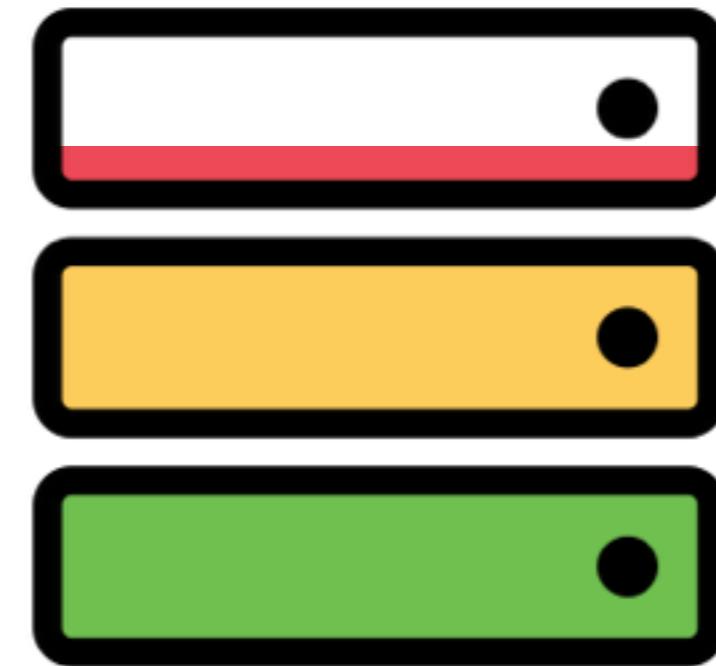
Active Last Minute

???

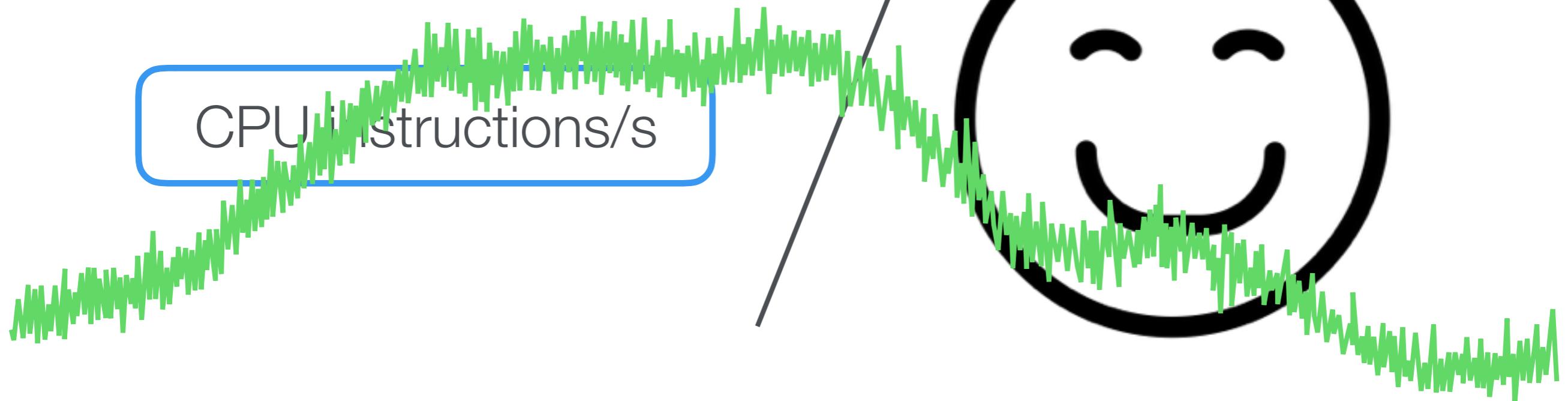
# COUNTING CPU INSTRUCTIONS WITH PERF

```
struct perf_event_attr pe;
pe.type = PERF_TYPE_HARDWARE;
pe.config = PERF_COUNT_HW_INSTRUCTIONS;
fd = perf_event_open(&pe, 0, -1, -1, 0);
ioctl(fd, PERF_EVENT_IOC_ENABLE);
// code whose CPU instructions you want to measure
ioctl(fd, PERF_EVENT_IOC_DISABLE);
read(fd, &count, sizeof(long long));
```

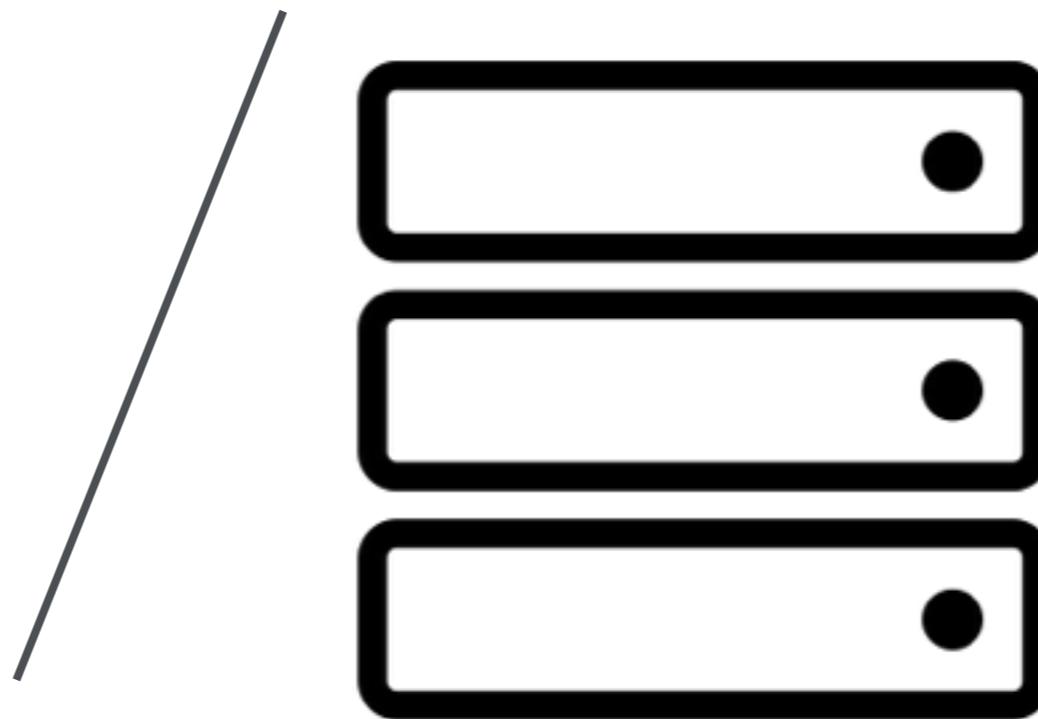
CPU instructions/s



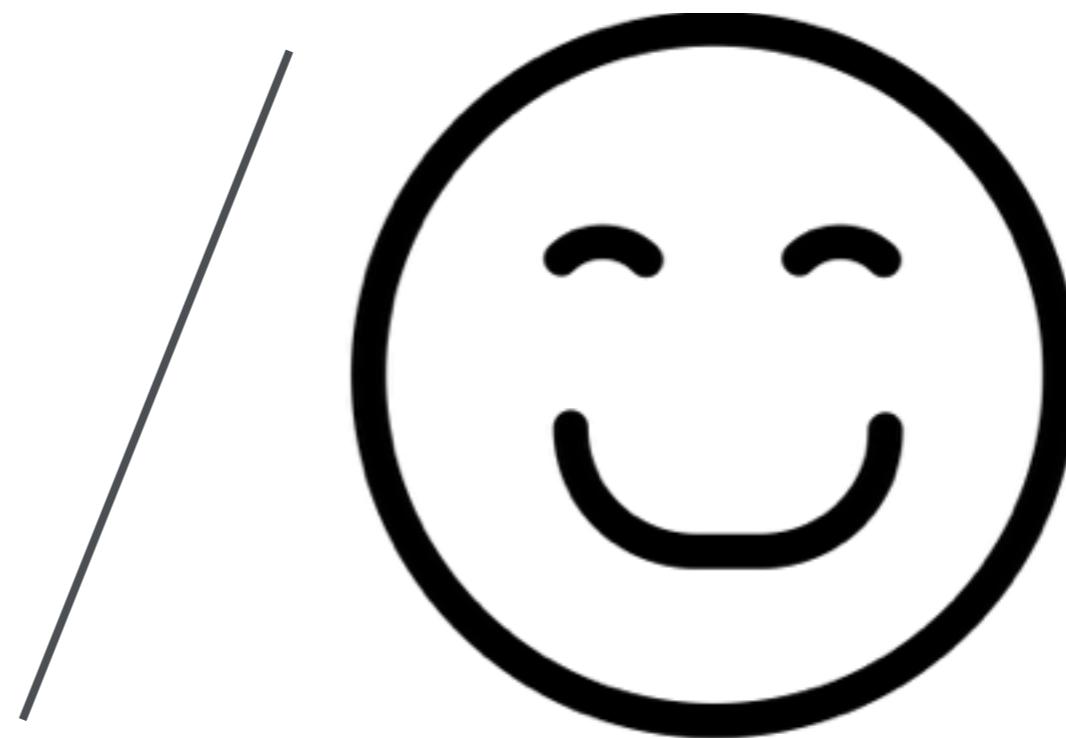
CPU instructions/s



CPU instructions/s

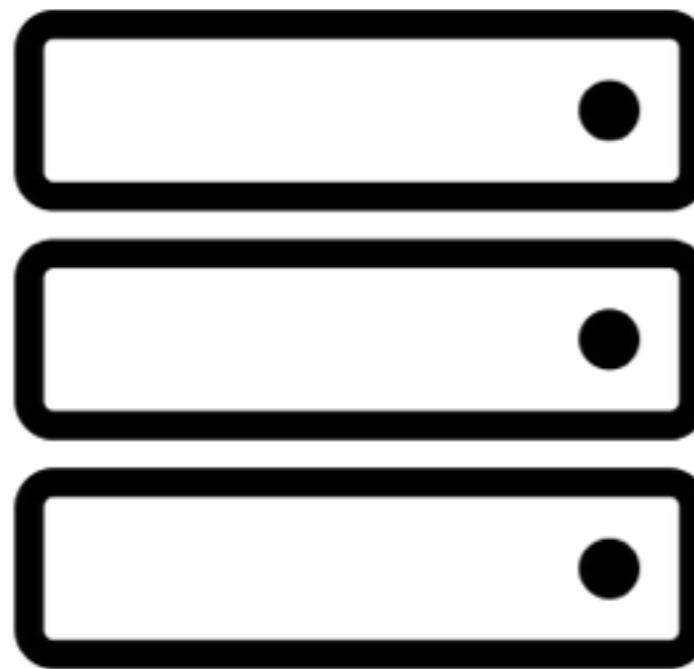


CPU instructions/s





.....



Wed, Oct 26th, 2016

From: 2016

# IG Weight

Instagram

# 17.9%

Improvement

Latest Goal:  
 $\leq 13.1\%$  regression



# AppWeight



Continuous deployment

30-50 deploys per day



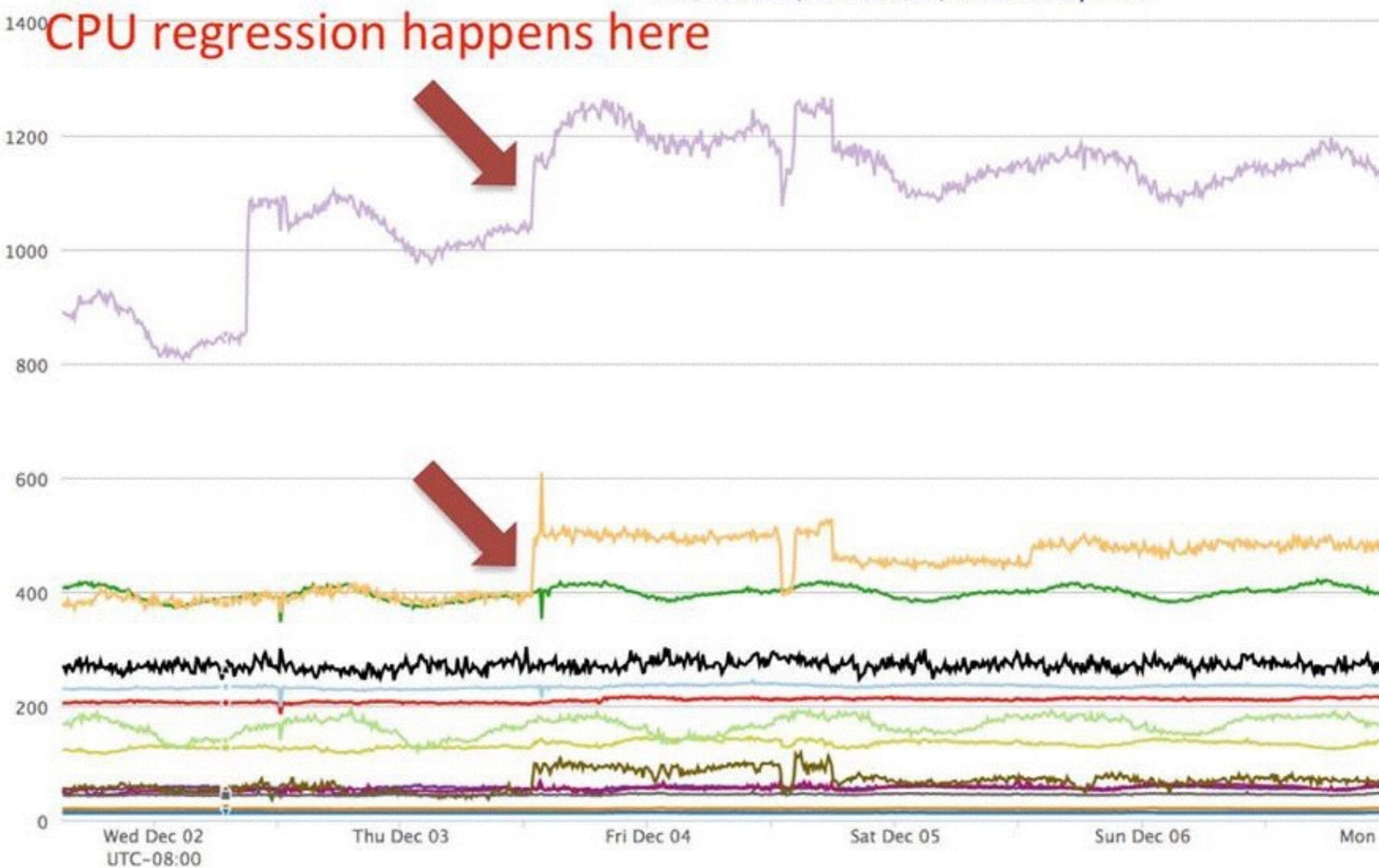
THE END

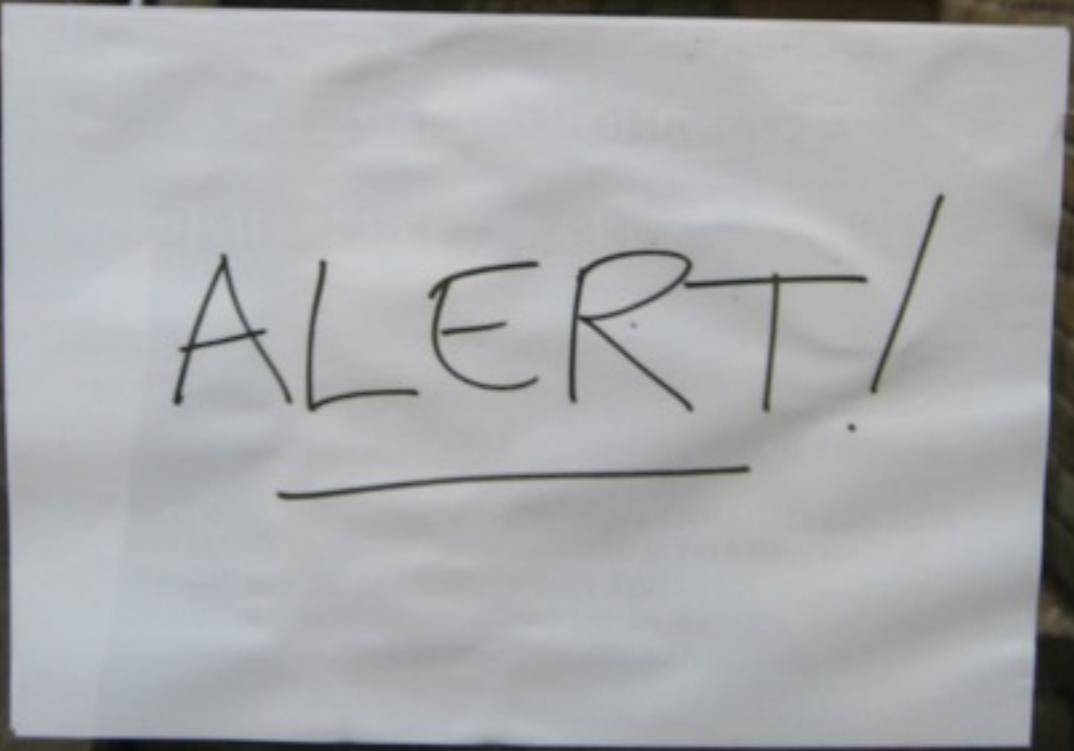
# DYNOSTATS

```
class DynostatsMiddleware(object):
    def process_request(self, req):
        req.dynostats_enabled = (
            1 == random.randint(1, settings.DYNO_SAMPLE_RATE))
    if req.dynostats_enabled:
        # uses Linux perf library
        req.dyno_start_cpu_instr = get_cpu_instructions()
        # use clock_gettime from librt
        req.dyno_start_wall_time = get_real_wall_time()
        req.dyno_start_cpu_time = get_process_cpu_time()
        # uses /proc/<pid>/statm
        req.dyno_start_rss_mem = get_process_rss_mem()

    def process_response(self, req, response):
        if req.dynostats_enabled:
            # get end values, send to scribe w/ req details
        return response
```

TimeSeries (10 minutes) ordered by Hits





ALERT!

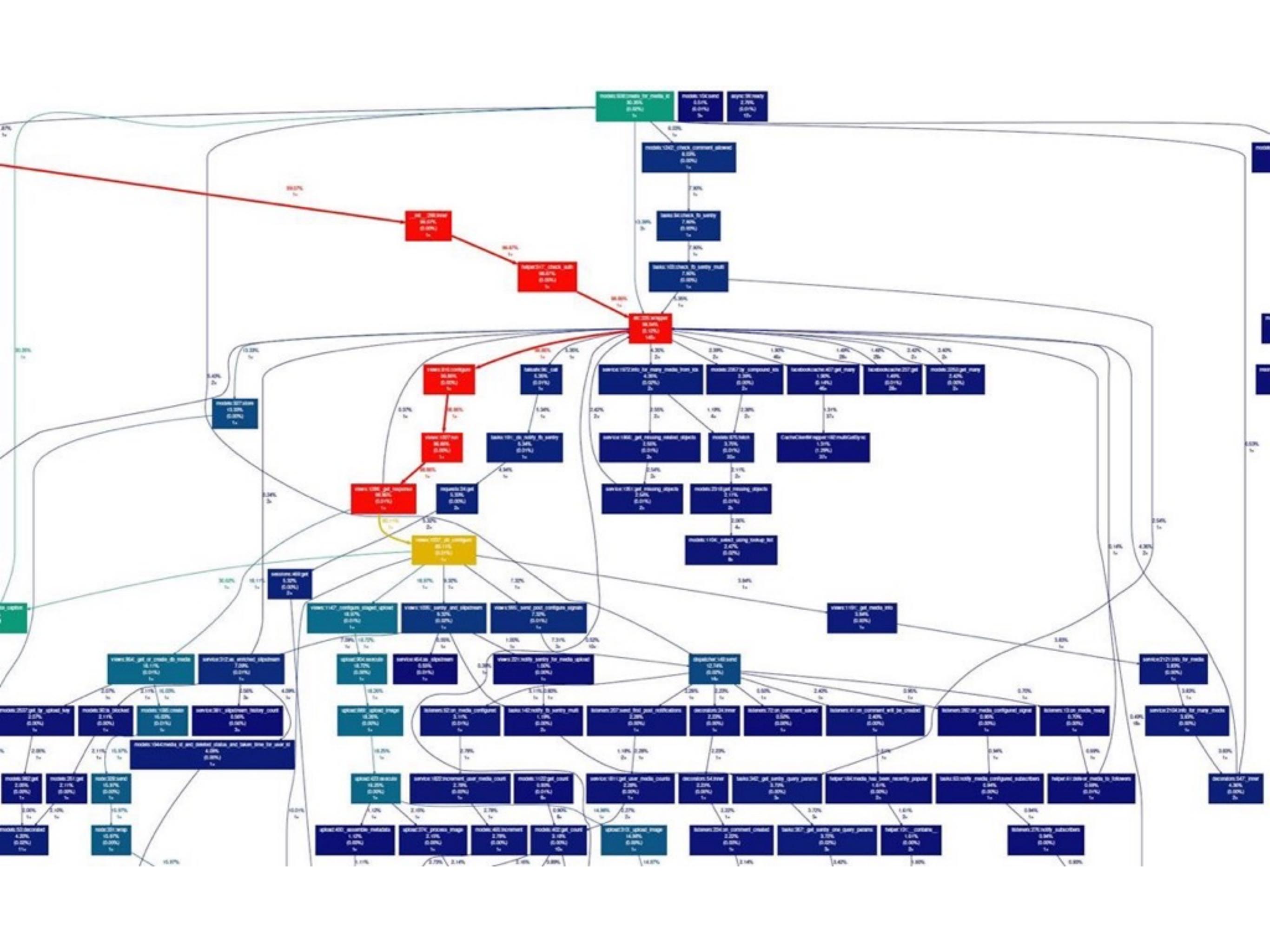


# CPROFILE

```
class ProfilerMiddleware(object):
    def process_request(self, req):
        req.cprofile_enabled = (
            1 == randint(1, settings.CPROFILE_SAMPLE_RATE))
    if req.cprofile_enabled:
        req.profiler = cProfile.Profile()
        req.profiler.enable()

    def process_response(self, req, response):
        if req.cprofile_enabled:
            req.profiler.disable()
            req.profiler.create_stats()
            send_to_scribe(msgpack.dumps(profiler.stats))
```

Raw Cumulative CPU Instructions (Sum/Minute) [?]	(compare)	(%)	(delta)
8,034,035,705	8,043,161,111	-0.1%	-9,125,406
7,878,265,891	7,897,286,292	-0.2%	-19,020,400
5,339,241,762	5,336,959,292	0.0%	2,282,470
2,175,683,992	2,193,166,866	-0.8%	-17,482,874
1,478,319,569	1,505,121,058	-1.8%	-26,801,489
637,941,053	375,612,446	69.8%	262,328,607
347,426,732	341,689,652	1.7%	5,737,080
290,604,317	245,609,794	18.3%	44,994,524
118,035,772	118,197,518	-0.1%	-161,745
1,930,530	1,919,097	0.6%	11,433

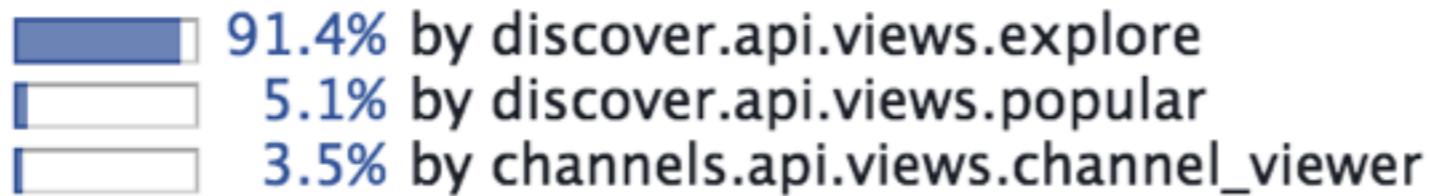


Global CPU consumption by this function: 0.103% inclusive and 0.015% exclusive .

We need ~█████ IG servers for this function!

 Drill Down

Top Views ( [see all](#) ):



Top Callers ( [see all](#) ):



# on

```
@statsd.timer("discover._get_bundles_from_search_response")
def _get_bundles_from_search_response(self, search_response, has_connection_info=False):
    """
    :type search_response: fbsearch.media_search.MediaSearchResponse
```

# CUSTOM CPROFILE TIMERS

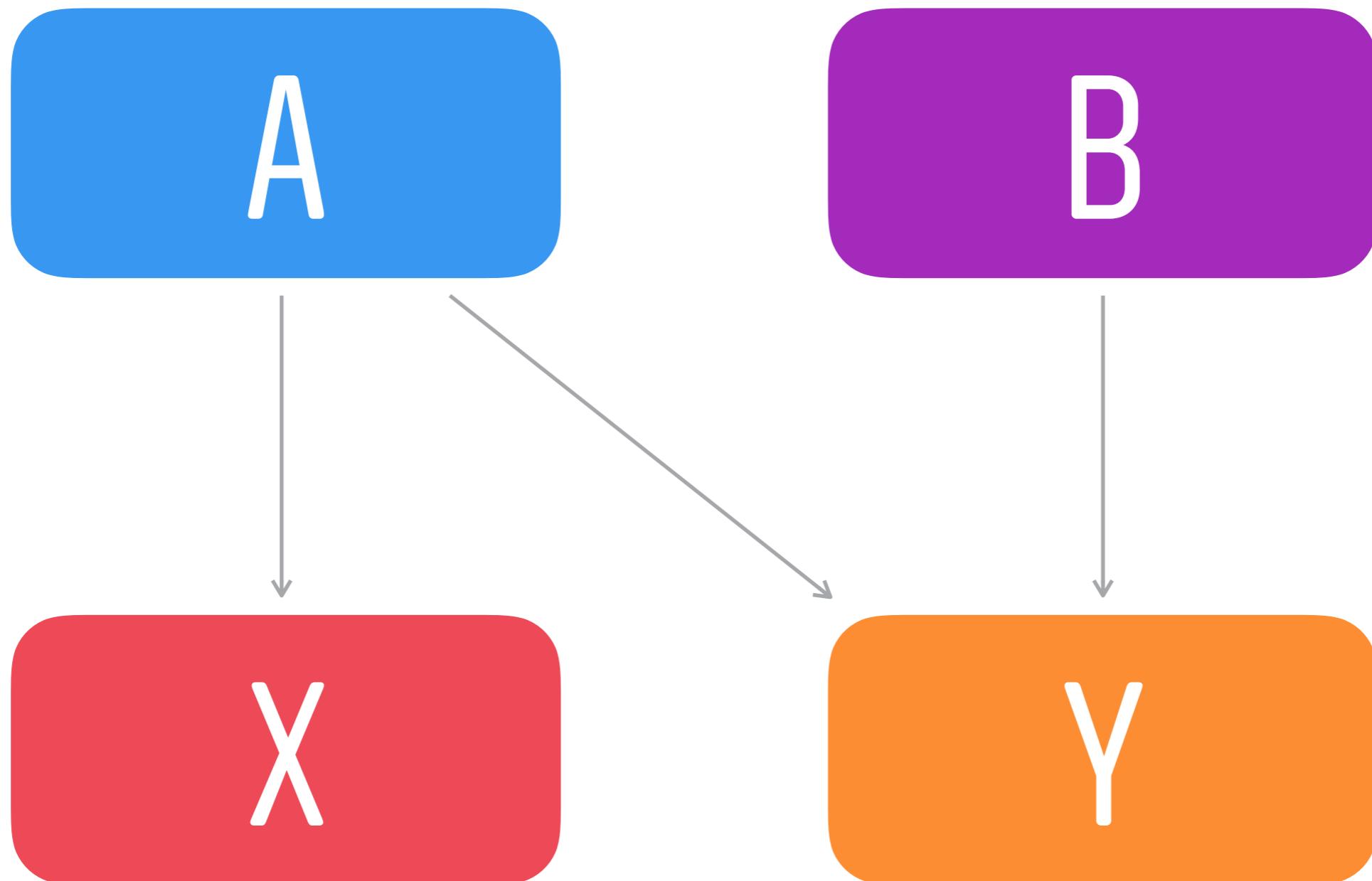
```
import cProfile
import resource

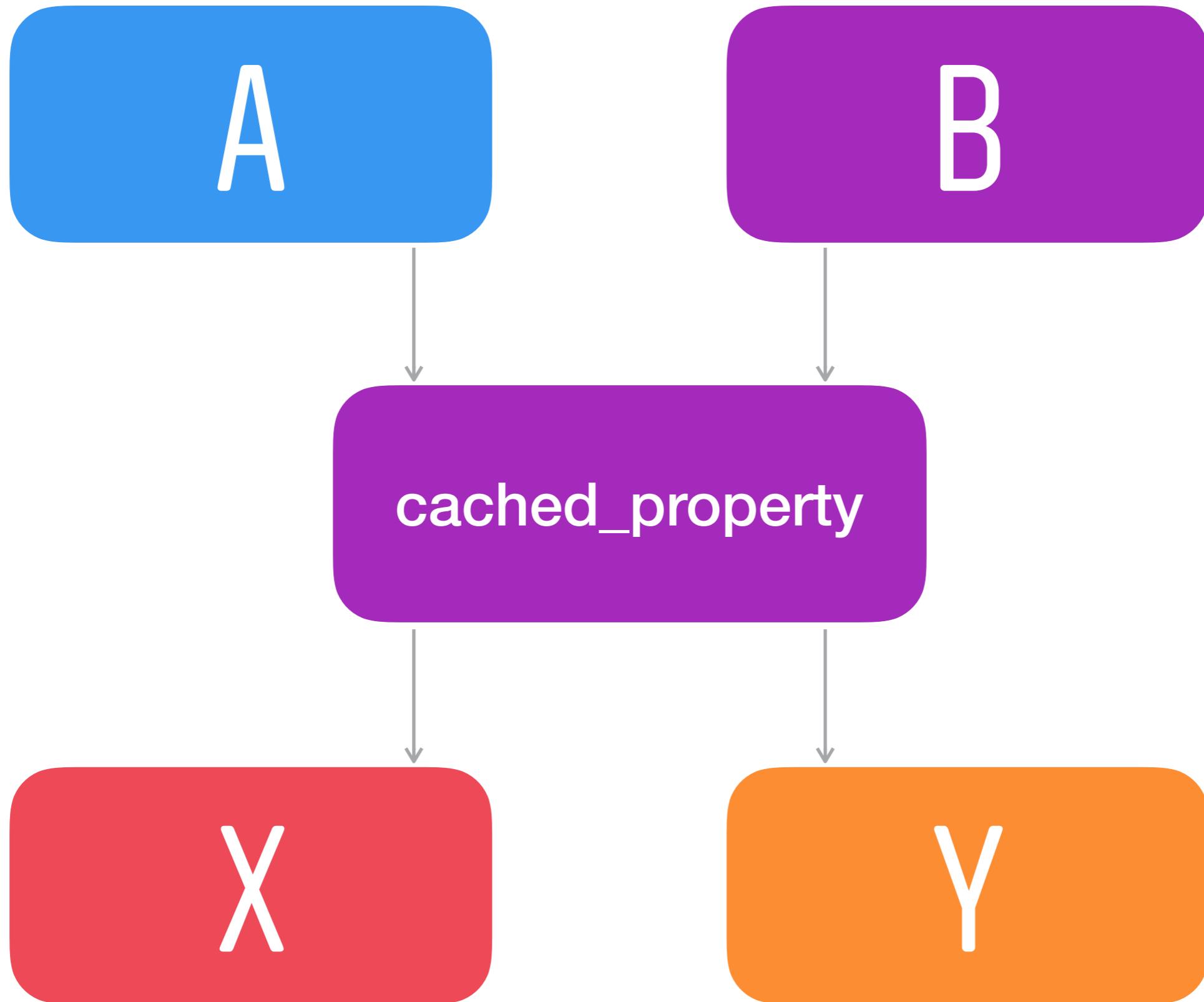
def get_cpu_instr():
    # use perf to get CPU instructions

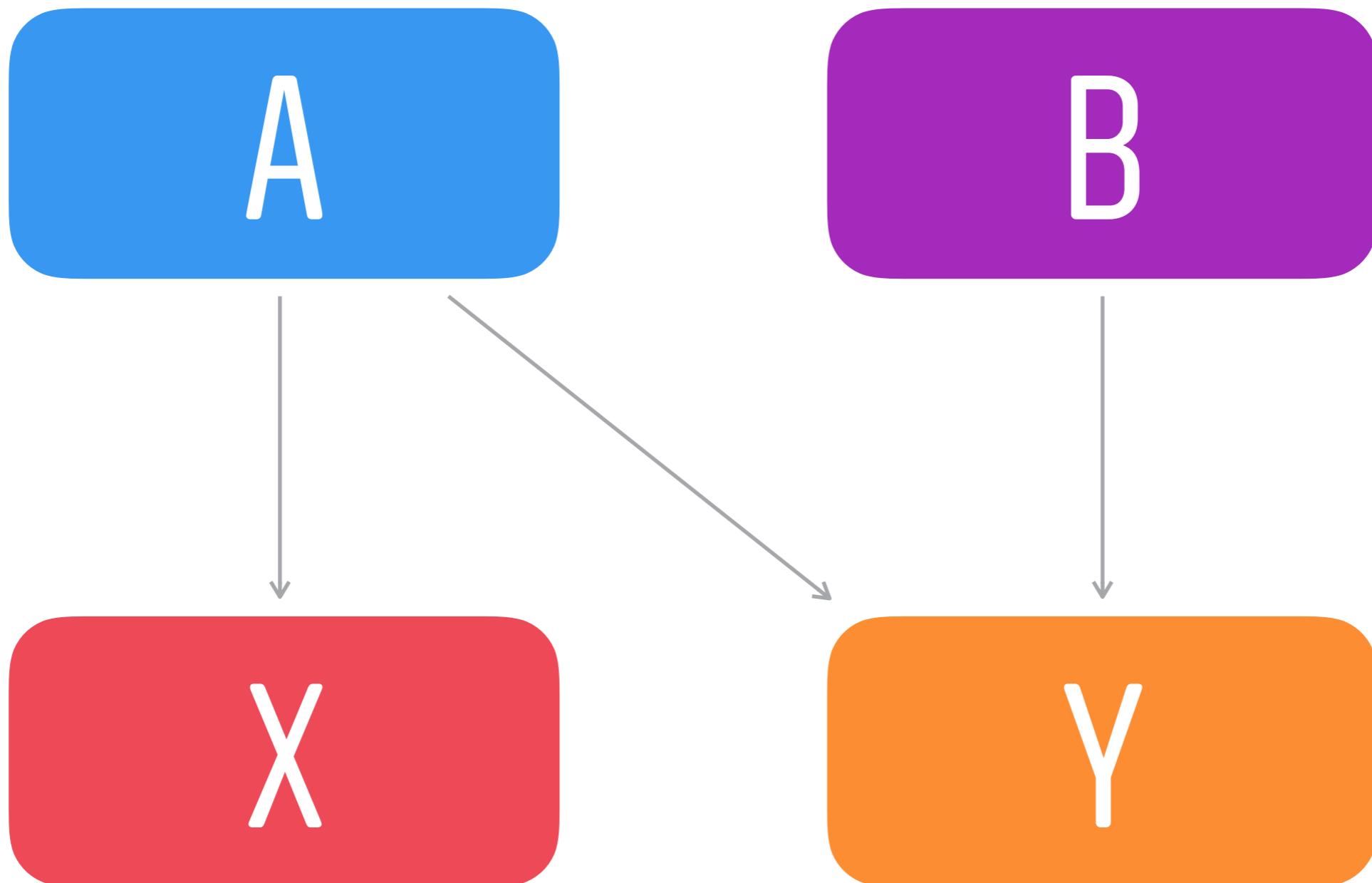
cpu_profiler = cProfile.Profile(timer=get_cpu_instr)

def get_rss_mem():
    return resource.getrusage(
        resource.RUSAGE_SELF).ru_maxrss

mem_profiler = cProfile.Profile(timer=get_rss_mem)
```







# FIXING EFFICIENCY REGRESSIONS

- Fixing the obvious.
- Don't do useless work.
- Cache things that don't change.
- Change a .py to a .pyx: Cython.
- Rewrite in C.



tightly integrated

loosely coupled

A photograph of a brick wall covered in colorful graffiti. The wall is primarily brown and tan, with large white and teal spray-painted letters and shapes. In the foreground, there is a blue safety net made of small squares, likely covering a construction or maintenance area.

make the easy things easy

and the hard things possible



**"SUPER EASY SETUP."**

— [Mike Krieger](#)

"THE PIECES WERE PLUGGABLE  
ENOUGH... EVEN WITH OUR OWN **ORM**  
WE COULD USE MOST  
OF THE REST OF DJANGO."

— Mike Krieger

# AN INCOMPLETE LIST OF THE DJANGO WE RELY ON

- HTTP stack
- requests and responses
- contrib.sessions
- contrib.auth
- middleware
- url routing
- settings
- forms
- i18n
- contrib.gis
- django.utils
- cache backends
- HTTP decorators
- CSRF
- signals
- management commands



django



python 3

async(io)

traffic replay

pypy?

C<sub>Python</sub> JIT?



**engineering.instagram.com**

**carljm@instagram.com**

**@carljm**



**T.Hanks**



# PHOTOS

database by RockIcon, smiley by Vandana Agrawal, server by Alexander Skowalsky, from Noun Project

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/yashh/2834704689>

<https://unsplash.com/photos/KEXUeZlev10>

<https://unsplash.com/photos/pd4lo70LdbI>

<https://unsplash.com/photos/jh2KTqHLMjE>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/johnsonderman/15144843722>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/kennethreitz/5521545772/>

<https://www.instagram.com/p/mNj4L3OTzj/>

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<https://www.flickr.com/photos/elviskennedy/6784123582>

<https://unsplash.com/photos/HkTMcmIMOUQ>