

Exploring type-directed, test-driven development

A case study using FizzBuzz

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Abstract

An expressive static type system is one of the most joyful and powerful tools for prototyping, designing, and maintaining programs. In this performance-theatrical presentation, I will provide a taste of how to use types, in conjunction with tests, to drive iterative development of a particular program, the famous FizzBuzz problem. We will solve generalizations of this problem, changing and adding requirements, to illustrate the pleasures and benefits of “type thinking”.

The Scala language will be used as the vehicle for this demonstration, but the techniques apply immediately to any industrial-strength statically typed language, such as Haskell, OCaml, F#, Rust, and most recently, Swift.

(Note: this presentation will use live human volunteers to play the roles of various programming concepts.)

Outline

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1 Introduction

1.1 Goals

Goals of this presentation

- Give a taste of a *practical* software development *process* that is:
 - *test-driven*
 - *type-directed*
- Show everything for real:
 - project build process
 - testing frameworks
 - all the code
- Use FizzBuzz because:
 - problem: easy to understand
 - modifications: easy to understand
 - fun!
- Encourage you to explore further
 - Have you heard the news about Swift? 

1.2 Test-driven development (TDD)

Test-driven development (TDD)

- Think.
- Write a test that **fails**.
- Write code until test **succeeds**.
- Repeat, and **refactor** as needed.

Is TDD dead?

Short answer: No.

1.3 Type systems

Type systems

What is a type system?

For this presentation: a *syntactic* method for *proving* the absence of certain program behaviors.

“Debating” types “versus” tests?

Let’s just use both!

1.4 Poor versus decent type systems

Poor versus decent type systems

Poor type systems

- (Developed using 1960s-1970s knowledge)
- C, C++, Objective C
- Java

Decent type systems

- (Developed using 1980s-1990s knowledge)
- ML (**Standard ML**, **OCaml**, **F#**): I first used for work in 1995
- **Haskell**: I first used for work in 1995
- **Scala**: first released in 2004
- **Rust**: not yet version 1.0
- **Swift**: announced by Apple on June 2, 2014!

2 Original FizzBuzz problem

2.1 Original FizzBuzz problem

Original FizzBuzz problem

FizzBuzz defined

Write a program that prints the numbers from 1 to 100.

But for multiples of three, print “Fizz” instead of the number.

And for the multiples of five, print “Buzz”.

For numbers which are multiples of both three and five, print “FizzBuzz”.

2.2 Starter Scala code: main driver

Starter Scala code: main driver



Scala: a modern *object-oriented* and *functional* language.

```
object Main extends App {  
  // Will not compile yet!  
  runToSeq(1, 100).foreach(println)  
}
```

- Type-directed design: separate out effects (such as printing to terminal) from the real work.
- Type-directed feedback: compilation fails when something is not implemented yet.

2.3 The joys of continuous compilation and testing

The joys of continuous compilation and testing



SBT: build tool supporting Scala, Java. . .

Winning features

- Source file changes trigger smart recompilation!
- Source file changes trigger rerun of the tests that depend on changed code!

```

$ sbt
> ~testQuick
[info] Compiling 1 Scala source to ...
[error] ...Main.scala:16: not found: value runToSeq
[error]   runToSeq(1, 100) foreach println
[error]     ^
[error] one error found

```

Write type-directed stub

```

object Main extends App {
  runToSeq(1, 100).foreach(println)

  def runToSeq(start: Int, end: Int): Seq[String] = {
    ???
  }
}

```

Write wanted type signature

??? is convenient for stubbing.

- In Scala standard library
- Just performs: `throw new NotImplementedError`

2.4 Write acceptance test (simplified)

Write acceptance test (simplified)

*specs*²

Specs2: a fine testing framework for Scala, Java...

```

class MainSpec extends Specification { def is = s2"""
  ${Main.runToSeq(1, 16) ==== 'strings for 1 to 16'}
  """

  val 'strings for 1 to 16' = Seq(
    "1", "2", "Fizz", "4", "Buzz", "Fizz",
    "7", "8", "Fizz", "Buzz", "11", "Fizz",
    "13", "14", "FizzBuzz", "16"
  )
}

```

A realistic acceptance test would involve handling I/O, but an elegant technique for modularizing that, `scalaz-stream`, is outside the scope of this presentation.

Test passes type check, but fails

Incremental compilation/testing kicks in:

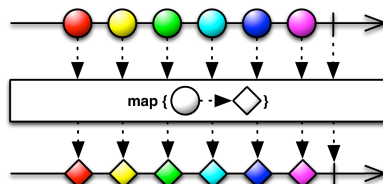
```
Waiting for source changes... (press enter to interrupt)
[info] MainSpec
[info]   x Main.runToSeq(1, 16) ==== 'strings for 1 to 16
[error]   an implementation is missing (Main.scala:19)
```

Outside-in: for a `FizzBuzz` unit

Types are shapes to assemble logically.

```
def runToSeq(start: Int, end: Int): Seq[String] = {
  start.to(end).map(FizzBuzz.evaluate)
}
```

- `start.to(end): Seq[Int]`, where `Seq[_]` is a *type constructor* that, given a type `A`, returns a type of `Seq[A]`.
- For any value of type `Seq[A]`, `map: (A => B) => Seq[B]`.



- Therefore: need to implement function `FizzBuzz.evaluate: Int => String`.

2.5 Test-driven units

Implement new `FizzBuzz` module

A failing acceptance test drives *discovery* of

- A *unit*, `FizzBuzz`
- A function with a particular type, `Int => String`

```
object FizzBuzz {
  type Evaluator = Int => String

  val evaluate: Evaluator = { i =>
```

```

    ???
  }
}

```

Types are better than *comments* as *documentation*!

Comments are not checkable, unlike types and tests.

First part of *unit test*: example-based

Manually write some *examples*.

```

class FizzBuzzSpec extends Specification { def is = s2"""
  ${FizzBuzz.evaluate(15)} ==== "FizzBuzz"}
  ${FizzBuzz.evaluate(20)} ==== "Buzz"}
  ${FizzBuzz.evaluate(6)}  ==== "Fizz"}
  ${FizzBuzz.evaluate(17)} ==== "17"}
  """
}

```

2.6 Property-based tests

The joy of property-based tests



ScalaCheck: a framework for writing *property-based* tests.

```

class FizzBuzzSpec extends Specification
  with ScalaCheck { def is = s2"""
    ${'Multiple of both 3 and 5 => "FizzBuzz"}' ""
    def 'Multiple of both 3 and 5 => "FizzBuzz"' =
      prop { i: Int => (i % 3 == 0 && i % 5 == 0) ==>
        { FizzBuzz.evaluate(i) ==== "FizzBuzz" }
      }
  }
}

```

Winning features

- Auto-generates *random* tests for each property (100 by default).
- *Type-driven*: here, generates random `Int` values.

Property-based tests (continued)

The other three properties of interest:

```
def 'Multiple of only 3 => "Fizz"' =
  prop { i: Int => (i % 3 == 0 && i % 5 != 0) ==>
    { FizzBuzz.evaluate(i) ==== "Fizz" }
  }

def 'Multiple of only 5 => "Buzz"' =
  prop { i: Int => (i % 3 != 0 && i % 5 == 0) ==>
    { FizzBuzz.evaluate(i) ==== "Buzz" }
  }

def 'Not a multiple of either 3 or 5 => number' =
  prop { i: Int => (i % 3 != 0 && i % 5 != 0) ==>
    { FizzBuzz.evaluate(i) ==== i.toString }
  }
```

2.7 Solving the FizzBuzz problem

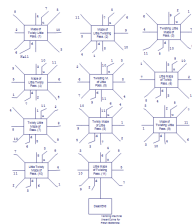
A buggy and ugly solution

```
// Buggy and ugly!
val evaluate: Evaluator = { i =>
  if (i % 3 == 0)
    "Fizz"
  else if (i % 5 == 0)
    "Buzz"
  else if (i % 3 == 0 && i % 5 == 0)
    "FizzBuzz"
  else
    i.toString
}
```

```
[info] FizzBuzzSpec
[info]   x FizzBuzz.evaluate(15) ==== "FizzBuzz"
[error]   'Fizz' is not equal to 'FizzBuzz'
        (FizzBuzzSpec.scala:14)
```

Booleans are evil!

Maze of twisty little conditionals, all different



- Too easy to write incorrect sequences of nested, combined conditionals.
- Overuse of Booleans is a type *smell*

Why booleans are evil

No help from type system

- Conditions can be arbitrary: depend on *any* combination of data.
- Multiple conditions: combinatorial explosion (two conditions led to four cases).
- Possibly overlapping conditions: order dependency subtleties.
- Possibly duplicated checking of the some condition.

Pattern matching organizes information

```
val evaluate: Evaluator = { i =>
  (i % 3 == 0, i % 5 == 0) match {
    case (true, false) => "Fizz"
    case (false, true)  => "Buzz"
    case (true, true)   => "FizzBuzz"
    case (false, false) => i.toString
  }
}
```

Winning features

- Visual *beauty* and clarity.
- No duplicated conditionals.
- No ordering dependency.
- *Type checker* verifies *full coverage* of cases.

Example of non-exhaustive pattern matching

```
val evaluate: Evaluator = { i =>
  (i % 3 == 0, i % 5 == 0) match {
    case (true, false) => "Fizz"
    case (false, true)  => "Buzz"
    case (true, true)   => "FizzBuzz"
    // case (false, false) => ???
  }
}
```

```
[warn] ...FizzBuzz.scala:46: match may not be exhaustive.
[warn] It would fail on the following input: (false, false)
[warn]      (i % 3 == 0, i % 5 == 0) match {
[warn]      ^
```

Swift digression: pattern matching

The same solution, in Swift:

```
typealias Evaluator = Int -> String

let evaluate: Evaluator = { i in
  switch (i % 3 == 0, i % 5 == 0) {
  case (true, false): return "Fizz"
  case (false, true): return "Buzz"
  case (true, true):  return "FizzBuzz"
  case (false, false): return String(i)
  }
}
```

Acceptance test passes

```
[info] MainSpec
[info]   + Main.runToSeq(1, 16) ==== 'strings for 1 to 16'
```

Done?

No. Client wants more features.

3 FizzBuzz 2: user configuration

3.1 Adding new features

Adding new features

Client wants to:

- Choose two *arbitrary* divisors in place of 3 and 5
 - such as 4 and 7
- Choose other *arbitrary* words in place of "Fizz" and "Buzz"
 - such as "Moo" and "Quack"

3.2 Type-driven refactoring

Type-driven refactoring

Types mean: refactoring is much more fun!

- Add *new* tests.
- Change types and code: to make new tests *type check*.
- *Refactor* original code and tests: use new APIs.
- Keep passing the *old* tests.
- Delay writing code for new features.

More features means more types

Change `FizzBuzz.evaluate` to `Defaults.fizzBuzz`:

```
def runToSeq(start: Int, end: Int): Seq[String] = {
  start.to(end).map(Defaults.fizzBuzz)
}
```

Add new types to `FizzBuzz` module:

```
type Evaluator = Int => String
case class Config(pair1: (Int, String),
                  pair2: (Int, String))
type Compiler = Config => Evaluator

val compile: Compiler = {
  case Config((d1, w1), (d2, w2)) =>
    { i =>
      ???
    }
}
```

Extract original default configuration

```
object Defaults {
  val fizzBuzzerConfig: Config =
    Config(3 -> "Fizz", 5 -> "Buzz")

  val fizzBuzzer: Evaluator =
    FizzBuzz.compile(fizzBuzzerConfig)

  // Useful to keep old implementation
  val oldFizzBuzzer: Evaluator = { i =>
    (i % 3 == 0, i % 5 == 0) match {
      case (true, false) => "Fizz"
      case (false, true) => "Buzz"
      case (true, true) => "FizzBuzz"
      case (false, false) => i.toString
    }
  }
}
```

More types means more tests

Write new property-based test over *arbitrary* user configurations:

```
val arbitraryConfig: Arbitrary[Config] = Arbitrary {
  for {
    (d1, d2, w1, w2) <-
      arbitrary[(Int, Int, String, String)]
  } yield Config(d1 -> w1, d2 -> w2)
}

def 'Arbitrary pair of divisors: divisible by first' =
  arbitraryConfig { config: Config =>
    val evaluate = FizzBuzz.compile(config)
    val Config((d1, w1), (d2, _)) = config
    prop { i: Int => (i % d1 == 0 && i % d2 != 0) ==>
      { evaluate(i) == w1 }
    }
  }
```

3.3 Refining types

Problem: coarse `Config` type

```
[info] ! Arbitrary divisor/word pair fizzBuzzers
[error] ArithmeticException: :
```

```
A counter-example is 'Config((0,),(0,))':
java.lang.ArithmeticException: / by zero
(after 0 try) (FizzBuzzSpec.scala:58)
```

- 0 as a divisor *crashes!*
- We discovered client's *underspecification*.
- Client says: meant to allow only divisors within 2 and 100.

We need to:

- Add runtime *validation* when *constructing* `Config`.
- Refine `Config` random generator.

3.4 Validation

Add (runtime) validation

Runtime precondition contract: Scala's `require` (throws exception on failure):

```
val DIVISOR_MIN = 2; val DIVISOR_MAX = 100

def validatePair(pair: (Int, String)) = pair match {
  case (d, _) =>
    require(d >= DIVISOR_MIN,
      s"divisor $d must be >= $DIVISOR_MIN")
    require(d <= DIVISOR_MAX,
      s"divisor $d must be <= $DIVISOR_MAX")
}

case class Config(pair1: (Int, String),
  pair2: (Int, String)) {
  validatePair(pair1); validatePair(pair2)
}
```

Data validation can be critical!

In real life, prefer non-exception type-based solution such as *Scalaz validation*.

Digression: two ways to prevent *Heartbleed*

- Instead of C: use a *dependently typed* safe systems language such as *ATS* for *compile-time TDD*.
- Even with C: use *good validation and testing practices*.
 - A weaker type system is not an *excuse* to skip write tedious validation code or tests!

Improve `Config` random generator

```
val arbitraryConfig: Arbitrary[Config] =
  Arbitrary {
    for {
      d1 <- choose(DIVISOR_MIN, DIVISOR_MAX)
      d2 <- choose(DIVISOR_MIN, DIVISOR_MAX)
      w1 <- arbitrary[String]
      w2 <- arbitrary[String]
    } yield Config(d1 -> w1, d2 -> w2)
  }
```

New test runs further, stills fails

Refactor old code to `FizzBuzz.compile`, to pass old tests and new test.

```
val compile: Compiler = {
  case Config((d1, w1), (d2, w2)) =>
    // Precompute, hence "compiler".
    val w = w1 + w2
    // Return an Evaluator.
    { i =>
      (i % d1 == 0, i % d2 == 0) match {
        case (true, false) => w1
        case (false, true) => w2
        case (true, true) => w
        case (false, false) => i.toString
      }
    }
}
```

4 FizzBuzz 3: FizzBuzzPop and beyond

4.1 Generalize to more than two divisors

Generalizing to more than two divisors

Client wants FizzBuzzPop!

- Given three divisors (such as 3, 5, 7).
- Given three words (such as "Fizz", "Buzz", "Pop").
- Compile to evaluator that given an integer prints:
 - either a string combining a subset of the three words, or

- a numerical string if the integer is not a multiple of any of the three divisors
- Example: 21 should output "FizzPop".

Thought-driven development

Software development is not primarily about *coding*, but *thinking*.

- Deep fact: solving a more general problem is often easier than solving the specific problem.
- There are four important numbers in the Universe:
 - 0 emptiness
 - 1 existence
 - 2 other (relationship)
 - many community

4.2 More features means more tests and types (again)

More features means more tests

Write new tests for new `Defaults.fizzBuzzPopper`:

```
def is = s2"""
${Defaults.fizzBuzzPopper(2) ==== "2"}
${Defaults.fizzBuzzPopper(21) ==== "FizzPop"}
${Defaults.fizzBuzzPopper(9) ==== "Fizz"}
${Defaults.fizzBuzzPopper(7) ==== "Pop"}
${Defaults.fizzBuzzPopper(35) ==== "BuzzPop"}
"""
```

Change configuration: to `Seq` of pairs, instead of just two:

```
val fizzBuzzPopperConfig: Config =
  Config(Seq(
    3 -> "Fizz", 5 -> "Buzz", 7 -> "Pop"
  ))
val fizzBuzzPopper: Evaluator =
  FizzBuzz.compile(fizzBuzzPopperConfig)
```

More tests means more (or changed) types

```
[error] ...Defaults.scala:29: not enough arguments for
method apply:
  (pair1: (Int, String), pair2: (Int, String))
  com.franklinchen.FizzBuzz.Config in object Config
[error] Unspecified value parameter pair2.
[error]       Config(Seq(
[error]                ^
```

Change *type* `Config` to allow a sequence of pairs:

```
case class Config(pairs: Seq[(Int, String)]) {
  pairs.foreach(validatePair)
}
```

Note how our iterative development process promotes *reuse* (here, of validation logic).

Fix remaining type errors

Refactoring reveals need to implement case of more than two divisors.

```
val compile: Compiler = {
  case Config(Seq((d1, w1), (d2, w2))) =>
    val w = w1 + w2

    { i =>
      (i % d1 == 0, i % d2 == 0) match {
        case (true, false) => w1
        case (false, true) => w2
        case (true, true)  => w
        case (false, false) => i.toString
      }
    }
  case _ => // TODO handle more than 2
    { i => ??? }
}
```

General observations

- Return a sum of a subset of the configured words, if there is any divisor match.
- If there is *no* divisor match, return the numerical string.

More computation means more types

Compile each divisor to a “rule” that awaits input.

```
type Rule = Int => String

val buildRule: ((Int, String)) => Rule = {
  case (n, word) => { i =>
    if (i % n == 0) word else ""
  }
}
```

FizzBuzz demo time!

- Two volunteers: to play role of `Rule`.
- One volunteer: to combine sub-results.

4.3 Demo

Demo explanation

- Given a sequence of rules and an integer: apply all the rules to the integer, then combine the partial results.

Assemble the types

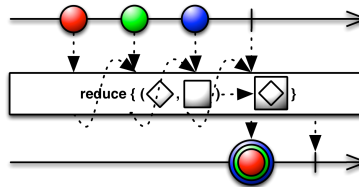
```
type Evaluator = Int    => String
type Compiler  = Config => Evaluator
type Rule      = Int    => String

val compile: Compiler = { case Config(pairs) =>
  val rules: Seq[Rule] = pairs.map(buildRule) // compile

  // Return an Evaluator.
  { i =>
    val words: Seq[String] = rules.map { rule => rule(i) }
    val combined: String = words.reduce { (x, y) => x + y }
    if (combined == "") i.toString else combined
  }
}
```

A note on reduce

For any value of type `Seq[A]`, `reduce: ((A, A) => B) => B`.



Example: for `Seq[String]`, reduction with string concatenation + returns the concatenation of all the strings in the sequence.

Test failure: coarse types again

```
nfo] x Arbitrary pair of divisors: divisible by first
rror] A counter-example is 'Config(List((8,), (32,)))'
(after 0 try)
rror] A counter-example is '32405464'
(after 0 try - shrunk ('1150076488' -> '32405464'))
rror] '32405464' is not equal to ''
(FizzBuzzSpec.scala:71)
```

Demo time!

- Configuration: `Seq(3 -> "", 5 -> "Buzz")`
- Input: 2
- Output: should be ""
- Output was: "2"

Property-based testing rescued us again!

Be honest: would you have caught this bug manually?

- I didn't.
- I never wrote `FizzBuzzPop` examples testing empty strings.
- Property-based testing reveals *unexpected* corner cases.
 - (Empty “fizz” and “buzz” word strings).

4.4 Option[A] type

An empty string is *not* equivalent to no string

Presence of something “empty” is *not* equivalent to no thing.

Sending someone an empty email versus not sending any email.

Many programming languages get this wrong.

Option[A] type

Option[A] is one of two possibilities:

- None
- Some(a) wraps a value a of type A.

For example, Some("") is not the same as None.

```
val fizzFor3      = Some("") // multiple of 3
val buzzFor3      = None    // not multiple of 5
val fizzbuzzFor3  = Some("") // fizzed ""

val fizzFor2      = None    // not multiple of 3
val buzzFor2      = None    // not multiple of 5
val fizzbuzzFor2  = None    // not multiple of any
```

Cleaning up the types

```
// was: type Rule = Int => String
type Rule = Int => Option[String]
```

Useful type errors:

```
und    : String
quired: Option[String]
      word
      ^

und    : String("")
quired: Option[String]
      ""
      ^

und    : Seq[Option[String]]
quired: Seq[String]
      val words: Seq[String] = rules map { rule => rule(i) }
                                     ^
```

Fix the type errors: our rule builder

```
type Rule = Int => Option[String]

val buildRule: ((Int, String)) => Rule = {
  case (n, word) => { i =>
    (i % n == 0).option(word)
  }
}
```

Demo time!

- (Instructions: circle what you write to wrap it with `Some`)
- Configuration: `Seq(3 -> "", 5 -> "Buzz")`
- Input: 2
- Output: should be ""

Fix the type errors: our compiler

```
val compile: Compiler = { case Config(pairs) =>
  val rules: Seq[Rule] = pairs map buildRule

  { i =>
    val wordOptions: Seq[Option[String]] =
      rules.map { rule => rule(i) }
    val combinedOption: Option[String] =
      wordOptions.reduce(addOption)
    combinedOption.getOrElse(i.toString)
  }
}
```

- We need to write: `addOption`
- Scala standard library provides: `getOrElse`

“Addition” for `Option[String]`

```
def addOption(a1: Option[String],
              a2: Option[String])
  : Option[String] = (a1, a2) match {
  case (Some(s1), None)      => Some(s1)
  case (None, Some(s2))     => Some(s2)
  case (Some(s1), Some(s2)) => Some(s1 + s2)
  case (None, None)        => None
}
```

Getting A back out of `Option[A]`

Do not lose information!

`getOrElse` inspects the
and either

- returns the value `v` inside a `Some(v)`,
- or else returns the specific default value.

Swift has two option types

Swift calls them “optionals”.

Normal optional type

- `A?` is a type for each type `A`.
- Must unwrap explicitly.

Implicit unwrapped optional type

- `A!` is a type for each type `A`.
- Unfortunate type hole:

If you try to access an implicitly unwrapped optional when it
does not contain a value, you will trigger a runtime error.

4.5 Transform information; don't destroy it

Transform information; don't destroy it

Did you notice? Our new code no longer uses `if`.

Bug cause: destroying information, using `if`

- Building a rule: `if (i % n == 0) word else ""`
- Obtaining a final string answer: `if (combined == "") i.toString else combined`

Transforming information

- To `Option[String]`: `(i % n == 0).option(word)`
- To `String`: `combinedOption.getOrElse(i.toString)`

Type-directed design tip

We could have saved trouble *up front*, by using precise *types*.

- Avoid `if`, when possible.
- Avoid `String` (but required at I/O boundaries of program).

5 Parallel FizzBuzz

Parallelism

- Use of *map*: parallelizable; there are high-performance **parallel collections** for Scala.
- Use of *reduce*: parallelizable because of the monoid property:

`Option[String]` is a **Monoid**

- There is an identity element (`None`).
- There is a binary associative operator (`addOption`).

Demo time!

- Configuration: `Seq(3 -> "Fizz", 5 -> "Buzz", 7 -> "Pop", 2 -> "Boom")`
- Input: 42
- Output: `"FizzPopBoom"`

Final parallelized code

```
val parallelCompile: Compiler = { case Config(pairs) =>
  val rules = pairs.toArray
    .toArray.
    toPar.
    map(buildRule)

  { i: Int => rules.
    map { rule => rule(i) }.
    reduce(addOption).
    getOrElse(i.toString)
  }
}
```

Coding style tip

This level of conciseness is not always best: maybe too “clever”?

Parallelism summary

We discovered a theoretical speedup for generalized **FizzBuzz**:

- Sequential: $O(n)$
- Parallel: $O(\log n)$ (given $\log n$ processors, and omitting some technical subtleties)

Also, driver outer loop can be sped up:

- Sequential loop on 1 to m : $O(m)$
- Parallel loop: $O(1)$ (given m processors)

6 Conclusion

Conclusion

- *Tests* are useful.
- *Types* are useful.
- Tests and types work well together, to drive design and program evolution.
- Modern typed languages such as Scala promote fun, correct programming!
- It's a great time to be learning and using a modern typed language: there is excitement over Apple's Swift.

Code, slides, article

- Go to <https://github.com/franklinchen/talk-on-type-directed-tdd-using-fizzbuzz>
- The article has more detail omitted in the presentation slides.
- The hyperlinks in all provided PDFs are clickable.

Appendix

Some free online courses on modern typed functional programming

- Using Scala: [Functional Programming Principles in Scala](#) on Coursera, taught by Martin Odersky (inventor of Scala)
- Using Haskell: [Introduction to Functional Programming](#) on EdX, taught by Erik Meijer (Haskell hero)

Some articles

- [The problem with Booleans and conditionals](#)
- [The problem with exceptions](#)
- [Principled validation using types](#)
- [Preventing Heartbleed by using a dependently typed language](#)
- [Twitter's use of monoids](#)
- [Side-by-side comparison of basic Scala and Swift constructs](#)