



SHOOTING FOR THE MOON

HAXE LANDS ON LUA

WRITE ONCE, TARGET MANY























WRITE ONCE, TARGET MANY



















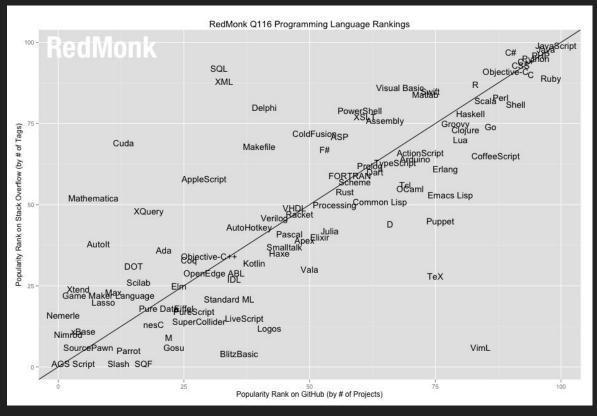






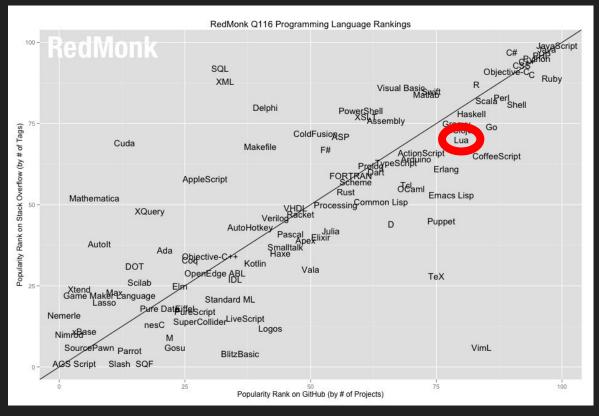


Surprisingly Active



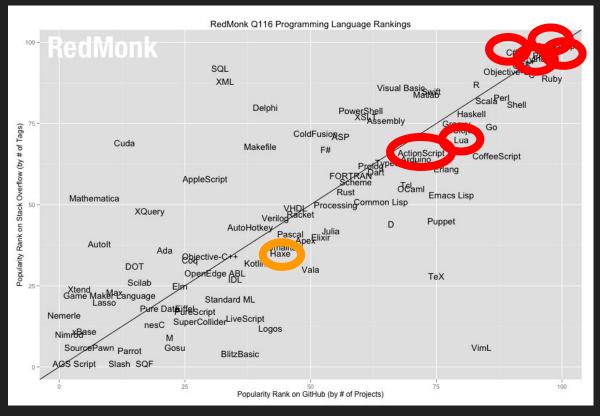
http://redmonk.com/sogrady/2016/02/19/language-rankings-1-16/

Surprisingly Active



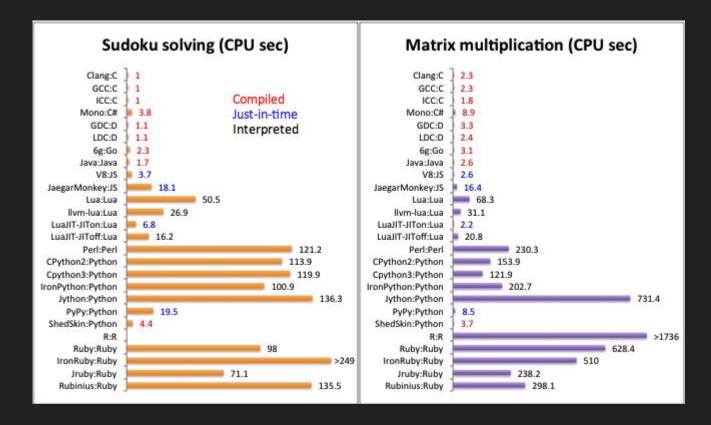
http://redmonk.com/sogrady/2016/02/19/language-rankings-1-16/

Surprisingly Active



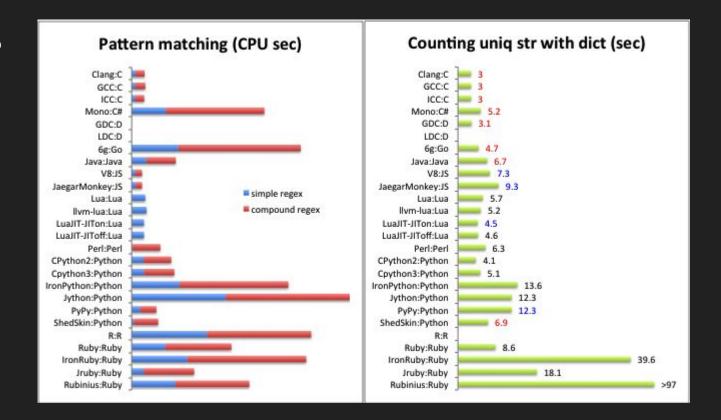
http://redmonk.com/sogrady/2016/02/19/language-rankings-1-16/

Raw Speed



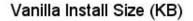
http://attractivechaos.github.io/

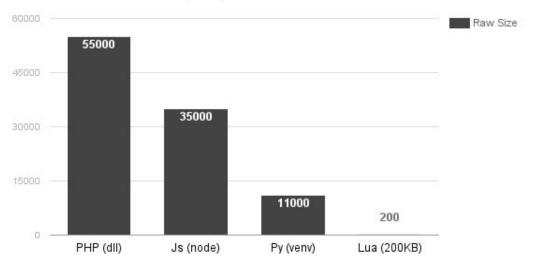
Raw Speed



http://attractivechaos.github.io/

WHY LUA? Miniscule size







Game Scripting

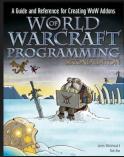
```
Untitled 2* - WowLua Editor
     print("I'm in ur script eating ur LUAs")
     function tomanystrings(...)
local n = select("#", ...)
         if n > 1 then
             return tostring(...), tomanystrings(select(2, ...))
             return tostring(...)
10
11
12
13
     print(tomanystrings("Hello", print, 1, WowLua, "Goodbye"))
I'm in ur script eating ur LUAs
Hello, function: 2DFD05C8, 1, table: 2FCF00A8, Goodbye
> print("This came from the command line below")
This came from the command line below
> Uh oh... This line isn't Lua!
> = UnitLevel("player")
```

















even have the common decency to remove your footwear. Look at all of the mud you've tracked over the house! Get out! Leave! Begone!

CLUAConsole@createCreature("cow") CLUAConsoleCreateCreature("cow")

CLUAConsoleCreateCreature("chicke") CHAConsole (reateCreature("chicke")

Web Development



Openresty



Yichun 'agentzh' Zhang (章亦春) agentzh@gmail.com, CloudFlare Inc.

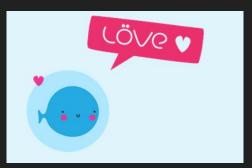


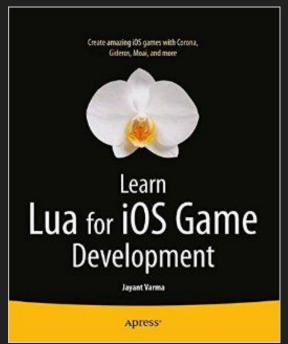
Game Development





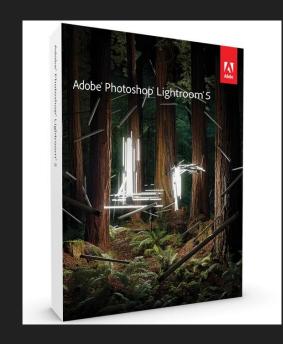


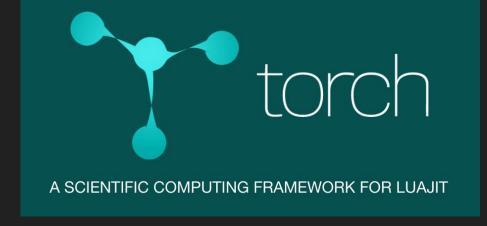




WHY LUA? And More!









Related Work

- 1. <u>Unfinished Lua target</u> by Russel Weir (2008) Partial support for Lua 5.1 in Haxe 2
- 2. <u>hx-lua</u> by Matt Tuttle (2012) Run Lua code inside C++/Neko targets
- LuaXe by Peyty (2014) Partial support for Lua 5.1 in Haxe 3 as a custom javascript target*
- 4. hxpico8 by Vadim Dyachenko (2015) Run an experimental/limited version of Lua for a virtual console.
- 5. <u>linc-luajit</u> by RudenkoArts (2016) @:native bindings for hxcpp/linc
- 6. A Comparison of Neko and Lua by Nicolas Canasse

^{*} Peyty/Oleg provided much needed support and ideas for this project, thanks!

Lua is Similar to Javascript

- One numeric type
- Strong similarities between metatable and prototype
- First class functions
- Functions are closures
- Hashes take a bracket notation, and can function as arrays
- Functions may accept variable arguments
- Haxe Lua is based off of earlier Haxe Javascript work



Lua is very Simple

- No Integer types (only floats)*
- No boolean operators (special bitops library)*
- No distinction between hashes and arrays
- No distinction between nil and "missing"
- No zero based indexes
- No regular expressions
- No system libraries
- No networking
- No OOP (metatables instead)
- No UTF8



^{* 5.2} and prior

Hello World

- Simple main()
- Trace == print
- All classes local
- Objects use special hx o helper
- __name__ for reflection

```
2. jdonaldson-ltm4 3 5 • 1 vim (tmux)
                                       18:11 < 21 May jdonaldson
                                                                     jdonaldson-ltm4
     class Main
         static function main() {
             trace("hello world");
                                                                         5/5=: 1
   2 local Main = {}
   3 Main.new = {}
   4 Main.__name__ = true
   5 Main.main = function()
       haxe.Log.trace("hello world",_hx_o({__fields__={fileName=true,lineNumber=true>
   9 Main.main();
out.lua
                                                      lua 6
                                                                   60%
                                                                           6/10=: 15
```

BitOps

- Bit operators turn into bit methods
- var =~ local

```
2. jdonaldson-ltm4 3 5 • 1 vim (tmux)

  ⟨ 18:20 ⟨ 21 May  jdonaldson  
                                                                      jdonaldson-ltm4
     class Main
         static function main() {
             var x : Dynamic = 4;
             trace( 3 | x );
                                                                          6/6≣:
 528 Main.new = {}
 529 Main.__name__ = true
 530 Main.main = function()
       local x = 4;
       haxe.Log.trace(_hx_bit.bor 3,x ,_hx_o({__fields__={fileName=true,lineNumber=t>
out.lua[+]
                                                                      $ 532/534≡: 33
                                                      lua 6
```

Unops

 Transform unary operators to one or more statements

```
2. jdonaldson-ltm4 3 5 • 1 vim (tmux)

  ⟨ 12:40 ⟨ 22 May  jdonaldson  |

                                                                       jdonaldson-ltm4
     class Main {
         static function main() {
              War x : Dynamic = 5;
              trace( x++ );
  528 Main.new = {}
  529 Main.__name__ = true
  530 Main.main = function()
        local x = 5;
        x = (x) + (1);
        haxe.Log.trace((x) - (1),_hx_o({__fields__={fileName=true,lineNumber=true,cl>
  534 end
  536 Math.__name__ = true
                                                                       532/1268 =:
out.lua
                                                      lua 6
Type :quit<Enter> to exit Vim
```

Unops

- Transform unary operators to one or more statements
- Deconstruct expression

```
2. jdonaldson-ltm4 3 5 • 1 vim (tmux)
                                       12:50 < 22 May jdonaldson
                                                                     jdonaldson-ltm4
     class Main
         static function main() {
             var x : Dynamic = 4;
             trace((x+=2) + ++x);
                                                                         6/6≣:
  528 Main.new = {}
  529 Main.__name__ = true
  530 Main.main = function()
        local x = 4;
       x = (x) + (2);
        local tmp = x;
        x = (x) + (1);
        haxe.Log.trace((tmp) + (x),_hx_o({__fields__={fileName=true,lineNumber=true,>
  536 end
                                                                     529/1270 =: 1
out.lua
                                                     lua f
Type :quit<Enter> to exit Vim
```

Anon

- {x = null}x is not detectableas empty field.
- Replace default table with new hx anon impl

```
2. jdonaldson-ltm4 3 5 • 1 vim (tmux)
                                    jdonaldson-ltm4
          vim
   27 local function _hx_anon_newindex(t,k,v) t.__fields__[k] = true; rawset(t,k,v);>
   28 local _hx_anon_mt = {__newindex=_hx_anon_newindex}
   29 local function _hx_anon(...)
       local __fields__ = {};
        local ret = {__fields__ = __fields__};
        local max = select('#',...);
        local tab = {...};
        local cur = 1:
       while cur < max do
        local v = tab[cur];
        __fields__[v] = true;
         ret[v] = tab[cur+1];
        cur = cur + 2
       return setmetatable(ret, _hx_anon_mt)
   42 end
                            # trailing[78] mixed-indent[93] mix-indent-file[92:30]
NORMAL
```

Anon

- {x = null}x is not detectableas empty field.
- Replace default table with new _hx_anon impl
- Field presence is stored in a separate sub-table

```
2. jdonaldson-ltm4 3 5 • 1 vim (tmux)

  ⟨ 13:05 ⟨ 22 May  jdonaldson  
                                                                      jdonaldson-ltm4
     class Main
         static function main() {
             trace {x : 4, y : "hi", z : null});
        ,'__class__', Date
  528 Main.new = {}
  529 Main.__name__ = true
  530 Main.main = function()
        haxe.Log.trace(_hx_o({__fields__={x=true,y=true,z=true},x=4,y="hi",z=nil}),_>
  534 Math.__name__ = true
                                                                      532/1266 ::
out.lua
                                                     lua i
```

Anon

- {x = null}x is not detectableas empty field.
- Replace default table with new _hx_anon impl
- Field presence is stored in a separate sub-table
- Used for base in all OOP, Class definitions

```
idonaldson-ltm4 ☐ 5 • 1 vim (tmux)
                               13:08 \ 22 May | jdonaldson
                                                                     jdonaldson-ltm4
      String.prototype = _hx_anon(
        'toUpperCase', function(self)
          do return _G.string.upper(self) end
        end.
        'toLowerCase', function(self)
          do return _G.string.lower(self) end
        'indexOf', function(self,str,startIndex)
          if ((startIndex) == (nil)) then
            startIndex = 1:
          else
            startIndex = (startIndex) + (1);
          end:
          local r = _G.string.find(self,str,startIndex,true);
          if (((r) \sim (nil))) and ((r) > (0))) then
            do return (r) - (1) end:
          else
            do return -1 end:
          end;
        end.
        'lastIndexOf', function(self,str,startIndex)
          local ret = -1;
          if ((startIndex) == (nil)) then
                           # trailing[621] mixed-indent[80] mix-indent-file[79:617]
NORMAL
          <16/1266≡: 7 ●
```

Quick Overview : Metatables

- Adds special functionality to tables
- __index overrides missing value behavior
- __newindex overrides new value behavior
- __concat, __add, __eq, __lt, __gt :
 overrides comparison/operator behavior
- __call : allow table to be called as a function

```
local x = {}
local f = function() return 4 end;
local mt = { __index = f };
setmetatable(x, f);
print(x.anyfield); -- "4"
```

```
class Main
      static function main() {
           var f = new Foo();
           trace(f.x + " is the value for f.x");
 8 class Foo extends Bar {
       public function new(){
13 7
15 class Bar
       public var x : Int:
       public function new(){
       public function bar(){ trace ("bar"); }
21
```

OOP Builds on new anon table behaviors and metatables.

```
13:14 < 22 May jdonaldson jdonaldson-ltm4
                                                      528 Main.new = {}
                                                      529 Main.__name__ = true
                                                      530 Main.main = function()
                                                      531 haxe.Log.trace(Foo.new().x .. " is the value for f.x",_hx_o({__fields__={fileName=true,lineNumber=true,cla>
                                                      535 Bar.new = function()
                                                           local self = _hx_new(Bar.prototype)
                                                           Bar.super(self)
                                                      538 return self
                                                      541 Bar.super = function(self)
                                                      544 Bar.__name__ = true
                                                      546 Bar.prototype = _hx_anon(
                                                           'bar', function(self)
                                                             haxe.Log.trace("bar",_hx_o({__fields__={fileName=true,lineNumber=true,className=true,methodName=true},fi>
                                                      553 Foo.new = function()
                                                           local self = _hx_new(Foo.prototype)
                                                           Foo.super(self)
                                                           return self
                                                      559 Foo.super = function(self)
                                                           Bar.super(self);
                                                      565 Foo.prototype = _hx_anon(
                                                      568 )
                                                      569 Foo.__super__ = Bar
                                                      570 setmetatable(Foo.prototype,{__index=Bar.prototype})
43% \ 572/1313≡:
                                                                                                                    lua I
                                                                                                                              utf-8
```

lua I

utf-8

43% 1 572/1313 =:

```
class Main
       static function main() {
           var f = new Foo();
           trace(f.x + " is the value for f.x");
 8 class Foo extends Bar {
       public function new(){
13 1
15 class Bar
      public var x : Int;
       public function new(){
           x = 1:
       public function bar(){ trace ("bar"); }
21
```

100% 1 21/21≡: 1

```
class Main
       static function main() {
           var f = new Foo();
           trace(f.x + " is the value for f.x");
   8 class Foo extends Bar {
       public function new(){
  13 7
  15 class Bar
       public var x : Int;
       public function new(){
       public function bar(){ trace ("bar"); }
  21
```

```
13:14 < 22 May jdonaldson jdonaldson-ltm4
528 Main.new = {}
529 Main.__name__ = true
530 Main.main = function()
     haxe.Log.trace(Foo.new().x .. " is the value for f.x",_hx_o({__fields__={fileName=true,lineNumber=true,cla>}
535 Bar.new = function()
     local self = _hx_new(Bar.prototype)
     Bar.super(self)
538 return self
541 Bar.super = function(self)
544 Bar.__name__ = true
546 Bar.prototype = _hx_anon(
      'bar', function(self)
       haxe.Log.trace("bar",_hx_o({__fields__={fileName=true,lineNumber=true,className=true,methodName=true},fi>
```

Super is passed "self" as an argument, new is not.

lua (

utf-8

43% 572/1313≡:

Prototype only contains instance methods

1 class Main {
2 static function main() {
3 var f = new Foo();
4 trace(f.x + " is the value for f.x");
5 }
6 }
7
8 class Foo extends Bar {
9 public function new(){
10 super();
11 x = 2;
12 }
13 }
14
15 class Bar public var x : Int;
17 public function new(){
18 x = 1;
19 }
20 public function bar(){ trace ("bar"); }

100% 1 21/21≡: 1

21

- Foo is instantiated pretty much the same way
- Foo calls its own super on self as well as Bar's super
- We set the Bar.prototype as the __index metatable for the Foo.prototype.
- Foo methods take precedence, but will use Bar methods as a fallback (giving overriding method functionality in OOP)

```
553 Foo.new = function()
        local self = _hx_new(Foo.prototype)
        Foo.super(self)
        return self
  559 Foo.super = function(self)
        Bar.super(self);
  563 Foo.__name__ = true
  565 Foo.prototype = _hx_anon(
        '_class_', Foo
  568 )
  569 Foo.__super__ = Bar
  570 setmetatable(Foo.prototype,{__index=Bar.prototype})
out.lua[+]
                                                                       lua i
                                                                                 utf-8
                                                                                               43% \ 572/1313≡:
```

Extern

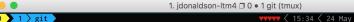
- @:native binds to native interface
- @:expose binds class/method body to global metatable
- @:selfCall allows methods to instead call the module/class
- includeFile adds helper methods in lua

```
idonaldson-ltm4 ☐ 5 • 1 vim (tmux)
                                                            16:26 < 22 May idonaldson idonaldson-ltm4
  28 @:native("_hx_bit")
  29 extern class Bit {
         public static function bnot(x:Float) : Int;
         public static function band(a:Float, b:Float) : Int;
         public static function bor(a:Float, b:Float) : Int;
         public static function bxor(a:Float, b:Float) : Int;
         public static function lshift(x:Float, places:Int) : Int;
         public static function rshift(X:Float, places:Int) : Int;
         public static function arshift(x:Float, places:Int) : Int;
         public static function mod(numerator:Float, denominator:Float) : Int;
         public static function __init__() : Void {
             haxe.macro.Compiler.includeFile("lua/_lua/_hx_bit.lua");
  42 }
                                                       utf-8
                                                                                         mix-indent-file[36:2]
   1 local _hx_bit
   2 pcall(require, 'bit32') pcall(require, 'bit')
   3 local _hx_bit_raw = bit or bit32
   5 local function _hx_bit_clamp(v) return _hx_bit_raw.band(v, 2147483647 ) - _hx_bit_raw.band(v, 2147483648) end
   7 if type(jit) == 'table' then
       _hx_bit = setmetatable({}),{__index = function(t,k) return function(...) return _hx_bit_clamp(rawget(_hx_bi>
   9 else
       _hx_bit = setmetatable({}, { __index = _hx_bit_raw })
       _hx_bit.bnot = function(...) return _hx_bit_clamp(_hx_bit_raw.bnot(...)) end
  12 end
                                                                                                       8/12≡:
std/lua/_lua/_hx_bit.lua
                                                                                  utf-8
                                                                       lua i
"std/lua/Bit.hx" 42L, 1831C writtenlkj
```

History

- git log --reverse --grep Lua
- Review the lua changes
- "Most" changes get detailed overviews, rationales, observations, concerns, next steps
- Covers development of ~ 1 year





idonaldson idonaldson-ltm4

commit 870b129b82ca7a9d821d2e7f3485d74e3966946c

Date: Mon Jan 26 23:52:00 2015 -0800

genjs.ml -> genlua.ml : Down the Rabbit Hole

Recently, I've become somewhat obsessed with using Haxe to target Lua. Partially, I want to be able to use Lua as a scripting language for Vim and maybe NeoVim. There exists projects like the jayascript-generator based Luaxe, but part of me wondered "how hard would it be to just do a proper lua target for Haxe?". This branch will serve to scratch that itch, and I'll document my progress along the way.

The javascript generator already comes pretty close to handling all of code won't work because it thinks it's still in the js namespace, etc.

So, since javascript comes so close to lua, we'll use it as a base. The first step is to copy the existing genjs.ml over to genlua.ml. From there, I can track the changes to genlua.ml over the existing javascript

Date: Tue Jan 27 22:22:50 2015 -0800

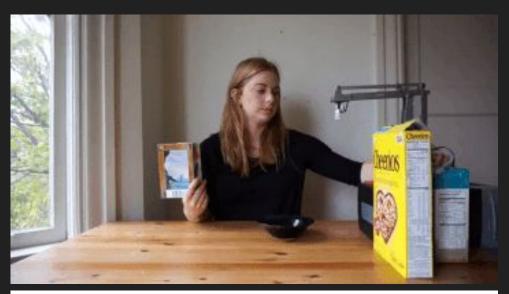
The next step is to let the Haxe compiler "know" about the new lua target available via genlua.ml. This involves adding genlua to the Makefile, and introducing Lua as an enum for the purposes of various command and platform behaviors.

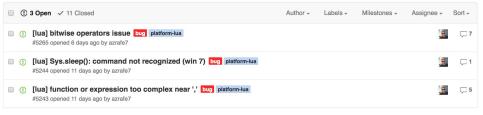
At ths point, you can invoke "haxe -lua" just fine, but the resulting

We'll need to do something for std like we did for genlua... copy existing is files over until the compiler is happy. That's coming up

Still some kinks to work out

- Cannot declare more than 200 local variables in single scope
- Sys api is incomplete
- Null (nil) in string concatenation throws errors
- No first class support for multireturn externs
- Generated Lua could be more clear and compact





Avoiding Pain And Humiliation

- Don't use more than 200 local variables (even when workaround is in place).
 - Avoid abstracts/inlines that result in temporary variable creation
- Avoid assigning instance/static methods unnecessarily (e.g. dynamic methods or as fields).
- Avoid using "Lua.arg" or "haxe.extern.Rest" (defeating jit optimizations)
- Use unique variable names in any lua include/__init__ code.



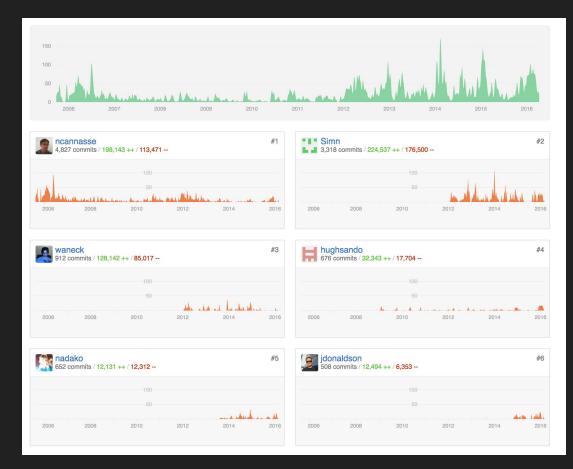
Lessons Learned

- OCaml is not so scary
- Lua has made very few mistakes.
 - It also has very few "batteries" included
- Lua is fragmented... worrisome
 - Lua 5.2, LuaJit, Lua 5.3
- Finding free time with a newborn is extremely easy, then extremely hard.
- NC & Simn are machines









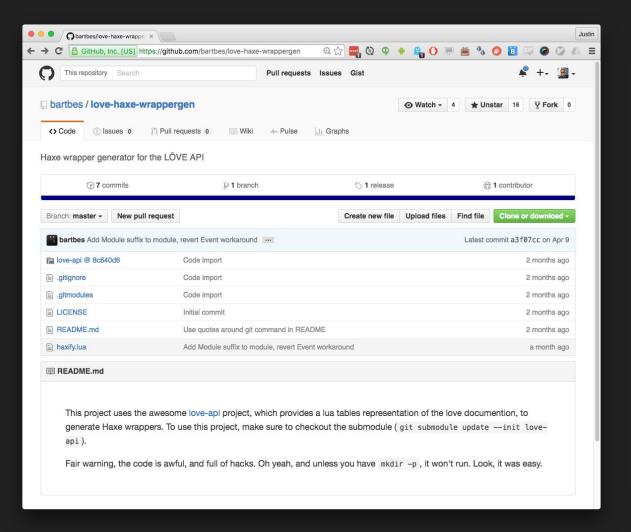
If I were to do it over again...

- Start from scratch instead of copying genjs.ml
- Rewrite expressions rather than emitting Lua code as bare strings
- Better familiarize myself with the utility debug methods in type.ml (s_type_kind, etc)
- Bothered the other core developers more with stupid questions.

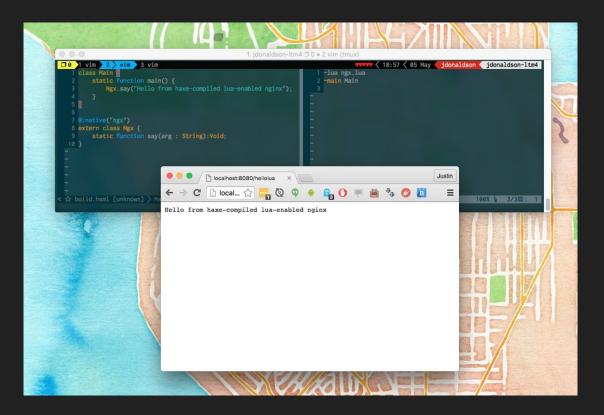


Haxe Love

- Love-haxe-wrappergen
- Released ~24 hours after official Haxe Lua announcement



Nginhx



https://github.com/jdonaldson/nginhx

HaxeCraft

```
1. jdonaldson-ltm4 @ 0 = 1 vim (bash)
                                                     ₩₩₩₩ < 14:40 < 14 May
                                                                                          jdonaldson-ltm4
                                                                                                               World of Warcraft
|| extern class Wow |
```

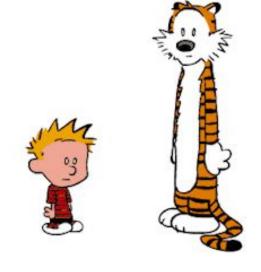
https://github.com/jdonaldson/haxecraft

Recap

- Lua == speedy, small, and great for sandboxing
- Lua overlaps a great deal with Haxe community (+ a few more niches)
- 3. Haxe does Lua 5.2, LuaJit 2.0, and Lua 5.3 (wip)
- 4. Haxe Lua commit messages == Learn how the compiler works
- 5. HaxeCraft, Nginhx, Haxe Love are some early projects

THE END! QUESTIONS?





jdonaldson@gmail.com twitter @omgjjd