

how to code good*

Thanh Nguyen

*well (if you want to be grammatically correct)

Don't use git like a monkey

Before you start working

- `git pull`
 - Loads your teammates' changes
 - Do it frequently to avoid merge conflicts
- `git pull --rebase`
 - Puts your changes on top of the remote changes
 - I recommend doing this instead of just `git pull`...a bit more advanced
- `git pull --merge`
 - Default behavior
 - local changes are merged with the remote changes

Before you commit

- Before running `git add` / `git commit`
- Review what changes you've made with `git status`

```
thanh@terminal catbook-react % git status
On branch w9-step8
Your branch is up to date with 'origin/w9-step8'.

Changes to be committed:
  (use "git restore --staged <file>..." to unstage)
        deleted:    client/src/public/corgi.jpg
```

Before you commit

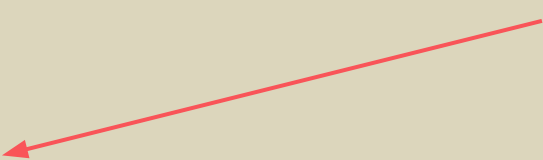
- Optionally, review your changes more thoroughly with `git diff`

```
thanh@terminal catbook-react % git diff
diff --git a/README.md b/README.md
index b522ee6..df21c91 100644
--- a/README.md
+++ b/README.md
@@ -1,8 +1,4 @@
-# catbook-react

-## start up
-
-run `npm start` in one terminal and `npm run hotloader` in another

visit `http://localhost:5000`

thanh@terminal catbook-react %
```



changes

Before you commit

```
SyntaxError: Invalid or unexpected token
  at wrapSafe (internal/modules/cjs/loader.js:988:16)
  at Module._compile (internal/modules/cjs/loader.js:1036:27)
  at Object.Module._extensions..js (internal/modules/cjs/loader.js:1101:10)
  at Module.load (internal/modules/cjs/loader.js:937:32)
  at Function.Module._load (internal/modules/cjs/loader.js:778:12)
  at Function.executeUserEntryPoint [as runMain] (internal/modules/run_main.js:76:12)
  at internal/main/run_main_module.js:17:47
[nodemon] app crashed - waiting for file changes before starting...
thanh@terminal catbook-react % git commit -m 'broken code is better than no code'
```



DO NOT!

When to commit

- When you add something and it works, then commit
 - More often is generally better than less often

Fixed auth middleware status code



johancc committed 10 hours ago

Commit adds a single thing,
and is focused/clear

- Avoid mega-commits

Fixed styling, removed @components, remove SSR, updated webpack config



johancc committed 4 days ago

Commit tries to do too
much, not focused

DANGEROUS commands!

- `git add .`
 - This will add all files in the current directory to git
 - Make sure to setup .gitignore files to avoid committing node_modules or credentials
- `git push --force`
 - **NEVER USE** unless you know what you're doing
- `git reset --hard`
 - Deletes all uncommitted changes
- `git commit --amend`
 - Don't ammend commits you've already pushed
 - Make a new commit instead

Useful git commands

- **git stash**

- git stash allows you to store your current changes

- **git stash pop**

- git stash allows you to “pop” the most recent stored changes

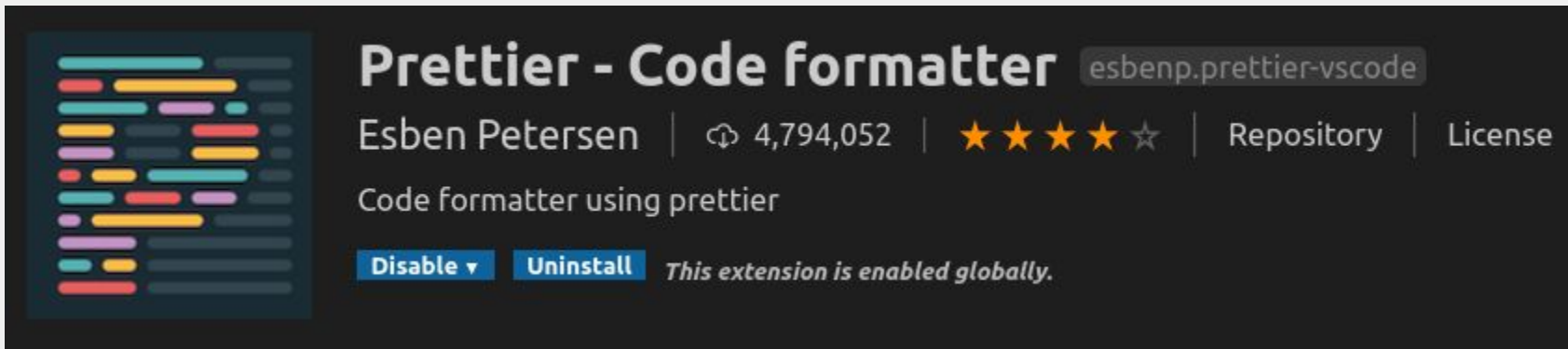
- **git branch**

- git branch allows you to “diverge” and focus on one issue
- git checkout (used in workshops!) will then allow you to move to different branches

Code formatting/style

Use prettier!!

- VSCode extension



The screenshot shows the VS Code extension marketplace page for 'Prettier - Code formatter' by 'esbenp.prettier-vscode'. The extension has 4,794,052 downloads and a 4.5-star rating. It is currently installed and enabled globally. The 'Disable' button is visible, and the 'Uninstall' button is disabled. The description states 'Code formatter using prettier'.

Prettier - Code formatter esbenp.prettier-vscode

Esben Petersen | 4,794,052 | ★★★★★ | Repository | License

Code formatter using prettier

Disable **Uninstall** *This extension is enabled globally.*

Editor: Format On Save

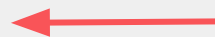
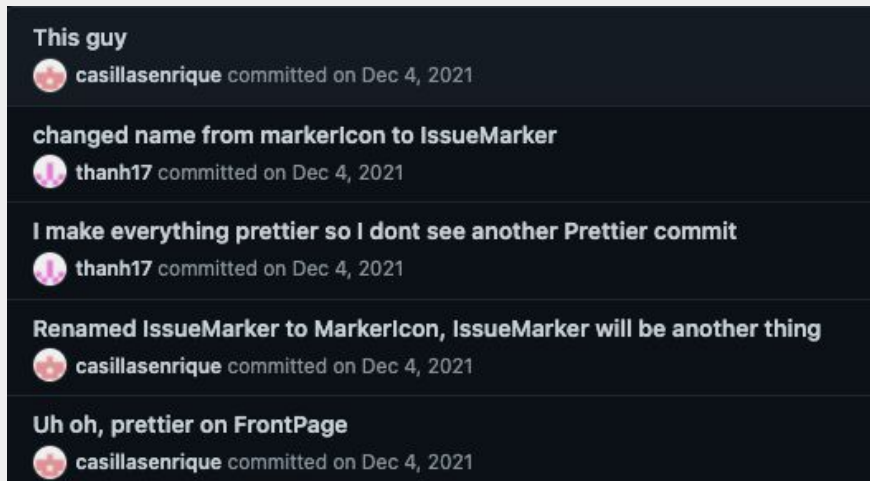


Format a file on save. A formatter must be available, the file must not be saved after delay, and the editor must not be shutting down.

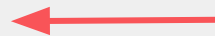
- Makes your code pretty every time you hit "save"

Danger!

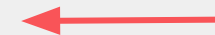
- Decide as a team if you want to use prettier
- Either everybody use it, or nobody use it
- **Can run into nasty merge conflicts otherwise**



Merge Conflict



Monkey moment from Thanh
(inconsistent Prettier package)



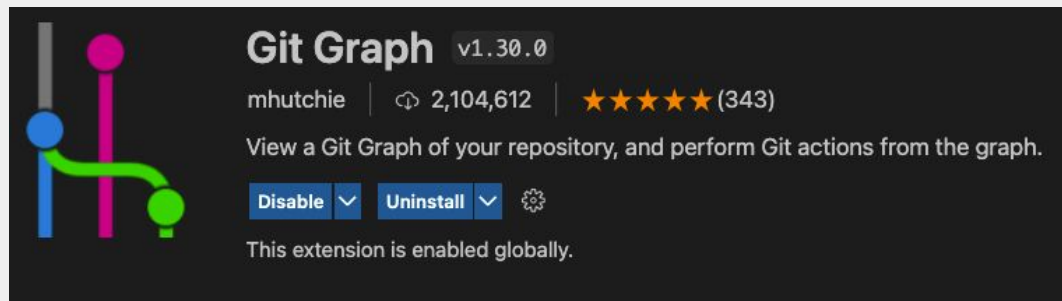
Autoformat with Prettier

Some Support!

*but still make sure you know how to

Git Support

- Don't like terminal? Don't use it!*



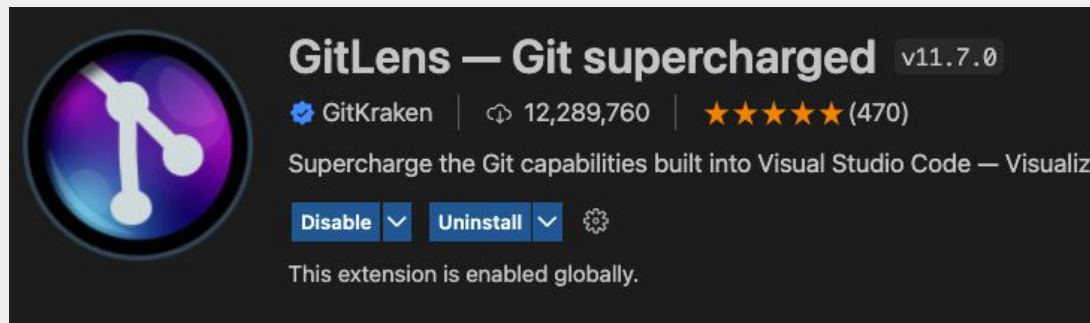
Git Graph v1.30.0

mhutchie | 2,104,612 | ★★★★★ (343)

View a Git Graph of your repository, and perform Git actions from the graph.

[Disable](#) [Uninstall](#) ⚙️

This extension is enabled globally.



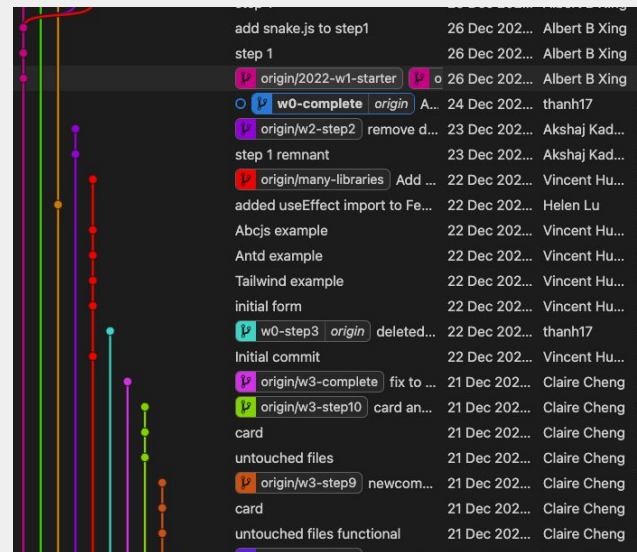
GitLens — Git supercharged v11.7.0

GitKraken | 12,289,760 | ★★★★★ (470)

Supercharge the Git capabilities built into Visual Studio Code — Visualiz

[Disable](#) [Uninstall](#) ⚙️

This extension is enabled globally.

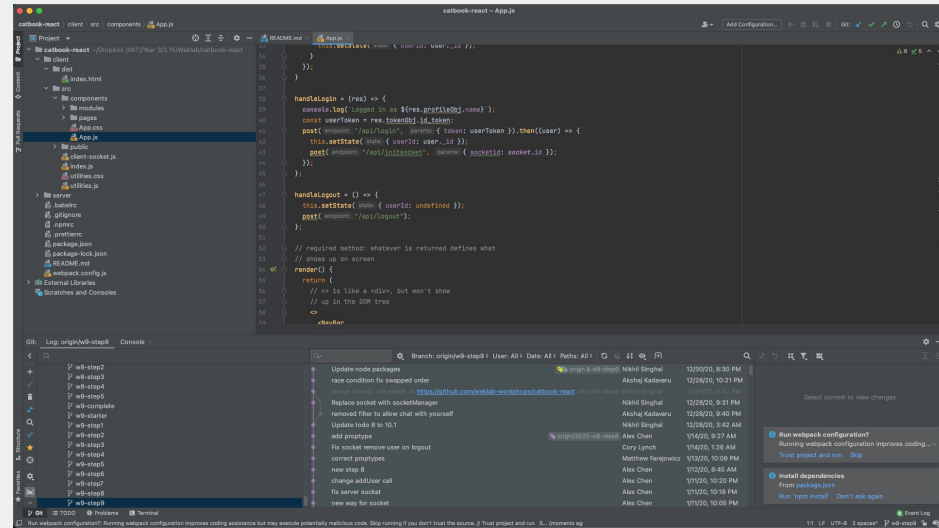


A detailed view of a Git commit history graph. The graph shows a series of vertical lines representing branches, with colored dots indicating commits. The lines are color-coded: blue for 'origin', green for 'w0-complete', red for 'w0-step3', and orange for 'w0-step9'. The dots are also color-coded to match the branches. The graph shows a complex history with multiple branches and merges.

Commit Message	Date	Author
add snake.js to step1	26 Dec 202...	Albert B Xing
step 1	26 Dec 202...	Albert B Xing
origin/2022-w1-starter	26 Dec 202...	Albert B Xing
w0-complete	24 Dec 202...	thanh17
origin/w2-step2	23 Dec 202...	Akshaj Kad...
remove d...	23 Dec 202...	Akshaj Kad...
step 1 remnant	23 Dec 202...	Akshaj Kad...
origin/many-libraries	22 Dec 202...	Vincent Hu...
Add ...	22 Dec 202...	Helen Lu
added useEffect import to Fe...	22 Dec 202...	Helen Lu
Abcjs example	22 Dec 202...	Vincent Hu...
Antd example	22 Dec 202...	Vincent Hu...
Tailwind example	22 Dec 202...	Vincent Hu...
initial form	22 Dec 202...	Vincent Hu...
w0-step3	22 Dec 202...	thanh17
deleted...	22 Dec 202...	Vincent Hu...
Initial commit	22 Dec 202...	Vincent Hu...
origin/w3-complete	21 Dec 202...	Claire Cheng
fix to ...	21 Dec 202...	Claire Cheng
origin/w3-step10	21 Dec 202...	Claire Cheng
card an...	21 Dec 202...	Claire Cheng
card	21 Dec 202...	Claire Cheng
untouched files	21 Dec 202...	Claire Cheng
origin/w3-step9	21 Dec 202...	Claire Cheng
newcom...	21 Dec 202...	Claire Cheng
card	21 Dec 202...	Claire Cheng
untouched files functional	21 Dec 202...	Claire Cheng

A Different Editor..?

- Webstorm/IntelliJ
 - A lot more resource intensive...RAM goes brrrrrrrrrr
 - A lot more features...so can be confusing
 - Better code and specification assistance...and superior to VSCode (In my opinion)
 - Talk to me if you want to know more...



Typescript!! (Tomorrow with Vincent)



```
const user = {  
  firstName: "Angela",  
  lastName: "Davis",  
  role: "Professor",  
}
```

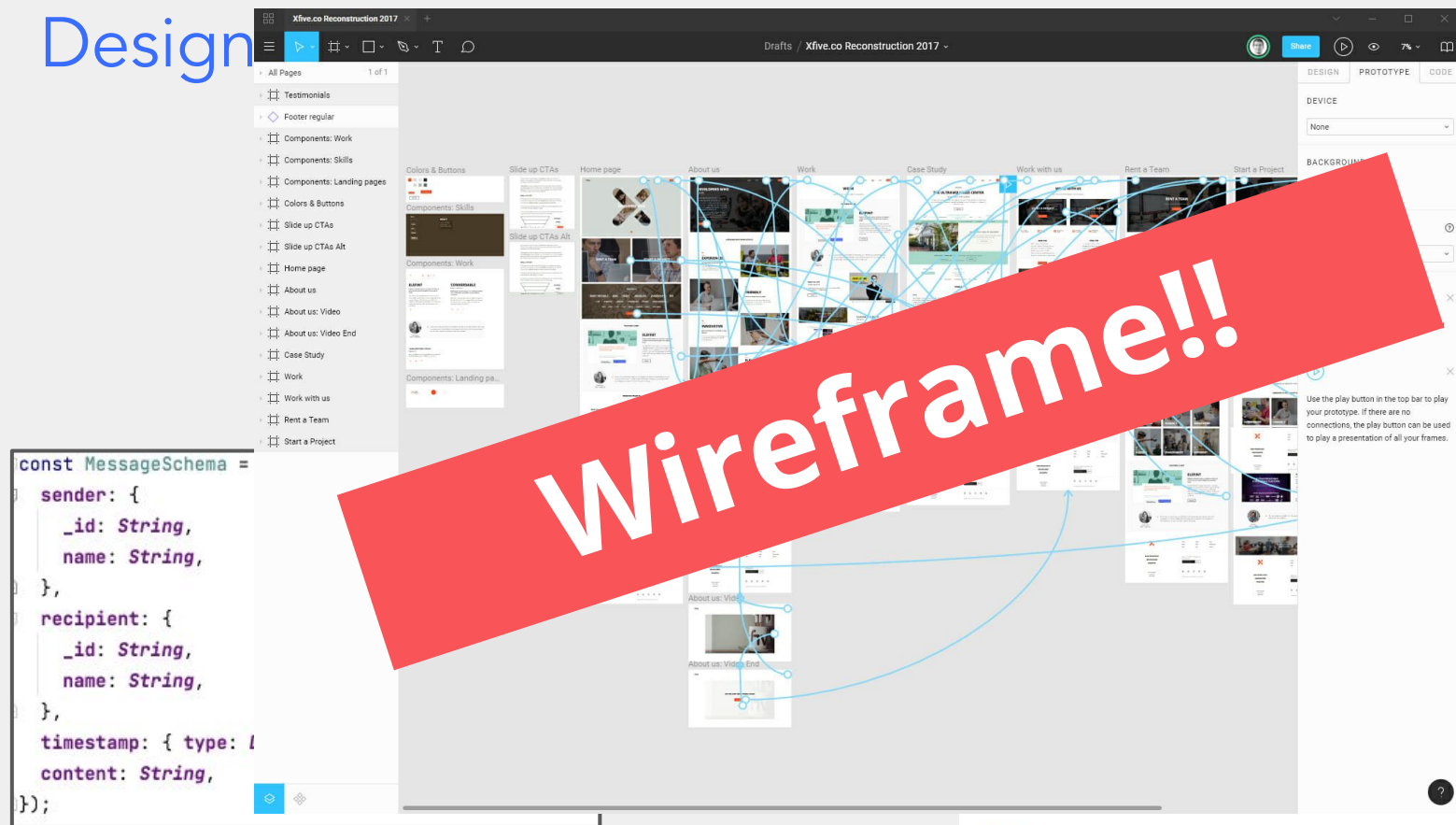
```
console.log(user.name)
```

```
Property 'name' does not exist on type '{ firstName:  
string; lastName: string; role: string; }'.
```


Writing quality code

In most cases, bad code is a result of
bad design.

Design



Mongoose schemas

API Specifications

"if you don't have any design, you don't know what you are making."

- some dude from stackoverflow

Scenario: I want to add a new feature, but...

My code is structured in a way that makes this difficult.

Two options:

1. Restructure the code, which might take **3 hours**
2. Come up with a hacky solution, which only takes **30 mins**

What is hacky code?

Code may be hacky if...

- It's super inefficient
- Difficult to understand/complicated logic flow
- Might easily break if you need to tweak it in the future
- Messes with a library in a way that wasn't intended
- and so on...

Avoid the need for hacks at all

- **Design well from the start**
 - Keep in mind your designs will likely change!
 - Feel free to talk to us about this
- Draw out a React component hierarchy
- Discuss the best Mongoose schema with your team
- Write a **specification** for your API

API Specification

- For every API route
 - Is it GET or POST (or something else?)
 - What parameters does it expect
 - What does it return?

1. User API

[Get Current User's User Model \(whoami route\)](#)

[Get all User Objects](#)

[Get a SINGLE User Object if you have the _id of that user.](#)

[Update users](#)

[Delete users](#)

2. Team API

[Access ALL Teams](#)

[Access all info about ONE team](#)

[Add team members to a team](#)

[Remove team members to a team](#)

[Mark Milestone Completion for a Team](#)

[Give feedback to a Team](#)

[Generate github link for a team](#)

[Create a team](#)

Create a team

Creates a Team model and saves it to the database. Also updates the User model for the user who is creating the team to indicate which team they are part of.

Method	URL
POST	/teams

Type	Params	Values
BODY	team_name	string
BODY	is_competing	boolean

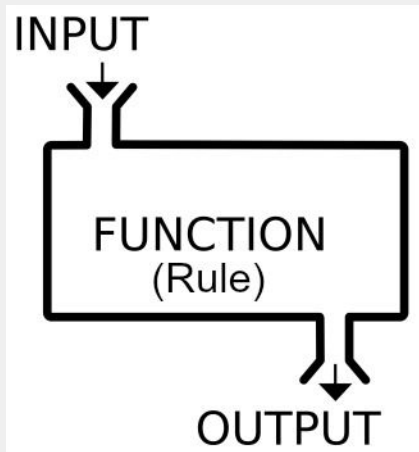
What is clean code?

D.R.Y. Principle

- Don't repeat yourself!
- If you are repeating code anywhere, you probably want to abstract it into a function

Functions

- Function should only do one thing: they should do it the right way and just do it.
 - A boolean parameter already clearly states that it does more than one thing.
- Clearly define your **specifications**
 - **Preconditions**? What inputs does it take?
 - **Postconditions**? What does your function return?
- Keep it simple stupid



Meaningful Names

- Correctly describes what it does. The name does not imply “side effects”

Signs/consequences of janky code

Code Smell

Signs that your code may have some deeper problems...

- Lots of **copy-pasted** code
- Functions that are **way too long**
- Lines of code that are **way too long**
- **Dead code:** Entire functions/files that are unused

<http://weblab.to/smell>

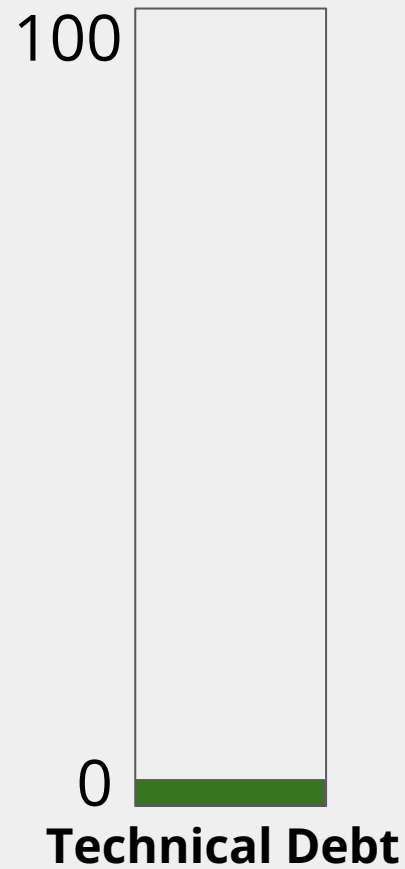
Example: My past code

```
router.patch( path:('/:id?'), handlers: [validateThat.discussionExists], async (req : Request) {
  const updatedDiscussion = req.body.newContent
  ? await controller.updateDiscussion(req.params.id, req.body.newContent)
  : req.body.upvotingAction
  ? req.body.canUpvote
  ? await controller.incrementCount(req.params.id, req.body.user)
  : await controller.decrementCount(req.params.id, req.body.user)
  : req.body.reportingAction
  ? req.body.report
  ? await controller.report(req.params.id)
  : await controller.undoReport(req.params.id)
  : req.body.disableAction
  ? await controller.disableDiscussion(req.params.id)
  : undefined;
```

Technical Debt

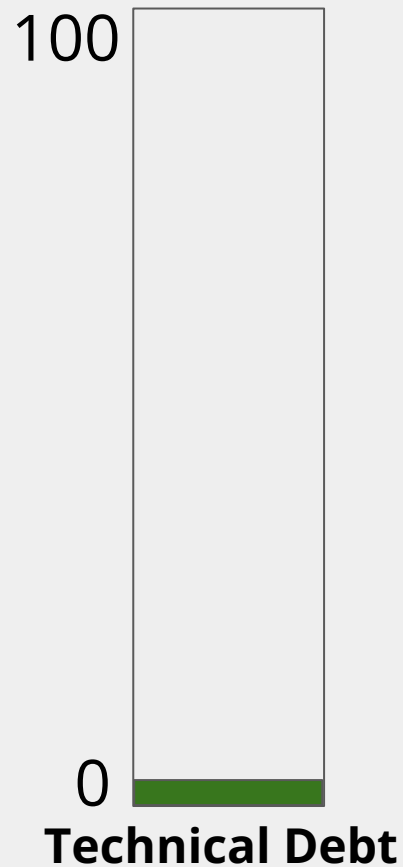
- When you choose a **quick hack** instead of a better solution
- Causes:
 - Lack of time
 - Laziness
 - Developer doesn't know any better
- Creates “debt” you may need to pay off later...

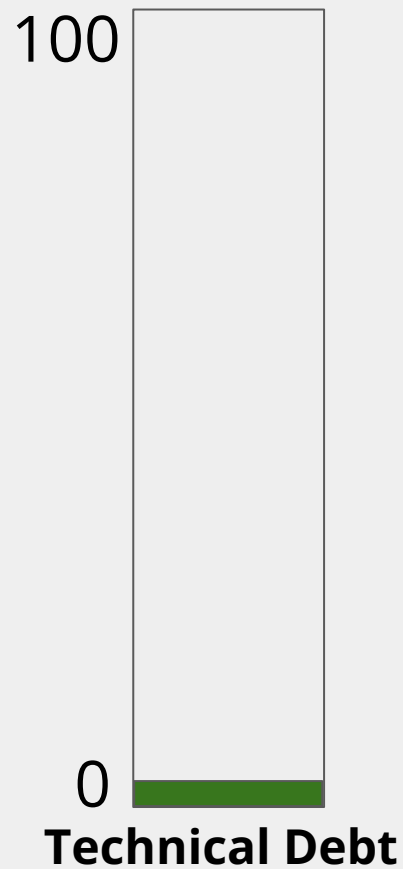
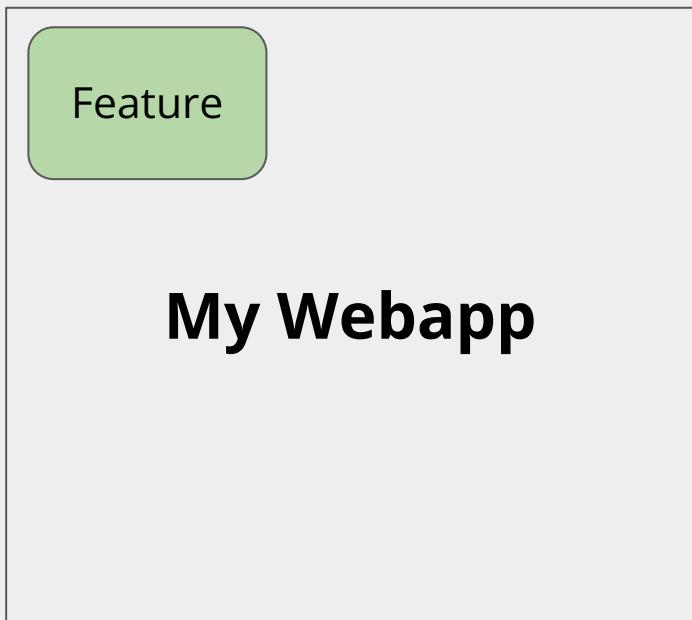
My Webapp



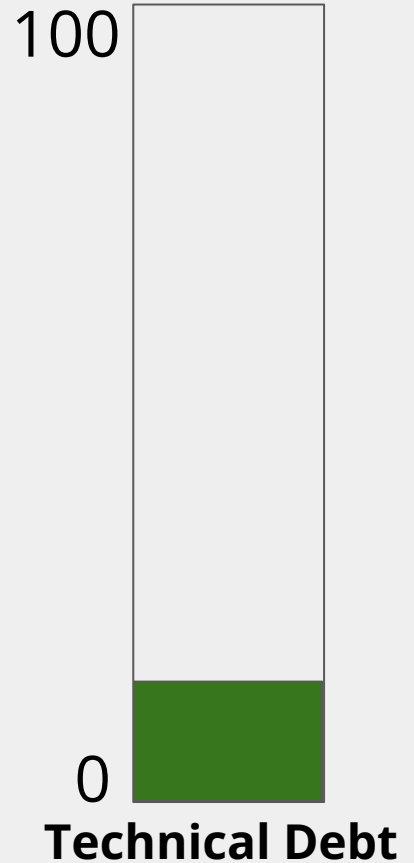
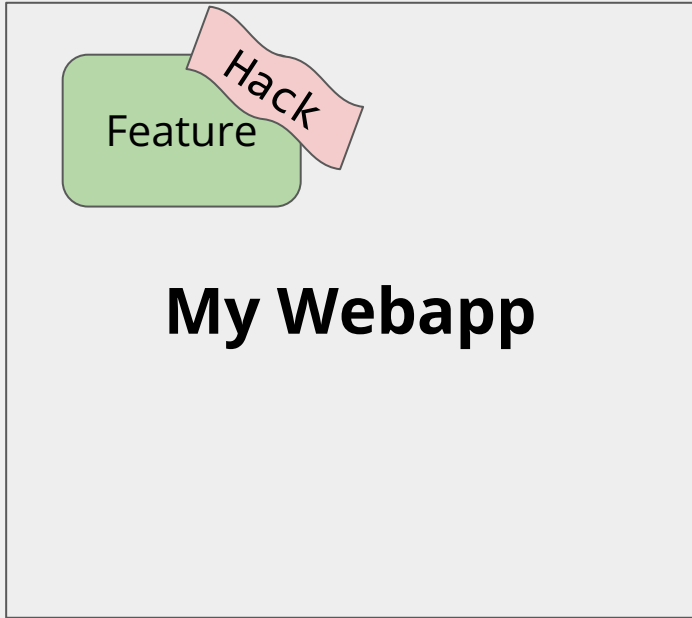
I'm gonna make feature X

My Webapp

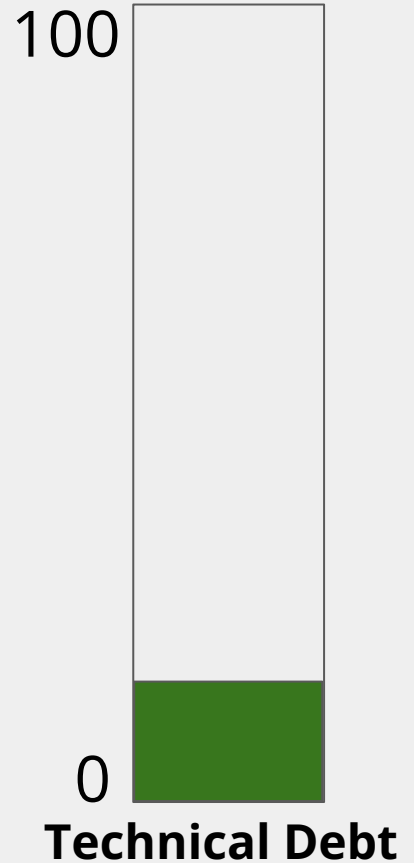
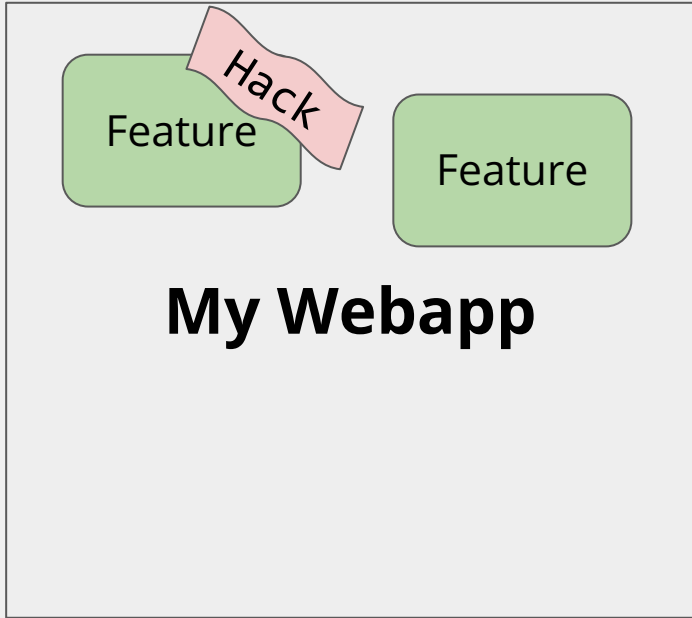




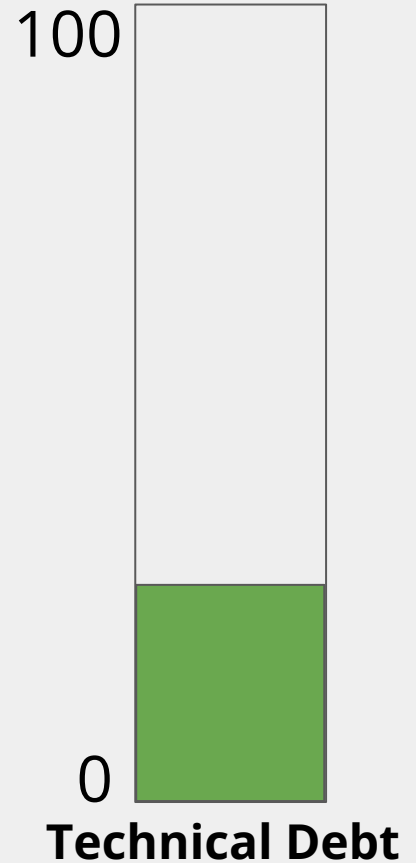
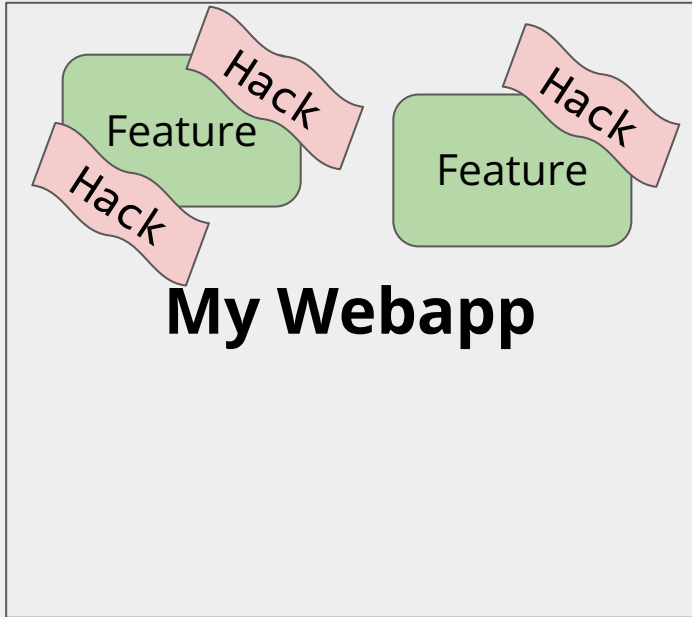
It's not quite right... let me add a hacky fix

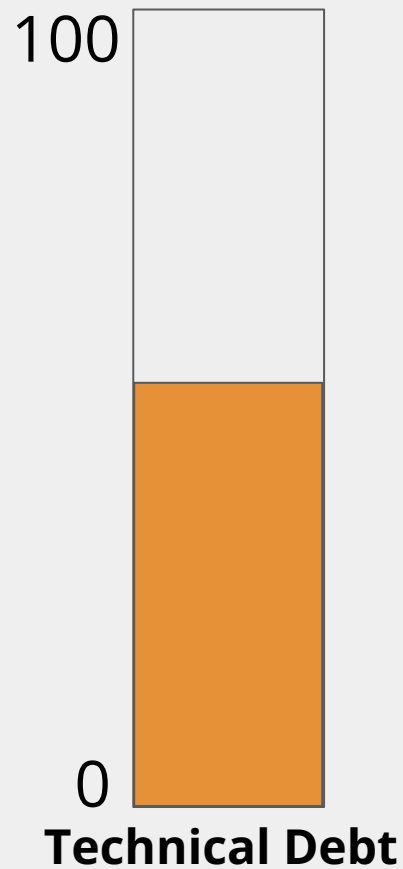
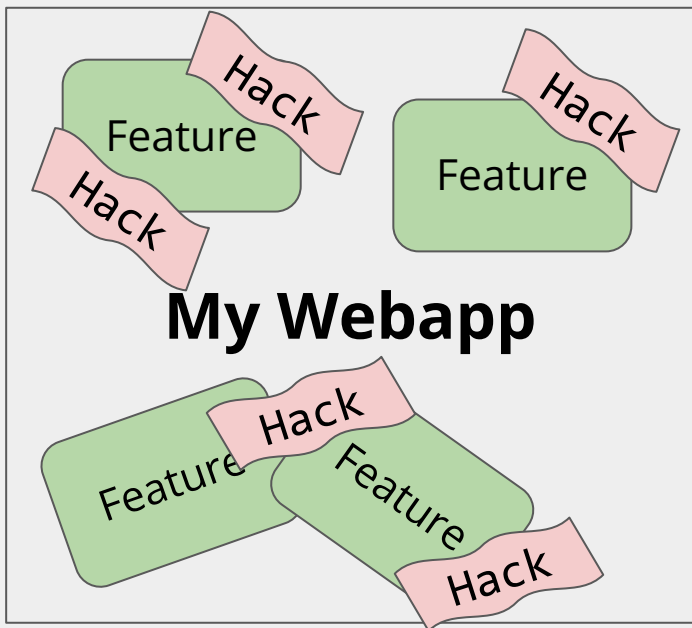


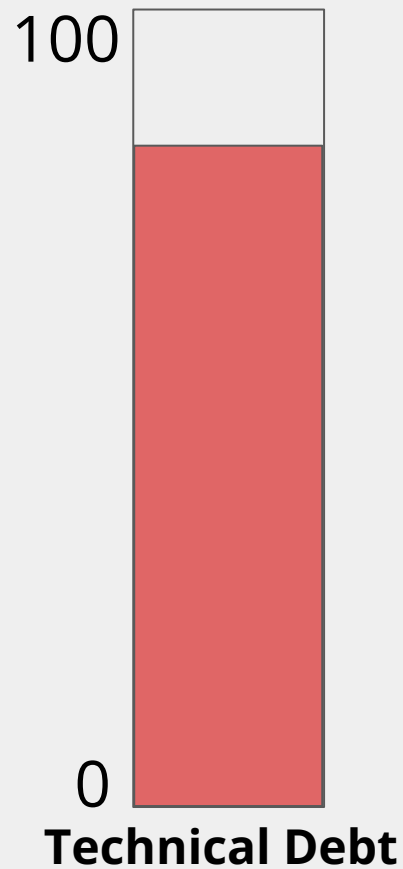
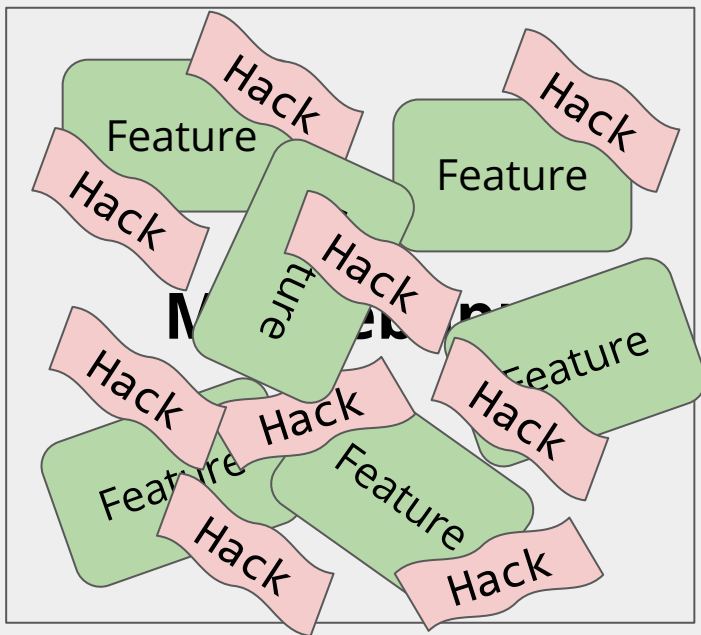
Let's add some more features



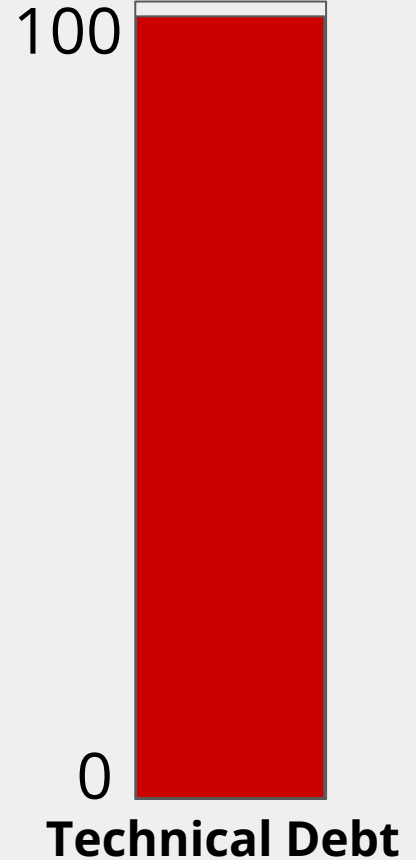
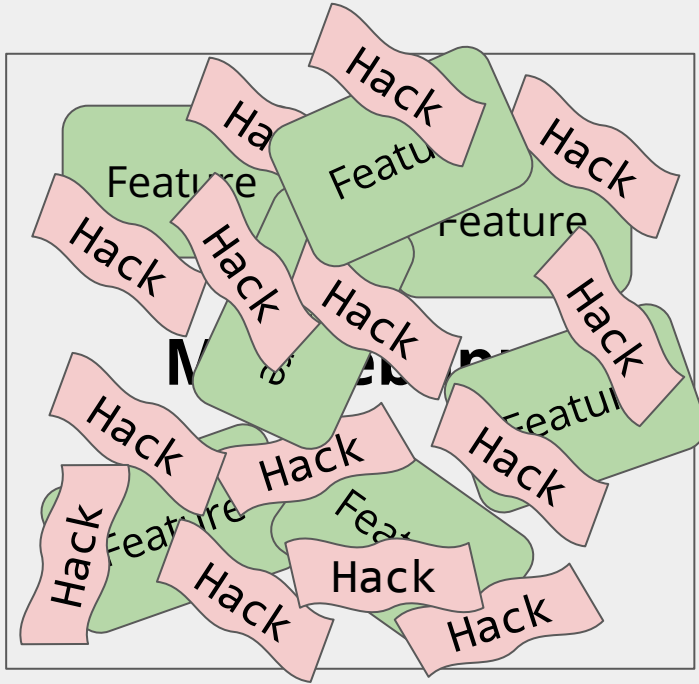
I need some more hacks...



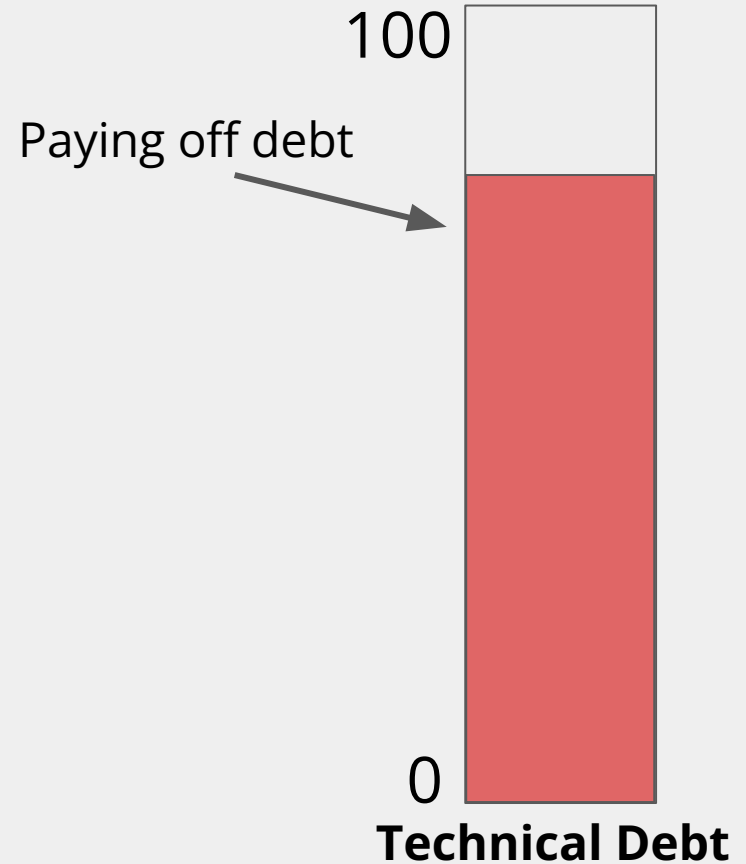
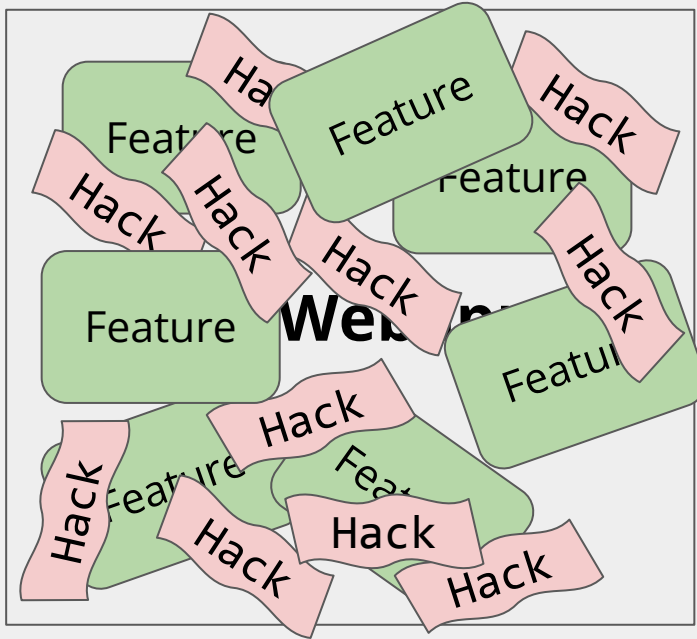


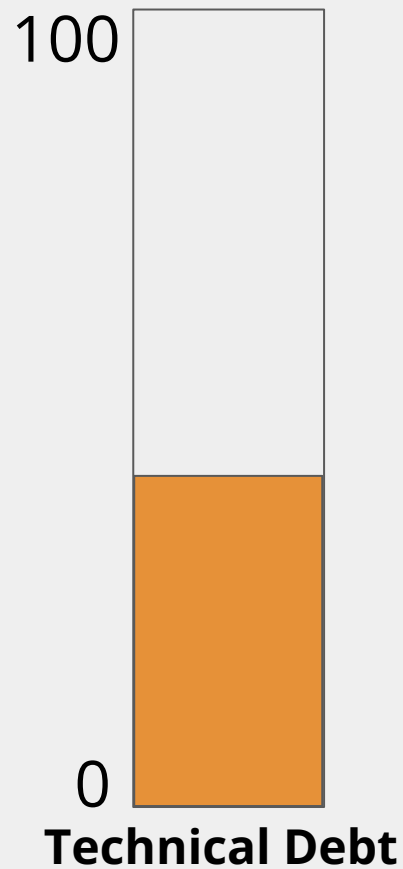
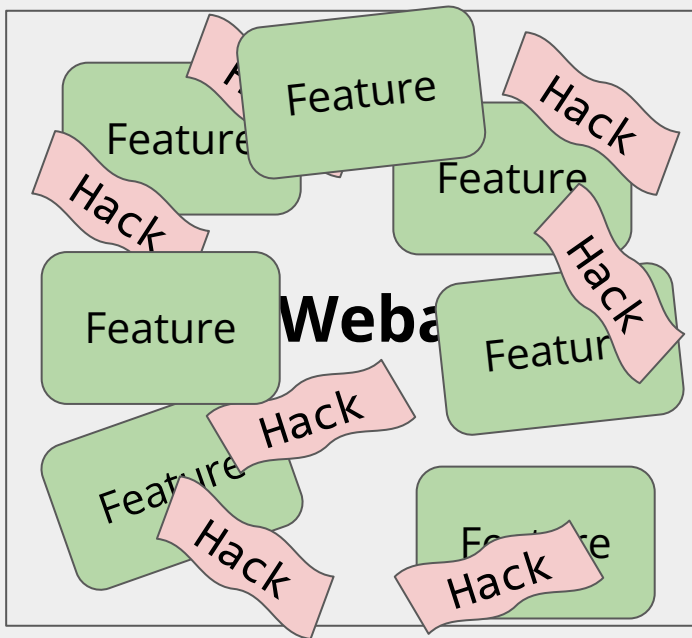


Code is so bad I can't make any more progress!



Have no choice but to refactor...





Paying off technical debt

- Accrues **interest** over time
- Would have just started if we start...

"if you don't have any design, you don't know what you are making."

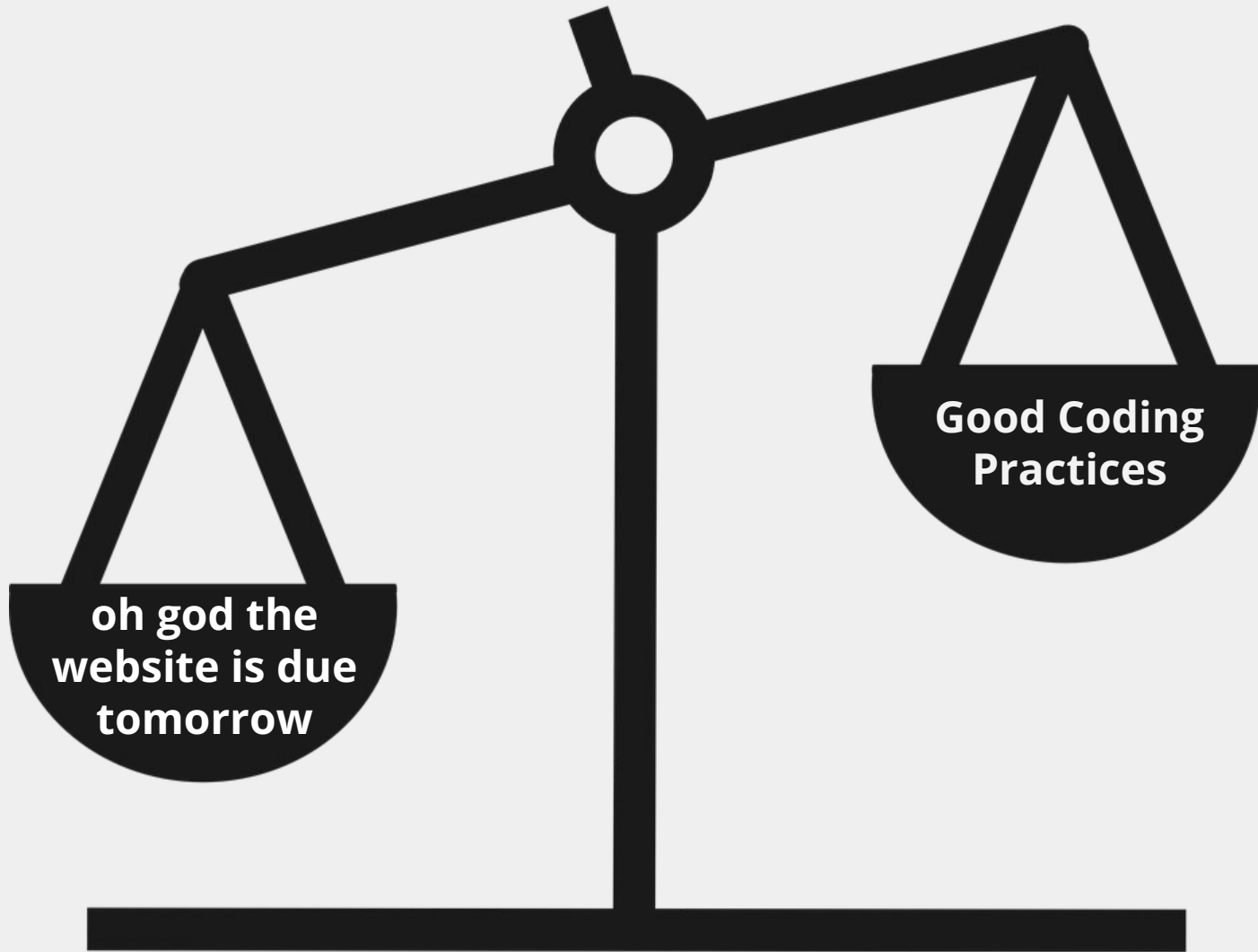
- some dude from stackoverflow

Testing your code

it works

- If you don't test your code, it will eventually break.
- Tests make you feel safe
- Most basic form of testing is UI testing
 - Just open a browser and mess with the UI while you build...it's not that deep
- Actual Javascript testing ("Jest"): weblab.to/testing
- More on testing:
 - 6.031 🤨
 - [Even more tests...](#)

Is it worth it?



**Good Coding
Practices**

**oh god the
website is due
tomorrow**

No time for good code?

- This class is basically a long hackathon
- You may need some hacky code, but keep it within reason
- Keep your “debt” in check

Commenting

Which version is better?

```
//this route is the GET route for user
router.get("/user", (req, res) => {
  /**
   * using the user ID specified in req.query,
   * ask the database to retrieve the corresponding user document
   *
   */
  User.findById(req.query.userid).then((user) => {
    //once the user document is found by the database,
    //it gets put into the "user" variable of this callback
    res.send(user);
    //send the user back in the response to the frontend
  });
  //do nothing afterwards
});
```

```
router.get("/user", (req, res) => {
  User.findById(req.query.userid).then((user) => {
    res.send(user);
  });
});
```

Which version is better?

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    //send the user back in the response to the frontend
  });
  //do nothing afterwards
});
```

```
router.get("/user", (req, res) => {
  User.findById(req.query.userid).then((user) => {
    res.send(user);
  });
});
```

I like this one



Over-commenting is a thing

- Don't use comments that explain the obvious
- Add a comment when you needed to write bad/hacky code
- Add a comment when code is hard to understand...?

This is hard to understand... should I add comments?

```
// lots of code above....
```

```
const opt3 = {  
  method: "PUT",  
  uri: `${BASE}/teams/${id}/repos/${u}/${v}`,  
  headers: HEADERS,  
  body: {  
    permission: "admin",  
  },  
  json: true,  
};
```

```
const t = await request(opt1).then((r) => r.id);  
const r = await request(opt2).then((r) => r.html_url);  
await request(opt3);  
await Promise.all(my_array.map((u) => request(getOpt4(u))));  
return r;
```

This is the wrong time for comments!

Reasons for the Problem

Comments are usually created with the best of intentions, when the author realizes that his or her code is not intuitive or obvious. In such cases, comments are like a deodorant masking the smell of fishy code that could be improved.

The best comment is a good name for a method or class.

If you feel that a code fragment cannot be understood without comments, try to change the code structure in a way that makes comments unnecessary.

from <http://weblab.to/smell>

Write the code using clear function names

```
const loadMessageHistory = (recipient) => {  
  get("/api/chat", { recipient_id: recipient._id  
    setActiveChat({  
      recipient: recipient,  
      messages: messages,  
    });  
  });  
};
```

```
const addMessages = (data) => {  
  if (  
    (data.recipient._id === activeCh  
    data.sender._id === props.user  
    (data.sender._id === activeChat.  
    data.recipient._id === props.u  
    (data.recipient._id === "ALL_CHA
```

```
const setActiveUser = (user) => {  
  if (user._id !== activeChat.recipien  
    setActiveChat({  
      recipient: user,  
      messages: [],  
    });  
}
```


Only comment when “necessary”

```
/**
 * Card is a component for displaying content like stories
 *
 * Proptypes
 * @param {string} _id of the story
 * @param {string} creator_name
 * @param {string} creator_id
 * @param {string} content of the story
 */
const Card = (props) => {
  const [comments, setComments] = useState([]);

  useEffect(() => {
    get("/api/comment", { parent: props._id }).then((comments) => {
      setComments(comments);
    });
  }, []);

  // this gets called when the user pushes "Submit", so their
  // post gets added to the screen right away
}
```

JSDocs (Methods/Objects/Handlers)

API Documentation

Issues

- To get all Issues specified by the query parameters (author, issue_id). If no query parameters are specified, it will return all issues.
 - protocol: GET /api/issues
 - protocol: GET /api/issues?issue_id={id}
 - protocol: GET /api/issues?author={author}
 - return: Issues[] - the array of all issues queried by the parameters
 - status 200 if successfully retrieve issues

API Routes

```
const CommentSchema = new mongoose.Schema( definition: {
  creator_id: String,
  creator_name: String,
  parent: String, // links to the _id of a parent story
  content: String,
});
```

Database Schemas



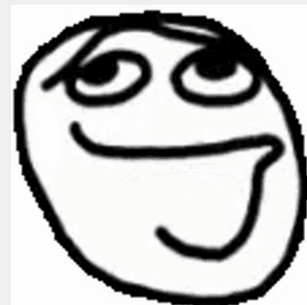
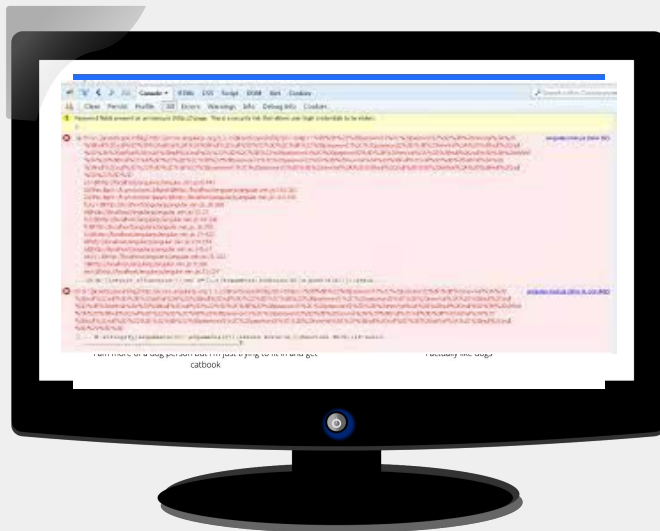
Jakob 🍀 \u0000

@jcsrb

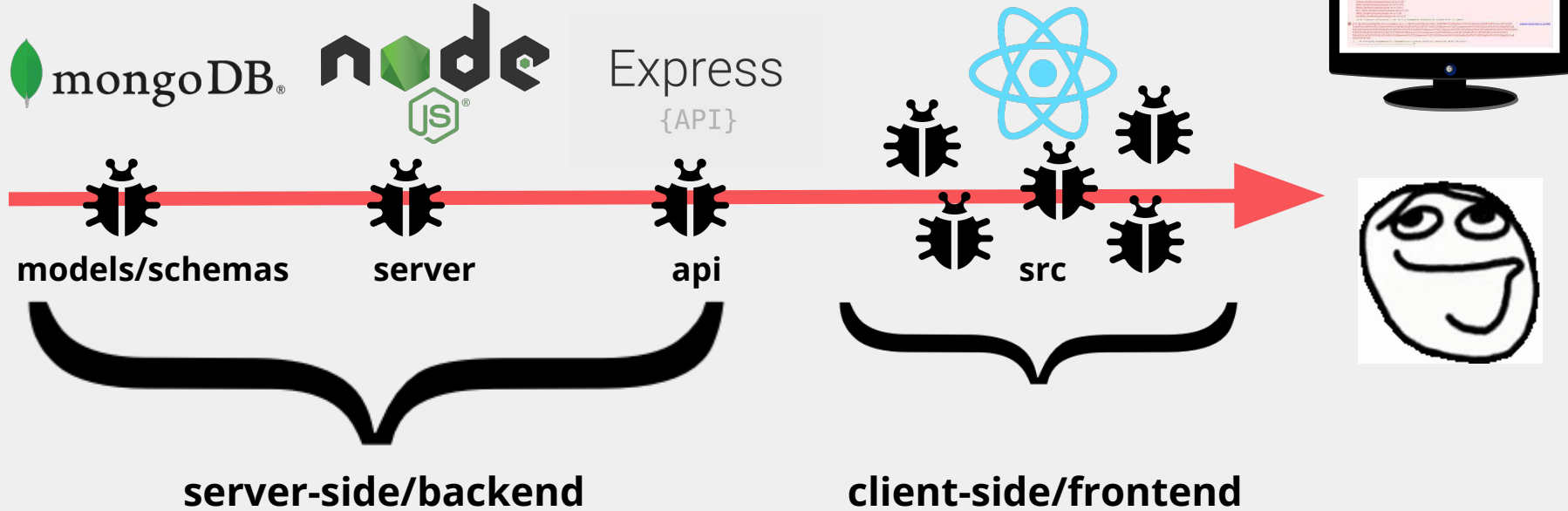
6 hours of debugging can save
you 5 minutes of reading
documentation

Debugging

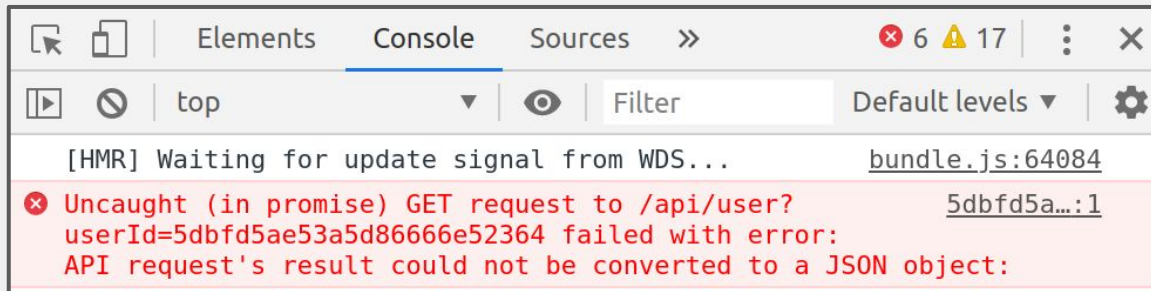
Where is my bug coming from?



Where is my bug coming from?



Three things you must check



Browser console
(F12 or ⌘+⇧+J)

```
cor@c ~/Desktop/catbook-react
cor@cor:~/Desktop/catbook-react$ npm start

> catbook-react@1.0.0 start /home/cor/Desktop/catbook-react
> nodemon

[nodemon] 1.19.4
[nodemon] to restart at any time, enter `rs`
[nodemon] watching dir(s): *.*
[nodemon] watching extensions: js,mjs,json
[nodemon] starting `node server/server.js`
Server running on port: 3000
Connected to MongoDB
socket has connected 1kzQMnScu9oewSFQAAAA
```

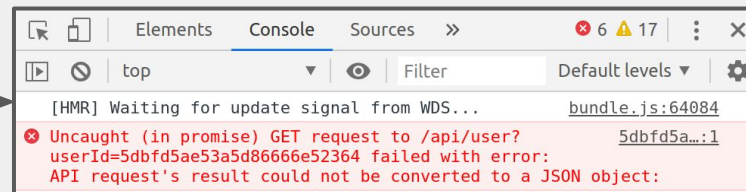
npm start

```
cor@c ~/Desktop/catbook-react
./client/src/components/App.js 5.53 KiB {main} [built]
./client/src/index.js 302 bytes {main} [built]
./node_modules/@babel/polyfill/lib/index.js 686 bytes {main} [built]
./node_modules/@babel/polyfill/lib/noConflict.js 567 bytes {main} [built]
./node_modules/@babel/polyfill/node_modules/core-js/Library/fn/global.js 87 bytes {main} [built]
./node_modules/loglevel/lib/loglevel.js 7.68 KiB {main} [built]
./node_modules/react-dom/index.js 1.33 KiB {main} [built]
./node_modules/react/index.js 190 bytes {main} [built]
./node_modules/url/url.js 22.8 KiB {main} [built]
./node_modules/webpack-dev-server/client/index.js?http://localhost:5000 (webpack)-dev-server/client?http://localhost:5000 7.78 KiB {main} [built]
./node_modules/webpack-dev-server/client/overlay.js (webpack)-dev-server/client/overlay.js 3.58 KiB {main} [built]
./node_modules/webpack-dev-server/client/socket.js (webpack)-dev-server/client/socket.js 1.05 KiB {main} [built]
./node_modules/webpack-dev-server/node_modules/strip-ansi/index.js (webpack)-dev-server/node_modules/strip-ansi/index.js 161 bytes {main} [built]
./node_modules/webpack/hot/dev-server.js (webpack)/hot/dev-server.js 1.61 KiB {main} [built]
+ 552 hidden modules
[wdm]: Compiled successfully.
```

npm run hotloader

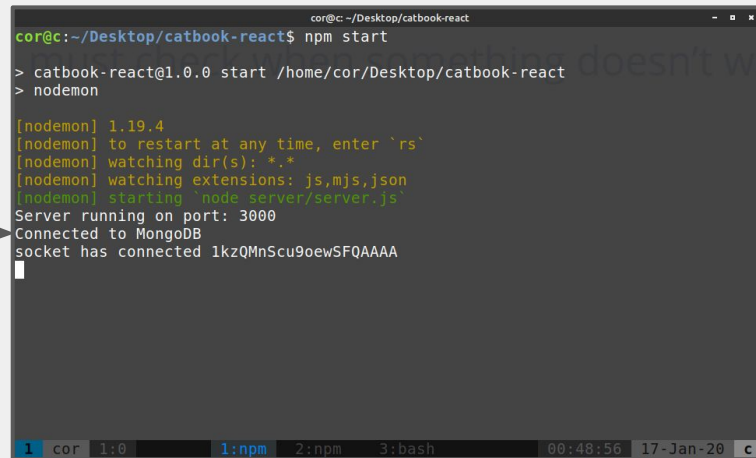
In React code/frontend

```
console.log("henlo");
```



In server code/backend

```
console.log("henlo");
```



Finally...Fail Fast!

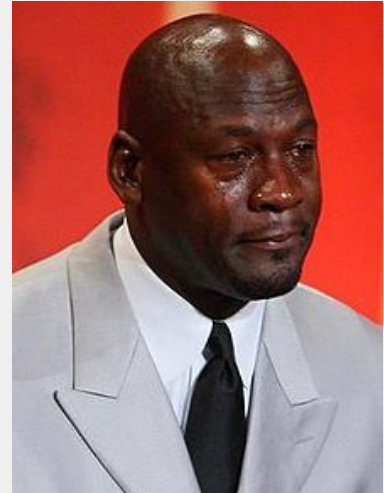
Never be in this situation

- I finally finished writing 500 lines of code
- I open up <http://localhost:5000> to test my code and...
- Nothing works! What to do?

Option A:



Option B:

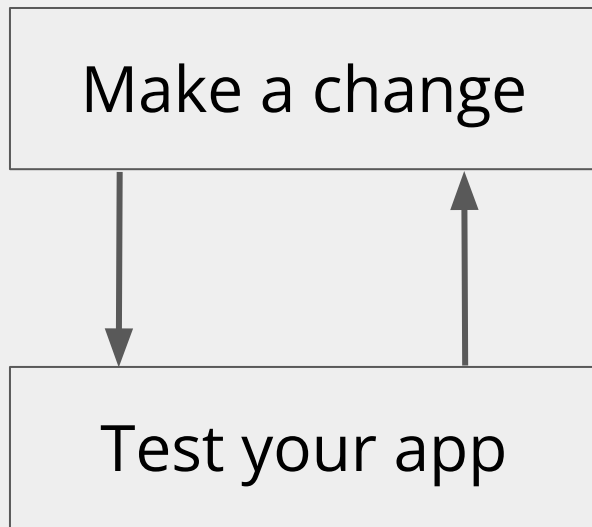


More lines of code = More to debug

- conservation of bugs

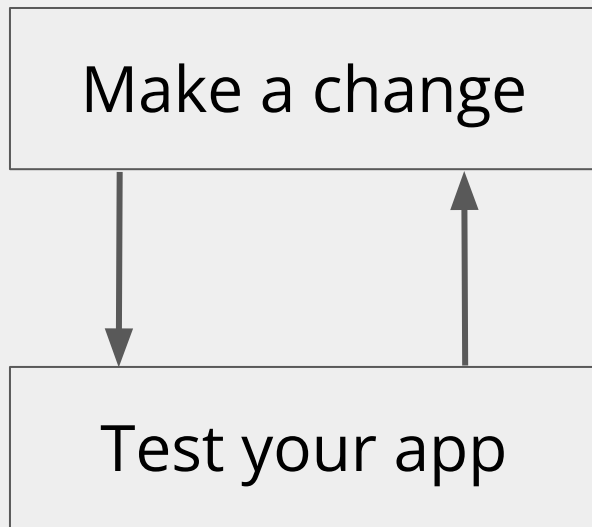
A short development/debug loop

- Make **small, incremental** changes
- Keep functions short and modular
- Test at every opportunity (e.g. `console.log` and make sure it looks right)



Optimizing the debug loop

- Shaving off a few seconds per iteration adds up
- Tools to optimize the debug loop: react hotloader, nodemon



Debugging thoroughly

- Even if your code *seems* to work, there may still be bugs...
- Users may break your app in ways you never imagined

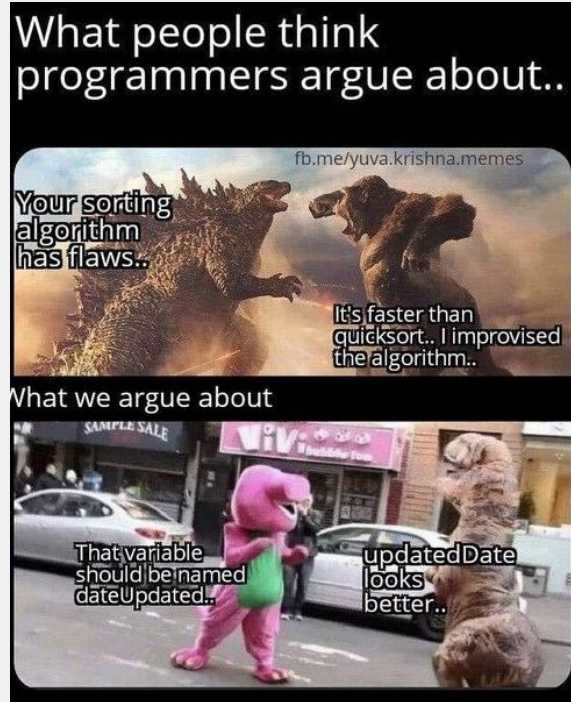
Linus's law:

"given enough eyeballs, all bugs are shallow".

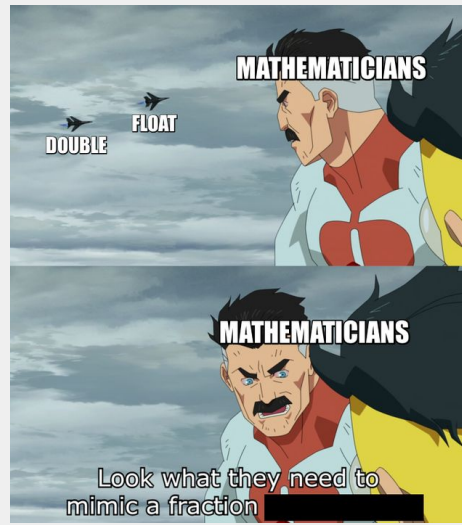
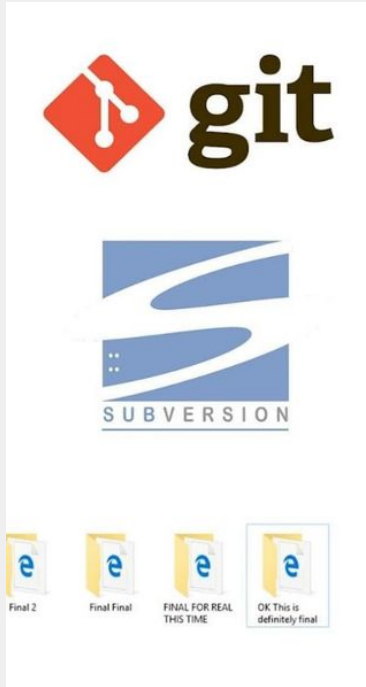
- All team members should thoroughly try to break the site
- Get a friend to test your website
- **A stable, simple website beats a buggy, complex website**

Summary

1. git responsibly
2. Limit hacky code
3. Write code that doesn't need lots of comments
4. Develop with a tight debug loop
5. Slow down and fix your bugs



More Memes



my program: *works perfectly*

me: *cleans up the code*

also my program:



Company : Has a very strict "No comment" policy, because comments = bad code.

Companies code :

```
float Q_rsqrt( float number )
{
    long i;
    float x2, y;
    const float threehalfs = 1.5F;

    x2 = number * 0.5F;
    y = number;
    i = * ( long * ) &y;
    i = 0x5f3759df - ( i >> 1 );
    y = * ( float * ) &i;
    y = y * ( threehalfs - ( x2 * y * y ) );

    return y;
}
```