

# an american coder in paris

scott chacon



my story

why  
**Paris?**

DIE TECHIE SCUM

SAVE  
SAN  
FRANCISCO



70%

moving  
to Paris

1. One application form (English version) filled out and signed
2. One ID picture glued/stapled onto the application form
3. Original passport or travel document
4. Status in the US
5. Letter promising not to engage in any employment in France (notarized)
6. Letter of employment in the US stating occupation and earnings
7. Proof of means of income—letter from the bank, etc
8. Proof of medical insurance
9. Marriage certificate or family book + Birth certificates for children
10. Proof of accommodation in France (lease or rental agreement)
11. Processing fees
12. One residence form duly filled out (upper part only)
13. E-ticket or reservation confirmation email showing the date of departure
14. A self-addressed prepaid Express Mail envelope







# How to Move to Paris : The Homefront

*What you have to do to prepare to move from San Francisco to Paris in three months.*

<https://medium.com/@chacon>

**Home** O

✈ 10 h 45 min  
from \$1,308

Canada

Northwestern  
Passages

Greenland

Iceland

Sweden

Norway

Denmark

United  
Kingdom

Ireland

Paris

France

Italy

Spain

Portugal

Greece

Tunisia

Morocco

Algeria

Libya

Western  
Sahara

Mauritania

Mali

Niger

Chad

Burkina  
Faso

Nigeria

Guinea

Ghana

Gulf of Guinea

Gabon

NU

YT

NT

Canada

AB

SK

MB

ON

WA

MT

ND

SD

MN

WI

MI

IL

IN

OH

PA

DE

United States

CA

NV

UT

AZ

NM

TX

OK

AR

MO

MS

AL

GA

SC

NC

LA

FL

Mexico

Gulf  
of  
Mexico

Cuba

Puerto Rico

Guatemala

Nicaragua

Caribbean Sea

Venezuela

Guyana

Colombia

Suriname

RR

AP

North  
Atlantic  
Ocean

how to  
**remote work**

the  
hard

the

# Timezones

the

# Paris

9a	10a	11a	12p	1p	2p	3p	4p	5p	6p	7p	8p	9p	10p	11p	12a	1a	2a	3a	4a	5a	6a	7a	8a
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# San Francisco

the

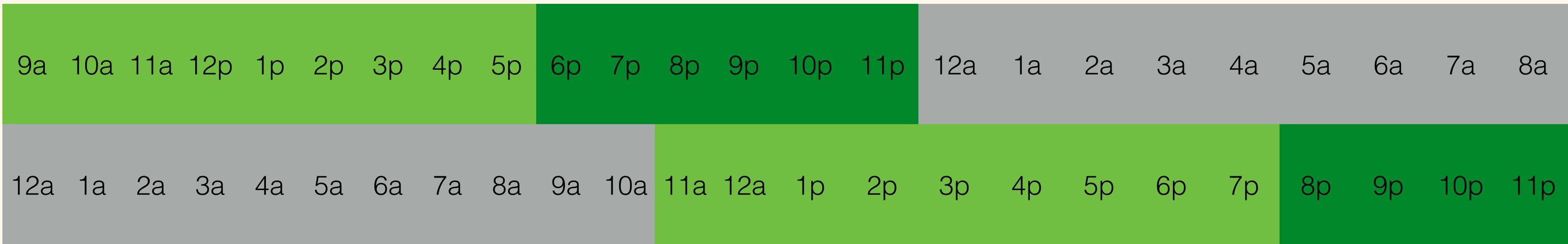
# Paris

9a	10a	11a	12p	1p	2p	3p	4p	5p	6p	7p	8p	9p	10p	11p	12a	1a	2a	3a	4a	5a	6a	7a	8a
12a	1a	2a	3a	4a	5a	6a	7a	8a	9a	10a	11a	12a	1p	2p	3p	4p	5p	6p	7p	8p	9p	10p	11p

# San Francisco

# Paris

the



# San Francisco

# Paris

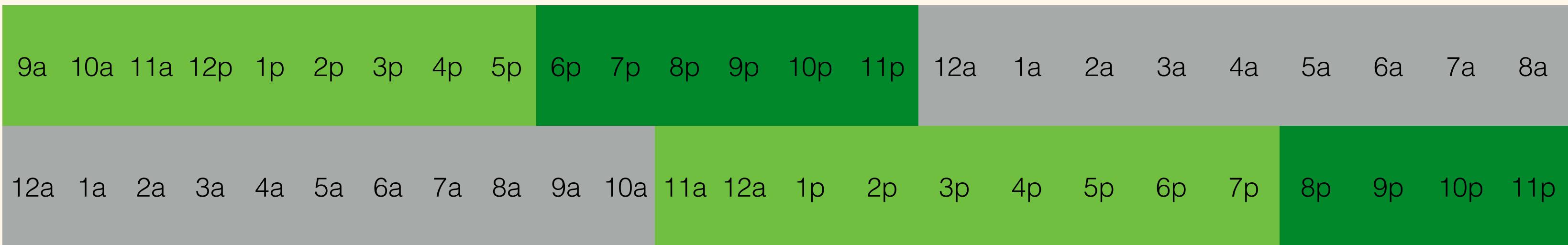
# the



# San Francisco

# Paris

# the



# San Francisco

# Paris

# the

9a	10a	11a	12p	1p	2p	3p	4p	5p	6p	7p	8p	9p	10p	11p	12a	1a	2a	3a	4a	5a	6a	7a	8a
12a	1a	2a	3a	4a	5a	6a	7a	8a	9a	10a	11a	12a	1p	2p	3p	4p	5p	6p	7p	8p	9p	10p	11p



# San Francisco

the

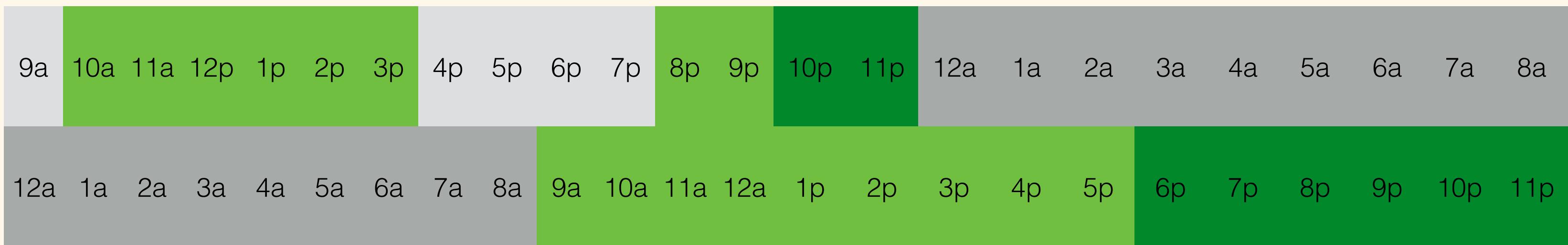
# Paris

9a	10a	11a	12p	1p	2p	3p	4p	5p	6p	7p	8p	9p	10p	11p	12a	1a	2a	3a	4a	5a	6a	7a	8a
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# San Francisco

the

# Paris



# San Francisco

the

Paris

9a	10a	11a	12p	1p	2p	3p	4p	5p	6p	7p	8p	9p	10p	11p	12a	1a	2a	3a	4a	5a	6a	7a	8a
12a	1a	2a	3a	4a	5a	6a	7a	8a	9a	10a	11a	12a	1p	2p	3p	4p	5p	6p	7p	8p	9p	10p	11p

San Francisco

the

# Local Currency

the

# Work / Life

the

## Paris



## San Francisco

the

# Imposter Syndrome

the

“They are convinced that they are frauds and do not deserve the success they have achieved. Proof of success is dismissed as luck, timing, or as a result of deceiving others into thinking **they are more intelligent** and competent than they believe themselves to be.”

Source: Wikipedia



# Dealing with Imposter Syndrome #2

[Edit](#)[New issue](#)[Open](#)

Haacked opened this issue on May 15, 2013 · 39 comments



Haacked commented on May 15, 2013

[Labels](#)

discussion

[Milestone](#)

No milestone

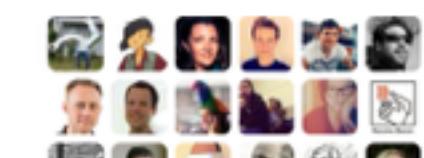
[Assignee](#)

No one—assign yourself

[Notifications](#) [Unsubscribe](#)

You're receiving notifications because you're subscribed to this repository.

25 participants



the

# General Paranoia



# Professional loneliness and potential cures. #1

[Edit](#)[New Issue](#)

Open Foggybtmgirl opened this issue on May 14, 2013 · 53 comments



Foggybtmgirl commented on May 14, 2013



Labels

discussion

Milestone

No milestone

Assignee

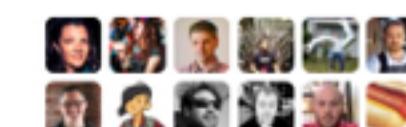
No one—assign yourself

Notifications

[Unsubscribe](#)

You're receiving notifications because you're subscribed to this repository.

34 participants





# Issues with Being Remote at GitHub #10

[Edit](#)[New Issue](#)[Open](#)

maddox opened this issue on May 12, 2014 · 58 comments



maddox commented on May 12, 2014

[Labels](#) ⚙

discussion

[Milestone](#) ⚙

No milestone

[Assignee](#) ⚙

No one—assign yourself

[Notifications](#)[Unsubscribe](#)

You're receiving notifications because you're subscribed to this repository.

37 participants



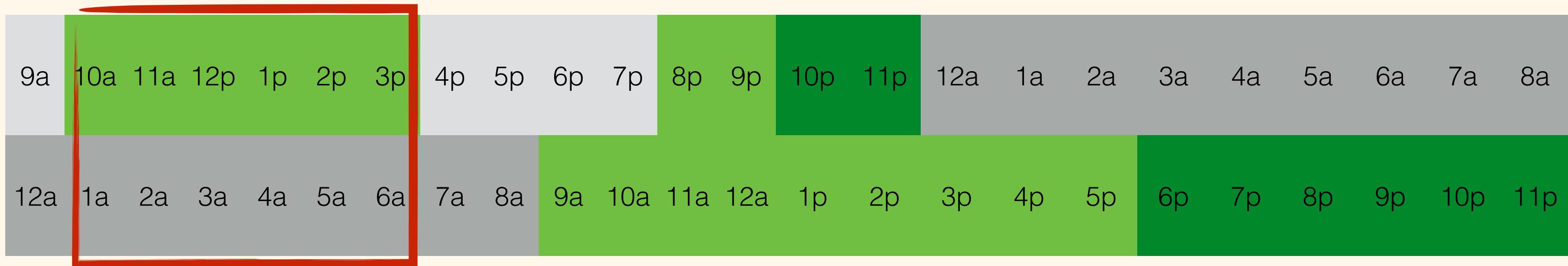
the  
nice

the

# Productivity

the

# Paris



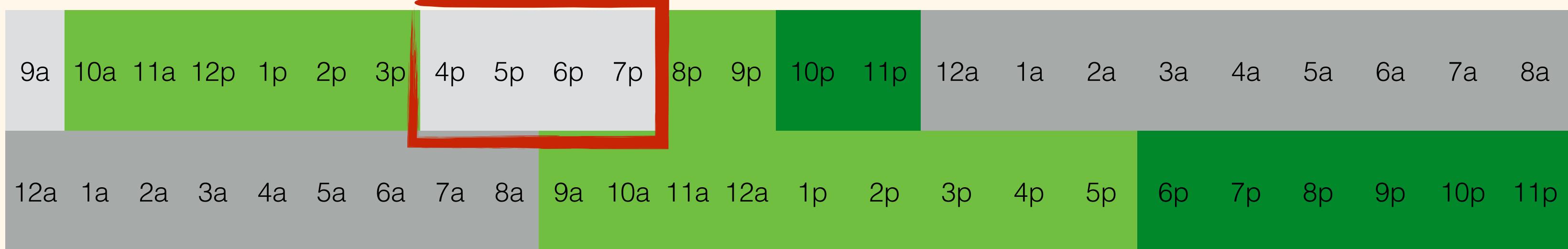
# San Francisco

the

# Schedule

the

# Paris



# San Francisco

- Commits on Mar 3, 2015



**can\_invite? is no longer used in the codebase**  
schacon authored 12 days ago



6bc0d70



- Commits on Mar 2, 2015



**test the document class**  
schacon authored 13 days ago



962d96b



**Merge remote-tracking branch 'origin/master' into new-docs** ...  
schacon authored 13 days ago



7df0827



**add book import into the bootstrap process**  
schacon authored 13 days ago



4b2d919



**add skip\_image\_upload option**  
schacon authored 13 days ago



09d9376



**return false if there are zero documents**  
schacon authored 13 days ago



655b0ea



**Merge pull request #801 from github/case-insensitive-login** ...  
thedaniel authored 13 days ago



75fead1



**add job to check atlas every 10 minutes for new builds**  
schacon authored 13 days ago



741d692



**test importing the html zip file**  
schacon authored 13 days ago



bd9d442



**add toc testing**  
schacon authored 13 days ago



a414c43



**test xref redirect**  
schacon authored 13 days ago



81d3cde



**test doc\_order redirects**  
schacon authored 13 days ago



d700fb0



**check index page**  
schacon authored 13 days ago



f396d19



the  
**tricks**

the

# Separate Space



the

# Coworking, Meetups

the

# Get Out

the

# Schedule

the

## Paris



## San Francisco



This repository Search

Explore Gist Blog Help



schacon

+ · 113 · 4 · 0



github / distributed PRIVATE

Unwatch

113

Star 4

Fork 0

# Artificial commute as a way to establish work/life boundary #4

Edit

New Issue

Open

technicalpickles opened this issue on Feb 17, 2014 · 25 comments



technicalpickles commented on Feb 17, 2014



kdaigle commented on Feb 17, 2014

Labels

discussion

Milestone

No milestone

Assignee

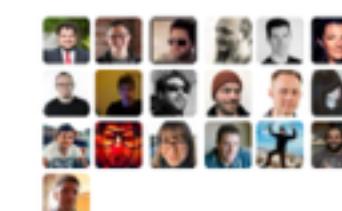
No one—assign yourself

Notifications

Unsubscribe

You're receiving notifications because you're subscribed to this repository.

19 participants



Lock issue

the

# Feedback

the  
company



“The success or failure of a distributed team  
**hinges on your organizational culture** and  
the strengths of management, not on the  
product you're creating or the nature of  
distributed teams themselves.”

Electronic  
Available  
Asynchronous  
Lock-Free

# Electronic

“Discussion, planning, and operations process should use a high fidelity form of electronic communication like email, github.com, or chat with transcripts wherever possible. Avoid meatspace discussion and meetings.”

# Electronic

“Discussion, planning, and operations process should use a high fidelity form of electronic communication like email, github.com, or chat with transcripts wherever possible. **Avoid meatspace discussion and meetings.**”

# Available

“Work should be visible and expose process. Work should have a URL. It should be possible to move backward from a piece of product or a system failure and understand how it came to be that way. Prefer git, issues, pull requests, mailing lists, and chat with transcripts over URL-less mediums.”

# Available

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# Asynchronous

“Almost no part of the product development process requires that one person interrupt another's immediate attention or that people be in the same place at the same time, or even that people be in different places at the same time. Even small meetings or short phone calls can wreck flow so consider laying it out in (a thought out) email or sending a pull request instead.”

# Asynchronous

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# Lock Free

"Avoid synchronization / lock points when designing process. This is DVCS writ large. We don't have a development manager that grants commit bit to repositories before you can do work, or a release manager that approves deploys, or a product manager that approves work on experimental product ideas. Work toward a goal should never be blocked on approval. Push approval/rejection to the review stage or automate it, but surface work early to get feedback."

# Lock Free

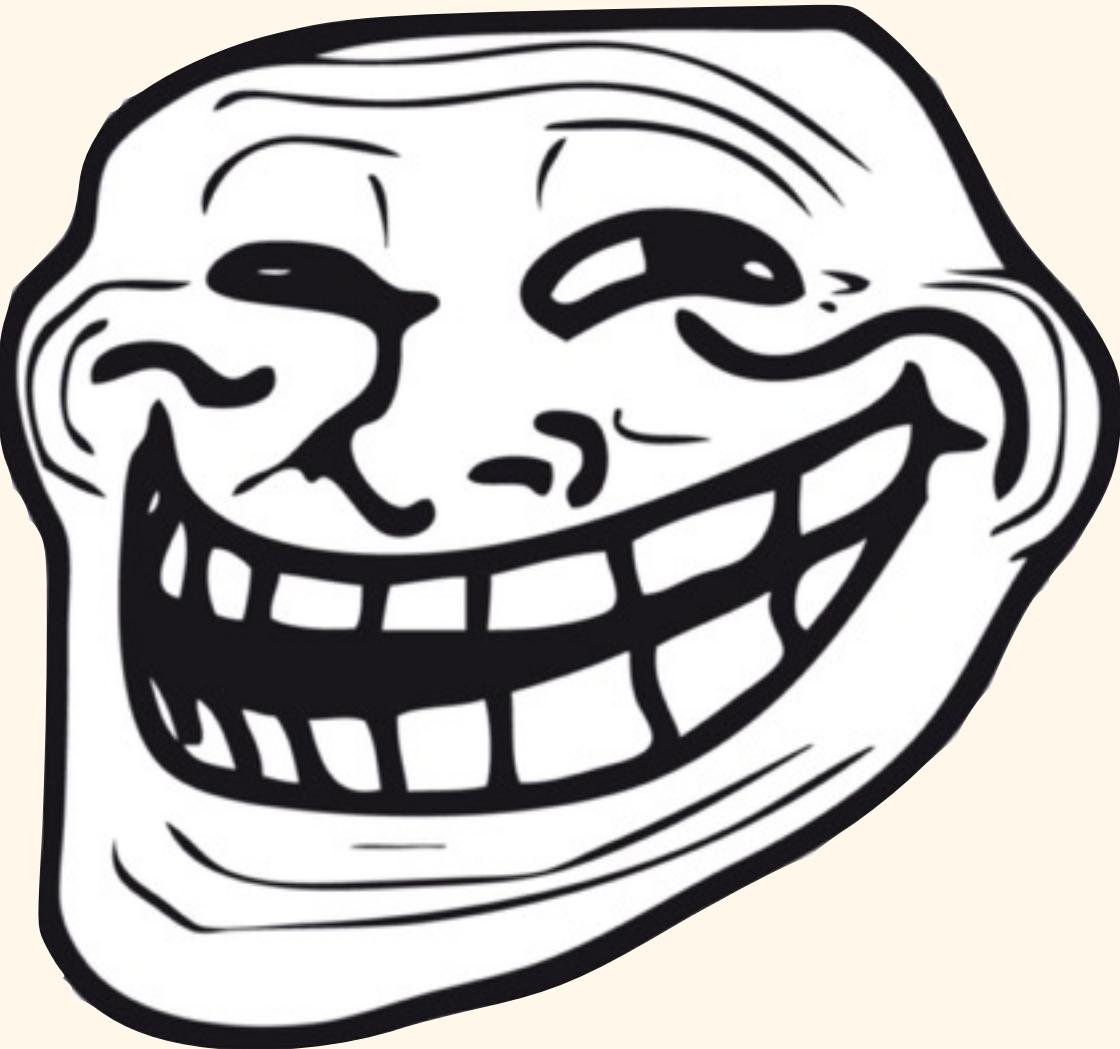
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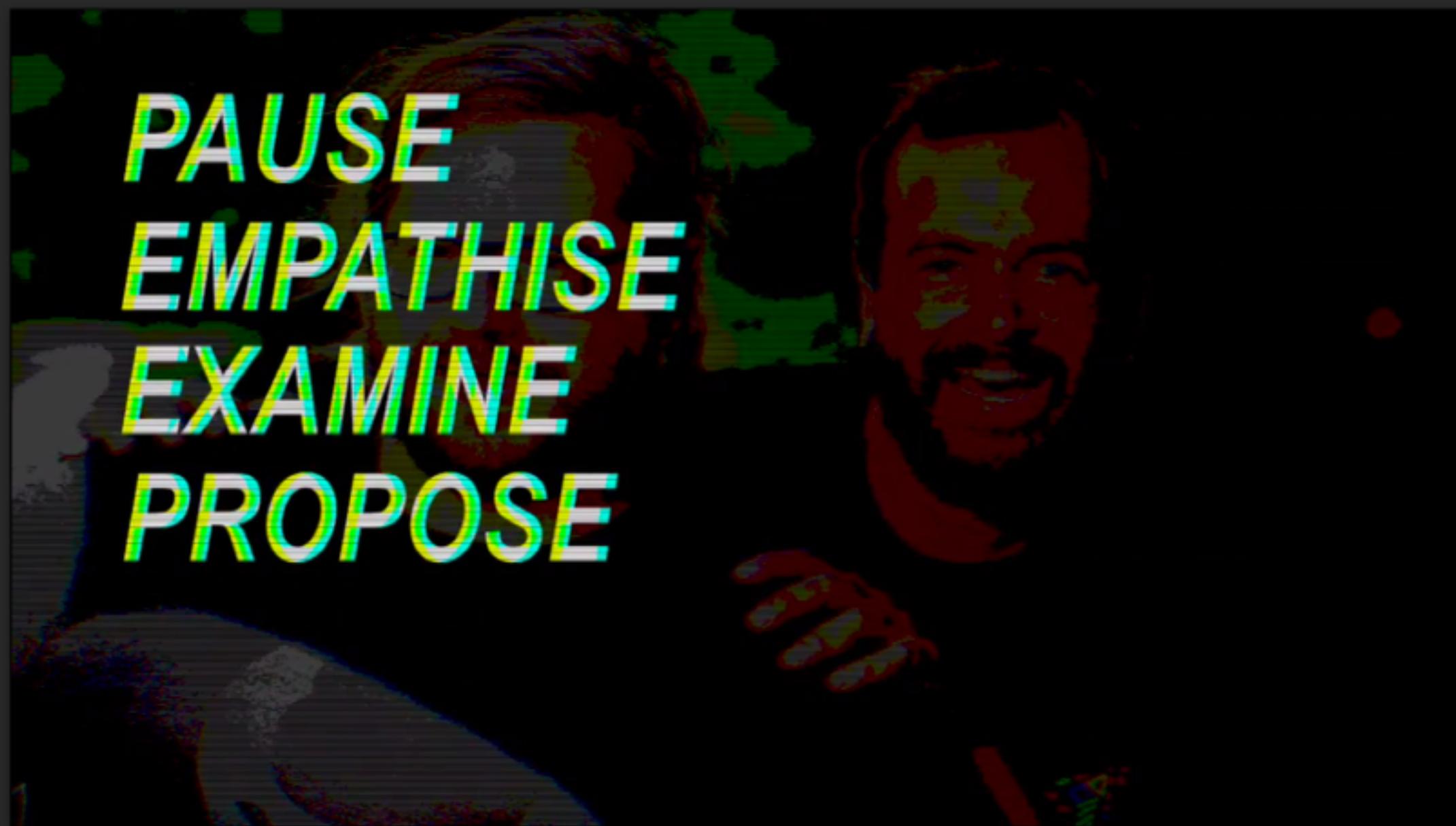
Electronic  
Available  
Asynchronous  
Lock-Free

chat

is the office

# Avoiding





## The P.E.E.P. Method by Drew Woods and Patrick Dunnam

Presented February 21, 2015 in GitHub / Public Access Channel

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### Talk Stats

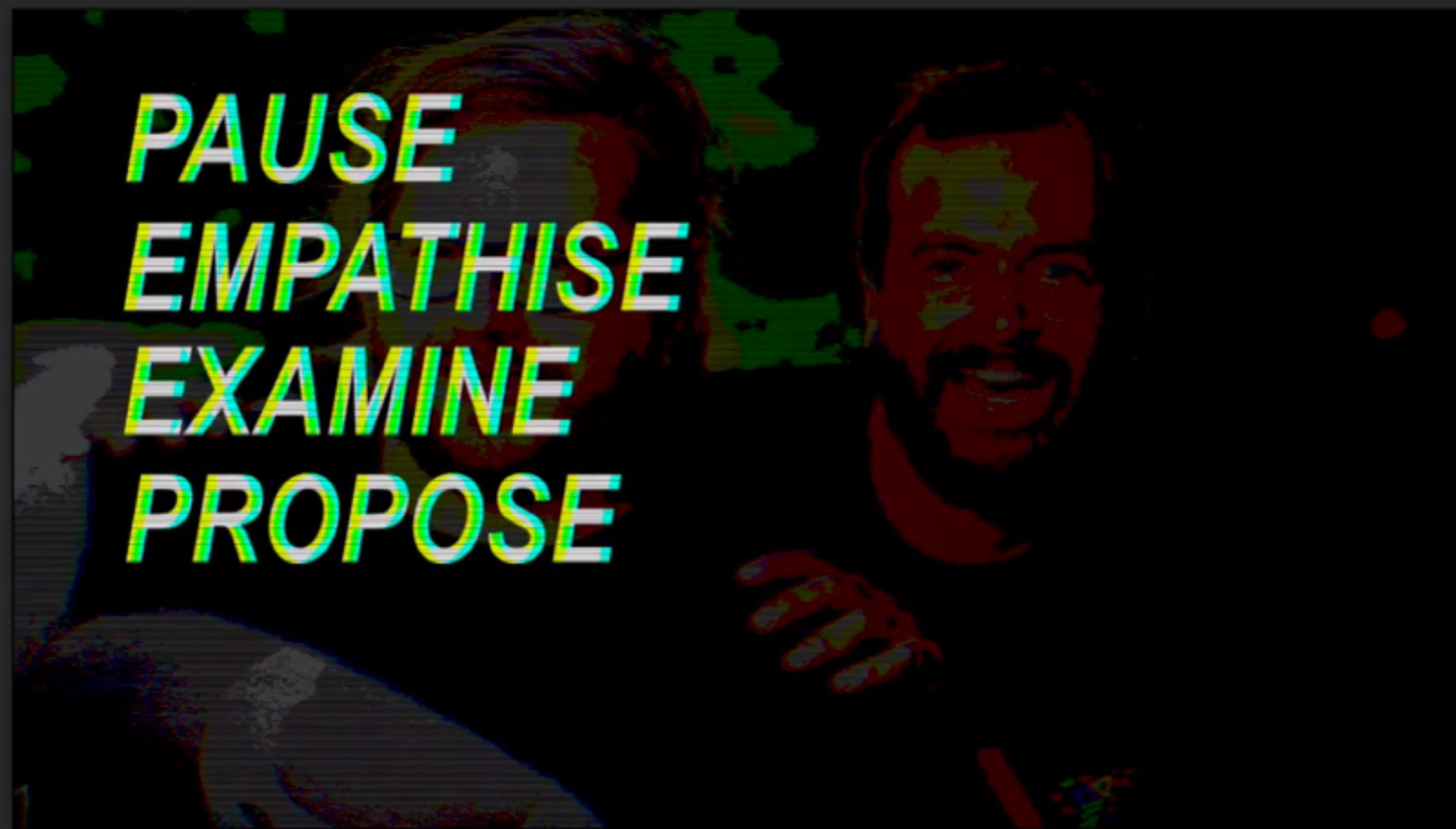
1

Stars

222

Views

A revolutionary life-changing method. A four step process to avoid being a jerk on the internet.



## The P.E.E.P. Method by Drew Woods and Patrick Dunnam

Presented February 21, 2015 in GitHub / Public Access Channel

A revolutionary life-changing method. A four step process to avoid being a jerk on the internet.

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### Talk Stats

1

Stars

222

Views



micro updates  
virtual water cooler



Search

GitHubbers Organization

@maddox



What are you working on?



Preview

Post

Last seen in Richmond, VA

**Daniel Hengeveld**

New-School Intellectyual

I opened an issue on [github/summits](#) to register interest / organize people for this Atom hack day we mentioned during The Show. Please put your name in so we can plan things like hotel blocks if necessary.



Give ⚡

⌚ 2014-10-14T13:18:28-07:00, from Los Angeles, CA

**maddox**

2015-02-27T21:07:52-08:00 edit remove

**maddox**

2015-03-11T07:29:35-07:00 edit remove



Got something to say?



jasonrudolph wrote

communicating  
across departments

## Inside the GitHub Importer



Posted by **spraints** on March 13, 2015

## Initial Thoughts on Engineering Priorities



Posted by **susanlally** on March 13, 2015

## Denormalizing spam flags for faster reads



Posted by **pengwynn** on March 09, 2015

## Happy Deploys and Unicorns



Posted by **sbryant** on February 25, 2015

## Fewer and Faster: Notifications Edition



Posted by **jnunemaker** on February 25, 2015

## Faster downloading from GitHub.com



Posted by **dbussink** on February 24, 2015

## 2014: A year in review from the JS team



Posted by **mislav** on January 14, 2015

## Malicious `git` Vulnerability



TL;DR.13 for Mar 13, 2015

Google Code Migration, Atom Flight Manual,

and more

Welcome to this week's iteration of the TL;DR, all the news that's fit to be aggressively summarized by automated scripts running on Scott's personal laptop when he decides to finally wake up. Let's get on with the show!

## Hot on Team

---

Fresh off the press for this week, here are the latest, greatest and most popular posts from Team:

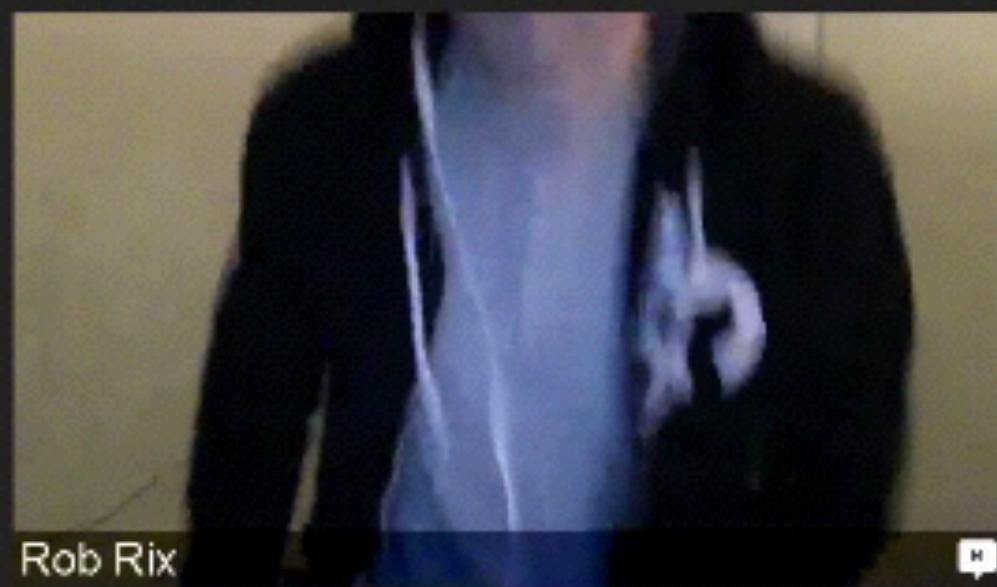
- by [@schacon](#)
- by [@leereilly](#)
- by [@benbalter](#)
- by [@Foggybtmgirl](#)
- by [@bleikamp](#)
- by [@arfon](#)
- by [@pengwynn](#)
- by [@pmn](#)

## Numbers

---

A little snapshot of what GitHub looks like these days in numbers.

good video  
conferencing



Alan

Markus Olsson

Phil Haack

Rob Rix



face time

summits

minisummits

“My point here isn't that magic can only happen in person, rather that magic doesn't happen all the time. **We cultivate the magic with frequent travel.** ”

“If anything, I would contend that magic happens more often after work, over food and drinks, or during casual conversation. Regularly traveling to meet your peers more than achieves that, and leaves the rest of your time free to **focus on implementing the magic** you have brought forth. ”

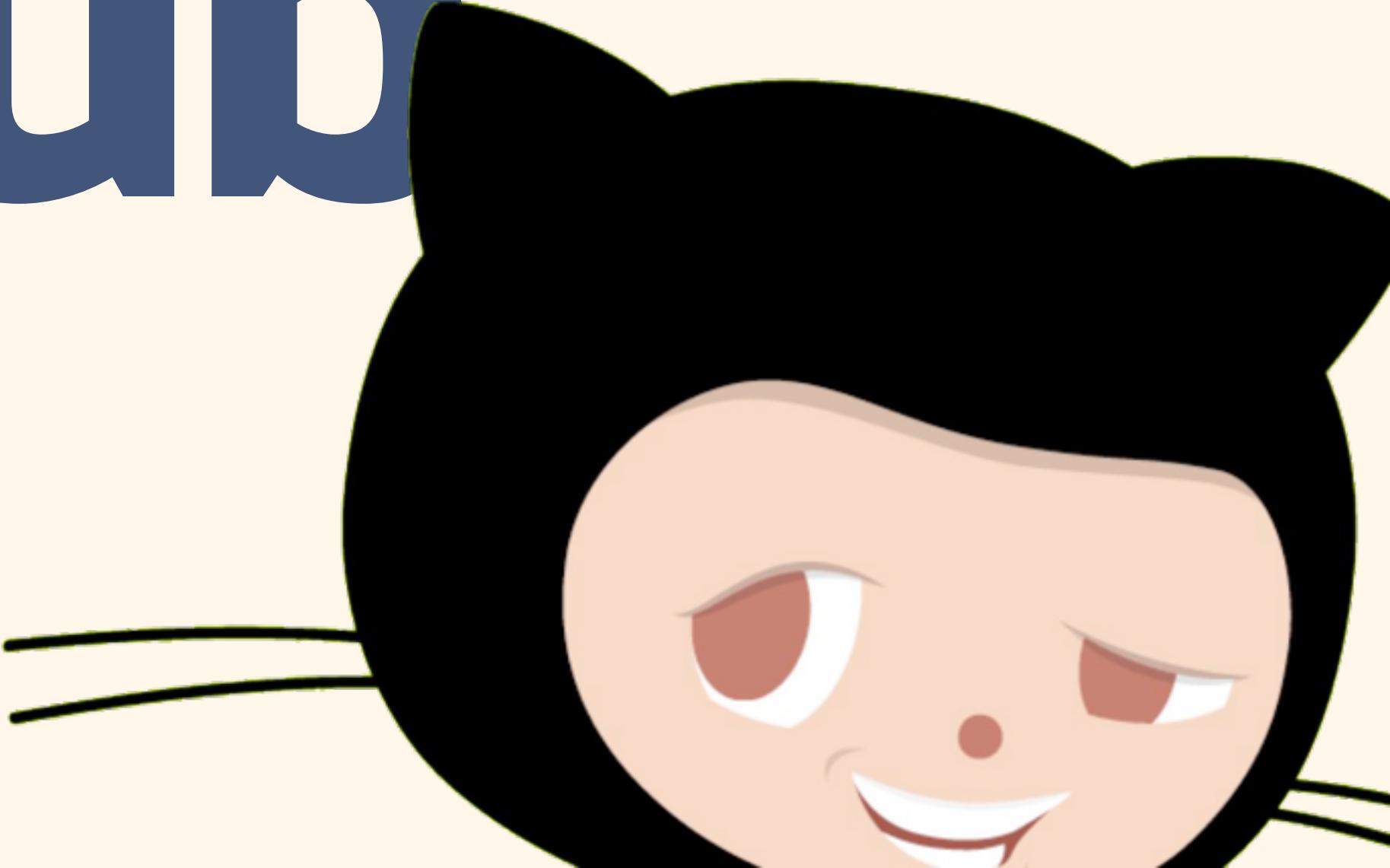


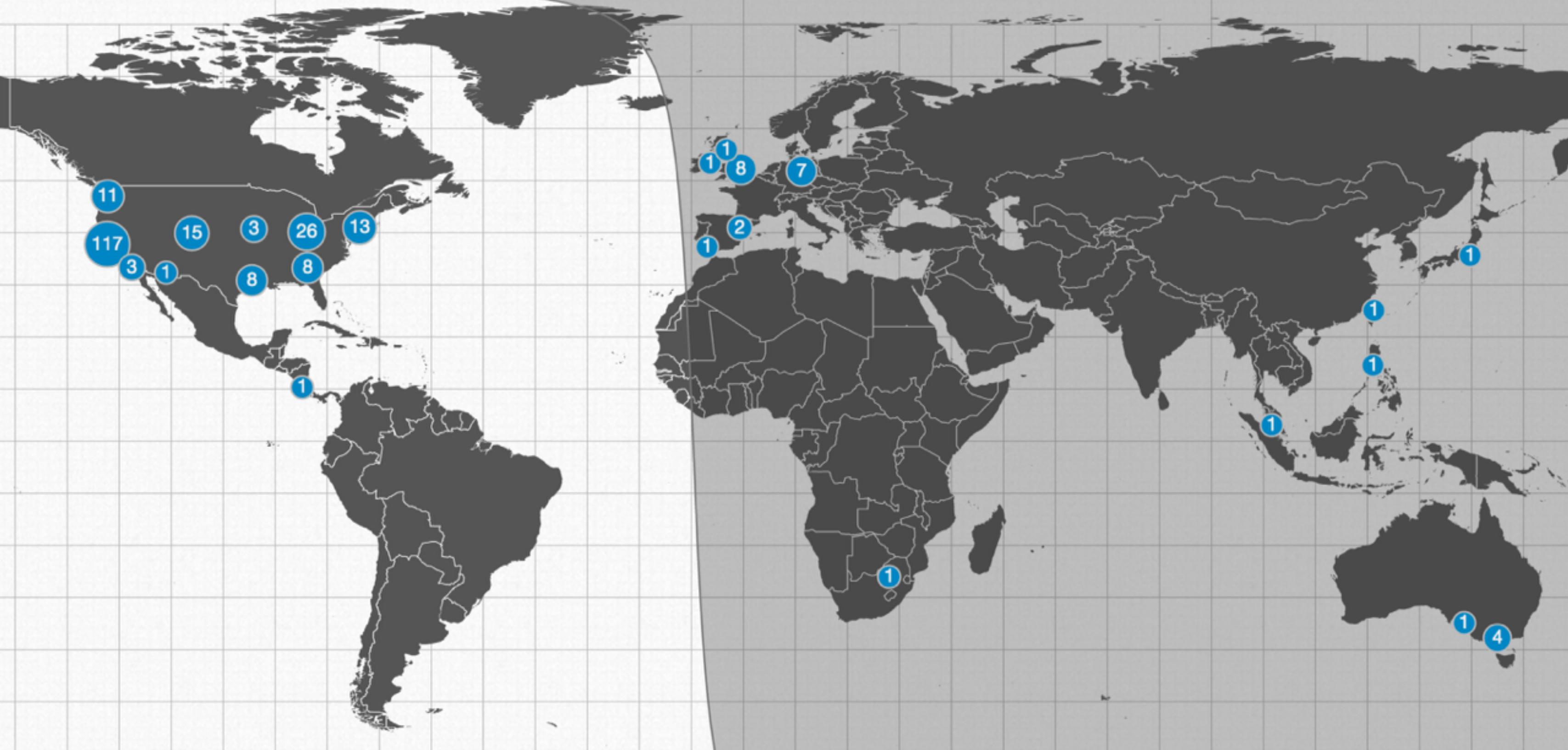


# Modes of Communication

Before	After
Email	GitHub Issue
Hallway	Chat Summits
Meeting	GitHub Issue Video Chat
One on One	Video Chat

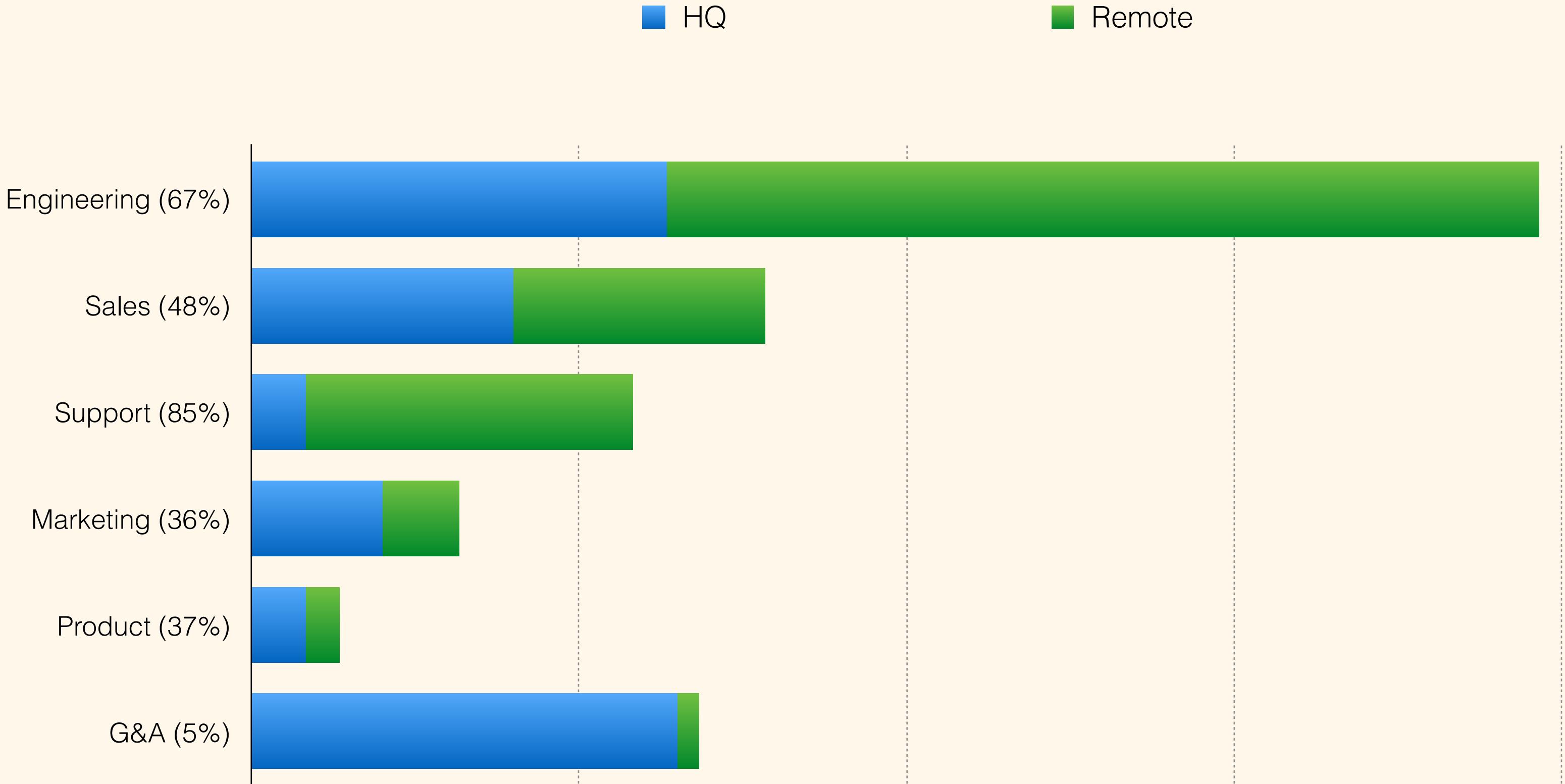
# Github



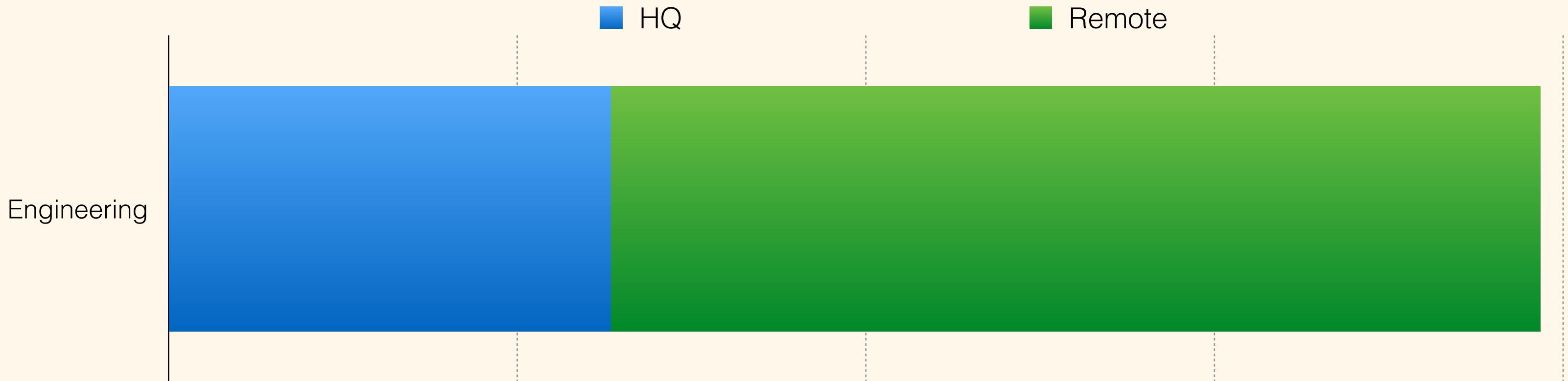


the sun never sets on the GitHub Empire

the  
numbers



# Engineering 67%



# **Executive, Legal, HR, Finance, BizDev, Comm, G&A**



why  
**remote**

why  
**remote**

(for your company)

productivity

hiring  
anywhere

employee  
happiness

lower  
costs

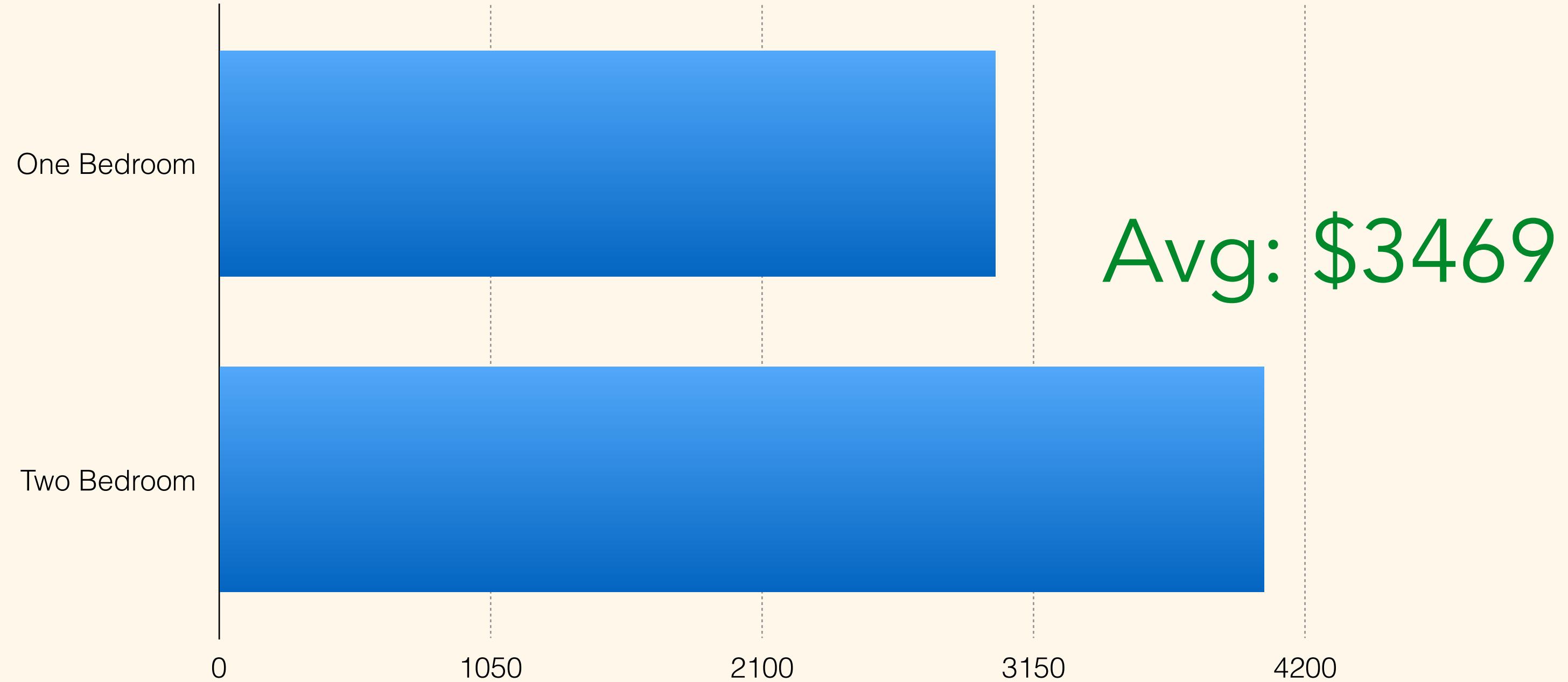
simpler  
environment

clarity

why  
**remote**  
(for humanity)

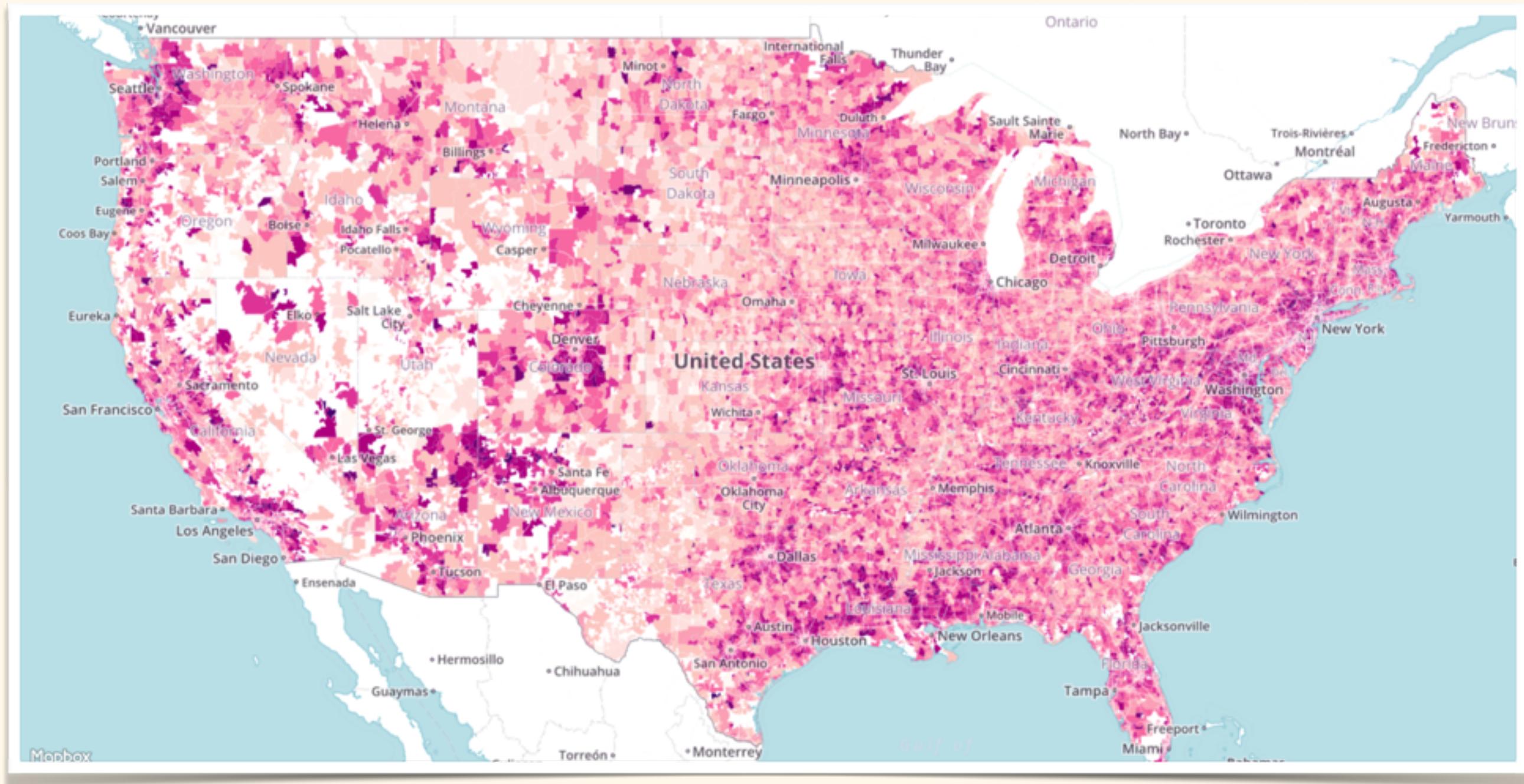
the costs of  
**colocation**

# Rent in SF



Source: RentJungle

# Commute Time



Avg: 25.4 min

Source: WNYC

**inclusivity**

Let the Other 95% of Great

Scott

paulgraham.com/95.html

Home  
Essays  
H&P  
Books  
YC  
School  
Arc  
Lisp  
Spam  
Responses  
FAQs  
RAQs  
Quotes  
RSS  
Bio  
Twitter  
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Index

# PAUL GRAHAM

## LET THE OTHER 95% OF GREAT PROGRAMMERS IN

December 2014

American technology companies want the government to make immigration easier because they say they can't find enough programmers in the US. Anti-immigration people say that instead of letting foreigners take these jobs, we should train more Americans to be programmers. Who's right?

The technology companies are right. What the anti-immigration people don't understand is that there is a huge variation in ability between competent programmers and exceptional ones, and while you can train people to be competent, you can't train them to be exceptional. Exceptional programmers have an aptitude for and interest in programming that is not merely the product of training. [1]

The US has less than 5% of the world's population. Which means if the qualities that make someone a great programmer are evenly distributed, 95% of great programmers are born outside the US.

The anti-immigration people have to invent some explanation to account for all the effort technology companies have expended trying to make immigration easier. So they claim it's because they want to drive down salaries. But if you talk to startups, you find practically every one over a certain size has gone through legal contortions to get programmers into the US, where they then paid them the same as they'd have paid an American. Why would they go to extra trouble to get programmers for the same price? The only explanation is that they're telling the truth: there are just not enough great programmers to go around. [2]

I asked the CEO of a startup with about 70 programmers how many more he'd hire if he could get all the great programmers he wanted. He said "We'd hire 30 tomorrow morning." And this is one of the hot startups that always win recruiting battles. It's the same all over Silicon Valley. Startups are that constrained for

why  
not?

"you **just can't replace**  
what happens when people  
are in the same room"

- everybody, ever

there is  
**no company culture**

less  
**creative collaboration**

no serendipitous  
**hallway conversations**

less  
**sharing of knowledge**

**group productivity**  
is more important than  
**individual productivity**

the  
**future**



what happens when we can  
remove the **disadvantages**?

thank you

@chacon

