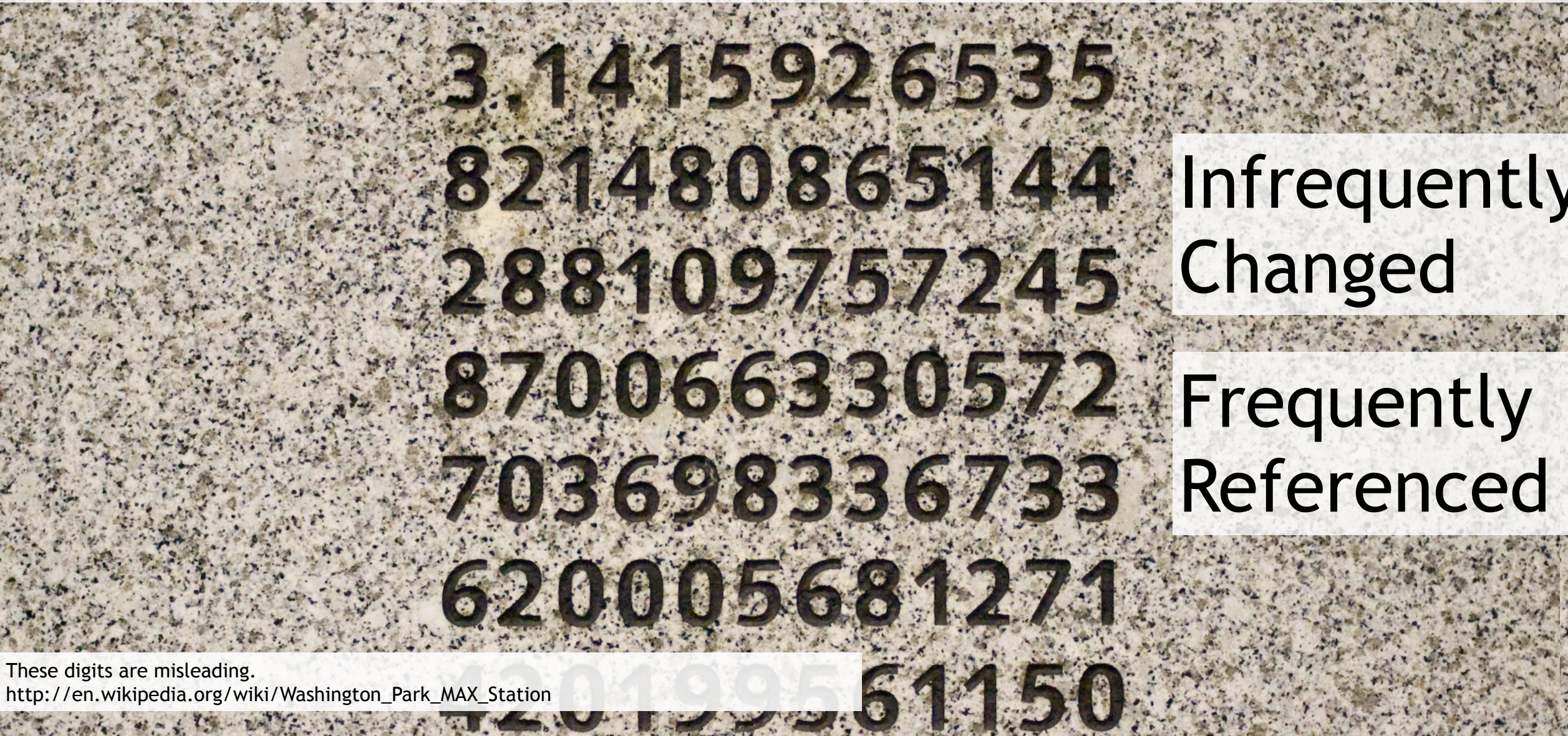
Pseudo-Constants in SQL

@RileyMajor

Pseudo-Constant Candidates



Infrequently Changed

Frequently Referenced

These digits are misleading.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_Park_MAX_Station

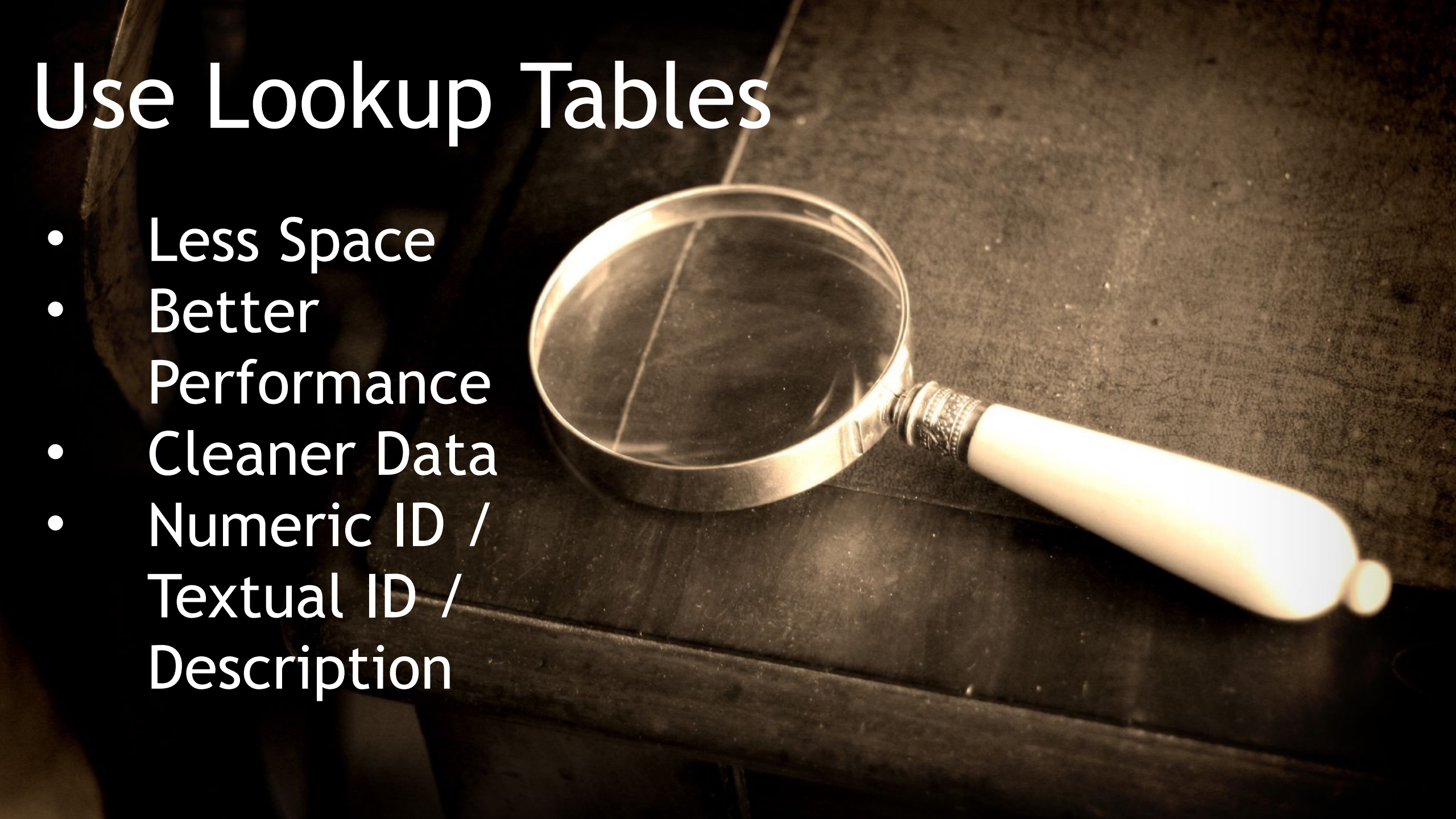
They're everywhere...

- Sizes
- Order Statuses
- DEFCON Levels

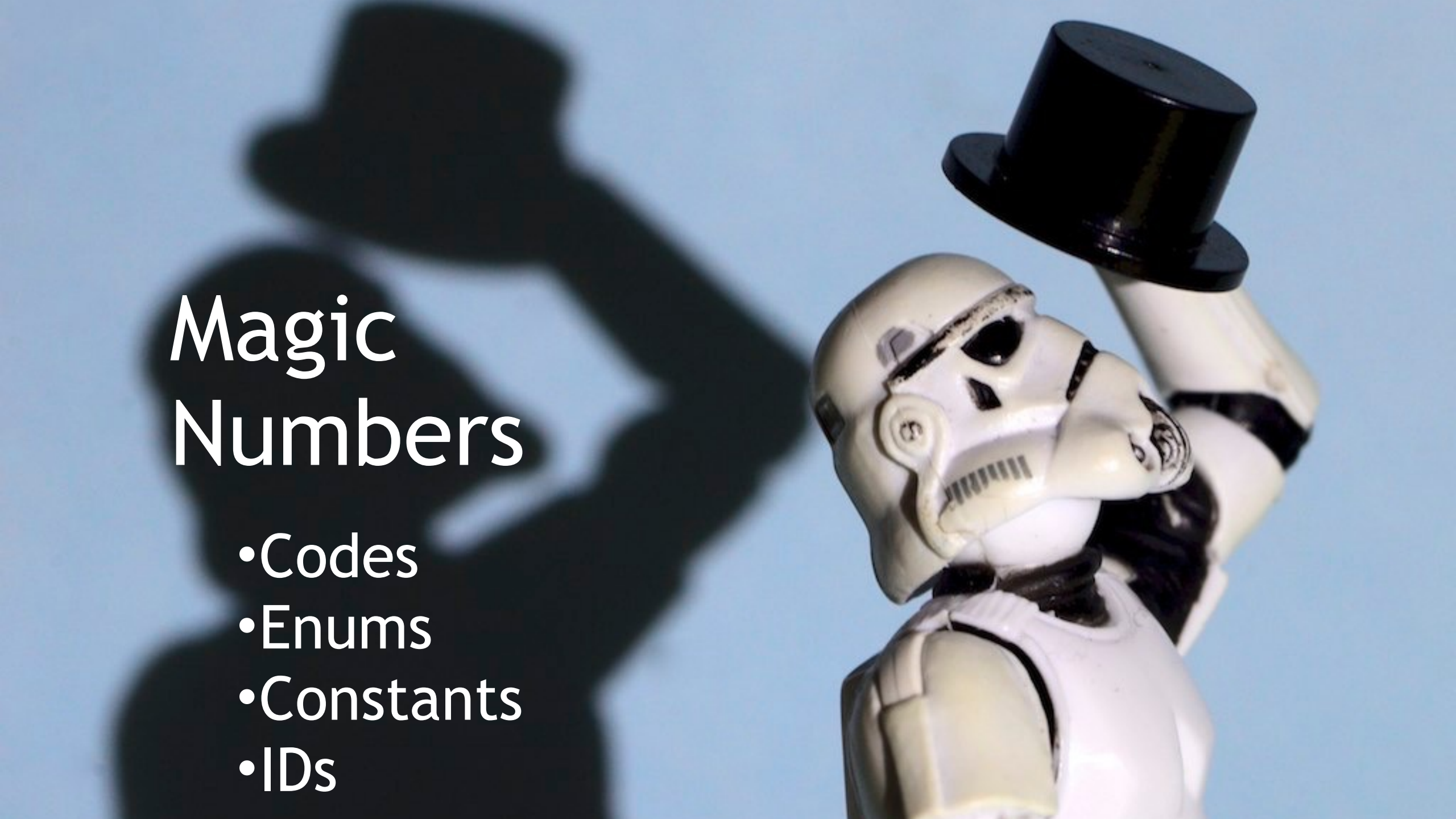
Whole mess o' strings…

- So much data.
- Performance problems.
- Consistency Issues.
- Inflexible names.

Use Lookup Tables

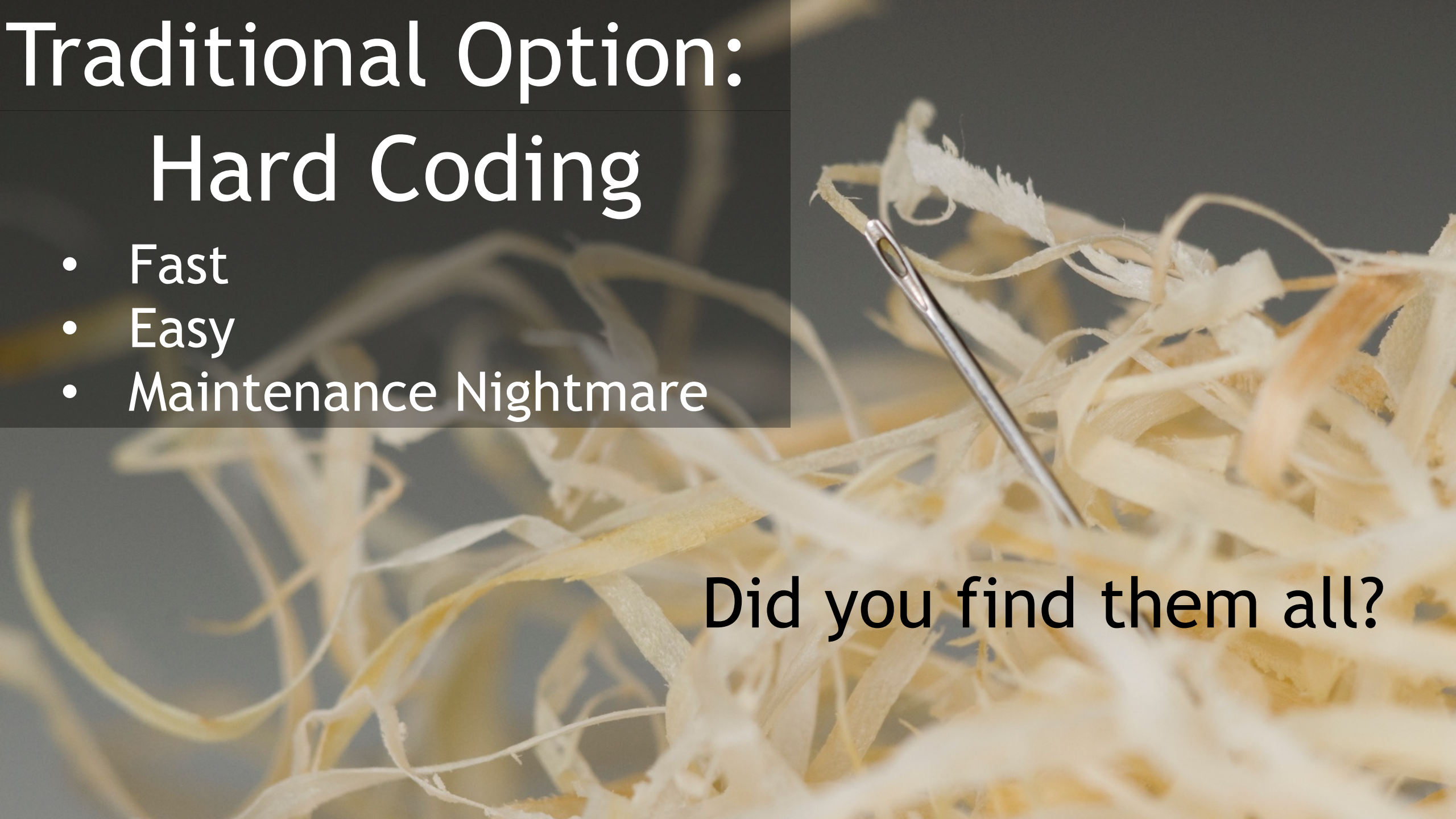


- Less Space
- Better Performance
- Cleaner Data
- Numeric ID / Textual ID / Description


Magic
Numbers
•Codes
•Enums
•Constants
•IDs

Traditional Option: Hard Coding

- Fast
- Easy
- Maintenance Nightmare



Did you find them all?

Better Option: JOINs to Lookup Tables

- Text Codes
- Slightly Slower
- More Complex Query Plans

Best Option: Pseudo-Constant Functions

- Fast
- Compiler Enforcement
- IntelliSense

Let’s dive in…

Pseudo-Constants

Inline Table-Valued User Defined Functions with a Column Per Value

```
SELECT      *
FROM        dbo.CalcConstOrderStatuses() os
CROSS JOIN  Orders AS o
WHERE       o.OrderStatusID = os.OrderStatusAssigned;
```

Apply Liberally

- Ad-Hoc SQL
- Stored Procedures
- Views
- User-Defined Functions
- Persisted Calculated Columns

Do not take with…

- Filtered Indexes
- Indexed Views
- OPTIMIZE FOR

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Additional References:

SQL Saturday Link:
http://www.sqlsaturday.com/387/Sessions/Details.aspx?sid=21735

Misleading Engraved Pi Digits
http://www.o4sr.org/publications/pf_v4n3/PiUnderground.htm

Wisconsin PASS Chapters:

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