

# Pseudo-Constants in SQL



@RileyMajor



# Pseudo-Constant Candidates

3.1415926535

821480865144

288109757245

870066330572

703698336733

620005681271

420199561150

Infrequently  
Changed

Frequently  
Referenced

These digits are misleading.  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington\\_Park\\_MAX\\_Station](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington_Park_MAX_Station)



# They're everywhere...

- Sizes
- Order Statuses
- DEFCON Levels

Jumbo

2.05

Large

1.85

Medium

1.65

Small

1.35

# Use Lookup Tables

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





# Magic Numbers

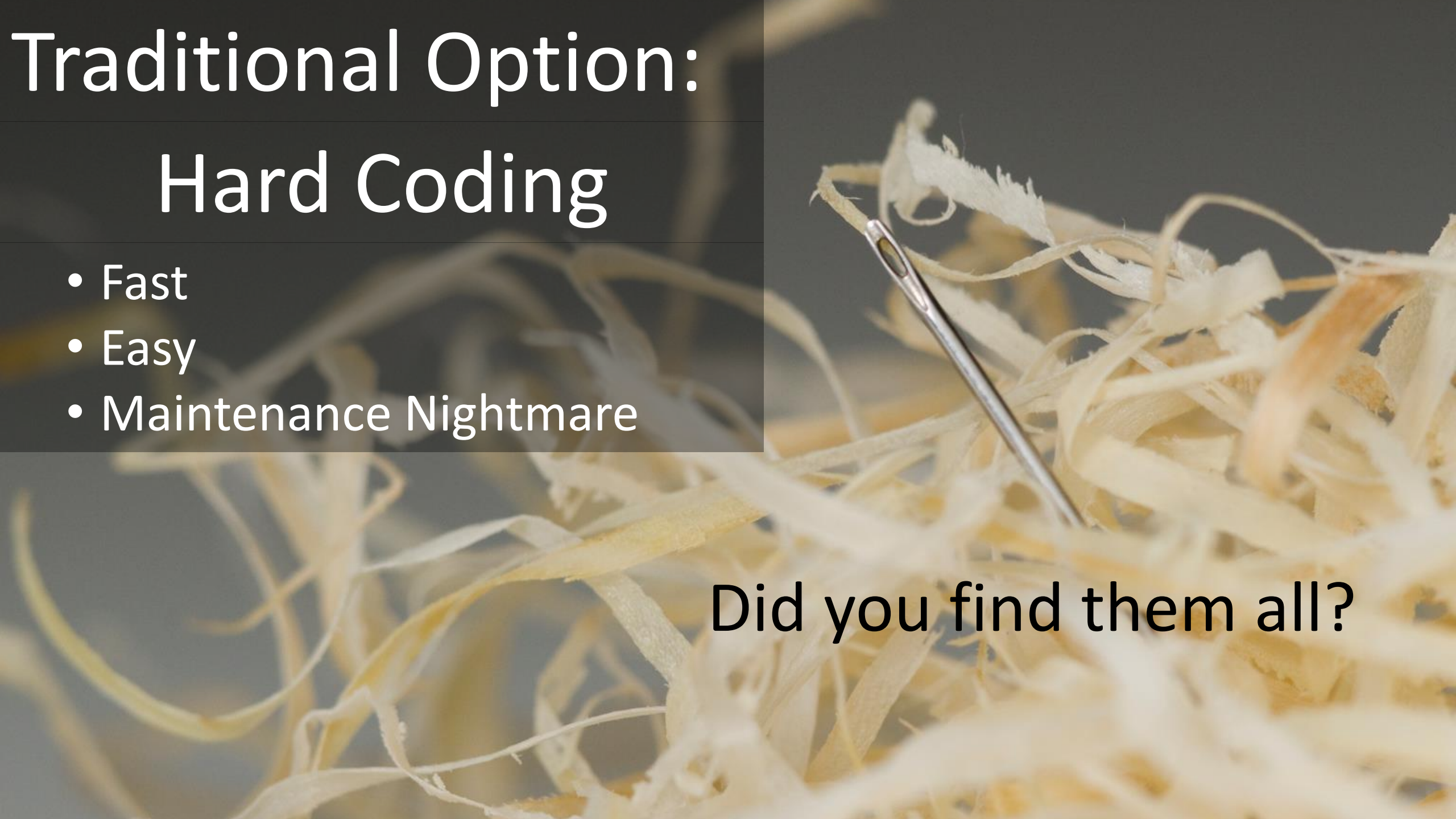
- Codes
- Enums
- Constants
- IDs



# 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





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Rate this talk!

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<https://joind.in/12405>





## Photo Credits

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Pi

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No more rabbits?

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Vern Hart

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Very excited for cake

Sean Donohue

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/hermida/608166432>



## Additional References:

SQL Saturday Link:

<https://www.sqlsaturday.com/viewsession.aspx?sat=332&sessionid=25053>

Misleading Engraved Pi Digits

[http://www.o4sr.org/publications/pf\\_v4n3/PiUnderground.htm](http://www.o4sr.org/publications/pf_v4n3/PiUnderground.htm)