

# Reasons and Drawbacks of using Trivial npm Packages: The Developers' Perspective

Rabe Abdalkareem, Olivier Nourry, Sultan Wehaibi and Emad Shihab



## Package isarray

```
1 var toString = {}.toString;  
2 module.exports = Array.isArray || function (arr) {  
3   return toString.call(arr) == '[object Array]';  
4 };
```

6,990,705 downloads  
in the last week

## Datasets



38,807 JS Projects



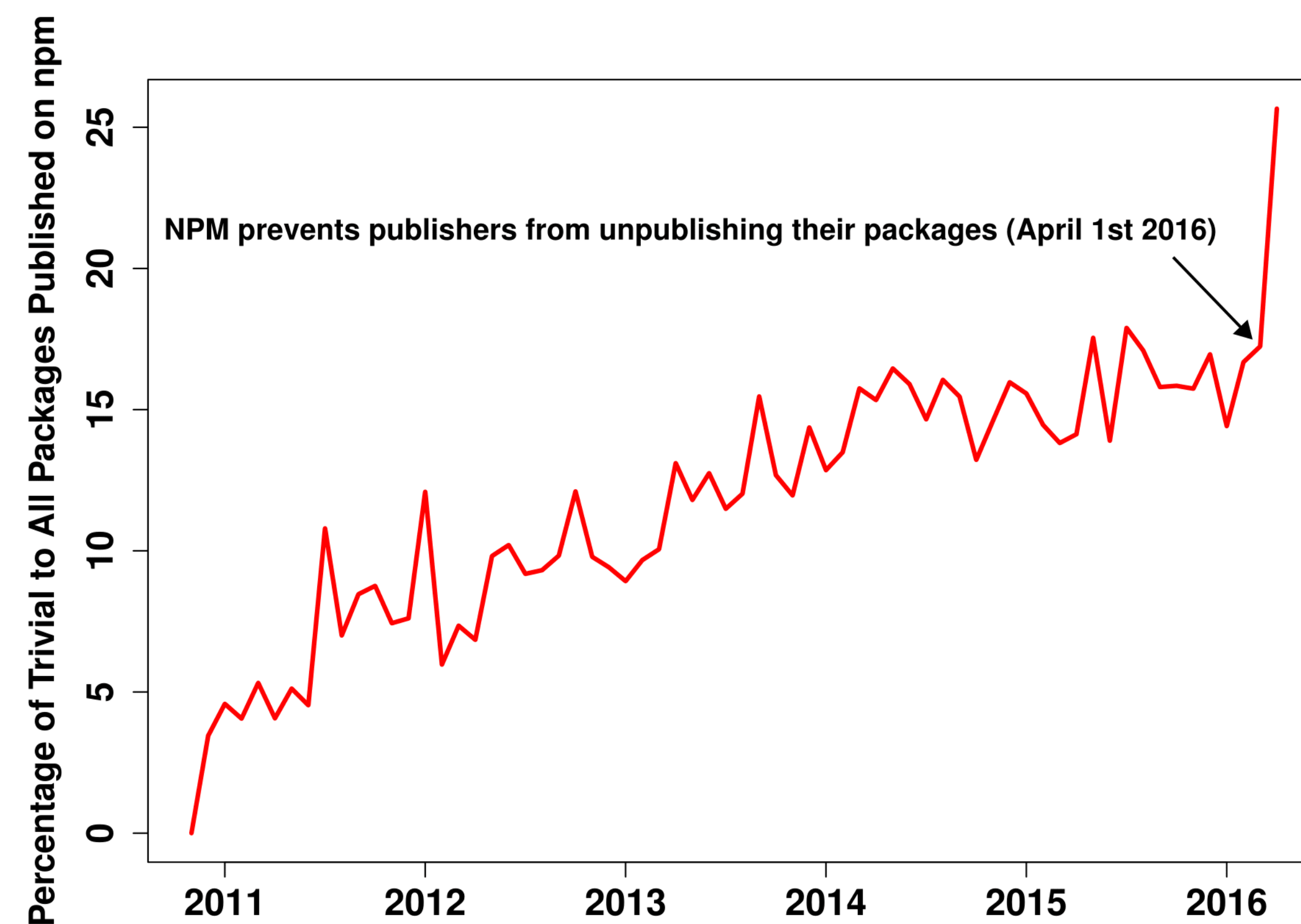
252,996 Packages

38,845 trivial packages  
4256 projects using trivial packages

## What is a trivial package?

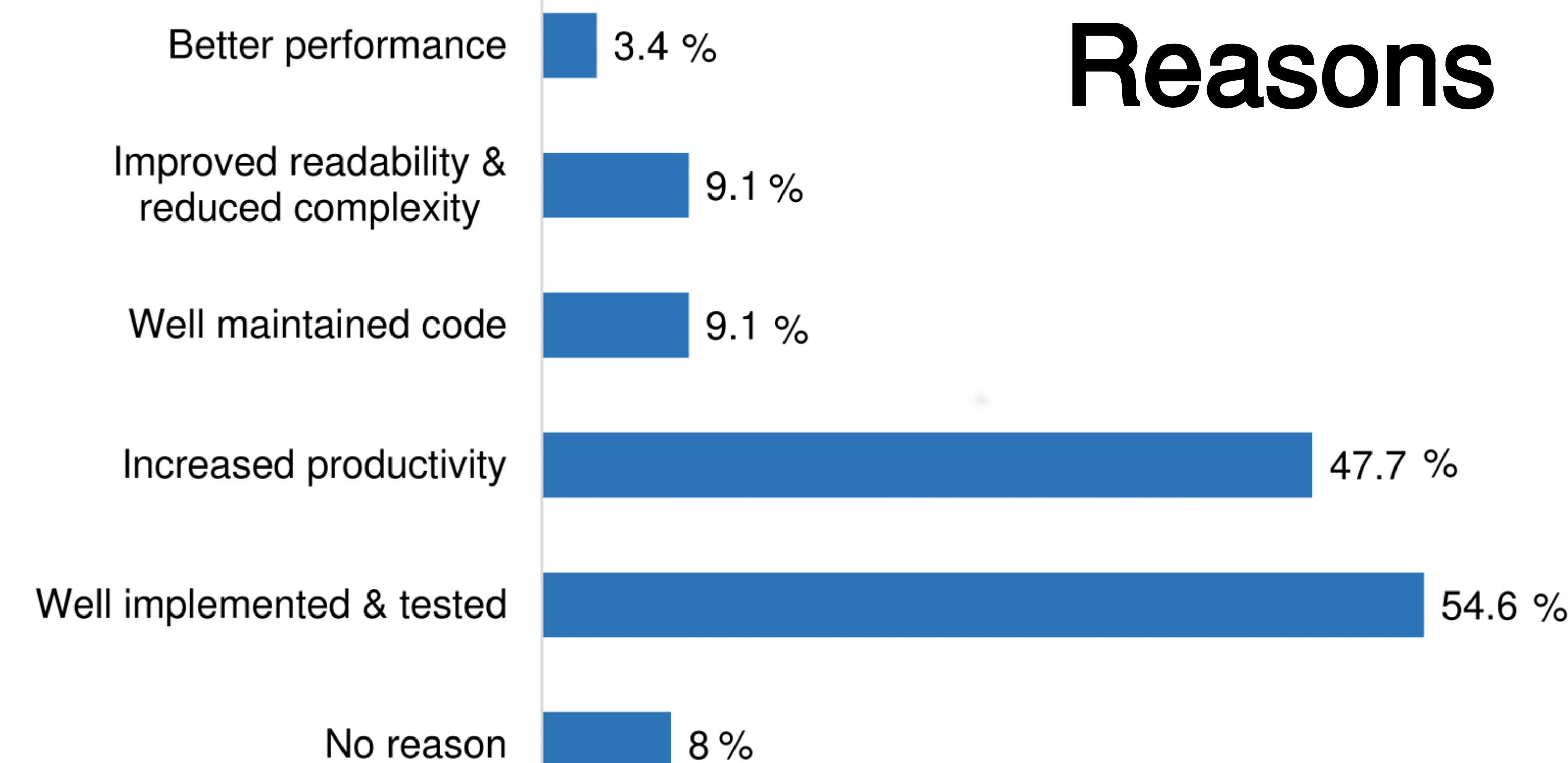
Survey based study of 12  
developers

*Trivial Package = Package < 35 Javascript LOC  
& Package < 10 Cyclomatic Complexity*

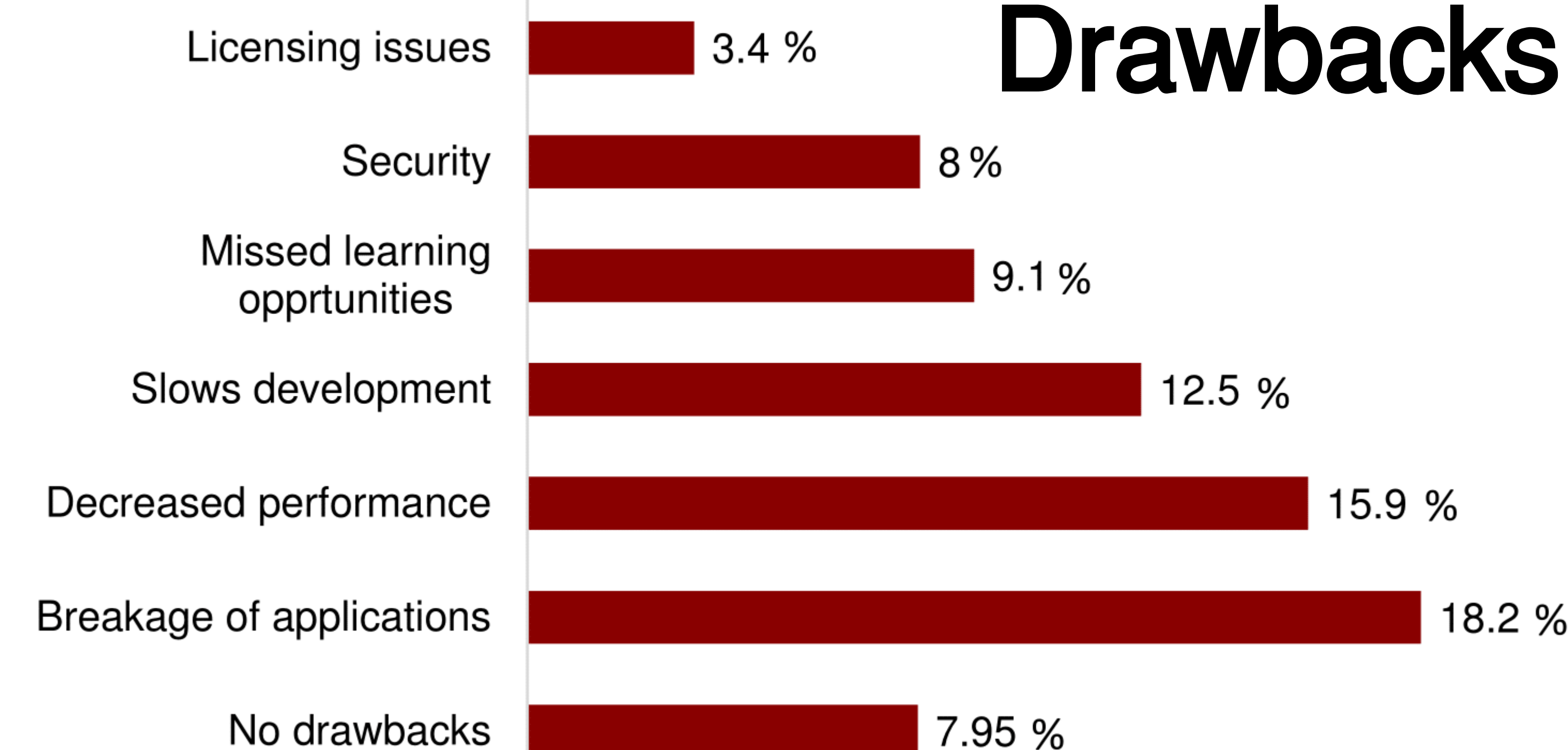


## Developers' Perspective

### Reasons

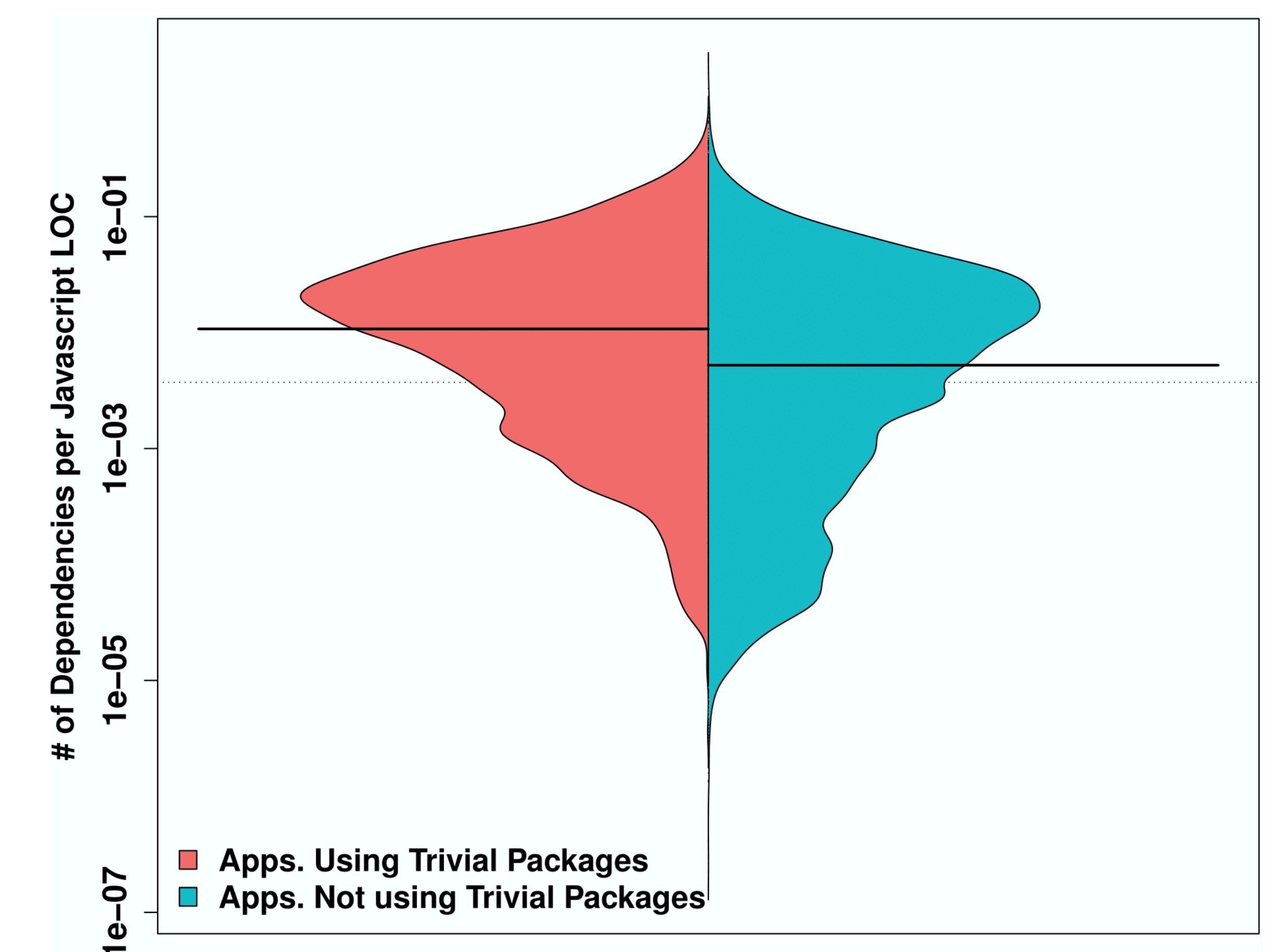


### Drawbacks



## Empirical Validation

- Contrary to the developers' perception, only 47.7% of trivial packages actually have tests.
- Trivial packages have fewer releases and developers are not more likely to version lock trivial packages.



Survey based  
study of 88  
node.js  
developers

