

# Show and Tell: Skill Acquisition

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## The Skill

- Something you did today
- You've been paid to do it
- You've probably never *really* practiced it in your life...

Typing!



(not me)

## Motivation

- I'm a programmer - I have a lot of typing to do!
- Fear of RSI - colleagues have been crippled by it
- Stat: "In the USA, carpal tunnel syndrome results in an average of \$30,000 in lifetime costs" (Wikipedia)

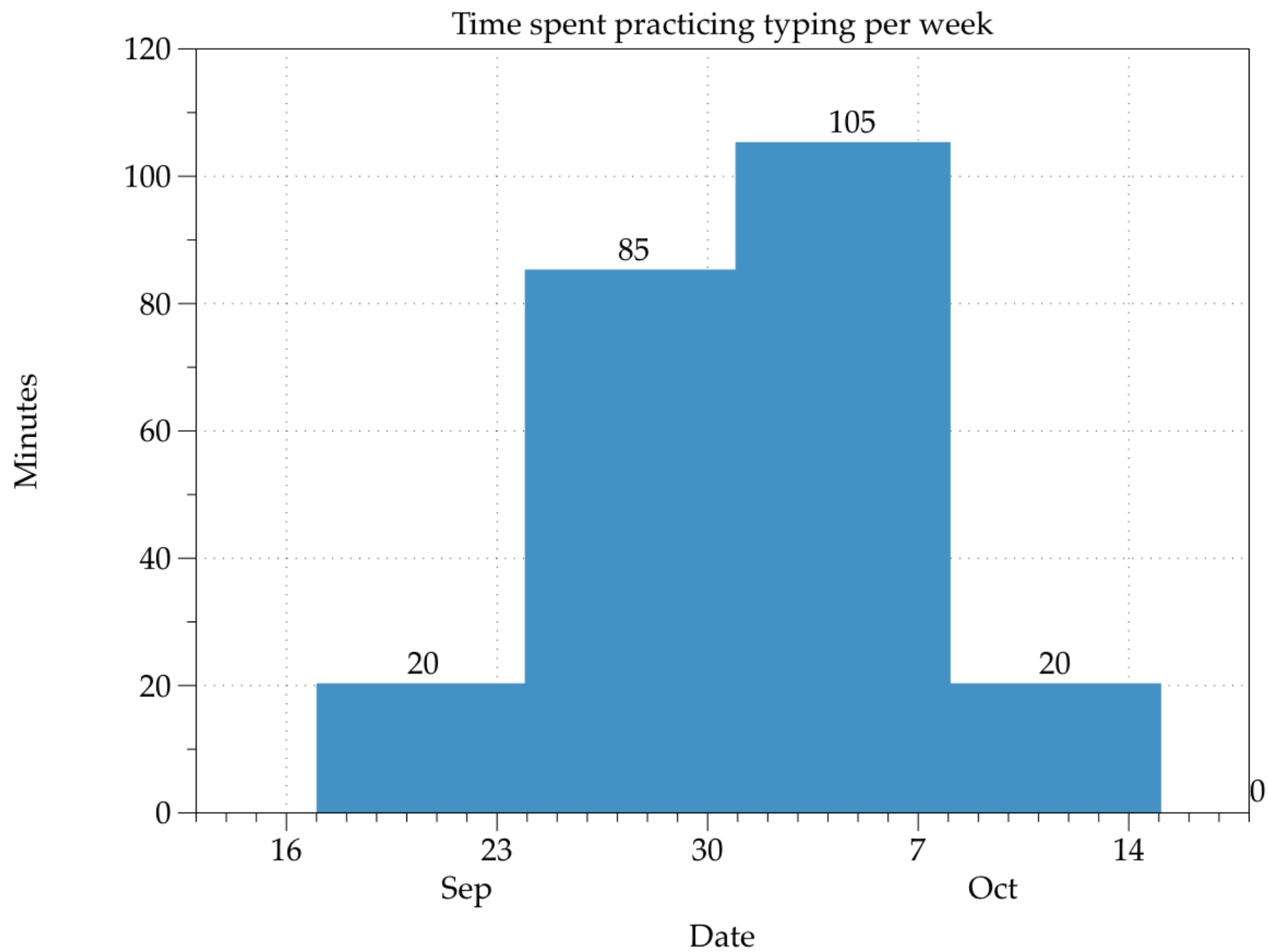
## To business!

- Just need to grab some typing programs
- Get down to learning QWERTY the *right* way!!

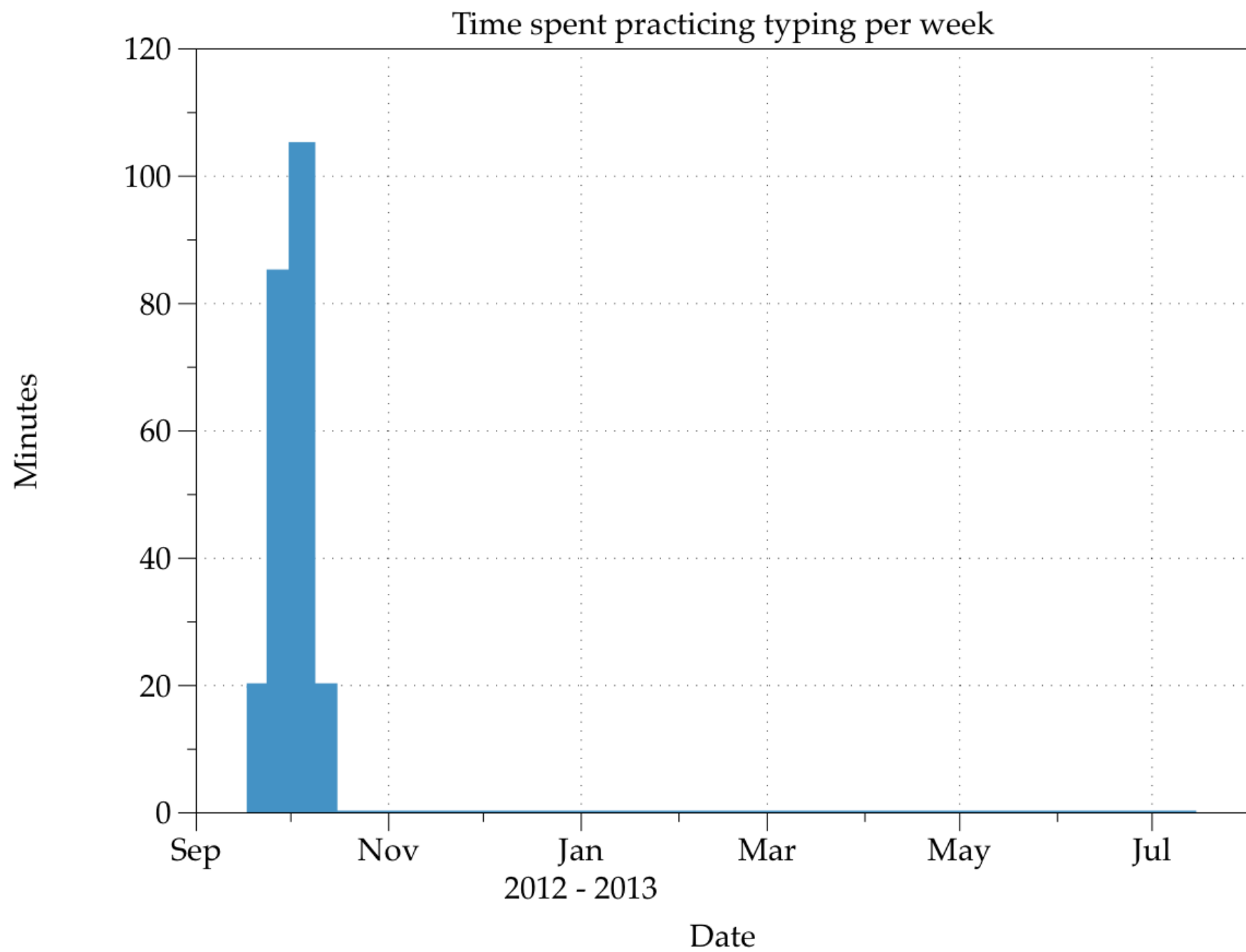
# Ten Thumbs

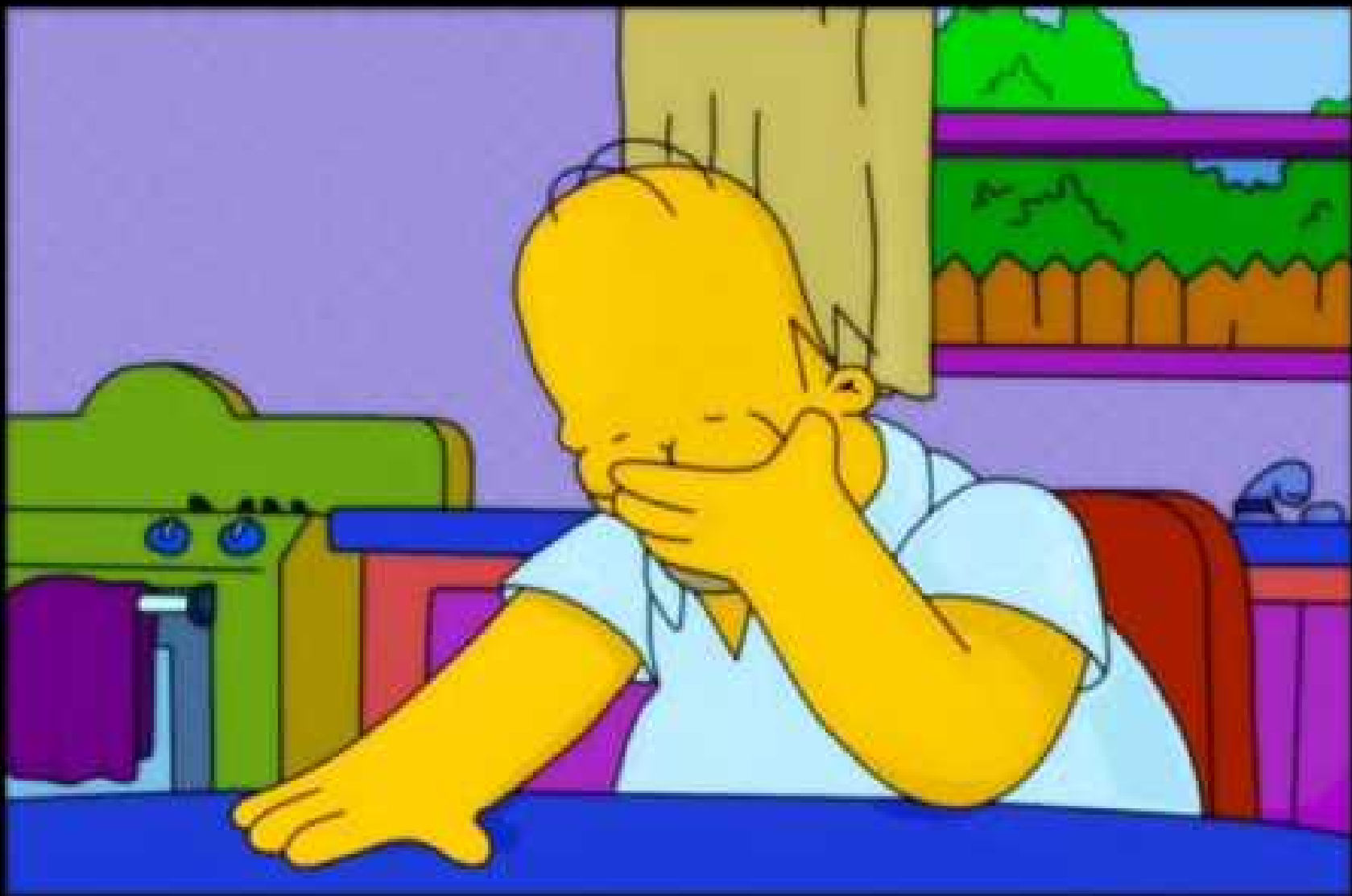


Oh no....









## Under-motivation

- Didn't know how long it would take
- Why was I doing this again?
- Hard practicing QWERTY *the right way* at night, then going back to old habits during the day

...what changed?

# The First 20 Hours



- Josh Kaufman, 2013
- <http://first20hours.com/>

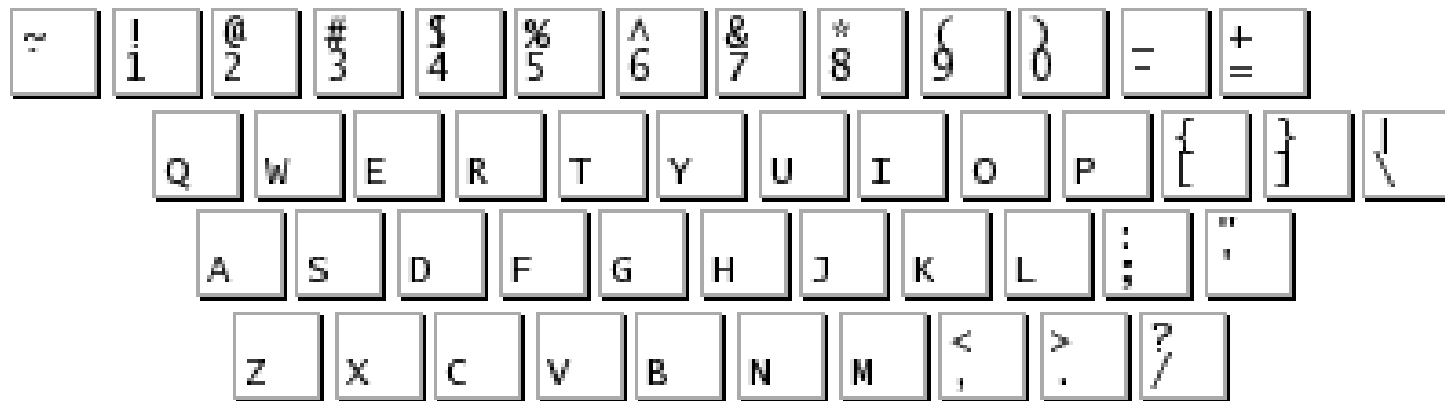
## The First 20 Hours : Rapid Summary

- Nearly any skill can be learnt (to a useful degree) in 20 hours
- A couple chapters of general how-to, then one chapter on each of six skills he learnt with his method
- One of these was on touchtyping... in 'Colemak'

## A brief history of keyboard design...



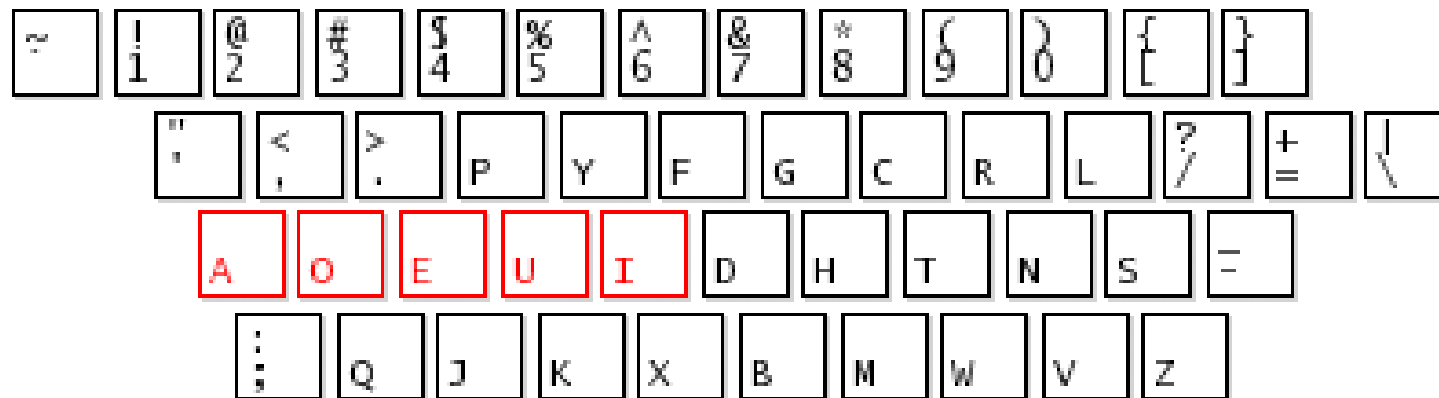
# QWERTY



- “Slowly took over the world”, since 1872. Main design constraint: to stop typewriter key bars jamming.

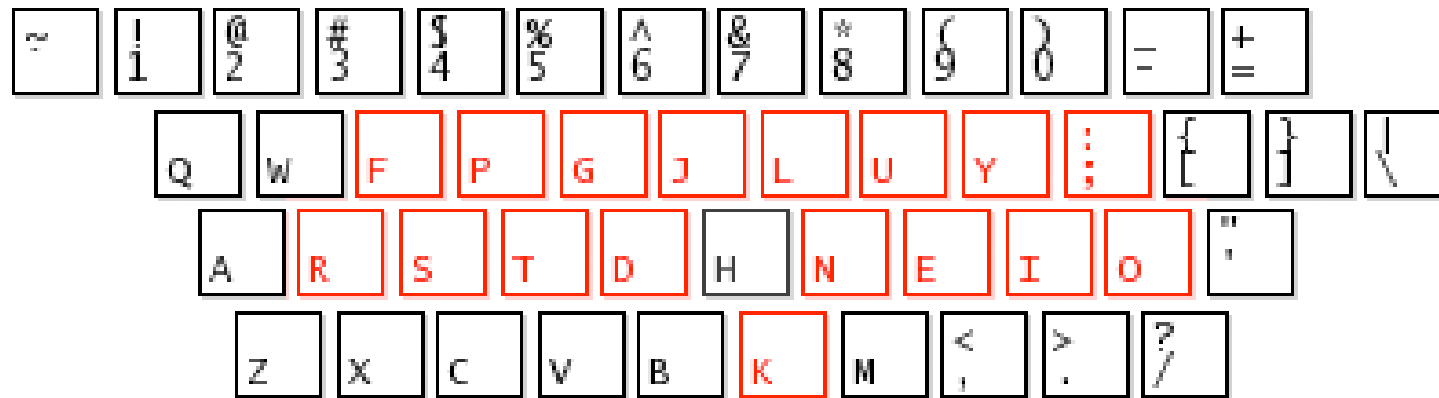


# DVORAK

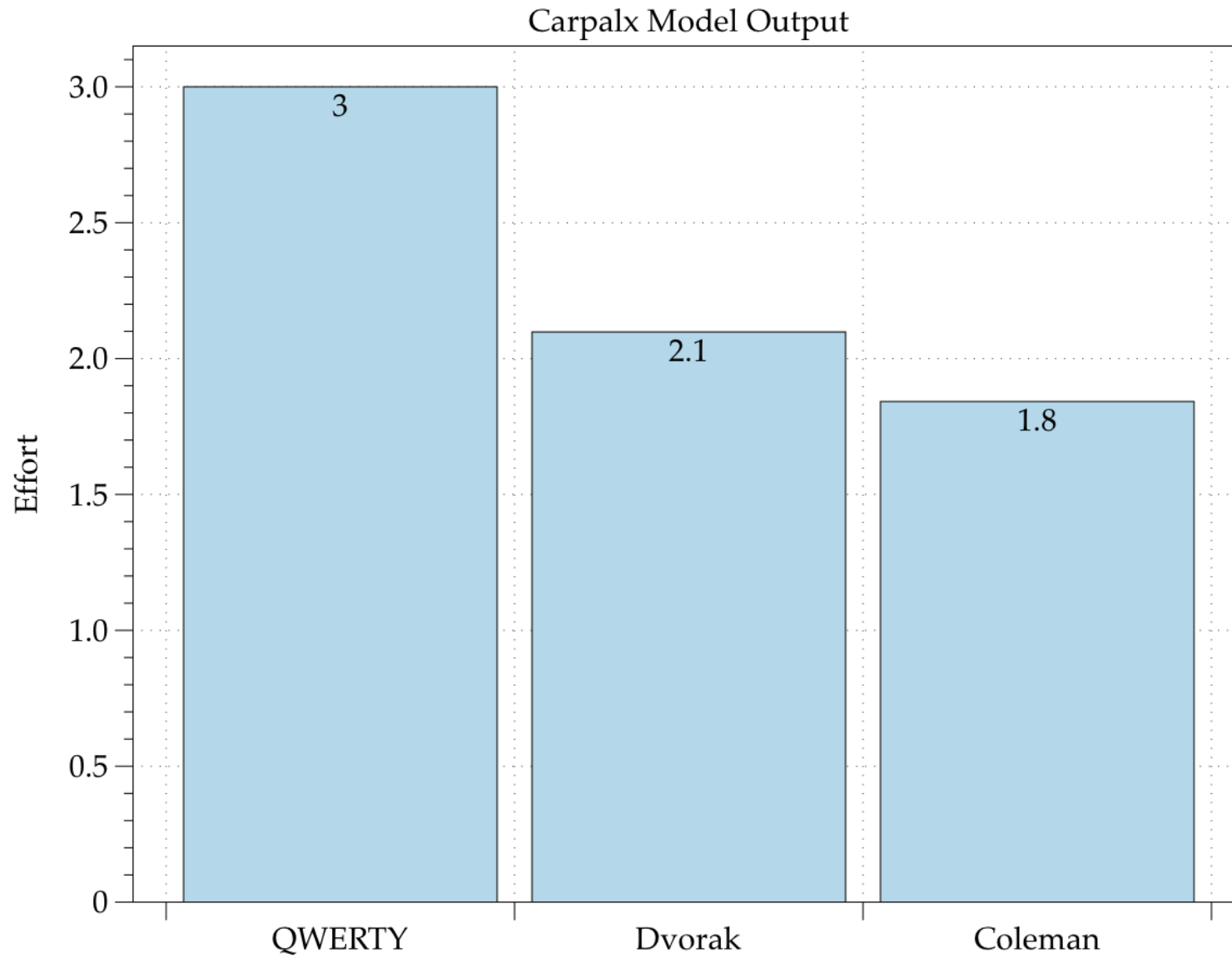


- 1932 attempt at optimisation. Relatively hard to learn.

# Colemak



- Designed by a programmer with mathematical models. Split between ease of transition (Q,W,Z,X,C,V stay the same) and optimization.



- Source: <http://mkweb.bcgsc.ca/carpalx/?colemak>

## Method

- Swap keys on OS and keyboard
- Get some training programs
- Fire away

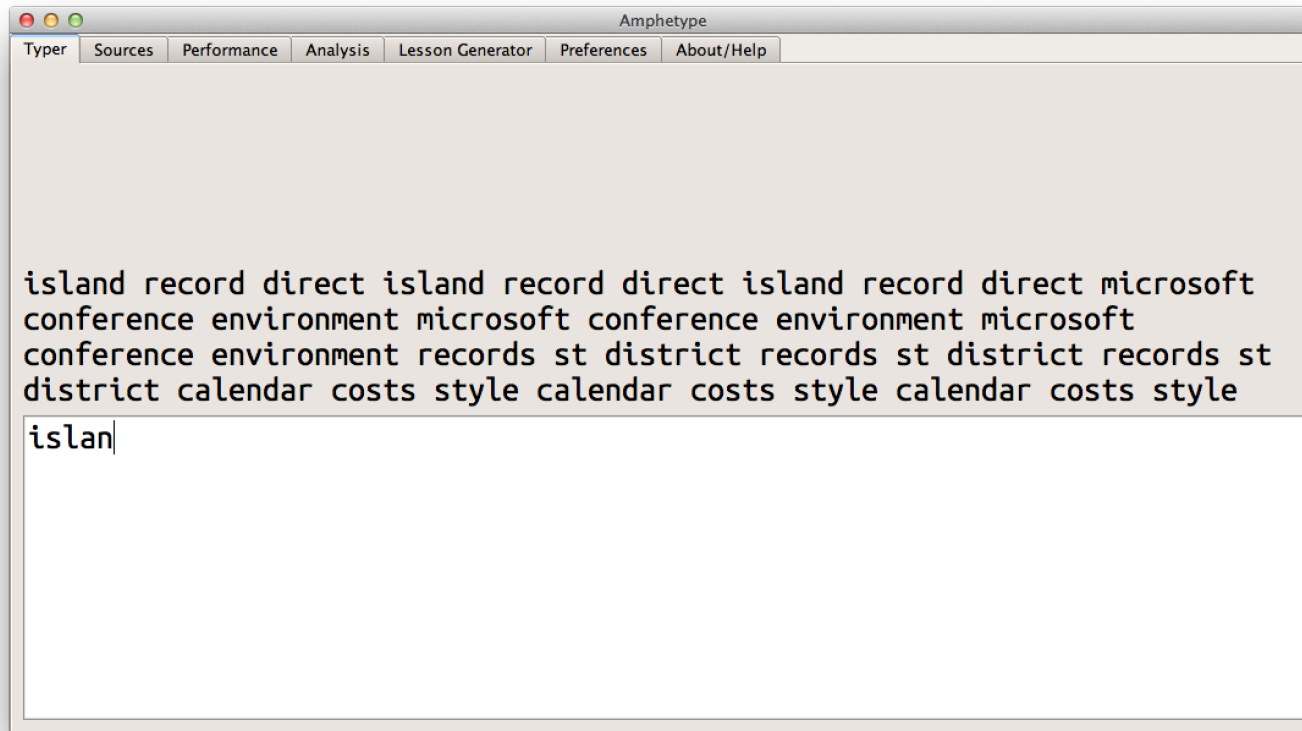
## Method

- Swap keys on OS and keyboard
- Get some training programs
- Try to practice in 20 minute + sessions, before bed.

# Programs

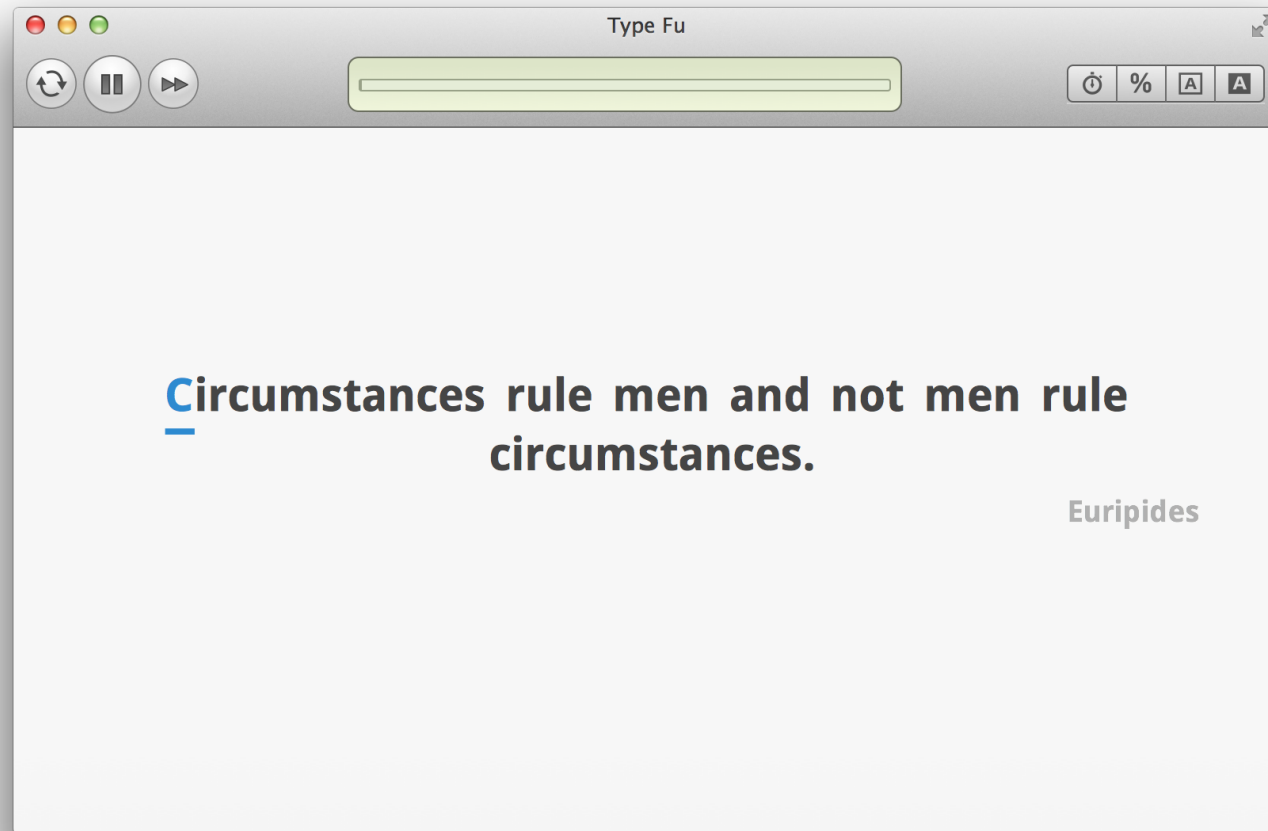
- A good mix of programs is useful
- Practice different subskills - hardest keys, whole prose, etc.
- Data export - not much of a feature. Many record your WPM + accuracy, but often only for own graph feature.

# Amphetype



- Free & open source - <https://code.google.com/p/amphetype/>

# Type-Fu



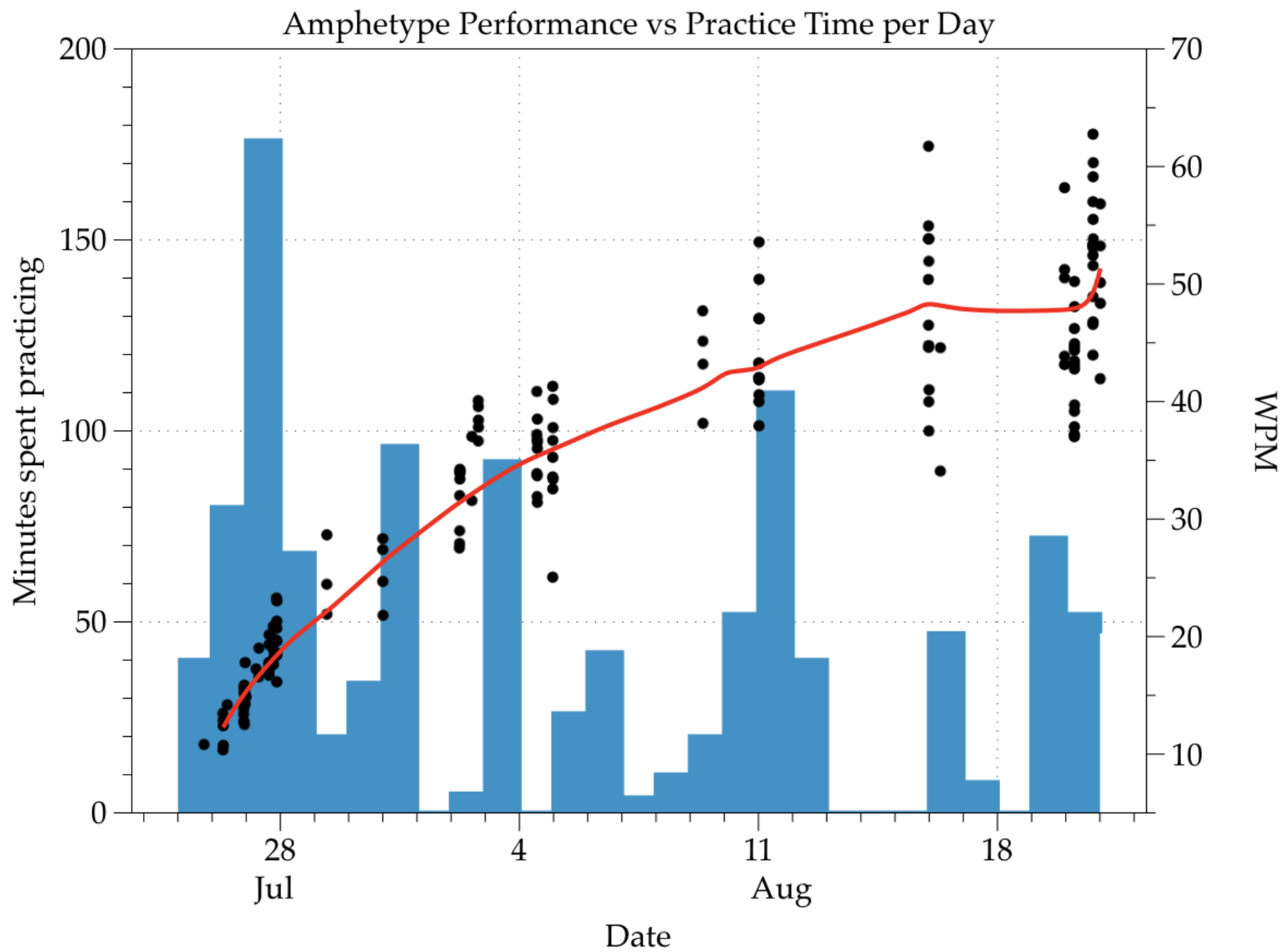
- 6.99 - <http://type-fu.com/>

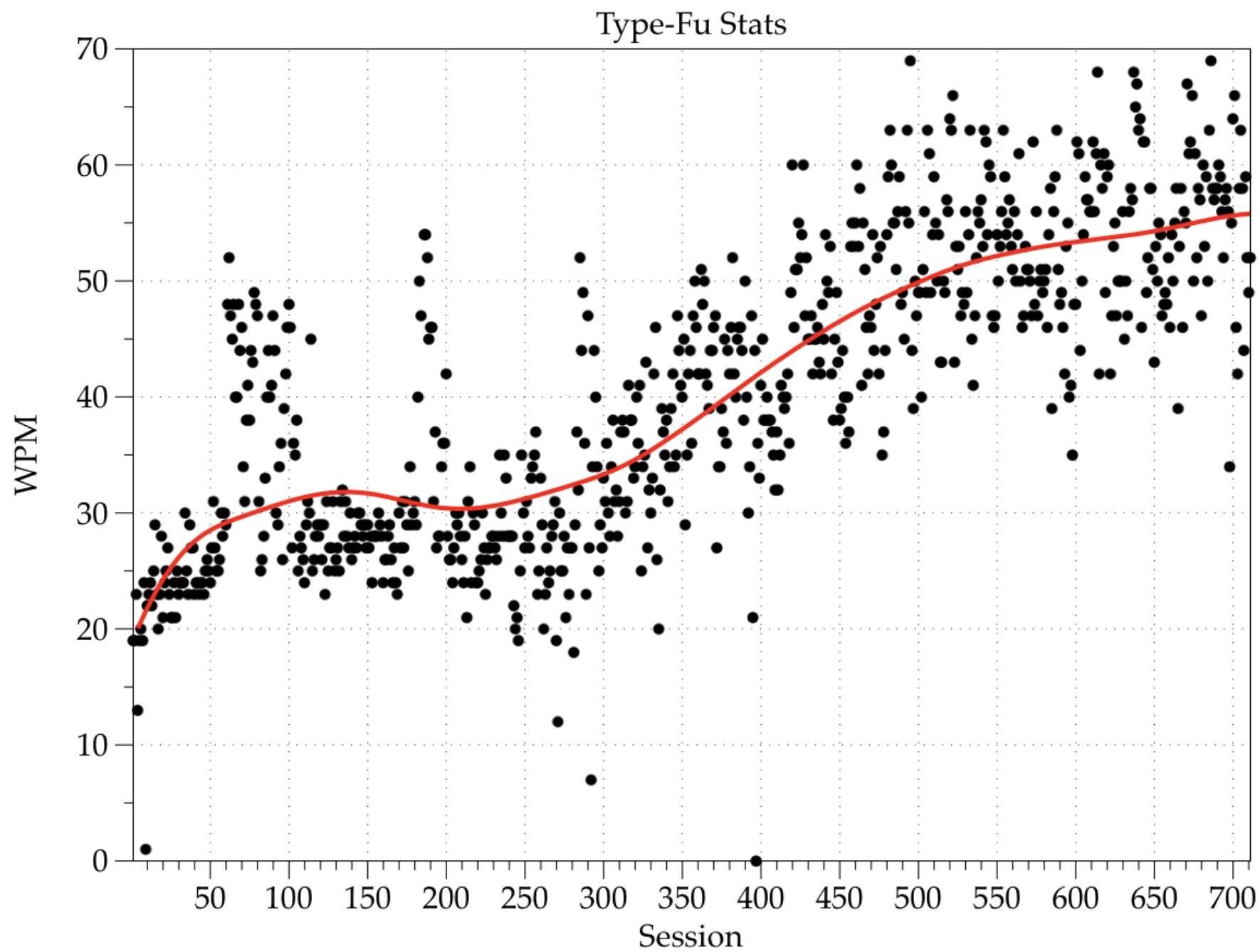


# Typocalypse 3D



- Free - <http://is.gd/typeocalypse>





## Final Statistics

- Total time spent practicing typing: **20:06**
- Moving Average WPM in Amphetamine: **52 WPM**
- Time spent preparing this talk: **3:54**

# Thank you

- Slides on GitHub - <http://is.gd/adamIsDaBomb>
- Email me - [me@adamj.eu](mailto:me@adamj.eu)