Programming: The Next Step

Presentations

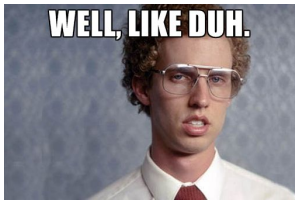
3 minutes, brief feedback afterwards

Feedback focus

- is the topic clear?
- are the user/software perspective thought through well enough to start coding?
- is the project manageable, well-focused?
- are there unforeseen obstacles?
- can you think of more efficient design choices?
- (are the possible extensions worthwhile?)

Beneficial feedback

- ask questions for clarification
- give constructive / encouraging feedback
- keep it personal (“I think the project could benefit…, because I feel that…”)
- try to make it very specific
- compliments on great ideas are helpful too



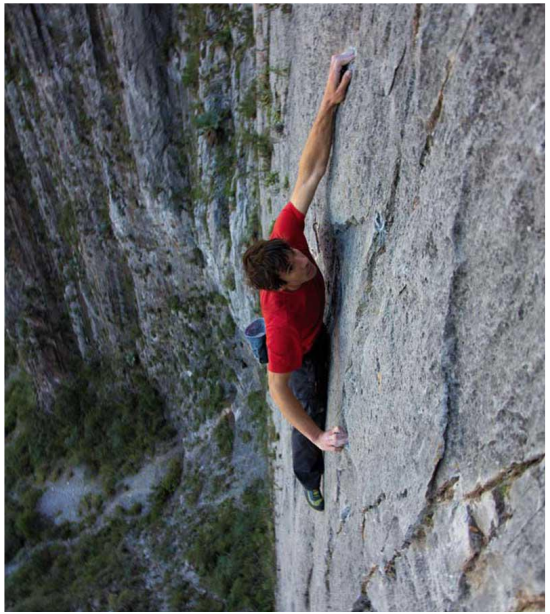
Today

Programming Superpowers

1. Independence
2. Coding style
3. Documentation
4. Version control
5. Testing
6. Having fun

(today, maybe next week)

~~Independence~~ Free Solo



https://youtu.be/Phl82D57P58

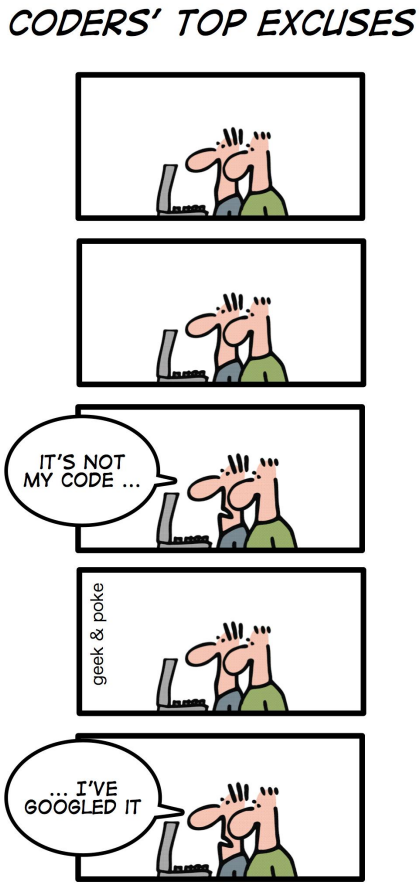
Independence

Resources / documentation

- R: ?*package*; vignette("*package*")
- Python: documentation (2 vs 3)
- Presentation: help resources

Search

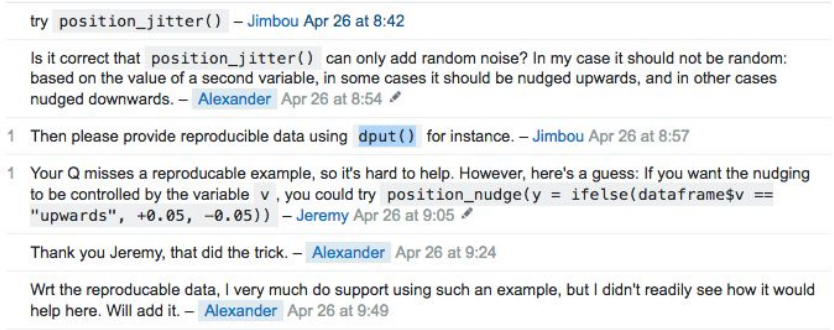
- How to Google effectively (!)
- Stack Overflow
  - [*tag*]: [r][python][python-2.7][python-3.*x*][*package*]
  - *-exclude*
  - "*exact phrase*"



Independence

Ask

- your peers
- stackoverflow for most languages (read tips in link)
- neurobs for presentation
- provide a reproducible example (e.g., reprex)
- 2 hours supervision



try `position_jitter()` – Jimbou Apr 26 at 8:42

Is it correct that `position_jitter()` can only add random noise? In my case it should not be random: based on the value of a second variable, in some cases it should be nudged upwards, and in other cases nudged downwards. – Alexander Apr 26 at 8:54

1 Then please provide reproducible data using `dput()` for instance. – Jimbou Apr 26 at 8:57

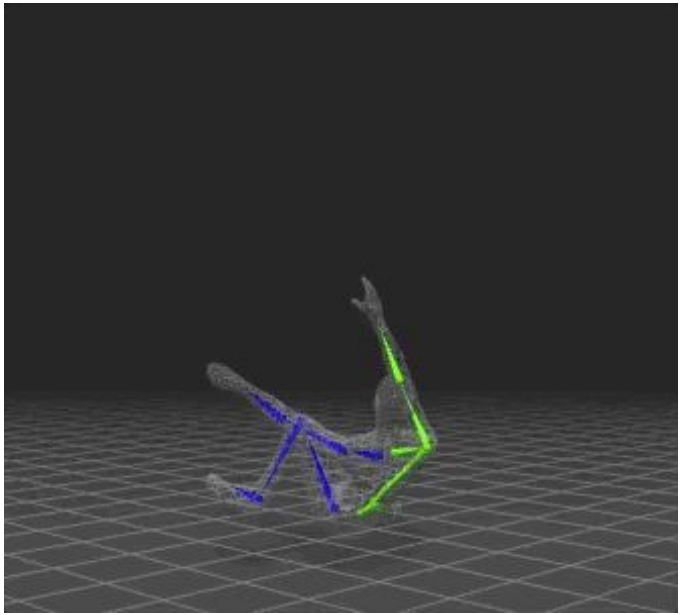
1 Your Q misses a reproducable example, so it's hard to help. However, here's a guess: If you want the nudging to be controlled by the variable `v`, you could try `position_nudge(y = ifelse(dataframe$v == "upwards", +0.05, -0.05))` – Jeremy Apr 26 at 9:05

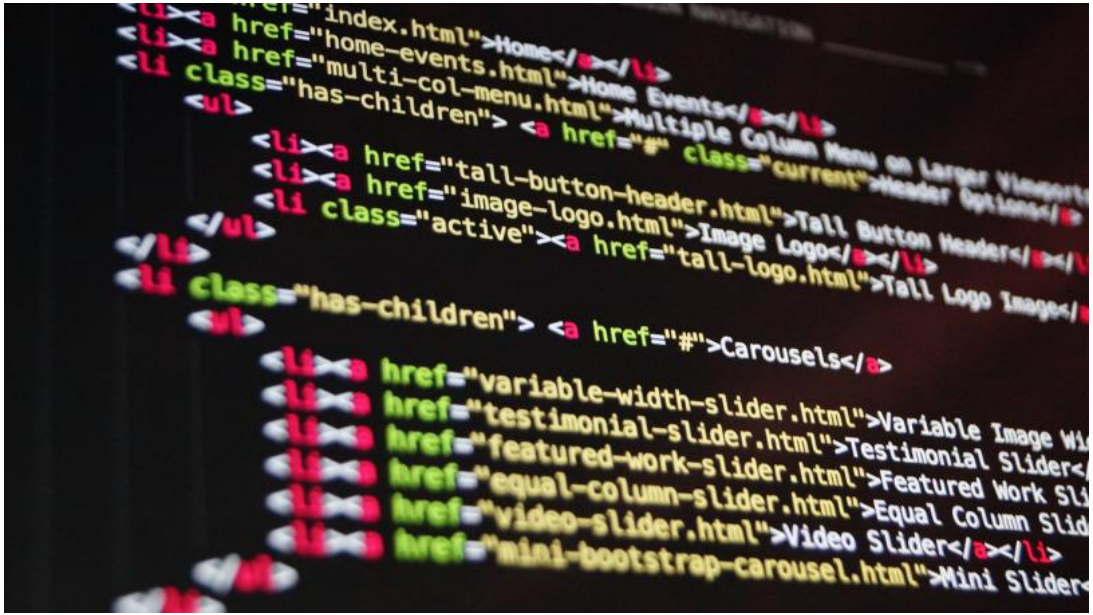
Thank you Jeremy, that did the trick. – Alexander Apr 26 at 9:24

Wrt the reproducable data, I very much do support using such an example, but I didn't readily see how it would help here. Will add it. – Alexander Apr 26 at 9:49

Take-away: (1) research your question (2) make it specific (3) most problems have been solved before: find and learn (4) if not: make sure others will learn from it

~~Coding Style~~ Efficiency





Coding Style

Coding Style

```
//Child Component / Profile (Functional Component)
const Profile = (props) => {
  const classes = props.selected ? 'bold' : '';
  return (
    <li onClick={ props.onClick } className={classes}>
      <i className="fa fa-user"></i> { props.user.name }
    </li>
  );
};
```

Coding Style

Principles

- hierarchy: use tabs to represent internal structure
- modularity & chunking: make reusable code that serves a single purpose
- consistency: choose a style and stick to it
- framing: comment your code

```
//Child Component / Profile (Functional Component)
const Profile = (props) => {
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    </li>
  );
};
```

Reasons

- less mistakes
- easier to spot mistakes
- easier collaboration
- easier for others to help you
- more efficient in the long run
- open science

Coding Style: Style Guides

R

- Hadley Wickham, Google, formatR

NetLogo

- Official style

Python

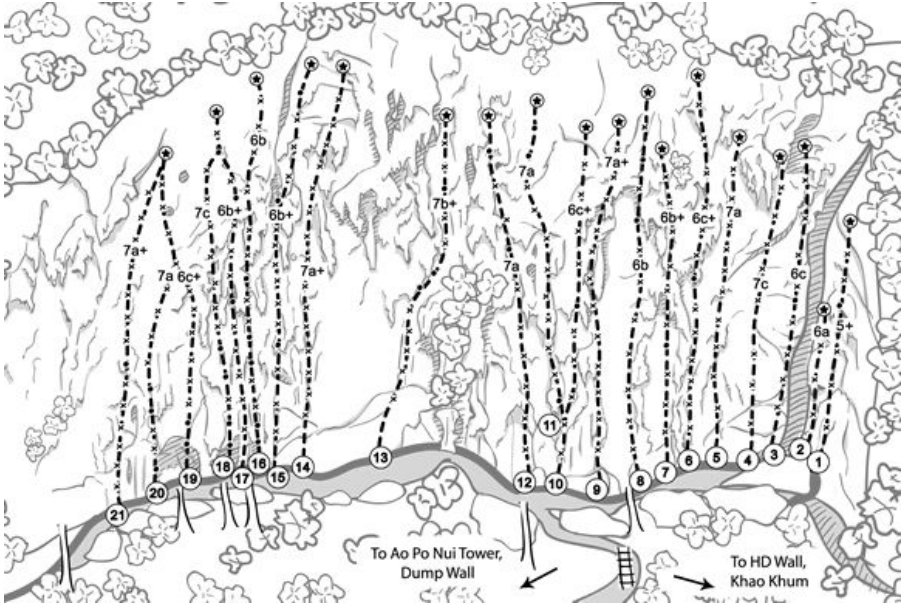
- PEP-8, PEP-8 tutorial

Presentation

- Ask Jasper for tips

Take-away: use a consistent style that matches a preferred style in your language

~~Documentation~~ Topo



Package 'climbeR'

November 19, 2016

Title Calculate Average Minimal Depth of a Maximal Subtree for 'ranger' Package Forests

Version 0.0.1

Description Calculates first, and second order, average minimal depth of a maximal subtree for a forest object produced by the R 'ranger' package. This variable importance metric is implemented as described in Ishwaran et. al. (`High-Dimensional Variable Selection for Survival Data", March 2010, <doi:10.1198/jasa.2009.tm08622>).

Depends R (>= 3.3.2)

License MIT + file LICENSE

Imports ggplot2, grDevices, graphics

Suggests survival (>= 2.38-1), ranger, knitr, rmarkdown, testthat, dplyr

RoxygenNote 5.0.1

VignetteBuilder knitr

NeedsCompilation no

Author John Karlen [aut, cre]

Maintainer John Karlen <jkarlen@massmutual.com>

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2016-11-19 10:13:21

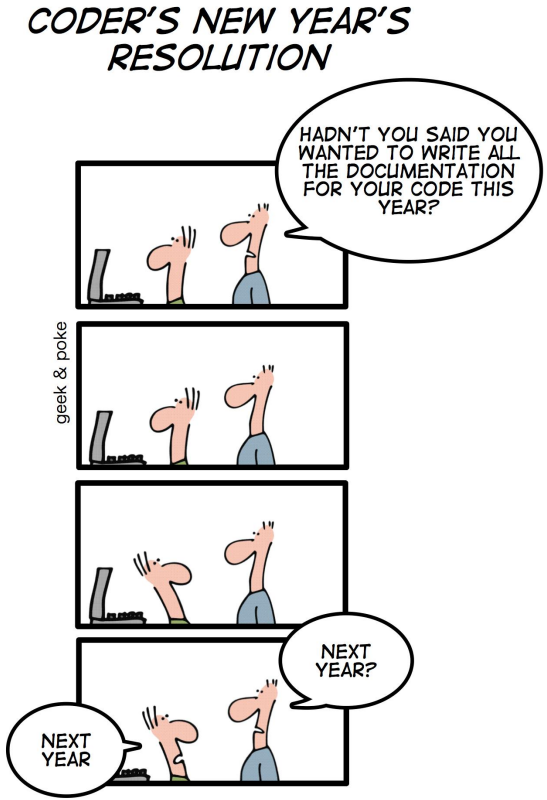
Documentation

Three reasons

Because you forget

Because you want others to use it

Because you forget



Documentation (code-intensive)

Commenting

r

python

presentation

; netlogo

Literate computing

R Notebook (R)

Jupyter Notebook (over 40 languages)

Take-away: comment your code extensively

Documentation (text-intensive)

Literate programming

R vignette: try *vignette("dplyr")*

(more on literate programming and computing)

Manual

R documentation

Python documentation

Look through some manuals

And you can build a website...

Take-away: (1) be aware of different ways to document your code, and the different goals of documentation (2) imitate the documentation style that is preferred in your language

Version Control

Reasons

Document the *changes*

(Re)store versions

Compare versions

Automatic backup

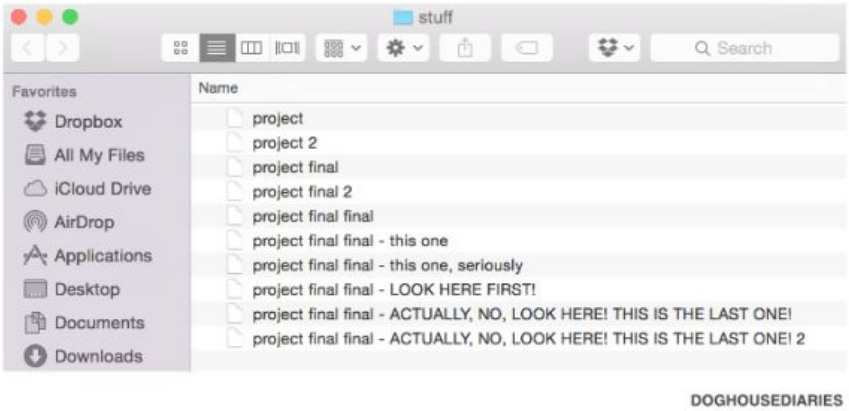
Collaboration

GitHub

Online service for Git (version control software)

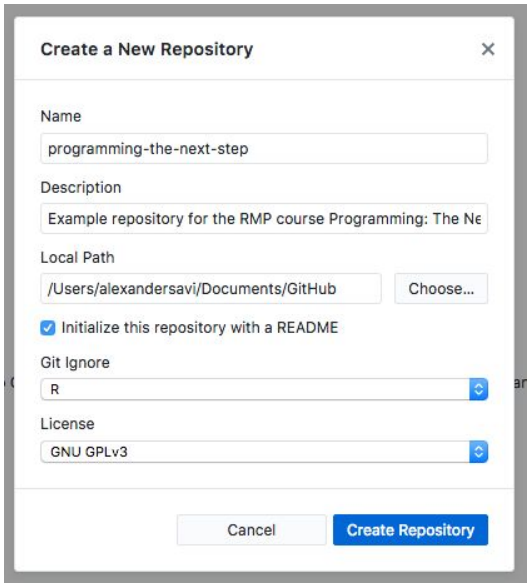
Many additional features

Let's check it out



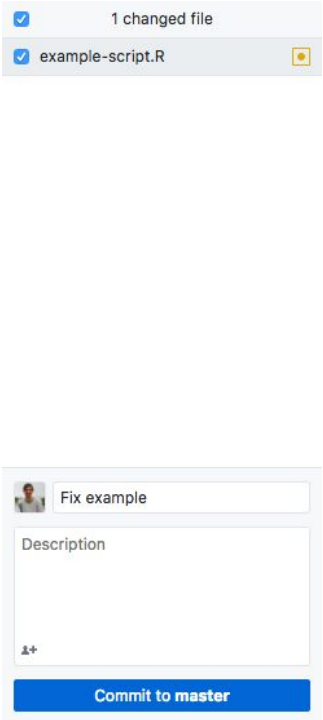
Version Control: GitHub Desktop

Create repository

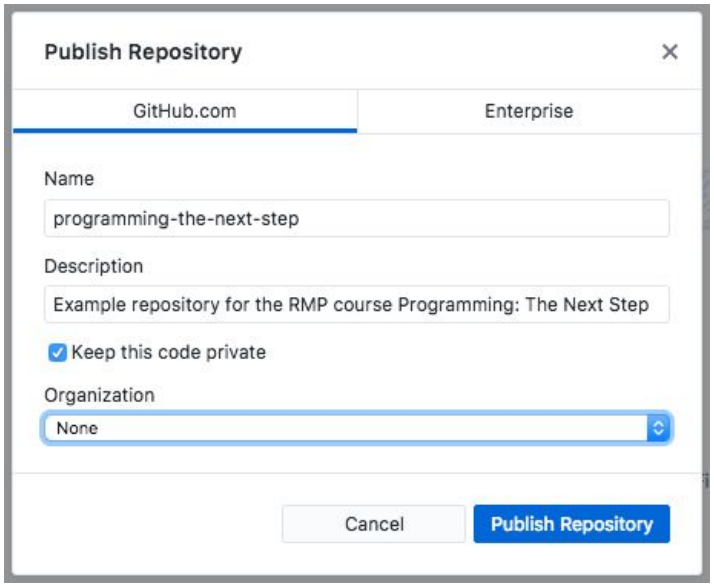


What is Git Ignore?

Commit



Publish



Version Control: Become a Pro

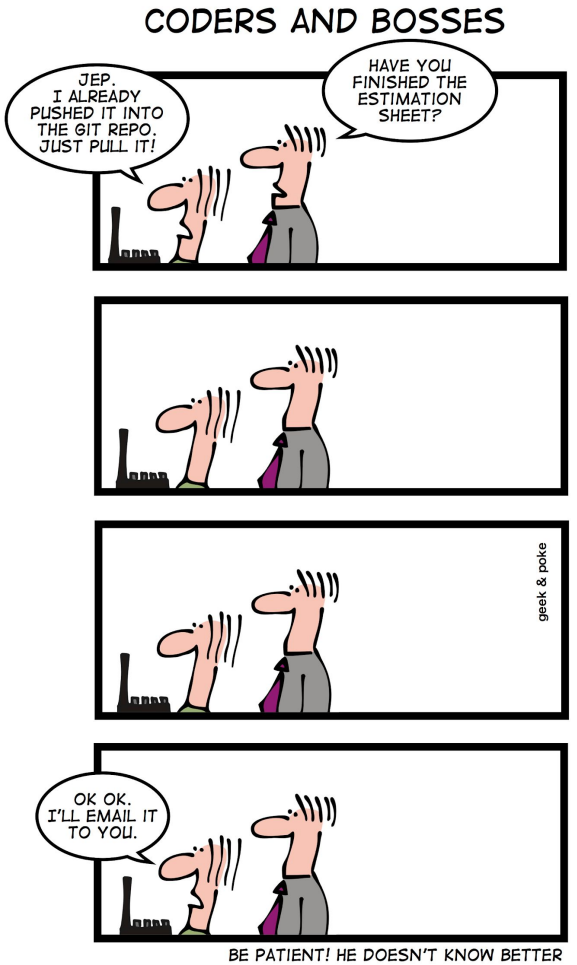
Git

- Use it from the terminal (guide)
- Use it from the terminal (tutorial)
- Read the book
- Learn about workflows

GitHub

- Use it on GitHub.com (guide)
- Use it from the terminal (tutorial)
- Work with GitHub Desktop

Take-away: get some experience with setting up a Git/GitHub workflow, and get familiar with Git basics



A problem has been detected and Windows has been shut down to prevent damage
to your computer.

UNMOUNTABLE_BOOT_VOLUME

If this is the first time you've seen this error screen,
restart your computer. If this screen appears again, follow
these steps:

Check to make sure any new hardware or software is properly installed.
If this is a new installation, ask your hardware or software manufacturer
for any Windows updates you might need.

If problems continue, disable or remove any newly installed hardware
or software. Disable BIOS memory options such as caching or shadowing.
If you need to use Safe Mode to remove or disable components, restart
your computer, press F8 to select Advanced Startup Options, and then
select Safe Mode.

Technical Information:

*** STOP: 0x000000ED (0x80F128D0, 0xc000009c, 0x00000000, 0x00000000)

Unit Testing

1. Work with small units (e.g, a function).
2. What should the unit do?
3. Create the unit.
4. Create a test for the unit.

Compare with external ground truth:

```
TestCorrelation <- function(cor1, cor2) {
  if (cor1 == cor2) {
    print("TestCorrelation: PASSED")
  } else {
    cat("TestCorrelation: FAILED", c(cor1, cor2), "\n", sep = " ")
  }
}

TestCorrelation(1, 1)
TestCorrelation(1, 2)
# TestCorrelation(CalculateCorrelation(var1, var2), cor(var1, var2))

# test dataset
x <- c(1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8)
y <- c(2,4,5,6,9,12,32,18)
TestCorrelation(CalculateCorrelation(x, y), cor(x, y))
```

Or verify each step:

- use *print()* in a loop
- verify a single case, before going over all cases
-

Error Provision

First try to break your code

```
> what_now <- function(i) {
+     sample(c("eat", "sleep", "code"), i)
+ }
> what_now("repeat")
Error in sample.int(length(x), size, replace, prob) :
  vector size cannot be NA/NaN
In addition: Warning message:
In sample.int(length(x), size, replace, prob) :
```

Then provide meaningful details

```
> sum("mer")
Error in sum("mer") : invalid 'type' (character) of argument
```

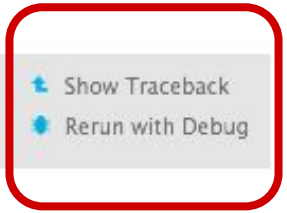
```
# error handling: check vector lengths
n <- length(x)
if (n <= 1 || n != length(y)) {
  stop("Arguments x and y have different lengths: ",
       length(x), " and ", length(y), ".")
}
# error handling: check no missing values
if (TRUE %in% is.na(x) || TRUE %in% is.na(y)) {
  stop(" Arguments x and y must not have missing values.")
}
# error handling: check all values are numeric
if (!(all.is.numeric(x)) || !(all.is.numeric(y))) {
  stop(" Arguments x and y must only contain numbers.")
}
```

Debugging

RStudio

```
> what_now <- function(i) {
+     sample(c("eat", "sleep", "code"), i)
+ }
> what_now("repeat")
Error in sample.int(length(x), size, replace, prob) :
  vector size cannot be NA/NaN
In addition: Warning message:
In sample.int(length(x), size, replace, prob) :
```

```
Error in sample.int(length(x), size, replace, prob) :
  vector size cannot be NA/NaN
```



Alpha Testing

Think your program is unbreakable? Let others have a try!

We'll do it in class!

Bug report

For each bug specify

- the steps to reproduce
  - description of what went wrong (user perspective)
  - when relevant: systems specs where error occurred (OS, browser)
- what you expected to see
- what you saw instead
  - provide a screenshot

Pro tip: GitHub uses Issues for this

Having Fun

Hide an easter egg

Try programmer humor

Take a break

Learn to juggle

Sit together

Break your neighbor's code

Presentation

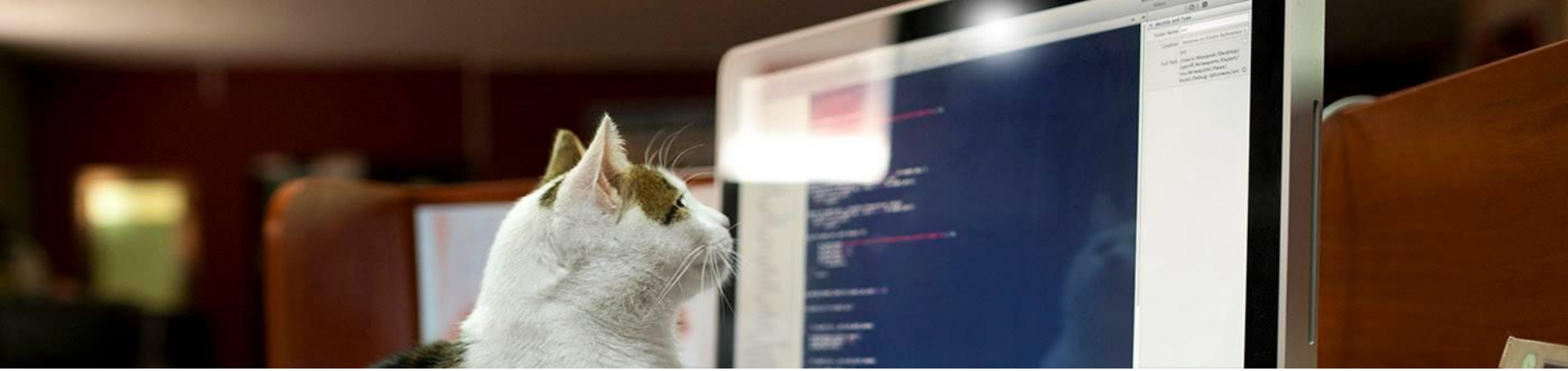
Extend shared presentation.

Use 2 slides (try to visualize):

1. Superpowers
   a. Version control: how do you keep track of changes/versions?
   b. Coding style: what's your style?
   c. Documentation: how do you make sure you and others can understand your code?
2. Progress
   a. Past: what have you done so far?
   b. Future: what's next?

Present next week in 2 minutes.

Questions?



Happy coding!