

The Top 11 Hottest GitHub Projects Right Now

What are the hottest projects on GitHub? With some help from the [GitHub Archive](#), FastCo Labs tracked down the most starred, forked, and watched projects so far this year.

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- 01 /11 | Bootstrap

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[Ciara Byrne](#) 08.01.13 2:42 PM

GitHub hosts millions of repositories in a plethora of languages. We decided to put together a list of the highest-velocity, most popular projects—a charge that was harder than we anticipated. GitHub calls out leading projects, but as we learned putting together this article, measuring interest and activity in a particular repository is actually trickier than it seems. [GitHub allows users to star projects, indicating enthusiasm but not necessarily participation.](#) And you can fork a repository but never contribute any pull requests, making the number of forks an unreliable

indicator as well. Then there are repositories that have thousands of commits but only a few contributors. Let's dig into the methodology first.

How We Calculated This List

[GitHub's Explore](#) section shows trending repositories based on forks and stars today, this week, and this month but not further in the past. Most trending projects are written in GitHub's most popular language, JavaScript. [GitHub Archive](#) records the public GitHub timeline and makes it available [via Google BigQuery](#) for further analysis. We used a rather unscientific combination of BigQuery queries on forks and push events over the last six months, trending project data for the last month, and plain old journalistic interest to pick 11 projects to watch across [GitHub's most popular languages](#): JavaScript, Ruby, Java, and Python. The projects are listed in alphabetical order.

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Bootstrap



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Django

GETTING STARTED WITH **django**

[Django](#) is another web framework, this one written in Python, which started life as an internal project for the *Lawrence Journal-World* newspaper back in 2003. It was designed to make web development fast enough to meet the deadline demands of the newsroom and manage content in particular. It's a classic MVC framework now widely used within the journalism world (*The Guardian*, *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times*) and beyond in sites like Instagram. Still a trending Python project in the last month, it has well over 10,000 commits. Incidentally, one of the creators of Django, [Adrian Holovaty](#), later created [Chicago Crime Maps](#), one of the pioneering pieces of work in data journalism.

Flask



Flask is a Python project which has been forked a lot this year. Another web development framework, it's described as a "microframework based on Werkzeug, Jinja2, and good intentions." Werkzeug is a web server gateway interface utility library for Python while Jinja2 is a templating language for Python, modeled after the aforementioned Django's templates. Some argue that Flask is [easier to use than Django](#) and therefore a better choice for beginners.

Game of Life



[Game of Life](#) is a Java project which has racked up large numbers of forks this year. It's a simple online version of mathematician John Horton Conway's geek favorite [Game of Life](#), a [cellular automaton](#) which illustrates how complex patterns can emerge from the implementation of a few simple rules. The Game of Life consists of an infinite two-dimensional grid of square cells, each of which is in one of two possible states, alive or dead. Every cell interacts with its eight neighbors, by apply four rules such as "any live cell with fewer than two live neighbors dies"simultaneously to every cell. This particular implementation is used as a demo application [in a book on Jenkins](#), which is a [continuous integration](#) tool.

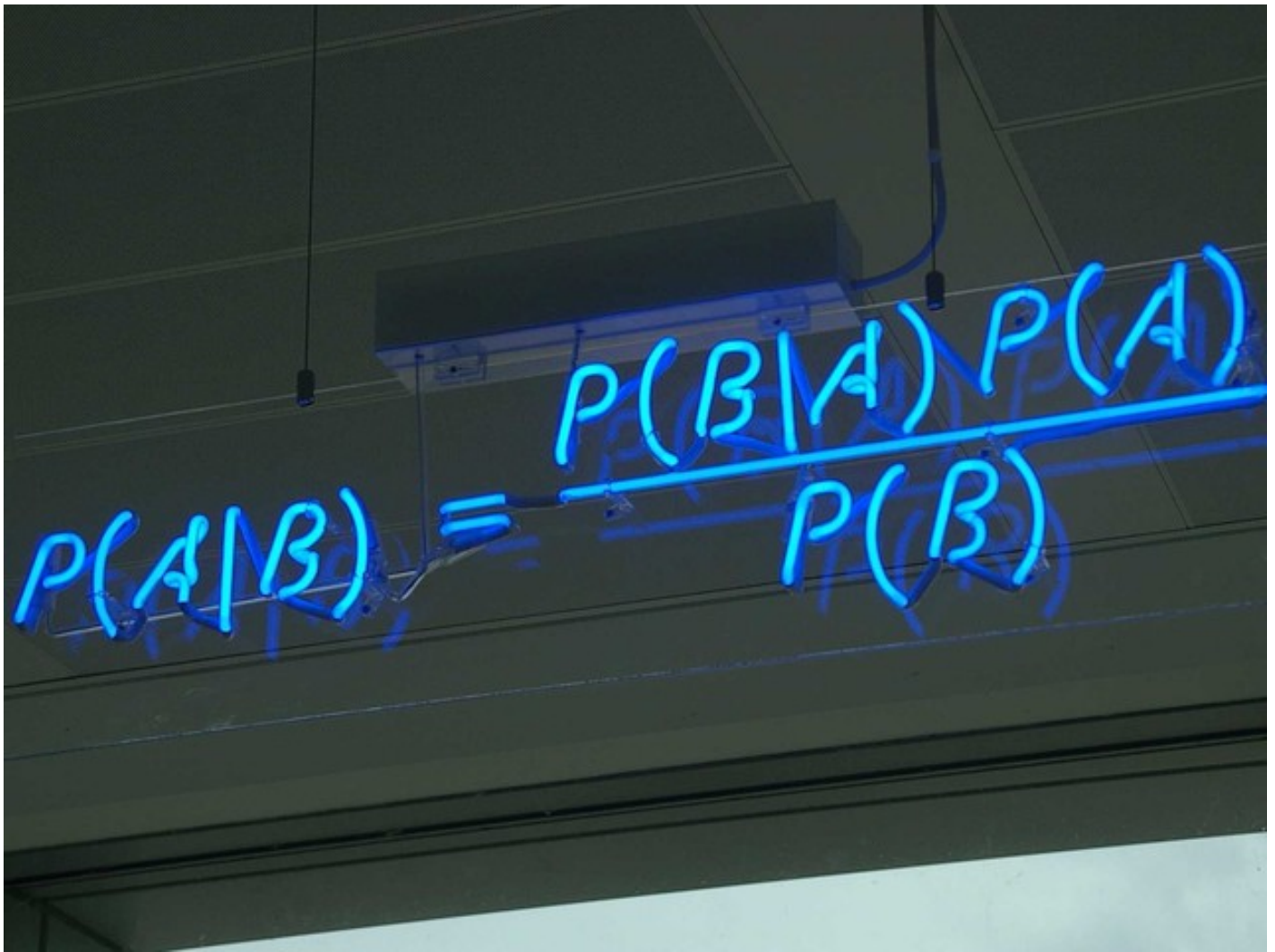
Homebrew

Homebrew

The missing package manager for OS X

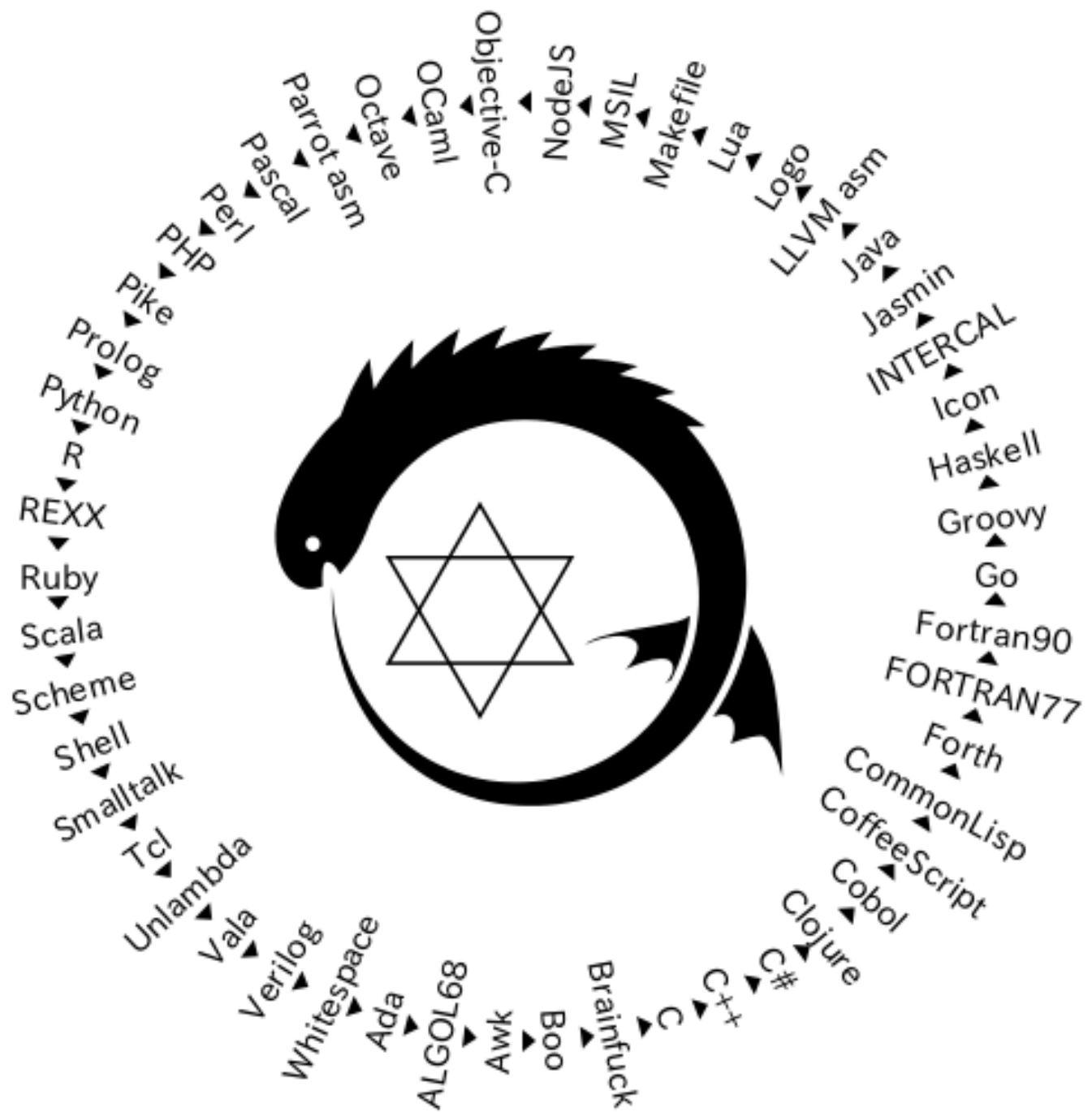
[Homebrew](#) is a package manager for OS X which installs the stuff you need which Apple didn't. Written in Ruby, it was still trending this month despite being around since 2010. OS X already has two package managers: Fink and MacPorts, but installing and creating packages was still hard to manage. Homebrew is a [simple wrapper behind the UNIX configure](#) that aids in making install processes. A Homebrew formula is a simple Ruby script and the core of HomeBrew itself consists of only a few hundred lines of Ruby. Homebrew's GitHub repository has 2,945 contributors and over 10,000 commits.

Probabilistic and Bayesian methods for Hackers



[This snappily titled project](#) is an interactive online book written in [IPython](#) (Python for interactive computing) which gives an introduction to Bayesian methods and probabilistic programming. It emphasizes coding first and math second and has proved very popular with GitHub users who have bestowed 3,748 stars on it this year. Bayesian inference uses [Bayes' rule](#), which is used to update the probability estimate of a hypothesis as additional evidence is acquired. It's extensively used in Statistics and Machine Learning.

Quine Relay



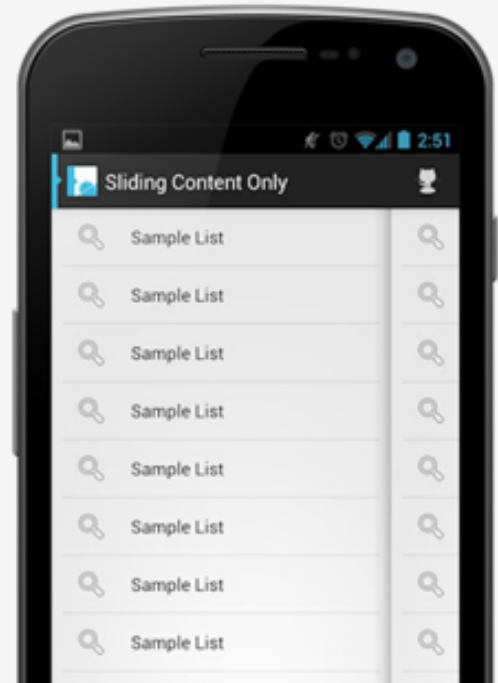
A quine is a program that prints its own source. [Quine Relay](#) is a new project which has been trending in the last month, an [ouroboros](#) or cyclical program in Ruby that generates a Scala program that generates a Scheme program and so forth through 50 languages until you end up back in Ruby. An exercise in cleverness rather than a useful piece of code, Quine Relay have nevertheless garnered 2,644 stars from GitHubbers in less than a month. [Coders do like](#) a [bravura](#) bit of meta-programming.

Sliding Menu

SlidingMenu

By Jeremy Feinstein

AndroidViews.net



[Sliding Menu](#) is an Android library, written in Java, that allows developers to easily create applications with, yes you have guessed it, sliding menus popularized by YouTube and Facebook apps. It's already being used in the Android applications of Foursquare, LinkedIn, and The Verge and is one of the most forked GitHub projects written in Java. There's also a [demo app available on Google Play](#) demonstrating the capabilities of the library.

Storm



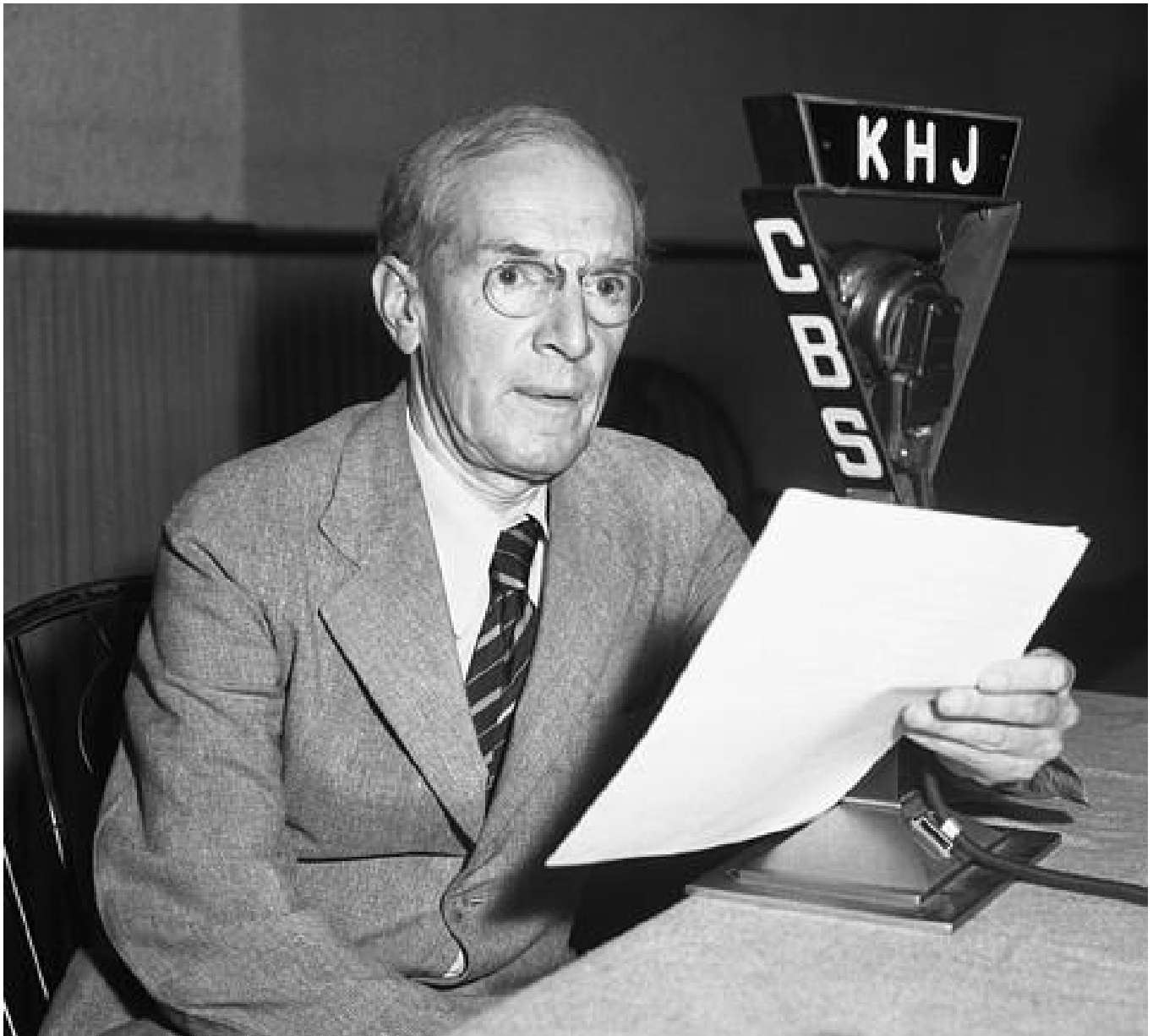
[Storm](#) is framework which aims to do for distributed real-time processing what Hadoop did for offline batch processing by allowing you to process massive and unbounded streams of data. Use cases include real-time analytics, machine learning, continuous computation, and distributed RPC. [Storm's creator Nathan Marz currently works for Twitter](#), where Storm is used to allow continuous analysis of the Twitter firehose. Storm is mainly written in Clojure but supports any language (Java is supported by default) and is one of the most starred Java projects on GitHub.

Tree.io



Tree.io is a business management platform written in Python containing modules like Project Management, Help Desk, and CRM (Customer Relationship Management). It's been one of GitHub's most forked and starred Python projects in the past month. Tree.io is [aimed at small- to medium-sized businesses](#) who need a single system to track everything happening in their business and isn't going to cost a fortune. It also runs on a company's own servers instead of in the cloud like Basecamp, Zen Desk, Salesforce, and other solutions which provide part of the same functionality.

Upton



[Upton](#) is a web-scraping framework, developed by non-profit newsroom [ProPublica](#) and packaged as a Ruby Gem, which has been doing well on pulls, commits, and stars. It lets you can scrape complex sites to a CSV in a single line of code and minimizes the number of requests you make to the site you are scraping. [Its makers describe Upton](#) as "sugar around [RestClient](#) (a debugger for RESTful web clients) and [Nokogiri](#) (a HTML parser)." Upton is named after labor journalist [Upton Sinclair](#), who *Time* magazine memorably described as "a man with every gift except humor and silence."

[Image: Flickr user [John Fowler](#)]

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You Don't Need To Be In Tech To Find High-Paying Part-Time Jobs

Part-time gigs outside the tech industry are moving toward the higher end of the salary spectrum.

U.S. employees are demanding more part-time and flexible work, and employers are listening. Many, [like Amazon](#), are among the more than half that reported [investing in flexible work options](#) this year, according to a 2015 Workplace Trends study.

But tech workers aren't the only ones who can score these lucrative, part-time gigs. FlexJobs, an online marketplace that connects freelancers and employers, recently [identified](#) 10 high-paying jobs for those seeking

part-time work. While the hours are reduced, the salaries start at \$50 an hour.

Those positions are:

1. Director of operations
2. Jazz music instructor
3. Curriculum writer
4. Dentist
5. Clinical pharmacist
6. Controller
7. Software engineer
8. Financial consultant
9. Government contracts attorney
10. Mobile developer

Each of these professional-level positions requires advanced experience or education, and would translate to six-figure salaries if the candidate was employed full time.

Other [research](#) by FlexJobs also demonstrated how the industries that offer the most freelance gigs are becoming more diverse. They now include computer and IT jobs, as well as administrative, accounting and finance, customer service, medicine and health, and education and training positions.

"Part-time work is sometimes associated with less professional, lower paying jobs, but, as this list indicates, that isn't necessarily true," wrote Sara Sutton Fell, founder and CEO of [FlexJobs](#), in a statement. "The opportunities for high-paying part-time jobs span industries and positions, while still offering competitive salaries."

Part-time work has exploded in popularity in recent years, and employers in highly competitive recruiting environments have had to get more creative with the flexible working options they provide.

Amazon, for its part, recently announced a 30-hour workweek program, which will allow select employees to work 16 of those hours at the office (between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday) while making up the rest on their own schedule. These employees will still receive full-time benefits, but only 75% of the salary.

Though workers are demanding more flexible and part-time employment, however, there has been some question as to whether part-time gigs are providing them with more freedom, or demanding the same results in less time.

"The employee who gets five days of work done in four days shouldn't be punished for this, but rewarded," Douglas Rushkoff, author of *Throwing Rocks at the Google Bus*, recently [told Fast Company](#). "But that only works if management sees its employees as part of its company . . . You don't have to take the money away from them and deliver it to the shareholders," he says.

Such arrangements are also sometimes viewed as a symptom of the disappearance of stable, full-time employment, which has forced many to juggle a wide variety of side gigs to earn the equivalent of a full-time salary. A [2015 report by the Freelancers Union](#) and online freelancing platform Upwork (FU/U) found that over

one-third of U.S. workers (nearly 54 million) did some freelance work in the past year. That represents a growth of 700,000 more freelancers than the previous year.

"We're a generation that's used to juggling projects and interests, and when you graduate, 'part-time' is a great way to test the waters of different career paths," wrote Kelsey Manning in a [post](#) published by *Fast Company* in 2014. Manning explains that managing multiple gigs at once is often the only way to make ends meet in the new economy. "Full-time, full-salary jobs are difficult to come by and—have you heard?—we're in debt," she wrote, detailing how she spends her weeks balancing four part-time and freelance gigs.

The erosion of full-time employment opportunities has put many into a precarious career (and financial) position. As Contently revealed in its ["State of Freelancing in 2015"](#) report, median salaries were between \$10,001 and \$20,000 per year, with just over 19% earning over \$50,000 in the past 12 months. If part-time flexible work opportunities on the higher end of the salary spectrum in a wider variety of industries continue to trend upwards, juggling multiple, low-paying gigs may become a thing of the past.

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