



hello world

i'm Ben

 blimmer

 l1m5

 hello@benlimmer.com



cu life

- Grad '11
- Startups2Students
- CSUAC (a.k.a. Innovate CU)
- Internships (more to come...)

ReadyTalk

- Varied tech stack
- Java thick-client
- ActionScript (flash - yuck)
- (old) web tech



ibotta

- Growth-Stage Startup
- (new) Web Tech
- EmberJS
- NodeJS
- Ruby on Rails



i write code.

i also hire people who
write code.

so, you want a job
after school?

f



in

a



Y!



Or



FullContact

Ping
Identity®



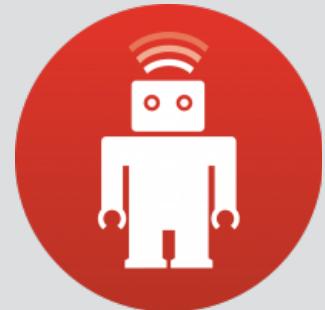
mapquest®



ReadyTalk™.



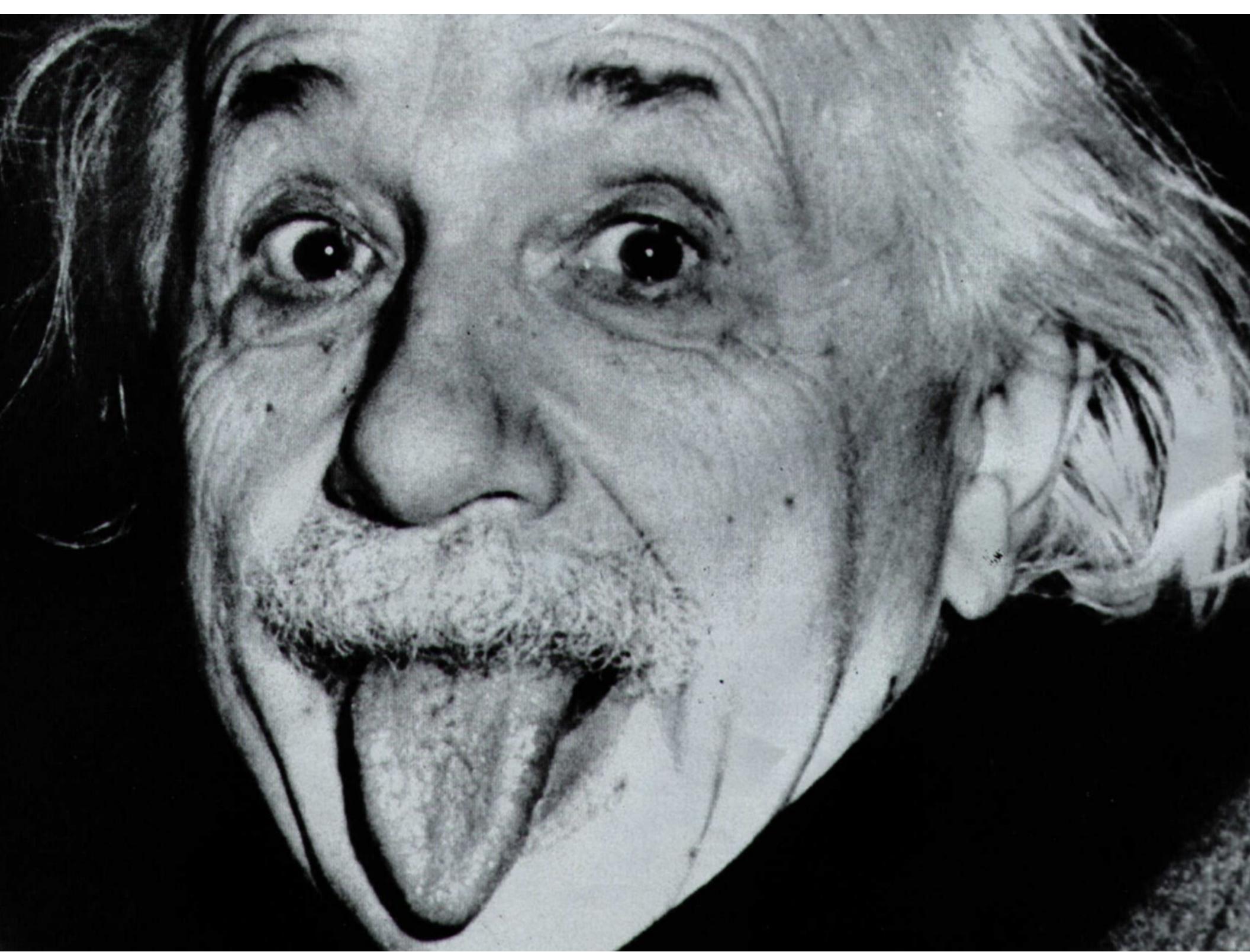
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we all want the same
thing.

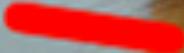


We Can Do It!



because we all need
the same thing.

ship it!

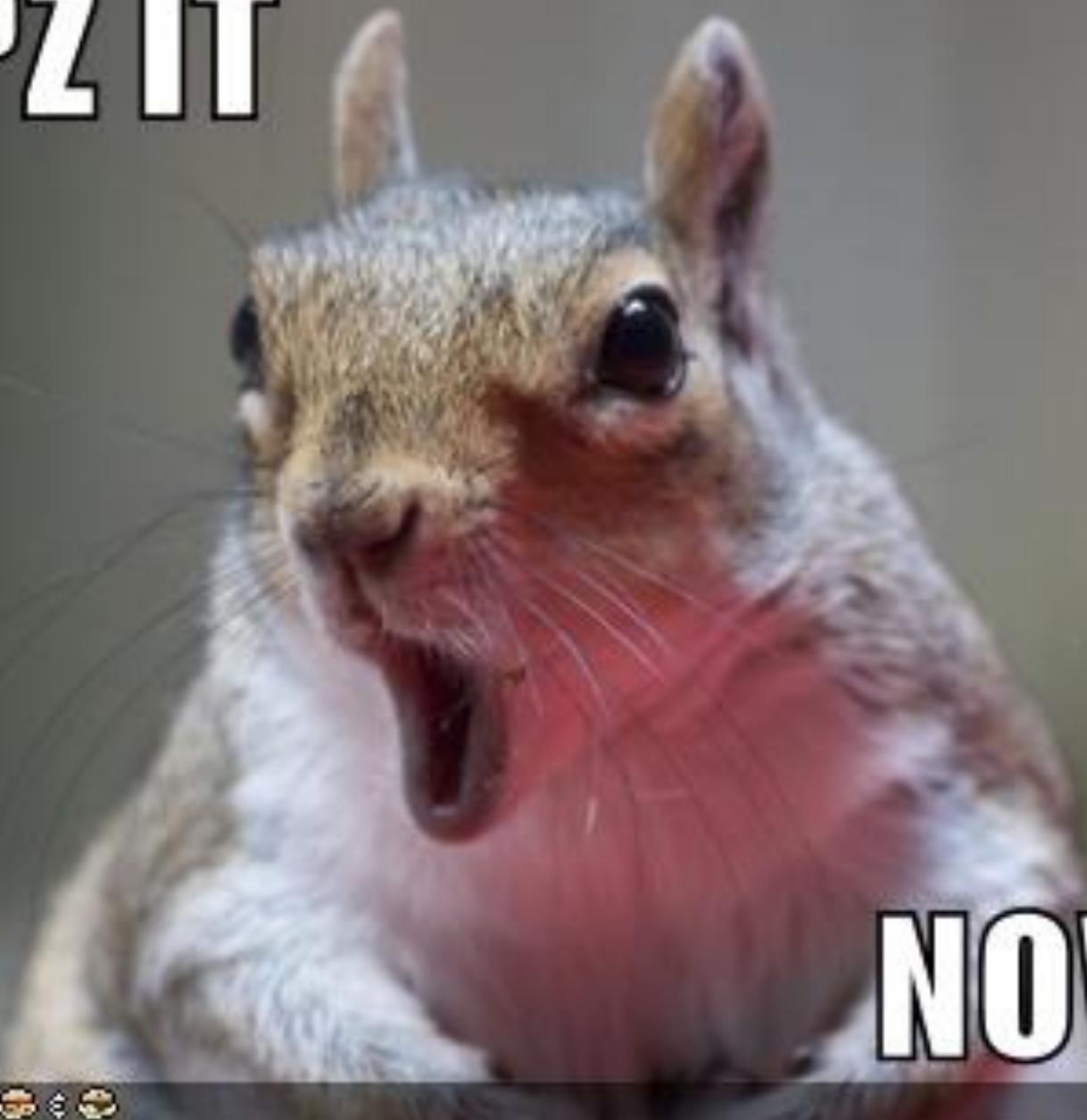


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U SHIPZ IT



NOW!

smart && !getThingsDone

- Impractical
- Prefer to think about solving, rather than solve
- Fast companies don't mix with this person

getThingsDone && !smart

- Liability
- “WTF” code
- Who can clean up the mess?

how do I become
smart && getThingsDone?

how to be valuable in the market

- Master the Basics
- Get Experience
- Market Yourself

mastering the basics



mastering the basics

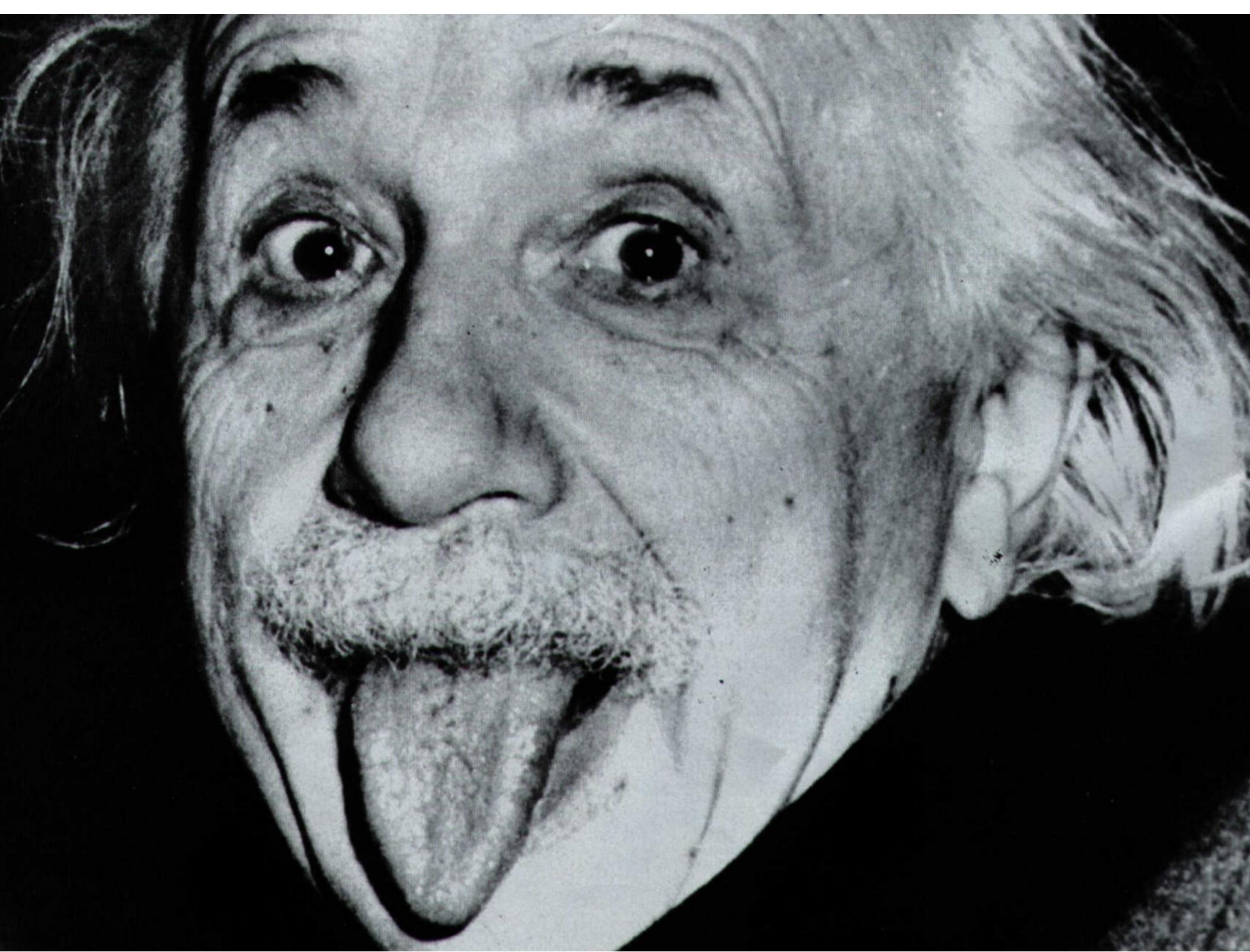
- data structures
- algorithms
- databases
- scm
- testing
- “learning how to learn” - PoPL

how to be valuable in the market

- ~~Master the Basics~~
- Get Experience
- Market Yourself

no, really. get experience.

remember what
employers want?



We Can Do It!



therefore...

employers look for people who have already done things

and...

you can't get a job doing something you haven't done before

credit: joel spolsky

“The best way [to be a programmer] is to write programs, and to study great programs that other people have written.”

– *Bill Gates*

so how do I do it?

internships

- startups2students **
- Jobs Mailing List
- Meetups

it's not too early

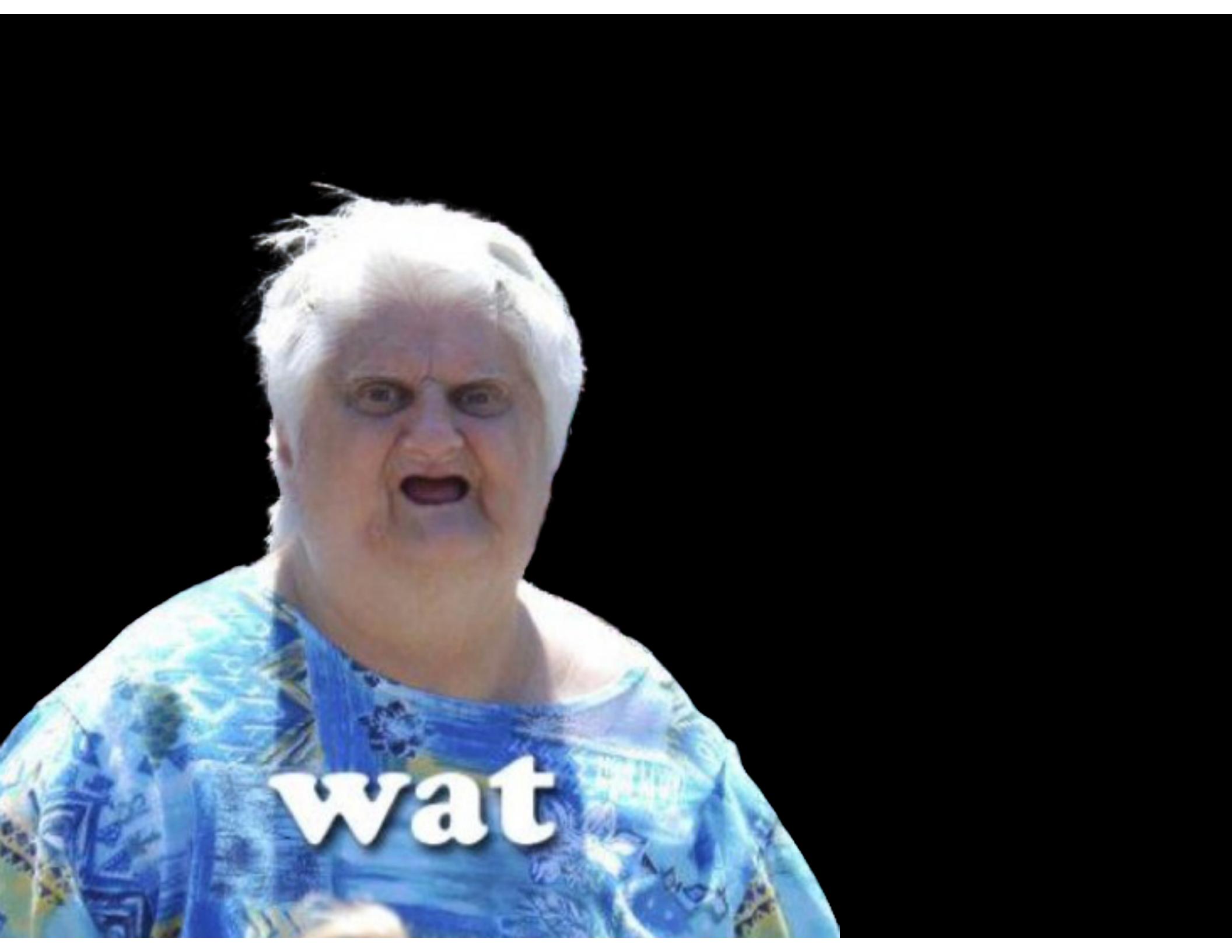
my first internship





“Just come in and start writing failing tests that conform to the Flash Player documentation.”

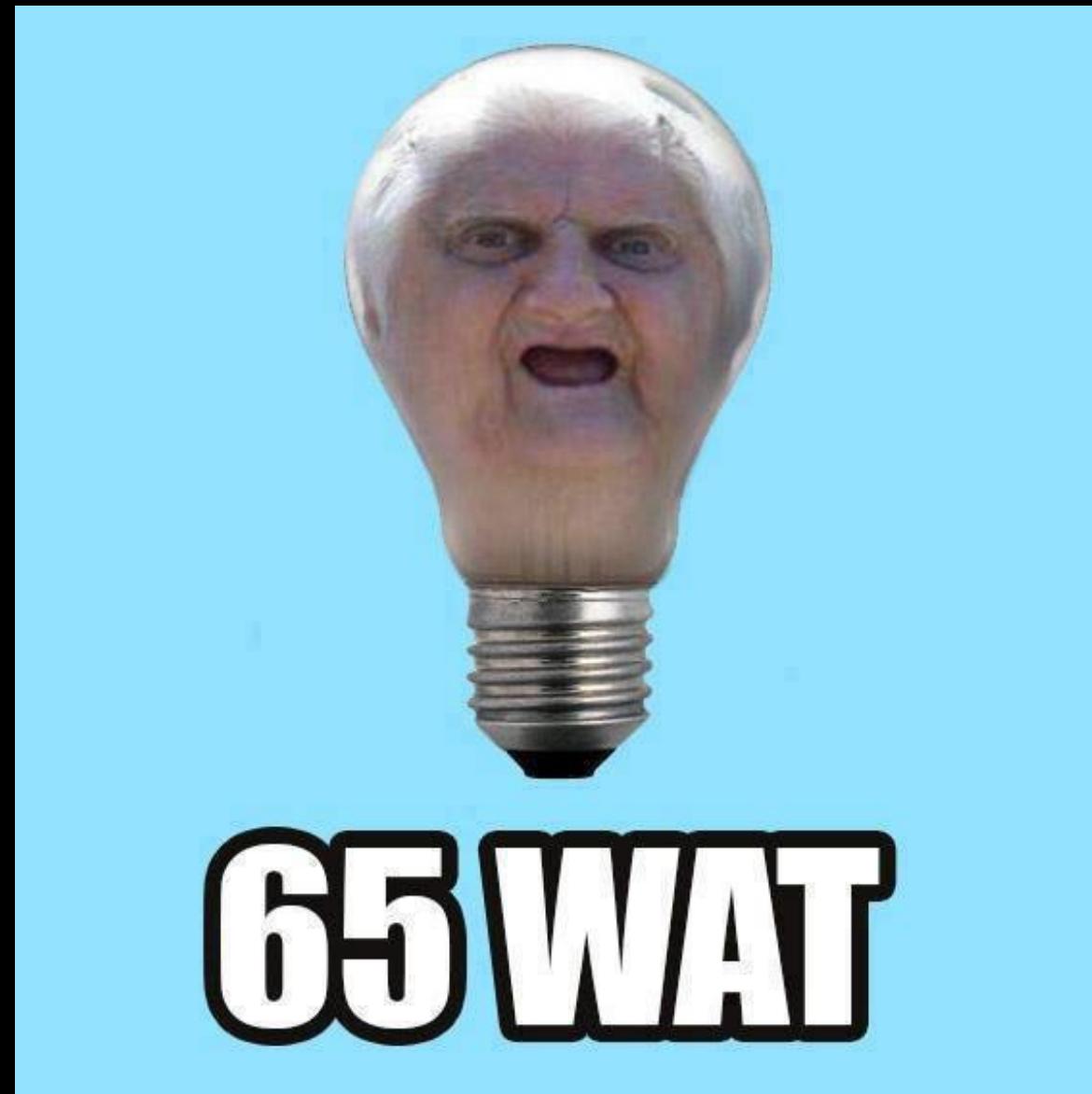
–Rob Savoye



wat

“...then start implementing those methods. I was thinking you could start with the Camera API. You could start with the FFMpeg or GStreamer implementation, whichever you’re more familiar with.”

–Rob Savoye



65 WAT



DEEP END

it was hard, but it all
came together

open source projects

- Find something interesting to you
- Look for “good for new contributors” labels
- Read lots of code
- Fix the Docs!

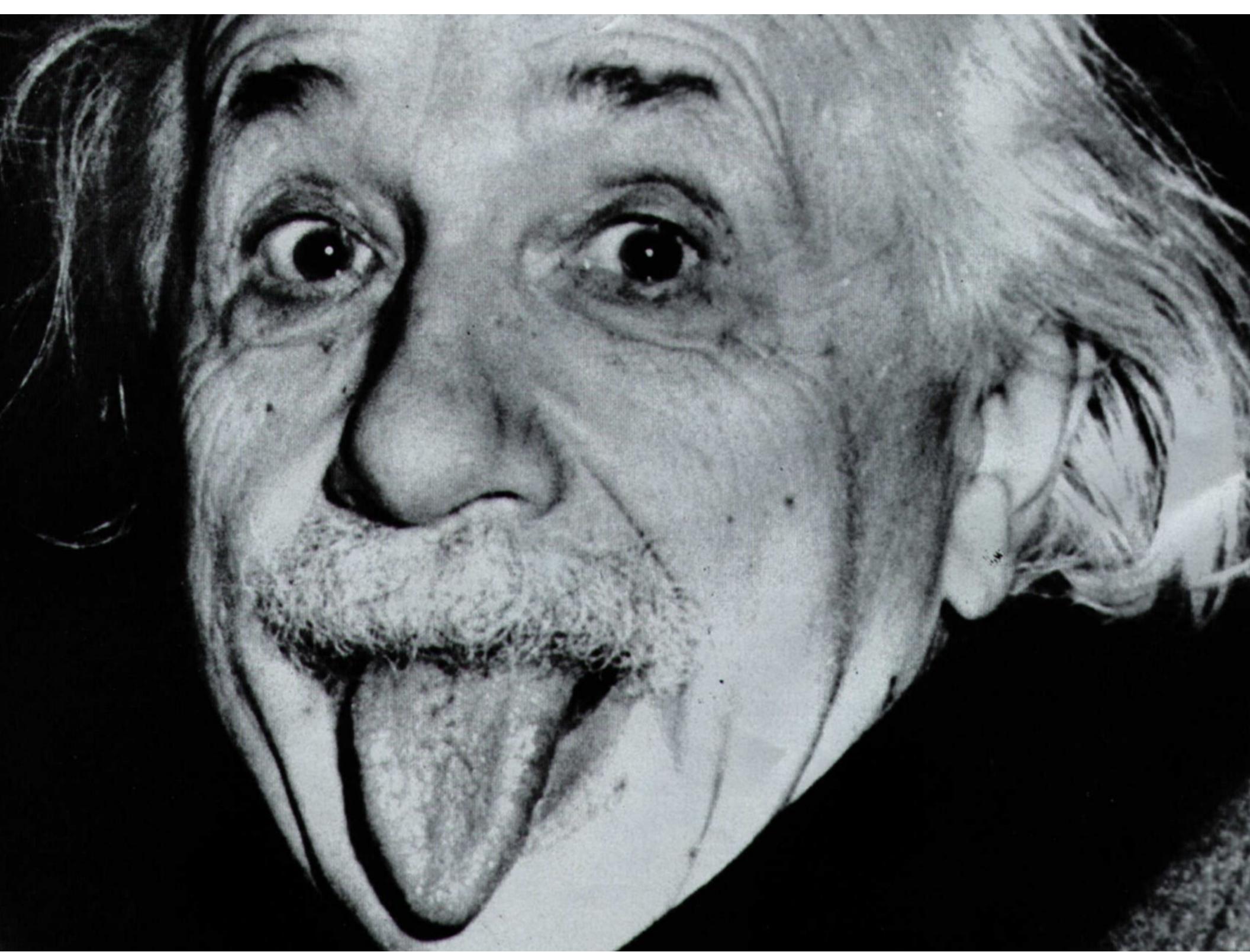
network with professors

- A huge benefit of uni vs. bootcamp
- Alum connections
- Research projects

how to be valuable in the market

- ~~Master the Basics~~
- ~~Get Experience~~
- Market Yourself

it's not too early



We Can Do It!



therefore...

employers look for people who have already done things

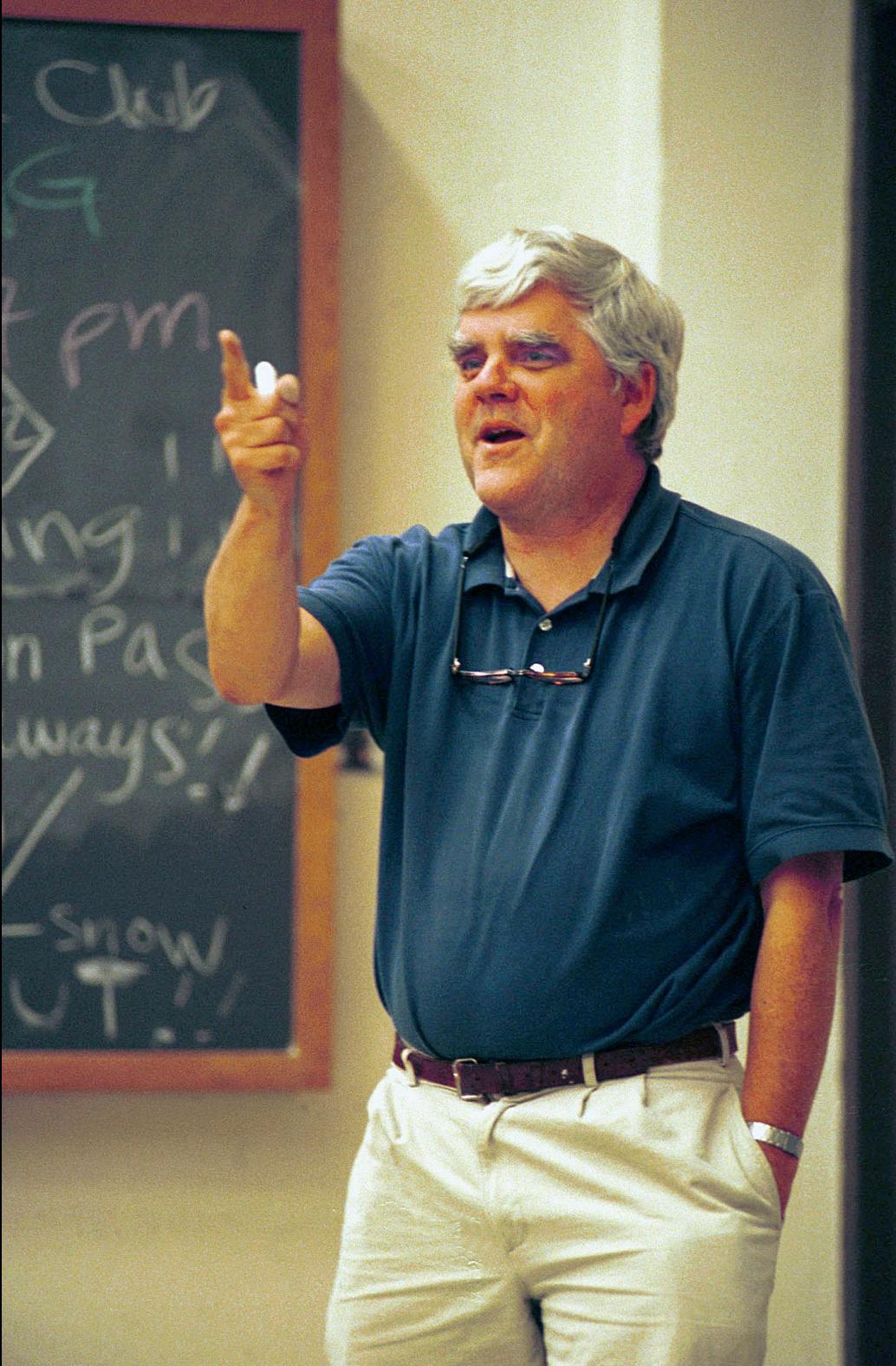
and...

you can't get a job doing something you haven't done before

SO...

employers Google your name to see what you've said and done

credit: joel spolsky



have an online presence

- Github
- LinkedIn
- Twitter

your very own website

- Learn a new framework
- Rewrite
- Open Source
- Running portfolio/resume



Benjamin Limmer

HOME ABOUT ME EDUCATION

COMPUTER SCIENCE CU BOULDER

HCCPD Final Writeup

May 2, 2011 – 4:30 pm

It's finally here! Today I'm officially done with college. My last requirement is to post my portfolio page which describes the work I've done in my Human Centered Computing Professional Development (HCCPD) over the past semester. I honestly believe that this class is one of the most beneficially project classes you can take in the [read more](#) »

[Edit](#) | [Comment \(0\)](#)

CU BOULDER

Distinguished Senior Awards Banquet

April 30, 2011 – 2:30 pm

Last night I was presented with the award for distinguished senior graduate in Computer Science. It was an awesome event where I got to network with other outstanding graduates from the CU College of Engineering and lots of alumni from the College of Engineering. Here's a picture of me with Xiao-Chuan Cai, the chair of [read more](#) »

[Edit](#) | [Comment \(1\)](#)

COMPUTER SCIENCE CU BOULDER

Senior Project: DONE!

Let's get social!



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BEN LIMMER

Keepin' It Real

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31
AUG

Squash your Commits

Over the past few weeks, I've had a ton more keyboard time working in our large Java codebase. It has been great having more time to focus on software development, but it's quite a change heading back over to a non-greenfield project in a more "heavyweight" language like Java.

[Keep Reading...](#)

LET'S CONNECT!



Recent Blog Posts

- 28 Oct 2014 » [Ember.computed.* is your friend!](#)
- 13 Sep 2014 » [Lock Down Your Bower Components, Folks](#)
- 13 Sep 2014 » [JSBin with Ember and CoffeeScript](#)
- 22 Aug 2014 » [Getting Started with EmberJS](#)
- 31 Mar 2014 » [Guard + Pry + Mac OS X = :-\(](#)
- 30 Mar 2014 » [ReadyTalk -> Ibotta](#)
- 05 Mar 2014 » [Mac Not Booting to Apple Hardware Test \(AHT\)? Try this.](#)
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have an IRL presence







techstars



surveygizmo.

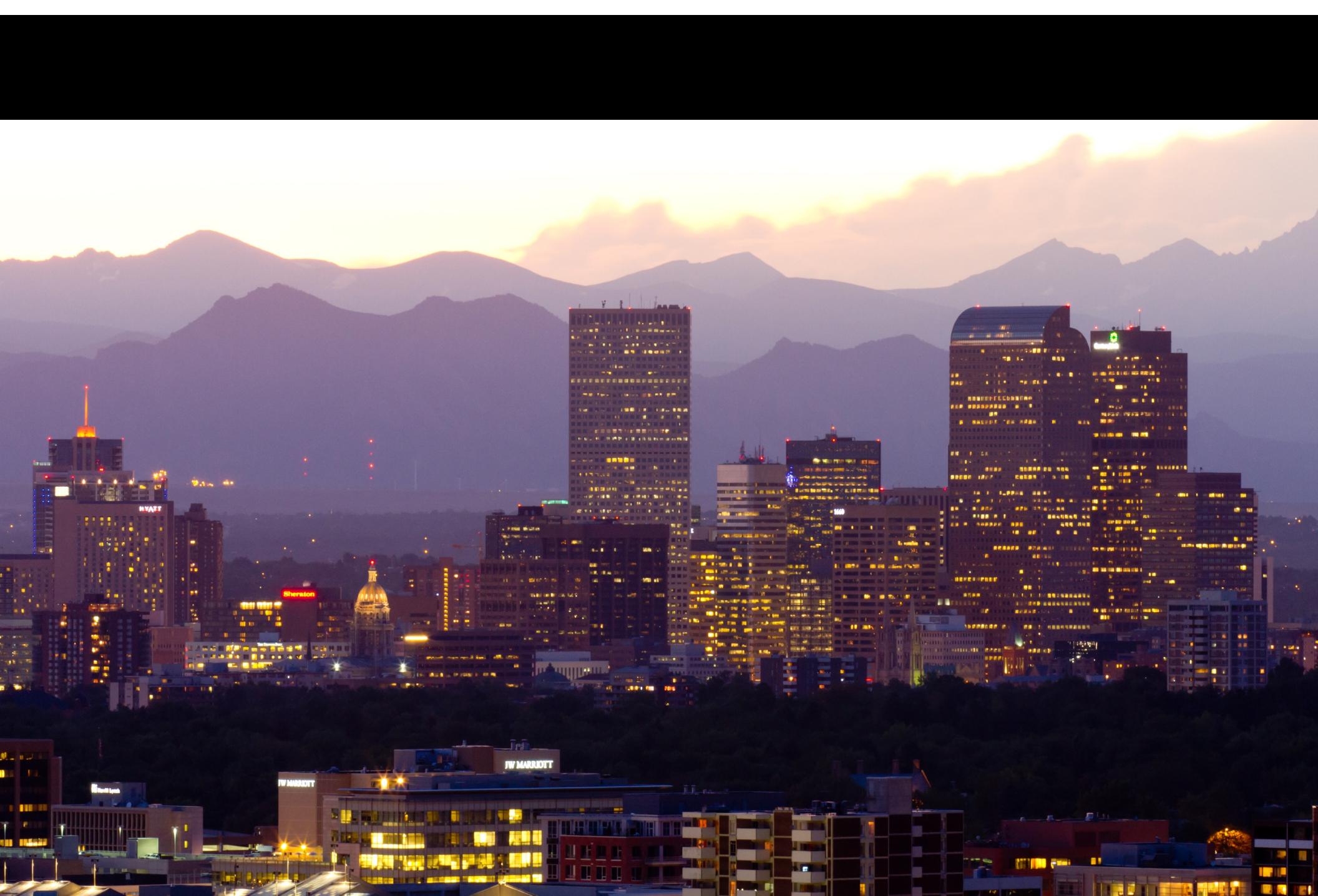


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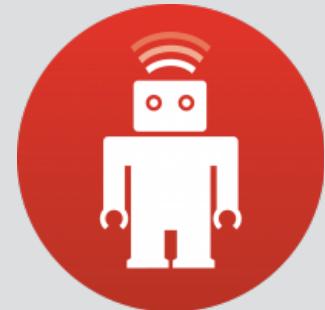
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iTRIAGE



TrackVia

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have an IRL presence

- Meetups
- Startup Week (Denver/Boulder)
- Professors

that's how to be valuable in
the market



what you can do now

scm

- Setup a github or bitbucket private repo for schoolwork
- Use scm for all your schoolwork
- It's a skill you **need** to know to get a job

get involved at cu

- prestige of cu vs. bootcamp programs
- get to know your CS professors
- get to know your peers
- start or join a CS club

get involved outside cu

- meetups
- startup events
- open source projects

start searching for an internship

- Find a company in Denver/Boulder/elsewhere that interests you
- Go to startups2students
- Beware imposter syndrome

set a(n attainable) goal

make a goal to ... by the end of the 2015/16 year:

- have n public commits on Github
- go to a tech meetup in Denver/Boulder
- get to know one of your CS professors well
- make a personal website
- start or join a CS club
- get a summer internship

Thanks!

 blimmer

 l1m5

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slides available at

<http://bit.do/cu2015>



resources (jobs)

- CS Jobs Mailing List (<http://www.colorado.edu/cs/job-opportunities/jobs-mailing-list>)
- Guerilla guide to interviewing (<http://www.joelonsoftware.com/articles/GuerillaInterviewing3.html>)
- Cracking the Coding Interview (<http://www.amazon.com/Cracking-Coding-Interview-Programming-Questions/dp/098478280X>)

resources (open source)

- Fix the Docs! (<http://www.docsdoctor.org/> ,
<http://www.codetriage.com/>)
- GitHub Contributing to Open Source (<https://guides.github.com/activities/contributing-to-open-source/>)
- Explore Github (<https://github.com/explore>)

resources (scm)

- Try git (<https://try.github.io/levels/1/challenges/1>)
- Learn bitbucket (<https://confluence.atlassian.com/display/BITBUCKET/Bitbucket+101>)

resources (community)

- Denver Startup Week (<http://www.denverstartupweek.org/>)
- Boulder Startup Week (<http://boulderstartupweek.com/>)
- Meetups (<http://meetup.com>)
- Boulder Open Coffee Club (<https://www.facebook.com/BoulderOpenCoffeeClub>)

resources (free stuff)

- Free Stuff for Students (<https://education.github.com/pack>)

resources (news)

- HackerNews (<http://news.ycombinator.com>)
- Lobsters (<https://lobste.rs/>)
- Designer News (<https://www.designernews.co/>)