

# What is a Developer Portfolio?

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When hiring managers\* screen resumés, they look for examples of past work experience.

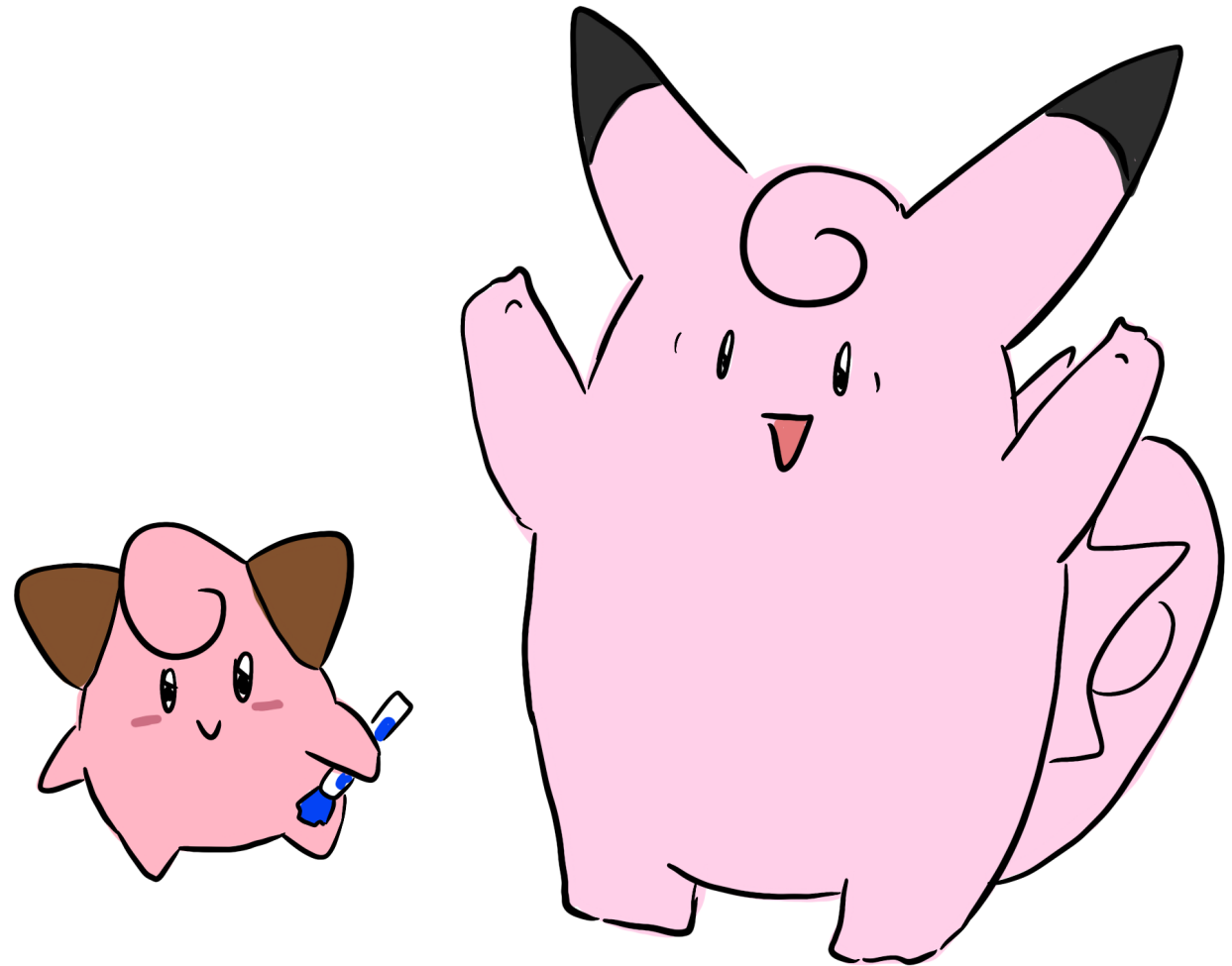
**...But what if you're trying to land your first role?**

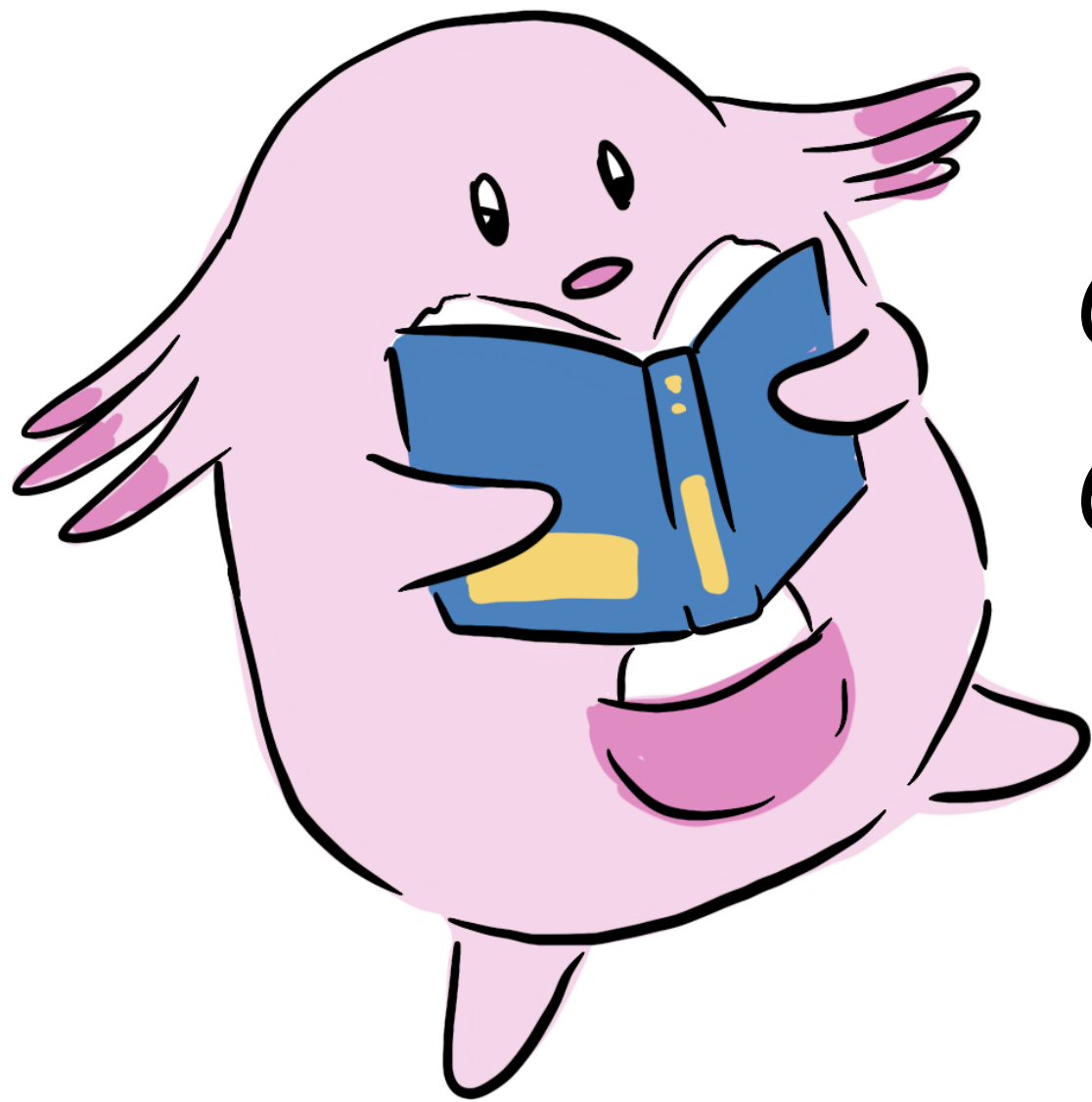
\* Can be anyone from HR, to the Engineering Director, to a regular engineer!

A portfolio is one avenue to tell prospective employers about **who you are** and **what you're interested in**.

*Note:*

*Freelancing and contracting will not be covered, because I don't have direct personal experience.*





*“Does having a  
developer portfolio  
even matter???”*



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Twitter friends who do any kind of engineering hiring:

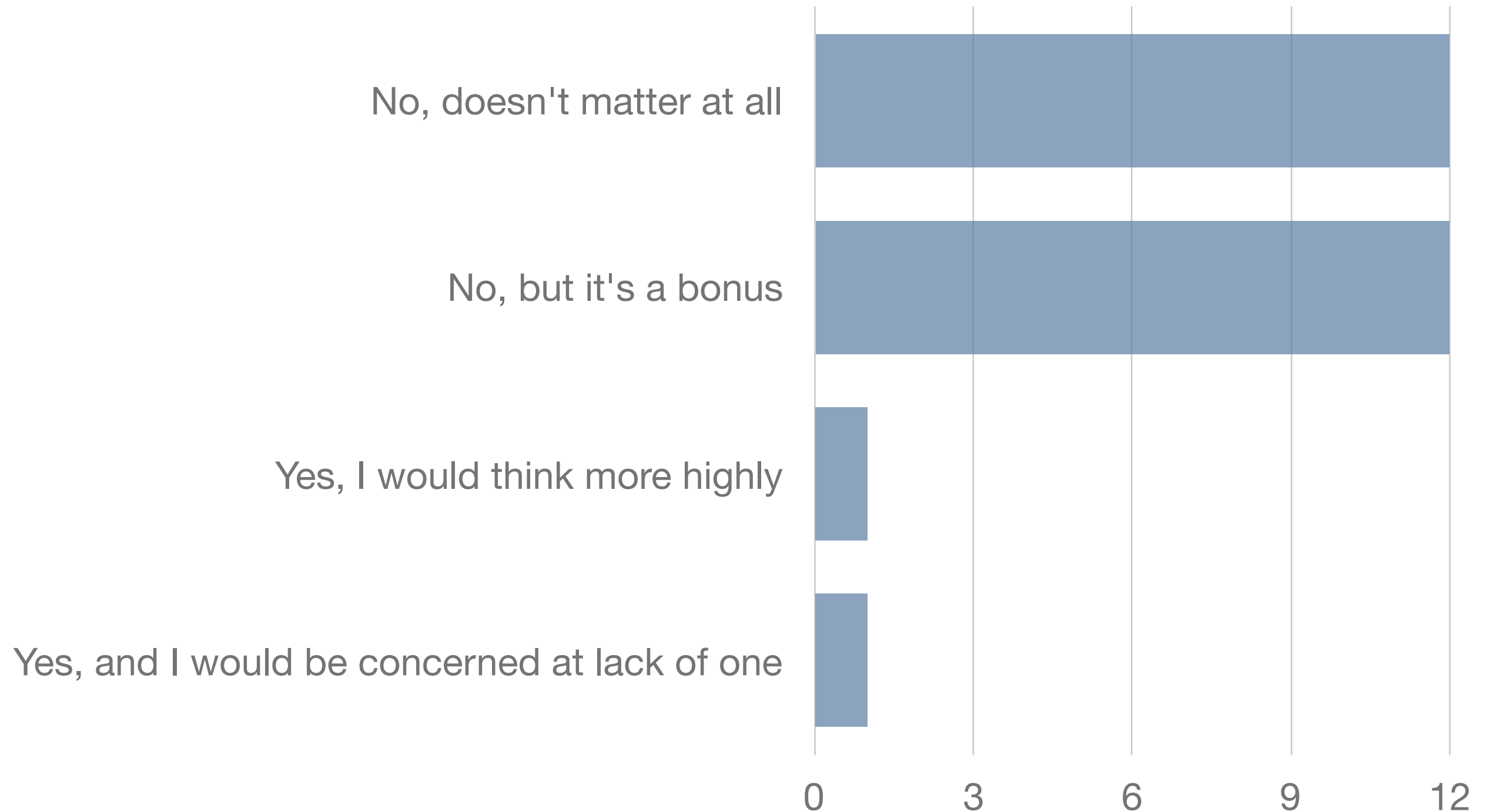
When you're screening entry level developer applicants, do you look at any type of portfolio?

Also what do you consider to be a dev portfolio — GitHub, blog, personal site, social media, something else?

5:50 PM - 10 Jun 2019

# “When you’re evaluating entry level applicants, do you consider portfolios?”

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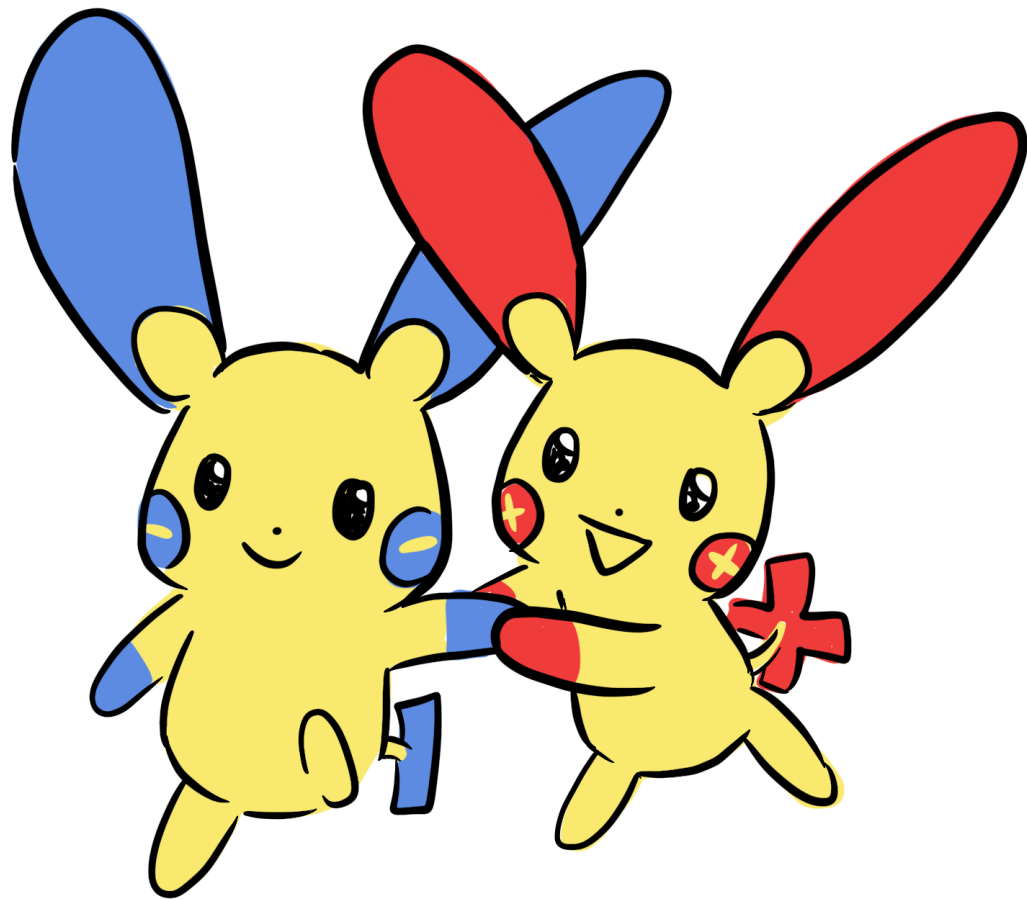


# Things that were cited as more important

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- A well-written cover letter
- A CV that is clear and free of mistakes
- Demonstration of aptitude and willingness to learn
- Positive attitude towards work and learning
- Strong interpersonal skills





...But we're here today to talk specifically about portfolios! So let's do that.

# Why invest in keeping a portfolio?

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- Entry-level roles have many applicants for few jobs. A portfolio can help you **stand out**
- A strong portfolio can sometimes let you **skip take-home tests**
- First-stage interviews can be more fruitful if the **interviewers can ask you questions directly about your experiences and interests**, rather than generic questions

OK, that's cool, but what  
actually **is** a developer portfolio?

# GitHub!



art credit: James Kang // [github.com/jeejkang](https://github.com/jeejkang)

GitHub.com is a hosted repository for projects that are versioned using a utility called **git**.

GitLab and Bitbucket also serve the same role.



Set status

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## Organizations



Overview

Repositories 142

Projects 0

Stars 112

Followers 119

Following 75

## Pinned

Customize your pins

mind-the-code

Ruby ★ 5 3

dogebuzz

Fizzbuzz in DogeScript

Dogescript ★ 2

fud



★ 2 1

learning-cobol

COBOL ★ 5

secret-santa-mailer

Ruby ★ 1

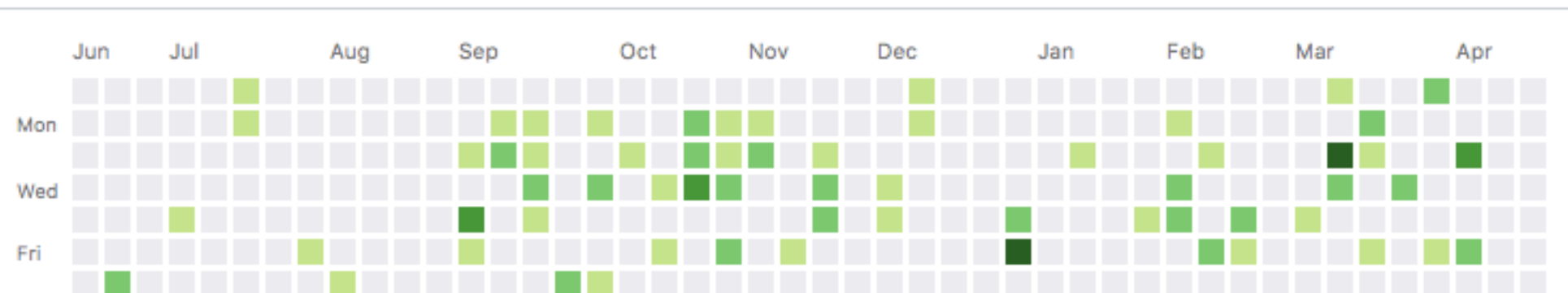
deniseyu.github.io

Forked from barryclark/jekyll-now

CSS 1

169 contributions in the last year

Contribution settings



Learn how we count contributions.

Less More

# What code can you put on GitHub?

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- Any small exercises and standalone programs you can run on your machine (as opposed to a web-based console, such as Codepen, Cloud9, etc.)
- Projects that show your personality and what you're interested in, outside of learning to code
- Projects that use languages or libraries that you're interested in learning more about

# What kinds of things did I put on GitHub?

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- “Rock, Paper, Scissors” in the command line, against a randomly-choosing computer
- A simple web app “game” that lets you catch and release Pokemon
- A Scrabble Solver
- An English pub name generator
- A Secret Santa anonymizer-and-emailer



# Is it just code that goes on GitHub?

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No!



- Notes from technical books that you're reading or tutorials you're learning
- Curated lists of things, like "Beginner-friendly JavaScript talks"
- Walkthroughs and tutorials for helping other people learn!


It doesn't super matter. This is seriously the “extra credit” section.

Just put stuff on your GitHub profile that you wouldn't mind being asked about in an early-round interview.

# Don't forget that you can pin stuff!

Pinned

Customize your pins

 [mind-the-code](#)





 Ruby  5  3

 [dogebuzz](#)





Fizzbuzz in DogeScript

 Dogescript  2

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 [secret-santa-mailer](#)



 Ruby  1

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 CSS  1

OK OK cool. Anything else besides GitHub?

# Other internet footprints

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- A personal blog
  - If you want to hack a bit: GitHub Pages, Netlify
  - Or choose a hosted option: Medium, Tumblr, Wordpress.org
- A personal website
- Social media
  - I'm old so I don't really know, but I use Twitter!

The process of building up a portfolio shouldn't be about the *output*, the *artifact generation*.

You should always be learning in the early days. An interesting portfolio will be **a side effect of your curiosity**, but likely not a worthwhile a goal in itself.

# Questions?

Ask me later or offline!

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