

Polyphemos

Ease Virtual Machine Level Tooling



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Who Does Not Love Tools ?

Tooling Levels



Pharo Image

Language Level

VM Level

Pharo VM

Who Does Not Love Tools ?

Tools at the Language Level

Pharo Image

Language Level

VM Level

Pharo VM

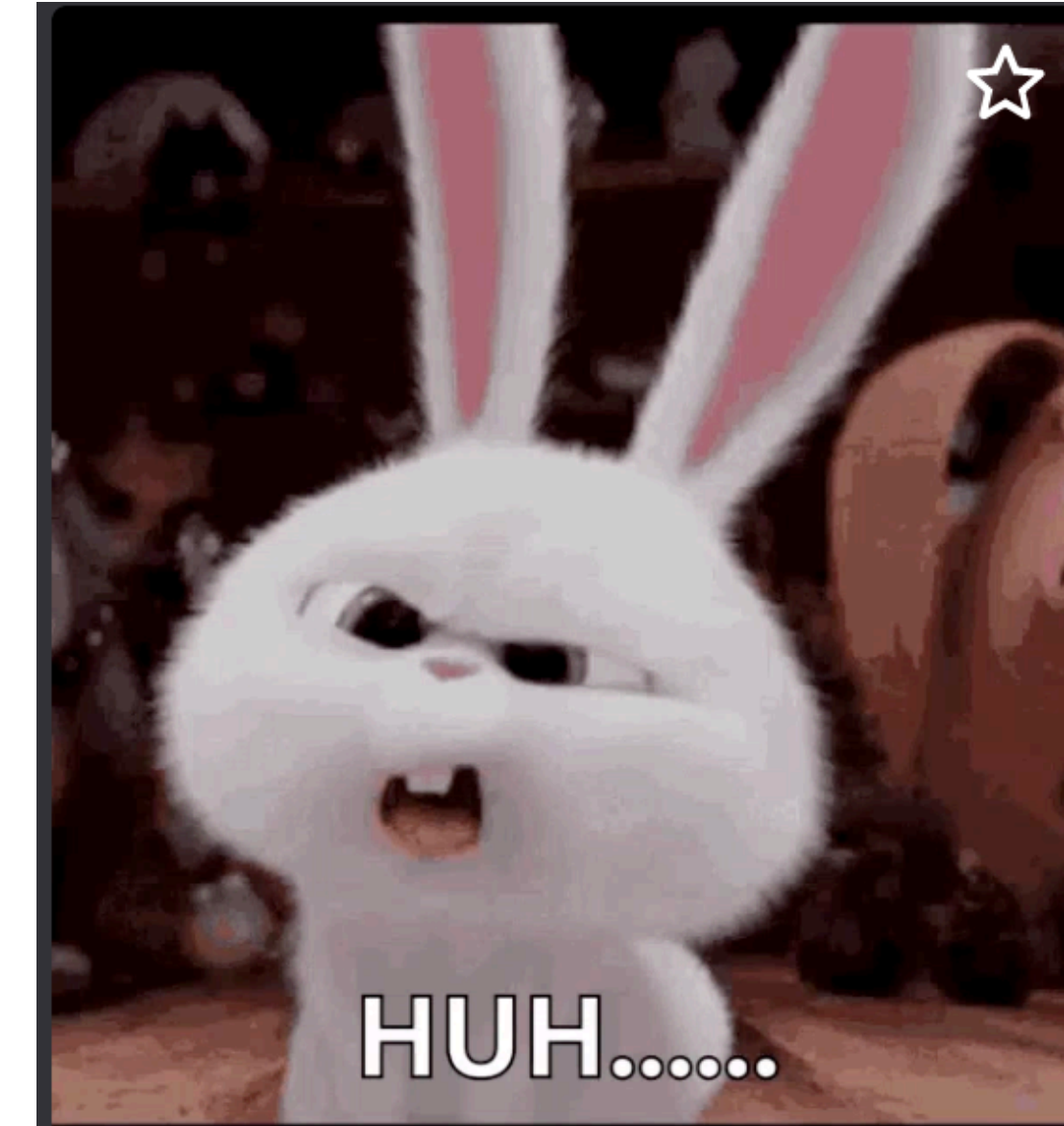
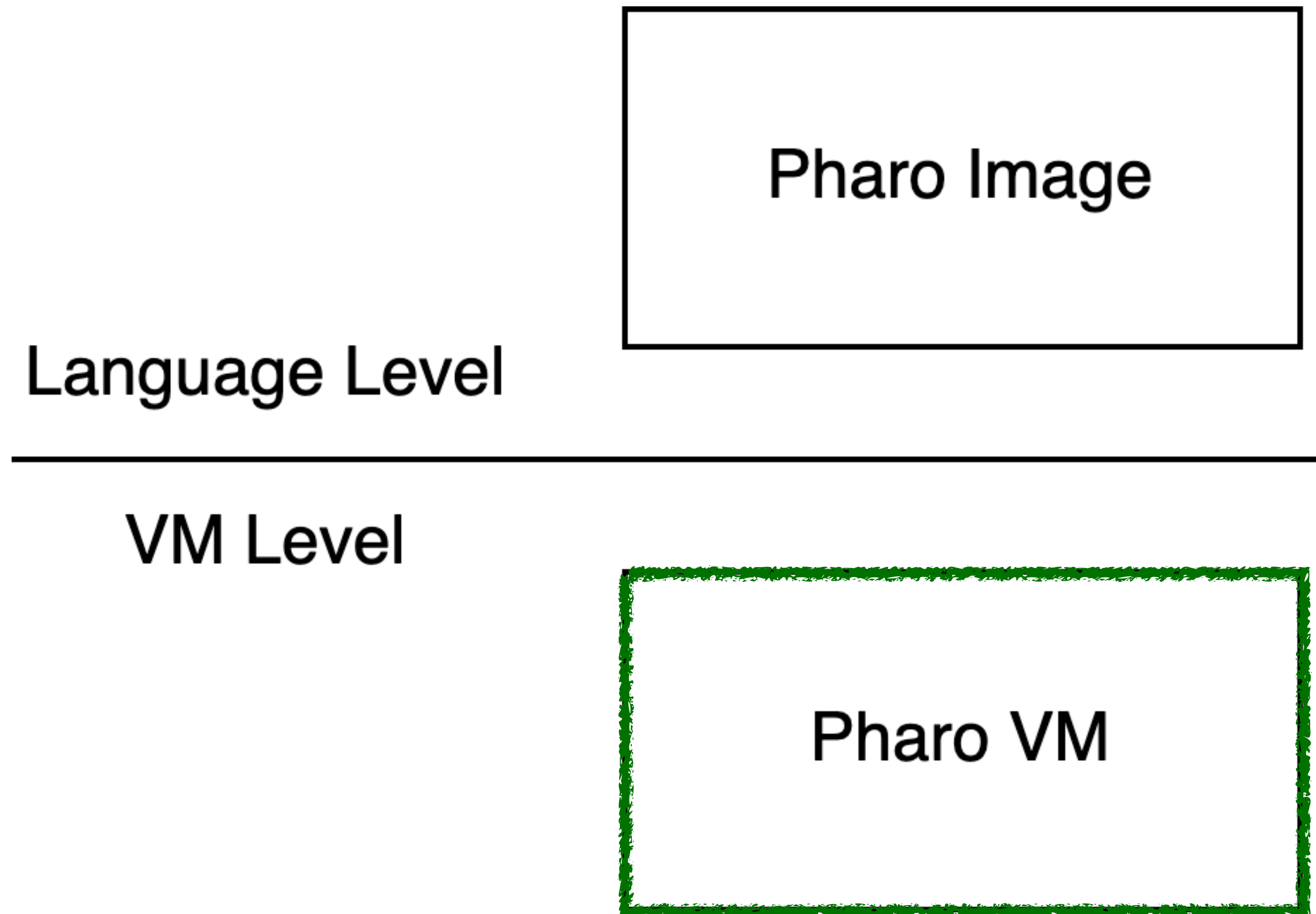
NewTools, Moose, Roassal,
Calypso, SUnit, Iceberg, Refactoring, Epicea

... ..



Who Does Not Love Tools ?

Tools at the VM Level



Bootstrap, VM machine code debugger
Others ?

Not many things a Pharo developer cares about !

Who Does Not Love Tools ?

Why Should we Care About VM Level Tools ?

```
Form >> #scaledByDisplayScaleFactor  
1 halt.  
^ self scaledToSize: self extent * self currentWorld displayScaleFactor.
```

Who Does Not Love Tools ?

Don't Save It !



Form >> #scaledByDisplayScaleFactor
1 halt.

^ **self** scaledToSize: **self** extent * **self** currentWorld displayScaleFactor.



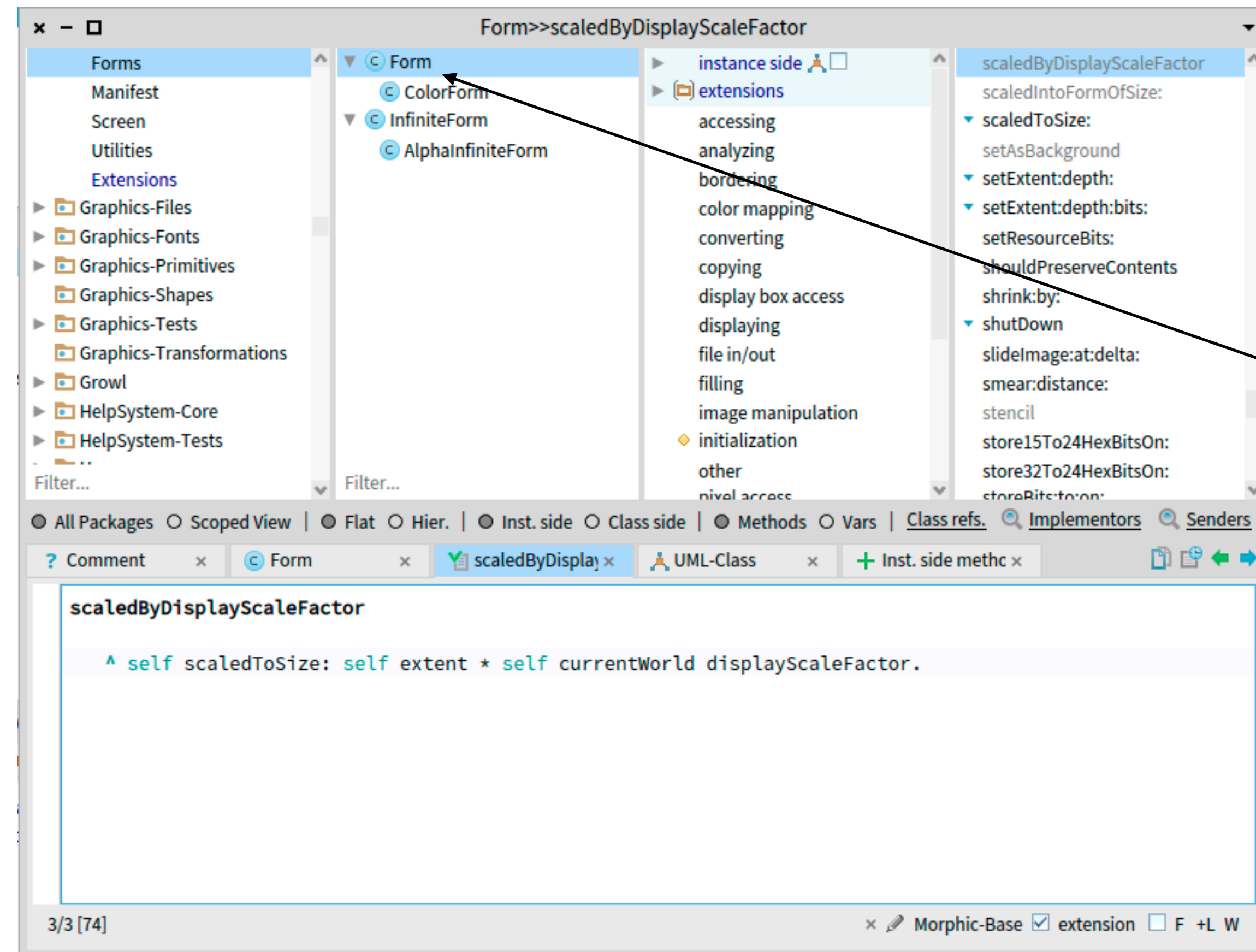
Who Does Not Love Tools ?

Too Late !

```
Halt
SmallInteger(Object)>>haltOnce
Form>>scaledByDisplayScaleFactor
ThemeIcons>>iconNamed:
MorphicRootRenderer(Object)>>iconNamed:
MorphicRootRenderer(OSWorldRenderer)>>setAttributesDefault
MorphicRootRenderer class(OSWorldRenderer class)>>forWorld:
[ :arg5 | tmp2 := arg5 forWorld: arg1 ] in AbstractWorldRenderer
FullBlockClosure(BlockClosure)>>cull:
[ :arg4 | (arg1 value: arg4) ifTrue: [ ^ arg2 cull: arg4 ] ] in
  arg2 cull...etc...
OrderedCollection>>do:
OrderedCollection(Collection)>>detect:ifFound:ifNone:
OrderedCollection(Collection)>>detect:ifFound:
AbstractWorldRenderer class>>detectCorrectOneForWorld:
MorphicUITManagers>>activate
```

Let's Code VM Level Tools !

Let's Find the Class Form ...



Found it !

Let's Code VM Level Tools !

Let's Find The Class Form ... But at the VM Level ...

a ByteArray [13107200 items]

Items	Raw	Breakpoints	Meta
Index	Value		
4676739	231		
4676740	14		
4676741	0		
4676742	0		
4676743	0		
4676744	0		
4676745	32		
4676746	55		
4676747	231		
4676748	14		
4676749	0		
4676750	0		
4676751	0		
4676752	0		
4676753	32		
4676754	55		
4676755	231		
4676756	14		
4676757	0		
4676758	0		
4676759	0		
4676760	0		

13 107 200 items

Let's Code VM Level Tools !

With the Help of the Simulator

```
findClassNamed: aClassName  
| classNameIndex classNameOop className |  
memory classTableEntriesDo: [ :aClassOop |  
    aClassOop = memory nilOOP  
    ifTrue: [ "not a class, nothing to do" ]  
    ifFalse: [  
        classNameIndex := memory classNameIndexForOop: aClassOop.  
        classNameOop := memory fetchPointer: classNameIndex ofObject: address.  
        className := memory convertStringOopToStringObject: classNameOop.  
        className = aClassName ifTrue: [ ^ aClassOop ]].  
^ memory nilOOP
```

memory findClassNamed: Form >>> 406749864

Let's Code VM Level Tools !

Why do I Have to Code Like That ?

Issues

- Ordinary Object Pointers (OOP)
- Common API
- VM level information

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Introducing LLOOPs

Language level OOPs

Issues

- Ordinary Object Pointers (OOP)
- Common API
- VM level information

Solutions

- Objects
- Specialized API & Polymorphism
- VM and Language level information

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Objects Instead of OOPs

LLOOP

Pharo Object

self	Form
superclass	DisplayMedium
{ } methodDict	a MethodDictionary [206 items] (size 206)
Σ format	65541
layout	a FixedLayout
organization	a ClassOrganization
commentSourcePointer	nil
{ } subclasses	an Array [6 items] (ColorForm Cursor DisplayScreen GlyphForm
name	Form
{ } classPool	a Dictionary [1 item] (#FloodFillTolerance->nil)
sharedPools	nil
{ } environment	a SystemDictionary [10453 items]
category	Graphics-Display Objects-Forms

Key	Value
address	406749864
printString	Form
header	10110000000000000111001100100000000100000000000011100110001
class	Form class
oopClassTag	1841
format	Non Indexable (1)
hash	1842
pinned	false
space	Old Space
immutable	false
numSlots	11
superclass	DisplayMedium
methodDict	Instance of MethodDictionary
format	65541
layout	Instance of FixedLayout
organization	Instance of ClassOrganization
subclasses	Instance of Array
name	Form
classPool	Instance of Dictionary
sharedPools	nilObject
environment	Instance of SystemDictionary
category	Graphics-Display Objects-Forms

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LLOOPS are Just The Start

- Object specific behavior
- Inspectors
- Memory visualisation
- Many more and more VM level tooling

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Object Specific Behavior

- Classes have subclasses
- A class table page is a VM level object that have an index in the Class Table
- Indexable Objects are addressed in the same way

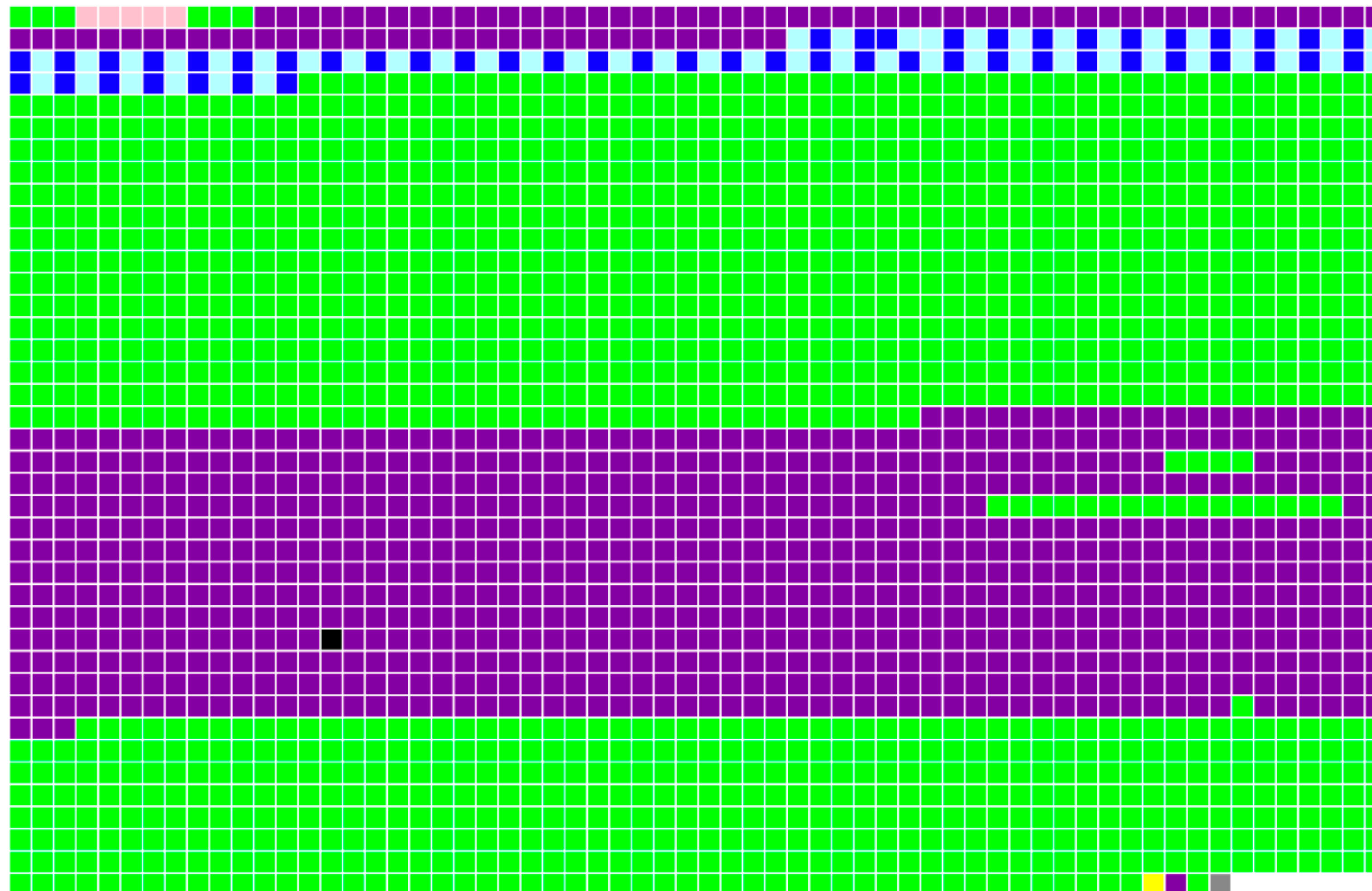
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Inspector

Compiled Method

address	8685808
printString	PCMessage >> #arguments
header	101000000000000000000000000000000011111000000000000010000011011
class	PCCompiledMethod
oopClassTag	1051
format	Compiled method (31)
hash	0
pinned	false
space	Old Space
immutable	false
selector	arguments
methodClass	PCMessage
numLiterals	2
literal 1	arguments
literal 2	Instance of PCAssociation

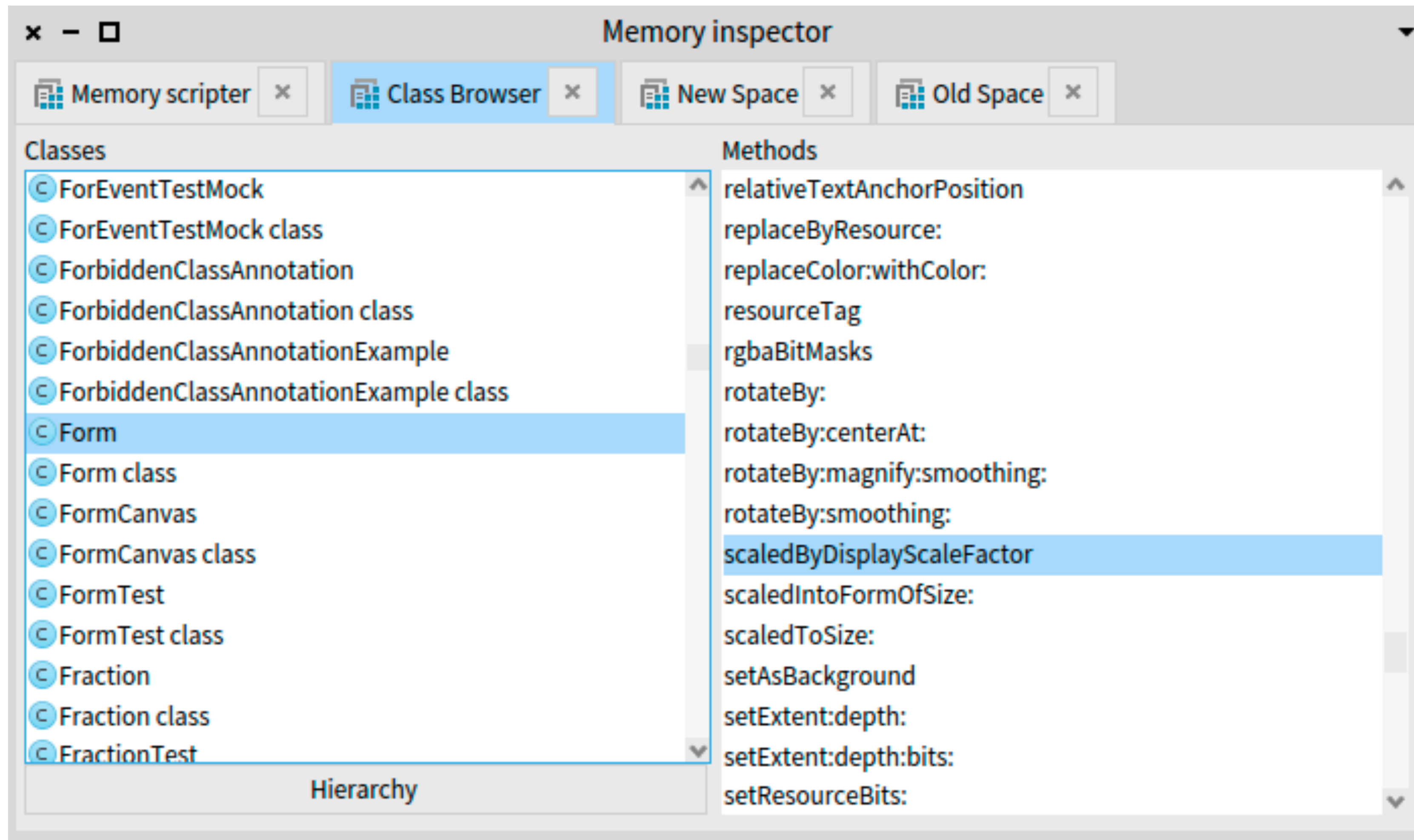
Memory visualisation



- | | | |
|------|---|-----------------|
| 1 |  | pinned object |
| 895 |  | compiled method |
| 51 |  | class |
| 5 |  | special object |
| 1 |  | context |
| 1 |  | free chunk |
| 1468 |  | regular object |
| 51 |  | metaclass |

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Memory Visualisation #2



Real World Bug Fix #1

Remember This ?



Form >> #scaledByDisplayScaleFactor
1 halt.

^ **self** scaledToSize: **self** extent * **self** currentWorld displayScaleFactor.



Real World Bug Fix #1

A Meta-Error Fix

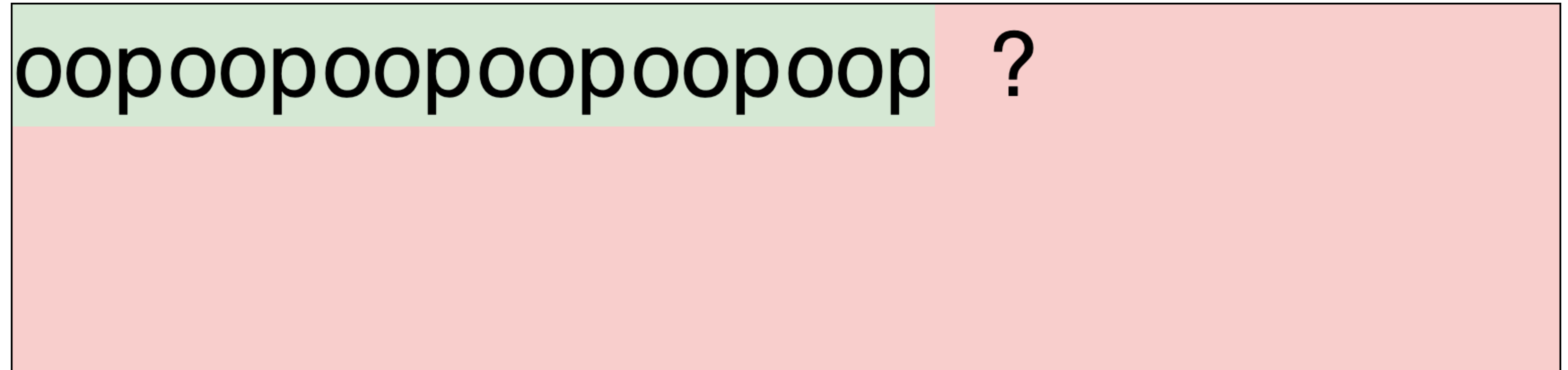
The image displays two side-by-side screenshots of the Objective-C runtime Inspector, specifically the 'Meta' tab for the method `#scaledByDisplayScaleFactor` in the `Form` class. Both windows show the same metadata fields: `address`, `header`, `class`, `oopClassTag`, `format`, `hash`, `pinned`, `space`, `immutable`, `selector`, `methodClass`, and `numLiterals`. The left window shows `numLiterals` as 7, while the right window shows it as 6. Below these fields, a table of literals is displayed, with the entire table highlighted by a green dashed border in both screenshots.

literal	Value
literal 1	haltOnce
literal 2	extent
literal 3	currentWorld
literal 4	displayScaleFactor
literal 5	scaledToSize:
literal 6	Instance of AdditionalMethodState
literal 7	Instance of GlobalVariable

The source code at the bottom of each window shows the method implementation. The left window shows a call to `self allBytecodes` with a long list of bytecodes. The right window shows a similar call, but with a shorter list of bytecodes, reflecting the difference in the number of literals.

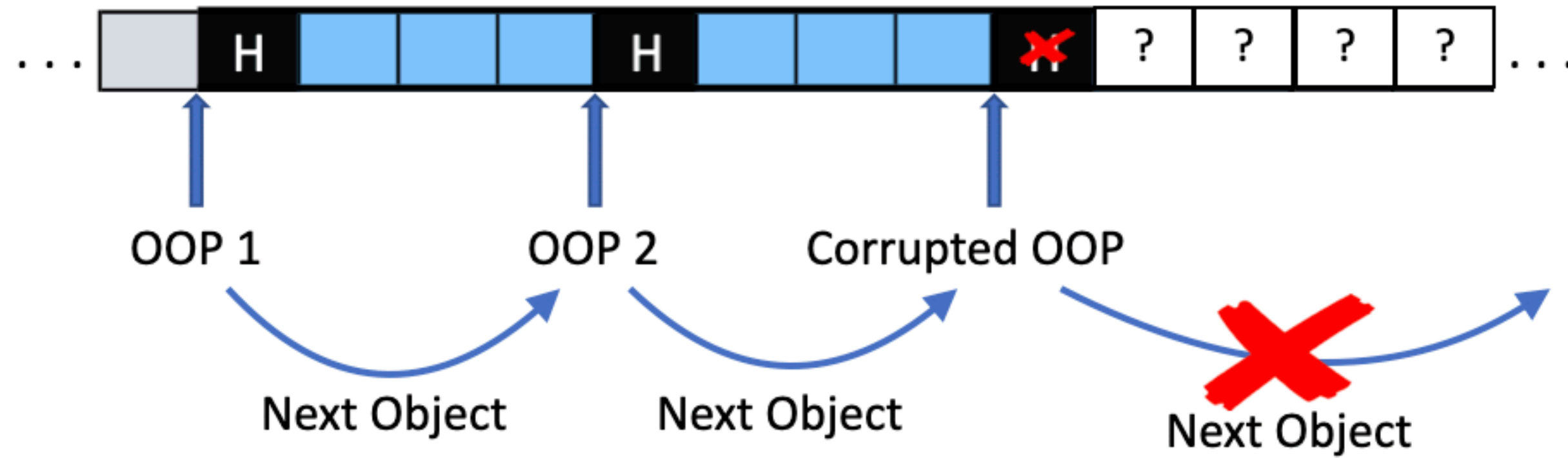
Real World Bug Fix #2

A Memory Corruption



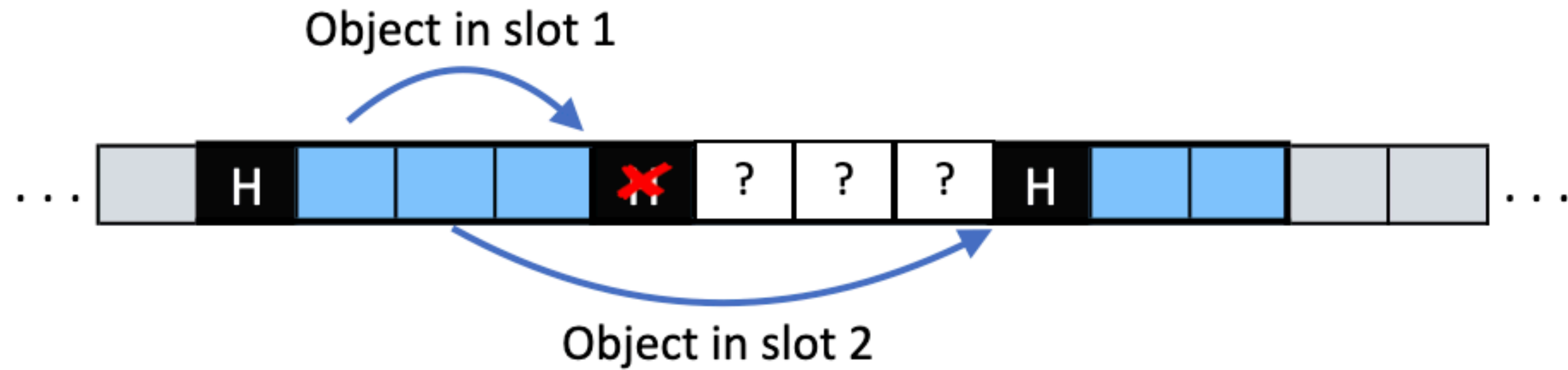
Real World Bug Fix #2

Iterating the Corrupted Memory



Real World Bug Fix #2

Recovering Objects



Real World Bug Fix #2

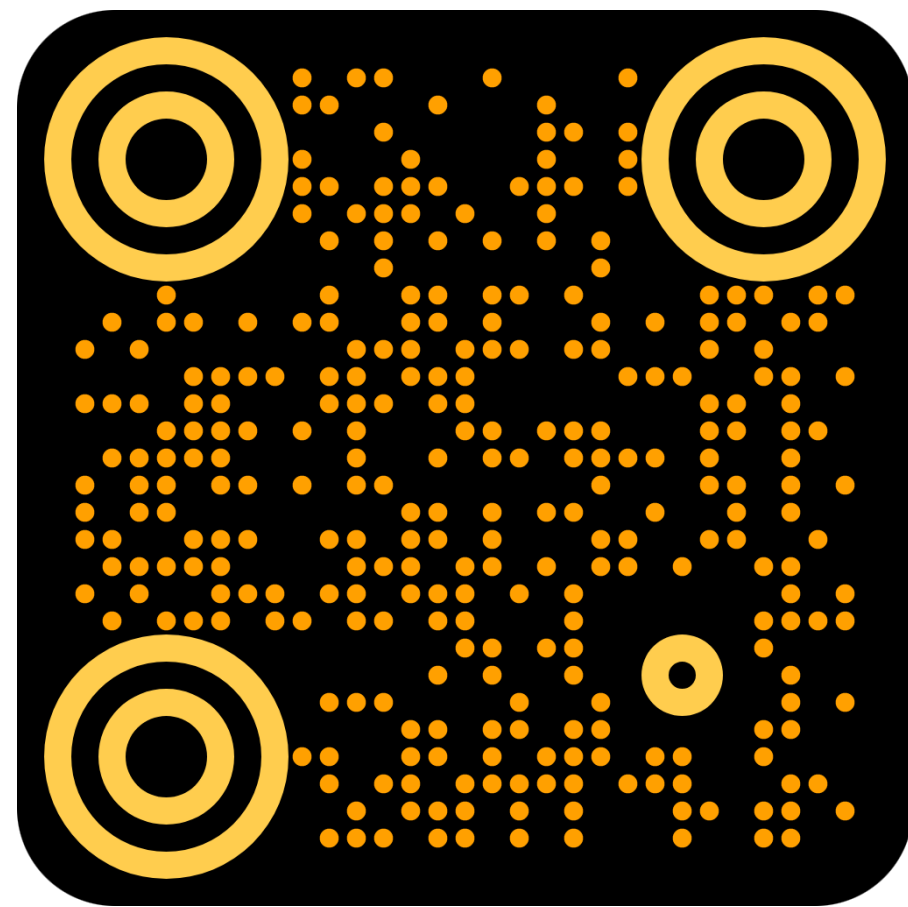
Cleansing corruption

oopoopoopoopoopoop	F	F	oop oop
oopoopoopoopoopoop		F	oop oop
oopoopoopoopoopoop		F	oop oop



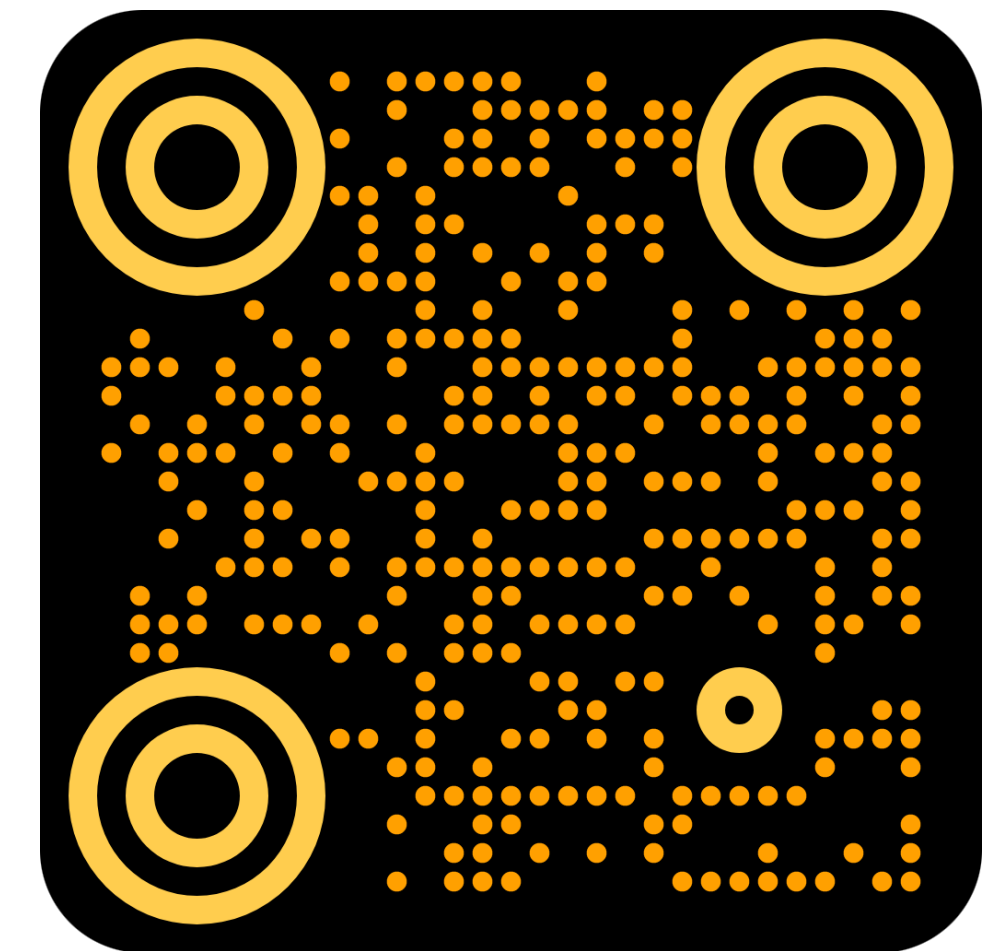
Conclusion

github.com/hogoww/Polyphemus/

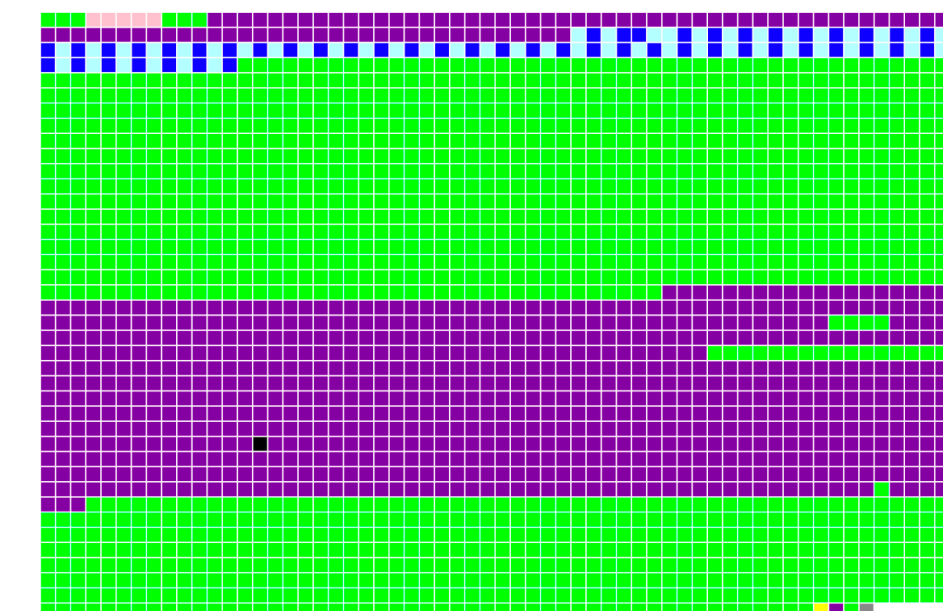


- Tooling at the VM level **was** hard
- Polyphemus eases such tooling
- Zombie Pharo images are now a thing
- Go nuts !

VMIL Paper preprint



Visualization

[illegible]

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