

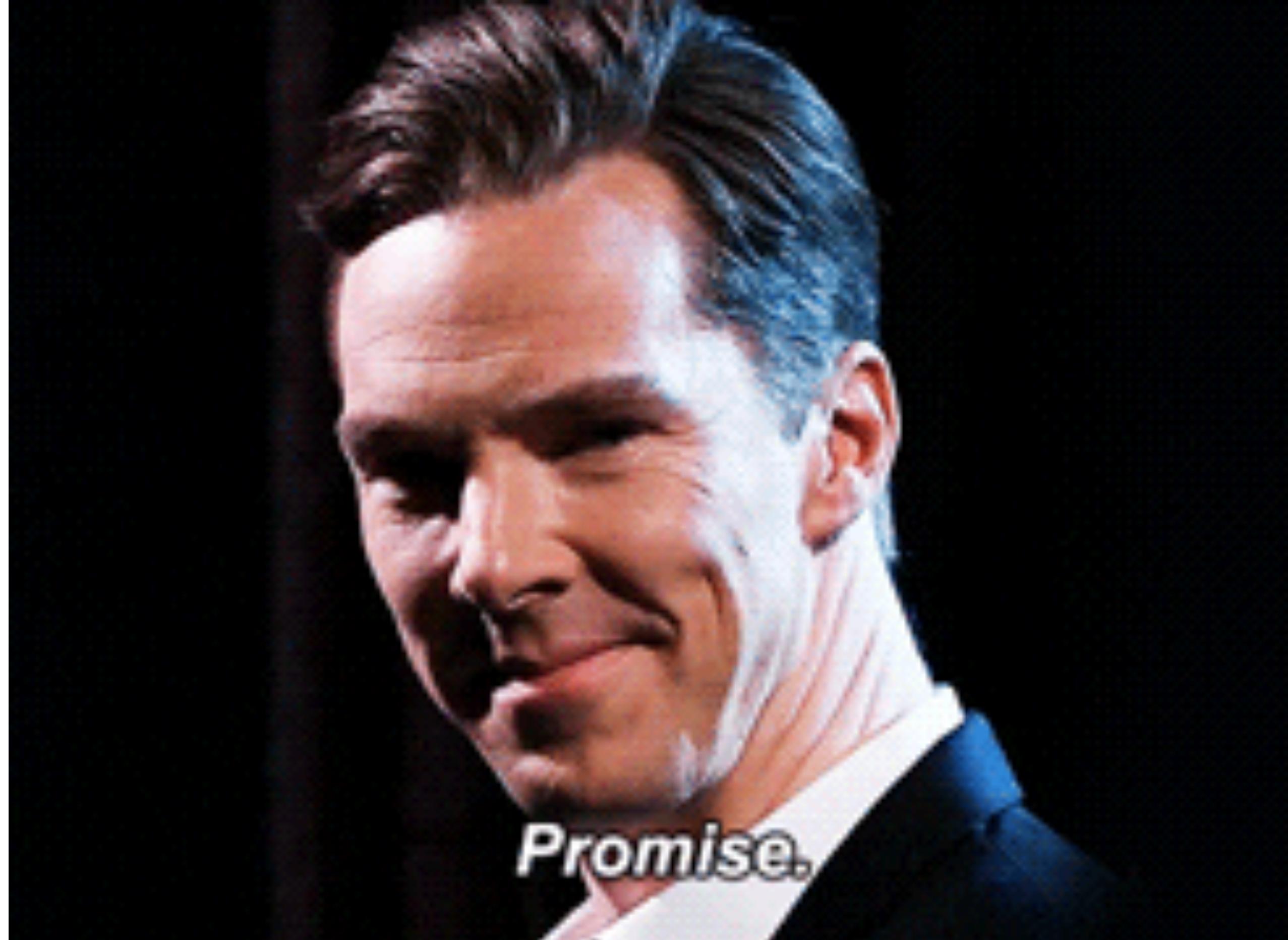
# Alexa! Bake me a new Java repository

An introduction to voice bots productivity

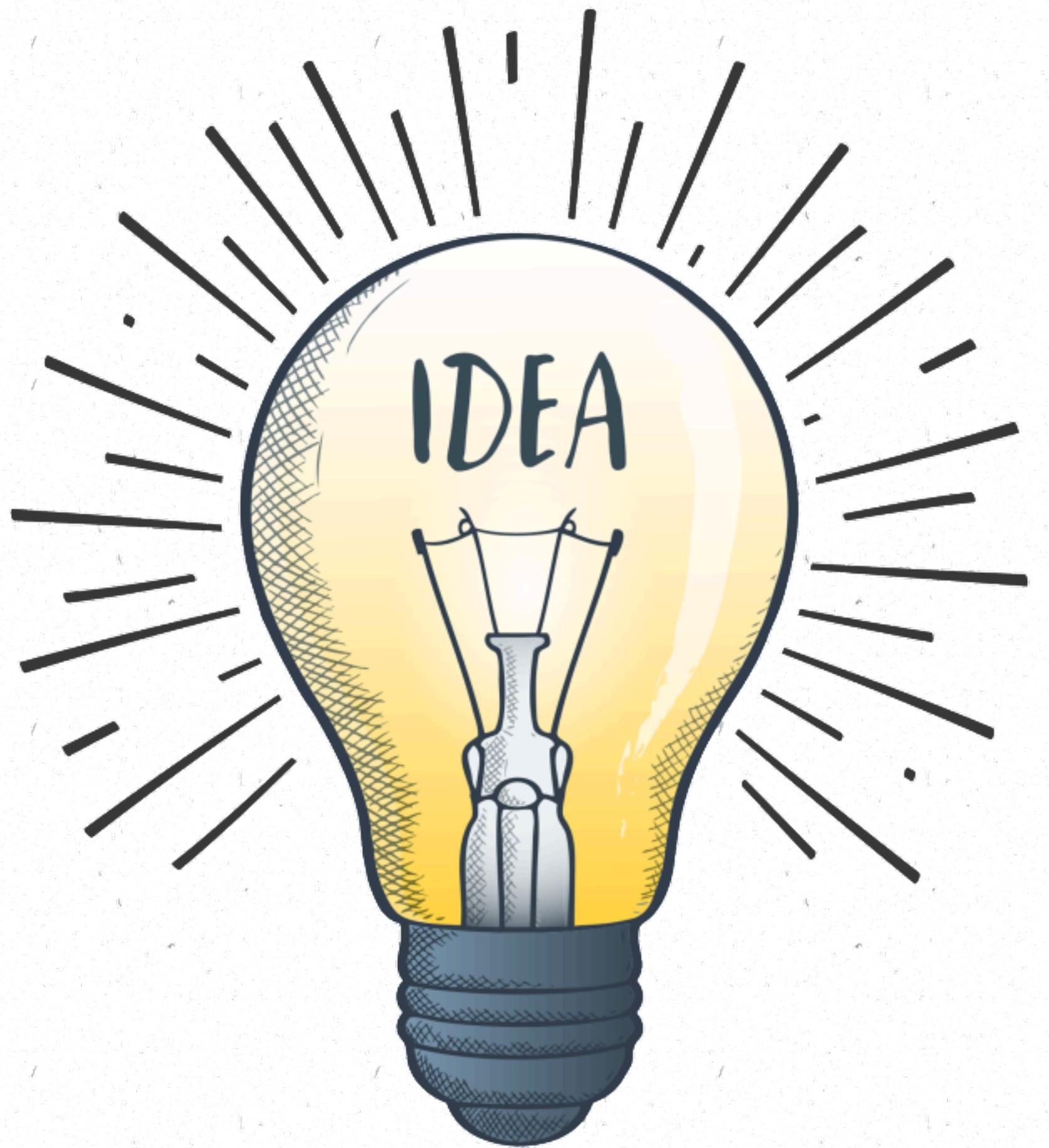
# In 40 minutes

## You will know

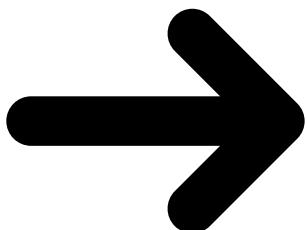
- What template repositories are
- The jargon used to build conversational apps
- How to create your own basic skills / apps using Alexa or DialogFlow



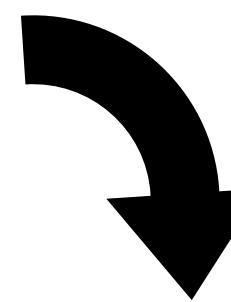
# Idea sparks



Email myself



Create GitHub  
project

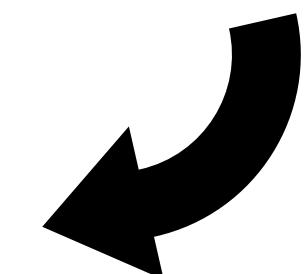


Start  
cranking



Scaffolding

Clone the  
project



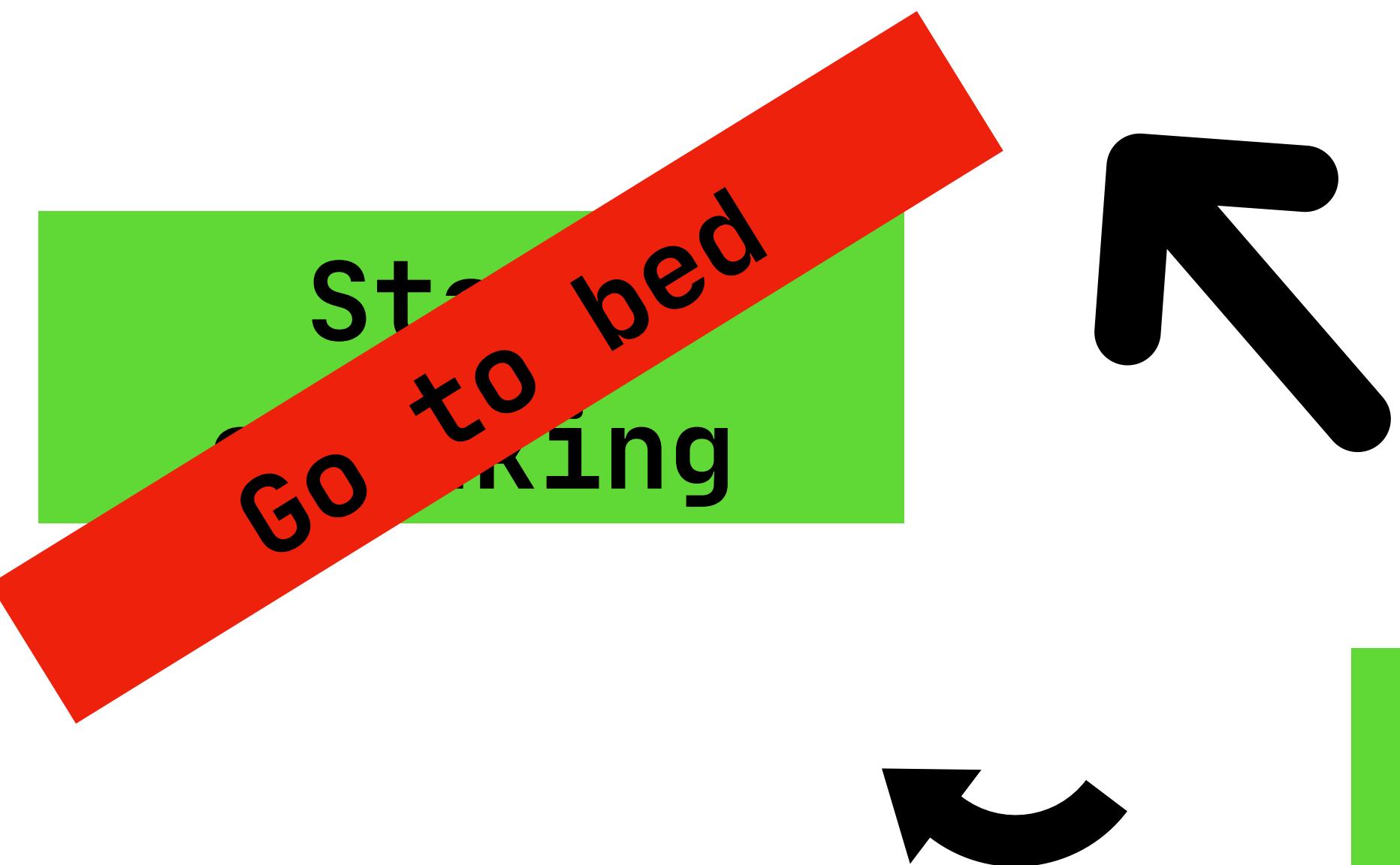
Email myself

Create GitHub  
project

Stop working  
Go to bed

Clone the  
project

Scaffolding



# Github template repos to the rescue!

June 6, 2019 — Features, Product

## Generate new repositories with repository templates



Bryn Jackson

Sharing boilerplate code across codebases is a constant pattern in software development. Bootstrapping a new project with our favorite tools and directory structures helps programmers go from idea to “Hello world!” more efficiently and with less manual configuration.

Today, we’re excited to introduce repository templates to make boilerplate code management and distribution a first-class citizen on GitHub. To get started, all you need to do is mark a repository as a template, and you’ll immediately be able to use it to generate new repositories with all of the template repository’s files and folders.

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# This is what a template looks like

Spring-Boot-Framework / Spring-Boot-Application-Template **Template** Watch 7 Star 40 Fork 142

Code Issues 1 Pull requests 1 Discussions Actions Projects 1 Wiki Security Insights

master 3 branches 6 tags Go to file Add file Code Use this template

Author	File	Commit Hash	Date
AnanthaRajuC	MODIFIED CHANGELOG.md	a4980a3	4 days ago
	.circleci/config.yml		7 months ago
	.github ISSUE_TEMPLATE		6 months ago
	.mvn wrapper		3 years ago
	bin	actuator properties, css added	3 years ago

About

Spring Boot Web App, Flyway, MySQL, H2DB, Bootstrap, Thymeleaf, JWT, Swagger, API Rate Limiting, Docker, RBAC, i18n

[anantharajuc.github.io/spring\\_boot...](#)

mysql i18n bootstrap fragments  
docker spring-boot thymeleaf

# And this is how to create one

## Settings

---

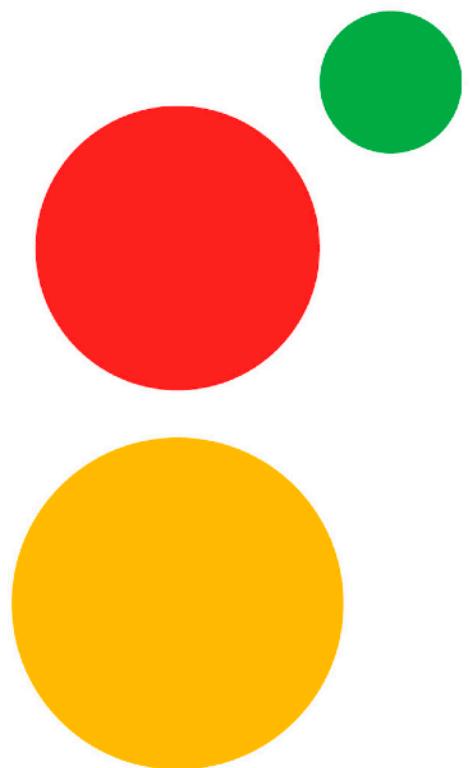
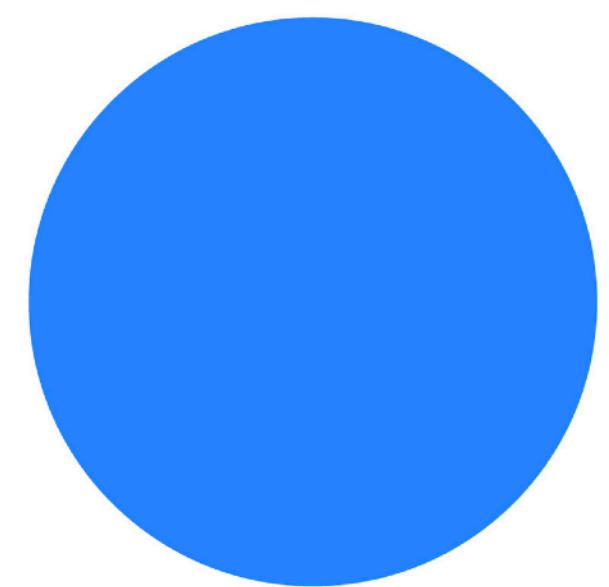
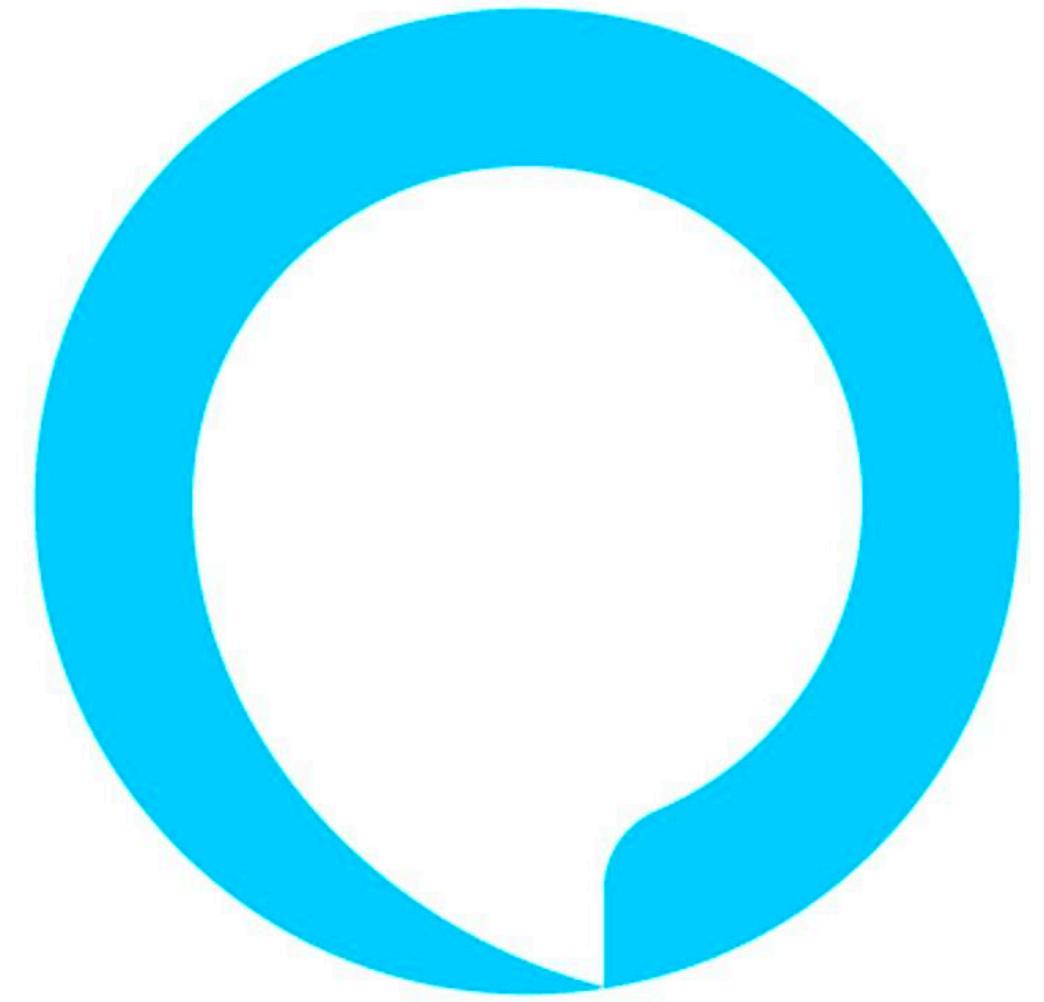
**Repository name**

epaper-dashboard

Rename

**Template repository**

Template repositories let users generate new repositories with the same directory structure and files. [Learn more.](#)





**Well actually**





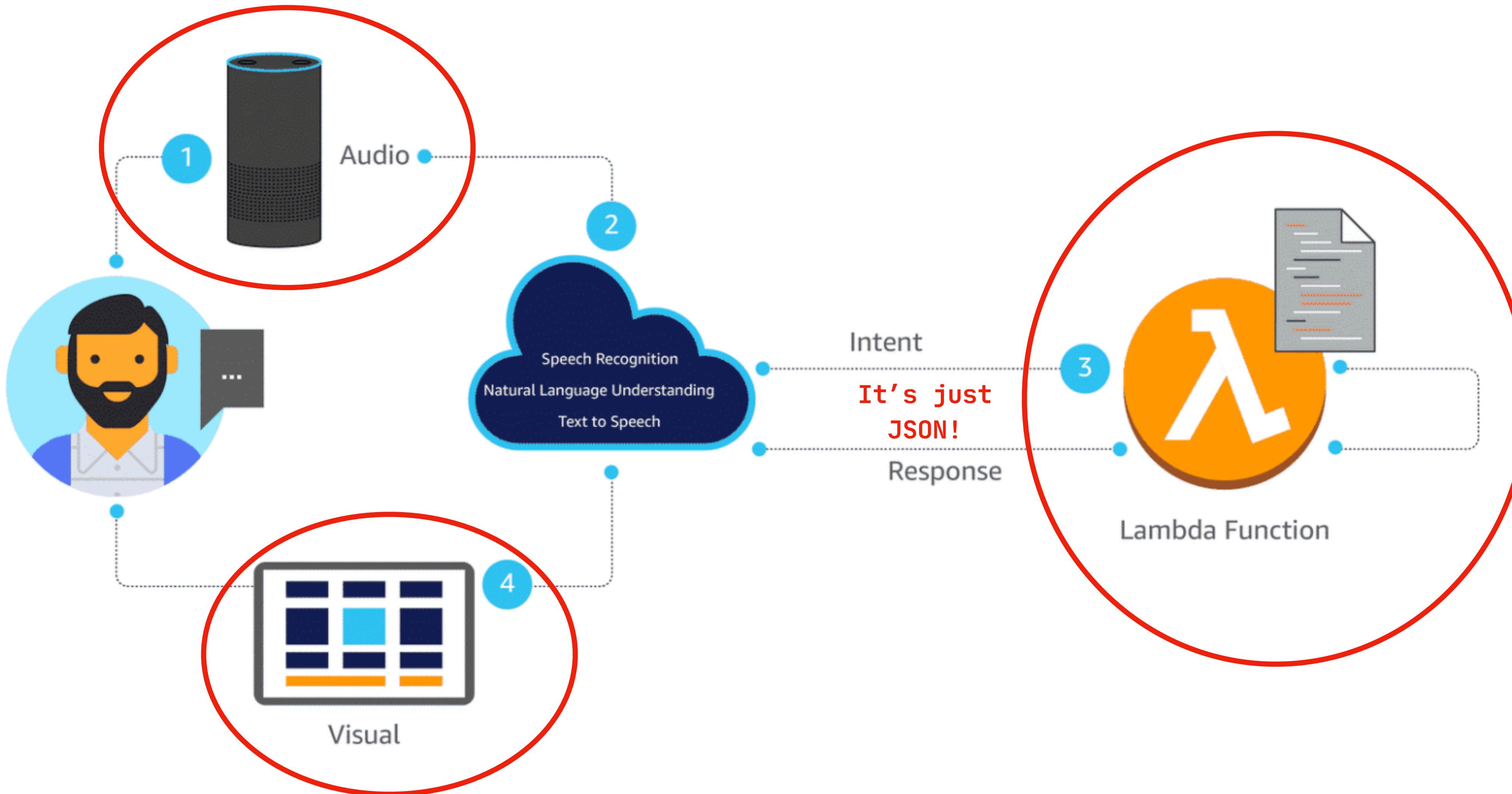
# But don't worry!

- Jargon, interfaces are just about interchangeable!
- The main difference for me is that Alexa allows for 'private' skills.

# Lots of magic are packed in Skills



# Skills have a ‘front’ and a backend



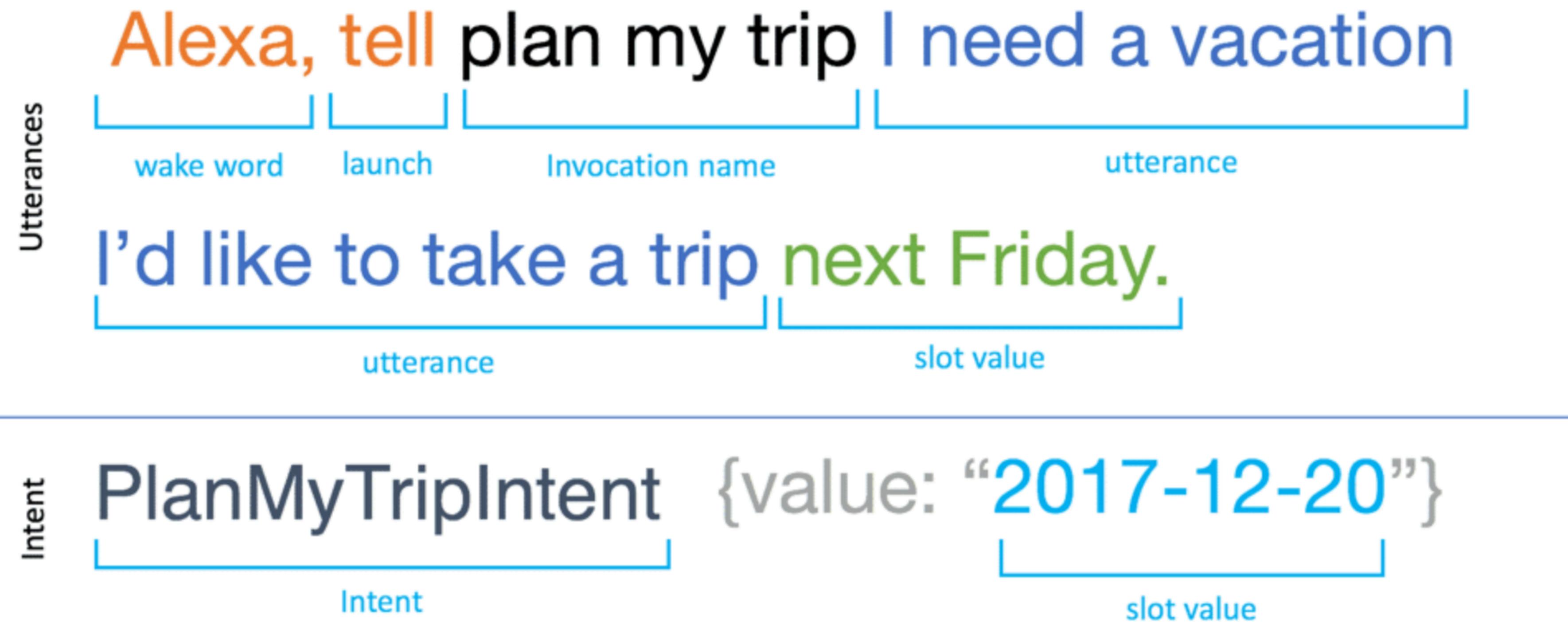
# Some mandatory jargon



# The basics of conversational apps

- A ***skill*** : A complete app, essentially.
- ***Invocation name*** : How the user will activate your specific app.
- An ***invocation*** : When a user asks something to your skill
- An ***intent*** : The action that a user wants to perform.
- An ***utterance*** : In what way may the user express its intent.
- A ***slot*** : A bunch or arguments needed to perform the intent.
- A ***slot type*** : The type of data of the given slot

# An illustrated example



# And Amazon is usually quite smart

Utterance

Maps to

"I am going on a trip Friday."

TRAVEL\_DATE

"I want to visit Portland."

TO\_CITY

"I want to travel from Seattle to Portland next Friday."

FROM\_CITY, TO\_CITY, and TRAVEL\_DATE

"I'm driving to Portland to go hiking."

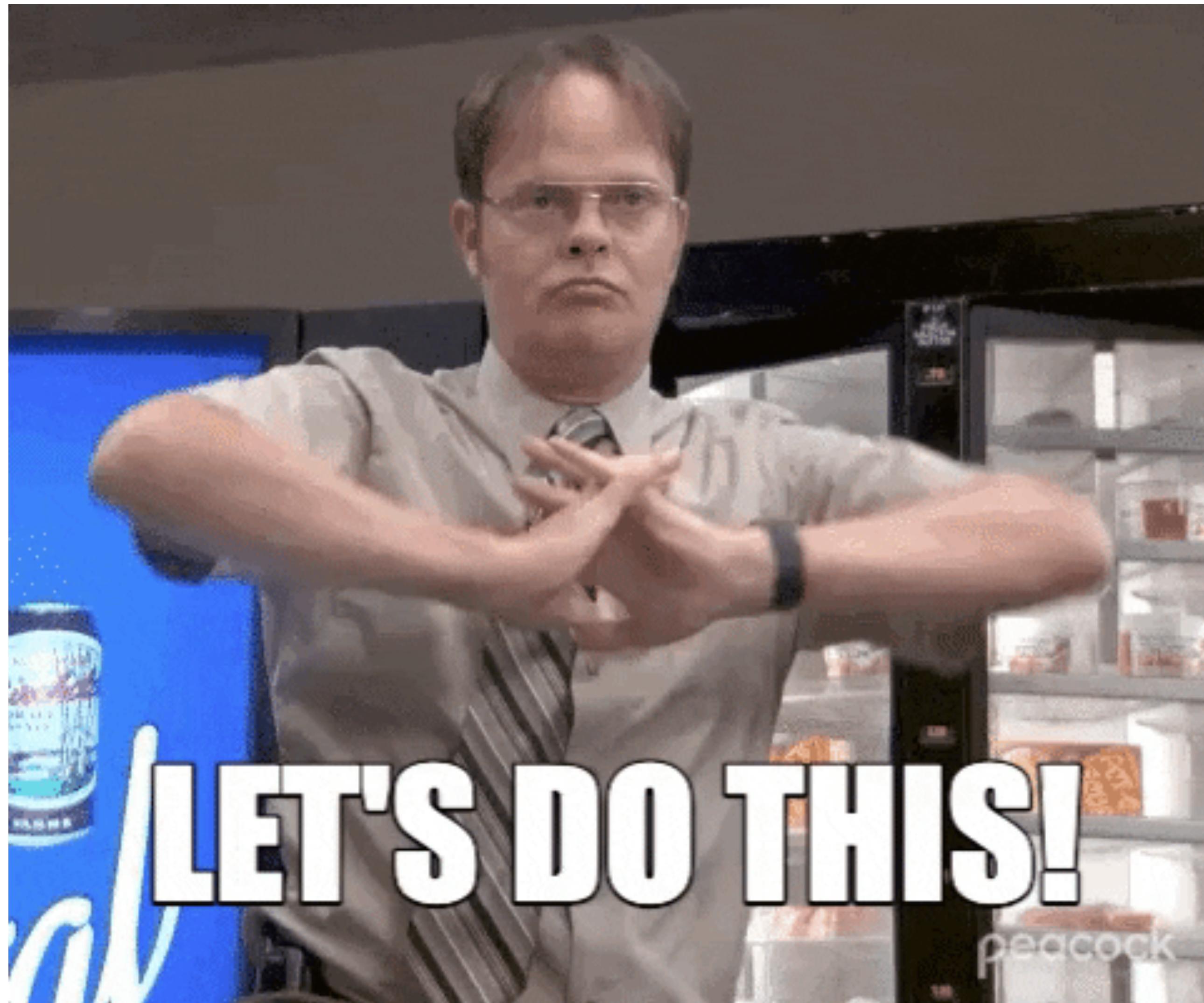
MODE\_OF\_TRAVEL, TO\_CITY, and ACTIVITIES

# ASK : Alexa Skills Kit



```
$ brew install ask-cli  
$ ask new test-project  
$ cd test-project  
$ ask deploy
```

# Alright! Time to work!



# Takeaways : Github Templates

- A very fine idea! Less boilerplate is more happiness
- But the execution is lacking so far?
  - Not searchable on the website
  - Not findable either via the API
  - Very little apparent usage



# Takeaways : Conversational apps

- Abstracts AWS away!
- Very easy to get started and build your own fun things
- Make sure to have enough utterances
- Can be lacking with technical terms, or ACCENTS!
- Building models take a while. Test using JSON allows for faster feedback loop
- **Extremely frustrating when it doesn't work**

# Takeaways : Alexa vs DialogFlow

- **Alexa rocks because**
  - You don't want to use JS.
  - Better integration with AWS, SDKs in multiple languages
  - Private skills are there for you
- **DialogFlow rocks because**
  - Multiple out of the box integrations (Slack, web, ...)

# Questions ?

Hit me up on Twitter @jlengrand

Slides / Code here :)