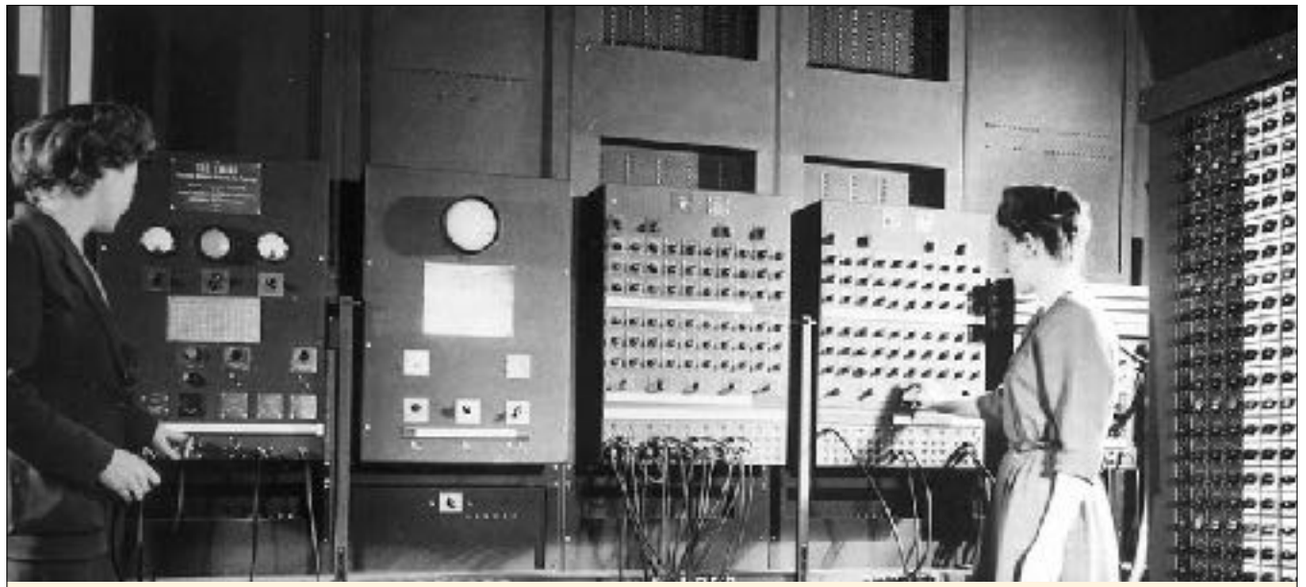

WHAT THE TECH?

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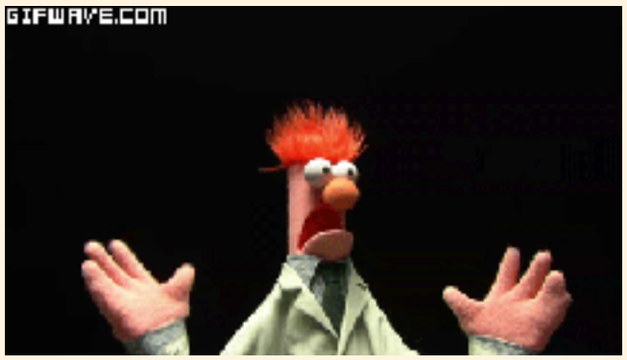
@lizmeister321
October 13, 2017

TODAY'S GOAL



Not You

There's so much jargon and totally new concepts in programming that it's easy to freak out when people start talking about it. Our goal to day is to give a little more info behind these ideas so that you feel comfortable learning more about these topics!

WHY ME?

Fig. 1: A Tech Professional

Quick bio:
-Background in poli sci, MPP
-exposed to STATA (stats software) in grad school
-became intrigued, learned SQL at internship
-got into Python, now work using programming skills to help labor organize and activate members nationally
-No formal “tech training” — no CS degree, no academic work, foundations all came from informal education (friends or on the job)

PART 1:
YOU, THE PROGRAMMER

The true basics. Need to start at the beginning to make sure our foundation is really solid to move forward

COMPUTERS ARE DUMB

Really!

Emphasize that computers are just big calculators that can do math calculations very quickly, and can do very lots of large complex math much faster than humans can.

SO WHY DO THEY SEEM SO SMART?

lots and lots of programmers

over

lots and lots of time

WHAT'S A PROGRAMMER?

So let's think this through logically then—what's a programmer?

A PERSON WHO WRITES INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE COMPUTER TO FOLLOW

A PERSON WHO WRITES

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE COMPUTER TO FOLLOW

That's a program!

LET'S MAKE A PROGRAM!

Walk through pb&j exercise with the group — take your time

At the end, wrap with: Computers don't understand English like you and I do, so we need to find another way to tell the computer exactly what we want it to do. That's where programming languages come in

HTML & CSS
PYTHON
JAVASCRIPT
SQL
RUBY
JAVA

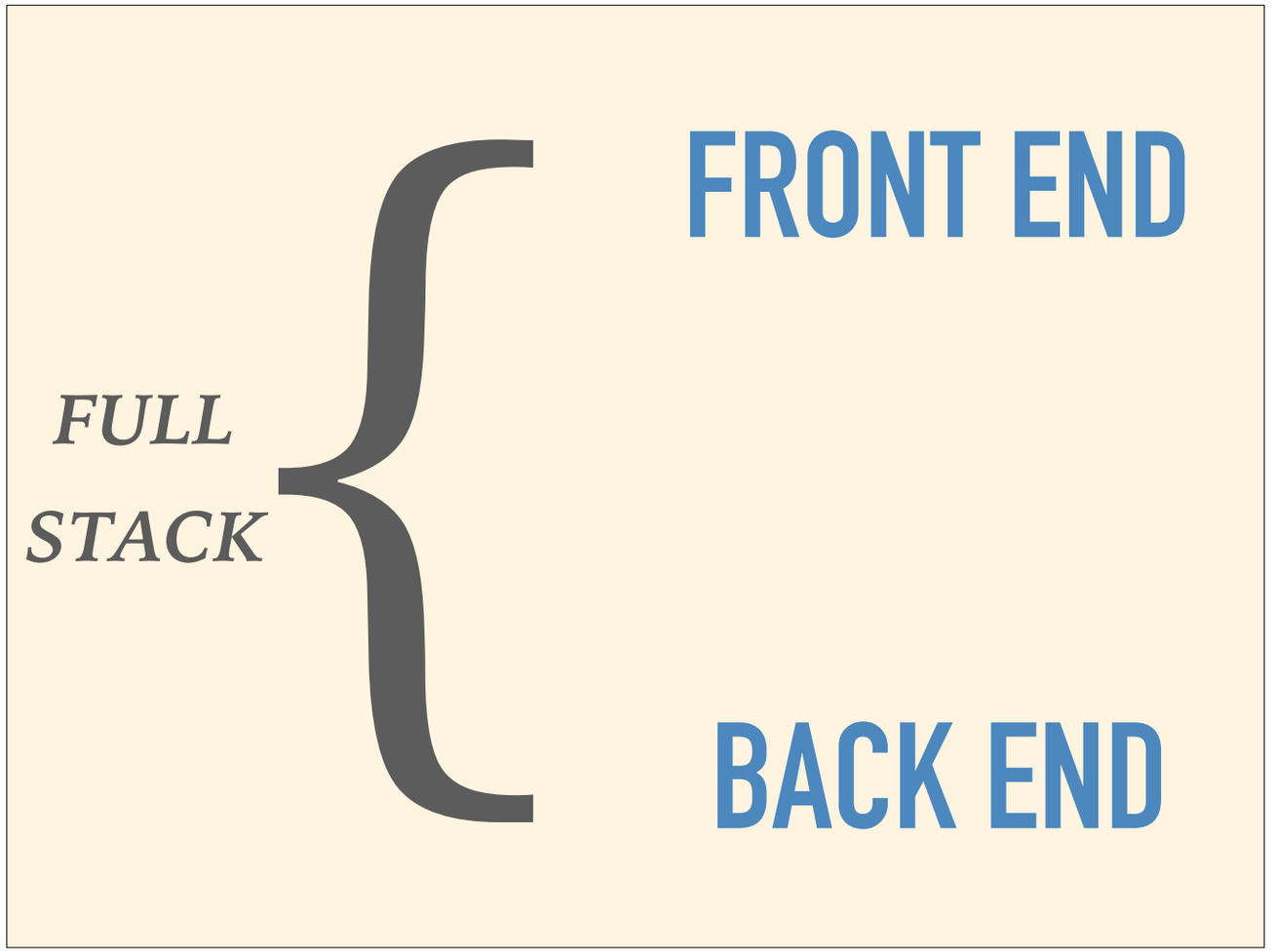
Some popular programming languages

There are a lot of different programming languages, these are just a few that are very popular right now. Have you heard of any of these? All of them have different syntax, and can do slightly different things, but all of them fall under the umbrella of “programming languages”

HTML & CSS are used to control what a web page looks like — color, fonts, shapes, layout, etc

Python and Ruby are way of having your computer pull information from a data store and present it on your website

IF PEOPLE SEEM TO BE GETTING IT — FEEL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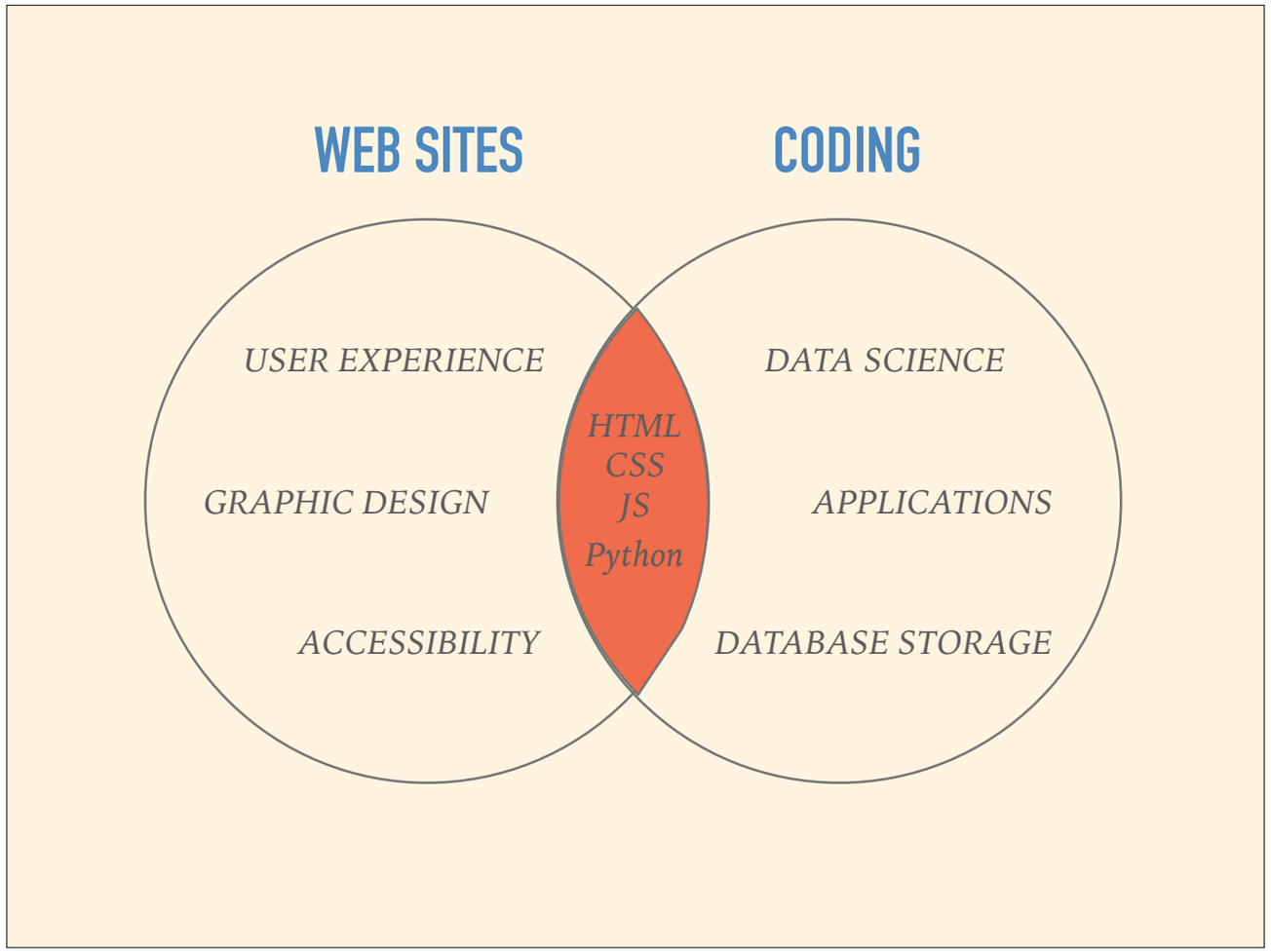


Topics to cover here:
—UX/UI
—machine learning/algorithms
—Databases (excel comparison)

PAGE O' JARGON

API

THE CLOUD

OPEN SOURCE

HACKATHON

FOO/BAR

GUI

REFACTOR(ING)

DEVOPS

THERE WILL BE DEFINITIONS FOR THESE IN THE PRESENTATION

PART 2:
BUILDING YOUR TOOL KIT

Now that we’re all programmers with some preliminary knowledge of the tech world, lets get everything together in one place so we can easily use it in the future (just like batgirl has her snazzy tool belt here)

SO I NEED TO KNOW..ALL OF IT?

Short Answer: **NO**

HOW DO I PICK A LANGUAGE

GITHUB/OPEN SOURCE

"SPEAK PROGRAMMER"

- *Translate jargon*
- *Draw diagrams*
- *Be specific*
- *Google is your best friend*
- *Think systems, not specifics*

There's not really a secret "programmer" way of speaking, it's just a stereotype. It may feel overwhelming or confusing to try and manage a group of folks like this but there's a few easy tools to handle it:

—Jargon is everywhere in the industry, and it's designed to keep people out. Always ask for repeat-backs, restate terms in non-jargon language, and avoid using jargon (whether or not you actually know it) in your communications
—Engineers love whiteboards in part because they allow you to visualize complex systems. Don't understand? Draw it!
—Repeat-backs can save you hours. Your definition of "stand up this tool" may be very different from the team's. Clarify and repeat until you're positive!
—It doesn't actually matter what language the code is written in, as long as the project does what it needs. Be clear on how the different pieces work together, not what the code does or doesn't say. Get clear on the steps each piece of software does.

PART 3:
WHERE DO I SIGN UP?

DC public library

FREE. LOCAL. FUN!

HEAR ME CODE

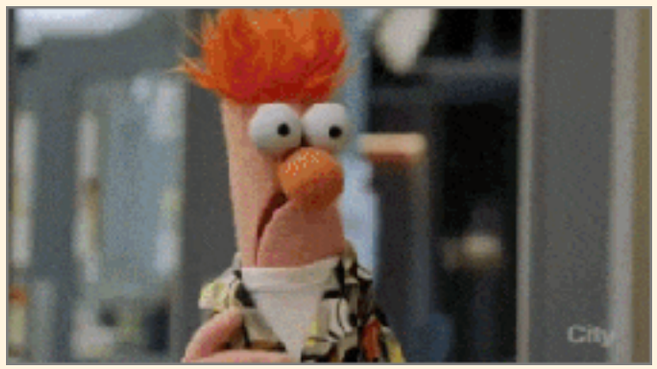
WOMEN WHO CODE

A WORD ABOUT BOOTCAMPS

(really, just an emoji)

FEELING GOOD?

You, a new tech expert



QUESTIONS?