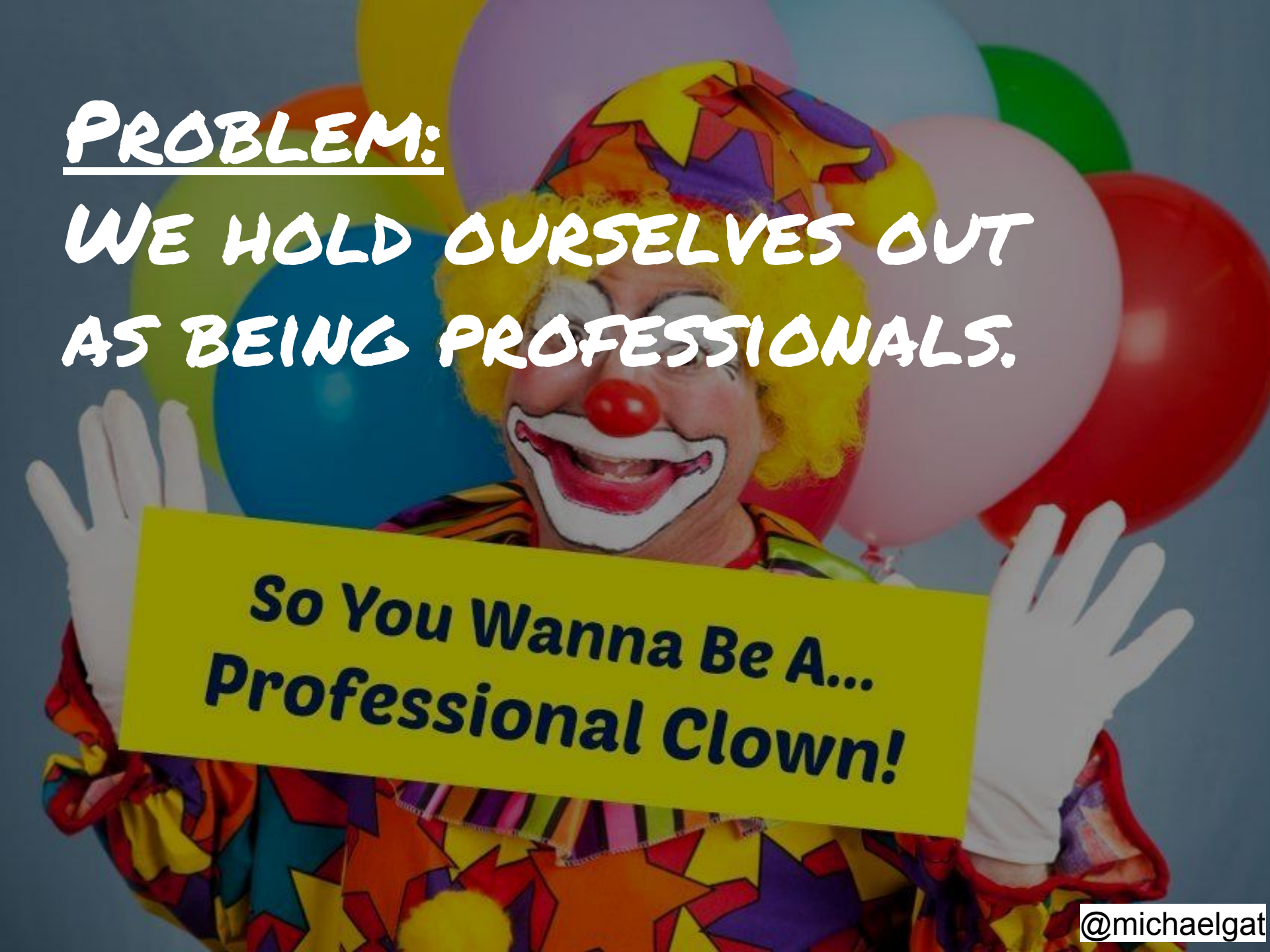
You're a Failure!

Now what?

@michaelgat



Problem:

We hold ourselves out as being professionals.

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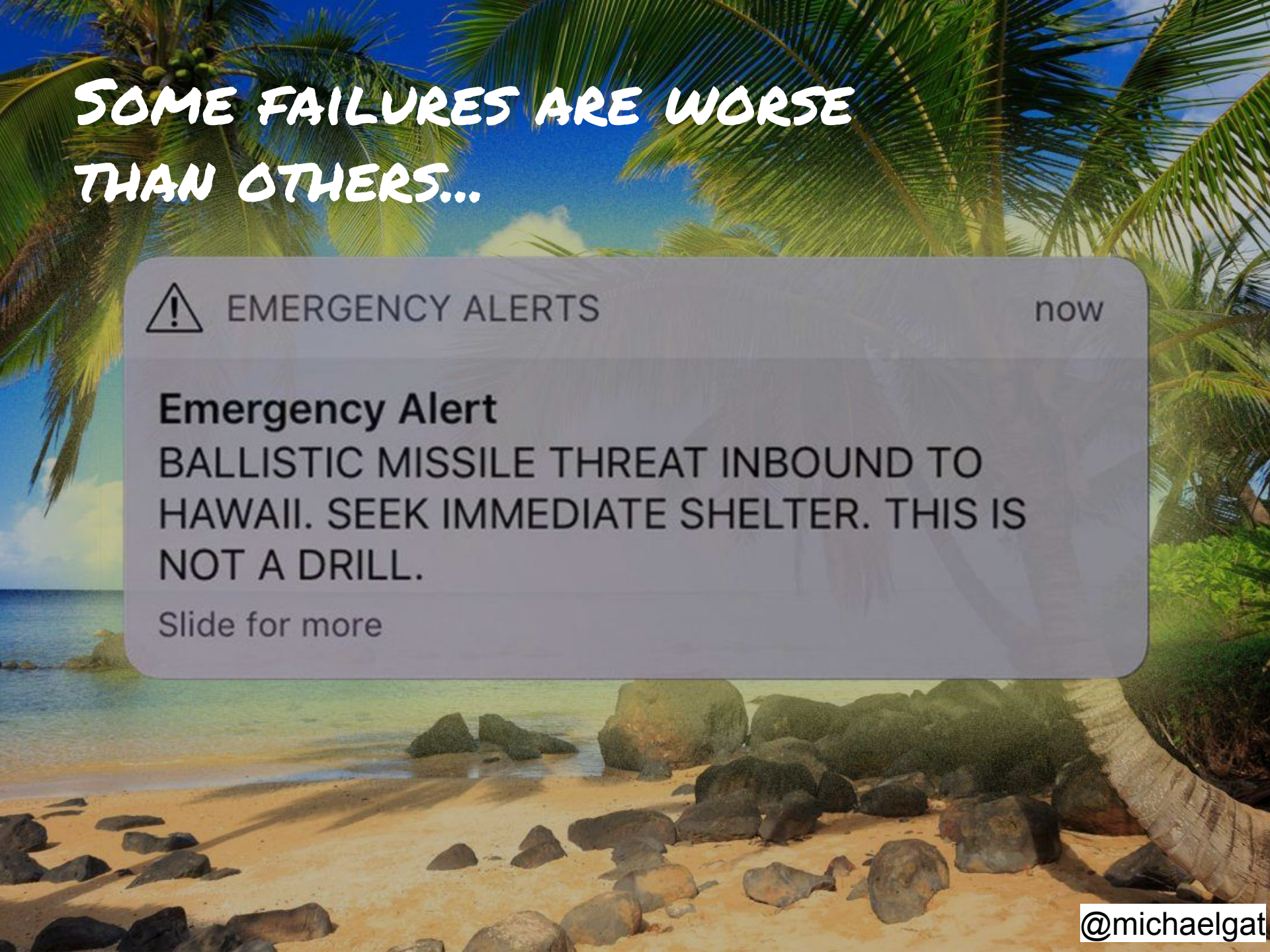
Some failures are worse than others...



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What flavor?

* h/t Mark Manson

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Ask!
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Whenever there is any doubt, there is no doubt...

Accidentally destroyed production database on first day of a job, and was told to leave, on top of this i was told by the CTO that they need to get legal involved, how screwed am i? (self.cscareerquestions)

submitted 9 months ago * by cscareerthrowaway567 x8

Today was my first day on the job as a Junior Software Developer and was my first non-internship position after university. Unfortunately i screwed up badly.

I was basically given a document detailing how to setup my local development environment. Which involves run a small script to create my own personal DB instance from some test data. After running the command i was supposed to copy the database url/password/username outputted by the command and configure my dev environment to point to that database. Unfortunately instead of copying the values outputted by the tool, i instead for whatever reason used the values the document had.

Unfortunately apparently those values were actually for the production database (why they are documented in the dev setup guide i have no idea). Then from my understanding that the tests add fake data, and clear existing data between test runs which basically cleared all the data from the production database. Honestly i had no idea what i did and it wasn't about 30 or so minutes after did someone actually figure out/realize what i did.

While what i had done was sinking in. The CTO told me to leave and never come back. He also informed me that apparently legal would need to get involved due to severity of the data loss. I basically offered and pleaded to let me help in someway to redeem my self and i was told that i "completely fucked everything up".

So i left. I kept an eye on slack, and from what i can tell the backups were not restoring and it seemed like the entire dev team was on full on panic mode. I sent a slack message to our CTO explaining my screw up. Only to have my slack account immediately disabled not long after sending the message.

I haven't heard from HR, or anything and i am panicking to high heavens. I just moved across the country for this job, is there anything i can even remotely do to redeem my self in this situation? Can i possibly be sued for this? Should i contact HR directly? I am really confused, and terrified.

EDIT Just to make it even more embarrassing, i just realized that i took the laptop i was issued home with me (i have no idea why i did this at all).

EDIT 2 I just woke up, after deciding to drown my sorrows and i am shocked by the number of responses, well wishes and other things. Will do my best to sort through everything.

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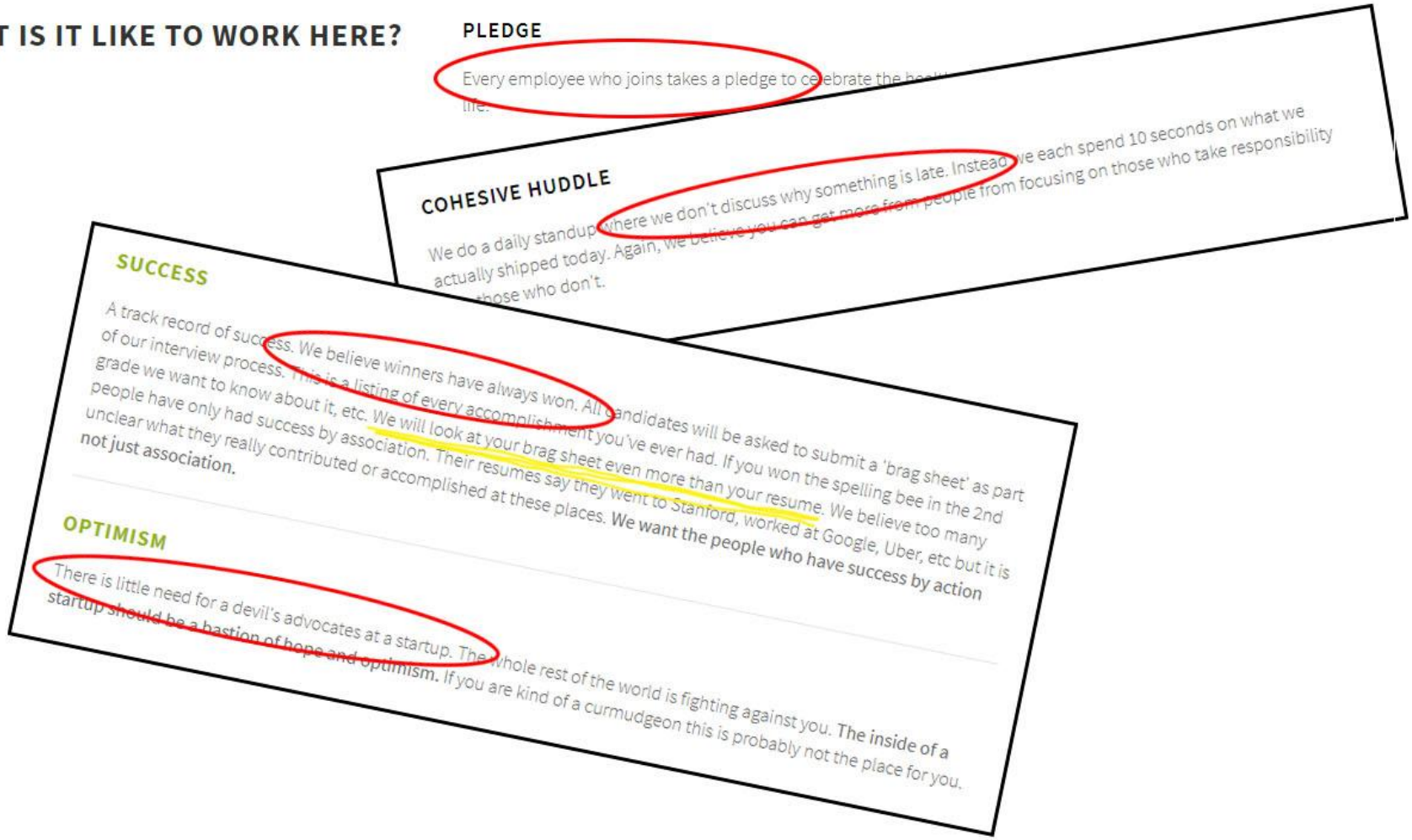
Sometimes you don't even need to ask!



WHAT IS IT LIKE TO WORK HERE?

PLEDGE

Every employee who joins takes a pledge to celebrate the

COHESIVE HUDDLE

We do a daily standup where we don't discuss why something is late. Instead, we each spend 10 seconds on what we actually shipped today. Again, we believe you can get more from people from focusing on those who take responsibility

those who don't.

SUCCESS

A track record of success. We believe winners have always won. All candidates will be asked to submit a 'brag sheet' as part of our interview process. This is a listing of every accomplishment you've ever had. If you won the spelling bee in the 2nd grade we want to know about it, etc. We will look at your brag sheet even more than your resume. We believe too many people have only had success by association. Their resumes say they went to Stanford, worked at Google, Uber, etc but it is unclear what they really contributed or accomplished at these places. **We want the people who have success by action not just association.**

OPTIMISM

There is little need for a devil's advocates at a startup. The whole rest of the world is fighting against you. **The inside of a startup should be a bastion of hope and optimism.** If you are kind of a curmudgeon this is probably not the place for you.

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Ask for help

Pay it forward

Dealing with failure is a team sport

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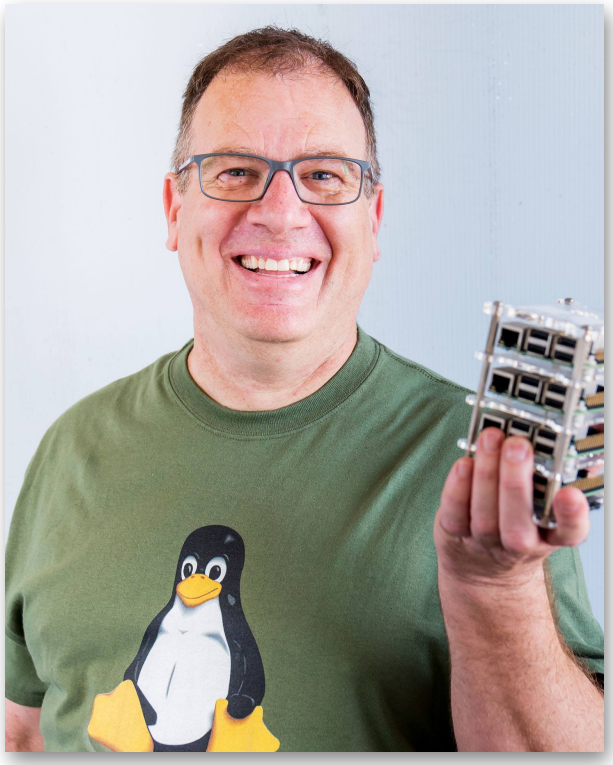
Thank You!



Michael Gat
@michaelgat
michaelgat.com

Upcoming talk

SoCal Python Meetup, Oct. 30

Beyond Moore's Law: What happens to us when the greatest truth of our lives ends?

http://meetup.com/socalpython