

how to code good*

Christine Imogu & Helen Yang

*good is subjective

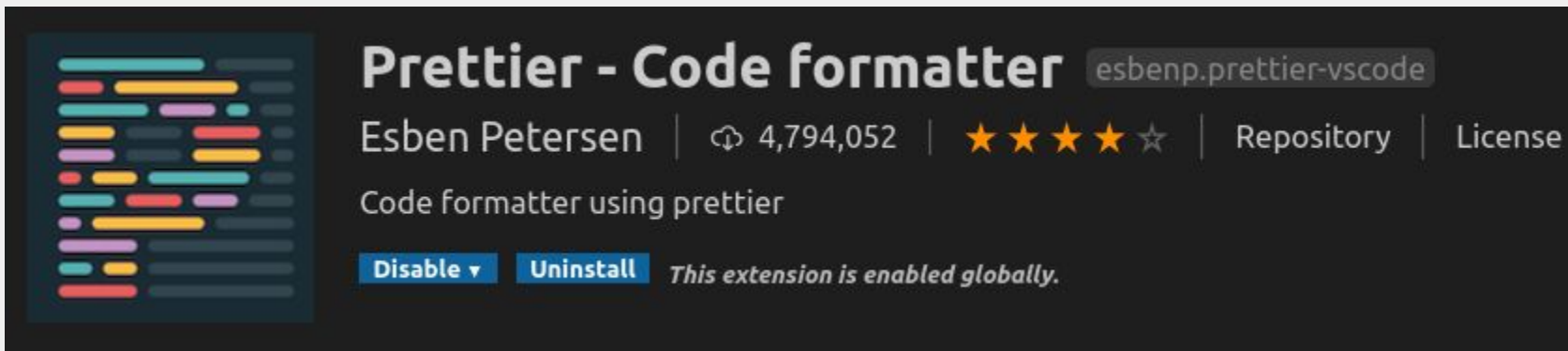
Why code good?

- Having the correct developer practices makes your code more readable, saves time, makes you easier to work with, and leads to less frustration while coding
- For all developers, these mean that coding is more fun, easier to do, and people (and yourself) will understand your code easier
- If you're a professional developer, all of these mean \$\$\$\$\$\$

Code formatting/style

Use prettier!!

- VSCode extension



Editor: Format On Save

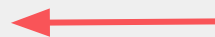


Format a file on save. A formatter must be available, the file must not be saved after delay, and the editor must not be shutting down.

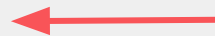
- Makes your code pretty every time you hit "save"

Danger!

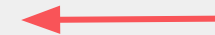
- Decide as a team if you want to use prettier
- Either everybody use it, or nobody use it
- **Can run into nasty merge conflicts otherwise**



Merge Conflict



Inconsistent Prettier package use



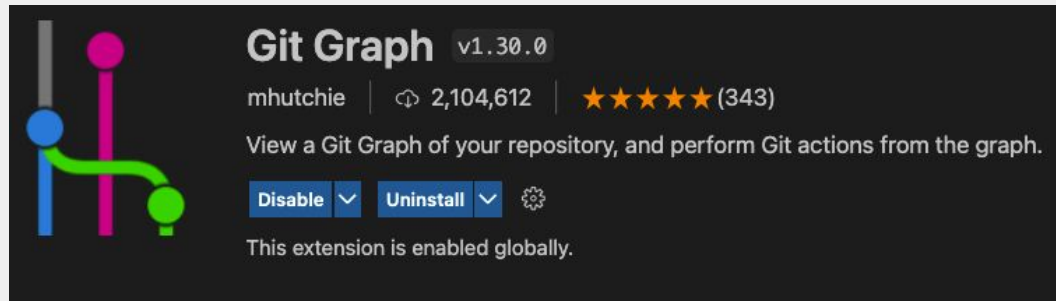
Autoformat with Prettier

Different Tools

*but still make sure you know how to

Git Support

- Don't like terminal? Don't use it!*



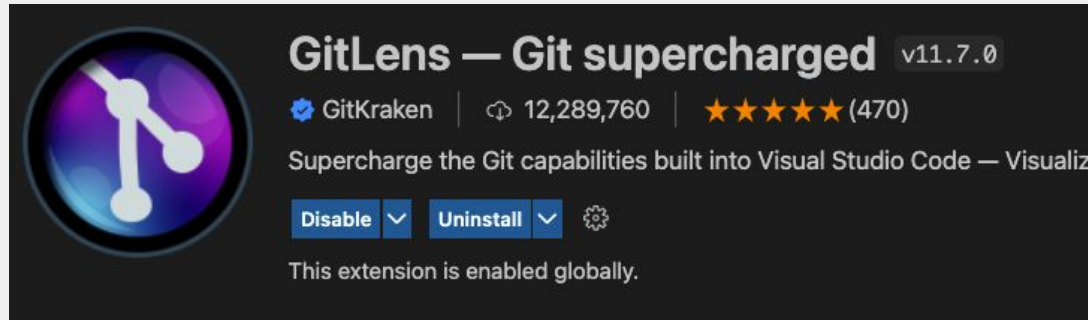
Git Graph v1.30.0

mhutchie | 2,104,612 | ★★★★★ (343)

View a Git Graph of your repository, and perform Git actions from the graph.

[Disable](#) [Uninstall](#) ⚙️

This extension is enabled globally.



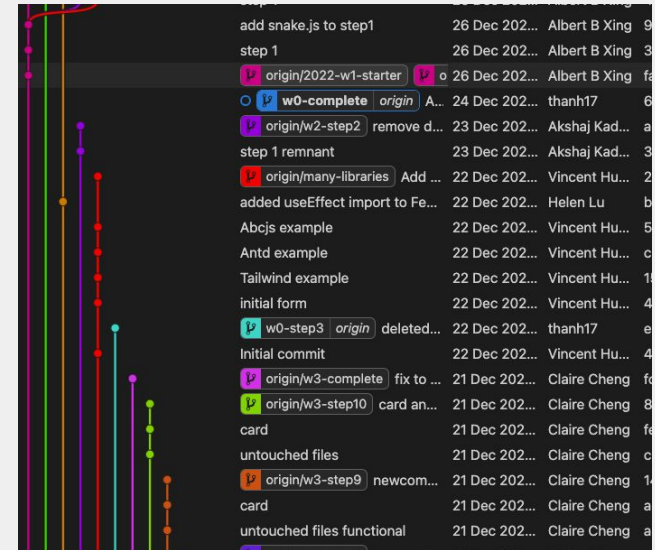
GitLens — Git supercharged v11.7.0

GitKraken | 12,289,760 | ★★★★★ (470)

Supercharge the Git capabilities built into Visual Studio Code — Visualiz

[Disable](#) [Uninstall](#) ⚙️

This extension is enabled globally.



A Different Editor..?

- Webstorm/IntelliJ
 - A lot more resource intensive...RAM goes brrrrrrrrrr
 - A lot more features...so can be confusing
- Vim
 - Classic text editor
 - Has a large learning curve, but allows for shortcuts that lets you do some things faster than VSCode

Writing quality code

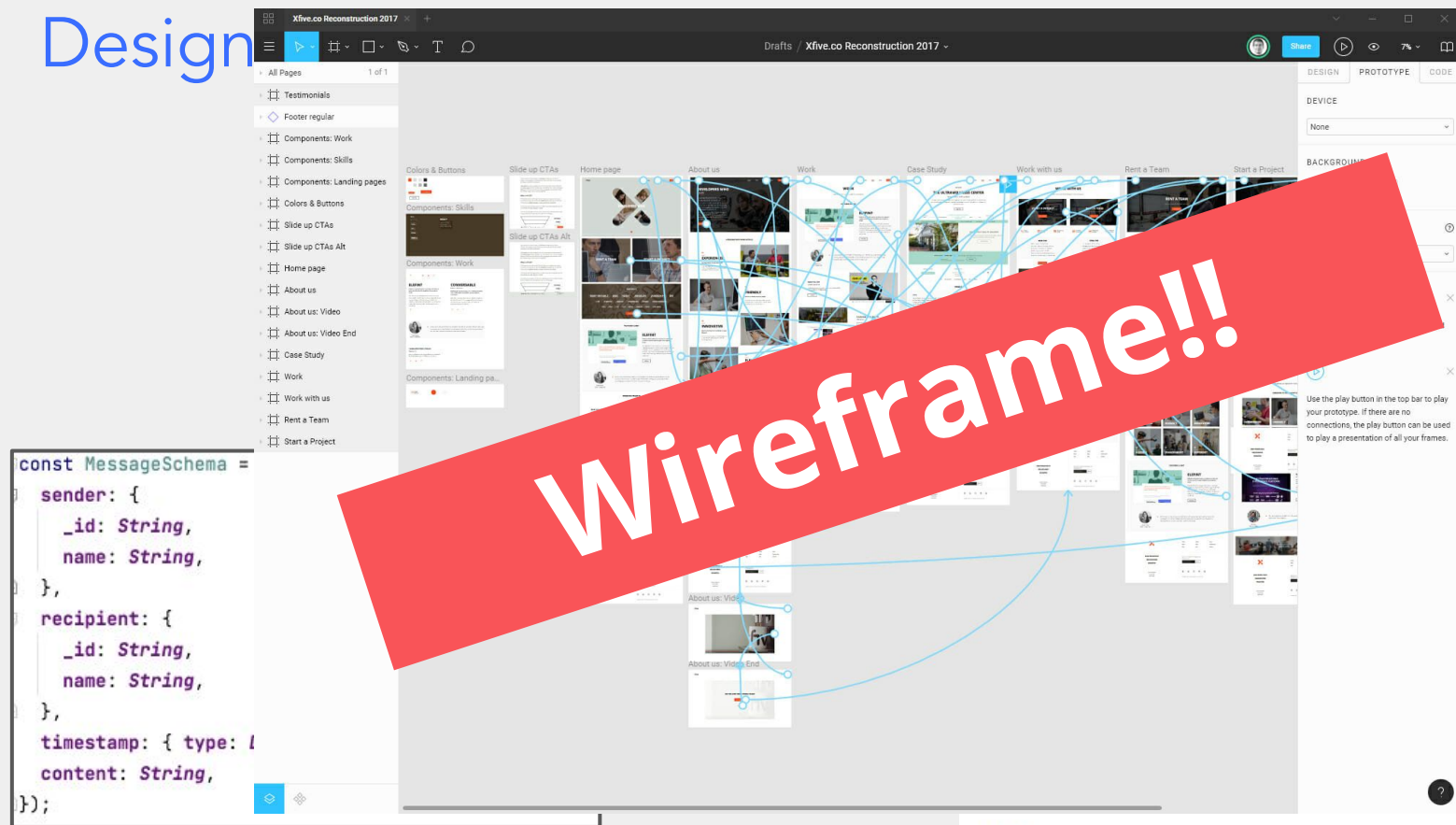
The “best” style is the one that your team agrees on*.

* it may not be objectively the best, and it's still important to keep your team accountable with tech debt and style

Needing bad code for your website to work is often caused by bad design* choices.

*design here meaning overall system design, not how things look

Design



Mongoose schemas

API Specifications

"if you don't have any design, you don't know what you are making."

- some dude from stackoverflow

Ways to Document your Design Choices

```
/**
 * Card is a component for displaying content like stories
 *
 * Proptypes
 * @param {string} _id of the story
 * @param {string} creator_name
 * @param {string} creator_id
 * @param {string} content of the story
 */
const Card = (props) => {
  const [comments, setComments] = useState([]);

  useEffect(() => {
    get("/api/comment", { parent: props._id }).then((comments) => {
      setComments(comments);
    });
  }, []);

  // this gets called when the user pushes "Submit", so their
  // post gets added to the screen right away
}
```

JSDocs (Methods/Objects/Handlers)

API Documentation

Issues

- To get all Issues specified by the query parameters (author, issue_id). If no query parameters are specified, it will return all issues.
 - **protocol:** GET /api/issues
 - **protocol:** GET /api/issues?issue_id={id}
 - **protocol:** GET /api/issues?author={author}
 - **return:** Issues[] - the array of all issues queried by the parameters
 - **status 200** if successfully retrieve issues

API Routes

```
const CommentSchema = new mongoose.Schema({
  creator_id: String,
  creator_name: String,
  parent: String, // links to the _id of a parent story
  content: String,
});
```

Database Schemas

API Specification

- For every API route
 - Is it GET or POST (or something else?)
 - What parameters does it expect and what are their data types?
 - What does it change in the database (if any)?
 - How much other work does it need to do (if any)?
 - What does it return and what data types does it return?
 - How does this route interact with other routes? Is it even needed?

Your API routes often depend on your frontend design, not the other way around. (You can also do it the reverse way too)

Scenario: I want to add a new feature, but...

My code is structured in a way that makes this difficult.

Two options:

1. Refactor my code, which might take **3 hours**
2. Come up with a hacky solution, which only takes **30 mins**

What is hacky code?

Code may be hacky if...

- It's super inefficient
- It's unintuitive to implement
- Difficult to understand/complicated logic flow
- Might easily break if you need to tweak it in the future
- Messes with a library in a way that wasn't intended
- and so on...

Avoid the need for hacks at all

- **Design well from the start**
 - Keep in mind your designs will likely change!
 - Draw out a React component hierarchy
 - Discuss the best Mongoose schema with your team
 - Write a specification for your API
 - Feel free to talk to us about this
- In general, plan out and discuss your changes with your team **before, during, and after** implementation.

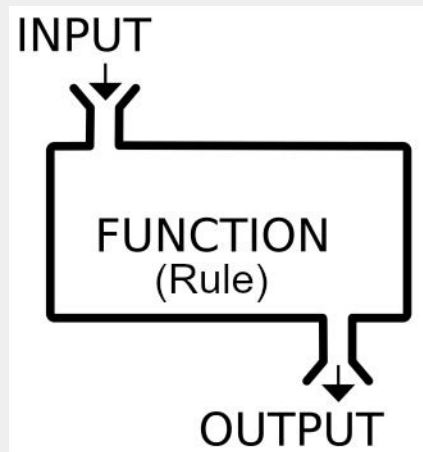
What is clean code?

D.R.Y. Principle

- **Don't Repeat Yourself!**
- If you are repeating code anywhere, you probably want to abstract it into a function
- You'll have this hammered into your head if you take 6.1020 (6.031)

Functions

- Function should only do one thing: they should do it the right way and just do it.
 - A boolean parameter already clearly states that it does more than one thing.
- Clearly define your **specifications**
 - **Preconditions?** What inputs does it take?
 - **Postconditions?** What does your function return?
- Keep it simple



Avoid Magic Numbers

- Magic numbers are numbers that appear out of nowhere
- Example:

```
15  const length = 5;  
16  const width = 6;  
17  const area = length * width * 60;
```

- In this example, 60 is a magic number.
- To avoid magic numbers, use **meaningful and accurate variable names** for your constants (because they may change in the future!)

Good Variable Names

- Correctly describes what the variable does
- Ex: Say you need a variable to describe how many doors a room has.
 - A not-so-great declaration for this would be: `const doors = 2`
 - A better declaration for this would be: `const numDoorsInRoom = 2`
- Good variables names help **readability** and **remove the need to comment your code as much (saves time)**.

More Notes on Variables

- Always declare your variables in the **lowest scope** that they're needed.
- **Avoid global variables.**
- Always use **const** unless necessary (this extends to using immutable data structures unless mutable data structures are needed).
- Agree on a naming convention with your team (camelCase, snake_case, etc).

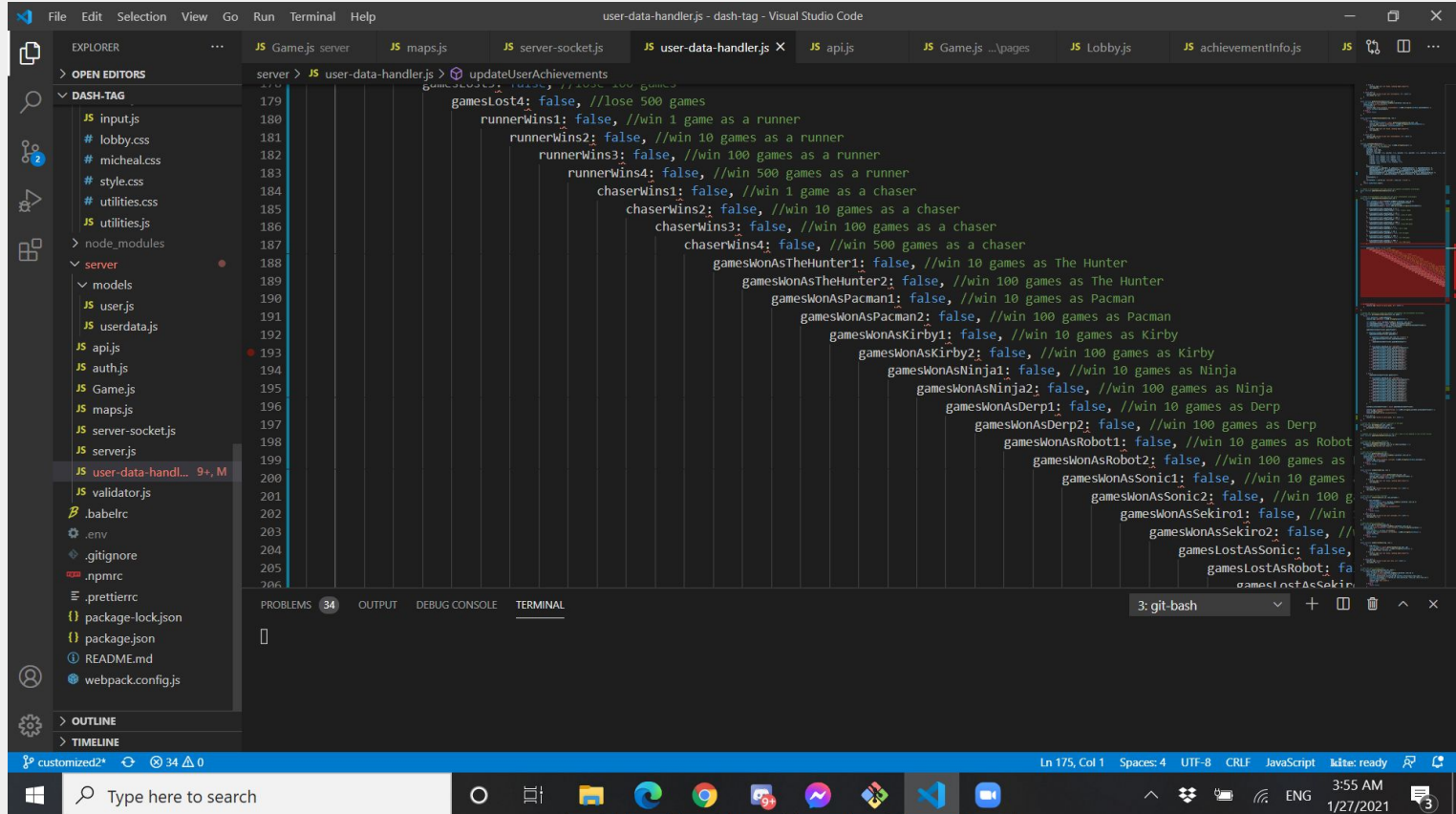
Signs/consequences of janky code

Code Smell

Signs that your code may have some deeper problems...

- Lots of **copy-pasted** code
- Functions that are **way too long**
- Lines of code that are **way too long**
- **Dead code:** Entire functions/files that are unused
- Difficult to understand or add new features
- Lots of bugs, especially random and unexpected ones (from interactions between different components, etc)

If you have code like this:



The screenshot shows a Visual Studio Code editor window with the file 'user-data-handler.js' open. The code is a JavaScript file that defines a large number of variables, each representing a game-related state or achievement. The variables are organized into a single line of code, with each variable name followed by its value and a comment. The variables are: gamesLost4, runnerWins1, runnerWins2, runnerWins3, runnerWins4, chaserWins1, chaserWins2, chaserWins3, chaserWins4, gamesWonAsTheHunter1, gamesWonAsTheHunter2, gamesWonAsPacman1, gamesWonAsPacman2, gamesWonAsKirby1, gamesWonAsKirby2, gamesWonAsNinja1, gamesWonAsNinja2, gamesWonAsDerp1, gamesWonAsDerp2, gamesWonAsRobot1, gamesWonAsRobot2, gamesWonAsSonic1, gamesWonAsSonic2, gamesWonAsSeki1, gamesWonAsSeki2, gamesLostAsSonic, gamesLostAsRobot, and gamesLostAsSeki. The values are mostly 'false', with some 'true' values for 'gamesLost4' and 'runnerWins1'. The comments provide context for each variable, such as 'lose 500 games', 'win 1 game as a runner', 'win 10 games as a runner', 'win 100 games as a runner', 'win 500 games as a runner', 'win 1 game as a chaser', 'win 10 games as a chaser', 'win 100 games as a chaser', 'win 500 games as a chaser', 'win 10 games as The Hunter', 'win 100 games as The Hunter', 'win 10 games as Pacman', 'win 100 games as Pacman', 'win 10 games as Kirby', 'win 100 games as Kirby', 'win 10 games as Ninja', 'win 100 games as Ninja', 'win 10 games as Derp', 'win 100 games as Derp', 'win 10 games as Robot', 'win 100 games as Robot', 'win 10 games as Sonic', 'win 100 games as Sonic', 'win 10 games as Seki', 'win 100 games as Seki', 'lose 100 games as Sonic', 'lose 100 games as Robot', and 'lose 100 games as Seki'. The code is written in a dark theme with syntax highlighting. The Visual Studio Code interface includes a sidebar with the Explorer, Search, and Run and Debug views, and a bottom status bar showing the current file, line, column, and other information.

```
server > JS user-data-handler.js > updateAchievements
179 gamesLost4: false, //lose 500 games
180 runnerWins1: false, //win 1 game as a runner
181 runnerWins2: false, //win 10 games as a runner
182 runnerWins3: false, //win 100 games as a runner
183 runnerWins4: false, //win 500 games as a runner
184 chaserWins1: false, //win 1 game as a chaser
185 chaserWins2: false, //win 10 games as a chaser
186 chaserWins3: false, //win 100 games as a chaser
187 chaserWins4: false, //win 500 games as a chaser
188 gamesWonAsTheHunter1: false, //win 10 games as The Hunter
189 gamesWonAsTheHunter2: false, //win 100 games as The Hunter
190 gamesWonAsPacman1: false, //win 10 games as Pacman
191 gamesWonAsPacman2: false, //win 100 games as Pacman
192 gamesWonAsKirby1: false, //win 10 games as Kirby
193 gamesWonAsKirby2: false, //win 100 games as Kirby
194 gamesWonAsNinja1: false, //win 10 games as Ninja
195 gamesWonAsNinja2: false, //win 100 games as Ninja
196 gamesWonAsDerp1: false, //win 10 games as Derp
197 gamesWonAsDerp2: false, //win 100 games as Derp
198 gamesWonAsRobot1: false, //win 10 games as Robot
199 gamesWonAsRobot2: false, //win 100 games as Robot
200 gamesWonAsSonic1: false, //win 10 games as Sonic
201 gamesWonAsSonic2: false, //win 100 games as Sonic
202 gamesWonAsSeki1: false, //win 10 games as Seki
203 gamesWonAsSeki2: false, //win 100 games as Seki
204 gamesLostAsSonic: false, //lose 100 games as Sonic
205 gamesLostAsRobot: false, //lose 100 games as Robot
206 gamesLostAsSeki: false, //lose 100 games as Seki
```

SOMETHING SMELLS



YOUR CODE

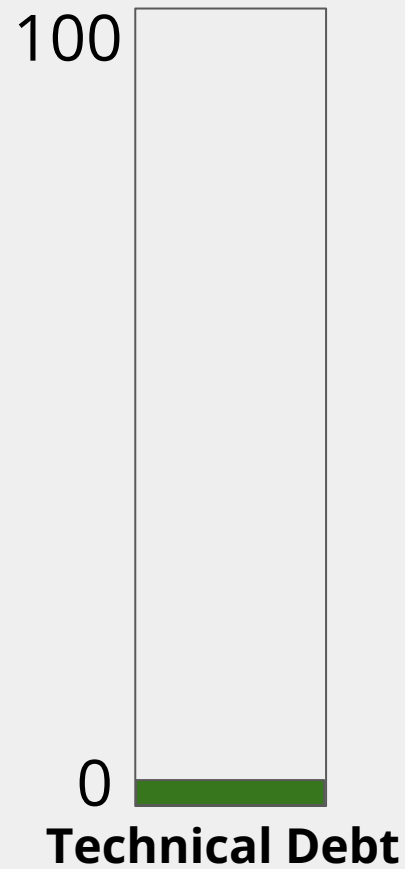
imgflip.com



Technical Debt

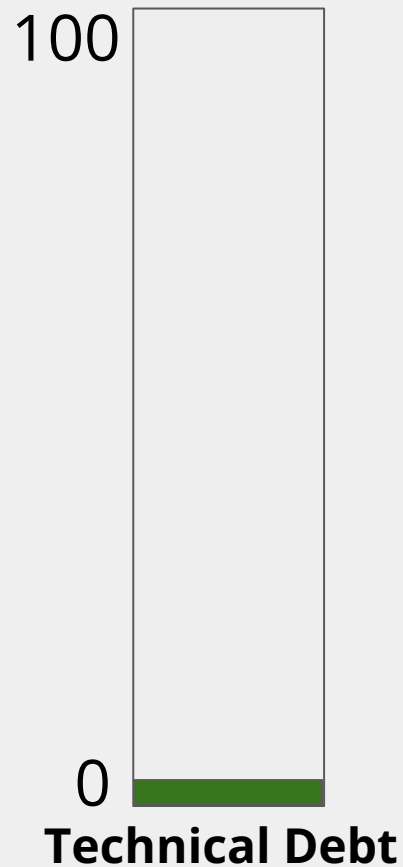
- When you choose a **quick hack** instead of a better solution
- Causes:
 - Lack of time
 - Laziness
 - Developer doesn't know any better :(
- Creates tech “debt” you may need to pay off later...

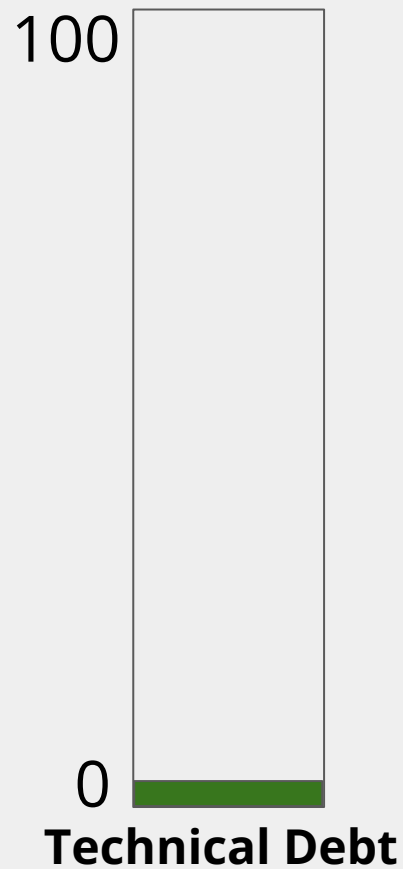
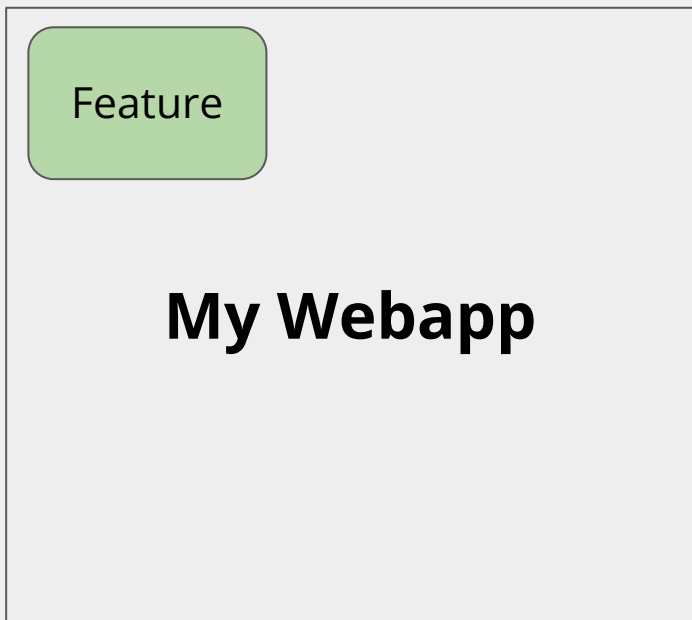
My Webapp



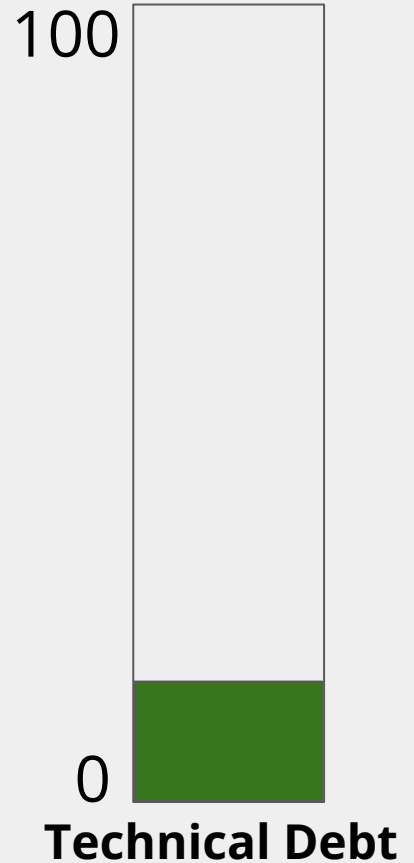
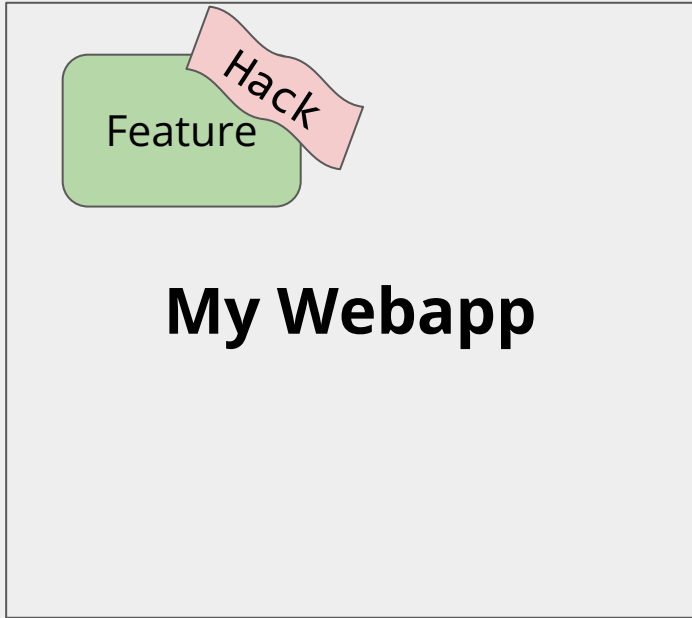
I'm gonna make feature X

My Webapp

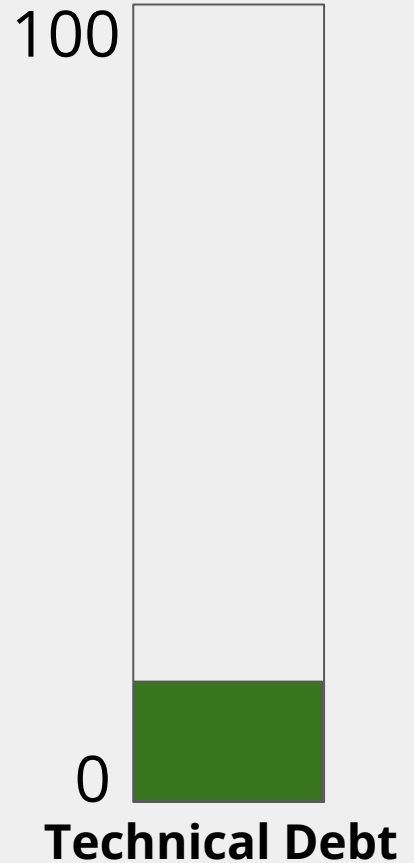
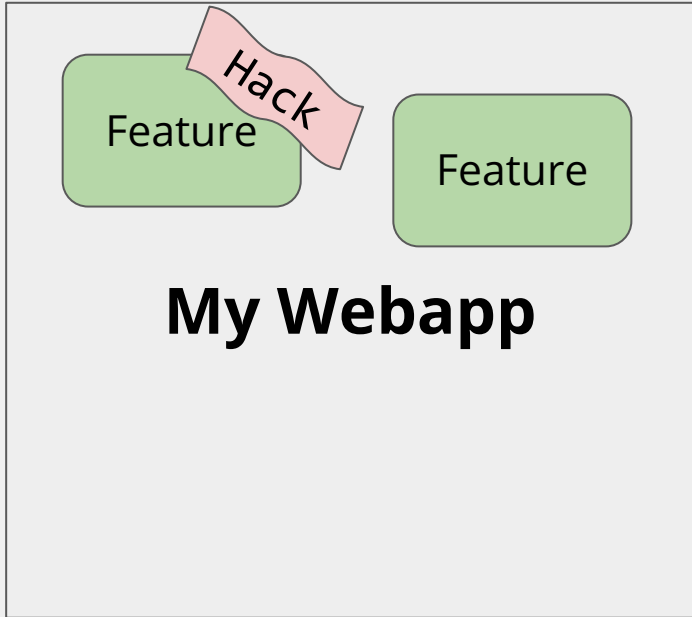




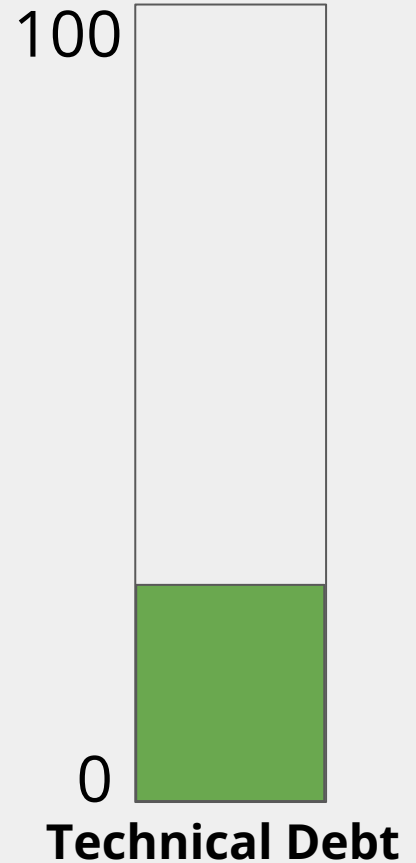
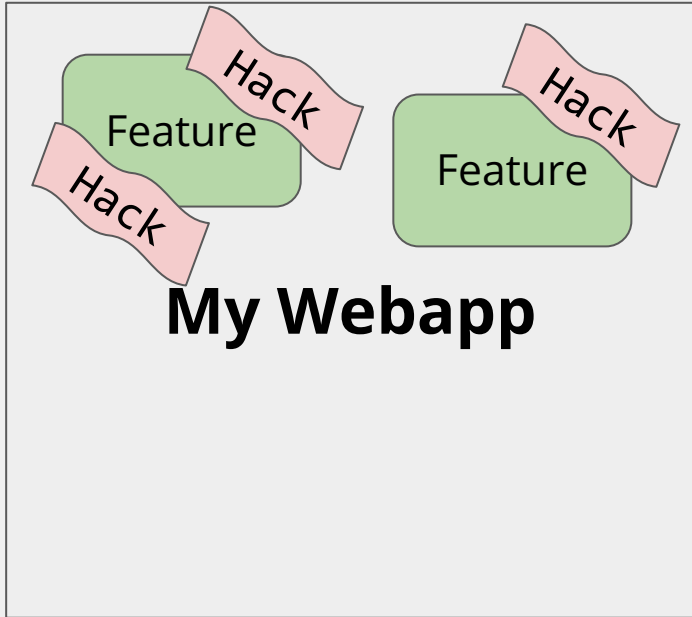
It's not quite right... let me add a hacky fix

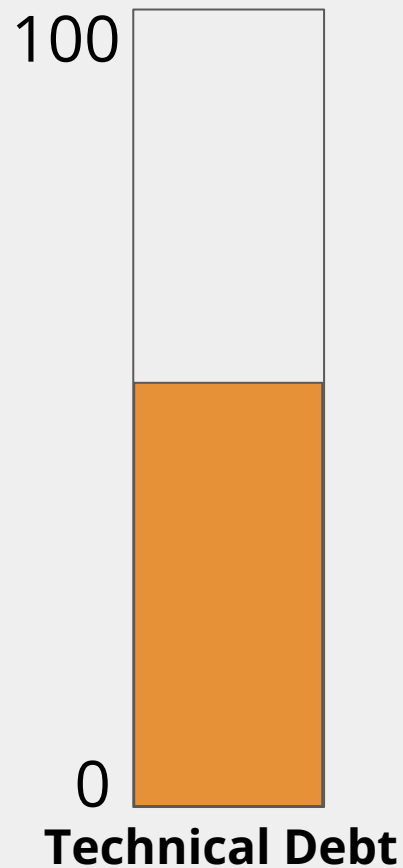
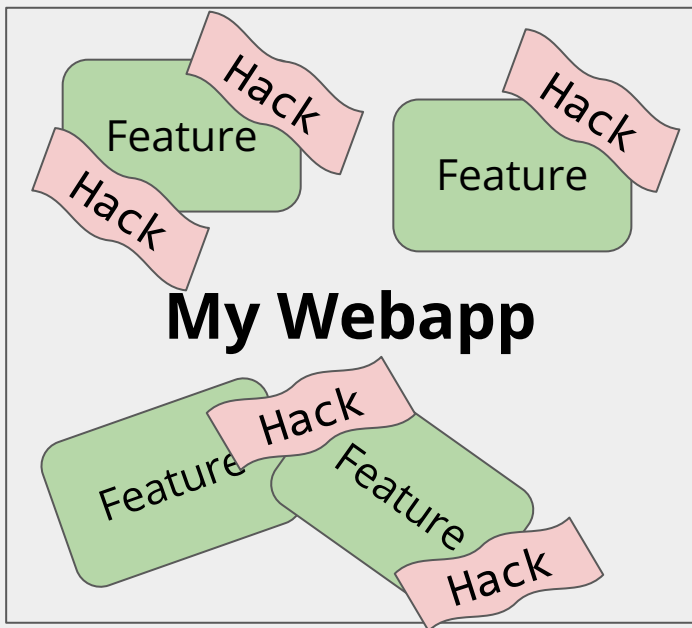


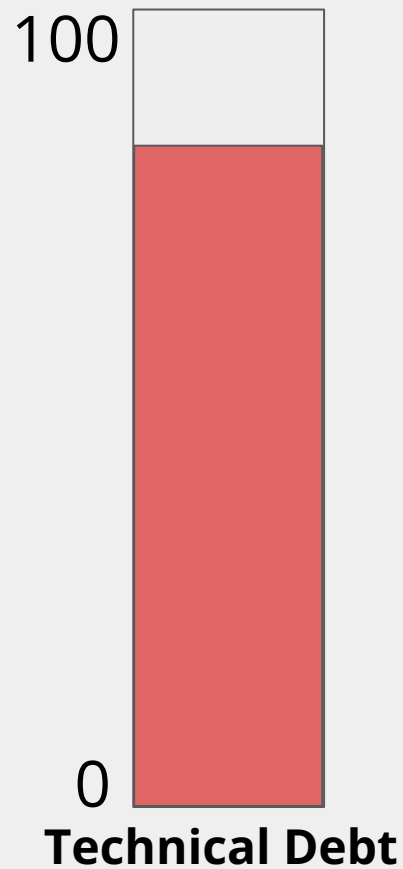
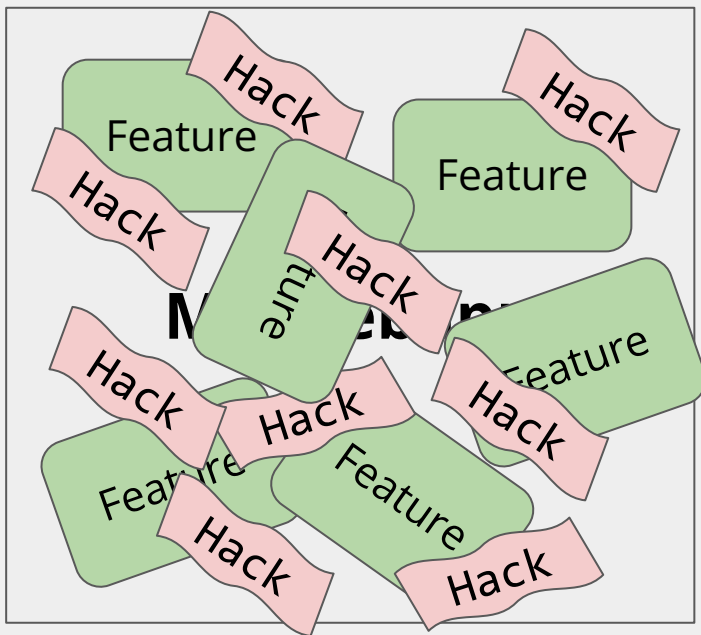
Let's add some more features



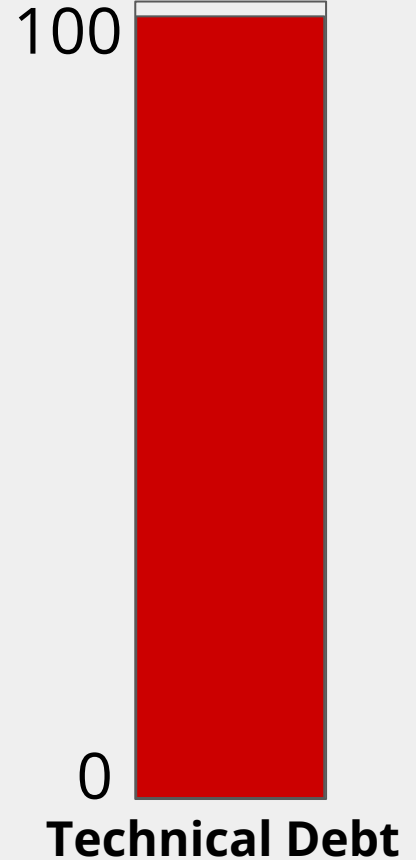
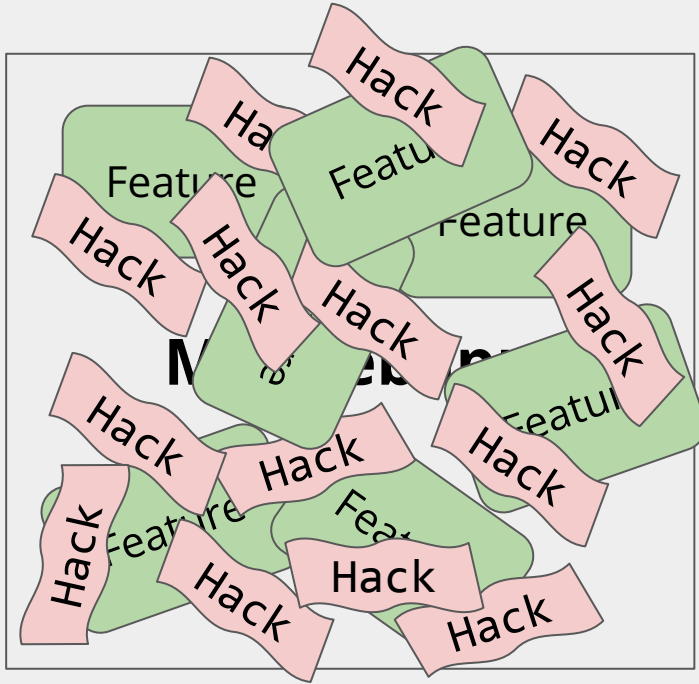
I need some more hacks...



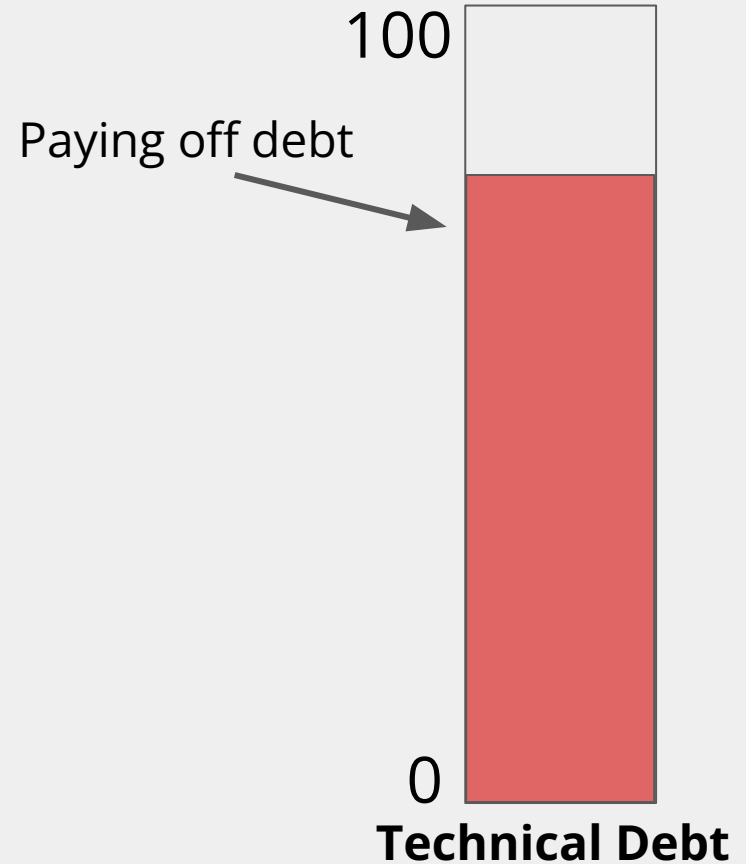
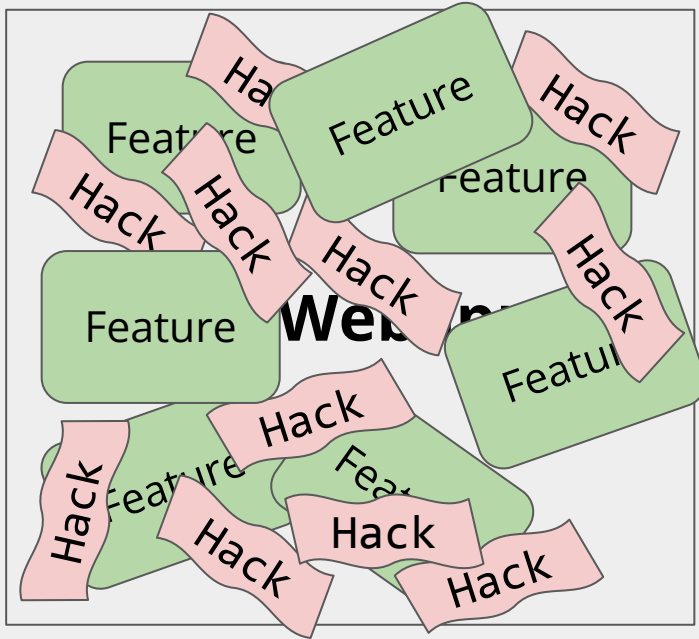


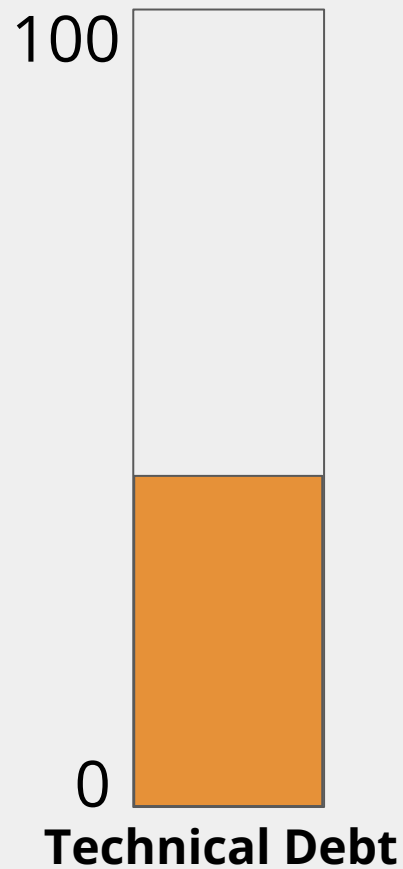
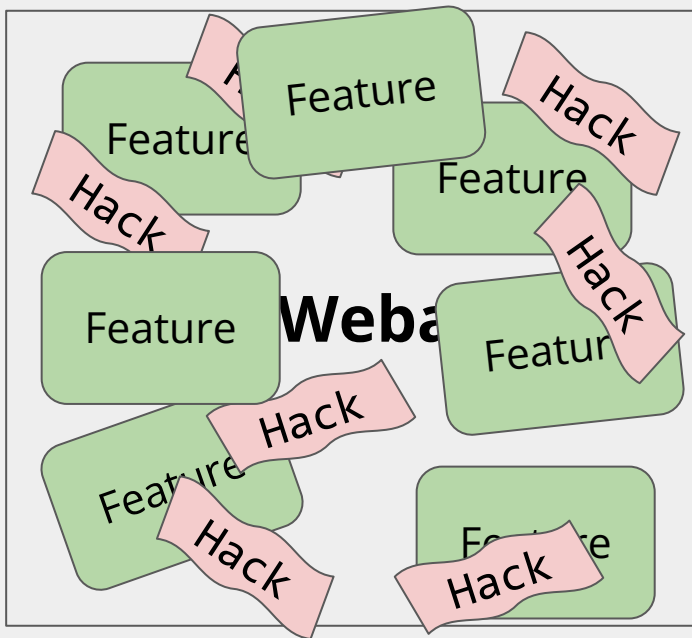


Code is so bad I can't make any more progress!



Have no choice but to refactor...





Paying off technical debt

- Accrues **interest** over time
- Would have just been easier to do it the right way from the start...
- Extremely important for projects that need to be **maintained**
- For projects or prototypes that won't have a long lifespan, it doesn't matter as much

Comments

Which version is better?

```
//this route is the GET route for user
router.get("/user", (req, res) => {
  /**
   * using the user ID specified in req.query,
   * ask the database to retrieve the corresponding user document
   *
   */
  User.findById(req.query.userid).then((user) => {
    //once the user document is found by the database,
    //it gets put into the "user" variable of this callback
    res.send(user);
    //send the user back in the response to the frontend
  });
  //do nothing afterwards
});
```

```
router.get("/user", (req, res) => {
  User.findById(req.query.userid).then((user) => {
    res.send(user);
  });
});
```

Which version is better?

```
//this route is the GET route for user
router.get("/user", (req, res) => {
  /**
   * using the user ID specified in req.query,
   * ask the database to retrieve the corresponding user document
   *
   */
  User.findById(req.query.userid).then((user) => {
    //once the user document is found by the database,
    //it gets put into the "user" variable of this callback
    res.send(user);
    //send the user back in the response to the frontend
  });
  //do nothing afterwards
});
```

```
router.get("/user", (req, res) => {
  User.findById(req.query.userid).then((user) => {
    res.send(user);
  });
});
```

I like this one



Comments are for explaining why you coded something the way you did, not how you did it.

This is hard to understand... should I add comments?

```
// lots of code above....
```

```
const opt3 = {  
  method: "PUT",  
  uri: `${BASE}/teams/${id}/repos/${u}/${v}`,  
  headers: HEADERS,  
  body: {  
    permission: "admin",  
  },  
  json: true,  
};
```

```
const t = await request(opt1).then((r) => r.id);  
const r = await request(opt2).then((r) => r.html_url);  
await request(opt3);  
await Promise.all(my_array.map((u) => request(getOpt4(u))));  
return r;
```

And sometimes...

Comments are usually created with the best of intentions, when the author realizes that his or her code is not intuitive or obvious. In such cases, comments are like a deodorant masking the smell of fishy code that could be improved.

The best comment is a good name for a method or class.

If you feel that a code fragment cannot be understood without comments, try to change the code structure in a way that makes comments unnecessary.

See the [Typescript Google style guide](#), or the [6.1020 \[6.031\] reading on Code Review](#) for more

Examples of Clear Function Names

```
const loadMessageHistory = (recipient) => {  
  get("/api/chat", { recipient_id: recipient._id  
    setActiveChat({  
      recipient: recipient,  
      messages: messages,  
    });  
});  
};
```

```
const addMessages = (data) => {  
  if (  
    (data.recipient._id === activeCh  
    data.sender._id === props.user  
    (data.sender._id === activeChat.  
    data.recipient._id === props.u  
    (data.recipient._id === "ALL_CHA
```

```
const setActiveUser = (user) => {  
  if (user._id !== activeChat.recipien  
    setActiveChat({  
      recipient: user,  
      messages: [],  
    });  
}
```


Questions?

Git Hygiene

Or... how to remain on good terms
with your teammates >_<

Before you start working

- `git pull`
 - Loads your teammates' changes
 - Do it frequently to avoid merge conflicts

Before you commit

- Before running `git add` / `git commit`
- Review what changes you've made with `git status`

```
thanh@terminal catbook-react % git status
On branch w9-step8
Your branch is up to date with 'origin/w9-step8'.

Changes to be committed:
  (use "git restore --staged <file>..." to unstage)
        deleted:      client/src/public/corgi.jpg
```

Before you commit

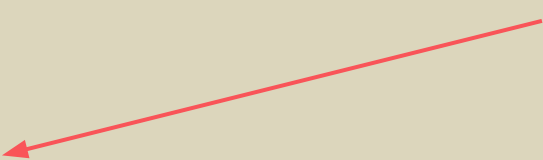
- Optionally, review your changes more thoroughly with `git diff`

```
thanh@terminal catbook-react % git diff
diff --git a/README.md b/README.md
index b522ee6..df21c91 100644
--- a/README.md
+++ b/README.md
@@ -1,8 +1,4 @@
-# catbook-react

-## start up
-
-run `npm start` in one terminal and `npm run hotloader` in another

visit `http://localhost:5000`

thanh@terminal catbook-react %
```



changes

Before you commit

```
SyntaxError: Invalid or unexpected token
  at wrapSafe (internal/modules/cjs/loader.js:988:16)
  at Module._compile (internal/modules/cjs/loader.js:1036:27)
  at Object.Module._extensions..js (internal/modules/cjs/loader.js:1101:10)
  at Module.load (internal/modules/cjs/loader.js:937:32)
  at Function.Module._load (internal/modules/cjs/loader.js:778:12)
  at Function.executeUserEntryPoint [as runMain] (internal/modules/run_main.js:76:12)
  at internal/main/run_main_module.js:17:47
[nodemon] app crashed - waiting for file changes before starting...
thanh@terminal catbook-react % git commit -m 'broken code is better than no code'
```



DO NOT!

When to commit

- When you add something and it works, then commit
 - More often is generally better than less often

Fixed auth middleware status code



johance committed 10 hours ago

Commits add a single thing, is focused/clear, and is consistent with how your team/company wants their commit messages

- Avoid mega-commits

Fixed styling, removed @components, remove SSR, updated webpack config



johance committed 4 days ago

Commit tries to do too much, not focused

DANGEROUS commands!

- `git add .`
 - This will add all files in the current directory to git
 - Make sure to setup .gitignore files to avoid committing node_modules or credentials
- `git push --force`
 - **NEVER USE** unless you know what you're doing
- `git reset --hard`
 - Deletes all uncommitted changes
- `git commit --amend`
 - Don't ammend commits you've already pushed
 - Make a new commit instead

Useful git commands

- **git stash**

- git stash allows you to store your current changes

- **git stash pop**

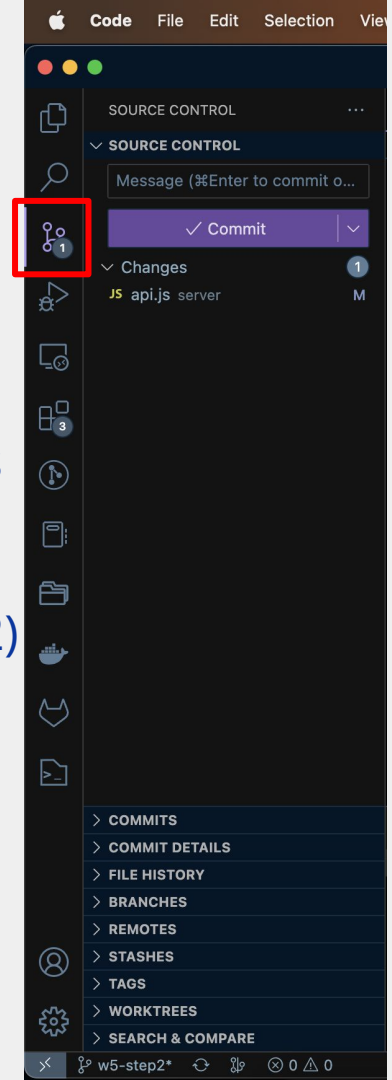
- git stash allows you to “pop” the most recent stored changes

- **git branch**

- git branch allows you to “diverge” and focus on one issue
- git checkout (used in workshops!) will then allow you to move to different branches

VSCode Git Guide

- Has lots of tabs, but the important one is source control
- Can see the branch on the bottom left and change it
- Source control will show staged and committed changes
- Can click on each file on the changes to see the diff
- Can also do merge requests in VSCode (Will see in part 2)
- If you don't like VSCode or Terminal:
 - Use the GitHub desktop app!



Proper Git Branch Usage

- You should create a Git branch **for every new feature that you make**
- **You should never be working on your main branch**
- Once you're done with a feature and you're sure that it works and is bug-free (hopefully), you can **use a PR (pull request)** and **merge the branch** to get your work on main



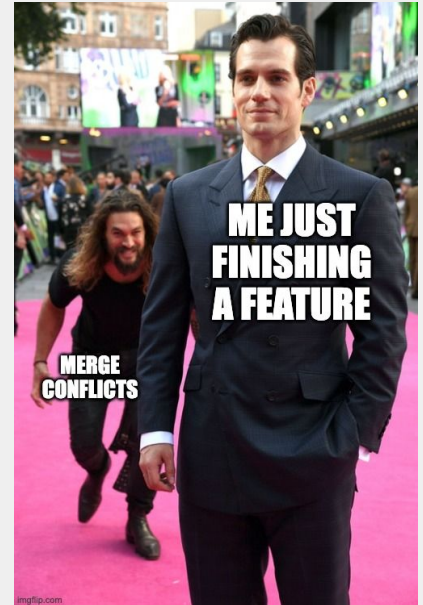
What is a PR (Pull Request)?

- A pull request is a request that someone makes for the owner of a branch to “pull” the changes from one branch onto another
- Used to **sync changes from and compare one branch to another**
- Differences in these two branches may result in **merge conflicts**
- Can be created in the terminal with [git request-pull](#)

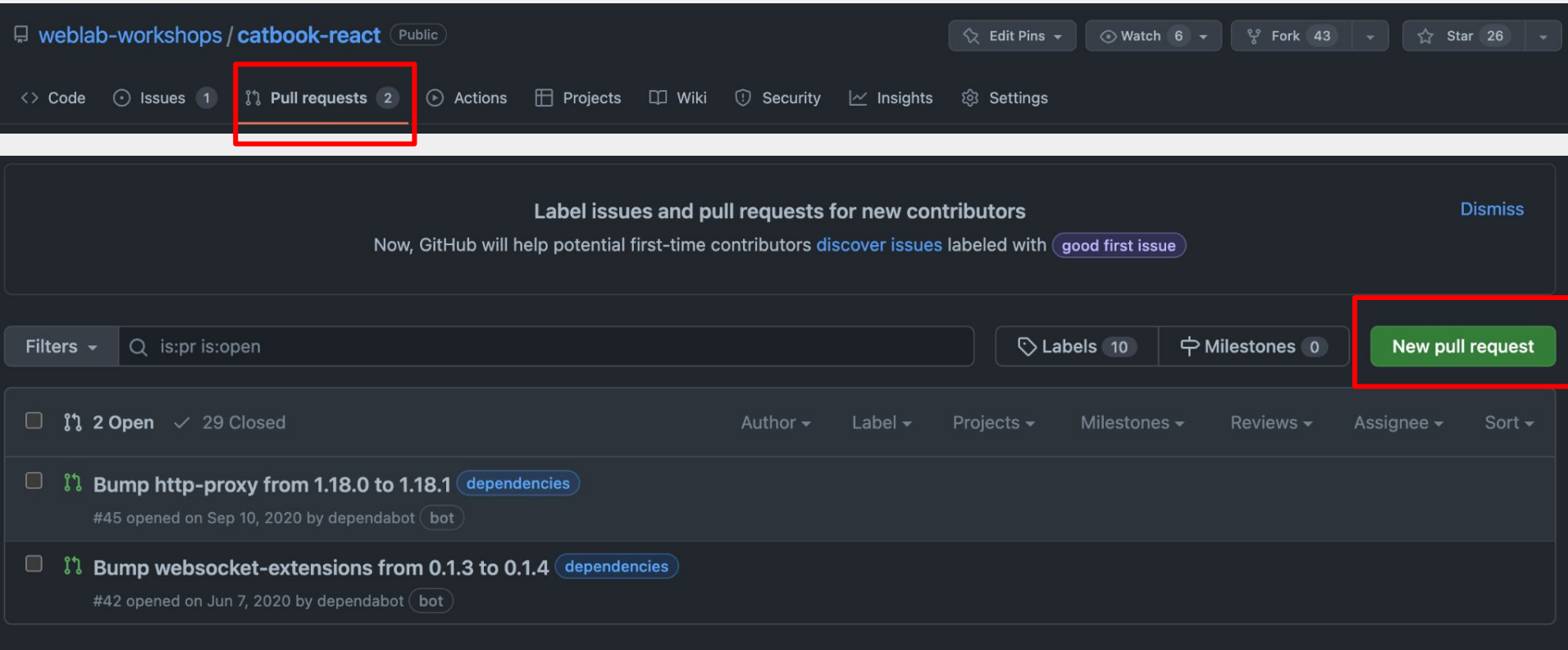


What is a Merge Conflict?

- A **merge conflict** happens when you there is a conflict between two files of code, usually on different code branches
- The way to resolve merge conflicts is to “merge” both files into the new combined file
- Let’s go through an example!



How to Create and Resolve a PR on GitHub



The screenshot shows the GitHub interface for the repository `weblab-workshops / catbook-react`. The repository is public. The navigation bar at the top includes links for Code, Issues (1), Pull requests (2), Actions, Projects, Wiki, Security, Insights, and Settings. The Pull requests tab is highlighted with a red box. Below the navigation bar, a message states: "Label issues and pull requests for new contributors. Now, GitHub will help potential first-time contributors discover issues labeled with good first issue." A "Dismiss" link is on the right. Below this, there are filters and a search bar containing "is:pr is:open". To the right of the search bar are buttons for "Labels 10" and "Milestones 0". A green button labeled "New pull request" is highlighted with a red box. Below the filters, there is a list of pull requests. The first two are open and are dependency updates: "Bump http-proxy from 1.18.0 to 1.18.1" and "Bump websocket-extensions from 0.1.3 to 0.1.4". Both were opened by dependabot (bot).

weblab-workshops / catbook-react Public

Code Issues 1 Pull requests 2 Actions Projects Wiki Security Insights Settings

Label issues and pull requests for new contributors

Dismiss

Now, GitHub will help potential first-time contributors discover issues labeled with good first issue

Filters is:pr is:open Labels 10 Milestones 0 New pull request

2 Open 29 Closed

Author Label Projects Milestones Reviews Assignee Sort

Bump http-proxy from 1.18.0 to 1.18.1 dependencies

#45 opened on Sep 10, 2020 by dependabot (bot)

Bump websocket-extensions from 0.1.3 to 0.1.4 dependencies

#42 opened on Jun 7, 2020 by dependabot (bot)

Comparing changes

Choose two branches to see what's changed or to start a new pull request. If you need to, you can also [compare across forks](#).



base: main ▾



compare: w10-step5 ▾

✗ **Can't automatically merge.** Don't worry, you can still create the pull request.

Discuss and review the changes in this comparison with others. [Learn about pull requests](#)

Create pull request

18 commits

15 files changed

2 contributors

Open a pull request

Create a new pull request by comparing changes across two branches. If you need to, you can also [compare across forks](#).



base: main ▾



← compare: w10-step5 ▾

✗ **Can't automatically merge.** Don't worry, you can still create the pull request.



W10 step5

Write

Preview

H B I ≡ <> 🔗 ☰ ☷ ☹ @ ↗ ↶

Leave a comment

Attach files by dragging & dropping, selecting or pasting them.



Create pull request



Reviewers



Suggestions



nkts

[Request](#)



kenctrl

[Request](#)



nsinghal7

[Request](#)

Assignees



No one—assign yourself

Labels



None yet

Projects



None yet



This branch has conflicts that must be resolved

Use the [web editor](#) or the [command line](#) to resolve conflicts.

Conflicting files

client/src/components/modules/NavBar.js

client/src/components/pages/Game.js

server/game-logic.js

Resolve conflicts

Merge pull request



You can also [open this in GitHub Desktop](#) or view [command line instructions](#).

3 conflicting files

NavBar.js
client/src/components/modules/NavBar.js

Game.js
client/src/components/pages/Game.js

game-logic.js
server/game-logic.js

client/src/components/modules/NavBar.js

1 conflict

Prev ^

Next v



Mark as resolved

```
3 import {GoogleLogin, {GoogleLogout}} from 'react-google-login';
4
5 import './NavBar.css';
6
7 // This identifies your web application to Google's authentication service
8 const GOOGLE_CLIENT_ID = "395785444978-7b9v7l0ap2h3308528vuiddnt3rqftjc.apps.googleusercontent.com";
9
10 /**
11  * The navigation bar at the top of all pages. Takes no props.
12  */
13 const NavBar = (props) => {
14   return (
15     <nav className="NavBar-container">
16       <div className="NavBar-title u-inlineBlock">Catbook</div>
17       <<<<<<< w10-step5
18       =====
19       <div className="NavBar-title u-inlineBlock">|</div>
20       <div className="NavBar-title-red u-inlineBlock">Game</div>
21       <div className="NavBar-title u-inlineBlock">book</div>
22     >>>>>>> main
23     <div className="NavBar-linkContainer u-inlineBlock">
24       <Link to="/" className="NavBar-link">
25         Home
26       </Link>
27       {props.userId && (
28         <Link to={`/profile/${props.userId}`} className="NavBar-link">
29           Profile
30         </Link>
31       )}
32       <Link to="/chat/" className="NavBar-link">
33         Chat
34       </Link>
35       <Link to="/game/" className="NavBar-link">
36         Game
37       </Link>
38       {props.userId ? (
39         <GoogleLogout
```

client/src/components/modules/NavBar.js

1 conflict

Prev ^

Next v



Mark as resolved

```
2 import { Link } from "@reach/router";
3 import GoogleLogin, { GoogleLogout } from "react-google-login";
4
5 import "./NavBar.css";
6
7 // This identifies your web application to Google's authentication service
8 const GOOGLE_CLIENT_ID = "395785444978-7b9v7l0ap2h3308528vu1ddnt3rqftjc.apps.googleusercontent.com";
9
10 /**
11  * The navigation bar at the top of all pages. Takes no props.
12  */
13 const NavBar = (props) => {
14   return (
15     <nav className="NavBar-container">
16       <div className="NavBar-title u-inlineBlock">Catbook</div>|
17       <div className="NavBar-title u-inlineBlock">|</div>
18       <div className="NavBar-title-red u-inlineBlock">Game</div>
19       <div className="NavBar-title u-inlineBlock">book</div>
20       <div className="NavBar-linkContainer u-inlineBlock">
21         <Link to="/" className="NavBar-link">
22           Home
23         </Link>
24         {props.userId && (
25           <Link to={` /profile/${props.userId}`} className="NavBar-link">
```

After Merging

W10 step5 #66

Resolving conflicts between `w10-step5` and `main` and committing changes → `w10-step5`

This merge commit will be associated with dwscout1@gmail.com.

Commit merge

- After any merge conflicts are resolved, you can close the pull request and have the option of deleting the comparison branch
- Congratulations! You've successfully merged your changes onto main!

For more on git, check out abby and
tony's lecture [here](#)!

Testing

Testing

- **If you don't test your code, it will eventually break.**
- Most basic form of testing (in web development) is **UI testing**
- Tests for individual components of code (functions, classes, etc) are called **unit tests**
- Tests for how individual components interact with each other are called **integration tests**
- Tests to make sure that behavior stays the same after adding new features are called **regression tests**
- A complete **testing suite** has all of these and more (see 6.031 reading)
- Javascript testing tool ("Jest"): weblab.is/testing
- More on testing:
 - [6.031 \[6.102\]](#) 🤖



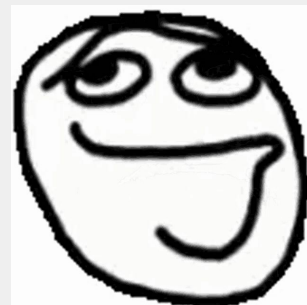
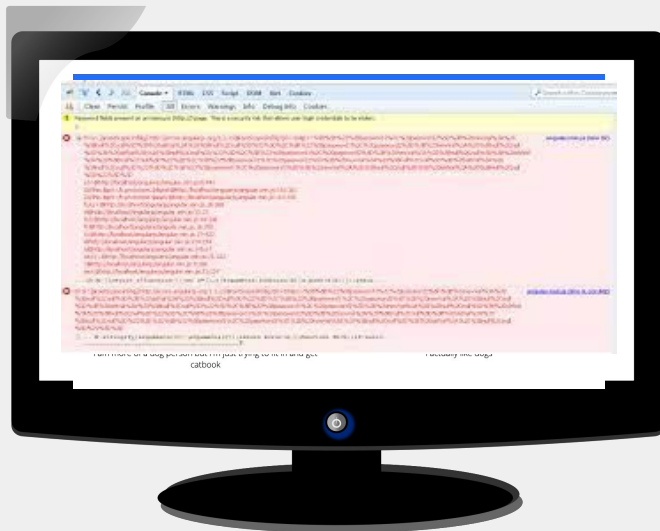
Jakob 🍀 \u0000

@jcsrb

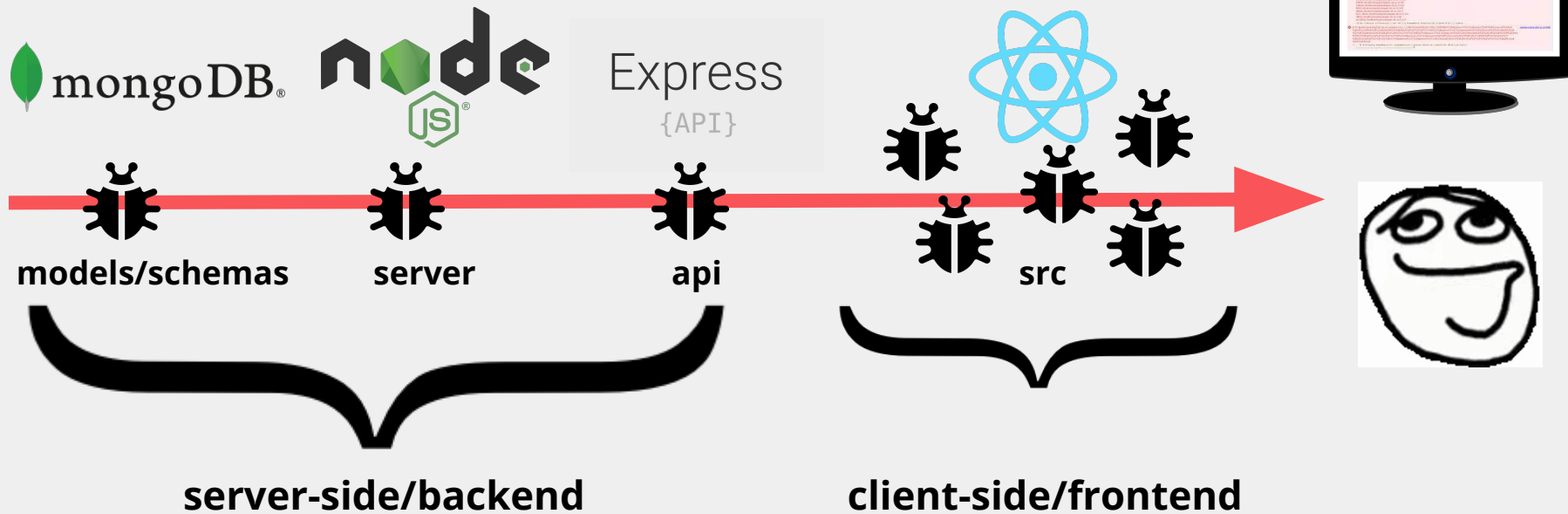
6 hours of debugging can save
you 5 minutes of reading
documentation

Debugging

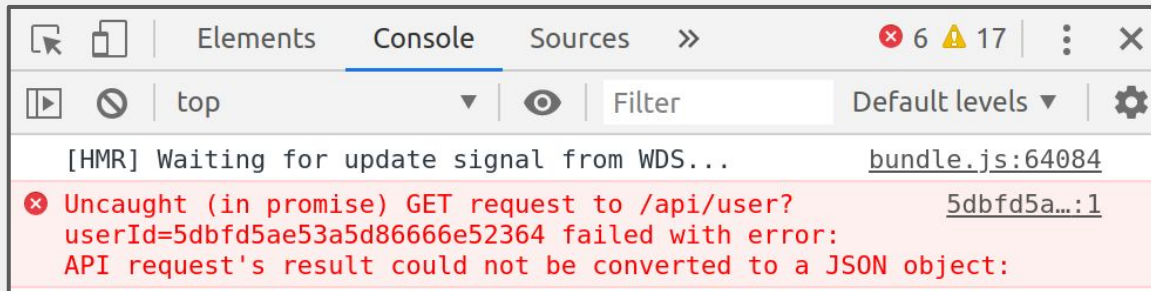
Where is my bug coming from?



Where is my bug coming from?



Three things you should check



Browser console
(F12 or ⌘+⇧+J)

```
cor@c ~/Desktop/catbook-react
cor@cor:~/Desktop/catbook-react$ npm start

> catbook-react@1.0.0 start /home/cor/Desktop/catbook-react
> nodemon

[nodemon] 1.19.4
[nodemon] to restart at any time, enter `rs`
[nodemon] watching dir(s): *.*
[nodemon] watching extensions: js,mjs,json
[nodemon] starting `node server/server.js`
Server running on port: 3000
Connected to MongoDB
socket has connected 1kzQMnScu9oewSFQAAAA
```

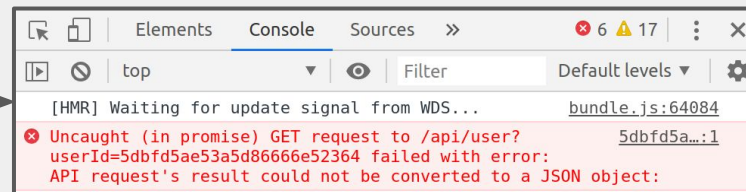
npm start

```
cor@c ~/Desktop/catbook-react
./client/src/components/App.js 5.53 KiB {main} [built]
./client/src/index.js 302 bytes {main} [built]
./node_modules/@babel/polyfill/lib/index.js 686 bytes {main} [built]
./node_modules/@babel/polyfill/lib/noConflict.js 567 bytes {main} [built]
./node_modules/@babel/polyfill/node_modules/core-js/Library/fn/global.js 87 by
tes {main} [built]
./node_modules/loglevel/lib/loglevel.js 7.68 KiB {main} [built]
./node_modules/react-dom/index.js 1.33 KiB {main} [built]
./node_modules/react/index.js 190 bytes {main} [built]
./node_modules/url/url.js 22.8 KiB {main} [built]
./node_modules/webpack-dev-server/client/index.js?http://localhost:5000 (webpa
ck)-dev-server/client?http://localhost:5000 7.78 KiB {main} [built]
./node_modules/webpack-dev-server/client/overlay.js (webpack)-dev-server/clie
nt/overlay.js 3.58 KiB {main} [built]
./node_modules/webpack-dev-server/client/socket.js (webpack)-dev-server/client
/socket.js 1.05 KiB {main} [built]
./node_modules/webpack-dev-server/node_modules/strip-ansi/index.js (webpack)-d
ev-server/node_modules/strip-ansi/index.js 161 bytes {main} [built]
./node_modules/webpack/hot/dev-server.js (webpack)/hot/dev-server.js 1.61 KiB
{main} [built]
+ 552 hidden modules
[wdm]: Compiled successfully.
```

npm run hotloader

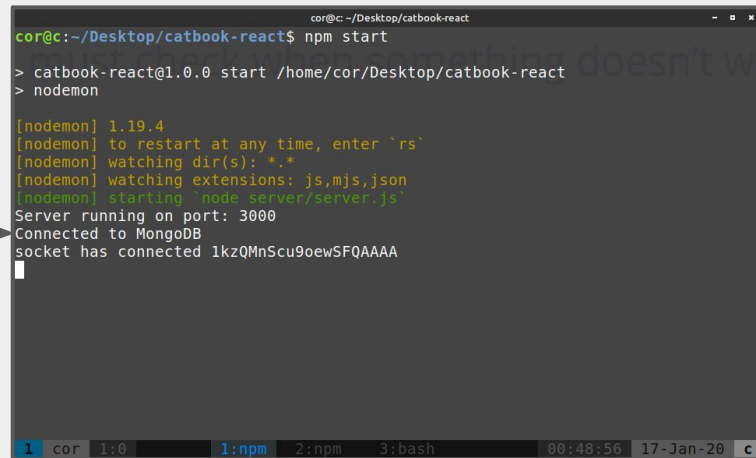
In React code/frontend

```
console.log("henlo");
```



In server code/backend

```
console.log("henlo");
```



Finally...Fail Fast!

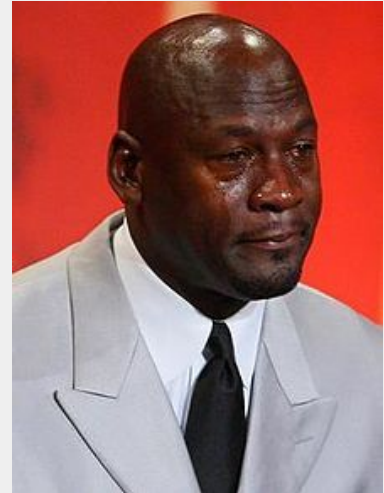
Never be in this situation

- I finally finished writing 500 lines of code
- I open up <http://localhost:5050> to test my code and...
- Nothing works! What do?

Option A:



Option B:



Web.Lab Debugging Checklist

You've got a bug and your website doesn't work as intended! What to do?

1. Check your browser console and see if there are any errors there
2. **READ ANY ERROR MESSAGES**
3. Check your terminal running npm hotloader
4. **READ ANY ERROR MESSAGES**
5. Check your terminal running npm start
6. **READ ANY ERROR MESSAGES**
7. Google any error messages that you may find
8. Ask your team for help
9. Ask staff for hep
10. Cry

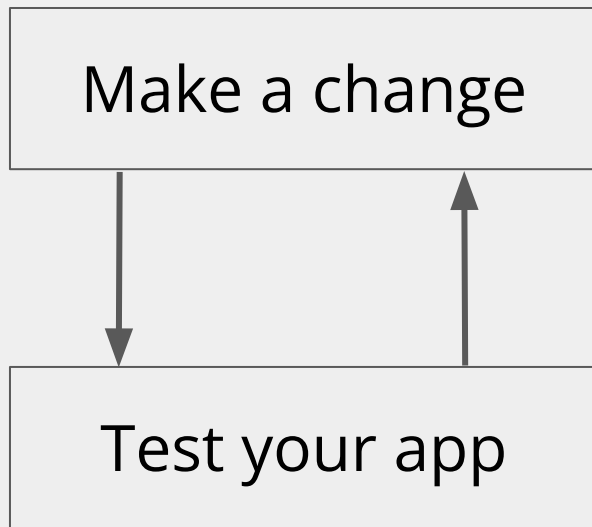


More lines of code = More to debug

- conservation of bugs

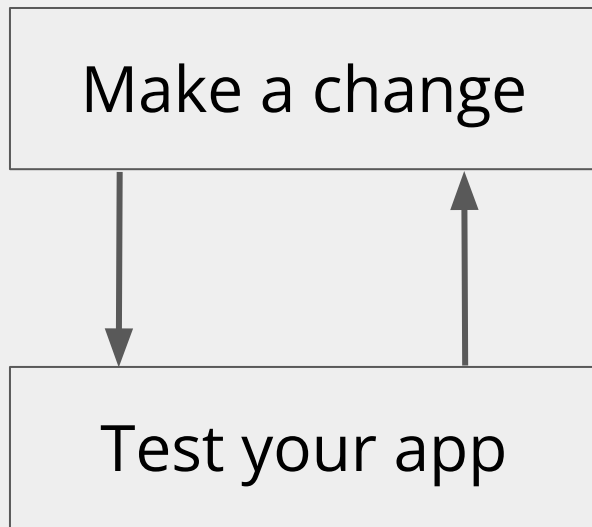
A short development/debug loop

- Make **small, incremental** changes
- Keep functions short and modular
- Test at every opportunity (e.g. `console.log` and make sure it looks right)



Optimizing the debug loop

- Shaving off a few seconds per iteration adds up
- Tools to optimize the debug loop: react hotloader, nodemon



Debugging thoroughly

- Even if your code *seems* to work, there may still be bugs...
- Users may break your app in ways you never imagined
- All team members should thoroughly try to break the site
- Get friend(s) to test your website (expect LOTS of bugs from this)
- **A stable, simple website beats a buggy, complex website**

Overall Summary

1. Git responsibly
2. Limit hacky code
3. Write code that doesn't need lots of comments
4. Develop with a tight debug loop
5. Slow down and fix your bugs
6. **COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR TEAM**

my program: **works perfectly**

me: **cleans up the code**

also my program:



What people think
programmers argue about..



What we argue about



Stretch Break :)

Announcements

- You MUST complete all milestones to get credit for the class and/or be eligible for competition
- **OH Tonight 7-9 pm in 32-082**