



CHRISTOPHER PARNIN

THE RISE AND FALL OF DEVELOPER COMMUNITIES

ACTIVITY

- ▶ How do you learn a new technology?

TRADITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

- ▶ Project documentation:
Created by a few developers to be read by a few future project owners.
- ▶ API documentation:
Created by a few developers to be read by a many developers.



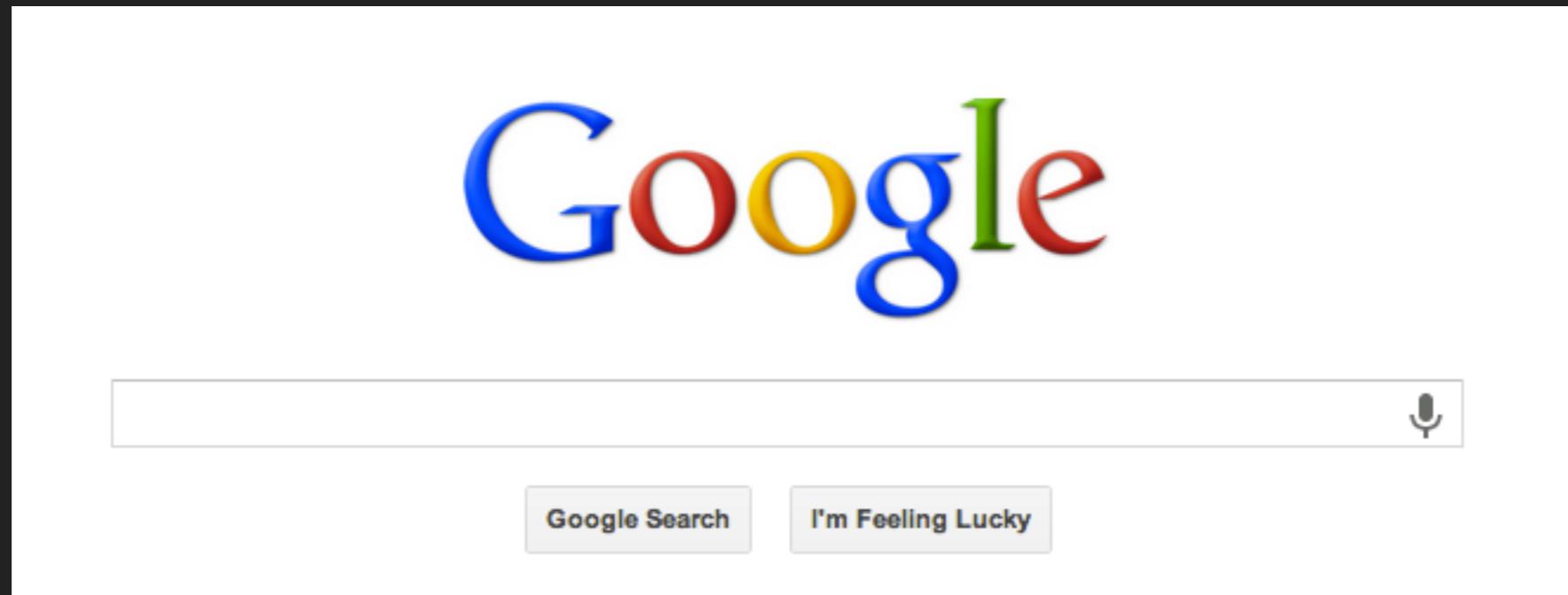
SOMETHING STARTED TO CHANGE

RISE

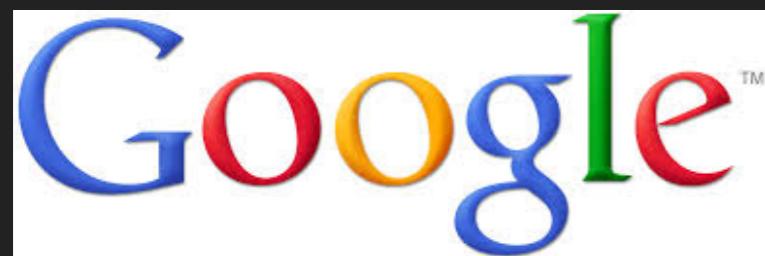


TEXT

HOW DO DEVELOPERS FIND KNOWLEDGE NOW?



MICROSOFT SURVEY



73.5% (2,224)



42.5% (1,289)
Code completion (IntelliSense)



40.1% (1,212)
Microsoft's Official Documentation

STUDY

What is jQuery?

jQuery is a fast, small, and feature-rich JavaScript library. It makes things like HTML document traversal and manipulation, event handling, animation, and Ajax much simpler with an easy-to-use API that works across a multitude of browsers. With a combination of versatility and extensibility, jQuery has changed the way that millions of people write JavaScript.

EXAMPLE GOOGLE RESULTS

unofficial
doc >

Stack
Overflow >

blog >

[jQuery.post\(\) | jQuery API Documentation](#)

api.jquery.com/jQuery.post/ ▾

The success callback function is passed the returned data, which will be an XML root element or a text string depending on the MIME type of the response.

[jQuery post\(\) Method - W3Schools](#)

www.w3schools.com/jquery/ajax_post.asp ▾

Parameter, Description, URL, Required. Specifies the url to send the request to. data, Optional. Specifies data to send to the server along with the request.

[jQuery AJAX get\(\) and post\(\) Methods - W3Schools](#)

www.w3schools.com/jquery/jquery_ajax_get_post.asp ▾

Next Chapter ». The **jQuery get()** and **post()** methods are used to request data from the server with an HTTP GET or POST request. HTTP Request: GET vs. POST.

[jQuery Ajax POST example - Stack Overflow](#)

[stack overflow.com/.../capture-all-of-the-forms-data-and-submit-it-to-a-p...](http://stackoverflow.com/.../capture-all-of-the-forms-data-and-submit-it-to-a-p...) ▾

Feb 15, 2011 - I am trying to send data from a form to a database. Here is the form I ...
Basic usage of .ajax would look something like this: HTML: <form id="foo"> ...

[jQuery - post\(url, data, callback, type \) Method - Tutorials Point](#)

www.tutorialspoint.com/jquery/ajax-jquery-post.htm ▾

jQuery - post(url, data, callback, type) Method, Learning JavaScript Framework in simple and easy steps. A beginner's tutorial containing complete knowledge ...

[Using jQuery to POST \[FromBody\] parameters to Web API » Encosia](#)



encosia.com/using-jquery-to-post-frombody-parameters-to-web... ▾

by Dave Ward - in 329 Google+ circles

Apr 3, 2013 - ASP.NET Web API has been one of my favorite recent additions to ASP.NET. Whether you prefer a RESTful approach or something more ...

... 1730 search results

TEXT

Search Result Type	Coverage	Mean Rank
code snippet	8.7%	9
q&a	9.8%	9
forum	20.2%	8
official bug tracker	21.4%	3
mailing list entry	25.4%	7
> official documentation	30.1%	3
official forum	37.0%	3
unofficial documentation	63.6%	6
stackoverflow	84.4%	6
blog post	87.9%	5
official API	99.4%	1

CROWD DOCUMENTATION

Knowledge is created and curated by a mostly uncoordinated collective.

An example of Peer Production

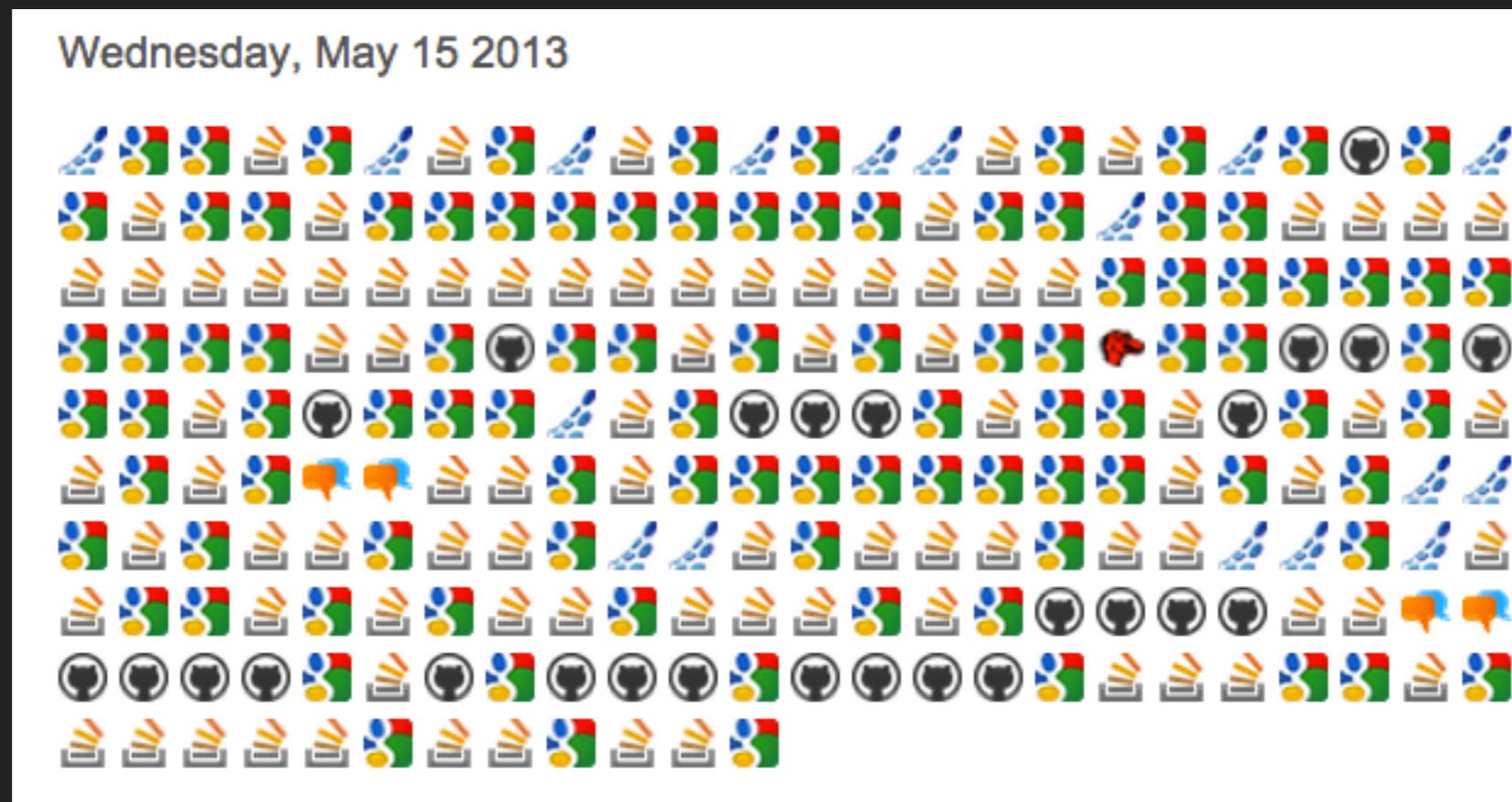
WHAT SOURCE OF DOCUMENTATION DO DEVS ACTUALLY USE?

STUDY

- ▶ Crowd documentation exists, but is it used?

TEXT

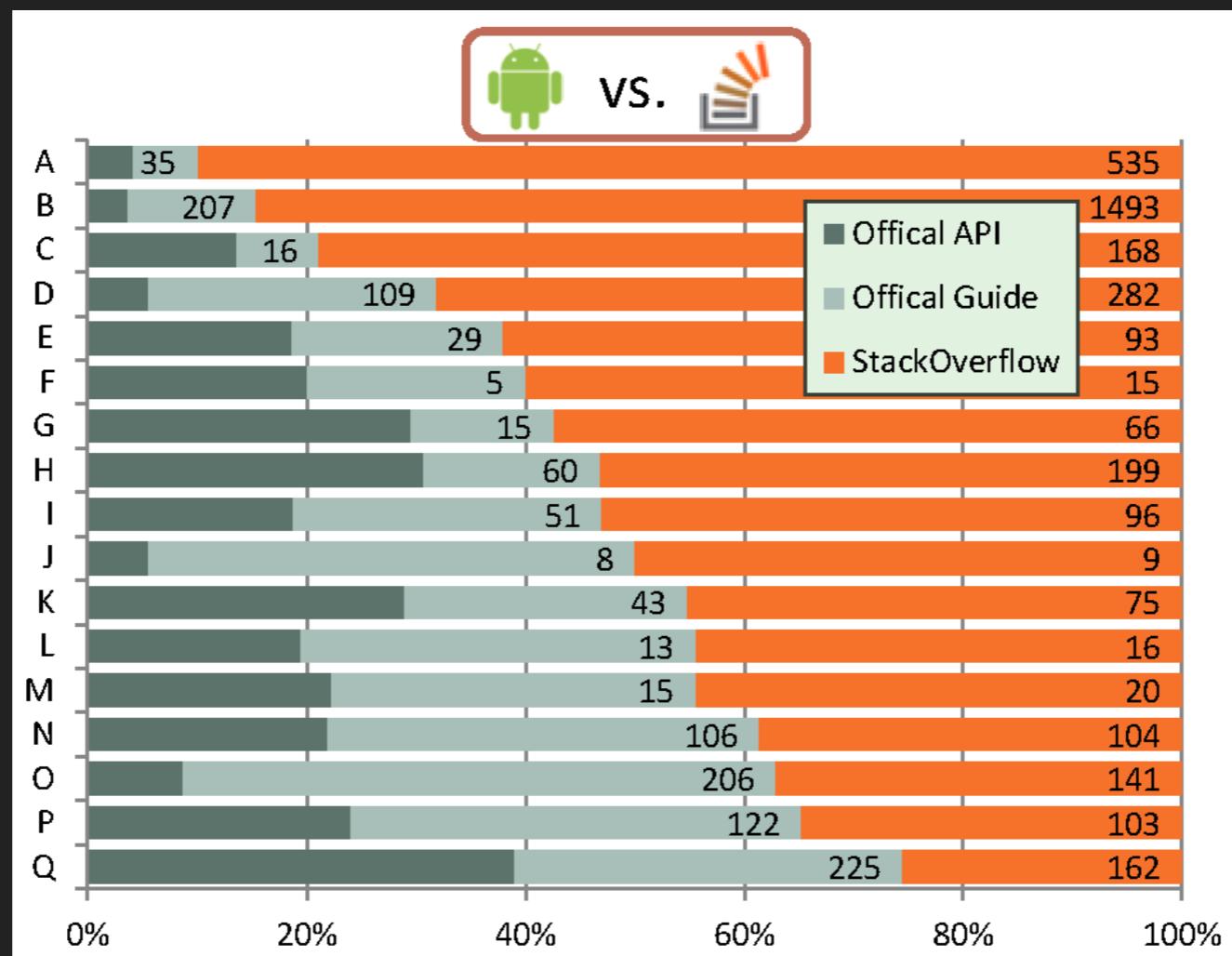
A DAY IN A LIFE OF A DEVELOPER



TEXT



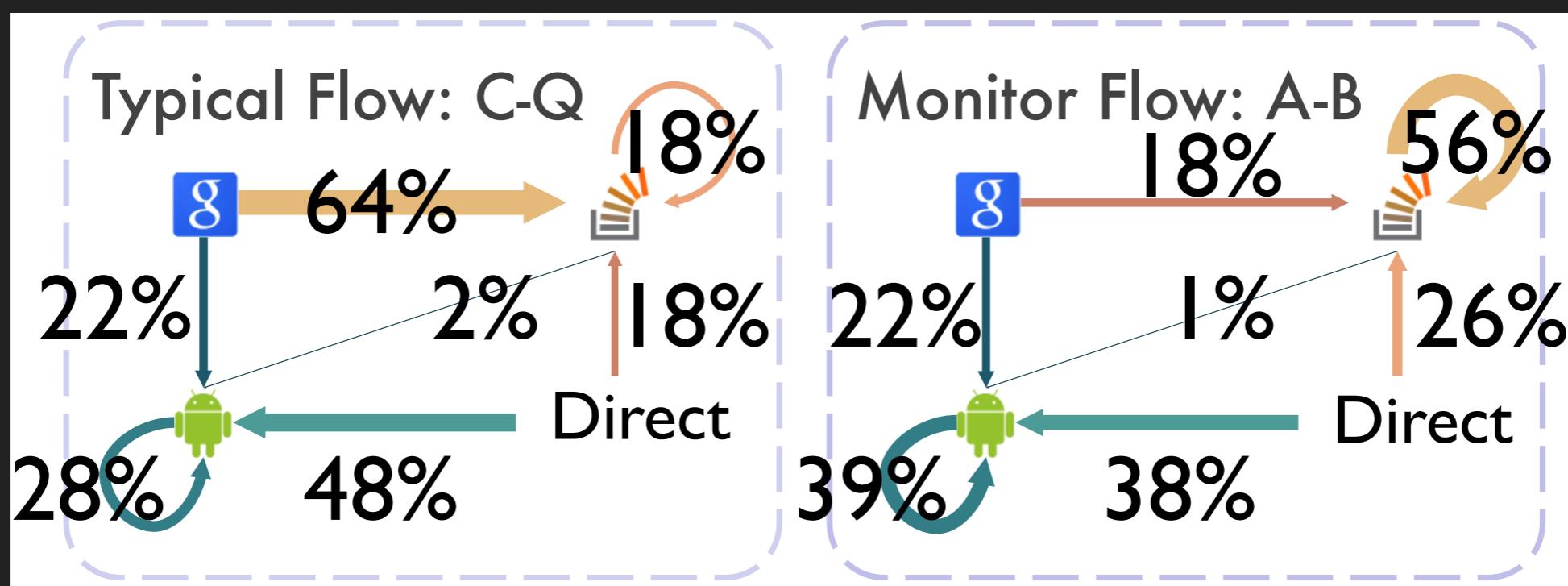
...1,316 days of developer browser history



Consistent with self-reported surveys.

TEXT

Typical dev >

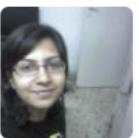
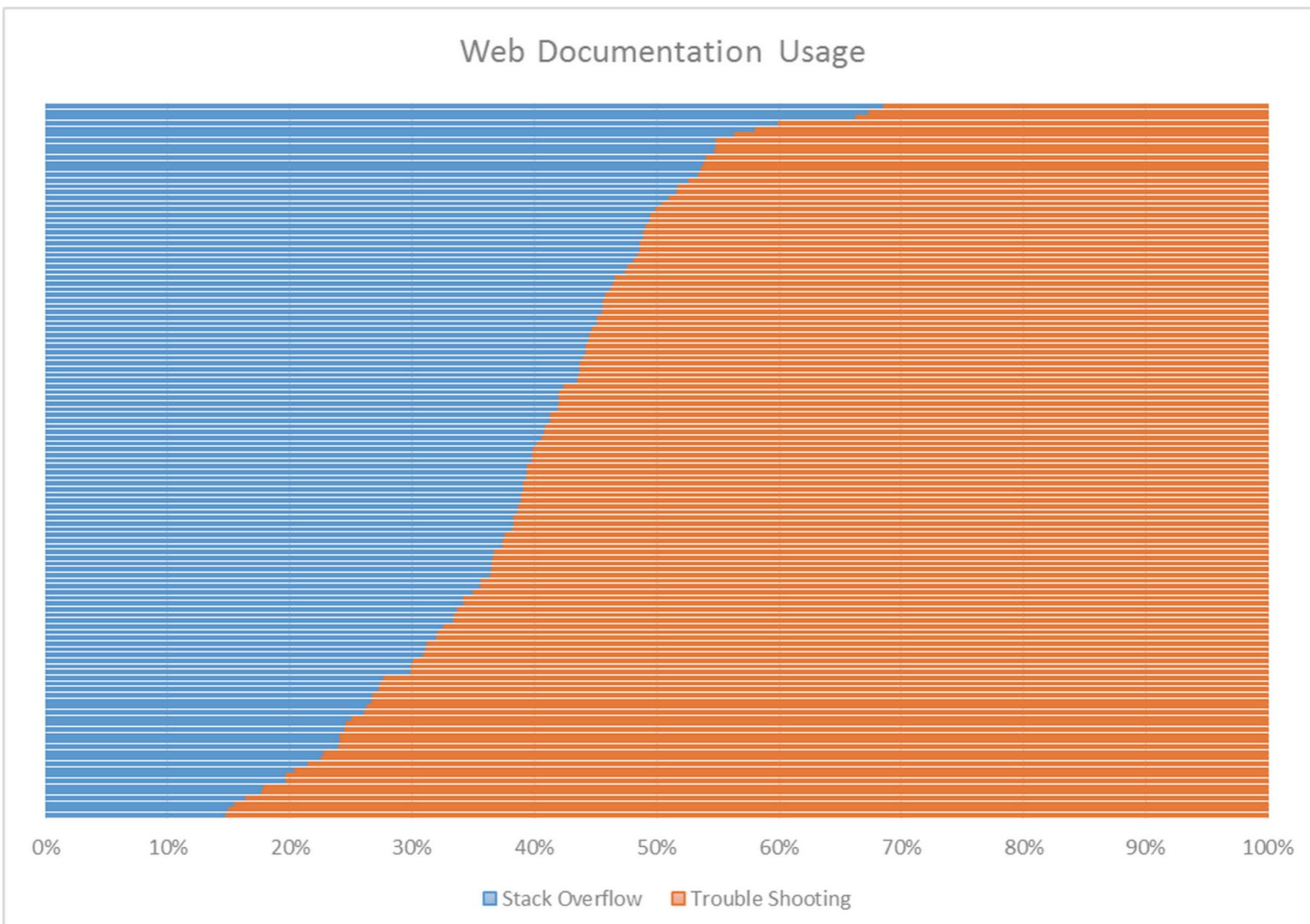




chrisparnin commented on Aug 22

[Edit](#) [X](#)

This is the data stacked up by percentage. Seems about 50% of people use Stack Overflow for about 40%+ of their documentation needs. Next, we'd need to break down troubleshooting category a little more.



samrudhisharma commented on Aug 22

[Edit](#) [X](#)

The troubleshooting category may be broken according to

STUDY

- ▶ What makes it different?

CALCULATE COVERAGE

TRACEABILITY LINKS

How do I use Android ZoomButtonsController?

Word link

OK, I'm at the end of my wits.

3

I have no idea how to use ZoomButtonsController. All I want is to have a zoom controls which I [show|hide|[enable|disable] zoom [in|out] buttons] for my View. I can't add it to my layout xml, and when I instantiate it in my onCreate, I can't see it on the screen.



```
new viewer = ...  
ZoomButtonsController controller = new ZoomButtonsController(viewer);  
controller.setVisible(true);
```

Href Markup link

android | zoom | [feedback](#)

Code Sample link

asked Dec 5 '10 at 12:09



Axarydax
3,919 ● 1 ● 10 ● 38
86% accept rate

Note: Answered in 6 minutes.

1 Answer

3

I would expect that you need to call `getZoomControls()` on the ZoomButtonsController, then add that to your layout wherever you want the buttons to appear. You can confirm that theory by getting a snapshot of your view hierarchy with `hierarchyviewer` when the zoom controls are theoretically visible -- if they are not in your view hierarchy, then you will need to add them.



Code Markup link

answered Dec 5 '10 at 12:15



CommonsWare
163k ● 6 ● 142 ● 198

COMMUNITY COVERAGE



add blobs or trees to a created repository using pygit2 (libgit2)?

I am trying to use pygit2 library.

5 seems I got stuck on the first step. its documentation doesn't explain how to create a blob and add it to a tree. It is mostly around how to work with an existing git repository but I want to create one and add

1 Answer

active

oldest

votes

The python bindings don't let you create a blob from a file directly, so you'll have to read in the file to memory and use `Repository.write(pygit2.GIT_OBJ_BLOB, filecontents)` to create the blob.

5

You can then create trees with the `TreeBuilder`, for example, like

```
import pygit2 as g

repo = g.Repository('.')
# grab the file from wherever and store in 'contents'
```

5 Thanks a lot, how can I learn more about pygit2? none of what you mentioned is in pygit2 document, How did you learn how to use it? – [Peqi Hash](#) May 5 '12 at 11:29

1 @PeqiHash Carlos is one of the developers of libgit2 – [T0xicCode](#) Dec 11 '12 at 5:19

[add comment](#)

TEXT

Developers May Be Getting 50% of Their Documentation From Stack Overflow

Posted by **Soulskill** on Tuesday March 05, 2013 @03:17PM
from the not-half-bad dept.



"Software companies, such as Microsoft, create documentation for [millions of topics](#) concerning its APIs, services, and software platforms. Creating this documentation comes at a considerable cost and effort. And after all this effort, much documentation is rarely consulted ([citation](#)) and lacking enough examples ([citation](#)). A new study suggests that [developers are increasingly consulting Stack Overflow and crowd-sourced sites](#) over official documentation, using it as much as 50% of time. How should official documentation be better redesigned? What are the implications of software created from unruly mashups?"

developers.slashdot.org/story/13/03/05/...



Mary Nielsen
"Developers may be getting 50% of their documentation from unruly mashups?"

John Patterson @jasper_c
MT @Kinvey developers may be getting 50% of their documentation from unruly mashups?"

Expand



Abby Fichtner @HackerChick
Yes! RT @Kinvey: Is this true? Developers may be getting 50% of their documentation from unruly mashups?"

Expand



Kinvey @Kinvey
Is this true for you? Study shows developers may be getting 50% of their documentation from unruly mashups?"

Expand



Simon Dooms @sidooms
I sure do! | Developers May Be Getting 50% of Their Documentation From Stack Overflow developers.slashdot.org/story/13/03/05/...

Expand



Jeff Atwood
@codinghorror



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Developers get 50% of their documentation from Stack Overflow?
[blog.ninlabs.com/2013/03/api-do...](http://blog.ninlabs.com/2013/03/api-documentation-from-stack-overflow/)

Reply Retweet Favorite Pocket More

143
RETWEETS

67
FAVORITES



11:34 PM - 4 Mar 13

7 Mar



Isso é tão babadamente óbvio o porquê, que não preciso nem comentar. fb.me/2x70Aji9y

Expand

8 Mar

り Stack Overflow と
者コミュニティから
ジャパン デベロッパ

8 Mar

であったのに対し、Android 用の公式ド
47 回であった": プログラマの多くは開
以上の情報を集める goo.gl/VJW1d

7 Mar

くでしょう。"@slashdotjp:
3/03/08... #プログラミング
多くは開発者コミュニティから 50 % 以

7 Mar

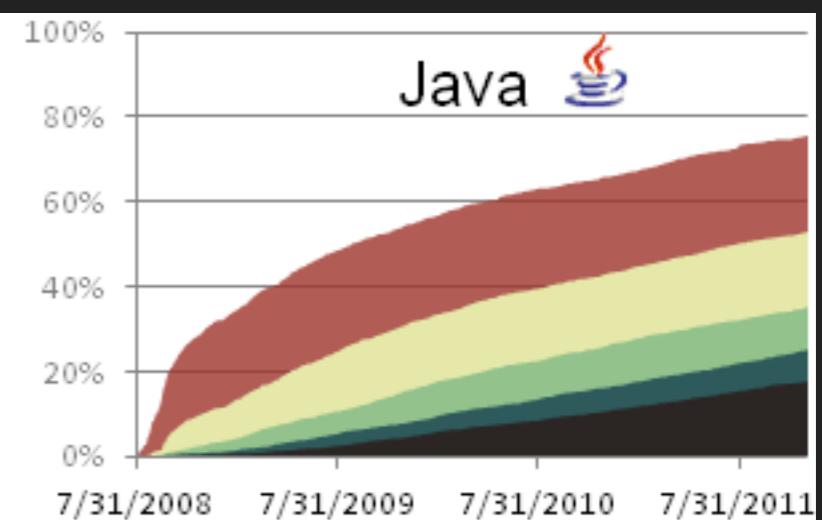
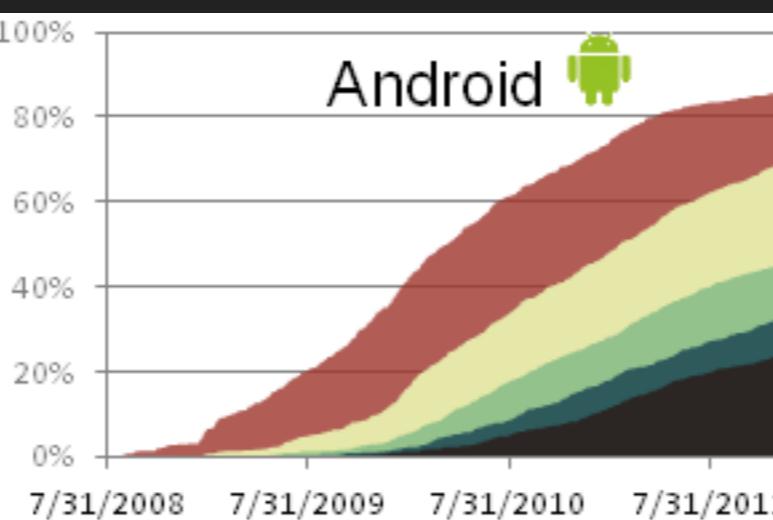
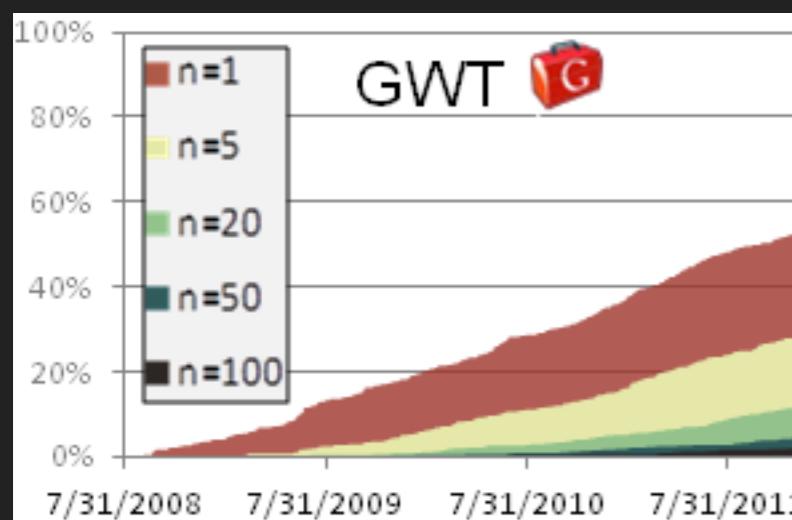
RISE

FALL



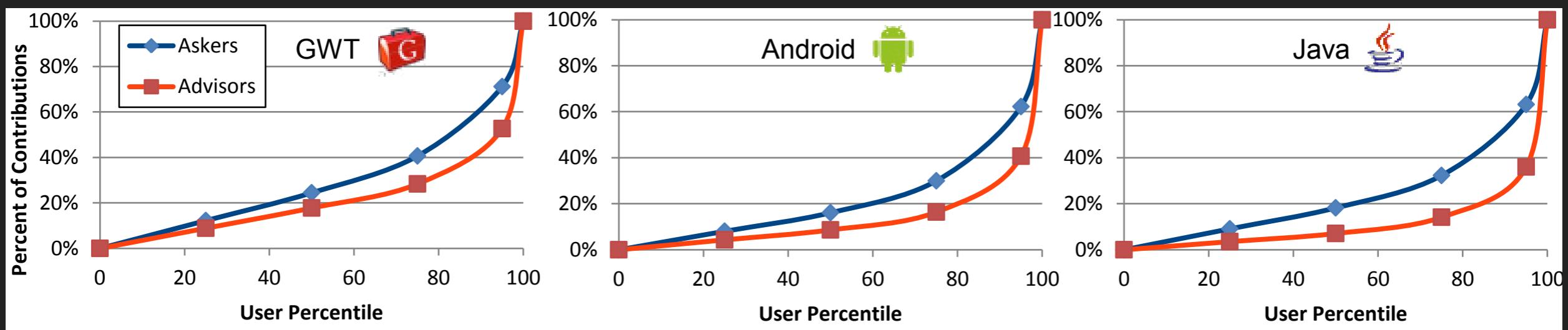
COVERAGE IS SLOW AND HAS GAPS

- ▶ 3 years to just get 50% community coverage on GWT classes
- ▶ Doesn't cover topics like accessibility



CONTROLLED BY A HIGHLY GAMIFIED CORE

- ▶ 60% of questions answered by 5% of users.



STAKEHOLDER CONCERNS

- Will we have a job in 5 years?
- What should our voice be?
- How can we "regain" authority over the crowd (e.g. people suggesting unsupported/non-public API methods in android development). [*]
- Getting feedback from the crowd: sentiment analytics over the frustrating parts, frequent questions, confusing topics, etc.

“DLLs are tossed over the fence to English majors”

“Documentation isn’t meant to be read by everyone, it’s meant to be authoritative”

“We sometimes take a break from documentation and try building something for a month or two. Then we realize how bad it is”

“We contact the top 100 Stack Overflow contributors”

“You don’t understand how much this has impacted us. No, really you don’t.” **HIDDEN RULES**

5-7% OF CONTRIBUTORS ARE FEMALE VERSUS 21% USERS

PARTICIPATION

Why are there fewer female users on Stack Overflow? [duplicate]

This question already has an answer here:

What can Stack Overflow do to persuade female programmers to participate more?
16 answers

-12

I've been here for a little while, but I've never seen a single female, some, but I've honestly never seen any.

What can Stack Overflow do to persuade female programmers to participate more? [closed]

I know a lot of female programmers, and I know there are a good number of them out there.

48 But I don't recall ever having one of my questions answered by, nor have I ever answered a question by a female programmer here at Stack Overflow.

Now I mostly deal in the Delphi tag, and that may make a difference. But I've got the feeling there is something about the programming social network that Stack Overflow is, along with its form of mini-competition (via reputation) that turns most ladies off.

15 When I go down the first few pages of top users by rep, there is nary a lady to be found.

Go over to Quantcast and look up Stack Overflow. Go down to the Demographics, and you'll see that a full 20% of the visits are by females. So they are here, lurking and using the wonderful info that Stack Overflow provides.

Then why aren't there more of them participating, both with questions and answers?

What can Stack Overflow do to persuade female programmers to participate more?

So after a dozen downvotes offset by a dozen upvotes, and accusations by many that I am a bigot, the bottom line seems to be that Stack Overflow appeals to males more than females.

This is my observation and I believe a proper analysis would support the hypotheses that a much higher percentage of male programmers use Stack Overflow than the percentage of female programmers.

Assuming that is the case, then Stack Overflow is geared more towards the male psyche than the female. If so, I again ask, what can they do about that?

This question was asked in StackOverflow Meta on November 20, 2009. It was made Community Wiki. It was asked in a constructive manner and should be considered an appropriate question for Meta.

Yet it was closed over two years after it was asked as "not constructive" after more than 40 upvotes and 10 favorites and 16 answers.

Now it resides here on Meta StackExchange, still closed. I just shake my head.

[discussion](#) [stackoverflow](#) [statistics](#) [diversity](#) [participation](#)

[share](#) [improve this question](#)

edited Dec 22 '14 at 5:44

community wiki
7 revs, 3 users 77%
lkessler

closed as not constructive by Rosinante, Pops♦, Chris Frederick, Adam Lear♦ Dec 31 '11 at 23:12

As it currently stands, this question is not a good fit for our Q&A format. We expect answers to be supported by facts, references, or expertise, but this question will likely solicit debate, arguments, polling, or extended discussion. If you feel that this question can be improved and possibly reopened, visit the help center for guidance.

If this question can be reworded to fit the rules in the help center, please [edit the question](#).

5 I don't think that meta.stackexchange.com/questions/22795/ is a duplicate... – perbert Nov 20 '09 at 3:54

29 Well I know why there's so few on Meta - this place looks like a dungeon! Even I don't like coming here, and I get scared when the sun's out. – Tom Ritter Nov 20 '09 at 4:02

Welcome!

Welcome! Met Stack Exchange is intended for bugs, features, and discussions that affect the whole Stack Exchange family of sites.
[about](#) » [help](#) »

asked 6 years ago

viewed 6535 times

active 1 year ago

BLOG

 [Why Stack Overflow Doesn't Care About Ad Blockers](#)

72 People Chatting

Tavern on the Meta
1 hour ago - bjb568

Shadow's Den
1 hour ago - Mooseman

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- The week's top questions and answers
- Important community announcements
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Linked

- 1 Stackoverflow is male dominated
- 12 Why are there fewer female users on Stack Overflow?
- 508 The Many Memes of Meta
- 8 Endless question user - what to do?
- 8 Demographics of Stack Overflow

Related

BARRIERS

- ▶ Being “Wrong on the Internet” => Fear of Negative feedback.
- ▶ Nothing left to answer => “Saturation”
- ▶ Research Pressure
 - ▶ Instead of quality feedback
- ▶ ...

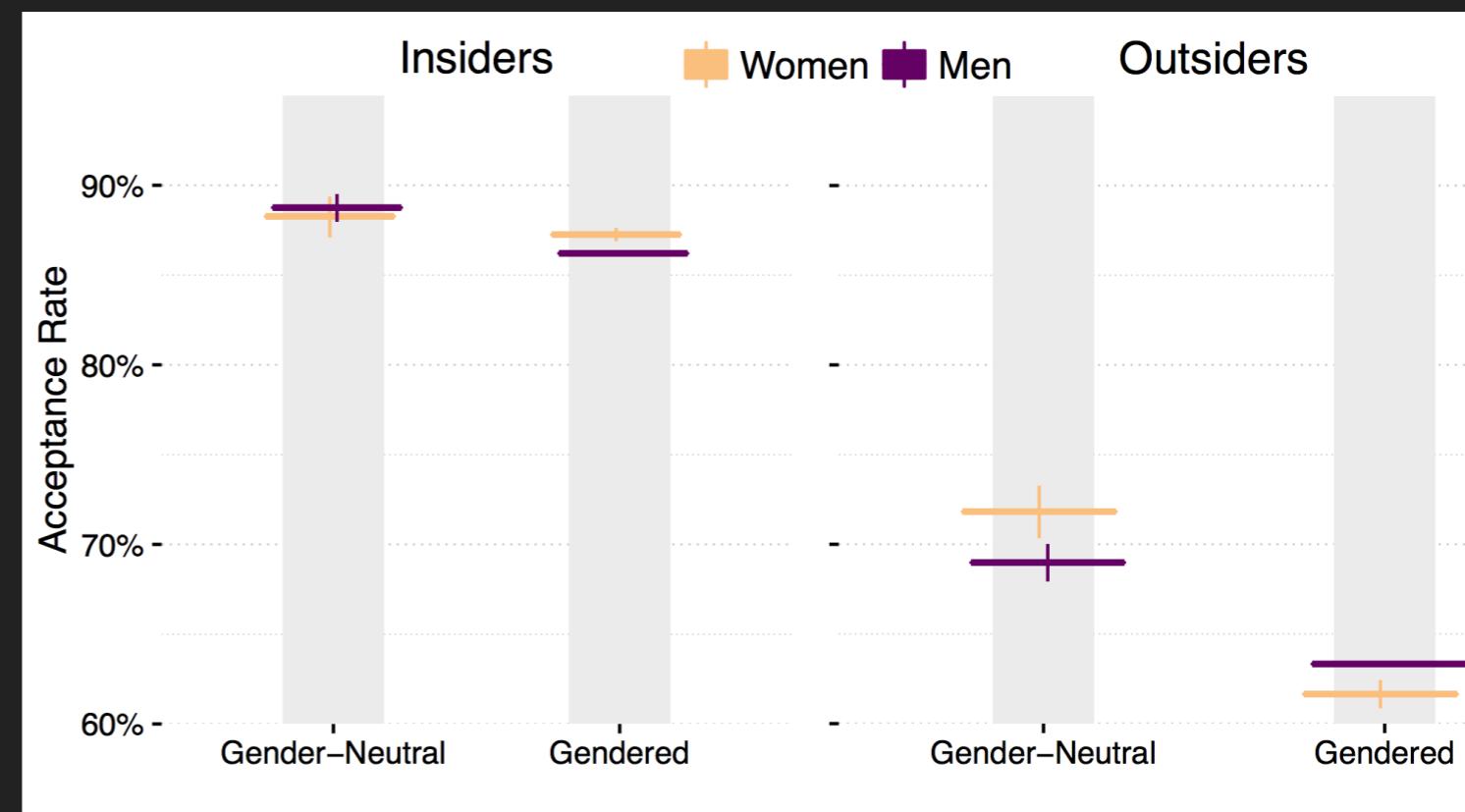
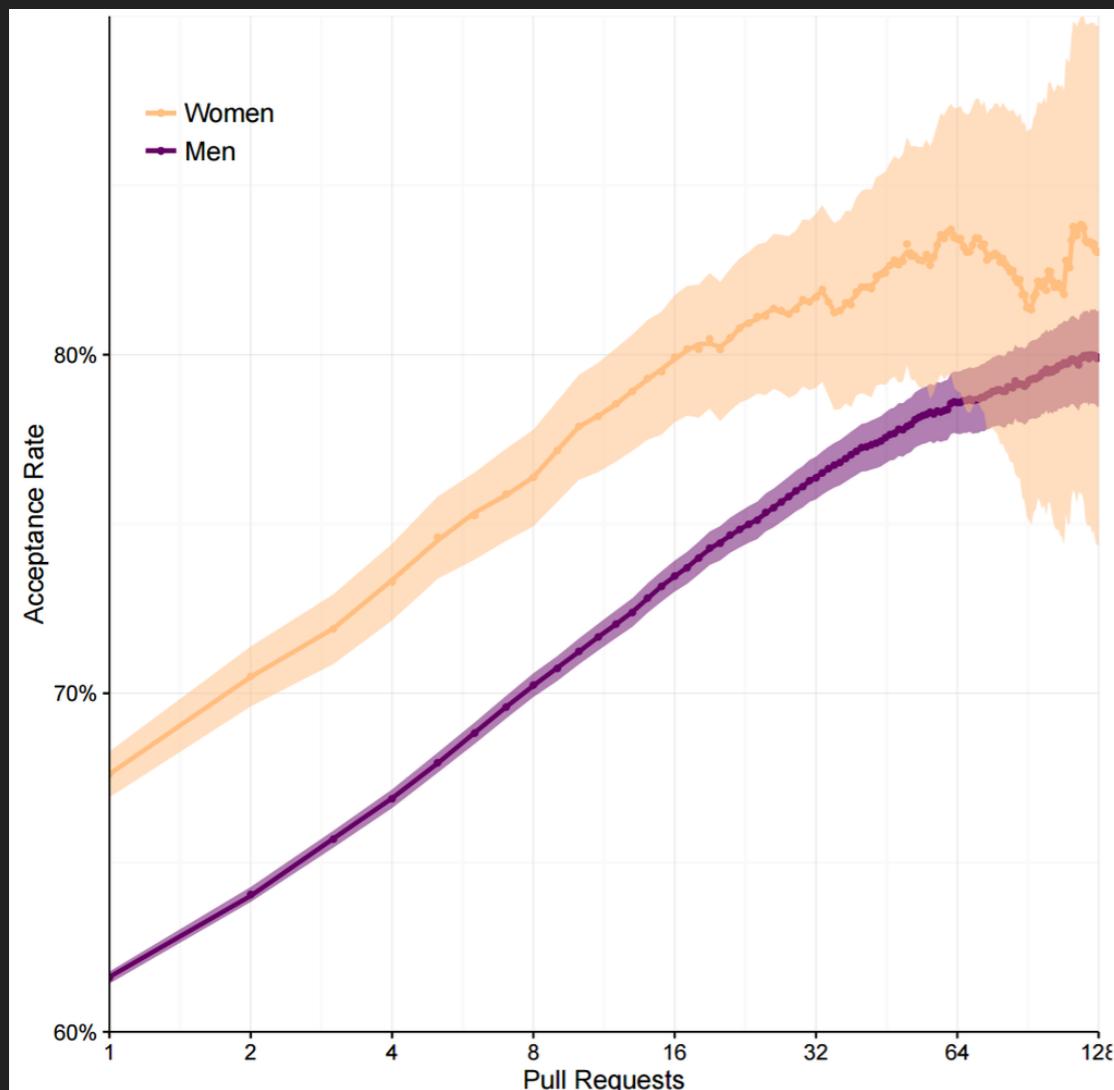
SEE TALK ON THURSDAY

Barrier	p-value	W	M	ES	F Likert
Fear Neg. Feedback	.004	4/4	5/3	0.4	
Fear Contrib. Clutter	.013	4/4	4/3	0.3	
Time Constraints	.497	4/4	4/4	0.1	
Nothing Left	.797	4/4	4/4	0.0	
Awareness	<.001	4/4	1/3	0.5	
Research Pressures	.374	4/4	4/4	0.1	
Posting is Hard	.059	4/3.5	4/3	0.2	
Abstraction Process	.729	4/3	4/3	0.0	
Qualifications	<.001	4/3	1/3	0.4	
Onboarding Hoops	.062	4/3	5/4	0.2	
No “Good-Answer”	.239	3/3	2/2	0.1	
Intim. Comm. Size	<.001	4/3	1/2	0.5	
Stranger Discomfort	<.001	1/2	1/1	0.4	
Percept. Slacking	<.001	2/3	1/3	0.4	

Table 1: Statistically significant differences in how women and men rated barriers.

TEXT

BIAS



DETECTION OF COMMUNITY FAULTS

- ▶ Instability
 - ▶ Flaky Documentation
 - ▶ Unstable contributors
- ▶ Participation Barriers
 - ▶ Peer Parity: Bechdel-Ford test
 - ▶ Toxicity Levels + Micro-aggressions (Safety)

AUTOMATED COMMUNITY REPAIR

- ▶ Repair Bots
 - ▶ Annotate or patch flaky docs.
 - ▶ Warn about inaccessible or insecure usage
- ▶ Community Bots
 - ▶ Defend against toxic comment against first time poster.
 - ▶ Help pair up mentors and developers.

