

# Aim Small, Miss Small: Writing Correct Programs

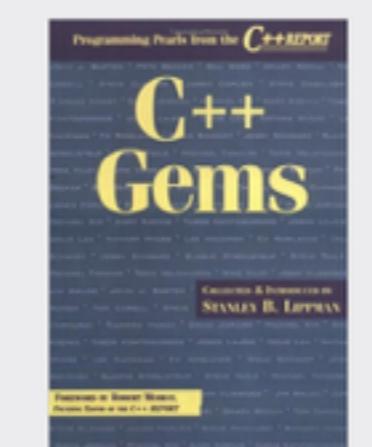
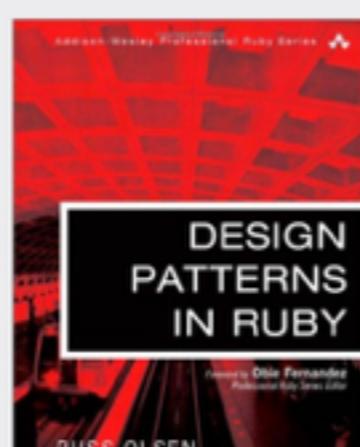
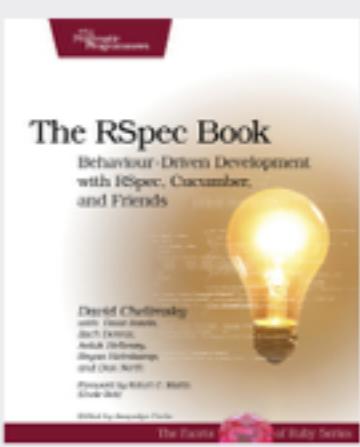
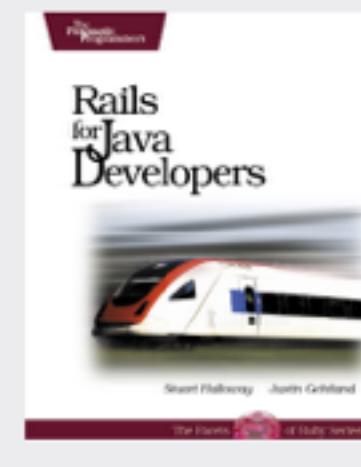
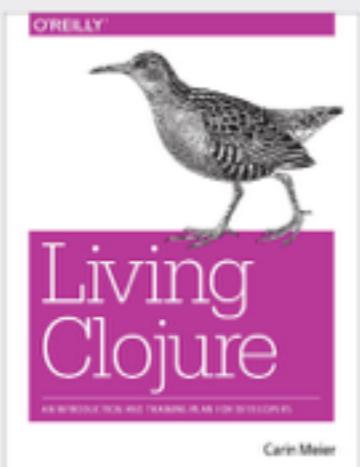
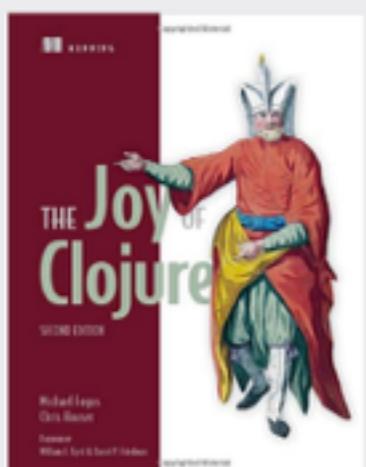
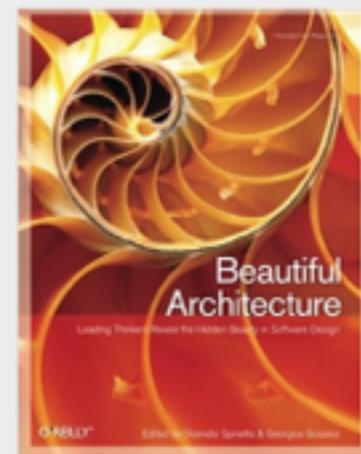
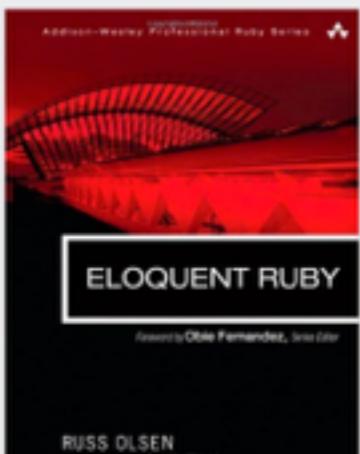
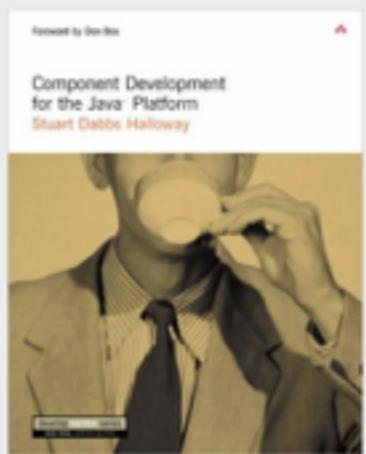
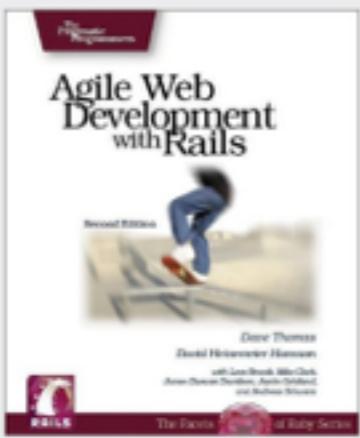
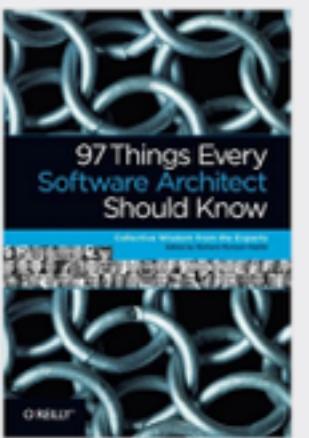
@stuarthalloway

Copyright Stuart Halloway

This presentation is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike 3.0 United States License.  
See <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/us/>

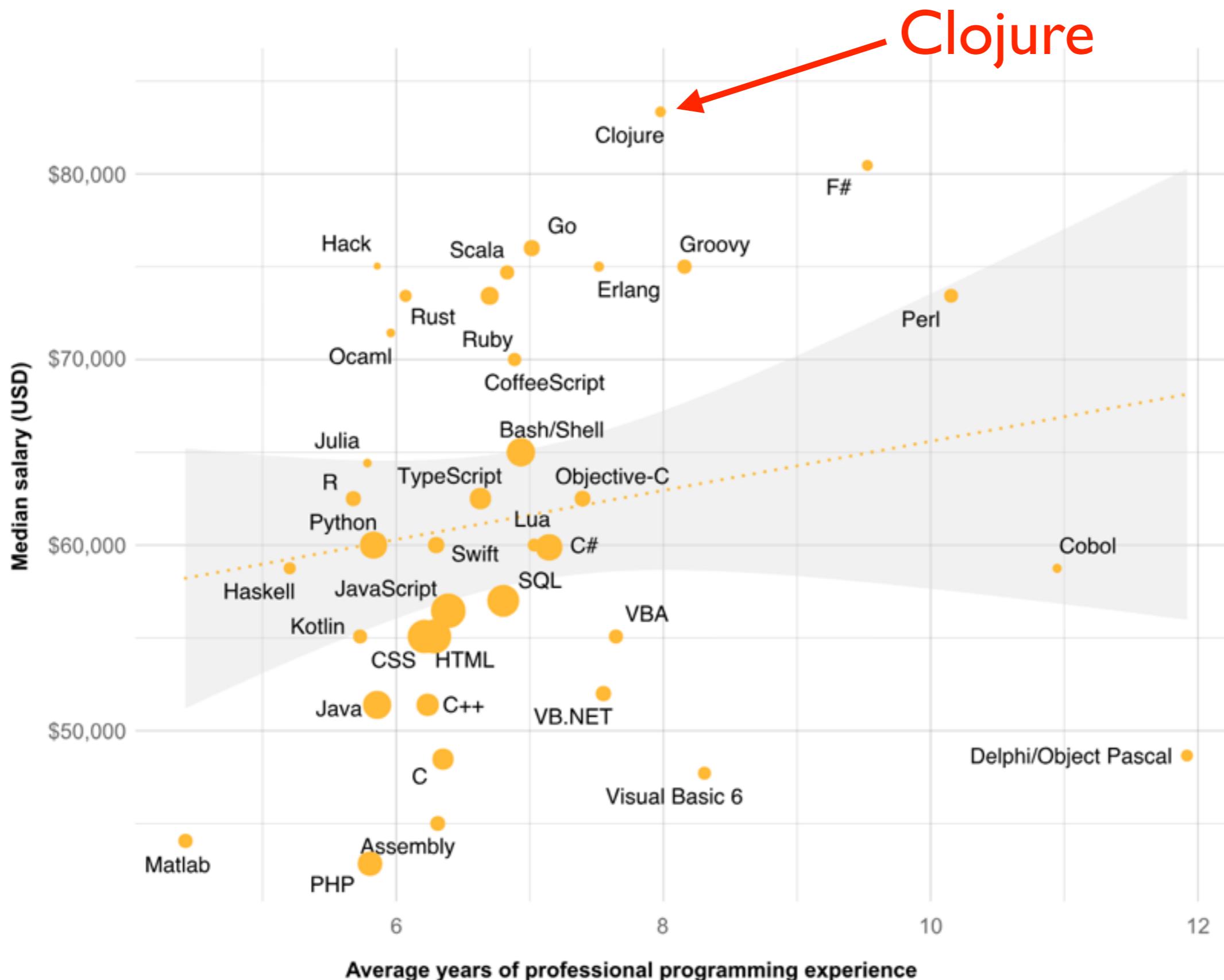


cognitect



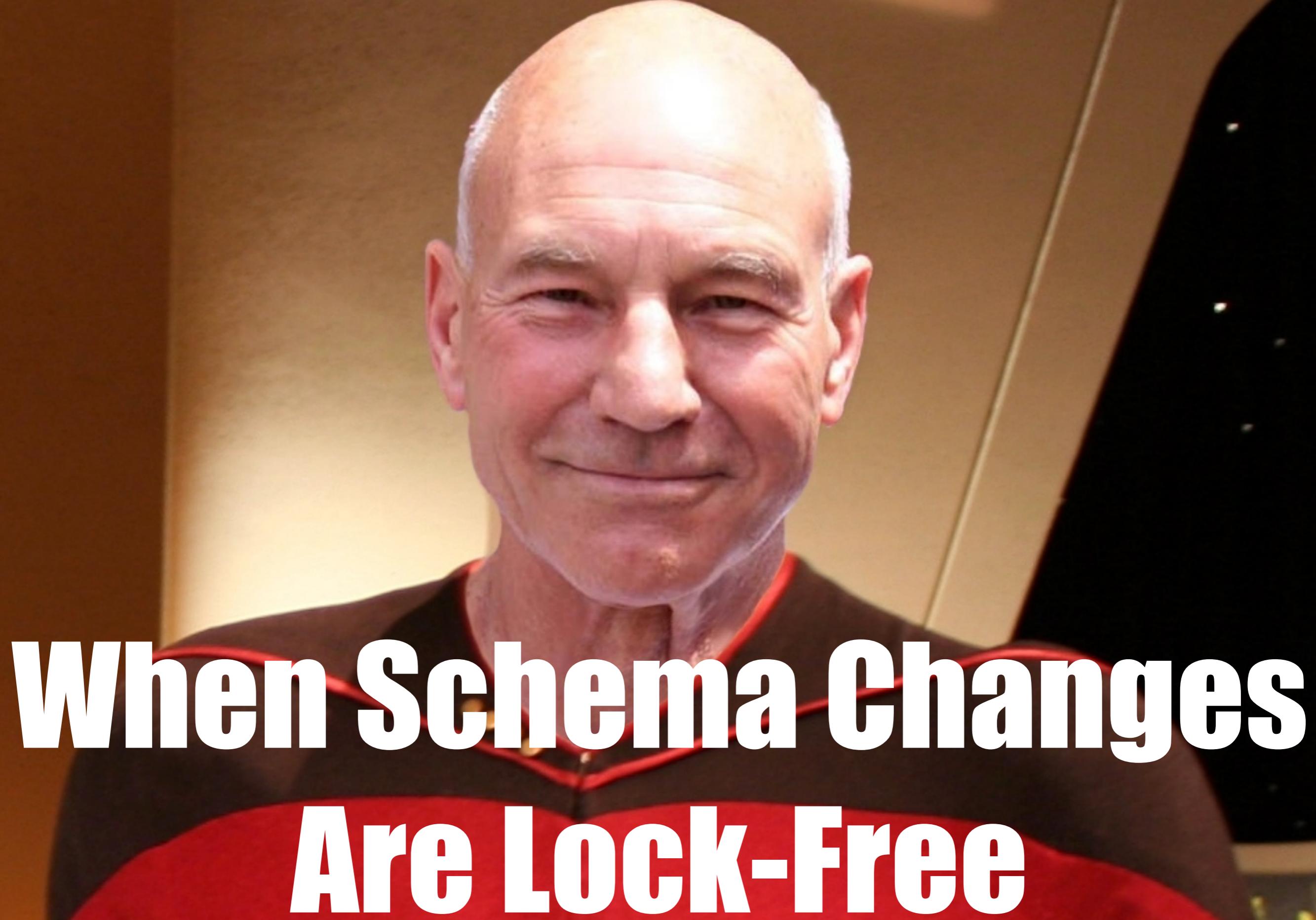


## Salary and Experience by Language





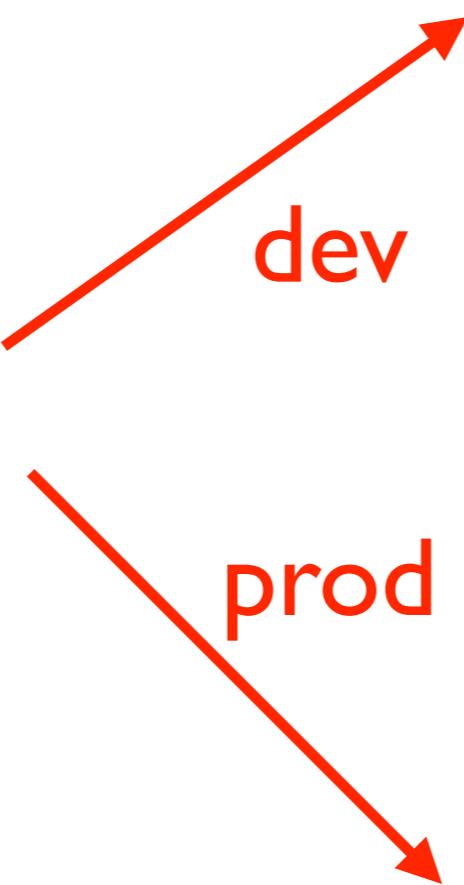
**Datomic**



**When Schema Changes  
Are Lock-Free**



Datomic



**correct** (adj.)

free from error

**correct** (v.)

put right

# Tools Galore

red squiggly underlines

type systems

stacktraces

unit tests

frameworks

frameworks

agile methods

proofs

TDD

generative testing

logging

humane error messages

step debuggers

simulation

# 1.1 Trillion Dollars

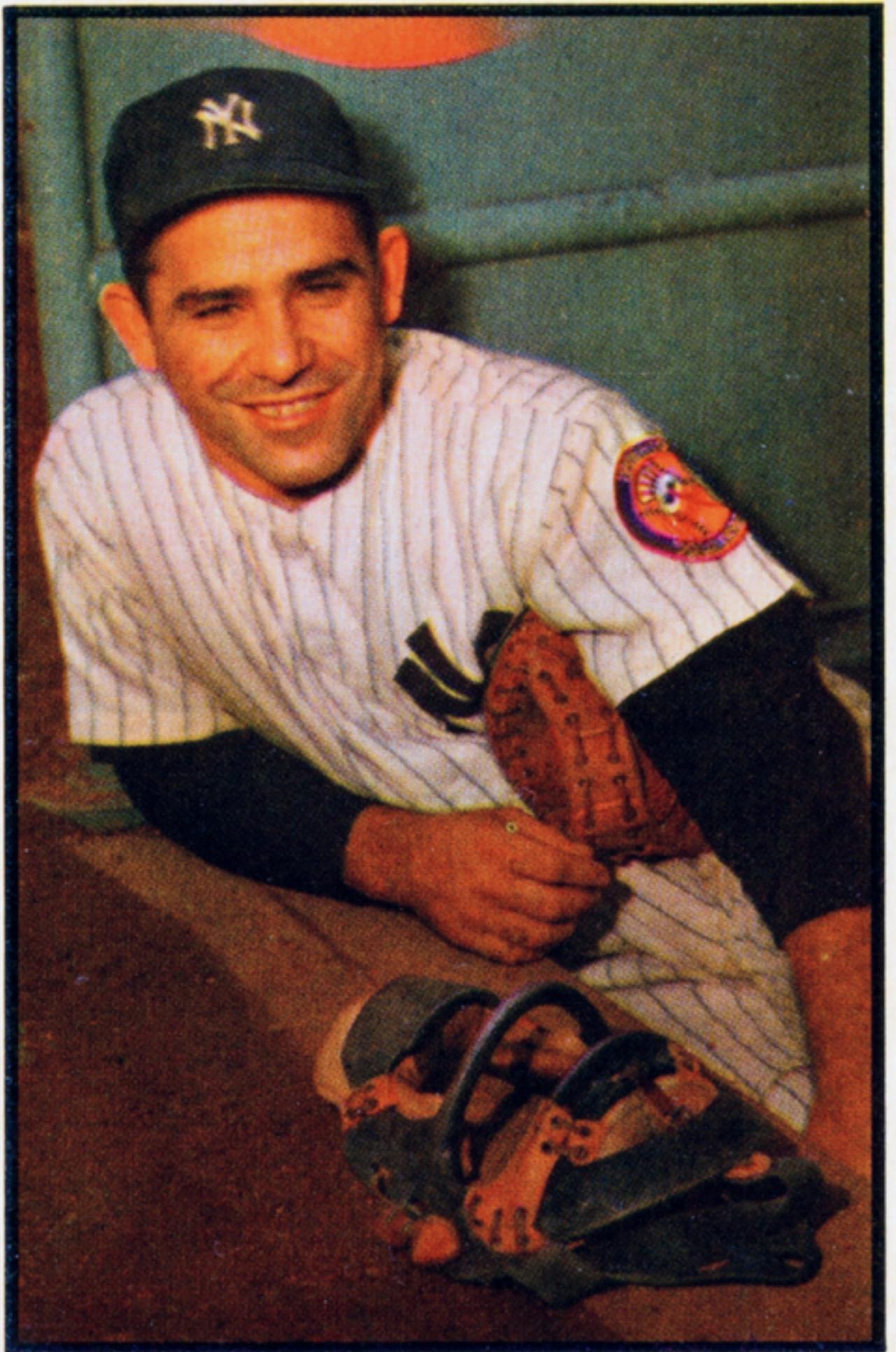


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cmQLnBtDjbw>

<https://medium.com/@ryancohane/financial-cost-of-software-bugs-51b4d193f107>

Aim Small, Miss Small

*Aim* Small, Miss Small



if you don't know  
where you are  
going, you might  
wind up  
somewhere else

# Aiming

problem statement

written down

rationale

kept current

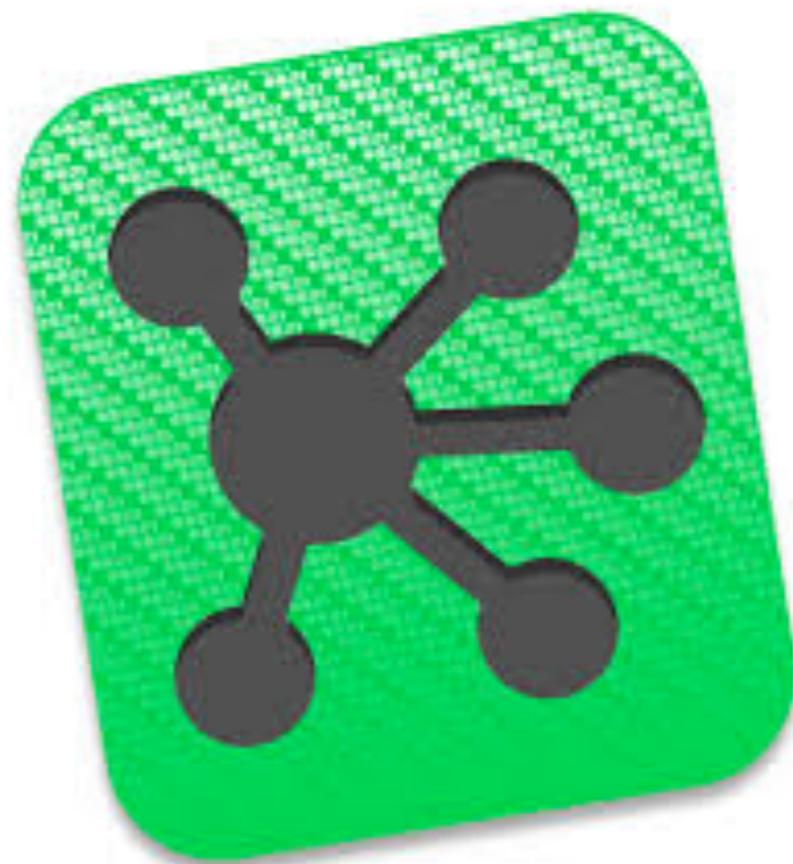
indelible

“When you make an important decision, write it down.”

—Nathaniel Manista, right here, yesterday



<https://orgmode.org/>



<https://www.omnigroup.com/omnigraffle>

Aim *Small*, Miss Small

# Small As In...

one-letter variable names?

short methods?

low algorithmic complexity?

font size?

**simple** (adj.)

from sim- plex  
“one fold / braid”

completed  
braided  
together



fig. 1



fig. 2



fig. 3



fig. 4



fig. 5



fig. 6

complecting  
bloats your  
programs



fig. 1



fig. 2



fig. 3



fig. 4



fig. 5



fig. 6

# Generality

“It is better to have 100 functions operate on one data structure than 10 functions on 10 data structures.”

# The Book Manager

“I currently have 22 classes  
with 14 of them focused on  
the View aspect of the model”

**f(story cards) = 0**

# At Application Scale

	Java	Clojure
data structures	hundreds to thousands	tens
functions	thousands to OMFG	hundreds

Aim Small, *Miss* Small

# The Tools Are Back

red squiggly underlines

type systems

stacktraces

unit tests

frameworks

frameworks

agile methods

proofs

TDD

generative testing

logging

humane error messages

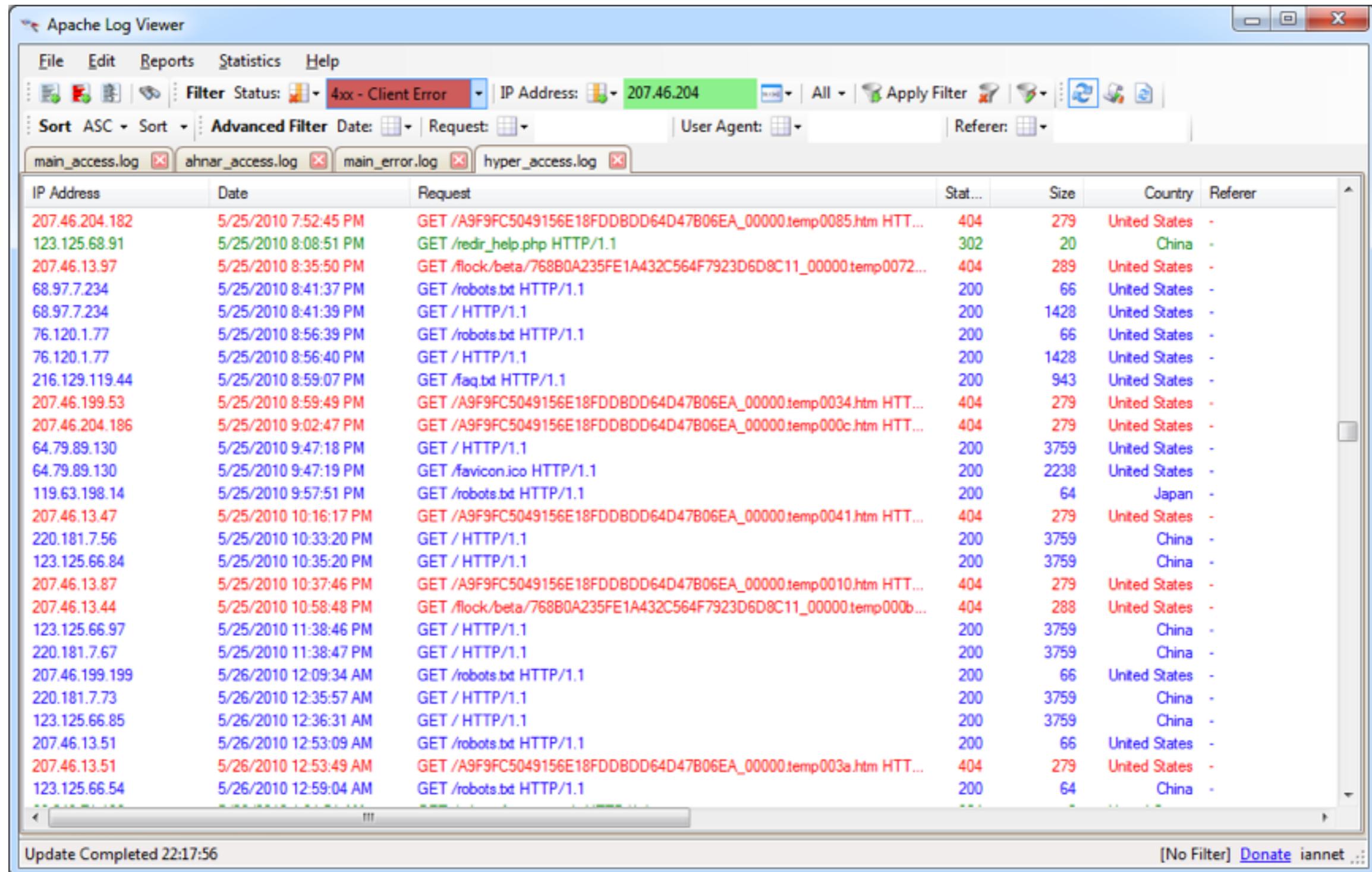
step debuggers

simulation

evidence (n.)

appearance from which  
inferences may be drawn

# Logs Are Great Evidence



The screenshot shows the Apache Log Viewer application window. The interface includes a menu bar with File, Edit, Reports, Statistics, and Help. A toolbar with various icons is located above the main pane. The main area displays a table of log entries with the following columns: IP Address, Date, Request, Status, Size, Country, and Referer. A filter bar at the top allows setting filters for Status (4xx - Client Error), IP Address (207.46.204), and other parameters like User Agent and Referer. Below the table, there are tabs for different log files: main\_access.log, ahnar\_access.log, main\_error.log, and hyper\_access.log. The status bar at the bottom indicates "Update Completed 22:17:56" and provides links for "[No Filter]" and "Donate".

IP Address	Date	Request	Status	Size	Country	Referer
207.46.204.182	5/25/2010 7:52:45 PM	GET /A9F9FC5049156E18FDDBDD64D47B06EA_00000.temp0085.htm HTTP/1.1	404	279	United States	-
123.125.68.91	5/25/2010 8:08:51 PM	GET /redir_help.php HTTP/1.1	302	20	China	-
207.46.13.97	5/25/2010 8:35:50 PM	GET /flock/beta/768B0A235FE1A432C564F7923D6D8C11_00000.temp0072.htm HTTP/1.1	404	289	United States	-
68.97.7.234	5/25/2010 8:41:37 PM	GET /robots.txt HTTP/1.1	200	66	United States	-
68.97.7.234	5/25/2010 8:41:39 PM	GET / HTTP/1.1	200	1428	United States	-
76.120.1.77	5/25/2010 8:56:39 PM	GET /robots.txt HTTP/1.1	200	66	United States	-
76.120.1.77	5/25/2010 8:56:40 PM	GET / HTTP/1.1	200	1428	United States	-
216.129.119.44	5/25/2010 8:59:07 PM	GET /faq.txt HTTP/1.1	200	943	United States	-
207.46.199.53	5/25/2010 8:59:49 PM	GET /A9F9FC5049156E18FDDBDD64D47B06EA_00000.temp0034.htm HTTP/1.1	404	279	United States	-
207.46.204.186	5/25/2010 9:02:47 PM	GET /A9F9FC5049156E18FDDBDD64D47B06EA_00000.temp000c.htm HTTP/1.1	404	279	United States	-
64.79.89.130	5/25/2010 9:47:18 PM	GET / HTTP/1.1	200	3759	United States	-
64.79.89.130	5/25/2010 9:47:19 PM	GET /favicon.ico HTTP/1.1	200	2238	United States	-
119.63.198.14	5/25/2010 9:57:51 PM	GET /robots.txt HTTP/1.1	200	64	Japan	-
207.46.13.47	5/25/2010 10:16:17 PM	GET /A9F9FC5049156E18FDDBDD64D47B06EA_00000.temp0041.htm HTTP/1.1	404	279	United States	-
220.181.7.56	5/25/2010 10:33:20 PM	GET / HTTP/1.1	200	3759	China	-
123.125.66.84	5/25/2010 10:35:20 PM	GET / HTTP/1.1	200	3759	China	-
207.46.13.87	5/25/2010 10:37:46 PM	GET /A9F9FC5049156E18FDDBDD64D47B06EA_00000.temp0010.htm HTTP/1.1	404	279	United States	-
207.46.13.44	5/25/2010 10:58:48 PM	GET /flock/beta/768B0A235FE1A432C564F7923D6D8C11_00000.temp000b.htm HTTP/1.1	404	288	United States	-
123.125.66.97	5/25/2010 11:38:46 PM	GET / HTTP/1.1	200	3759	China	-
220.181.7.67	5/25/2010 11:38:47 PM	GET / HTTP/1.1	200	3759	China	-
207.46.199.199	5/26/2010 12:09:34 AM	GET /robots.txt HTTP/1.1	200	66	United States	-
220.181.7.73	5/26/2010 12:35:57 AM	GET / HTTP/1.1	200	3759	China	-
123.125.66.85	5/26/2010 12:36:31 AM	GET / HTTP/1.1	200	3759	China	-
207.46.13.51	5/26/2010 12:53:09 AM	GET /robots.txt HTTP/1.1	200	66	United States	-
207.46.13.51	5/26/2010 12:53:49 AM	GET /A9F9FC5049156E18FDDBDD64D47B06EA_00000.temp003a.htm HTTP/1.1	404	279	United States	-
123.125.66.54	5/26/2010 12:59:04 AM	GET /robots.txt HTTP/1.1	200	64	China	-

# Logs

persistent

indelible

temporal\*

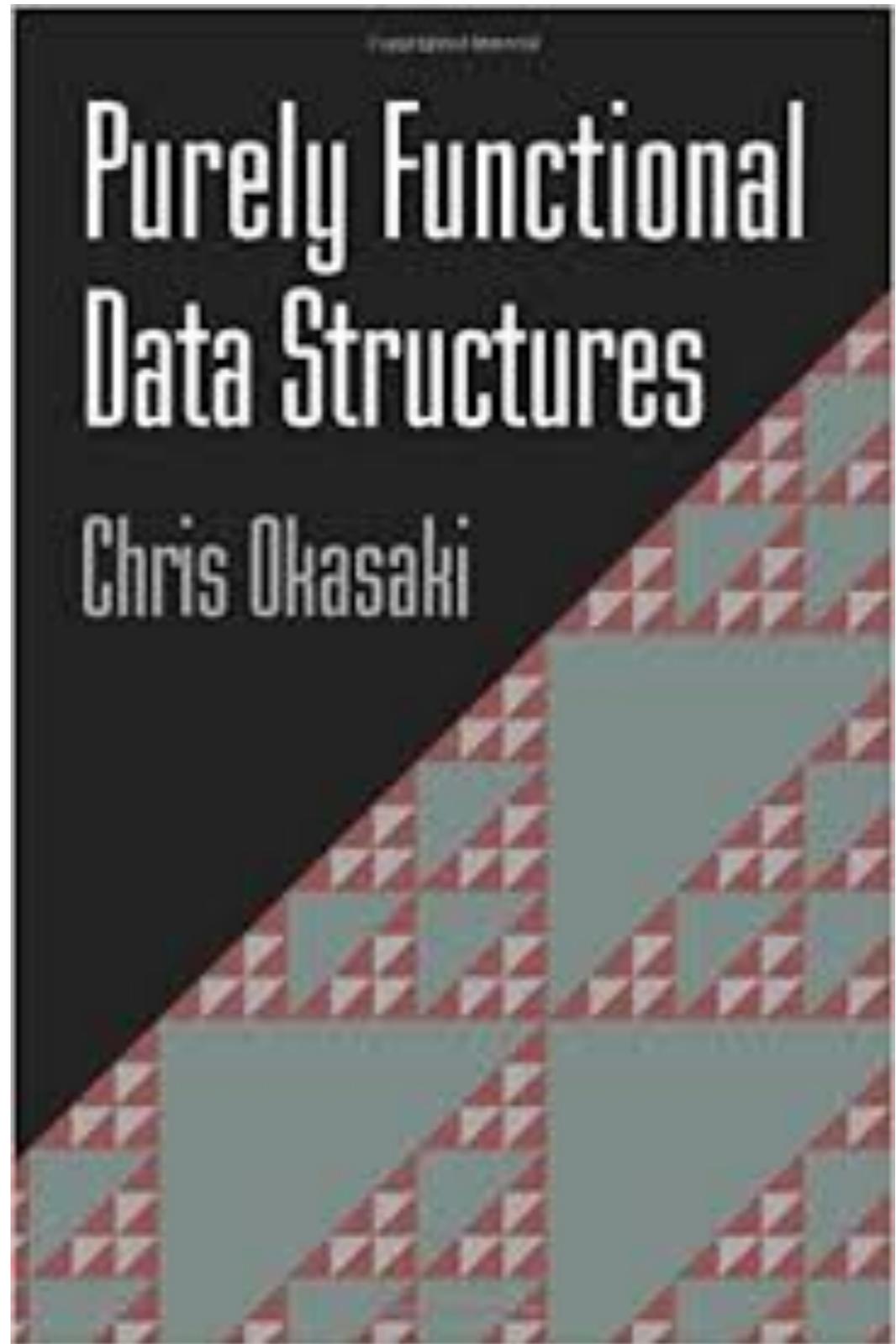
ordered\*

# Git Too

The screenshot shows the Git Too application interface. At the top, there are three colored buttons (red, yellow, green), a folder icon labeled "clojure (branch: master)", and a search bar with the placeholder "Subject". Below the header, there are four buttons: "View" (with a gear icon), "Branch" (with a right-pointing arrow icon), "Create Branch" (with a plus and gear icon), and "Search" (with a magnifying glass icon). The main area displays a table of commit history:

Subject	Author	Date
CLJ-1873: Add .cljc files to doc strings of require and *	Andy Fingerhut	2016-01-01 02:26:23
CLJ-2028 Fix docstrings in filter, filterv, remove and tak...	Jozef Wagner	2016-10-27 05:07:50
finish partial application of previous commits	Stuart Halloway	2017-09-06 17:41:16
CLJ-2104 Fix typo in docstring	Alex Miller	2017-01-29 19:10:34
Fix typo	Greg Leppert	2016-11-02 16:03:54
Document char[] input support in clojure.java.io/copy	Yegor Timoshenko	2017-04-22 07:40:46
Fix improperly located docstrings	Cameron Desautels	2017-05-29 07:17:44
CLJ-1371 Add checks in divide(Object, Object) to chec...	Alex Miller	2017-09-06 07:11:15
CLJ-99: Make min-key and max-key evaluate k on each...	Andy Fingerhut	2012-11-15 19:33:47
CLJ-1398 update javadoc urls	Eli Lindsey	2016-02-01 04:08:14
CLJ-1714 Using a class in a type hint shouldn't cause t...	Adam Clements	2016-09-28 12:37:12
CLJ-1841 bean iterator was broken, now matches seq data	Alex Miller	2016-01-22 12:38:22
CLJ-1887 Implement missing IPersistentVector method...	Steffen Dienst	2016-01-26 01:45:45
amap calls alength once	jimpil	2016-03-13 07:35:55
CLJ-1917 Call String/length outside of a loop in the inte...	Jozef Wagner	2017-09-06 07:25:33
CLJ-2048 add StackTraceElement to throw-if into-array...	Gerrit Jansen van Vuuren	2016-10-21 07:09:00
CLJ-2070: faster clojure.core/delay	dennis zhuang	2016-11-29 08:13:04
CLJ-2108 - delay loading of spec and core specs	Alex Miller	2017-08-30 07:50:23
CLJ-2204 Disable serialization of proxy classes	Chouser	2017-07-17 20:04:41
CLJ-2210: cache non-trivial getClass/hasClass...	Nicola Mometto	2017-07-21 03:06:36

# Persistent Data Structures

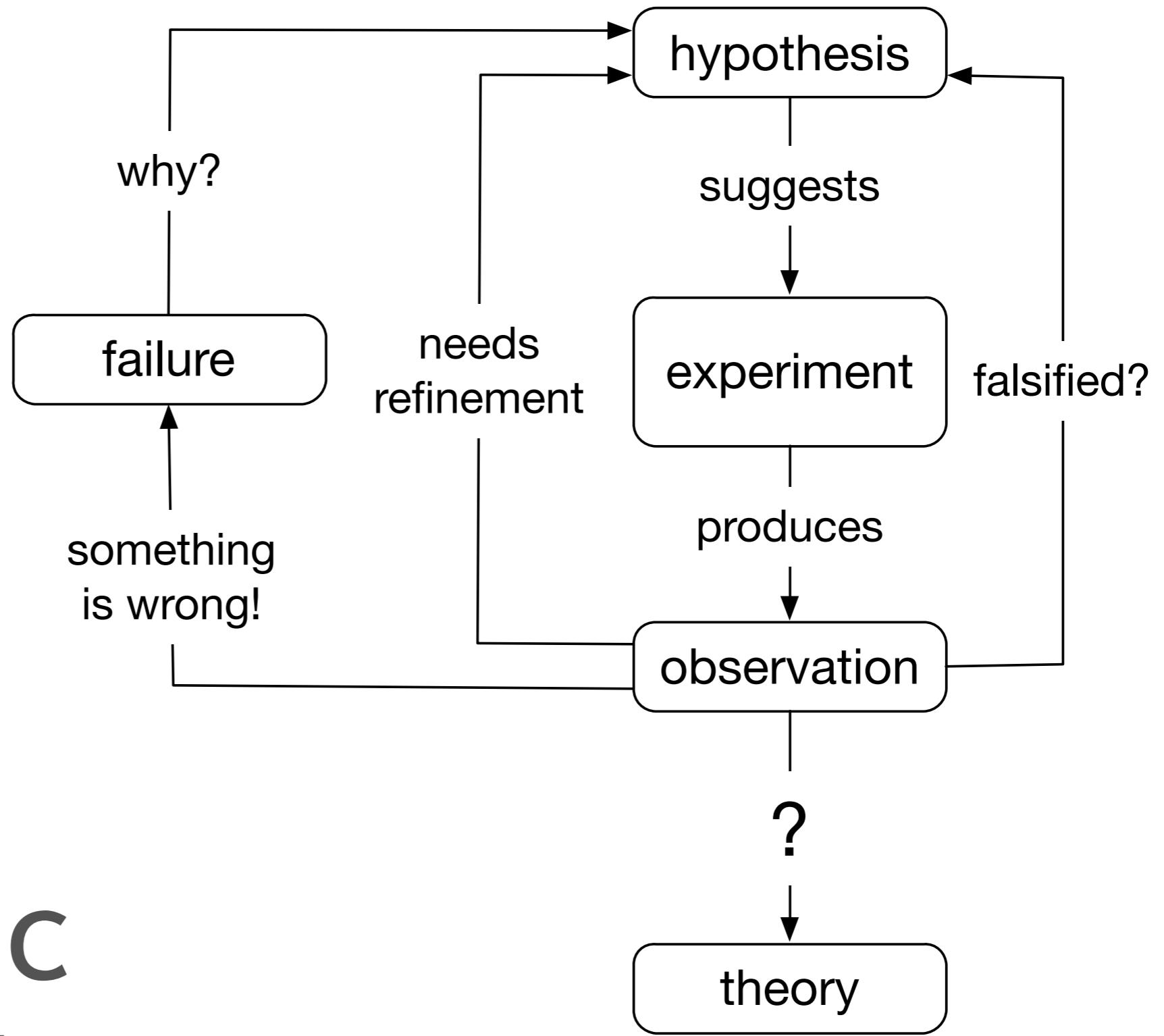


<https://www.amazon.com/Purely-Functional-Structures-Chris-Okasaki/dp/0521663504>

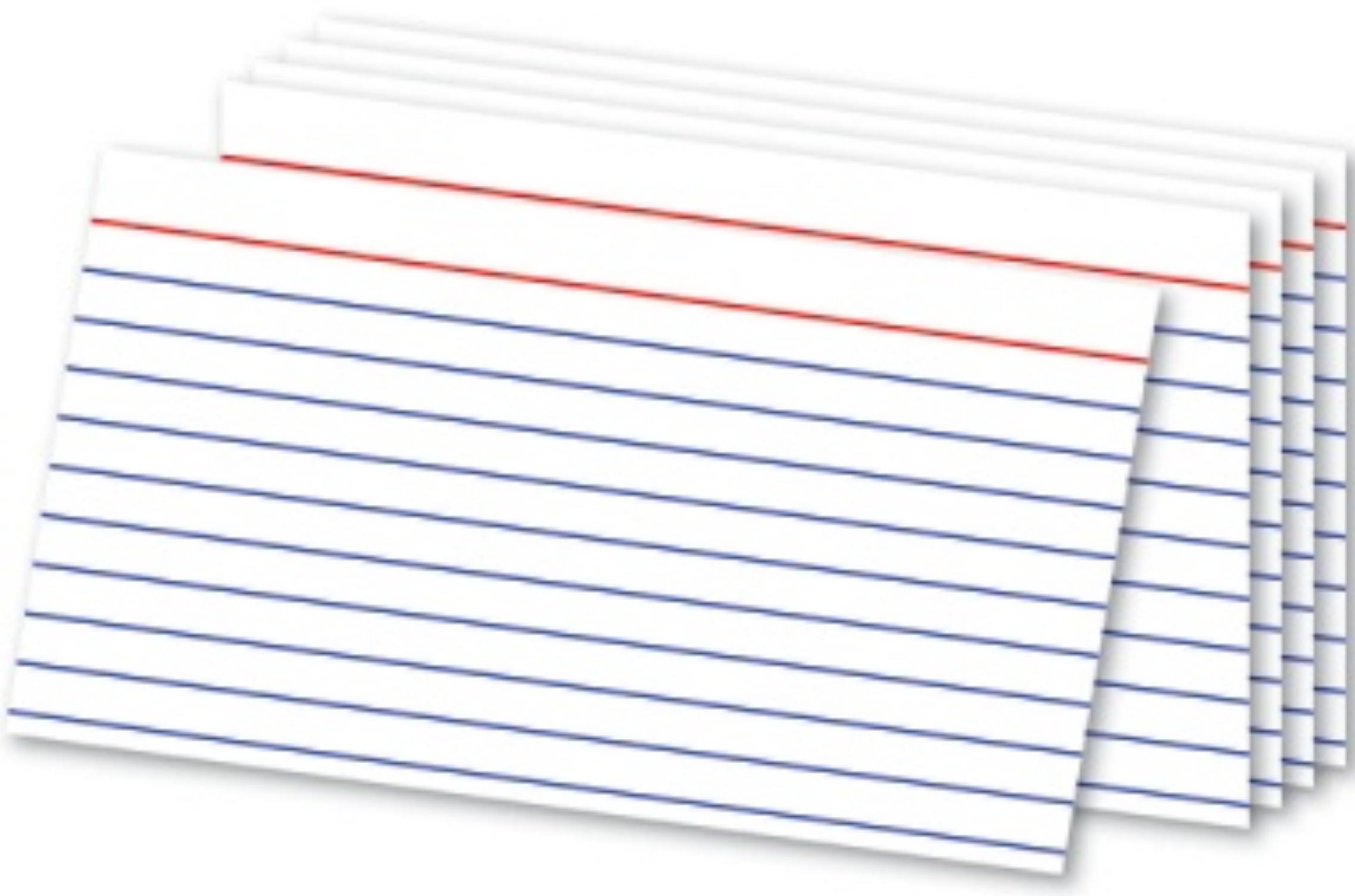
Aim Small, Miss *Small*

Like TDD?  
Try RDD





# Scientific Method



<https://www.officedepot.com/a/products/1397818/Office-Depot-Brand-Ruled-Index-Cards/>



<https://www.officedepot.com/a/products/1395046/Office-Depot-Brand-Rainbow-Index-Cards/>

# Weak Science Beats Strong Tools

poor problem statement

incomplete hypothesis

exploratory experiments

minimal domain knowledge

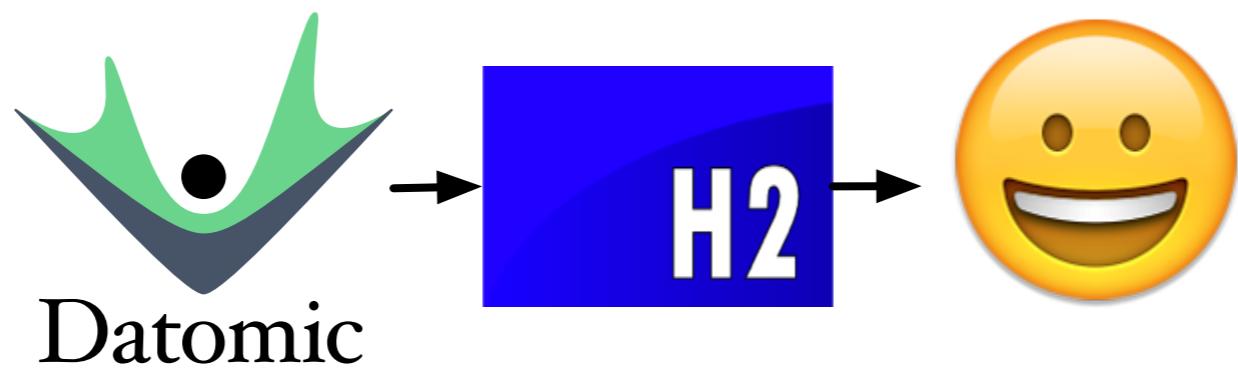


WINNER OF JOLT PRODUCTIVITY AWARD

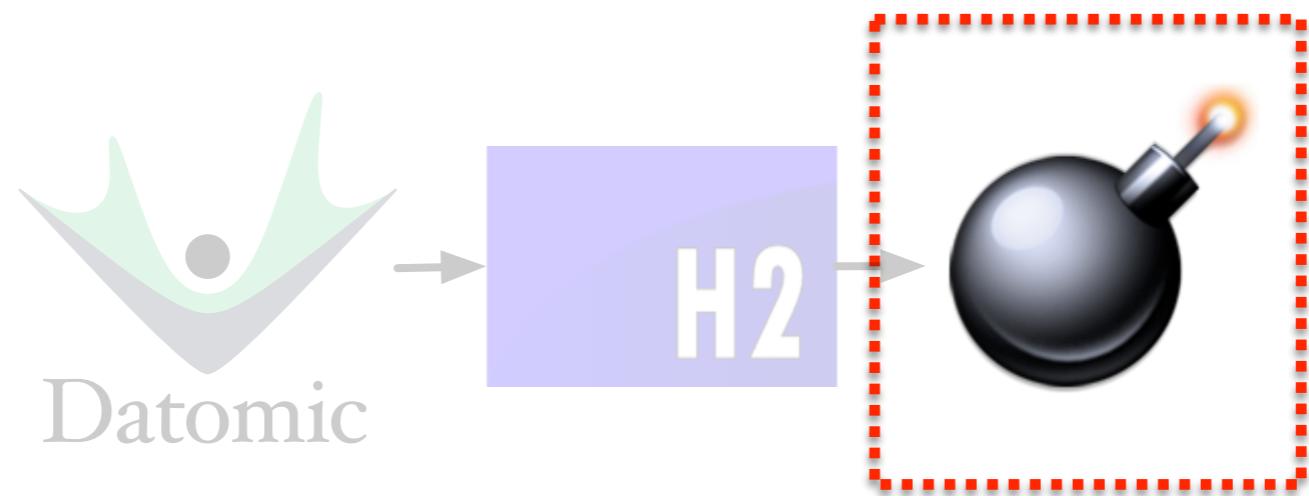
ANDREAS ZELLER  
**WHY PROGRAMS FAIL**  
A GUIDE TO SYSTEMATIC DEBUGGING  
SECOND EDITION



# Planned



# Actual



# What Went Wrong?

code was complected

no problem statement

guesses without method

# Cheatsheet

aim	thought
small	simplicity, generality
miss	evidence
small	scientific method

# Aim Small, Miss Small

Hammock  
Driven  
Development



Talk: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f84n5oFoZBc>

Transcript: [https://github.com/matthiasn/talk-transcripts/blob/master/Hickey\\_Rich/HammockDrivenDev.md](https://github.com/matthiasn/talk-transcripts/blob/master/Hickey_Rich/HammockDrivenDev.md)

# Aim **Small**, Miss Small

## Simple Made Easy



Talk: <https://www.infoq.com/presentations/Simple-Made-Easy>

Transcript: [https://github.com/matthiasn/talk-transcripts/blob/master/Hickey\\_Rich/SimpleMadeEasy.md](https://github.com/matthiasn/talk-transcripts/blob/master/Hickey_Rich/SimpleMadeEasy.md)

# Aim Small, Miss **Small**

## Debugging With The Scientific Method

Talk: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FihU5JxmnBg>

Transcript: [https://github.com/matthiasn/talk-transcripts/blob/master/Halloway\\_Stuart/DebuggingWithTheScientificMethod.md](https://github.com/matthiasn/talk-transcripts/blob/master/Halloway_Stuart/DebuggingWithTheScientificMethod.md)

# Aim Small, Miss Small: Writing Correct Programs

@stuarthalloway

Copyright Stuart Halloway

This presentation is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike 3.0 United States License.  
See <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/us/>