

Stewardship Made Practical

@stuarthalloway

Stewardship

How to Make Software

How to Behave, and Why

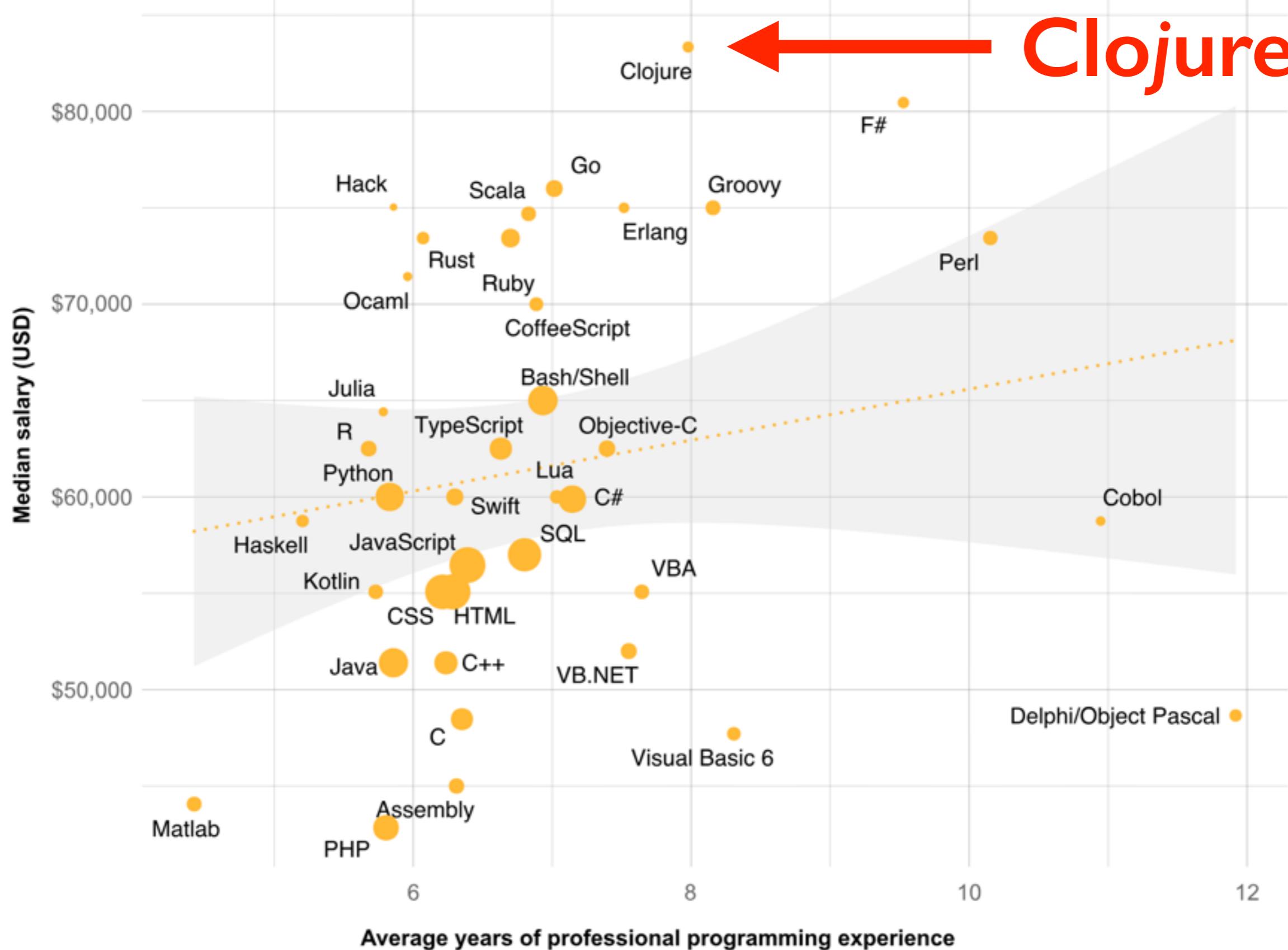
What to Expect

Be Good to Yourself

2005-2007: The Gift of Clojure



Clojure



Number of respondents

10,000

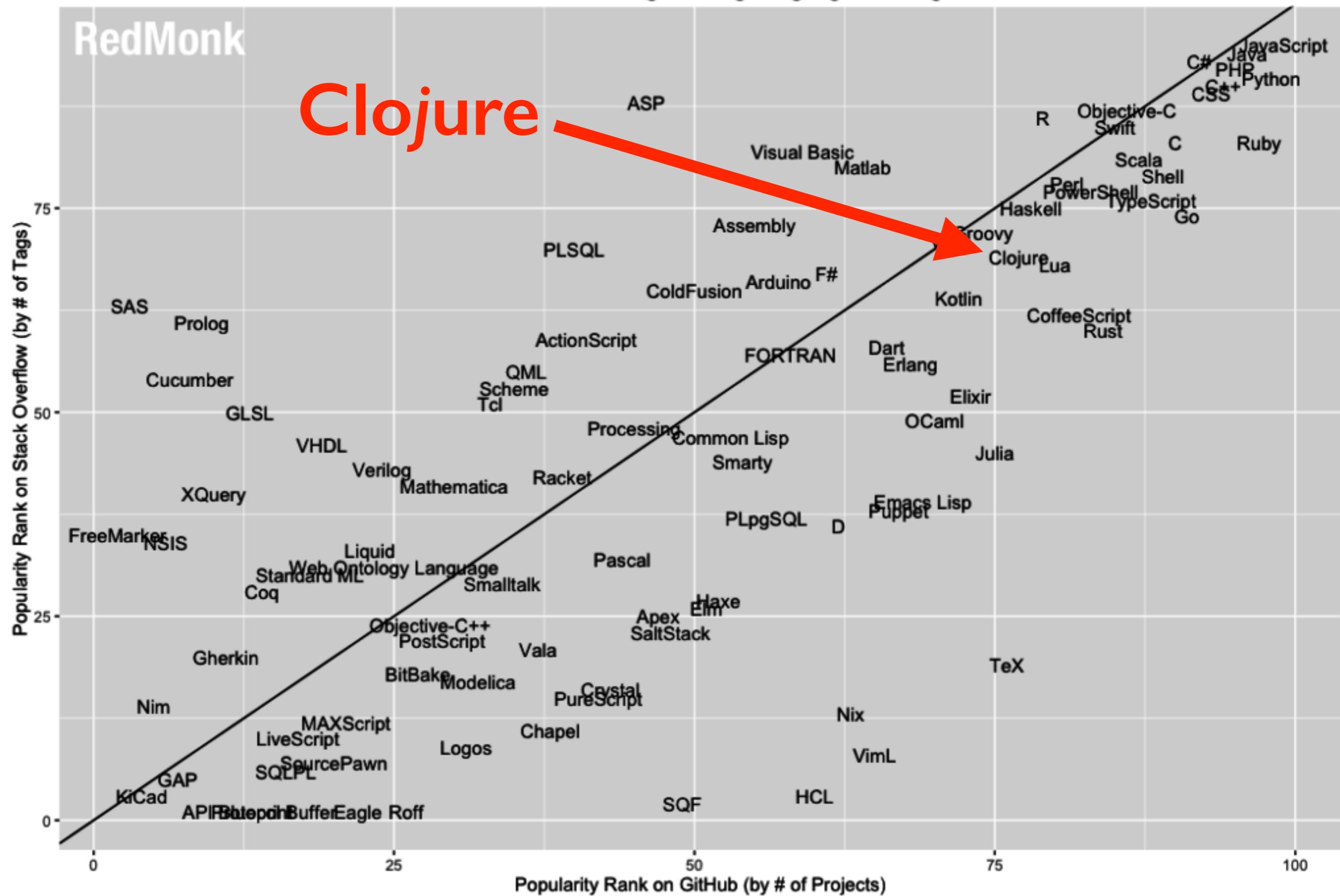
20,000

30,000

RedMonk Q318 Programming Language Rankings

RedMonk

Clojure



Huh?

Dynamic

Functional

Hosted

Lisp

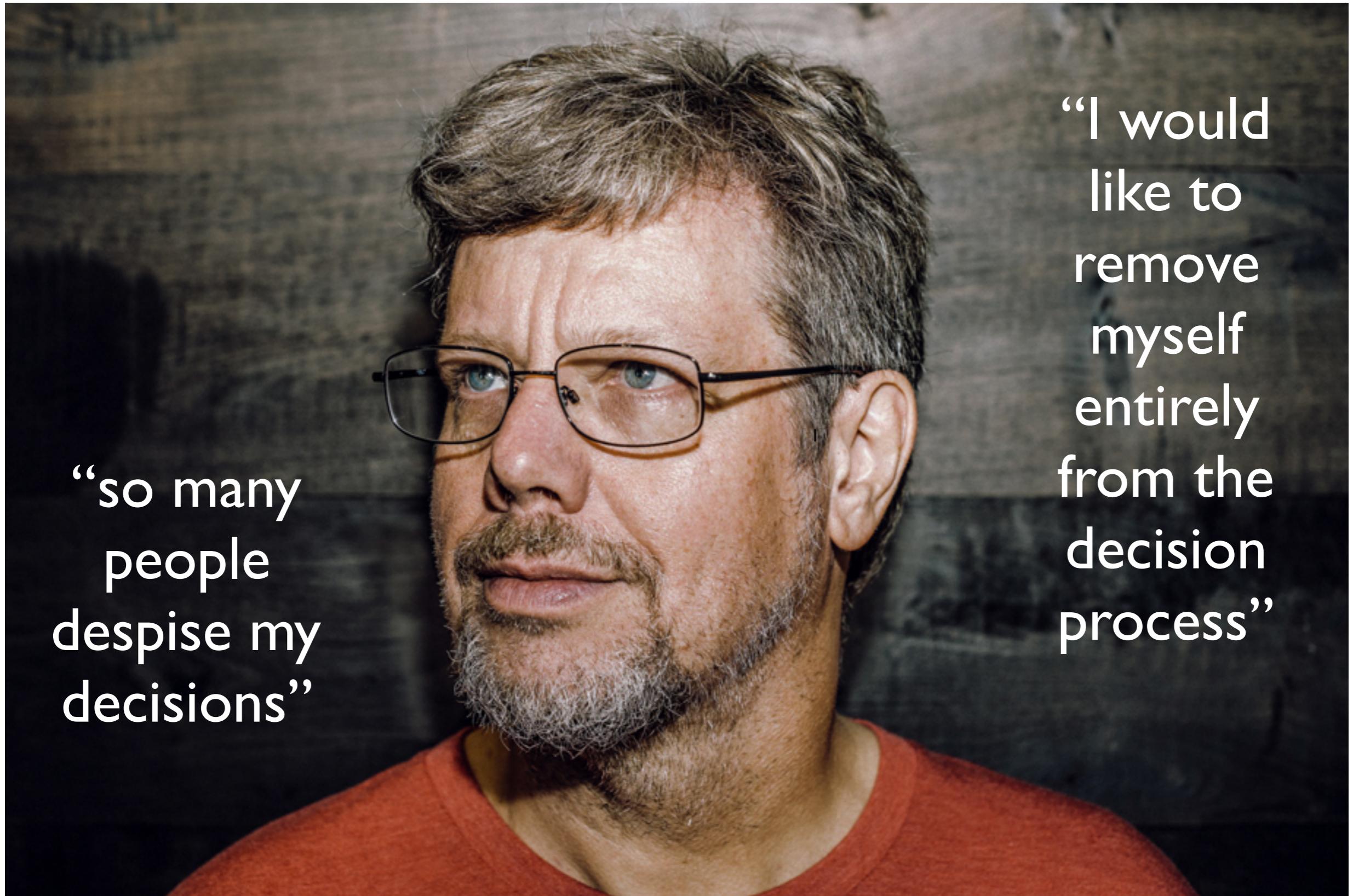


2011: Mailing List Decorum

“Clojure and its communication forums are run by, and for, people who make things.”



2018: Guido Steps Down



“so many
people
despise my
decisions”

“I would
like to
remove
myself
entirely
from the
decision
process”

Stewarding Open Source

maintain balance

stay effective

have fun

practical advice

About Me

30 years programming

Languages: 8086 Assembly, C, C++, Clojure, Java, JavaScript, Ruby, Obj-C, Perl, Python, Smalltalk

Roles: developer, founder, manager, operations, owner, stakeholder, support, tester, trainer

Developer: Clojure, ClojureScript, Datomic

stewardship:

especially, the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care

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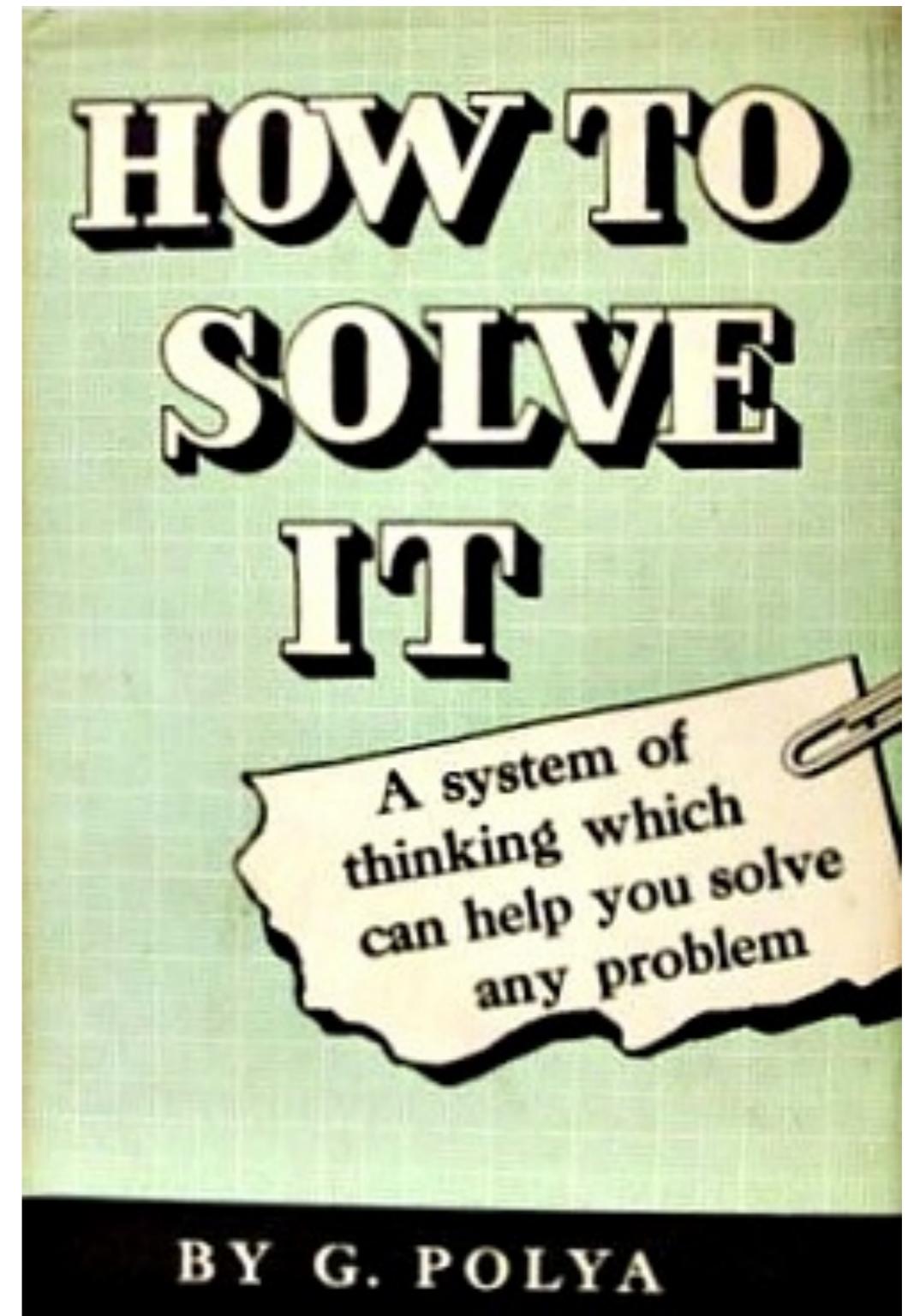
How to Make Software

Design

Growth

Simplicity

Problem Solving is a Skill



Design Artifacts

Notes

Rationales

Tables

Mixed Pictures

Notes Example: CLJ-2373

Problems

Principles

Proposal

Discussion

Status

Growth

Accretion (provide more)

Relaxation (require less)

Fixation (bash bugs)

Semantic Versioning
is Completely Broken

“semantic” version	api call	expectation
my/foo 1.0.0	(my/foo 1 2)	foo
my/foo 1.1.0	(my/foo 1 2)	foo
my/foo 2.0.0	(my/foo 1 2)	boom! or ok or ???

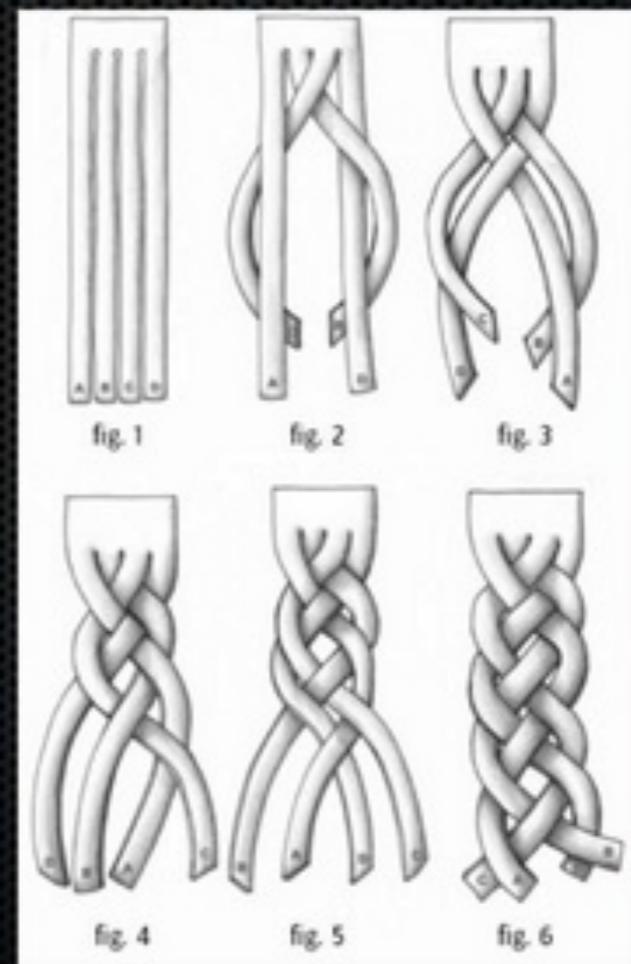
Choose a New Name

api call	expectation
(my/foo 1 2)	foo
(my/foo 1 2)	foo
(my/foo2 1 2)	foo2
(my2/foo 1 2)	my2 foo

The Opposite of Simple

Complect

- To interleave, entwine, braid
 - archaic
- Don't do it!
 - Complecting things is the source of complexity
 - Best to avoid in the first place



Simplifying Polymorphism

language	interface	impl	extension
Java	interface definition	class definition	class definition
Clojure	protocol	type	extend

Extension After the Fact

```
(extend-protocol Diff
  java.util.List
  (diff-similar [a b]
    (diff-sequential a b))

  java.util.Map
  (diff-similar [a b]
    (diff-associative a b
      (set/union (keys a) (keys b)))))

  java.util.Set
  ;; etc.
)
```

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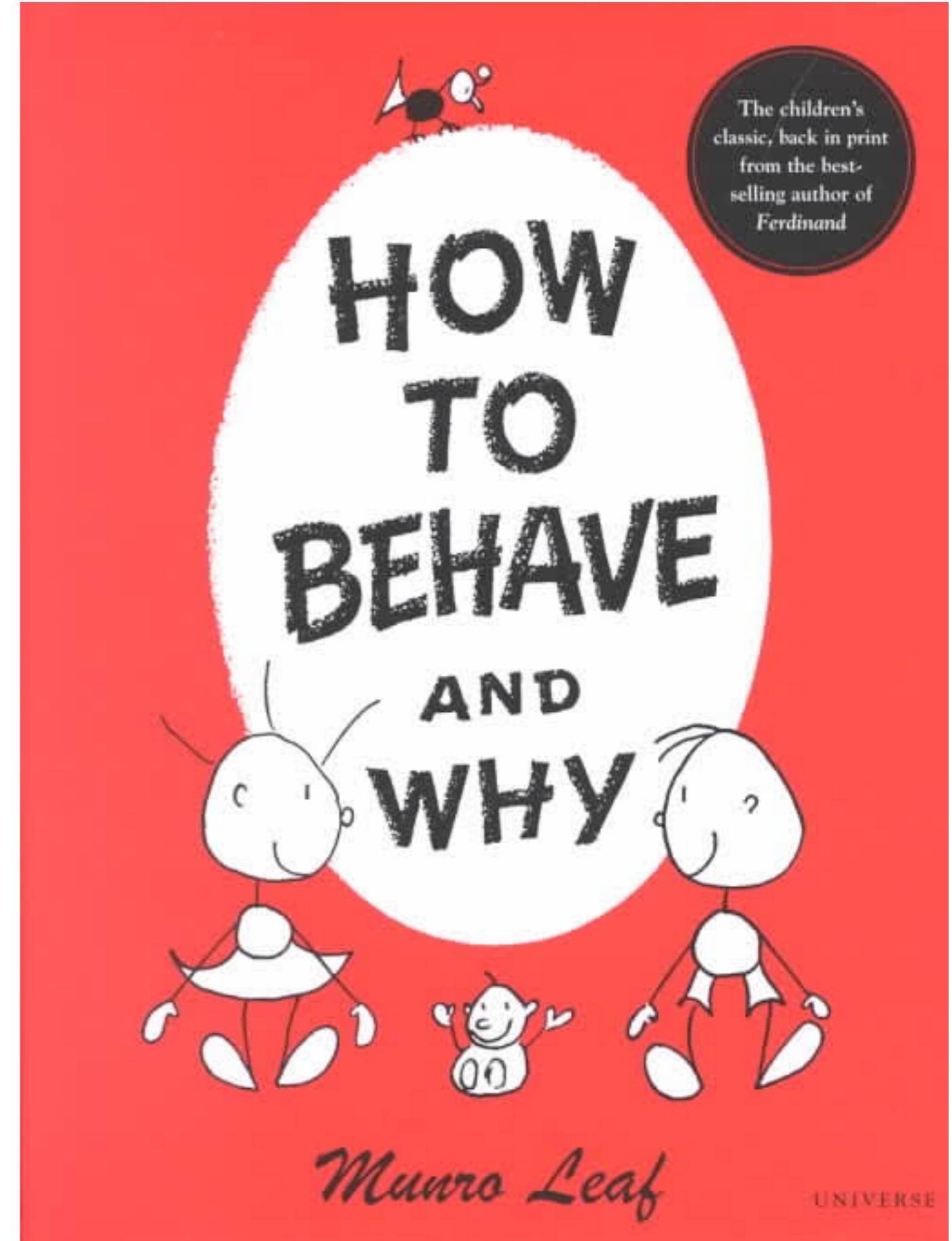
Be Good to Yourself

Honesty

Fairness

Strength

Wisdom



How to Behave, and Why

Respect the Process

When to Advocate

Disagree with Civility

Respect the Process

“I made something”

“I am trying to use something and need help”

“I am trying to make something”

“I can help!”

Respect Makers

Get Up to Speed

Learn the Norms

Questions Before Suggestions

When to Advocate?

“You should make something”

“You should work differently”

“You should help me”

Never

~~“You should make something”~~

~~“You should work differently”~~

~~“You should help me”~~

Disagree with Civility

Keep it short

Stick to facts

Use logic

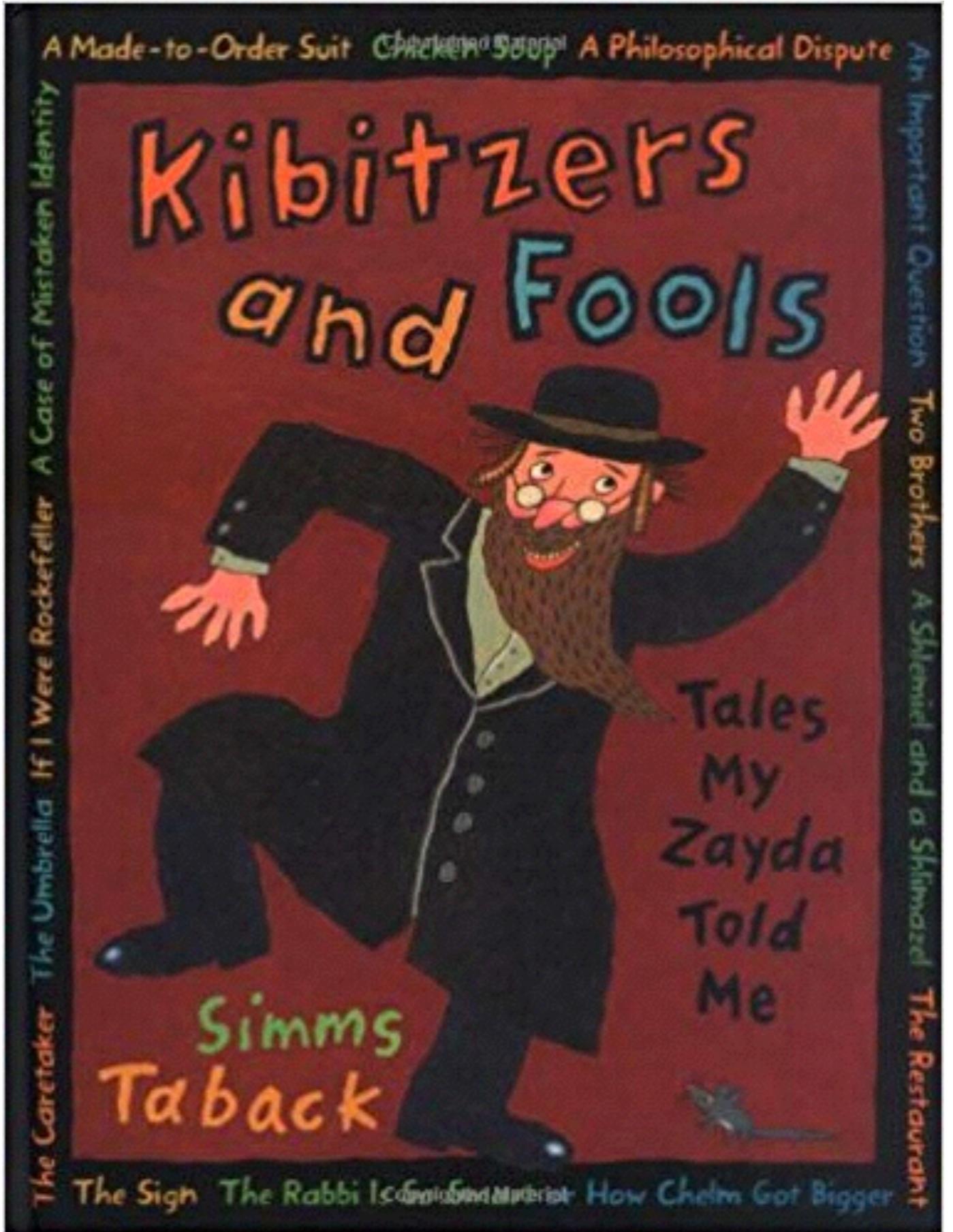
Stewardship

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Be Good to Yourself



**FRESH FISH SOLD
HERE DAILY**

**FISH SOLD
HERE DAILY**

FISH HERE DAILY

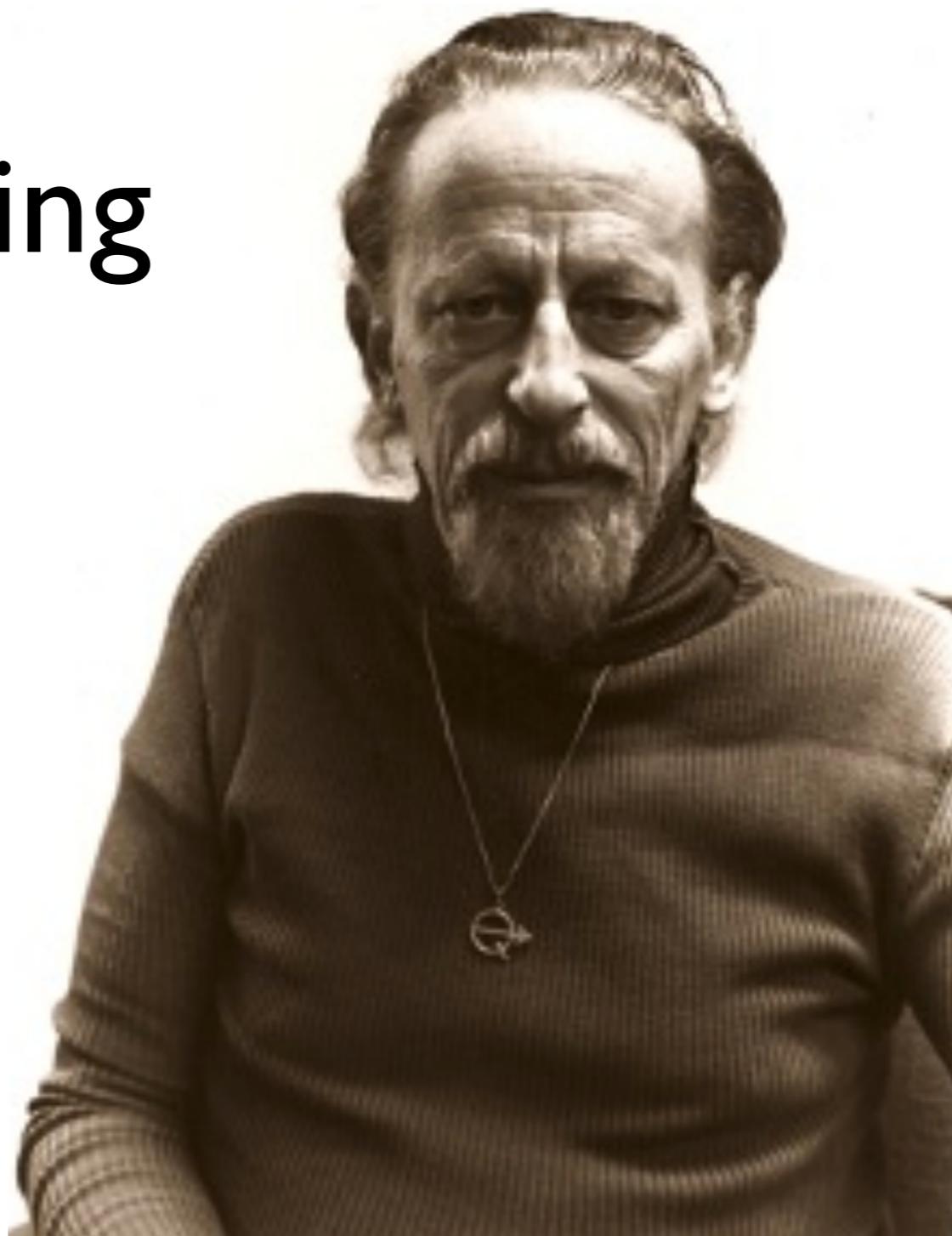
FISH HERE

FISH

“You should have a sign!”

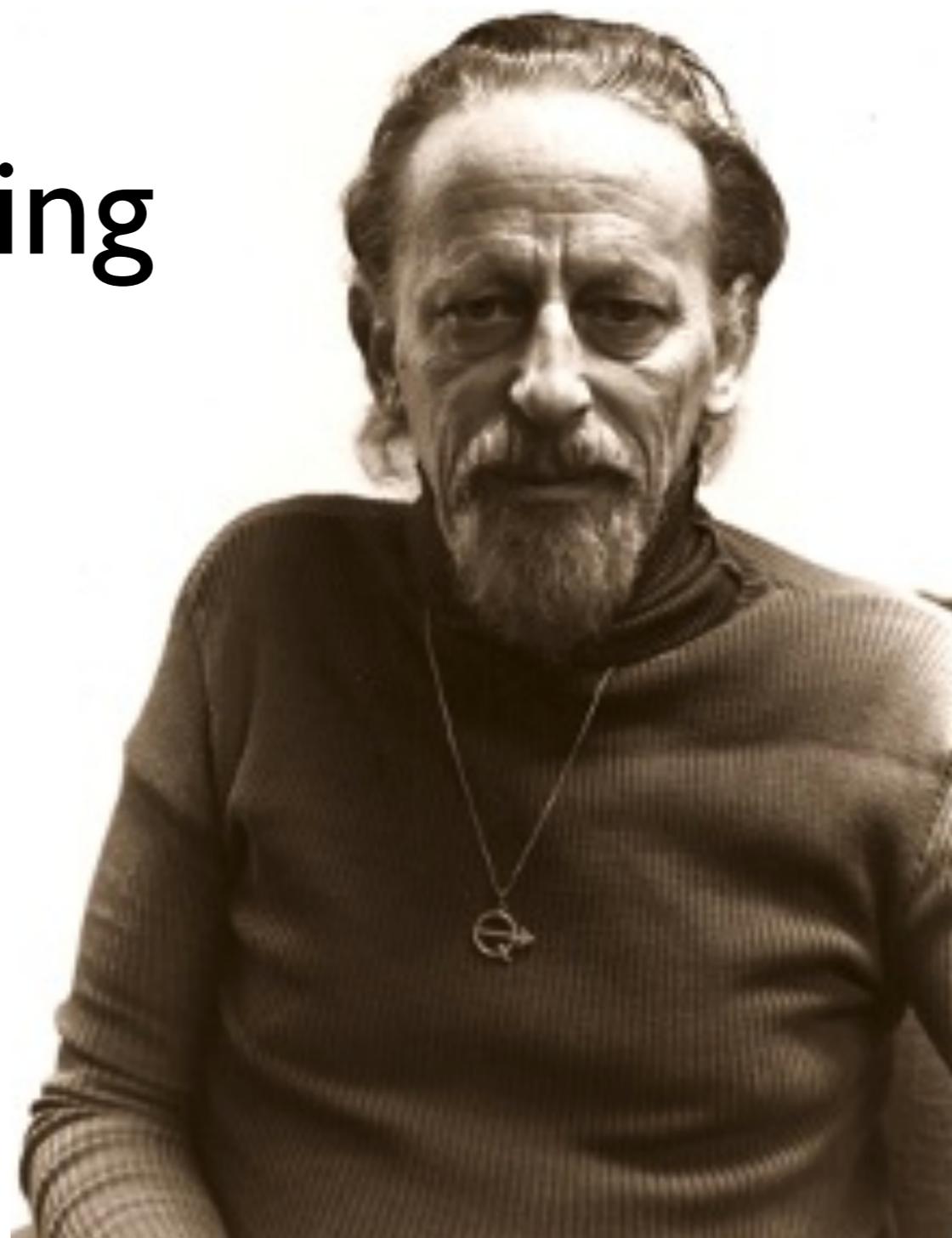
1958: Sturgeon's Law

“90% of everything
is crap”



Sturgeon's Law Revelation

“90% of everything
is crap”

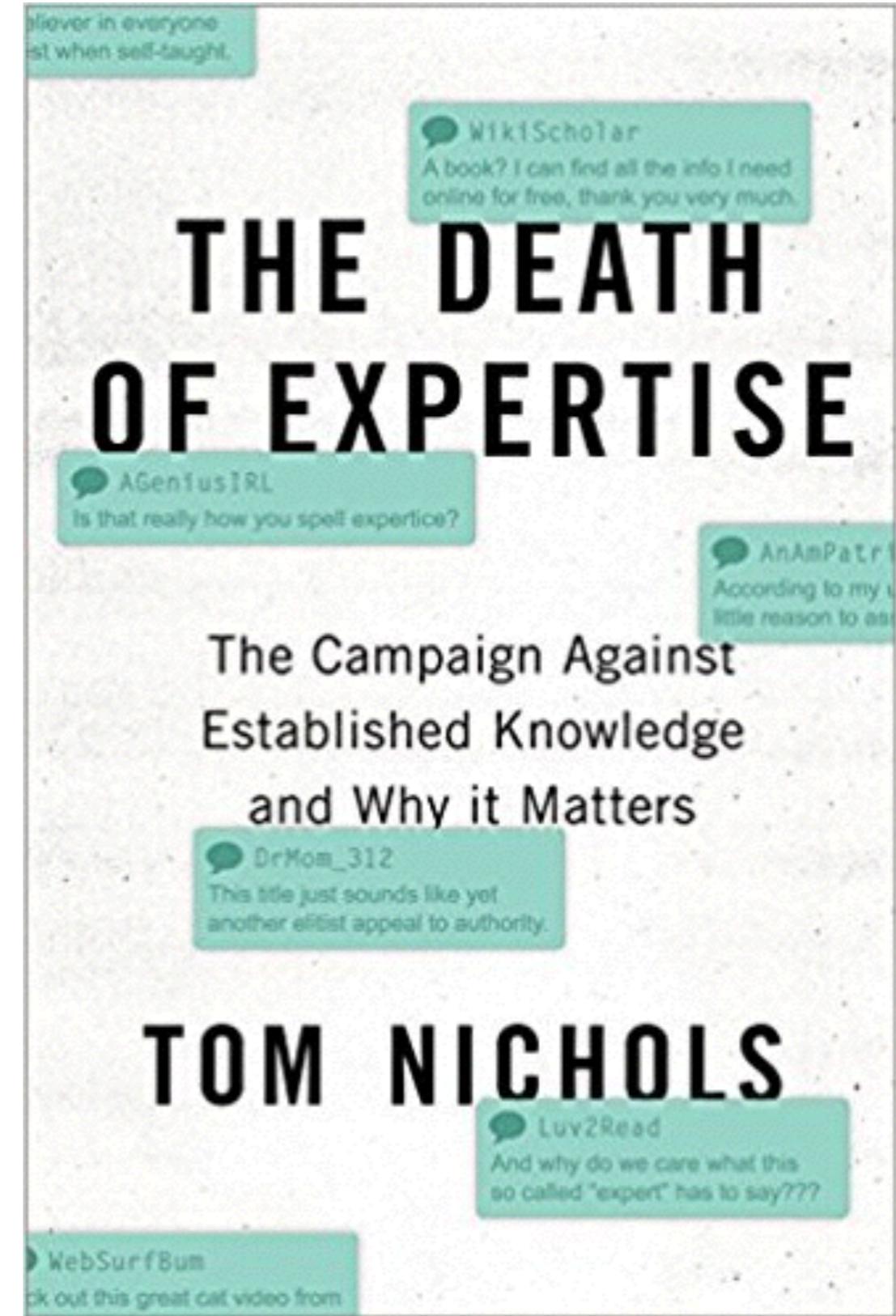


Next Up: Amusing
Examples of People
Being Mean and Stupid
in Open Source

“It’s funny because I don’t know him”



“Refuting a
dumb idea
requires
repeating it
at least
once.”



If you are doing
something right, a bunch
of people are going to
think you are wrong.

Needed: More Public-Spirited Pigs

G.C.Faber, Chairman C.W.Stewart R.H.L.de la Mare Morley Kennerley (U.S.A.) T.S.Eliot W.J.Crawley

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FABBAF, WESTCENT, LONDON
MUSEUM 9543 (4 lines)
24 Russell Square London WC1

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13 July 1944.

George Orwell Esqre.,
10 a, Mortimer Crescent,
London N.W.6.

Dear Orwell,

I know that you wanted a quick decision about "Animal Farm": but the minimum is two directors' opinions, and that can't be done under a week. But for the importance of speed, I should have asked the Chairman to look at it as well. But the other director is in agreement with me on the main points. We agree that it is a distinguished piece of writing; that the fable is very skilfully handled, and that the narrative keeps one's interest on its own plane - and that is something very few authors have achieved since Gulliver.

On the other hand, we have no conviction (and I am sure none of the other directors would have) that this is the right point of view from which to criticise the political situation at the present time. It is certainly the duty of any publishing firm which pretends to other interests and motives than mere commercial prosperity, to publish books which go against the current of the moment: but in each instance that demands that at least one member of the firm should have the conviction that this is the thing that needs saying at the moment. I can't see any reason of prudence or caution to prevent anybody from publishing this book - if he believed in what it stands for.

Now I think my own dissatisfaction with this apologue is that the effect is simply one of negation. It ought to excite some sympathy ~~what~~ what the author wants, as well as sympathy with his objections to something: and the positive

point of view, which I take to be generally Trotskyite, is not convincing. I think you split your vote, without getting any compensating stronger adhesion from either party - i.e. those who criticise Russian tendencies from the point of view of a purer communism, and those who, from a very different point of view, are alarmed about the future of small nations. And after all, your pigs are far more intelligent than the other animals, and therefore the best qualified to run the farm - in fact, there couldn't have been an Animal Farm at all without them: so that what was needed, (someone might argue), was not more communism but more public-spirited pigs.

I am very sorry, because whoever publishes this, will naturally have the opportunity of publishing your future work: and I have a regard for your work, because it is good writing of fundamental integrity.

Miss Sheldon will be sending you the script under separate cover.

Yours sincerely,

T.S. Eliot

GEORGE ORWELL
ARCHIVE | UNIV.
COLLEGE LONDON

Rhetoric

“Why don’t you just...”

“The community needs...”

“Look at all the benefits!!” (without costs)

“My project needs your blessing to succeed”

“Don’t make a better X, you will hurt X’s feelings”

“You should run your project differently”

Misconceptions

Most ideas are novel

Coding is most of the work

Answering is as easy as asking

Reality

Other people thought longer and harder than you did

Design dominates coding

Code without design can be worse than nothing

Assessment is time consuming

Answering questions is time consuming

“5 Minutes to Ask, Two Pages of Careful Writing to Answer”



Pattern

“Why don’t you just ...”

copy the JS API directly?
release 0.18.1 now instead?
derive JSON decoders?

It is more complex than it sounds.

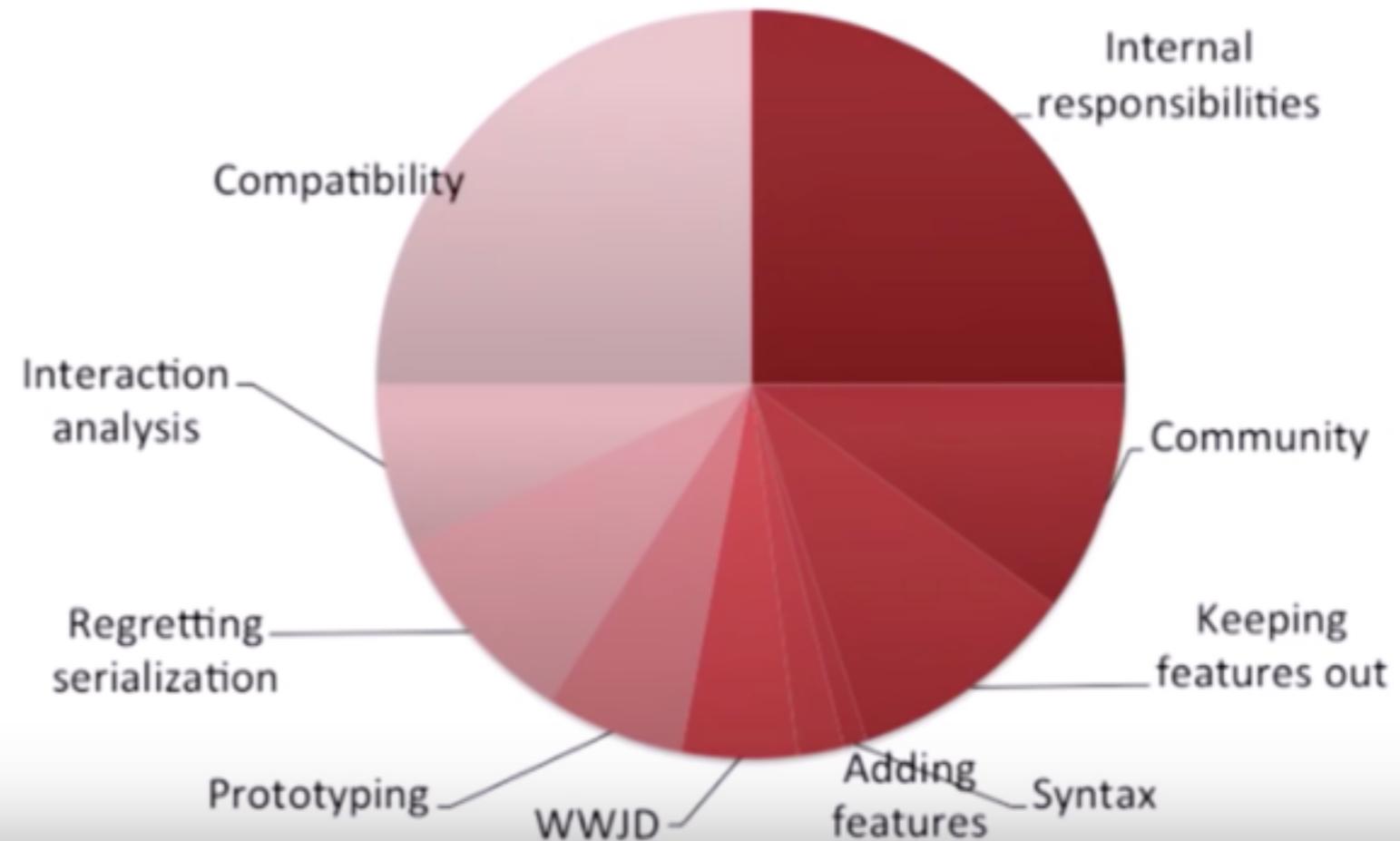
A slide from a presentation. It features a dark blue header with the word "Pattern" in white. Below the header is a large white text box containing the quote "“Why don’t you just ...”". To the right of the quote is a column of three questions in a smaller white font: "copy the JS API directly?", "release 0.18.1 now instead?", and "derive JSON decoders?". At the bottom right of the slide is the text "It is more complex than it sounds.".

Sept 27-28, 2018
thestrangeloop.com

Stewardship: The Sobering Parts



What it feels like I do



“The consequences of even a small change are surprisingly expensive to estimate.”

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What to Expect

Be Good to Yourself

Be Good to Yourself

Choose Your Objectives

Choose Your Obligations

Choose Your Interactions

Choose Your Obligations

Building software

Answering questions

Considering contributions

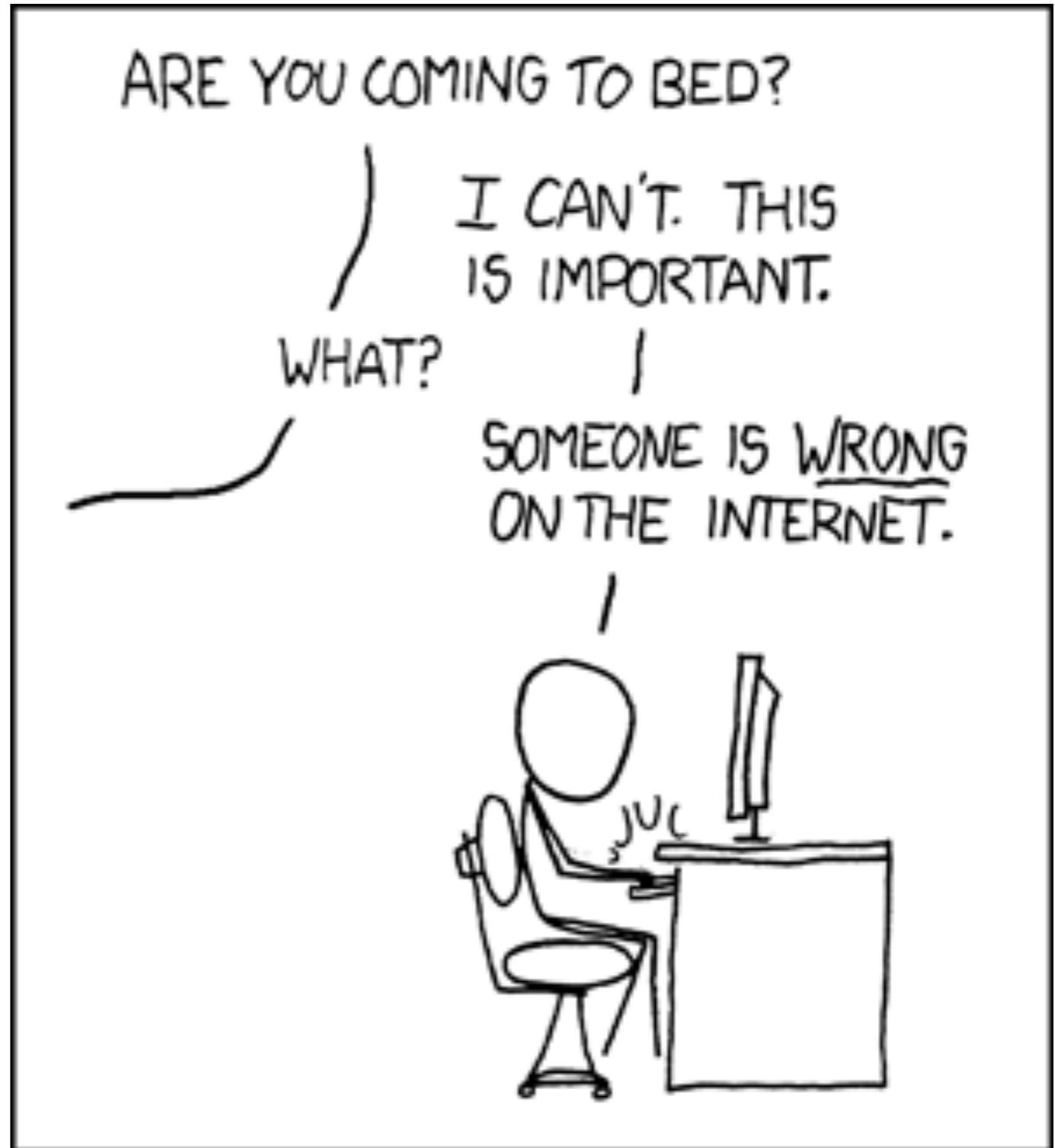
Evangelism

Personal workflow

Time and availability

Defending your choices on social media (?)

Choose Your Interactions



Deconstructing Arguments

Remove the two demoralizing fallacies

argument from authority

ambiguous collective

Rephrase to active voice

Make actors and obligations explicit

Rephrase to measurable verbs

What do creators owe
communities?

The Most Dangerous Word

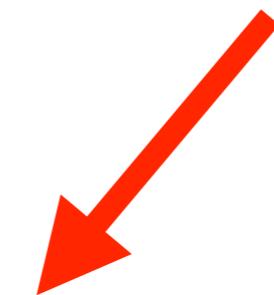
What do creators owe
communities?



**argument from
authority**

**ambiguous
collective**

unambiguous



What do I owe the
Clojure community?



less ambiguous

What do I owe
Clojure contributors?



even less ambiguous

I Choose To

think carefully and deeply about problems

give away software that may be of value to others

work with others who share a set of social norms

teach and learn

at a tempo that is compatible with the rest of my life

What Else You Can Expect

A global network of friends

Shared accomplishment

Personal and intellectual growth

A sense of community, even family

Everyday Kindness



russolsen commented on Dec 20, 2016

Contributor



...

As I read through the genserver getting started guide I found myself mentally editing and rearranging the prose a little bit. In particular, as a complete beginner, I was confused as to why the create operation was implemented as a cast, only to discovered towards the bottom of the document that it was only for illustrative purposes.

In any case, here are my suggestions.

• • •



josevalim commented on Dec 23, 2016

Member



...

Thank you @russolsen! I will merge this as is and settle on framework or abstraction or none after merging. ❤️ 💚 💙 💛 💜

I wanted to drop you a quick note to tell you how much I appreciated, enjoyed and loved hearing you ... today. I thought it was absolutely fantastic hearing about all the amazing work that went into Clojure 1.10, and how it came to be. Kudos to you and the team!

...

Clojure has reintroduced the joy of programming to me. I have never had as much fun building things, and I'm amazed at how the code I write no longer topples over like a house of cards. Clojure is truly a better tool to think with.

...

Keep up the amazing work!

— @RealGeneKim

The
DevOps
Handbook

HOW TO CREATE WORLD-CLASS
AGILITY, RELIABILITY, & SECURITY
IN TECHNOLOGY ORGANIZATIONS



GENE KIM,
JEZ HUMBLE,
PATRICK DEBOIS,
& JOHN WILLIS

FOREWORD BY JOHN ALLSPAW

how to make
software

design
growth
simplicity

how to behave
and why

respect the process
know when to advocate
disagree with civility

what to expect

opposition
rhetoric
misconception

be good
to yourself

choose your objectives
choose your obligations
choose your interactions

Stewardship Made Practical

@stuarthalloway