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# Towards Cloud-centric Development

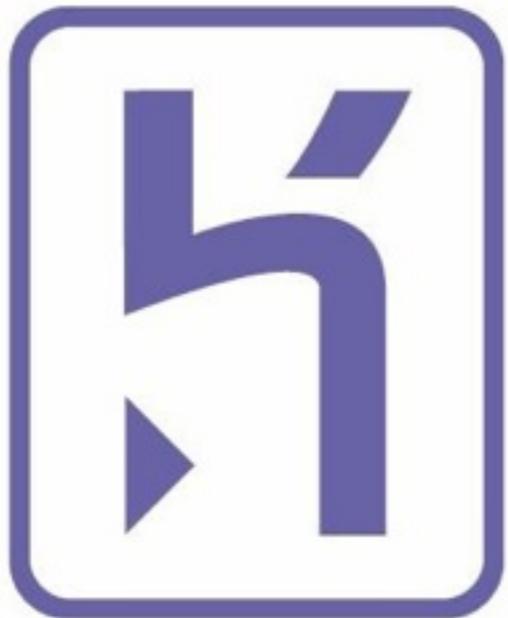
What if we stopped treating the cloud like traditional servers?

Peter van Hardenberg  
**@pvh**

“If I asked the people what they wanted...



...they would have told me **faster horses.**”



heroku

platform-as-a-service  
a machine for turning code into useful applications

I DON'T ALWAYS TEST MY  
CODE



BUT WHEN I DO I DO IT IN  
PRODUCTION

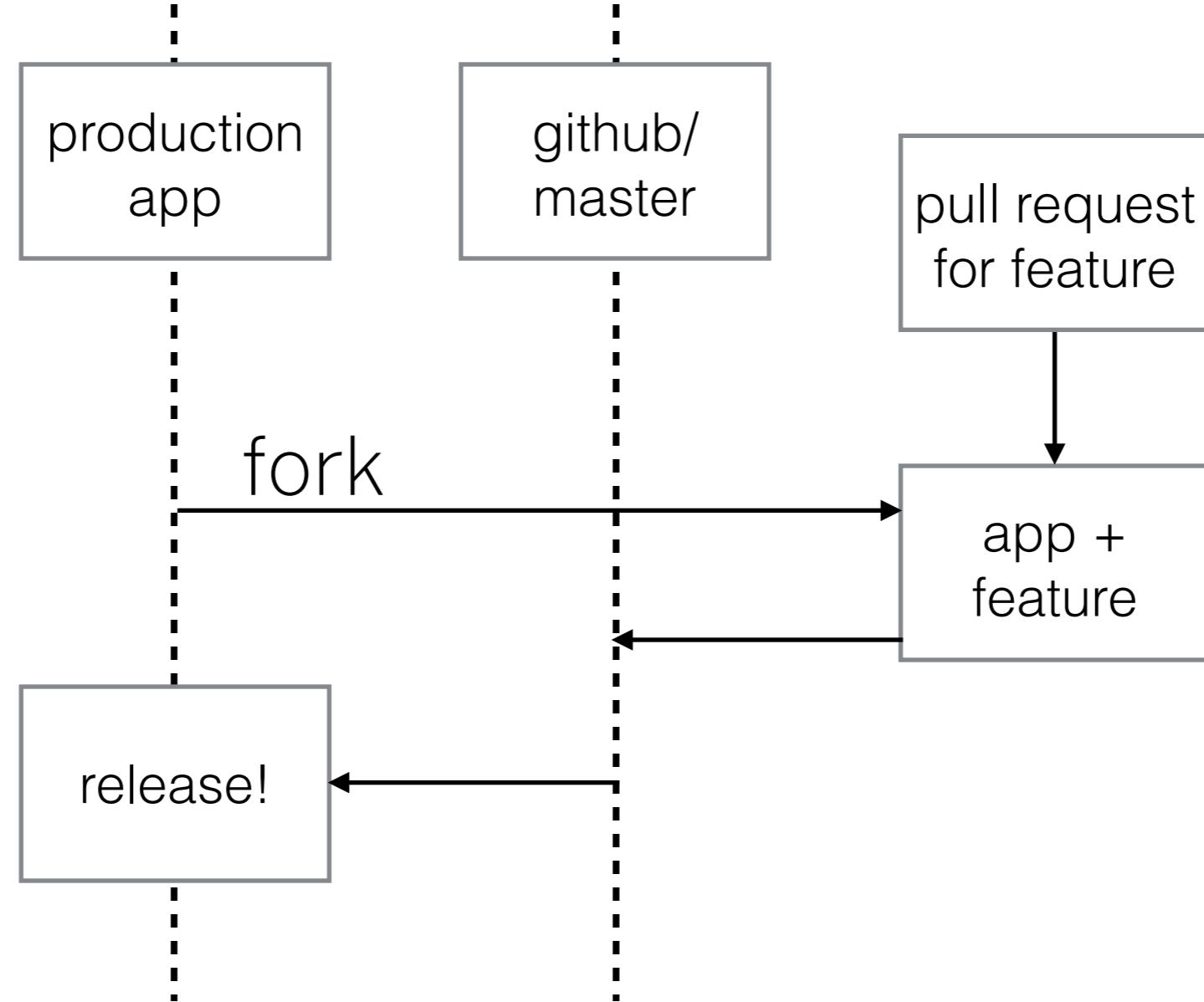
# Production on Demand



“test your GitHub PRs against a fork of your Heroku app”

— RainforestQA





What if you could automatically test in production?

# Pre-abstracted

- Provision servers
- Design release process
- Develop monitoring capabilities
- Perform capacity management / scale projection
- Substantial per-app cost
- **Conclusion:** reduce cost by reusing architecture

# Abstracted

- `git push heroku master`
- significant reduction in day-to-day operations
- **Conclusion:** dev & production costs are reduced

# Post-abstracted

- Individual applications approach zero overhead
- Microservice architectures become feasible
- Clone whole running applications!
- **Conclusion:** decompose application architecture



Microservices  
love  
PaaS.



postgression

<http://www.postgression.com/>



# stateless databases

for every test run... or whatever

# Databases on Demand

# Un-abstracted

- Predict required scale up-front
- Managed by in-house specialist
- Notoriously fragile
- Precious snowflake

# Abstracted

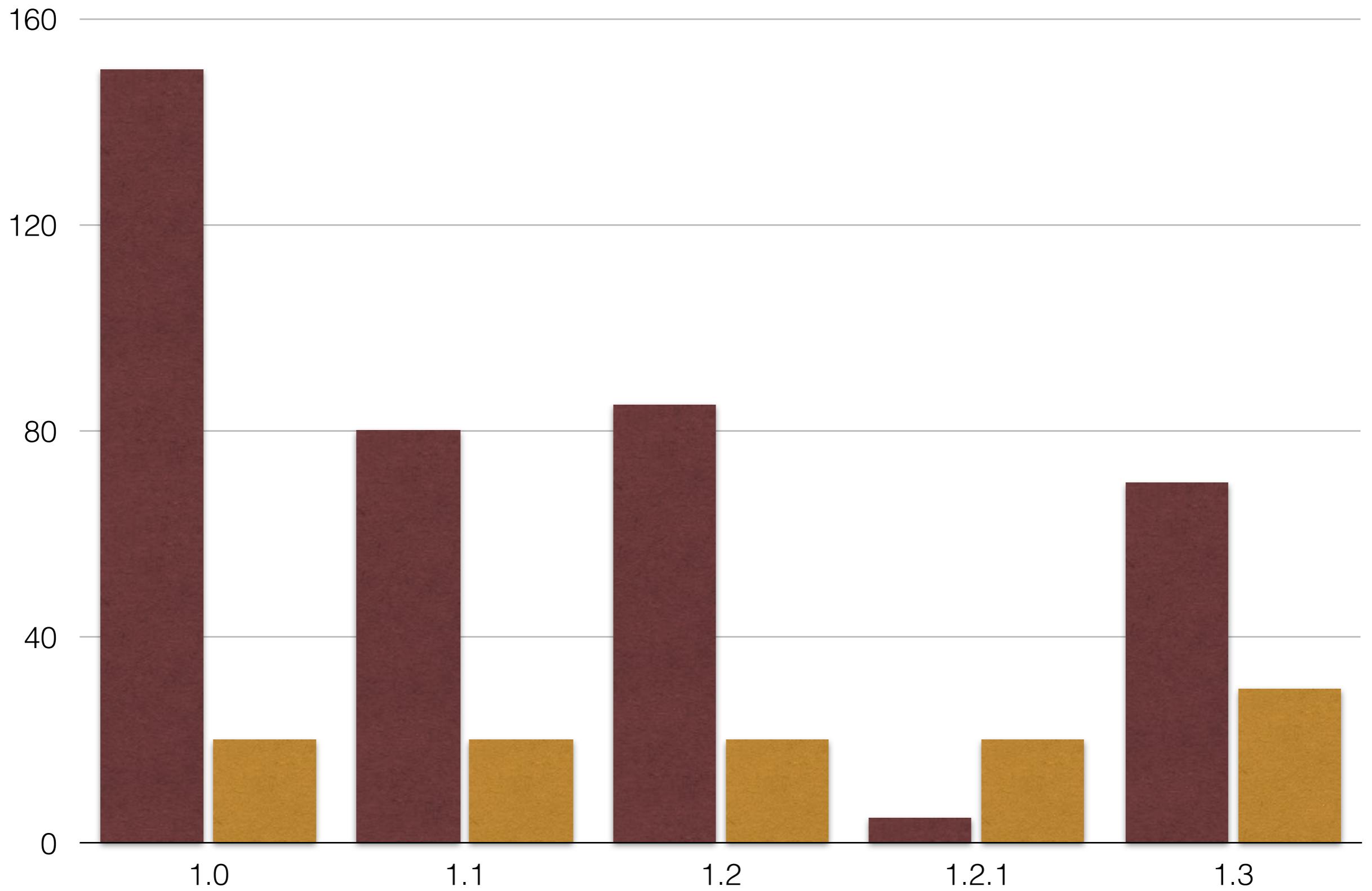
- Managed database on demand
- Take advantage of provider experience
- In-house data gurus focus on application
- Developers have parity with production

# Post-abstracted

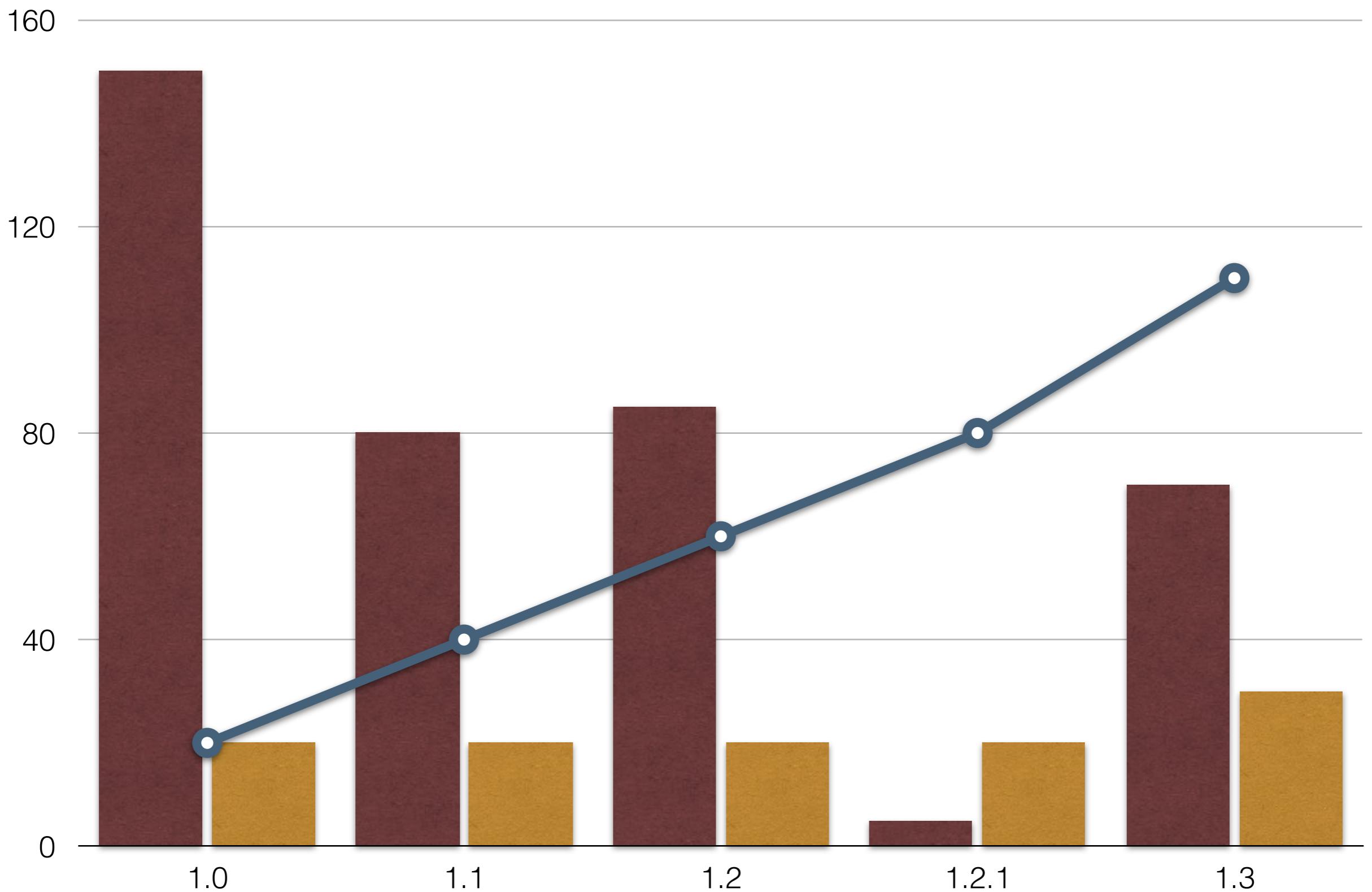
- Separate databases for separate concerns
- Respond to scale as it happens
- Take easy advantage of sophisticated infrastructure
- Clone production to test migrations
- Replicas for reporting
- Disposable databases for testing in parallel



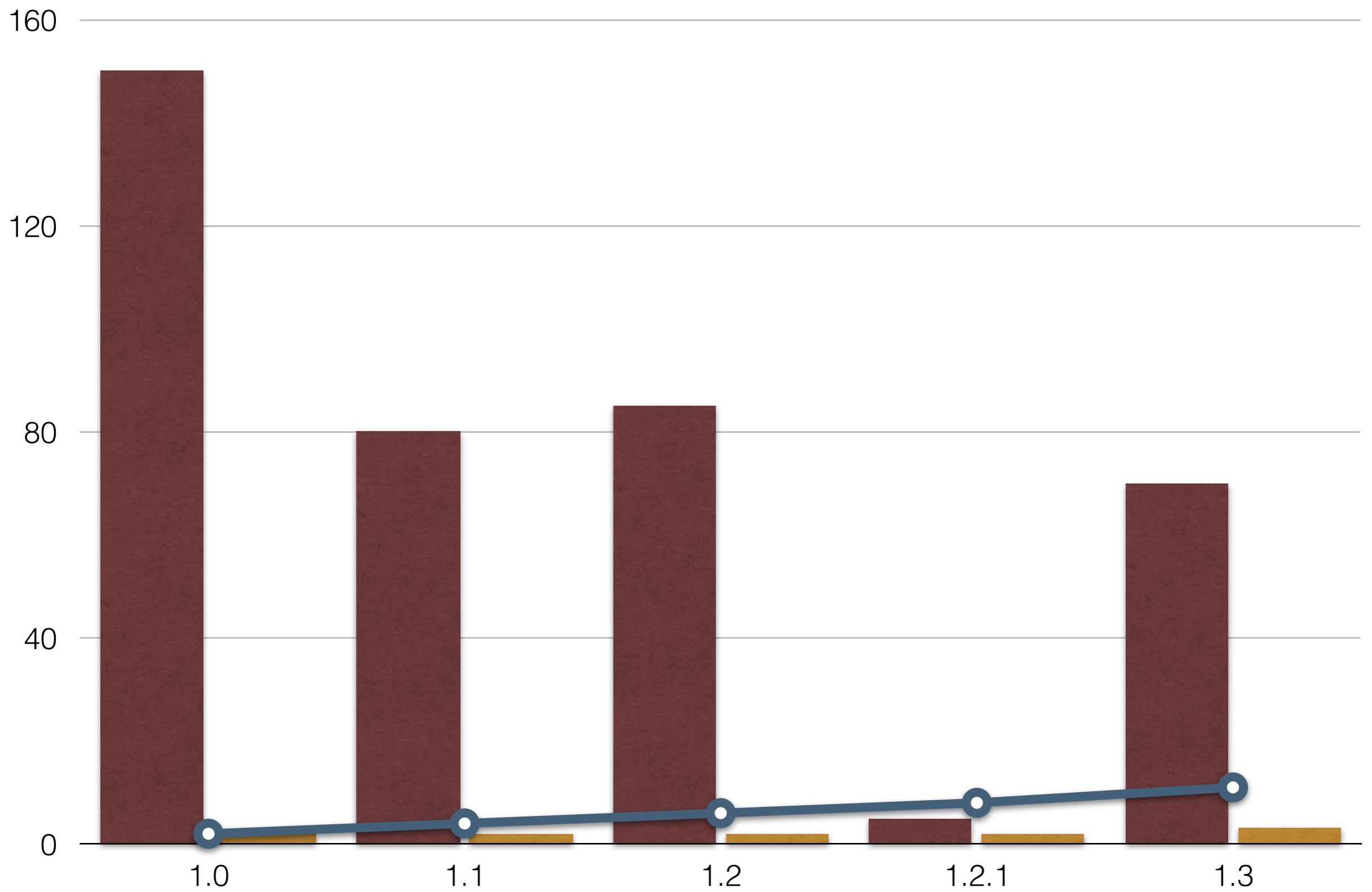
The hidden  
cost of releasing  
software



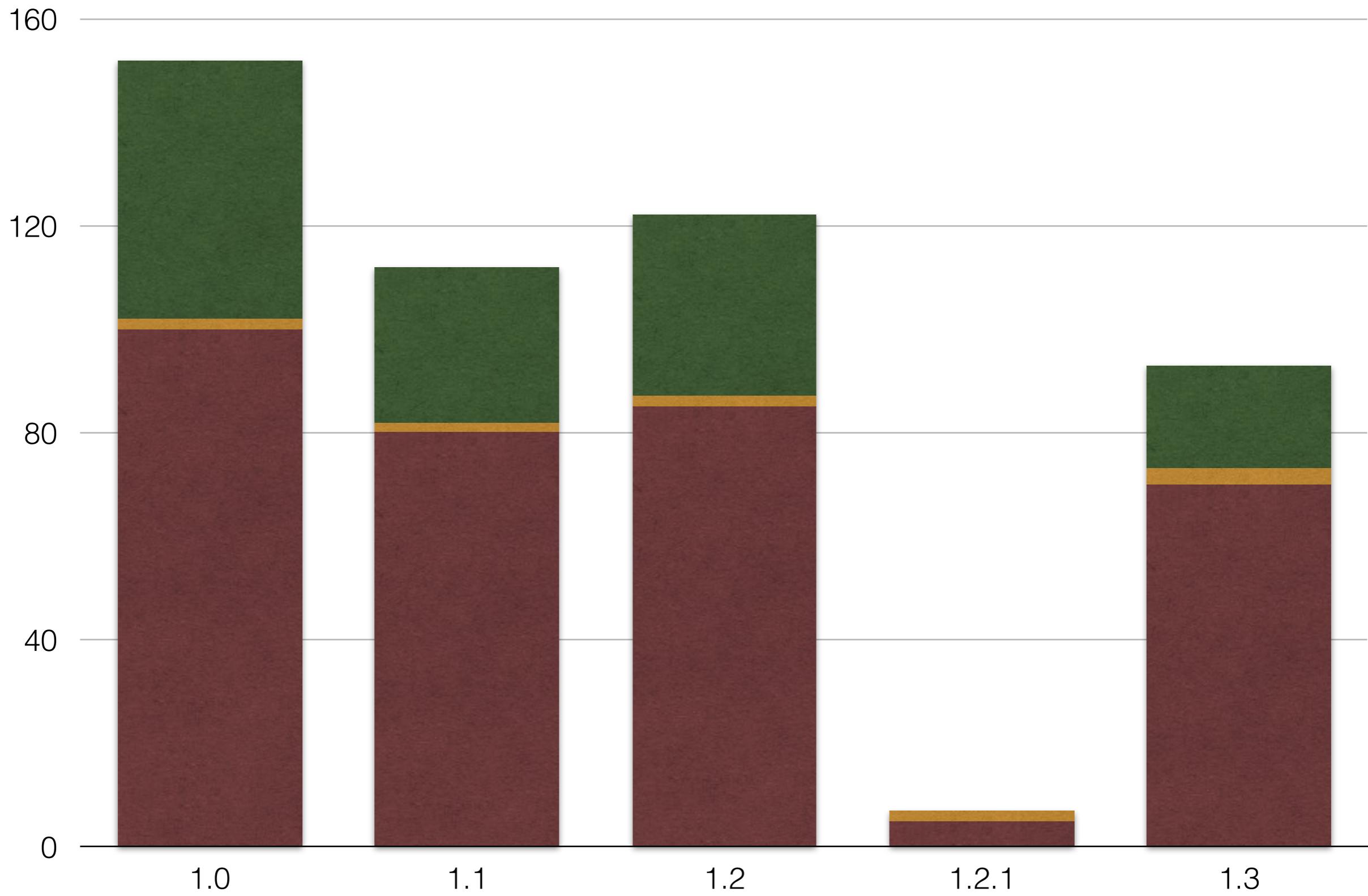
# Big Releases



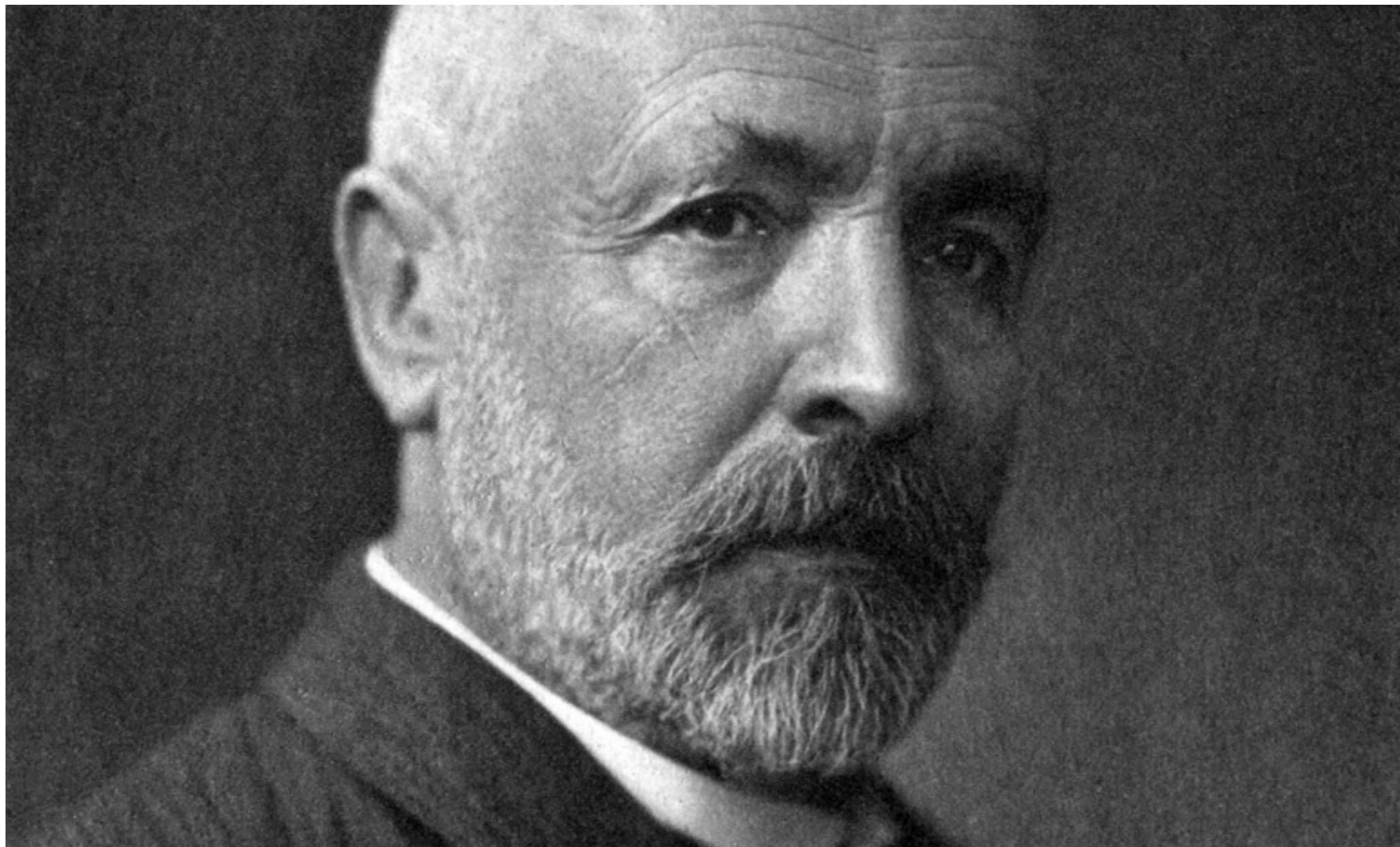
# Big Releases



# Big Releases



# Hidden Integration Costs



let's get mathematical  
(I apologize to any actual mathematicians in the room.)

$$V = nF + n^2l + R$$

Cost of Releasing a Version

F: cost per feature

l: integration coefficient

R: cost to release

$$S = \sum_t (nF + n^2l + R)$$

Total Cost of Software

$$\lim_{R\rightarrow 0}(S)$$

$$R > 0 : n > 1$$
$$R = 0 : n = 1$$

reduced release overhead  
makes small releases more efficient

# Operational Overhead

- Certification processes
- Database migrations
- Branch merges
- Infrastructure changes
- Integration of new technologies

# Costs of Change

- Big changes are riskier than small changes.
- Inexpensive releases enable smaller changes.
- Smaller changes are less expensive overall.



“Hello, IT.”

“Have you tried completely destroying the computer and replacing it with one that isn’t broken?”



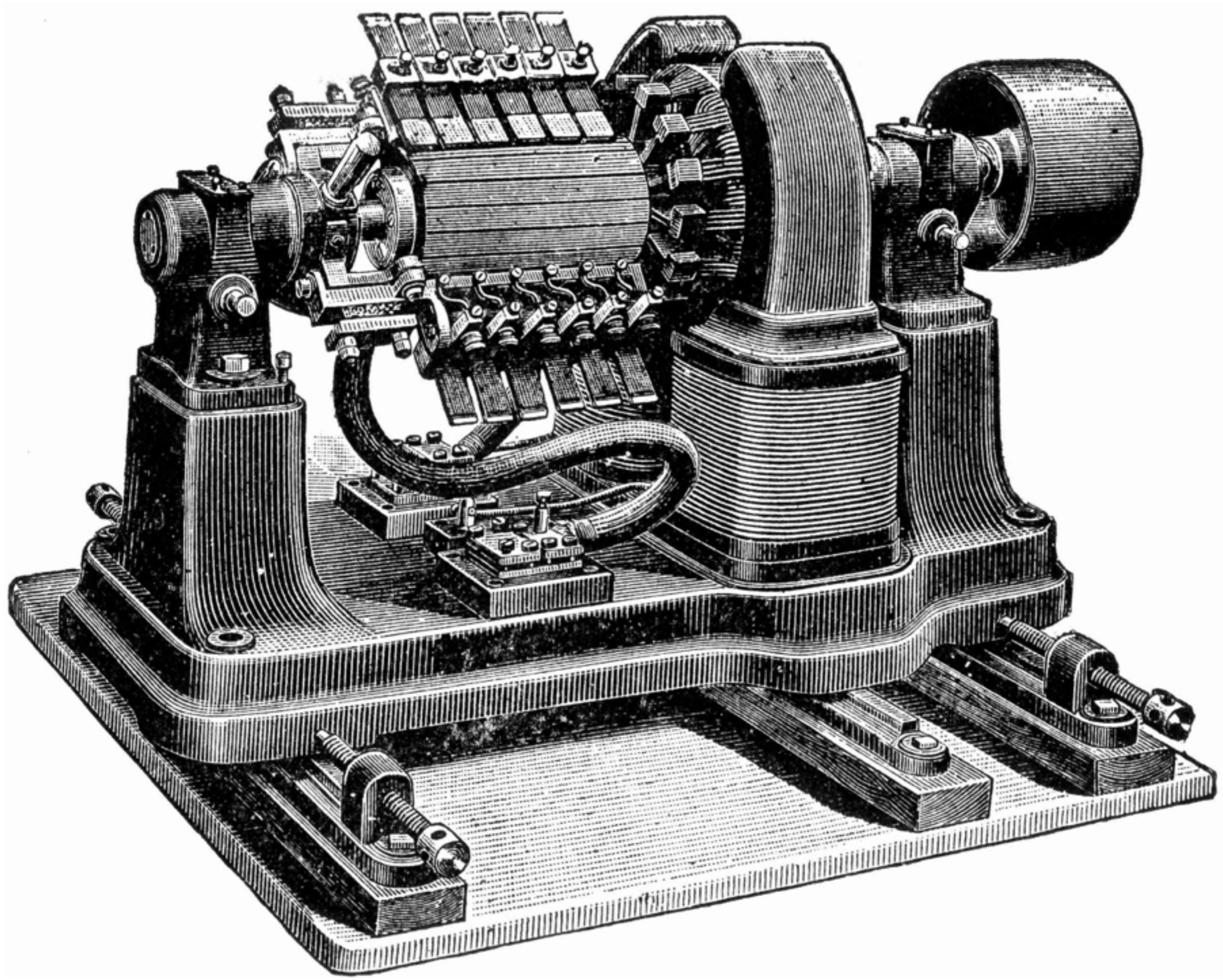
heroku

don't fix servers  
they're free, remember?

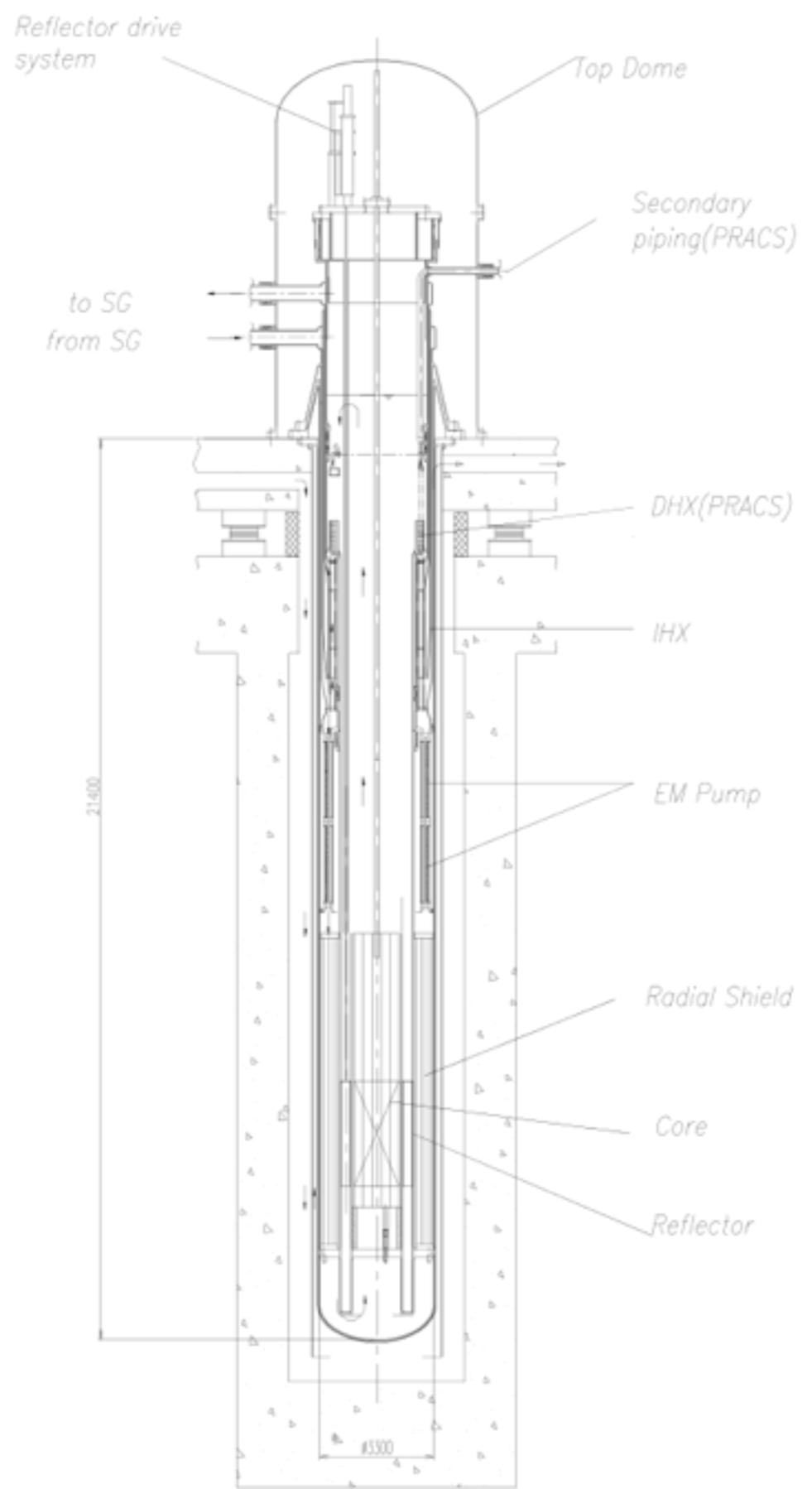


Treat your servers  
like cattle,  
not pets.

# Why Consume Cloud Services?







Heroku Postgres deals  
with once-per **decade**  
bugs **daily.**

Who has to fix it when  
your database  
develops corruption?

Amazon has  
**hundreds of thousands**  
of servers.

Who on your team is  
going to sleep at the  
co-lo?

Service-based  
businesses get paid  
when you are **happy**.

Consulting  
businesses get paid  
when you are **sad.**

Great services, like great consultancies, focus on making your project successful.

# Opportunities

Things I'm surprised nobody has done yet.

# programming environments as a service

setting up & maintaining laptop dev/staging/prod environments is the absolute worst and totally error prone

# release orchestration

automating code hosting, CI, paas & monitoring  
the pieces are all there!

# continuous disintegration

rollbacks as a service

# circuit breakers as a service

better failure modes for microservices  
(because nobody anywhere ever gets this right)



# Play along in the audience

Think of something horrible about development.  
What if it went away? What new things could you do?

# Conclusions

in which we reiterate our argument

Technology on-demand  
creates new opportunity.

Early usage just does  
**the old job better.**

Real breakthroughs  
happen when we step  
back and ask:

**“What next?”**

*fin*

questions?

@pvh

Please evaluate  
this talk via the  
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