

A tale of two packages

beamer and biblatex

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People move on ...

`beamer` Till Tantau is focussed on *TikZ*

`biblatex` Philipp Lehman has vanished

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- ▶ ... but beamer was unmaintained

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- ▶ ... I let him get on with it

Mainly bug fixes

- ▶ Vedran decided beamer is 'good enough'
- ▶ I'm still fixing bugs when I can
- ▶ Altering behaviour is risky
- ▶ No tests available: caution needed!

biblatex: A maintainer vanishes

- ▶ Philipp was always very responsive to messages
- ▶ Vanished very suddenly
- ▶ Clearly a concern well beyond the LaTeX angle

A team assembles

- ▶ Philip Kime (biber, extending biblatex)
- ▶ Audrey Boruvka (style files)
- ▶ Me (low-level TeX)

License woes

'Author-maintained' status means new code is formally a fork:
complicated!

LaTeX3 gets recruited

- ▶ biblatex uses etoolbox (also by Philipp Lehman)
- ▶ To add new features, we needed expandable option parsing
- ▶ I offered some code for this, but it meant re-writing a lot of what is in xparse
- ▶ Philip Kime decided just to go with LaTeX3 for it!

Summary

- ▶ There is lots of work out there
- ▶ Not so much LaTeX code has unit tests
- ▶ Change for a new maintainer is tricky