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February 2024

February 05, 2024

Introduction

My dear friend recruiter Sean Urbain found me this company, after I was laid off from iHeart, when iHeart was in a bad financial situation, and was getting rid of all “high-paid” (by the East coast standards) people. Sean is a great recruiter, and he was always finding me the jobs I love; including this one. The interview went smoothly, I enjoyed it, especially talking to Samantha. Really nice and smart people. So, while the position was rather low, and it was a contract, not a permanent one, I agreed. First of all, I was curious about how is it, working on a contract; second, I’m on Medicare now, so I don’t care about health insurance; third, I did not have to work, but it was all I could do, all my life: I never tried anything else but work

Day 1

Started work at nine, in my “temporary office”. I have a large desk, since I need two computers and two monitors, and probably something else.

Got a UPS package, a huge box, containing a small box, containing a mouse. Started charging it (why do I need a mouse?) Assembled two monitors. Connected one to my own computer, another to my work computer. Tested it on Mike Naki show.

At 9:15 had a meeting with Jeremey (he’s my manager in Puppers - that’s the name of the team) walked through the list, what to do, where to log in, etc. And ok, have to use Okta. Fuck Okta, but I have no choice. Installed it on my phone. And? We spent a couple of hours trying to do something and making calls to their support. A support guy (half of the time this was Jeremey’s friend) every time asked credentials: where we was born, what’s his mother’s middle name, what was his first car (now I can impersonate Jeremey). Support was making long, long pauses (I guess, spending time with chatGPT).

But then we figured out: Okta’s interface on the phone is the same as HSBC bank: you push the “eye” button, and they show you the access code to enter on your computer. Sure!

And then I was configuring all kinds of stuff. The company is migrating from Microsoft-365 to gmail, exactly today. So I have two email addresses in this company. Except that I never managed to log in with my Microsoft login.

What next? Chatted with Jeremey again. In his presence, I logged in to Slack. Which wasn’t trivial, for some reason. The main trick was, when everything’s configured, you need to kill it and start again. Exit and enter, Microsoft style.

Now what. I’m on Slack, and everybody’s there, greeting me, and I’m greeting them. Tomorrow there’s a special meeting, dedicated to greeting me.

And meanwhile, my Mac is getting on my nerves, telling me that I have to upgrade it ASAP, since they have a security hole (I don't believe it) - so I also launched that big upgrade.

Meanwhile, Jeremey gave me lints to their internal wiki. Looks pretty impressive.

Since I was showing my iPhone screen, and it's all in French, he asked me what is my native language; and then we talked about teaching in a Catholic university, about my Orthodox background, and cultural peculiarities of the South (he was born in a small town an hour away from me), and about how's everything.

I did not tell him about the two main problems of California (roads and idiots): demonstrating sarcasm the first day at work is not a good idea, now I know. Be always positive, nothing but positive! Ok, I told him why Samantha Lemonnier sent her kid to a Russian kindergarten, that I told him. (*The story is this: Samantha was my coworker at Google, and when she told me this about her kid, I asked her why, and she said that there's jungle out there, and he has to get used to it.*)

Github insists that I use my own account, but with my work email. Weird. Spent a couple of hours setting this up, attaching the new email and validating it on my github account.

Then there was a Scrum. I'm curious of course. They show Kanban. Kanban, like in every software company around the world, has Typial Cases.

- How can a new user configure their account?
- we need to get rid of the infinite login loop
- switch from (some) library to Cats

And so it goes. Been there, saw it.

Then the meeting was over, it was around 5PM. After which I managed to finish this issue with github access using my new email.

That was my first work day.

February 06, 2024

My work starts at 9AM. The first meeting was "welcome Juan", but there was only Jeremey: Brad was in traffic, getting his kid to school. So I chatted with Brad later, and he had already enough talks with Jeremey.

Next I started studying their docs. So far everything is pretty good, but there's a funny "Scala style" doc: it's about 5 years old, and it advertises ScalaZ and free monads. As to monads, free monads, and Kleisli, the doc is full of all kinds of nonsense, in the style of ubiquitous "Barbara Liskov principle" (the principle is simple: write good code, don't write bad code).

At 11 we had another meeting, the topic being “lunch in honor of Juan”. A lot of people came over but Jeremey wasn’t there. The company’s rules of meetings says that every meeting has to have a moderator and an agenda. As a result, it was me who was pinging the participants, asking questions.

Gradually the people get warmed, and started discussion a variety of issues: Carolinas (lots of Southerners here), California, driving (I got a feeling that in the South people don’t drive slower than 85 mph), and the assholes that drive at 90. Then we switch to the question what kind of car I drive. I drive a RAV4 and a Prius; I told them that I crossed the USA vertically and horizontally, more than twice. Someone posted a picture of a Prius with horns: really, bull horns attached to the bumper. Here in South Carolina one doesn’t have to hand the license on the front bumper, but horns are ok.

We talked this way until noon. At noon there was supposed to be another meeting, a Book Club, they got to the second chapter of a book on AI - but strangely, nobody showed up.

After lunch (and after adding water to the pool), I went to the next meeting, with Jeremey. Told him what I’m reading now, and that I got a github access. By the way, I added some ideas to Jira yesterday... rather humbly.

Then I had a break, so I spent some time cutting wood etc. After that, I went back to work, read the docs, installed all that good stuff: brew, sdkman, firacode, IntelliJ CE, all that. Which Java and which Scala to install, I’ll have to check their docs. Sdkman can install anything.

And then I went home.

February 07, 2024

My work day starts at 9am. Meanwhile, my wife has a meeting at the same time, in her academy.

I kicked this and that; so far security does not give me access to jfrog artifactory. Also some kind of software, an evil Santa, does not allow me to do brew install ms (and other things to - but there’s sdkman, so, so far, I don’t fucking care).

Discussed with Jeremey what questions do I have: actually none, I only need access. And I also asked him, which project to take. Builds are still impossible; and IntelliJ won’t let me build too, I need an access to jfrog. And, as I am a contractor, documenting all these problems, as I usually do when starting, makes no sense. I’ll be documenting it for myself, like Chinese engineers do.

February 08, 2024

So, work... it’s rather just a kind of communication.

BTW, now I don’t understand, why t.f. did I agree to such a low position, and as a contractor? The only excuse could be: not much to do. As I planned. It’s important to learn to work by hours, and to kick it all out of my head once I close my computer. This is unusual.

February 09, 2024

Started working at 9AM, like a good boy. Installing VPN. Well, first I checked out what do they write on Slack. Something rather funny (a funny piece of Scala code). So I went to github, to get a bigger picture. But oops, I'm not allowed.

Actually, I'm not allowed almost nowhere. I have two logins (don't ask the kind of company, you know). Neither login works. Ok, wrote to devops. They sent me to another Slack channel. Wrote there, on Slack. These people sent me to a helpdesk page. I'm not allowed to go to the helpdesk page.

Found some phone number somewhere there, and called. A nice chap, called David, with a good Indian accent (or not), spent a lot of time checking my credentials, then told me that he would call me back.

He called me back at around 3:30PM.

So far, so good.

February 12, 2024

Spent all day working. Still, sbt can't pull the data from jfrog. I was shaking my head, injecting some data into various important places; tried it with curl, with the same credentials. It works ia curl. Now I write to a bunch of coworkers, sending them my logs. Jeremy asked me to send him my logs - and I sent him my logs.

Around 6pm got distracted to my taxes.

Then I started pinging various people regarding accounting my hours: I'm a contractor! Something wasn't working. By the end of the day got it done, and my 40 hours, from the past week, were approved and accounted for. Money come later, there's not much, but still money, right?

February 13, 2024

We had three hours of meeting today. It's weird, but I'm paid not for work, but for hours.

Experimentally, we have established that when I was given an email address, the two first letters were capital (for some weird reason), and I followed it, not thinking much. That's where sbt failed. But If I put all small letters, builds run ok. Stupid, right?

Next obstacle: install a local Docker, a local Kafka, and, probably, a local database. No instructions. Those who could write instructions, they are long gon. I'm again in some kind of Pompeii.

Now they threw at me two cases in Jira. I investigated one of them. Brian M. was working on it about half a year. ago. It's a familiar name, except that we are not connected on LinkedIn. But we have 15

common connections. Seems like they hired me to replace him. The other Jira case is almost nothing, but I have to investigate. Well, and how can I test it? Half of the tests are failing, no explanations why. Oh, whatever.

February 14, 2024

Started the day at almost 11AM. Bad, bad! Ok, so, I mostly studied the code, was looking for a solution for one of the Jira cases. Eventually I found that the solution was implemented about five years ago, not in our modules, but in the one that we actually use. And all this must work. And if in doubt, let's look at the logs. Wrote it all in Jira.

BTW, Brian, in whose place I was hired, he sent me a connect request on linkedin, I approved it immediately, and we discussed this topic. He also thinks that the product has more of an archeological value, although it's just 5-7 years old. And it's kind of advanced. Monads, Kleisli, algebras.

All these algebras are coming from cats project, which has improved a lot in the last years, and now it looks like new buildings on top of old ruins. That is, when you read that they turn an algebra into Kleisli, it's kind of funny. We actually deal with two decompositions of the same monad into pairs of adjoints, one pair is initial, another is terminal. The fact that this rather exotic area of knowledge is casually used by the people whom I don't believe that they know what adjoint functors or just functors are. But the very fact! As a result, this pretty categorically-pure code is, in their cats framework, mixed with total nonsense... Well, see, they never heard of natural transformations, they call them a "parameterized pattern". OMG... Well, whatever. As long as it works, what can I do about it. Nothing. Cats people know me as an enemy of their science.

So, we agreed with Brian that all this code is like new buildings in Rome, all built on top of ancient ruins. If you were in Rome, you know what I'm talking about. And Brian loves Rome, he even has a XIX century guide (some kind of cicceroni wrote it?) Etc. Interesting, eh.

At 12 noon we had a meeting, a "sprint post-mortem". The main event of the last two weeks, judging by the table, is My Arrival. Well, I'm impressed, of course.

February 15, 2024

Now I have two Jira cases... wrote to Dave, asking how to add extra data to logs (except for logging it manually), and he answers: "I posted a pull request in July 2023, where logs are customizables, so that customers can add whatever they need". Cool. Customers are us. That was enough for me, and I added notes into both Jira cases that we better upgrade that library, or add that library to our project(s). Set the status for both cases as "waiting for information", sent the links to Jeremey, and that was it for today, no? Pinged k8s a little bit, but I would not say I understood much. Yes, I have kubectl, or whatever, so what. I'll need to read more docs.

We had two meetings, but they didn't have time for me, there were some important boring topics. Like, "why do we have memory leaks". I tried to give a hint that well, in the previous company I was solving exactly the same problem, but who cares what I say, my status is too low. Well, should I care?

February 16, 2024

Don't I work too much? Well...

Spent most of my time bumping into obstacles: can't install this, can't install that. Then I had a 1:1 with Jeremey, where he said that he can't help me with installing, I forgot what, Postgres, Kubernetes, Docker... But Esteban, a Columbian contractor, showed me the docs, where all these instructions are, and which I can edit without all those negotiations with important people who don't like it when others interfere. As to interactions with those people: I had updated one line in an official doc, saying that we need to use ssh for github, not https. After a week of discussions and delays they wrote a comment, saying that if you do this tricky trick, you can do it via https, so my doc update is not needed.

Seems like these guys are territorial, like some kind of hamsters. As if their problems could bother me. I'm not their employee, I'm a contractor! I don't care.

But it's different with our private doc, Esteban's and mine, I just edit it, trying this or that solution. (BTW, by the end of 2025 this doc is obviously just abandoned and, probably, lost.)

We had a meeting, probably a scrum meeting, at half past four. There were five of us, and I talked with Jeremey and Brad; two others were silent. I don't exclude it that there are things I'm not aware of. I showed them the code written by Chris, showed them the existing code, and gave them three solutions to choose from: a) wait till Chris merges his July pull request; b) take Chris' code and merge it manually into our project; and c) a pure hack: add a line to our code that adds a line to the log (but then deal with all the horror and hell in the logs, using some kind of tools...) And they say: never mind, just merge Chris' code. Wow, cool, I love it!

I also confessed that I don't really know how to find tags in their logs. Shared my screen - and they pointed right away how to do it. Now I know. There may be some questions, why this or that information is missing - but if I attach Chris' code, I'll figure it out.

Don't I love puzzles? I adore them.

February 19, 2024

Esteban helped me today to install all kinds of unusual (company-specific) shit in docker. Then I got to test code. Well, so, three tests are still failing. Esteban is trying to convince me that they crash for everyone. But Jeremey says that they do pass for him. Also, Jeremey has taught me to run integration tests via `sdc ic-test` - never heard!

I just wanted to intercept logs in the tests and view them; ok, I do intercept them, and there's nothing there, since all this is done in a wrapper, and our tests are unit tests, and don't log anything. Kind of reasonable, but I have to figure out.

This company's code... it has so much "functional programming", totally inadequate, in the style of this idiot Travis Brown (who manages to create a left adjoint functor to the sum functor - Tony Morris was right saying that Travis never understood anything in ScalaZ).

The thing is, there's a certain number of companies that got hooked on Scala when it was a fad. Now they'll have to stay with Scala for good. Meaning, I'll always have a job. (Ha-ha-ha, that was stupid. Good that it ended, though. - 09/21/2025) But in general, I don't advise it. They are a little bit out of mind too much. Today one really smart person showed to me on twitter how one can, via $\lambda P2\bar{I}$, rewrite parameterized types in the form of a type with an internal type. And now Scala 3, and Martin, its Father, plans to move Scala in this direction. Why not, we have dependent types, therefore we can.

February 20, 2024

I was getting on the nerves of anyone who did not refuse to listen: what exactly do I have to do to make tests run. Finally, Esteban writes to me: you need docker login. Hmm, wow, really? Ok, I do docker login. It does log in. Tests don't pass. Oh, I need to write a url where to do docker login. Ok, I add the url And I need to log in every time before launching tests. And? It does not log in. Credentials? Ok, I need to find credentials. Well, but I almost remember these credentials by heart.

Eventually, since docker shows the error, mentioning on which url it fails (it's artifactory again, but not the url I gave it). So I try it via curl. It works via curl. Ok, how about doing it via docker? Passing a parameter, -u user:password. It tells me that this is not secure enough. Well, wtf? What's secure? Manual input is secure. Ok, I do manual input. It digests it ok. And it logs in. And it loads tons of files into itself. And?

And it doesn't work.

Now, after the meeting, after scrum (imagine, people do work, seriously) everybody stayed and started helping me with advices. Saying some really bizarre words, like, I have to set environment variables. Which environment variables? Silence. Instead they write, in chat, something like `prlsl.mzbaz`. What's that? - I ask them.

And suddenly now Esteban writes that these tests don't work for him either. Wow, how interesting!

Eventually we all came to a conclusion that, since my computer is M2, not Intel, docker here should be configured differently, meaning, the VM. And now they found how should I set this `prlsl`. Then they told me what environment variables to set, and which values to assign. Good, good!

And you know what? The tests started passing. Except one, which requires k8s. I'll think about it

tomorrow. Meanwhile, I have to document all these hacks and achievements. No, nothing like that was ever documented in this company.

I'll put it into a README file. I would also add it to their "wiki", but I already tried. First, it's not a wiki. It's the usual shit, doc files that go through "code review". And I tried, and I was told that I write it all wrong: it can be done the way I do, but can be done differently, and besides, there must be some parameters. In short, my doc is not good enough.

Why should I care, it's not my company. I have my branch of that wiki, and I'll keep my docs there. BTW, I can keep other docs in my own branch, I'm not their documenter or something. More, I'm not paid for that. I can even keep the stuff in my local files. It's not my company! How convenient! (And how unusual.)

February 21, 2024

Was mostly having fun with Docker, what's in there and how it works. Wrote a cli, to show when was the last time an image was stuffed in Docker. But I didn't need it actually.

Strangely, no login was needed, it just runs. But I was having problems with the app itself.

Then there was a 1:1, and Jeremey showed me the ropes. It turned out, the app starts by itself and runs. My job was to learn to start it from a test, and catch its bugs. Hmm.

Since an application needs an environment, then I, as I did probably a hundred times, copy-pasted a `setEnv` method from Stackoverflow, and... and it crashes! Because, you know, it's a modern Java. And it's impossible to make a private method available to call. Fucking security. As a result I don't know how much of Scala and Java code just failed to get upgraded. Because see, there's reflection everywhere... because we could.

Of course there's a trick, set some kind of jvm parameter in sbt, which would allow this forbidden method.

So, as a result, wow, the app runs. I have also added a temporary log config: now I see everything. It remains to start sending requests (go figure, which port? 443? Or? 80?) We will see tomorrow.

Then there was a scrum meeting, extremely informal. We discussed the problem of having too many hand-made configs and remember everything. Jeremey says that he has a dream. To have a script which any noob could come over and launch, and everything is ready in a couple of hours. How interesting. I tried it in the previous company. And so, if nobody stops you, why not do it? In Salesforce they did not allow me to write useful scripts. They even were objecting to passing around compiled scala byte code from one server to another. Apache Spark is allowed to do it, but we are not. Oh, whatever, it's all in the past.

Then they discussed some internal quarrels. Jeremey says “he’s a sarcastic dick” - right at a meeting! Wow! I love this kind of teams. BTW, the previous one was not bad, too.

They, the team, are getting ready to a release to happen very soon. I have nothing to do with it, so I can only nod. Hocher, in French. The atmosphere is pretty energetic. Interesting!

Oh, and there’s a general feeling that being a contractor, separate from the life of the team, from all these social skills (which I never had) - there’s something extremely attractive. I just work. I can hunt. Or I can gather.

February 22, 2024

What’s the buzz at work? They are rolling over from one cloud to another. Long meetings, for each service there’s someone that is responsible. I’m not responsible for anything. Esteban in Bogota is not responsible for anything either. We are just paid audience. Meaning, they are paying us for two hours of watching a meeting on Microsoft Meeting.

During breaks from meetings, I’m trying to get out of them, how exactly can I run an app? Ok, finally, I just, without any tests (they fail anyway), I launch `sbt run`.

Peter writes to me: “good luck” (“bon chance”). Nobody ever launched a local server. Ok, I got it. They actually did. Before covid. Then everybody left, and devops people came. But I’m not a devops guy, I have pliers and a screwdriver.

But Peter has actually explained to me, where is all the environment hiding. It’s in Kubernetes. Well, okay! I’ll check it out. I’m not too good with the Kube, but I have no choice. I don’t want to follow Brian’s steps. Besides, I love solving puzzles. And, hmm, actually I have a list of variables. We will see

February 23, 2024

There was no 1-on-1 with Jeremey, he’s busy. But we had a meeting at half past four. The people are nervous today, talking about whether the migration from one cloud to another will cause a big site crash, like lose all customers for a month. This is rather improbable, but if it happens, we all here in the USA feel the pain. In the... Ok, in got we trust.

Meanwhile, I spent all day reading their dos. Mostly using my intuition, since all the pertinent information is just missing there. And then, then, I figured out: there’s a project called environments on github, and all the configurations are just there. So now I’m quietly kicking the server. There are more problems caused by compatibility issues with Java 17, the product of crazy creative Oracle engineers. Well, actually not such a big deal; it’s been there for years actually.

But it’s time to close my work computer, it’s 6pm and something.

February 27, 2024

In the morning Esteban from Bogota showed up on Slack, to help me with configs. We spent an hour, logging in to gcloud, finding the right instances for vault and postgres, etc. Then I started documenting it all, so that don't forget. Next step must be writing scripts, but that later. Ok. later.

We also had a Sprint Meeting, talked about bicycles, about Florida, and until what age a person can work as a programmer.

At half past one a guy called from a company that wants to hire me for a permanent position and a funny salary. I took a look at the position offered. "data engineer". Well, I'm not mentally disabled yet, am I? But I'm curious, am not I? So I decided to check them out. Oh, fuck them. Not interested. The guy was okay, but the standard questions... ("what's the difference between a class and a case class, etc" - kindergarten, in short). But the worst part is that what they do is selling ads. The recruiter had to tell me right away. I don't work in ads.

Another meeting at 3pm. Another "environment discussion", now there were three of them. Now I've learned that between the server and the client there's another layer, so-called NAG, some kind of filter. But it should not touch a JWS token, should it? It would have been weird if it did. I want to see its logs. And I have to learn how to filter these logs, to see what's coming in and what's getting out.

But that's not the main thing. They decided to explain to me how this server works. Probably Jeremy told them that I don't know how the server works. Right, sure. I tried to patiently explain to them that this aspect does not interest me (I know the code); what I need is to take a look at the logs and to run the server in a test mode. As to running, they, in unison, tried to convince me that the server can only run after being deployed to production. I can't believe it. An alternative is to get the sources of the library I'm suspicious about, and add some unit tests, to ping that library. Ok, maybe that's how it can be done.

But I don't believe them. Will try to launch the servers tomorrow. See, vault is available, postgres is available, what else is needed? And can't I run it from IntelliJ? E.g. in a debugger? We will see.

At times I feel like I should drop it all and just retire.

February 28, 2024

Had a bunch of meetings at work, where we discussed bicycles, Trump, politics, and all that kind of stuff.

Meanwhile, I agreed with the people that I won't be able to run a service locally here: why? because some signing keys are not available from local machines. Meaning, key generator is unavailable. And port forwarding to that generator only works from servers. As a result, you can only test in production. So, you got it, Freischütz. Either you hit or you don't.

Ok, whatever, I decided to restructure the process and run all this shit from unit tests, and for that I have to screw on

Then there was a 1:1 with Jeremey at 4:30. My yesterday's interlocutors complained to him that I'm not listening to them, and ask unrelated questions instead. They wanted to show me how that server works; but I know how that server works, and there's no need to point at the pieces of code which I not only read more than once, but I also know when it was written and by whom. The author is Brian, who was fired last fall because he failed to fix it on time. Hmm. Devops teaching programmers to write code. Been there, eons ago. So, Jeremey gave me a hint to a deadline, meaning, move faster. I don't mind, but I remember I'm being paid for hours not for results.

Oh, whatever. While building this half-server, I was enjoying this nonsense called "cats framework". They have lots of various shit which they call "monads", and which don't have map. I guess, they think that a monad does not have to be a functor. Their foreach also shows some obscure compiler errors. Like, you write 'resource.foreach(println) - and it does not compile, saying "wrong type". Creative programmers. Ok, whatever, I'll bypass it, but why?!

BTW, running tests in IntelliJ? it doesn't work either. Or else, I'd just use a debugger. And why is it? Because the dependencies point to a version of MUnit that's incompatible with Cats. These versions are a part of a class that is in another library, and go ahead and try to fix the other library. I could not, so far, even merge new docs in the docs repo. Because, you know, what I write there, documenting the practice, is not what is in their theories.

As if I care.

February 29, 2024

Spent some time in social networks, then went to work. Well. I have to remember, I owe them exactly what they want from me. Nothing else. That is, stuff some shit into the code, to make sure that it sends to the logs what, theoretically is there already, but it isn't. And there are no tests for that.

Ok, I know. cats library was written bby some crazy idiots. Travis Brown, a crazy pseudo-programmer: Daniel Spiewak, smart, active, almost educated - but the general picture for both is bizarre and meaningless, and, what's important, is impractical. Go fugyre why everything should be wrapped into a monad. More, into an unknown monad (actually, the monad is always IO).

But, OTOH, I figured out where all this pompous shit came from in this company. They had a bunch of Spanish contractors, the kind of Madrileños that were saying "quema el libro rojo" - so they still had managed to read the book, and...

Short, I'm feeling sick, pretty much, from all these modern "monads", "functors", "natural transformations" (neither actually is). An example: having a functor F[A], and if A <: B, lift it to F[B] by casting it

like this: `fa.asInstanceOf[F[B]]`. IRL, the functor must be covariant (or something) - but no, we don't care about variance, we just cast it.

So, I'm thinking now, is not it the time to change the language. Scala is almost 20, and a lot of flies have covered it with their shit.

Ok, anyway. I wrote that solution. One has to get used to be a contractor. Not my circus.

Tomorrow I'll add one more check in the test, and by the end of the day will send a PR for review. Will send the next one next week.

Around noon we had a "lunch online": not the whole "team", but just several people. Janet from Greeneville, Mark (where is he from? Florida), Esteban from Bogota, and me. We talked about how to be a good person, how come everybody is moving to South Carolina, and other generic life topics.

I started explaining why I had moved. But Janet had interrupted, and explained to everyone what's wrong in San Francisco. Judging by her explanations, she has never been even close.

March 2024

March 01, 2024

It rains all day, so we are staying home.

I worked, and worked, and by the end of the day, as planned, I had filed a PR. Life is easy if you are not responsible for the full-scale situation.

We had a scrum meeting at half past four. There were three of us. Brad has a piano in the background; me and Esteban have our keyboards. We told our stories. They told me where to send PR notifications. So I sent it. Monday it will be 3-days-old, hence I have a reason.

March 04, 2024

In the morning, after a meditation, figured out how to fix another project too, to use the same trick via logging the extra details. Meanwhile, two reviewers wrote to me that it's no needed, since the middleware already has the data. Well, I know, but Jeremy wants me to do as they suggest, instead of investigation. Ok, I delegate this discussion to the colleagues, meanwhile my boarding has just started.

March 05, 2024

It was a long day, since I was actually flying CLT->MAD->TLS - but, when possible, I was working.

Jeremy seems to have problems with me. Oh, whatever, will I suffer if they kick me out? Most probably not. But actually, they are right: I've mixed two Jira cases, and they have too many loggers, one for tracing, another for history, and there's more. Okay, anyway, I'll figure it out. Others are ok. And in any case, I've almost written it all. Discussed it with Brad, and we agreed that we understand each other. The last meeting was at half past ten in the evening. After which I turned off my work computer and went downstairs to take a shower.

March 06, 2024

Simultaneously with all other activities, I was working. Investigating this issue: do all updates go to the history service. The code looks weird; initially I thought that tests don't check anything at all. But no, there are some checks, deep inside. Ok, will investigate further.

Well, just finished for today, it's already past 11pm.

March 07, 2024

I'm in France now, and with a jetlag.

Spend tons of time looking in the code where exactly all these important data are being sent to the history server. Sure, all the tests are mock-based, that is, they have no behavior, just report that they were called. Checking the data they are receiving would be too much work (and they were written by Spanish contractors, I guess).

Finally, I found another funny thing. A method gets a parameter wrapped into `Option`. They convert it to `String` - why not? See, one data class has this value as optional, another class doesn't. A Java guy would have sent a null, but a Scala guy does `optionSomething.toString`. Programmers!

But since this Scala guy did read the Red Book, “Functional Programming in Scala”, he uses cats, implicits, and he writes `optionalSomething.show`.

I did spend some time digging in cats libraries to make sure that it is exactly the same as `toString`.

Then I discovered: all this was written by Ignacio, with whom Juan-Manuel had connected me a while ago, because these two are founders of ScalaMAD, and, I guess, I did have a beer with Ignacio, in Madrid, not so long ago. Ignacio, it turned out, had spent four years in this company. Then something happened last fall. So, all this story that Jeremey told me, about Brian not being able to solve it... it's just a BS. They got rid of a lot of people, then everything stopped working, so they hired me to fix it.

I have to discuss all this with Ignacio, probably this weekend.

Anyway, now that I know, I wrote a test, fixed the bug, pushed the update.

After dinner (I had my beloved ratatouille), we had another meeting. There were just two of us, Janet and me. And, since there were nobody else, no “kids”, we spent an hour and a half chatting with Janet, about life, cats, dogs, kids, remodeling, yoga, illnesses. And at 10:30PM we had yet another meeting, Scrum. Ok, Scrum, what can we do. Scrum.

After which I took a shower, drank a glass of tomato juice, and went to sleep.

March 08, 2024

Went to the store, bought some food. Then I worked.

I'm gradually getting the meaning of life at this company. Like, where does the information actually go? Found one piece of code that can be used for testing. Written by Ignacio, too. Wrote to him, asking, how are things in general.

Ok, I've actually almost found the hole in the code. Meaning, the test crashes when I add an extra information. Which is good, I'm close. It remains now to find the whole in the code, the place where `DeviceInfo` is being ignored.

Otherwise, I'm under a severe jet lag. No time for anything, I want to sleep, and the time just leaks away.

March 09, 2024

Went to Carrefour, bought my favorite cheeses, morbier and tomme. And gratin dauphinois. Etc.

Nothing to do in the morning, so I took to work. Found a series of tests that can be really used to check whether data are passed or not. And you know, at times they are, and at times they are not. More, this Json-handling code, initially written by Tony Morris, then totally mutilated by Travis Brown, behaves just horribly. So, I guess, I'll need to update the tests, to make sure I don't have to fix the masterpieces of this fucking idiot Travis, who is, in reality, more into politics than into programming (and has no education in math, or in programming, or in anything meaningful).

March 11, 2024

My work starts so late... It's like an evening shift.

Anyway, I sit, and I work, and I fix all that shit. OMG, how dumb are all these libraries, and munit, and this JSON library. Can't they write a decent diff method? OMG. I could write it (did it thrice at least), but I'm not paid for that, am I? So I'm just recording, for myself, what's missing here.

Pushed my updates into a pull request - but tests fail in Jenkins. And I have no access to the artifactory, to figure out and trace the problems. Wrote to my "colleagues" (what kind of colleagues are they... they are not, they are just fellow travelers, we meet, we talk, we part forever).

March 12, 2024

Went to work, after a walk: I'm in Europe.

Samantha had poked my PR a little bit, with a stick, and wrote that two flags in `buil

Meanwhile I started working on another project. I had a solution, so I decided to tweak the tests first (to be more precise, adding more checks). And since nobody runs the testrs in IntelliJ, then, alas, instead of getting into some unknown code with a debugger I had to add println and watch the behavior. As a result, I couldn't finish it today. Ok, tomorrow, tomorrow!

No time for anything, what can I do... Oh, and more. In the beginning of last week I somehow lost the opportunity to run the tests that require docker. How come? I started bugging everyone. Login passes at times, and fails at times. Now it passes. But docker is still not working (daemons?) And no, suddenly, lo and behold,

Jeremey writes: “I managed to make Docker work; our license for the old version has expired, and it’s expensive, and the management does not want to spend money, so I got a cheaper version of Docker, and here are the environment variables to set, and all the tests for Customer project pass.” Wow, interesting. Customer, that’s the project I was working on; and you are the boss, could you have shared this information a week ago, knowing that we have a problem? I had wasted so much time, for no reason.

Ok, whatever. That’s how the company works. FIIC. I should not be too diligent.

March 13, 2024

We have meetings, non-stop; also I have to do some sex education training. Judging by the amount of shit the HR sent me, I have about two days of such trainings. Besides, we have a SCRUM planning meeting. I got myself some shit to work on the next sprint.

And? What then?

The most important is, a) I have no clue how to force the reviewers review my pull requests, and b) I don’t see why I should be doing this “forcing”. These are not my monkeys; I throw the stuff over the fence, and that’s it. I have no task to go begging for reviews. I’m not a team player, I’m a problem solver, with a rather stupid feature: I don’t care which problem. I can hunt, and I can gather.

Oh, and more about work. Strangely, no tests were failing, in spite of all my changes. How come, eh? Well, until I discovered that all these tests are stuffed into a monadic loop, with the IO monad. And this monad, unless you kick it to run, it does not do anything. So, somewhere at the bottom of the test one has to do `.unsafeRun()` - that’s when it agrees to run. So, as a result, I inserted, in all the cases, a variable ‘didItRun’, and I check it after each test case. Not that I need it myself, but I just care about others.

And now, there’s a test in this pull request that does crash. It’s CompatibilitySuite. People say “you have to turn it off”. At the meeting, Bill said that this test never ever worked since he joined the company. Interesting...

Of course I can, revolutionarily, remove this test, slapped together some five years ago, probably by the same Ignacio. But it’s easier to just ban that test. And let the management take care of it. But the management does not have time for all this: something just got broken somewhere there (no tests?)

Well, it’s not something I fully understand. If nothing ever breaks, the management at the level above will decide that Engineers are not needed anymore, etc. Let it better break. It will take a long time for these managers to reach the level of wisdom of ancient Chinese lawmakers (where doctors were only paid when nobody’s sick). Since nobody is hacking us, we can lay off all those expensive security professionals. As soon as one of the banks is hacked, that’s when we will hire security professionals.

Like they do in Boeing: they shrank the staff, got their bonuses, run away to the next victories. And the fact that the planes' doors are falling off, that's the pilots' fault. When the pilots will be replaced with autopilots, we'll blame the robots. Is not it convenient?

But...

March 14, 2024

What was I doing all day, working, fixing all kinds of stuff. Brad suggested to move logging closer to the repository.

Got exhausted with this repository. Spiewak and Brown had slapped together all kinds of pseudofunctions (they call them “pseudofunctions”, sons of bitches), and as a result a regular refactoring just does not work. Similar to what we had with those “free monads”, a while ago. Oh... how I'm tired of those fucking ignorant idiots from CA

March 15, 2024

I started this day by sending Brad a pull request. By the end of the day Brad responded, saying that this can be made shorter. It sure can, but it won't be testable. OTOH, we could agree on anything. It's not my pay level, to do my best for this company. I have other things to do, too.

And I also slapped together and sent another test. I need to first ask Mark what he meant. Communicating with Mark is easy: he adds details, I implement it.

While all that was pending, I went shopping, Went to Action to buy a shoe brush. Already went to a couple of stores before, looking for one. None found. Now Action. Action seems to have everything. But I could not find the brush. Asked them; they pointed me the isle. None.

Well, okay, whatever. Then went to Lidl. Bought bread, blueberries, sour cream, tomatoes, potatoes. My wife did promise me how to make it the best way, but we are in different timezones now. I can boil potatoes, I can cut them and fry. But I'm just too lazy today.

Then I worked again. Called my son meanwhile, talked to him and his funny daughter. She was dancing a dance of a hungry fish. She's a smart girl, but she does not have much to do.

Oh, and back to Scala and Cats library. It's programmers are kind of crazy. One of them wrote a class called `CIString` (“case-insensitive string”). Its feature is that it has equality defined as case-insensitive equals, but the function takes another `CIString`, and can return different values, depending on what's inside (even if the values are case-insensitively equal). You got it, right? It's like defining a “field of numbers mod 5” where values hiding in those equivalence classes may be different, not numbers mod 5. I wonder if these guys ever learned anything at school. And of course this `CIString` does not

care about the locale - they seem to have never heard of Turkish locale, although there are definitely Turkish Scala programmers. Weird, weird.

Talked with Esteban about Scala Cats, and he has the same opinion that ZIO makes way more sense. And besides, ZIO has a future, and Cats don't, because Daniel ran away to Nvidia, and this crazy Travis ran somewhere too... just checked his profile, he has no education. Master of Arts from UTexas, "English language, Literature/Letters". Well, he can write slanderous letters, we all know that.

Scala people seem not to understand that Cats is done with, in the perspective. What does it give to John de Goes, it's not clear yet. And in general, my predictions don't come true more often than they do.

March 16, 2024

For some reason, github mails are coming to my personal email, that's about work projects updates.

Samantha is suggesting to replace "whitelist" to "allowlist" in my pull request. I never heard this word, but why not. Let's invent something racially-neutral. Actually, it's all inherited from the bloody slavery in America.

We can call it not "allowlist", but e.g. "friendlist". Sounds even nicer, right?

March 18, 2024

Got home from a walk, started working. Renamed "whitelist" into something racially-neutral, like "acceptableHeaders", something like that.

Unexpectedly, my struggle with these weird monads of Cats library somehow ended with a success (and they have all kinds of hallucinations, e.g. "semimonads", that is, like semigroups, with no unit). O dios mio, in short. But sure, if someone has an education in "English literature", what kind of mathematics can one expect from them. This kind of paramathematics is everywhere these days.

Further on, something was approved for me, and Jeremey askedd me to go do all those training. I sure do them all. I listen to them in parallel with my French and with writing my blog, listening to them with the sound off; their talks about security are for accountants and sales, and I'm not one.

There's another meeting, half an hour from now. I'll need to smile there. For money. So, meanwhile, I'll do my French on Duolingo.

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March 20, 2024

Eventually I got to my work computer. Tried to make docker start locally and run the tests with some stuff running in docker. Had to browse information in Slack - that's where everything is, the way people document these days. One project was lucky, almost all tests have passed. One got hung on a timeout, but that's not a big deal. In another project, a config was missing, so the tests failed. That's good, now I know the cause.

Asked people on slack, told them, I have scripts, what would be the right place to store it. They pointed the right place, and during the 1:1 Jeremy was happy that everything goes well, in particular, the scripts. BTW, I'm now adding docs to the wiki, as we agreed with Janet.

Then we had a scrum meeting; it was rather fun. Seems like it depends on the solar activity. The market is up, BTC is up, people at work are happy. So we discussed the weather. Esteban is writing from Bogota that they don't have seasons (he could even hardly remember the word, season). They have a dry period and a wet period. After that I reported that everything is ready for review (Jeremy showed to me how to ping reviewers via github - it's kind of automated). Esteban asked me whether I have passed the behavior exams. Well, sure; I spent the first half of the day doing all this nonsense, learning how to behave. Security aspects. And how not to give bribes to partners. Well, what about bribes? I don't have any bribes. It's not RUssia. In Russia, if you drive, you bribe. That's where I always had problems. I can't give bribes, I don't know how to bargain with cops. And you know what, noboby understood anything, except Esteban, who started laughing. They have the same shit in Colombia.

Right after the meeting I had closed my computer and went to wash the dishes.

March 21, 2024

At last, got approvals on half of my pull requests, from my kind colleagues. By the end of the day I got another half approved. Not bad! I entertain them, they approve my code. Nobody gets offended by my sarcasm. Well, what kind of sarcasm? E.g. Today, at the SCRUM meeting, when it was my time to report what went well, I said that I, like all the typical Bay Area Companies, am very excited to have my pull requests finally approved. Well, that's true, is not it? In one of the previous companies, after you eventually squeeze an approval out of them, you will have to thank them for the approval. Like "Thank you sir for doing your fucking job!" But it's all different here, frankly; just funny. I love it. (Until they kick me out. But I don't fucking care, really. I think this is my last job. (*It actually was.*) The salary is at the level of market fluctuations. On the other hand, you are always in green...)

But actually, what is it? You must always do something anyway, no?

Got distracted to my taxes and to my French bank "releves". But mostly I was working on my scripts at work. See, if you have a Mac, you, as a standard, don't use bash you use zsh, which has bugs and

features, mixed. And one needs some patience with it. Just some patience. Well, and if IntelliJ had a shell plugin (*it actually does have shell*), that would be just cool.

By the end of the day I sent my scripts for review. They promised to help me get access to Staging (I have already merged my four pull requests, and they are already on Staging. Okay, okay, we will see.

March 22, 2024

It started with a couple of personal mails from ZIO camp. Sandra writes to me, asking if I would like to take an Alaska cruise - if I get them connected to my managers regarding your engineers working on your projects and using ZIO. I got, frankly, just pissed off. Were it some kind of random bitch, that would be different. But she's not. We are kind of friends. Probably Khitrov was right saying "she's a wolf". So I sent it to my managers, with a comment "see, they are offering me a bribe..." And I wrote to Sandra regarding this being unethical. And she answered "yes, I understand".

Almost simultaneously I'm getting a mail from John, asking me whether I would like to connect him to our management, and introduce their project (Golem). I wrote to him that our company works with banks, and they have their rules, and replacing one cloud with another is hardly possible, and besides, I just started, and nobody will listen to me.

Shit. At least I'm not going to LambdaConf this year. And never. And I don't believe it will ever happen again. (*And yes, that was the last year for LambdaConf.*)

Oh, and the same day Adam Frazer (the CTOï of Ziverge) wrote on Twitter that he's leaving the company. So, there are just John and Sandra left. Well, what can we do. The sun also sets.

Anyway, after shopping and after a walk I got to work. The usual stuff. Aï couple of remaining Jira caess. One of them consisted of me having to install Rancher Docker on my machine and make all the tests that require docker pass locally. Ok, I made them work. Another case was to fix the logging, so that it wouldn't publish too much info from urls. OMG, Ids being passed around in URLs: Architects do their job.

Iï started investigating the code. Written by the Spanish, and also one special crazy guy, Kevin Meredith, the author of two books (I did not read them, but I'm sure they are full of crap). We have five common connections on LinkedIn. The code he wrote is like he was reading The Red Book ("Functional Programming in Scala", known in Madrid as El Libro Rojo) and trying every trick he found. My impression is: he doesn't actually know how to write code.

See, e.g. an URL contains, e.g., .../user//org/... To extract userid and orgid from this url, this Scientist uses a monad (which is a type parameter in his code). Inside this monad some fucking "Kleisli" is created (these Cats library people, when saying "Kleisli", mean a type of a function $A \Rightarrow F[B]$, where F is vaguely supposed to be a monad. That's it, this Kleisli type has no other method. It's just a cargo cult, and they expect this straw plane to fly.

This is the garbage these guys were slapping together. They also have a Haskell habit of calling a function's parameters using just one letter. I'm really starting to doubt the IQ of Haskell fans. Just another cargo cult. They see the code written by SPJ or by ĩ Kmett, and try to reproduce it, with zero understanding.

But these Scala fans, they write everywhere things like "this is some message about object \${object.toString} and...".

It's obvious that they are not good with Scala. And it's like this just everywhere in that project. ĩ So ĩ shared my observations in the local Slack channel called "sig-scala" (the channel was founded by Ryan Delucchi, who also worked in this company, about three years ago). I think I already talked with Ryan about our funny company. ĩ But, but! Keep in mind! ĩ The atmosphere here is really positive, and the people are not evil. And, as to diversity, we have two Chinese girls working here, so what else do you want?

Samantha wrote to me that it was a wrong idea for me to create a separate filter for headers, since one already exists. What, where/ Ha, it's in a project I never heard of. So I suggested her to discuss all this with Marc, who had conceived the idea. I don't care, I can do it either way.

As to that case with filtering headers, I asked Brad, what exactly are we filtering out? What keys? He took a look, and another, and says: oh, that's nothing it was done a while ago, you can close the case. Well, perfect! Mission accomplished!

But actually ĩ still have to check, how all these updates I have made behaves on Staging. Ok, ok, will do it next week. And that was it, I went shopping.

Made myself a dinner, Greek salad (χωριάτικη σαλάτα), and got back to work.

Spent some time working, and then we had a long meeting dedicated to "WTF happened last week". It was an investigation regarding a flow of HTTP 500 that we had, between 7AM and 8AM, on Friday. One of the excuses was: but it was Friday, a payday, so it was like a bank run.

The first explanation was that it was the library connecting with Redis that started misbehaving. Well, how come it was not misbehaving on Thursday? No salary that day? But finally we blamed just Redis (could have blamed Democrats, too). Kind of yes; if the cloud were really elastic, as it claims, more nodes could have been added. Oh, whatever. It's an eternal topic. Been there seen that, in Google. And Redis, this one, too.

But the meeting was kind of serious. Someone I have no clue who he was, but he looked pretty important, had organized it all impressively; involved some philosophy, even mentioned Plato in the end.

I was sitting quietly till almost the very end, but eventually my patience got shorter, and I turned on the mike and asked whether this every happened before. And how is the library related if it's Redis

that returns HTTP 500? Well, who's listening to me anyways. Engineers were busy getting into the running services with a debugger, investigating what threads and fibers were doing. Well... what are they doing? Waiting for a response from Redis, what else? And everybody seems to actually know that the problem is on the Redis side. It's a kindergarten, of course. More, this is a known problem, really regularly happening on paydays. In the end a Big Beautiful Document was created, to show a Big Report to the upper management. You know the management, they don't know how computers work, and they need explanations.

Now it's over 10pm here in France, and I have to go to sleep now.

March 25, 2024

What did I do today at work? Investigating Datadog logs, and the like. Just to check if my code works. Found the logs in another logger, and everything looks fine. Now I have to attach History Service, and check that information is getting through. We had a small discussion at our SCRUM meeting, what to do with this History Service. Interesting how everyone is so nice and kind. It really feels unusual after California. Everyone is so angry in California.

March 26, 2024

And today we had another meeting dedicated to what happened 10 days ago. What it was, Redis stopped working, and, as a result, we were returning HTTP 500 (but why?). Redis is a caching service. I may be kind of incompetent, but my question is: if caching is delayed, maybe we should bypass this caching and get the data directly, eh? Oh, whatever, these are DevOps issues, I'm clueless, I'm just a humble programmer.

Meanwhile, I wanted to try updating fake user records on Staging, to see the behavior... but I don't have access!

Really, I don't understand these DevOps people. It's just Staging. What will happen if we give access to everyone inside? Keeping real data on Staging is illegal anyway, right? Everything's fake there. No PII, no nothing. And?

No, anyway, I have to learn to run servers locally. I have to. Starting with running tests in IntelliJ. Nothing else to do anyway. I like this job. I'm doing the stuff I find necessary. Cool!

March 27, 2024

What was happening today. First, we had a meeting, where we were planning the next sprint. I'm regularly telling them: don't ask me what I want to do, I'll do whatever you give me, and with a pleasure.

They gave me an “automatic generation” (using Mermaid) of a graphic documentation for the API. I love it. I was doing it back in St.Petersburg, generating UML diagrams for TogetherSoft, in Java.

Then there was another meeting, “summarizing the previous sprint”. We got there about half an hour late, after the previous meeting.

After that we had a meeting regarding one nasty bug: i one engineer was fixing it by carefully running SQL directly in the production database (there was some issue with a user, not our bug, but our responsibility). i Then, at 9:30pm my time, a regular SCRUM meeting.

During all this i managed to do Duolingo, then a homework for Jean-Claude’s class. We had to write a “blog”. Noting which TV series I like. I like Dix Pour Cent (“Call My Agent”, in English), and quoted what Mathias said: “Noémie, je veux voir votre cul !”. Of course meetings get less boring if you are busy.

March 28, 2024

So, now I have to find the API properly documented (or not) in “route” code, find a way to produce a) swagger (not necessary), and generate documentation the way “Prism” generates it from samples in shell scripts. Or first generate those samples - the path does not matter, the result does.

The code seems to be written (or copy-pasted) by a Spanish (or Catalonian) guy, and there’s a recording of his talk, last July, so I’m trying to ask questions... seems like probably nobody in the company knows. But I love this kind of work.

Asked Janet, who’s much more educated and competent than one would expect from a PM. She provides me with all the information she has.

Besides, we had some meetings... one was about yet another crash; and another was just a joint lunch, where we discussed movies (I recommended “Resident Alien”).

So I jump from experimenting with shell scripts, written with an amazingly high quality, checked with shellfmt - in which the whole Mermaid files generation is written, so they actually first, run shell scripts to talk to a service, then generate docs and diagrams out of this experience. Really cute.

But since all this requires more mental efforts than just sitting on your ass and typing, I get distracted all the time. It’s okay.

March 29, 2024

So, spent all day investigating how t.f. this heavenly set of shell scripts works, and why. Watched the Spanish guy’s video, rewatched it. Experimented with the scripts.

Also, tried to get out of the engineers how and whether do they generate beautiful diagrams, and what do they have to do for that, and does swagger help? It turned out, all is done manually, and nobody

knows anything about how to automate.

Wrote my findings in the jira case. Wrote to Janet, our PM, that it may make sense to meet tomorrow and discuss it.

Was taking long breaks, because you don't need a computer to think, it's better to walk while you think.

Then, at 21:30, we had a “scrum”, which consisted of me and Bill, so we discussed this problem, and Janet (our brilliant Janet), and basically agreed that we don't need those beautiful diagrams, we need pages generated by swagger, like... like in one of the previous companies, have to get in touch with someone from there, or, rather, from someone who's not there anymore, like e.g. Victor, and get some hints.

That's it. While they allow me to think, I'll be thinking.

April 2024

April 01, 2024

As suggested, I maintain a spreadsheet to trace the cases I do. Got 5 more cases last week, today put them in the table.

Actually, since my head was filled, in the morning, with the problem of docs generation, I wrote to three of my ex-colleagues asking if they could remind me how t.f. we generated swagger docs from code. Chris wrote that it was in the opposite direction, have swagger files, generate code.

Oh. not what I needed. So it was not in iHeart, it was in Machinify. Ok, ok. Will ask someone there.

But actually, that would be a big job, to implement all this, and the company won't be interested. Let me generate the docs then.

Wrote a design doc for that, with options, and the final ("best") option - scan the code, extract endpoints, generate scripts for that. Parsers-combinators. Then generate docs, fill in the docs repo; not a big deal, except that this *may* involve some amount of manual intervention.

Shared the doc with Janet; she's going to discuss it with Jeremey, so after that, we agreed, I'll share it with the team. We will see.

The problem with me doing a contract job is that I can't stop thinking. Have to distract to something unrelated. They don't pay me for thinking on weekends. I'm not exempt.

April 02, 2024

Ok, so my former colleagues told me that swagger generation and pages were home-made. So... so, basically that's not what I need anyway, it could have been a good idea to have, but not to slap together.

As a result, it seems like I'm working on a project from scratch. When was it last time I did it? 20 years ago? 14 years ago? Oh my.

I'm now slapping together a couple of scripts and some Scala code to parse the routes in the server(s) and generate at least prototypes of source scripts, then run the tool that generates sequence diagrams (which can be a big deal if the process is complicated).

Strangely, that doc generator behaves in a weird way - but at least I got in contact with the Spanish guy who wrote it.

That's it for today. Will have a meeting in half an hour.

April 03, 2024

Spent all day slapping together scripts to pull a project, (tentatively) create a “sample script”, and run doc tool to generate text and graphics.

No there yet, but almost; tomorrow will send the first PR with that.

Tomorrow, tomorrow.

April 04, 2024

So, as promised yesterday, slapped together the prototype for doc generation (call it DoG?) and sent the PR for review.

Then picked up another case: moved “kafka” project into a common library.

Of course it’s all about sbt “magic” (shit, actually). But right now the main code is moved, so it remains to figure out what to do with tests.

Found that there are no tests in the directory called `tests`. But there’s also a directory called `it` (Integration tests), so we will see. If they don’t do anything... well, whose fault is it?

Also, had a “meet the team” meeting, where three more people introduced themselves, and we introduced ourselves.

Will have a “scrum standup” later tonight; right now it makes sense to go take a shower.

Oh, also I got access to “user management” pages, so I can finish case 98, if I (hopefully) can check what gets into history. We will see.

April 05, 2024

Spent all day trying to make jenkins not to complain about “Scala style” in `build.sbt`.

Still working on it.

Fuck, it can’t be serious, right?

April 08, 2024

The piece of shit where I was, for three days, trying to fix build scripts formatting... oh fuck... But, finally, after testing it in two pull request, I managed to fix it. But one test started failing: it depends on some service, and that service is broken. The test does have a check for an error from that service, but it checks a wrong error. Ok, had to fix it.

Then started writing a script generator. We read a Scala code, extract endpoints, generating scripts, from which README and sequence diagrams are being generated. Okay, extraction seems to be working. I'm sorry, but I use regexes. Anyway, scripts generation must be easier. Asked Janet about our priorities, what are they? See, I have one Jira case that isn't closed, and I'll have to do experiments with staging, and then look at the logs.

That's it for today. Let me take a shower, before the meeting. I can't go to the meeting without taking a shower, right? That would be impolite.

April 12, 2024

While I was away, there was a planning meeting, so I have some rather dumb but doable and educational jira cases on me.

Also, there were two prs I left. One was approved, so I merged it; mission accomplished. Another, pinged them again.

One case was primitive; sent a PR. Another, it's again "scalafmt check" that finds some imaginary defects in my updates, I don't know, a trailing space char, an leading space char, in short, total bullshit. Maybe I should tell them to stop this bullshit and simplify the "style checks" for build scripts? But who cares, they pay me for having this kind of fun. He мої мавпи.

Basically, that's it. While it gets through the process, I can do my French. I'm considered busy working.

April 16, 2024

Recently , probably, wrote that he had a coworker who, on bumping into a puzzle, just stopped doing anything and froze. First I found it funny, but then figured. The man was just thinking. Thinking happens. Not with everyone of course.

Why am I saying it? Because I had two such cases today. One is about jenkins throwing test failures and "build script style error", and eventually I had three different pull requests; it took me half a day to make the third one pass through all those rabbit holes (needle holes?). Sent it to Brad to review. He is asking me why I removed integration tests in one of the modules. There's another Jira case, created by him, where he says that the whole module should be deleted, with moving some small parts to common. So?

Anyway, and then I spent time fucking with doc generation, trying to fix a makefile (no shit, makefile, in year 2024) and pretty obfuscated and sophisticated (but neat) shell scripts. Taking a break not even to think, but to plan.

By the end of the day, I think, almost all these problems were solved, and I can now populate the script, by which docs are generated (they already are generated) with the correct test data. No big deal eh?

But I did have to take a break.

You know what's good in being a contractor? ALMOST NO MEETINGS! No distractions. I can just walk around home, paint (again) a piece of a wall, run the vacuum cleaner on the first (and second floor). Oh, did I walk out today? Hmm... yes, ok, I took out the recycles. Le recyclage.

April 17, 2024

Spent all day trying to slap together a working script for talking to a service, so it grabs the results and another script can generate docs.

Bad luck. Eventually I found out that there's no document telling the actual urls of the actual staging servers. I'd love to talk to name servers, but their urls are unknown too. And more, nobody knows. It's "just somewhere there".

Ok, so my scripts are ready to talk, but all they get is a 404, because they talk to random services...

That's it for today. Brad is trying to find out what to talk to. Janet is nervous about "when will it be ready". What - "it"?

Tomorrow we'll be having a meeting dedicated to the status of this jira case. Or these jira cases. I'm telling them: give me the url, I'll have scripts talking to them. But they seem to never heard of this problem. Ok, I can talk to production of course (and I have access), but I'd rather not.

April 18, 2024

So, everybody's busy, nobody's telling me how a) login from curl, and b) get to the staging sever (what's its hostname? maybe nobody knows?)

So I decided to start reading more from the source code and generating the shell script based on what I found in the code (but not the hostname).

Doint it "Perl regex style" - instead of parsers-combinators, I just rely on the specific format of routers code, like they did in iHeartRadio. Ok, now extracting API comments etc.

People (Janet) are worried that there's no progress, but they can't help me, because, well... I'm not local, you know.

April 19, 2024

Esteban approved my "get rid of integration tests config", and I merged it. Ok.

But the trick recommended by Devon (how t.f. do they know all those tricks? I don't know any) did not work.

So I worked on generating scripts from the source code.

At 16:00 had a meeting, Janet, Brad, Devon, me. First I talked about how artists go to their residencies. Then me and Devon eventually found a config and a kubectl that do provide port forwarding. It was tricky and stupid, but eventually it worked.

Then I showed what I do - script generation, docs generation. Seems like they were totally impressed; wanted me to give a demo next Thursday.

With pleasure.

And I wanted to continue working, but I was not feeling well, so... so it's 21:04, and I'm already in bed.

Was not feeling well in the morning either.

April 22, 2024

Still working, but it does not matter. Bermi does not respond, Devon does not respond. Still can't figure out how exactly to curl the service. More, when the response is not 200, it's strangely reported as 000. And the author does not respond.

But at least I made the script successfully do what it's asked to do. Except that there's still a problem, what to curl.

Nothing else for today.

April 23, 2024

Ok, how did I spend my day? Just having fun. Neither Devon nor Bermi did not answer my pings/questions. I still believe they are just taking their time off or something. So, since `curl` does not curl anything, I decided to work on scripts. And since the "prism" team kind of agreed that I'll fix something in the scripts.

Because, well, if you see in your script something like `cd . . . / . . . / . . . / . . . /` you know that it will crash on occasion.

This one was easy, just used `pushd`/`popd`.

But the tests were failing. First, some wanted something called "node". To me, the word "node" does not necessarily mean `node.js`. But in this case it did, so I did `brew install node`. Ok, then the shell complained about an error in the script being tested, namely, `declare`, it says, does not have a flag `-A`, but this script does. What do they mean, wtf is that flag? It's about "associative arrays" in shell. In bash; zsh does not have associative arrays (that's what the internets say). Now what should I do?

It turned out brew install bash helps, because mac, by default, has a bash from year 2007, version 3.something, and if I install a newer one, like 5.something, it works.

So, it all worked, except... except, of course, JWT, which crashes, well, just because.

So I commented out that JWT automation tests, sent the pr, wrote them that I have a question - and started working on scripts generation.

One of funny issues was that the API endpoints looked like GET something/v0/organization/{organizationId} so the folder was named boringly as "GET something v0 organization organizationId user userId", and I spent time capitalizing each word (and kicking out "v0"). In short, it was easier to capitalize them right in Scala. I'm more and more inclined to getting rid of scripts and just using Scala for all that.

Anyway, I'm having fun. There will be a meeting in half an hour, then another. I'll go have something for dinner, and will be back to work.

I don't mean I worked all day, there are other things. And of course I have to do my French.

Oh, okay, but I only had time for dinner, and then there was a meeting, and strangely, everybody was presenting something (results of this sprint); so I also showed them how my scripts work etc. Sure it's a bit mesmerizing - scan the Scala code, find the API endpoints, generate documentation. They now think they can provide the whole company with this functionality. A little bit like swagger.

But still, I use regexes, which is a cheap hack. Will need parsers-combinators later on.

April 24, 2024

Spending all day (with some breaks) tweaking the scripts. Some progress, but the more I move over the code to Scala, the better.

By the end of the day got Devon to help me figure out wtf is going on with port forwarding. We did reproduce a bunch of Python errors... twice. Then Python surrendered (kubectl is in Python), and started working. Cool. And the requests are getting through. So I'm now tweaking the scripts to produce real results via the whole process. Shell scripting is a stupid occupation.

Had three meetings, will have one more. Basically, seems like the management is deeply impressed by the shit I'm doing. Last time I observed it, it was probably in Russia. In this country the management used to be either totally ignorant or too busy. Ok, Marissa maybe, as an exception. Well, whatever. FIIC ("fuck if I care").

But I'm enjoying it anyway. They threw in one or two more engineers to do some parallel stuff, based on what I've already done.

Jeremey, a manager, is proud of switching to a better, more convenient version of Circe (that's a crazy shit for JSON, written, I guess, by Travis Brown). Or maybe somebody is improving it now, not Travis, since the interface design looks more reasonable now.

April 25, 2024

Pretty short today. Made the stuff kind of generate what it was supposed to generate; Had a demo, where I showed nice diagrams (mermaid, big deal), Answered all questions; Agreed that there's a lot to do, and a lot of future achievements; Took a break; Participated in a "friday lunch" (lunch for them, dinner for me); Interfered only when they discussed random generators and distance between words; Got tired, but I feel I have to work a little bit, because it's Friday, I'm drunk, and I had an exquisite seafood...

That's it for today, merci à tous pour tout.

Oh, no, it's Thursday! Wow.

Oh, and we also had a meeting regarding production and the graphs in it. So, I've been working here how long, 3 months? Every other week there was a discussion, wtf is in grafana, where the graph, I don't even know of what, was like a saw - up-up-up-drop. They tried to work on it and fix the problem. Today there was another problem. All this just stopped. The graph (again, I've no clue regarding which resource we are talking about) has gone flat. Just horizontal.

My only suspicion is that our software, for some reason, upgrades the libraries almost automatically. We approve it, almost automatically. And... and... let me ask Jeremey, he did upgrade a Circe library. This could be the cause.

But I won't, probably. Is it my fckg business, really?

April 26, 2024

So, my scripts have just started producing the docs in the expected format - but so far only for GET method. Will have to work on POST etc.

Brad involved me in something like pager duty, but it's all pretty informal, no pd page, no pd app, and no playbooks. So, be creative. Ok.

Also, in a channel `sig-scala` I posted a link to Jon Pretty's tweet; but Jeremey wrote to me that I should not do it at work. He's right of course. There may be some idiots around, why scandal. So I removed it. Life is life, work is work. This is topic number 6 that I'll be silent about at work.

So far I have:

- politics

- sex
- religion
- race
- ethnicity

In Salesforce it was pretty informal; when at lunch an Armenian was loudly complaining about Arabs... well, I just listen. I don't like the idea. Also, I among the Arabs I met some were assholes, some were very decent - like, I guess among any ethnicity, so the idea about "all of them" is pretty stupid anyway.

Adding "scala politics".

What else? Nothing. Meeting in 4 minutes, and that's it. This weekend I have no plans to open my work computer, thank god.

April 29, 2024

Spent time slapping together sample data for sample calls (like in tests) to generate documentation.

The tricky part is balancing the information between the routers source code, scripts templates, and whatever, making things as flexible and adaptable as possible, without loading developers with too much extra requirements to the code.

Basically, information is retrieved from scaladoc and from more or less functions headers. Must balance it, balance.

Today was/is just one meeting, in which I'm participating now, scrum.

Pinged people to review my stuff; the outside team is kind of slow, but who cares.

Oh, Copilot was legalized during this weekend, so I installed it. This dog runs around doing stuff for me. I like it. I like pets. Especially it's good (often wrong) in creating data samples for tests.

April 30, 2024

So, finished the thing about docs generation, sent the stuff for review (there are three prs, in three distinct projects).

Promised Janet to show how to use copilot to get explanations for the code. But she's busy.

Then there was a meeting, where we both were busy: a guy was explaining how to use smithy to generate code templates from swagger. Basically, it partially makes my doc generator meaningless, except that actually no, it's the opposite: take a swagger doc, generate scripts, generate docs and mermaid diagrams. That's even better.

But I'm so tired today; will get back to the work computer after the meeting, and ping them with that.

May 2024

May 01, 2024

Having finished the first step in doc generator, now I'm waiting for any reviews to get through. They are paying me not for the results (but the management strangely is amazed by the results - I never saw this before... in the US), so I tried to do the other stuff.

Strangely, some failure in some docker ruby code, and I just started asking if anybody saw that shit. Things like that change all the time.

Then we had something like a pray-and-guess meeting, where we were voting on the number of points for this or that case. I just agree with everybody; first, I don't care, and second, how the fuck can I know?

Now I'm trying to struggle with the next step of docs generation: retrieving honeycomb and datadog logs; Bermi writes about it in README, but I don't see it happening. Either I should watch his video again, or huddle with him on slack. Whatever. Also, the test env is supposed to send an email to the test account (visible on slack) or to whatever address I supply. But I'm not receiving this shit either way. Tried my home email. Same shit.

Also, the corp sent me a link to a form where I'm supposed to fill in a "self review". Sure. Except that the form does not open. Whatever.

Will try to look into the code... or? Should I just abandon my efforts for today?

Oh, there's a couple of videos to watch, sent by Jeremey. One is - some affirmative person with a heavy Russian or Polish accent is pushing some cheap shit regarding cloud security (as if it's my business... but she's clueless anyway); another is about good CLI tools. Will have to watch both. The first one provides about 1 bit of information a minute, so I can do sudoku while listening to her.

That's it for today. Well, actually I still have two hours till the same meeting. Must also finish watching the beautiful movie I've been watching.

May 02, 2024

Well...

Spent some time trying to run tests that require docker locally. There was one small bug in docker's Ruby code, I just tweaked the script to ignore it. Still was not working. Eventually I figured that I use k8s to do port forwarding, so I guess they are just interfering. Whatever.

For the doc generation, now I need to access logs in datadog. Spent a day bugging Bermi, bugging John; got an API_KEY, got an APP_KEY (two different things), and eventually figured that since my sample requests don't send x-request-id, there's no way I can find something there. But if they do,

things must be easier. So I slapped together a cheap x-request-id generator, combining mac address, current time in seconds (we are on a mac), and just plain counter. And a tag, of course.

That's it for today. Strange that I managed to get something out of people. Oh, and one PR was approved, so I merged it. It's not production, it's in docs folder - scripts to generate docs.

Now I have a vague feeling that tests (good tests) are a good source of samples to build docs from. Thinking about it.

Oh, and strangely, Jeremey was sending me, to my private email, regular invitations for 1-1 - and then removing them. Turned out, by mistake.

Also, asked him what am I supposed to do with "performance assessment page" that the HR sent me. I'm a contractor, my performance, in my view, is always five stars. Or six. Or even Eleven. They want to hear how I love myself? It turned out that no, they don't. This does not apply to me. I'm a contractor. Temporary husband. Something like a lover or something.

May 06, 2024

Nothing new. Slapping together the scripts, trying as much as I can to bypass the flakiness of Bermi's scripts and his makefile.

Also, my pr for the project on which I experiment was approved by Bill, with a bunch of pretty neat nitpicks and comments. I love this kind of attention. And he approved it, so I can send the fixes in the next PR.

What else: trying to pass around x-request-id in requests, and then go to datadog and extract the logs - but well, Bermi's scripts are sophisticated and shitty, and his Makefile is not something I want even to touch. Bermi does not want to approve, or probably even to review my fixes in his scripts. So later today I talked with Jeremey, and he does not mind if I just fork that project.

At our 1-1 Jeremey was trying to convince me that I should not discuss Jon Pretty on our work Scala channel, and I was trying to convince him that I absolutely agree. It also turns out in this company (which is large and distributed) there's a bunch of Jon's haters (and lovers of Travis, I presume), so there. Politics. At work we should cooperate, not fight.

May 07, 2024

Almost a strike today. Signify, through which my salary is funnelled, has problems with timesheets; I tried to call all the phone numbers on their website - no way; pinged Sean in all possible ways - no answer, so I eventually contacted their big boss - and then, eventually, Sean started moving; called me, etc. So, since my hours were not recorded, it's a good time for a strike, right? But by the end of

the day I got back to my scripts, etc. Another funny thing: I posted in `#sig-scala` a Scala joke: "the dumbest way to get the first line in a string is `val line = s.takeWhile("\n" !=)`

Some people laughed, some said that I should write `val line = s.lineIterator.next`. But Zan thought I'm laughing at some noobs, and it's improper and impolite.

So I had to write a long text regarding that the sarcasm is in my address, and this was actually my line of code, etc. And eventually everyone was just happy.

Hey, and I'm also on something like pager duty. Except that there's no pager, and there are no playbooks, and I've no clue where to report for the duty, and how I'm going to receive notifications. But checking my emails regularly, for sure. Nothing there. OTOH, maybe our system is just robust and reliable.

May 08, 2024

Spent the whole day mostly working. Basically, I need to get datadog logs, but for that i need to pass around `x-request-id`; and it seems like it's not returned in the response headers, for some reason. But, otoh, it's in my logs. So... so, working on it.

Missed a meeting: my alarm on my work computer stopped notifying me about meetings, and, shit, what can I do. How come google calendar pings me all the time on my machine, but is silent on the work machine? More, it was working two days ago.

Well, whatever. I'm having fun.

Yes, and Signify eventually got through with my timesheets. Sean is still pissed off that I did not ping him. Aha. I sent him an sms, I called on his work phone, I sent him a message on linkedin. But he reacted only when his manager told him to fucking do something (about the shitty software for which Sean is not responsible).

Anytway, whatever.

Bye.

May 09, 2024

So, I have about three problems to solve:

- switch from staging to dev, or
- use another `institution_id`
- run tests in “users” project
- “review” an automated PR
- I miss meetings, because no notifications pop up (again)

The first one: asked Devon, he's silent, same with the second.

The third: Asked Esteban and Brad; Brad suggested to restart rancher docker, I did, logged in, but it's not running. Investigating.

The fourth: Sam is kind of bashing me for not fixing the pr sent to me by some bot. The bot "upgraded" sbt to version 1.10.0 (from 1.9.something), but it does not build. 1.10.0 requires Scala 2.13.something. I tried 2.13.13, but some libraries don't exist. I tried 2.13.0 (typelevel libraries do exist), but then scalameta libraries don't exist. Eventually I described my experience to Sam... also, noted that 1.10.0 again has this old bug about not being able to look up libraries locally (a '/' is skipped in building a path).

Oh, whatever.

And the notifications. An amazing support guy last week helped me, and I was getting sound notifications for about two days. And then again.

So... googled it. Got a suggestion to "turn off and on" the "Do not disturb" flag. Well, except that my mac does not have "do not disturb button" (but has it in the list in "System Settings"). So I turned "focus" off and then on. There's no way to set time for "do not disturb" or "focus". And here's the magic: it worked now! It fucking worked!

Ok, at least some progress.

May 10, 2024

Nothing special. Just working on this crazy set of scripts, to extract logs from datadog using x-request-id which is actually not returned, so I bypass some stuff.. well, whatever. Wrote to Marc about his three tests not passing after sbt was "upgraded". He somehow knows what else should be "upgraded" in the build scripts, but I never had time for that. So there.

That's it. Still working on civilizing Bermi's scripts, but it's not easy.

May 13, 2024

I decided to do something in the morning.

And the system did not let me in. Asked on support channel - a bot told me to go to this page and file a ticket. The page requires login. The bot also told me that I can call a number. I call the number, a bot there told me to go to this page and file a ticket. Ok, ok, I got it. It's night in America.

What could I do? Almost nothing.

Later on (after French class) I tried again: no way. Called that number. We spent about half an hour on the call. Turned out my password has expired. Why didn't they just send me an email. At least a

warning email. Anyway, so we went to a “password reset” page, and it asked me about my favorite pet name, my first street, my worst food. And it did not like my answers. So eventually I shared my screen with Tristan (the support guy), and we got it. Could be more humane, right?

Next I went ahead with datadog logs. Meaning, I did send proper curl requests. Getting “Forbidden”. So by the end of the day I wrote John, and... and nothing.

There’s also another stupid thing - the policy under which a bot decides to upgrade to a “better sbt”, and changes the version - but tests fail, build fails, etc. I’ve been fucking with it for about a week. Marc wrote to me that we need to take into account the changes Typelevel people (that is, assholes) made. Except that they are not available yet. And when I made some obscure changes that Marc suggested, more failures started coming up.

Then I saw another message from the same bot - another “let’s upgrade to Scala 2.13.12”, with failing tests and builds. The same failures. This time the “review” was assigned to me and Marc. So I wrote to Marc, and, basically, closed my work computer for the day.

By the way, this week no scrum. I don’t know what is it, are we celebrating something? Bank holiday week, or?

Well, at least my hours are filed.

Or maybe we are not even supposed to work this week, since there are three “sprint planning days”. One of the days falls on Wednesday, the day I fly. So I labeled it as “can’t participate”. A couple of hours later that meeting was canceled.

I love this company, but it’s a total enigma to me.

May 14, 2024

Basically, nothing to say, except that I figured how deal with specifying the sequence of test calls if one depends on another - it’s just that the sequence will follow the order of endpoints in the code, and this order is inherited by the scripts (storing sequential number inside). As a result, we can call ‘create’, then ‘read’, etc.

OTOH, we could write down dependencies, but that’s confusing.

Had just one meeting, “planning meeting”. The team was exchanging abbreviations, the meaning of which I’m clueless about. I don’t care.

Also, John, that gave me API key for datadog, did not respond to my request, how come I’m getting “PROHIBITED” “FORBIDDEN”. Well... maybe tomorrow.

Also, no evening meetings till the end of the week. So, it’s almost like a vacation.

I decided ignore the bots requests to review their code if their tests are failing. No, fixing their updates is not listed in my sprint. If Sam wants to fix it, she may find time for that; I have other important things to do.

Ok, and there's another case, which requires fixing docker start - the problem is with PAT that I use for pulling a container from github. I know the theory; will fix it in America.

That's it for today; ok, I may continue working today till it gets dark, but not longer.

May 15, 2024

Not much. Did some stuff while on the plane; at 3:40, in CLT, on the way to the border, sat in a corner and participated in a meeting.

And in the evening sent a couple of emails.

Will work tomorrow (and on weekend), too exhausted right now.

May 16, 2024

My work schedule is a little bit weird. Good that there's no scrum, at least. Spent all day working on those scripts. Oh, first, I did manage to extract logs from datadog via API. Which probably means that next I'll rather do it using scripts, jq, and, maybe, plain Scala, instead of that sophisticated, tricky GUI.

The whole integrated thing does not work together yet, though. Datadog behaves like a bad teacher: you send it a JSON, it says "wrong JSON". What? You send it in the command, -d '{....}', it works. You put it in a file, send it with -d "@\$filename", it says the same JSON is wrong.

But ok, now I can reproduce this shit, and I will make it work. Parameterize, to make sure I keep Bermi's code, with a little bit of indirection. In general, I guess I see the problem with scripting. Scripts are written by the people who may be smart, but are clueless regarding programming. They solve one problem, and then another, by just remembering the tricks. Never generalizing. That's why I write scripts with chatGPT. The bot frequently produces something that works, so there. But shit, these inexperienced programmers.

And yes, I did not know what was the problem. The problem is, lack of taste and programming abilities. Like Perl, with Larry who was never a programmer, but a linguist.

Bermi's makefile consists of a bunch of tasks consisting of calling shell scripts. So, what's the point. Who will take makefiles seriously? It's like Roman numerals. There's a funny but stupid discussion on facebook today about a Python code that works in one version, but does not in another. The code relies on the order in which entries of a Set are being enumerated. My attempts to explain that a

Set may be enumerable, according to Zorn lemma, but they are not axiomatically and canonically enumerable, were just totally not understood.

Oh, whatever. I'm glad I see working parts (of the clock), tomorrow I'll make it all work together.

May 17, 2024

So, as planned, I've got the logs from datadog in my tool, via API - and you know what, during the last week none of the records contain request ids generated by my script (tag-mac-timestamp-sequential). Asked the guys. Turned out since May 2nd staging does not log anything. Nice. Jeremey went ahead and checked it via Web UI - yes, that's how it is.

So, I wrapped the stuff together, cleaned up a little bit, and sent three PRs: one for the project, where I had to provide a script template, one for "Bermi's tool", where I added the opportunity of getting datadog host from env var, and where I added the capability to accept a variety of HTTP response codes.

This happened about 5:20, and it felt good.

There's a couple of other things I should do, and since I skipped Wednesday, I'll do something tomorrow or Sunday.

It rains now.

May 20, 2024

Ok, another week.

Filed my hours.

Checked that nobody reviewed my three PRs.

Took a look at "github channel" - there's a bot that sends PRs for review, and if the PR actually fails tests, or does not compile, it's your job to fix it. I did not believe that, but Jeremey confirmed. Oh, ok, whatever. Will check again.

Looked through Jira. There's a bunch of cases, mostly refactorings. I love refactorings. So, slapped together one. I had a question regarding the bigger picture, of which this refactoring was a part, and asked Jane; she suggested to ask on our channel; I slapped together my question to the channel, then took a look in Jira, which case depends on this case, and found the answer, got the picture, removed the question, and now I have the picture of the flow of refactorings. Cool. I'm not used to working with smart, reasonable people, so every time I wonder, wow, they get it!

Made that PR, sent for review.

Then there was a 1-on-1 with Jeremey; shared our positive emotions and our life experiences; everything's fine.

Then there was a scrum meeting... well, everything's good, the meeting lasted less than 10 minutes. I was thinking about looking at the next independent threads, but then decided to do something at home. And I did.

May 21, 2024

Spent almost the whole day having fun/sex with shell scripts. Bermi reviewed my PR, but suggested to add tests for the functionality I have added. Well, how can I refuse!

The problem is, SUT that I was supposed to test, returns 1. And the whole system is written using set -eE, meaning, any non-zero return is propagated to the top, like an exception.

I tried to change set (did not know how it works), tried to use trap (did not know how it works).

Eventually set +e did the job: in shell scripts, if you set +e, it does not propagate error, and if you set -e, it does. Reminds me Perl.

By the end of the day went to slack and checked if anybody writes me anything. It was Brad, he asked me if I ever bothered to check user alerts/cases, because I was on pager duty today. Oh, ok.

That's it for today. Learned a lot about scripting. The outcome: use normal languages, guys.

May 22, 2024

Well, just spent time sitting in the meetings, not understanding what exactly I'm doing here (one was "planning meeting", another was "sprint post-mortem"). How would I know what the company needs. The code is ok, I have no complaints. Anyway, we find things to do.

My PRs are not exactly being reviewed. Slowly. So I'll just open another case, see what's there.

At 4:30 there was this "scrum meeting". Since there was not much to discuss, discussed that we are all Southern people here, Janet, in Greeneville, is the most Northern. Then. Bill showed up, he's in Minnesota. Ok. Oh, wait, Bill is in Orlando, someone else is in Minnesota.

Whatever. I like my job. Especially when my sugar is high enough.

So, sorry, will go do something a little bit, before closing my work computer.

Oh, one funny pr that I wrote. In one project I saw some Id received from some service is being compared to 6, and if it's 6, the request fails. Tracked the code to Nick, in 2021. Asked him. He dug it up, and said that it is the id of Core Manager. So I introduced a constant, val CoreManagerNumber = 6, added a comment (with a link to our discussion), and sent it to him for review.

May 23, 2024

We are exchanging with Bermi messages about my pull requests, slowly, calmly, I don't like his approach, but I like his communication style. He's some kind of Spanish grand, look down at everyone who can't write a big program in shell script. In my view, that's plain stupid.

Anyway whatever. We'll figure it out.

As to my other pull requests... right now we are having an American holiday soon, so nobody's actually working. Just Esteban in Columbia, he's driving it; I have a feeling he's managing the project. He's great. Got help him to get through.

Meanwhile, I got involved with the next Jira case. Here's a puzzle. In one of the services, if we send a multiline (containing '\n') message to the log, this message is split into multiple log records. The question is: where exactly is it happening? How can we fix it? That's what I'm investigating. And I'm especially amazed by all this improbable nonsense from Typelevel, with its hallucinations regarding category theory. Otherwise, it's just slf4j, no big deal. But these crazy assholes... in short, I have to investigate, how do they do it. Say, you write in your code: logger.warn("oops, my pants are on fire") - and nothing happens. All this goes into Futures, and if you didn't attach those Futures to something, then kaboom. Sick people, eh. Well, whatever, I'll find it out. I love hacking this kind of shit.

Oops, I wrote it in Russian. So this one is a translation.

May 24, 2024

So, what's going on. A "long weekend" is coming, so not so many people are online. People are busy taking a break.

I spammed with "reminders" all those reviewers of my four pull requests that have been hanging around for almost a week. One of the PR is "introduce a constant", with a comment that points to my discussion with Nick. Nick approved it, but Sam (Samanta, a nice-looking bitch) says that she does not know the context. The other PR, somebody else also wrote that they don't know the context. Does it mean that my PR description is not good enough? They don't say it. I can write bigger descriptions. I think I'll be asking them to ask questions as comments to the PR. I'll be happy to answer. But this time I just reassigned one to Esteban, and another forgot to whom.

Then I figured how to deal with this weird logging "bug". I just wrote another app, placed it into tests folder, and this app checks that the log (intercepting it via System.out = myPrintStreamBackedByString. It's not a test, but frankly, I don't think I know how to write tests for that typelevel shit.

"Style checker" in Jenkins did not accept my code. It did not accept import statements and package statement. Oh, and you can't have println in the code, it's not allowed. But print is ok. So I wrote

print("Log verified and it's ok.\n"). Imports, I had shuffled them around (it's Scala), and package, I just removed it, who cares. We will need to repair this "style checker", but it's Sam, and Sam is a bitch. Problems with common sense and logic. Reminds me Sonia Rikhtverchik, if you know that bitch, the bitchest one I ever encountered.

But later, at Scrum meeting, Bill told me that actually the problem was not with logging per se, but specifically with errors happening somewhere deep in typelevel, and reported improperly. So it's not about logging per se. Will investigate.

Also, in the huge pile of bugs assigned to me one is about a user who changed her mail, but continued getting mails to the old address, and these mails are sent from our team's code. Will have to investigate, of course. First, will have to figure out how I can reach that information in a bunch of services. All I know is the user id and org id. Anyway, I'm definitely not in the context, and switching them fast is too much, especially for Friday afternoon. So I had closed my work computer, until the scrum meeting.

There were four of us in the meeting. Esteban told me what is it about the dashboard for datadog that I'm actually also supposed to work on. I'm still curious... and I like datadog anyway. The most reasonable logging platform, in my view.

And Bill told me about that other logging trouble (which was not reported properly).

Oh, and I have another jira case, that only has a title, nothing else. The title is the name of an endpoint. Okay, do I mind? I'm just a contractor, I don't have a skin in all that. My only duty is to make sure I never overwork. Especially since I hear every day how good it is what I do. Which is strange. They are paying me more than probably 99% of their permanent employees.

May 28, 2024

Ok, so, a day after a long weekend is still a long weekend.

What did I do? Since Sam approved yesterday my rather old PR (seems like we are buddies now, flattery works), I decided, ok... I have to move on to the next project to automatically document.

But wait, there was this weird rather old jira case, when a user changed her (I know it's 'her') email, she still was getting mails to her old address. (Is not it typical?) - so it was my duty to investigate. I looked around. I don't know how many servers we have. There is no "hound" that would search over the whole repo. I can do rg (a much faster version of grep) in the projects that I had pulled on my machine; found tons of records containing emails, in classes like 'UserV2', 'UserDigest', etc. So I decided, let me ponder on all this. And went shopping.

After returning from shopping, I decided that instead of doing this lonely prospecting, I'll ask the people. And went doing something, while slapping together a list of questions to ask. Like, where the shit

is “our” database“? Which of “our” services deal with “users” emails? Etc. Add these questions to Jira, and ask on Slack.

Oh, and also, there’s some app on my work machine that controls which version of what we have, and it wanted me to reconnect to the main system. And I tried and tried. No, it does not work. I posted this on a tech support channel, and a bot basically copied my question and asked if it was resolved. I said “no”. That was the end of the support track. Also, this app told me to upgrade Chrome. I did. Chrome restored a session, partially, and then just hung.

So I took a break, then went back and rebooted. That’s how I spent some time...

Also, I got back to that doc generation. First I wanted to reproduce the functionality that was so smoothly working before. No, it did not. Weird messages. Took me some time to figure out that my github token (“PAT” it’s called) was expired. Not a problem, I generated another PAT. Still not working. Took me some time and googling (ok, git is REALLY good at pointing not only at the error, but also at its docs). Turned out I had to reauthorize the company to let it use my new token. Done.

By that time, instead of running my simple script called `r`, I was running a less simple script, the command was `run (project name)`. Bad name, btw, it’s not `run`, it’s `document` or something. Will have to figure out.

Then I spent an hour or more trying to figure out wtf is going on now. github was not returning tags for the project, it was just telling me that there’s nothing there. So I used another github endpoint, to list the projects. That worked. So, wtf, right? Can I just pull (or git clone) the project? No. And why so? Because of a typo in the project name.

So I updated the script, to react properly to a bad project name. Then I felt a bit better.

And then it all worked; and while it was generating, I looked into other things... and then came the “standup”.

Shared our weekend experiences. Bill, in Florida, rode 56 miles on his bicycle, with the air temperature close to 95 degrees. Etc. It’s heroic. I don’t think I’ll go biking in the temperature above 85.

At the meeting I shared my troubles with “user email” - I expected to be pointed at the docs, etc. No. Bill and Brad opened some pages on their computers, tried to find the history of changes, and could not. So they told me this: go to Capybara people (that’s a team, Capybara is their totem), and ask them whether they can find this change in email, the messages sent, and, basically, ask them to take care of this problem.

I like this approach! Not our business! Delegate! Cool. Will do.

But first, I spent time looking up Capybara’s slack channel. There exists one, but it’s archived. So I asked first, on our common channel, whom to ask and where. And that was the end of my day.

Well, not exactly. In the case where exceptions are logged one line per message, Brad showed me an example how it happens (in fs2, but I don't know how it's related... but I'll try to reproduce anyway). Tomorrow. I just took a snapshot of the datadog screen.

Tomorrow, tomorrow.

May 28, 2024

(это просто перевод одной записи дыбра за прошлый год, игнорируйте)

Today it's supposed to be a holiday, but I'm a contractor, my holidays are unpaid, and I have nothing else to do, so I worked.

So, what's up? Worked on a couple of Jira cases; wrote to Bermy (not sure about his name's spelling). BTW, I'm not the only one working. There was a case, sent to me by a bot, where tests are failing; I had reassigned it to Sam, saying that I'm not aware of the context. Sam is a contractor in Canada, by the way. Sam found that this "style error" is a new, recently added check: we should not use unapply in case statements. Well, that's reasonable. Sam wrote something like that to me and to someone else too; I thanked here on Slack, great idea - and approved it. We are competing in our show-off, or something. Well, or is she's just young and likes fighting? I only fight against blocking my progress, otherwise I can't expect a promotion, and I don't care. I'll rather diversify my entertainments.

May 29, 2024

What was happening today? I was trying to make sure that my doc-generating scripts work with another project, and, well, nothing worked. Turned out it's all about shell scripting. I'm gradually moving functionality from scripts to Scala.

But another thing is, the format of that other project is slightly different from the previous one. Not much, but still.

So, I'm on the verge of using Zhenya's Scalameta. Almost there. But currently there was a simple solution to parse single-endpoint routers, so, no rush. Two directions: 1) use scalameta, 2) move it gradually all to Scala.

Also, I'm gradually converting it to a more serious app; before it was just an object with a main. Extracting classes and methods now. Basically, it's programming from scratch, I really love it a lot.

In the other thread, Capybara people answered me that it's too late to investigate the stuff that is over two weeks old, and I'll have to ask Ops to either reproduce or give me logs. Will tell Ops tomorrow. On the other hand, this case is shared with Capybara, so... so, I don't know, I'll just not rush.

Nothing else.

We had a “sprint meeting”, where there were three of us, Esteban, Janet, and me. We mostly talked about life, kids, and whether punishing kids ever made sense. Janet’s father was a WWII veteran, so he had strict rules for everyone. She doesn’t. Then we covered the issue of “modern young people don’t know how to live and behave”, at which I still laugh (while I can).

And another meeting, scrum, where there were just four of us (no Janet), and we covered our issues (no issues actually), said goodbye, wished each other (Portuguese style) good weekend (which is coming soon).

And that’s it for today.

May 30, 2024

It was a bit hard to work today, and attempts to get distracted by other cases were just failing miserably.

In short, some code generation cases succeeded, and I’ll proceed. Stuff works. I’m gradually moving the functionality into Scala. Shell scripting is really pathetic. E.g. how exactly do you return a string from a function? By echo. Now what if, in that function, some code produces some output? Like `git pull --rebase` tells you explicitly that everything’s fine. These two words, `everything's` and `fine` will mix with the output you want from that function.

Sounds like Ancient Roman Programming.

Well, whatever. I’m working on it.

BTW, since it’s a long weekend (still), basically nobody’s working. I like this state, when nobody’s interfering with what I do.

May 31, 2024

Spent most of the day working seriously on this doc generator; now added tests framework, added test samples, and in general turned this thing into something serious. Not exactly; scalameta is still waiting.

That old jira case that I was going to bug Ops about, there was also a parallel case in Capybara team, and it was closed. So, I added a link to that case, and closed mine. Profit.

A bot sent a PR to review; the code was not compiling, but it was easy to fix.

It’s Friday, so there was just one meeting, “standup”. There were three of us, virtually standing up. Spent about 10 minutes talking about cases; what Devon was talking about, I had no clue, but Esteban did, so I was just nodding, like an clueless Indian manager.

Anyway, it's almost 7pm, and I've just pushed my updates to my branch. Will make tests and will run them Monday. Since five endpoints no do produce docs (but don't grab any logs from datadog, so that's a different story... Monday, Monday.)

June 2024

June 03, 2024

Started working early today, because I had to go visit my dentist (cleaning) by 11.

Ok, the whole day I was converting a scripting style, POC code that I had slapped together, into something serious, with tests coverage etc.

Also figured that I have to parse HTTP4S DSL, which may be a bit unusual. But whatever. It's a pleasure, writing code.

At 4:30 we had a "standup", and there were just three of us, Bill from Florida, Janet from NC, and me, from SC. So basically we talked about life; showed a video of a turtle swimming in my pool, etc. Bill said that they have 80°F (26°C) in the ocean - like my pool today.

Talked about too much traffic on hwy 85. Janet suggested to ban the people to cross state borders for work. Bill said "it's a free country". I said "it's a free country". Then I suggested to declare that going for work to another state is a form of "human trafficking" - to scare all the idiots in this country (there are plenty). Americans pretend to not really know the difference between slave trading and prostitution.

So we had fun, and laughed a lot, and agreed that there must be a team meeting IRL, somewhere in Atlanta, but Bill said that Atlanta is a dangerous place. (Ok, maybe Charleston?)

And then I worked for about an hour and a half more. Because I crave!

June 04, 2024

I'm on pager duty today, so I was kind of on alert.

When some issue was raised by the ops (someone's email did not get recorded, etc), I asked the colleagues, if anybody knows which service is responsible for these updates (I kind of know it, since I'm working, most probably, on that service, but not sure). While it was being discussed, the devops notified me that they found the problem and the solution (malformed email... go figure, why did not frontend say "gtfo")?

Whatever. It's all formal.

Meanwhile, since my documenting service was failing on one of the projects, I started investigating, writing tests, etc. The problem with the tests is that IntelliJ is kind of crazy, and does not allow to run the tests properly (complaining about tons of irrelevant shit). So I run tests in sbt console (in IntelliJ), and since it makes debugging virtually impossible, I enjoy the "no-debugger" development. It's a little bit slower, but it makes the code more robust.

So by the end of the day I found the problem, fixed it, made the code more robust, and *almost* created a PR. Actually not, since the stylechecker will be complaining about the code, and I'll have to clean it up. Tomorrow.

Tomorrow, btw, there will be Day of Meetings. But ok, now that I have three screens, I can turn off the sound and go ahead and work on the PR.

That's it. It's 7:37 now; I worked till 7:something. With some breaks.

June 05, 2024

In the morning I had fixed all those “style errors” in that big PR - turned out that it was no big deal.

And sent a PR for review: 57 files. Explained wtf, etc. But Bill suggested to split it into pieces.

Well, do I mind? First, I removed all those generated docs from the PR. Now I have 44 files. Then extracted two small PRs, five files each.

One is shell scripts, another one - build.sbt, plugins.sbt, and moving some files around, with no changes.

Now I'm waiting. And waiting.

Ok, actually, I opened one pending PR, where there was a long discussion with Brad and Devon, and decided, ok, let me do something about moving Kafka sinks from one module to another, a Devon insists on. (It will all go there, but in steps).

And I dove (dived) into the Server code.

OMFG. It's one big “monadic for”, where the monad is IO. One big main method, taking a bunch of pages, with dependencies inside dependencies, and all this is for what exactly? It's a sequential execution. Why the fuck do they use IO?

Anyway, I extracted a bunch of methods (thank you IntelliJ), and that included extracting Kafka sinks calls. The code became more readable.

It also became obvious that the sinks cannot be moved without moving the module's Backend class.

Good. Wrote to Devon. Let him suggest something.

Now I have just one more PR in Jira. Or... or maybe not. That's about strange logging. Will investigate tomorrow. No rush.

And maybe I should take a look at Jira? Well, whatever.

Oh, and we also had two meetings canceled silently (one I just joined, it was not canceled, but nobody came), and then there was a 4-hour big meeting, where I was present for about an hour. It was all about some abbreviations that we are successfully planning to accomplish.

Oh, and they also published a photo of 6 heroes who spent two years moving some user functionality from one back/front-end to another. Two years. Cool, right? Reminds me the story of Boeing's Starliner (or whatever pepelats they suddenly launched today).

For me, my job is like sudoku. But no competition.

June 06, 2024

Pinged, Sheldon style, my colleagues regarding my two PRs. Approved. Merged them into main, merged my big PR from main.

Just 28 files left. Created another PR, with the main Scala code, sent for review.

Also, pinged Devon regarding that other old PR, which we've been discussing for over a week.

Then this github bot sent me a PR for “a review” - well, it all crashes. And it’s my responsibility to make it work. Investigated, did not get it, asked the people. Sam and Bill responded. Ok, will take a look tomorrow. Basically, the problem is that when updating the version of one plugin, we are supposed to get other plugins for Scala 2.13 (as is documented), but they don’t exist, and the build attempts to retrieve a version for Scala 2.12, which does not exist according to docs.

But after all this discussion I just got tired, and called it a day.

Especially since nobody shows up on meetings. Just three or four of us. Esteban is always there, I’m always there. We are contractors. We are paid for wasting our time. I can also read facebook while being in a meeting.

June 07, 2024

As usual, Friday, and nobody there. But I’ve managed to convince to approve my two-week old pr, and merged it right away. Case closed. Now there’s a dependent one.

The other PR, I just sent a /remind via github, and left it till Monday.

And I have a PR created by bot, and it’s been failing, and it’s my job to fix it.

Dependencies, ok. Eventually, with Sam’s help, figured the underlying idea. But jfrog is pretty dumb crazy. It does not list all that I look for, so I think it’s not there. It’s there, you just need to provide a full name of what you are looking for. If you provide a part, it will show you some results.

So I had to switch between branches, to find what exactly I depend on.

Ok, it almost compiles. But our, well, devops had just improved the requirements. No “value unapply” allowed. Which is extremely good, but well, what can I do with the code I never saw, written 2 years ago by a Spanish contractor, in the style that I wrote when i was 24 (but I had ‘goto’).

So I started decomposing it a little bit. Eventually *almost* got there. Of course it involves Scala cats “monads”, which are not always monads. Go figure. Going and figuring, of course.

Well, whatever. The very idea that this shit should be kept sane and get improved, frankly, inspires me. Getting healthier, a little bit. Getting so much better all the time.

June 10, 2024

So, nobody approved my “documenter” code; sent them a reminder; tomorrow I’ll be pinging them on slack.

Meanwhile I was fixing that “version upgrade” project. cats library sucks, monad transformers suck, crazy Spanish programmers were building something like Sagrada, no taste, no harmony, just a tall pile of shit.

Eventually I made it work, but did not like the way the code looks, so asked Esteban and Sam to take a look and suggest any ideas to make it readable.

Imagine, you might slap together an error Response (HTTP 400), with some custom message. Normally that’s all you need, and you then send it.

But why t.f. the authors of HTTP4S want a “Kleisli”? that is, you have to provide a function that takes a request (in this specific case we ignore the request), and return an OptionT(Async[IO[Response]])? So I spent some time wrapping my response into IO, Async, OptionT. They call it Kleisli. I bet it was either Travis or Daniel that slapped together this kind of nonsense.

Well, whatever.

And besides, the build script in that project had a bug, and that bug prevented running Scalafix/Scalacheck. I fixed the bug, then spent some time fixing the style.

June 11, 2024

This morning I sent individual reminders to my slow reviewers, Bill and... who was the other one, whatever. But since I had two PRs for the same Jira case, by mistake I sent a link not to the small one (6 files), but to the large one (28 files). And they approved it. Wow, cool, merged it. And since in the small one I already added some header comments, now I have another PR.

Meanwhile I started working on that strange case, “remove persistence server, keeping its Kafka logging”. Halfway there.

Then Esteban asked me if I have a minute. He needs to run my doc tool. So we opened, how they call it, the video on slack, and we ran it, and I found that oops, I had a problem in “prepare” script. Did not bump into it, because “it’s just a script”. So I told him to hold on, went ahead and updated the script

and the readme, sent for review. He approved it, but the other reviewer, Bill, seems to be somewhere, traveling. Ok, tomorrow will ask someone else.

Also, that “version repair” that I finished yesterday, nobody of those whom I asked to look, bothered to look. So I just approved it (I’m a reviewer), ait it was merged. If you want to improve it further, improve it further.

What else did I do? All these things.

Then, eventually, a planning meeting. Jeremey said that big changes are coming our way. And specifically, “you, Vlad, will have a last something to do”. I was feeling that I was on a bench. My favorite place now, a bench.

Next Jeremey told us, that it’s a secret, but there will be a totall reshuffle, all the teams under his control are reorganised, he goes to another department, and we are supposed to drop Scala and switch to Go and Rust. I don’t mind getting closer to Rust. But if they say “write in Go”, I go.

Unfortunately, I did not catch up many details, since, during that meeting, my wife called from Toulouse, and the contractors came to tell me to write down the thermostat MAC address into an app on my phone. That’s while the fate of Scala in our company was being decided (or, as Trump says, “decimated”). Blame typelevel.

After the meeting there was a 15-minute break, then a standup (which only half of the team attends usually), and that was it. I take breaks between meetings as breaks. But anyway, I have a comfortable pile of small but mysterious things to work on. That’s what I’ve been doing at this company so far. Solving puzzles. That’s what contractors do, according to some. According to others, contractors are in full control. Ok, Esteban behaves like this. Good luck.

June 12, 2024

Basically, was working on the case about “removing persistence module”. Functionality is there, it’s just that we don’t need the web API, so there.

Also, we had a meeting regarding “what do we do in the next sprint”, which is about a week-long. They assigned me something regarding adding an endpoint to an API, I’m clueless, but I count on the docs and explanations.

Meanwhile, my other PR was approved, so the doc generator is supposed to be in good condition. Except that, well, it turned out that in one project it does not document one endpoint. Will check tomorrow.

Then at that meeting, Jeremey told our team (which is a half of the previous larger team, of which he’s still a manager) that we are the best, and that those people are no good, and he does not want to

work with them, but likes us. What's the probability that he told them the same? Judging by the style of inter-team communication I observe, he convinced them that our team is no good.

Pretty cheap, right?

Anyway, I was busy doing my stuff, most of the day, so I'm working in the evening now, to compensate the hours.

We will see.

Meanwhile, an interesting company, based in NY and London, is interested in getting me to do some AI stuff using Scala. Yes, I'm interested. Curiouser and curioser.

I also went to Linkedin, updated my profile, sending requests to several of my colleagues (not including Sam, although... why not?). Ready to move, but can stay. Yes, I got a feeling now that contracting macht frei. I may be not interested in "fulltime" anymore.

June 13, 2024

So, maybe Jeremey was right, and that other team is really a team of assholes, who knows.

Sam, the bitch from Canada, who was teaching me how to develop software... so, I spent about 3-4 days, trying to figure out how to adapt that monadic spaghetti from one version of library to another, then sent my fix for an additional review to Sam and Esteban - both ignored it silently, so I approved it (it was not my pr after all, I just made it work), and the pr was automatically merged.

Obviously, "that team" was not happy (but they seem to have taken the right to set up the rules of the game), so she just rolled the pr back. For me it's good; I'll pull out of the role of fixing these prs later on, after all, I'm just a humble contractor. The management seems to be just away, busy with other shit/stuff. Brad only has time to ask me whether I looked into that problem with wrong email address being used, etc. I was sure it was all about eventual consistency between the hundreds of services running around, like those athletes at Boston marathon. I did not answer it yet, thinking about what can I say? Make a list of information I think I need to even investigate it? I can fix code when I know what code we are talking about. And we don't have a "hound" app that looks through the whole collection of repositories.

Oh, whatever.

Another thing, that case, "get rid of persistence module", I did get rid of it, eventually, migrating its remaining kafka sinks to the remaining module. But then, strangely, Esteban was investigating the waves of processor peaks in the same project, so they want me to postpone the merge. Oh, FIIC, right.

I started looking into the documenter. There was one bug, when I changed the scala code parsing, I did not check the behavior on another project, so there. Added a test. BTW, these tests don't run in IntelliJ, have to run them in sbt (in IntelliJ).

But ok, after I fixed that, I decided to look, wtf is going on with the output. And it turned out that Bermi's part, the generator of README, uses shfmt, which does not expect parameters wrapped in '<', '>' (duh), so... so I wrote to him eventually, asking, where in the scripts we have this? I could probably find it myself, but it was about 6:30 in the evening, too late to work.

So that's it for today.

Oh, and I got yet another "thank you" from Janet. We did not have a "standup", just a couple of people posted the status on slack - Esteban and me. But Janet does need information, does not she?

And besides, at one of the meetings Esteban told me he's watching "Turning Point" on Netflix. He said it was about the last half of the previous century, and how the USSR... and how it was in the '90s... for someone from Columbia it's as exotic as the life of Uighurs in China's gulags. He said he can't believe how dangerous it was in the USSR. A guy from Columbia finds it dangerous. We did not see it this way.

Well, whatever. And so it goes.

June 14, 2024

A weird day.

First, the "pr from bot", which I had fixed two days ago, and which the bitch (Sam) rolled back, because I did not follow her unwritten rules, was revived again, and I was again supposed to go ahead and fix it. I just wrote that there is a pr with a fix, and feel free to revive it and merge - or at least review.

Second, the "remove persistence module" pr, that I sent yesterday, got interesting comments from Brad: we cannot remove the module, because some deployment scripts may feel bad about missing module, so he suggested that I move the kafka sinks, to another module (which I did), but keep this module running empty (that is, no endpoints, just a server waiting for a call from above.) I believe they will want to have "health" endpoint at least, but let them ask for it first. Ok, whatever, I promised to restore that "empty server" - but not right away. Monday.

Third, Bermi kind of agreed that his formatter slightly misbehaves, but he suggested that it's the endpoint call format that is not good enough. Well, whatever. I can always fork it, and do with it whatever I choose; Jeremey already said that this could be a good idea.

But anyway, ok, I improved this and that, and the docs started looking better (and stabler, not including values of x-request-id into README). And I would have sent Bermi a pr - but the problem is, one test fails. How come? FIIK. I stashed the changes - that test still fails. I switched the branch to 'main' that test still fails. I rolled back to something before I even touched that project - tons of tests started failing. So, fuck (but not fork) it, I got back to my latest version, and started experimenting. Ok, one of the reasons was that port forwarding was expired. That part is manageable... still failures. So I spent the rest of the day looking deeper into his weird shell scripts, weird Makefile, trying to catch all those

problems that are usually not reported, but just hidden, returning ‘1’ instead. Shell programmers. They think they can.

Oh, btw, but at least the “project under documenting” can be sent for review, that part looks better now.

June 17, 2024

It was a rather short day today.

Ok, I’m on pager duty - but they don’t give us pagers (meaning, no PD installed on my phone). I’m supposed to check slack and email, for the case when somebody complains about something - but nobody does.

So I looked up what’s there to fix; Sam wrote that this was a different PR that I was supposed to review - ok, I looked it up, it’s pretty similar, and it’s in a project with which I was working for a while, so ok.

The problem was that a bot bumped the version of some package, and now one method became deprecated. The method is this: “return JWT credentials wrapped in Option”. There are three other methods, returning the same credentials wrapped in three other monads. But the thing is, I’m supposed to pass those credentials wrapped in Option to some other method... where’s that method? I tried to convert other monads to Option, but the style checker complains about these too.

And then I found that the credentials are never used in that other method. Oh, neat. So I changed the signature (alternatively, I could pass a None).

But the thing is, now github could not finish reviewing this shit, because Jenkins was hanging while running tests. I asked the people, wtf, and where can I find Jenkins logs (in this company). Sam said that I can just ping github to rerun it (by sending an empty git push). NP, so I did. It still hangs.

Later (I was giving these bots a couple of hours to accomplish what takes several minutes on my machine) I found that, ha, Esteban approved the PR, and that was enough for the build system to merge it. No need to wait for the end of the tests run. Magic!

But I was still curious, and opened another page of our Jenkins, a board with all the builds currently running.

A discovery was waiting for me. Some builds have been running since August 30, 2023. Oh, I see! Thank you! Now I know where I work!

In another development, when Brad asked me to restore the service I was supposed to remove, so that the system won’t start complaining, I did exactly that - turned that service into a dummy one. It has only one endpoint left: you ask it for the build info, and it returns the build info.

What's interesting about the build info, the class that contains the data contains four values wrapped in a monad. What monad? IO, probably. Where do the values come from? From constants generated by the build. But the crazy Spanish guys... well, I think, Juan Manuel is one of them. See his slides regarding tagless final.

But now my eyes are open.

No meetings today. Jeremey was supposed to have a 1-1 with me, but he moved it to tomorrow. The standup turned into writeup on Slack. Three people reported the status. That's it for today. Where's everyone else, I don't know. Seems like some (or most of them) are busy participated secret high-level meetings with high-level management. Perfecto!

So I just went to the couch and fell asleep. That's what retirees do, right?

June 18, 2024

Still discussing with Brad, what does it mean, "delete persistence server" if the server should stay, etc. Anyway, by the end of the day slapped together something that is supposed (imho) to satisfy him.

In another development, working on that weird project with scripts that Bermi wrote. One single test still fails (in master too; it did not before).

Had a 1-1 with Jeremey. Mostly talked about programming languages and coding style. He says the "documenter" project is on the back burner, so I should wrap it up. Ok, I will. Tomorrow.

What else, next we had a meeting, me, Bill, Janet, Esteban - we had no clue what to talk about, so we talked about short hair, about Esteban's cute sobrinos, about Janet's dog that she had to wash because the dog just got rolled in mud. And Bill's Florida weather, not so good for biking.

The "scrum" meeting took about five minutes.

Cute, right?

June 19, 2024

Spent some time discussing with Brad what exactly do we need for "deleting the server" if the server must continue running. Kind of agreed. Still, there's an idea of kicking out this class and that class, and use a common config, etc. We will see. Working on it.

The rest of the time was spent on making that pile of scripts work. What happens, if something slightly changes in the environment, functions just crash silently. Spanish programming style, "don't fart". So I had to inject tons of debug echoes. Fixed it all eventually. Sent to Bermi for review.

Basically, I'm not supposed to work on this, but well, I want to wrap it up before laying it away.

We had meetings; mostly talked about weather, lawns, dogs, sod, topsoil, etc. I like this. I was in my “I See Dead Code” t-shirt; Jeremey appreciated it (since I’m kicking out a module while keeping the server running). Yes, I love this company. Feeling retired.

June 20, 2024

Still tweaking that funny PR with “delete persistence server”. By the end of the day sent it again to Brad.

There was a bunch of PRs sent me for review by bots. One I fixed, another fixed, and the third one was just helpless, and I asked the people, and the people said that this project should be dropped, and suggested to remove me from the list of reviewers. Cool.

Had meetings, where we mostly talked about dogs and lawns and weather, and whatever. Jeremey saying goodbye to the team(s). He also said that we all should file our PTOs asap, for accounting purposes. We have no clue about when and where we will be in the fall (and how many times I will fly to France this year). So... so I asked, is it also related to contractors? And got no answer. Ok, whatever, do I care.

That’s it. Seems like I did not work much, but I did a lot actually. That including blocking “scalafmt” from checking the code that contains embedded XML - scalafmt is just clueless, and scalameta people say it’s a bug in scalafmt.

That’s it. I love my half-retirement. I actually planned to (half-)retire in mid 2020.

June 21, 2024

I’m on pager duty today, so I was looking around, what’s up, etc. There was one funny (or not) failure reported: a user sees “unknown error”. But I could not get into datadog, because, well, it did not let me in. It did allow me to change the password, though. We have two datadog servers, on one I can get in, and on another I could not. Wrote to internal support, and they eventually posted a link, where to go - and kaboom, I’m in. Turned out, another man had the same problem, and he’s in too.

That’s how I saw this “unknown error” in the logs. But soon I saw a message that no, it’s not our team’s product that returns this shit. Ok, that was easy.

Bermi wrote to me some reasonable comments regarding the script. But well, the tests fail on master, so? Asked him what he suggests to do with failures on master.

What else? Oh, the bots pull requests. Some go through cool, but another was causing stack overflow in Scala compiler, mentioning scalameta, macros, java reflection, tpoletcat’s shit, etc. And the operation was “scalafix”. So I experimented with it... it was not failing, even when I installed that

“tumerin@11” or something JDK. So I wrote to the colleagues. Marc tried just to add more stack memory, and kaboom, it worked. Wow.

Then I turned to that “bad log” case, when an exception causes two dozen log messages, since every line goes separately to the log. Eventually figured that the cause may be in Vault class, in a library written by some other team. And the library we use is about a year older than the latest version. So I wrote to Morgen (the author of the latest version), asking if she thinks it’s ok to update.

Also, that “kill persistence” case - Brad still has some ideas (good ones), so I’m tweaking it accordingly.

That’s it. I would not say I spent tons of time working. Swimming, French, watering the lawns, figuring out insurance, bank things... and buying AAPL right before it crashed. Should not I just retire from trading? Maybe.

June 24, 2024

Spent all day refactoring. If you deal with a bullshit like “FunctorK”, an invention of, yes, Daniel Spiewak, then you may guess how his followers used all that. Reminds me the level of math where “AUC” is something important and hard to calculate - and as a result, the “algorithms” become unmanageable.

June 25, 2024

Spent time doing strange things.

Because my Big PR (59 files) has been around for about 3 weeks now, and Brad just does not dare to look at it again, I split it into pieces, and sent one for review. No rush, eh.

Also, approved on bot’s pr, but another was strangely misbehaving. One test fails in Jenkins, but not locally, and I can’t see how, because what it does it just pulls a doc from a service and compares it with what it has. And? Weird. Sent it to Deren (or Daren? whatever), since he was the last one to touch manually that project.

Meanwhile, people started asking wtf is going on with the OPs case where we use a wrong email address. I wrote to them, listing the questions I would ask, but... and you know what, Brad pointed me to the right tools. And to the right log for the right service. Except that the log is, strangely, either unavailable or empty. And I’m still installing the tool, which involves installing Go. It still does not work, because of artifactory.

And there’s another case I’ve been investigating, where the library we use seems to not match the source code, and why exactly? I can build the library, now the question is, is it the same binary? Or? I’ll have to check out Jenkins builds.

There was no “standup”, so we all just posted status in Slack. And why? Because Jeremey is moving to another team, and he does not care. Cool! I like managers who don’t care.

June 26, 2024

Besides the funny misunderstandings and mishaps with the prs from bots (Sam helped me to figure out), I spent most of the time figuring out the shit with exceptions being logged with a message for each line of stacktrace.

Eventually I found it. It’s not Vault (it behaves properly), it’s about an error returned from Vault that is converted into an exception. IO monad my ass, throwing an exception. The code is copy-pasted by our Spanish predecessors, who did read the Red Book but either did not understand it, or understood it too literally (the book has some errors, yes, regarding monads).

Well, whatever. We had a small “guess the points” meeting, where Brad reads cases from Jira, and we are supposed to guess how many points they would be. I have no clue, except for some rare cases where I know wtf it is about, so I either was giving it 3 points, or just followed the others and gave an average. It’s all just nonsense for upper management who is interested to see how our points per person (ppp) grow with time, meaning that we are making progress. Those scrum points are not even additive, but nobody understands what I’m talking about if I say that, so I don’t.

By the end of the day we had a “standup”. There were two of us, Jeremey, who is currently a manager of two teams (“midlevel”), and me. Nobody else bothered to show up. So I told Jeremey the story about Spanish guys copy-pasting their illegible shit that was never tested in bad cases. But who cares, right?

June 27, 2024

More or less a mess.

First, my previous PR was approved, and I merged it to main. Then I slapped together the next one, in the same project.

And then kaboom, Jeremey informed us that this project does not do user role change. How come? I don’t know. Well, at least I found out that these requests come not via regular HTTP, but via Kafka. Oh, nice. So I suggested to roll back the service to the state before me, and I’ll see whether this functionality worked (and whether there is a test). Everybody agreed, and Esteban rolled it back. I was looking, how t.f. is it being done. Manually. kubectl from a terminal. No scripts, no automation. Just build and deploy, from your machine. Oh, whatever.

Then, later, I pulled that deployed branch, and started looking for tests for that functionality. Seems like a) no tests, and b) no role change implemented. (And c) none of my changes were related to all

that “role change”.)

Ok, promised to investigate.

And another case, where my name is not even mentioned, Jeremey is asking me about any progress. Ok, any progress. I’m trying to get `postgres-command` to run stuff from CLI. Time-permitting. So far did not do anything. Context switch. I fucking focused deep into those IO monads and exceptions inside, while... Oh, whatever. I’m not at the age when one should bother about this shit. I just spend time having fun solving puzzles. But it’s impossible to switch from puzzle to puzzle.

That’s it for today. Will continue tomorrow. It’s just that the quarter is coming to an end, and they need to report. There’s just one day left, so let’s pretend we are busy. Monday will be all quiet (and nobody present, I guess.)

June 28, 2024

Ok, the end of a quarter. Everybody’s hiding.

Since Jeremey wanted me to move on with that Ops case, and I need to a) see the logs, and b) get access to the database, I have to do something. As to the logs, they are kept for just 15 days. I don’t know, do we have SOX, or what? Do we have a user history in the db? Can the user roll back (in their dreams, probably).

So I needed at least to install that homegrown postgres tool. One of the installation stages requires to turn off VPN. How exactly? This is a corp computer, VPN was installed by those people in the office, and I have no control over it. I wrote to support channel. One sent me to another. Wrote to another. Esteban answered that I need to click the VPN button on top. Ok, many, I saw lots of “VPN buttons on top” in my life, but this is not the case. So I wrote, and now I’m waiting for the support to react. But this is the end of a quarter.

Then I decided to go ahead and investigate that case, where somebody upgrades a user to admin, but nothing happens. They did roll back my changes (unrelated), now we need to check whether the functionality is back. Where are the tests?

Since there’s more than two methods with the same name, `updateUser()`, I did this: I took every such method and inserted throw `new Exception("JUST CHECKING")` - and ran all the tests.

Nothing.

How come?! There are tests for these cases, I know. Started investigating the tests.

Ha, that’s Spanish contractor trick. They mock the system they were supposed to test. Here’s the mock, it returns this, and we test it in our test suite, making sure that it returns what we want it to return. The only thing this test checks is that the method is actually called (it’s a mock). Except that the method is called explicitly from the test.

See, I do have some experience in software development, but I never saw such tests in my life yet.

Ok, and at 4:30 we had a “standup”; there were five of us! Jeremey, Esteban, Bill, Brad, me.

After that I checked again whether the support told me how to turn off their mystical VPN - no answer.

So, ok, goodbye Second Quarter.

July 2024

July 01, 2024

Since in the morning Janet let us know that the role change is still not working in that “Spanish project”, I wrote some comments in Jira, and started working on the thing. It’s pretty stupid… well, the first stupidity, I guess, is an “unknown monad” being passed around to make sure that we have a Kleisli. Now, how do they manage to deal with futures and errors at the same time? I don’t see a good solution. Why? I don’t know. Blame Daniel. And tpoletat.

But in this specific case, blame Spanish programmers. If one needs several minutes to run one test suite, with mocks in the background, then wtf, right? The test suite contains thousands of lines. I decided to pull out the test cases I need, to a separate suite. And trying to trace, who called whom, is also challenging, because it’s all “in parallel”, in fibers. Why does one need a bunch of fibers to run an essentially sequential operation of modifying a user record? We need a transaction, not a parallelism (what’s there to parallel?). And whatever, this is not what I’m working on.

Then we had a 1-1 with Jeremey; he was totally happy that I already found something when updates are not being passed… I did, but is it the actual failing use case? I don’t know. But at least Jeremey will have pieces of code to show at their high-level meetings. Since, you know, I’m a nobody to the “upper management”, but Jeremey is risking his career if he does not have “technical answers” to angry managers’ questions. Now he’s ok, and he’s happy.

Then we had a ‘stand-up’, which basically consisted of Jeremey, Brad, Janet and me discussing this issue, and Janet told the stories about people up there being worried, and we agreed she’ll provide more pertinent information; then we continued discussing being able to find stuff at home (I have a wife for that, she knows everything).

After all this I worked just a little bit, and since all I was getting from Janet was promises to provide information, I just closed my computer.

Oh, in another development, I eventually got a hint from support, where do I find VPN. It’s Big-Edge or something, that connects to VPN. But it did not, showing an obscure error. It turned out I had to upgrade some credentials. Ok, now I know. Now I can turn VPN off and on. Good. Will do, I’m just busy with other things.

July 02, 2024

Well, spent another day investigating this Spanish code. That’s something. When you are supposed to update a Customer, you first update a User, and then send some updates via Kafka. I don’t know who designed that, but it’s a really good way to make data inconsistent. BTW, the problem with “wrong user email” may be explained by this “architecture” as well. Transactions? Never heard.

Tests call mocks. The mocked code is never covered with tests. So... so we don't know what works and what does not. Integration tests just pass even if I add an exception into some code that's supposed to be tested.

Oh, I'm on Pager Duty today. And some Ops sent a message on slack that we are all supposed to update our email addresses in Pager Duty. So I spent some time trying to log in to Pager Duty, with both my email addresses and with both my passwords. Neither worked, so I wanted to change my password. But well, where do they send the email? To the old email address? Well... So I wrote to the Ops guy that this is kind of a circle.

And we had a meeting regarding discussing problems and achievements - just three of us, Bill, Esteban and me. Three people that do care. I shared with them stories about tests testing mocks, etc. Then we talked about the weather, in Florida, in Columbia (Columbia is a big country, actually, and what you have in the litoral and what you have in the mountains, it's all different). I asked Esteban again whether they celebrate 4th of July in Colombia, and he said that US owes Colombia something: Panamá, which was taken away from Colombia. I said that I personally don't owe anything, I was not there, I was in Russia. Bill did not say anything, I guess he did not get the immigrants joke.

BTW, I discovered in that Spanish code a large chunk that's commented out - seems like this is the chunk that was doing the necessary updates. At the top there's a link to Jira case. The Jira case says that this code should be covered with tests, and that some updates may be not working. That's two-years old. The case was closed. The notes by Brian say that these things still should be done.

Archaeology... They laid off (or fired, I don't exactly know) Brian (we are connected on linkedin), and hired me in his place. "They" are a little bit secretive about it, but Scala world is not big. E.g. there's a bunch of people that are sure I'm racist, fascist, trumpist, chauvinist (meaning, je suis chauve).

Interesting how some people find enemies in totally unsuspecting other people. But that's outside. So far, in this company only Sam was kind of fighting me, but she's a naive girl, and we have resolved our misunderstandings. I actually appreciate a lot her professionalism.

July 03, 2024

So, what's up today. July 3rd, nobody at work. I'm continuing my investigations. Meanwhile, a bot "upgraded" the same project, and now it does not build. Asked Sam about dependencies, she gave me a good advice; ok. But the code is no deprecated, with an updated library, so, warnings. And I started fixing warnings.

Fixed them. But now Jenkins fails building it. A variety of complaints; one repeating is that the build makes too many docker requests. Really interesting.

And yes, I was investigating the code. I guess now, the programmers are just beginners that read the Red Book (FP in Scala). Here's a code sample:

```
object Server {  
    private[this] def recordToString[A, B](record: Record[A, B]): String =  
        record.headers.toChain.toList  
            .map(s => s"${s.key()}", ${String.copyValueOf(s.value().map(_.toChar))})  
        .toString()  
  
    //...  
    where  
  
    class Header... {  
        def key: String  
        def value: Array[Byte]  
    ...  
    }  
(this is from Kafka library)  
Kids writing code for banks.
```

July 04, 2024

I'm paid per hours, I have lots of time, and I'm curious - so I worked today.

And yes, I investigated, wtf is going on, and where is it that the record is being updated.

Gradually tweaking the test to make it really test the code.

By the end of the day I found a comment: // update the fields of Consumer record

Basically meaning that a) the code just does not exist; b) the tests carefully bypass checking that the fields are updated.

Probably they fired the guy while he was working on the code.

Anyway, I'll have to talk to the management, what next. The cause is found, but implementing all this is a different story.

July 05, 2024

An interesting day, July 5. Only three people seemed to be online: two managers and me.

I updated jira regarding us being stuck with nonexistent functionality.

Then looked into what exactly they wanted from me regarding a new dashboard in datadog. I mean, I created a dashboard, but what next?

Then I looked through Jira, and found that I don't have anything except one new endpoint, the functionality of which (and the uri too) I could not figure out from all the texts and pics I saw.

Then Brad reacted to my question about the dashboard, saying that I should work on the endpoint - and I told him that's what I'm doing. And he's happy.

Then Jeremey asked me if I still work at iHeart, I said "no", then checked out LinkedIn, and there it was saying I do, so I updated the LinkedIn info.

Frankly, I don't give a damn, these days.

And that's it for today.

I like this situation when you have just one Jira case, and then you ask a question, and then you can go playing sudoku or whatever.

July 08, 2024

So, part 1 of the day. I have one Jira case, where I have no clue what this or that abbreviation means, and what the uri is supposed to be, and what do you mean by this and by that.

And I asked Brad, where it would be better to ask my questions. And he pointed me to one amazing service that is like a firewall between users and business functionality. That firewall's README is an amazing document. Also pointing to a list of entry points in the system. 2700+ entry points. Not even ordered by applications, just grouped. But it was really very informative.

Then Janet asked, what is the status of that "user role not being passed to the DB". And I pointed to my findings, and Janet said that maybe I'm wrong, because Brad said that it works ok in prod, and that it's just about a long delay in this change propagating to the DB. And I said, ok, probably Brad knows better - but tests are still missing, so it's not verifiable (yet).

Then I turned away from that, and returned to studying this amazing huge firewall.

We were supposed to have a meeting dedicated to that new functionality, but the meeting was moved for later, and later, and eventually to tomorrow. Ok, do I mind?

Then we had a standup. Jeremey showed up and, basically, explained to us that our team is being half-disbanded, half moved to another manager, Rachel. Since we have 4 Rachels in slack, I asked which one, and he said the last name. I looked her up in LinkedIn. Here's her path:

This Company Testing & Business Analysis, Director Oct 2022 to Present Technical Business Analysis, Manager Dec 2019 - Oct 2022 Technical Business Analyst Aug 2018 - Dec 2019 Technical Support Representative Apr 2017 - Aug 2018 Implementation Coordinator Apr 2016 - Apr 2017

Previous Company Probate Assistant / Paralegal May 2015 - Apr 2016

Confessions of a Programmer

Some Newspaper Digital Editor Feb 2014 - May 2015

THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF SOME SMALL TOWNSHIP Affiliate Development Assistant Jul 2012
- Jul 2013

Some company that “unlocks the power of nature to enrich the quality of life” Purchasing / Administrative Assistant Jun 2008 - May 2011

Some Construction Services Office Manager May 2007 - Jun 2008

Same Newspaper as above Staff Writer Feb 2005 - May 2006

Some Company that “for 25 years uses transactional data and machine learning” Revenue Assurance Lead Sep 2002 - Aug 2004

Education: BS, Business Administration and Management, General =====

In short, we'll have a general. I think she'll get rid of me within a couple of weeks. Others will run away themselves. We discussed it right away at the meeting.

Then we talked about Scala being a dying language, the future for the team (half of the team)... In short, they are not getting rid of me yet, although they probably don't know what to do with me. Then we talked about monads. People are pretty advanced in this team, actually. Pretty advanced.

As a result, I guess, I won't have much to do the next at least several days, and then we will see. No, I won't be interested in writing in whatever languages they would offer me, and I may just tell them I'm too old to learn new languages, unless it's Scala 3, OCaml, Rust... not even Kotlin, no. Basically, I don't even have to work. I'm using my work to make sure that we don't waste our own money on air conditioners and cars.

Oh, and sorry, I have an interesting problem I found on Quora. It's a cheap number theory problem, never mind.

July 09, 2024

It was really hard for me to do just anything at work today. I pretty much believe that next week I'll be told to do something very different, and decide whether I'll be interested or not. So I spent half a day doing nothing, and, in particular, missing a meeting discussing the technical features of the update of the project that me and Esteban are supposed to be upgrading. Well, Esteban position is pretty different from mine. I don't fucking care. Esteban wants to get to the US, and he'll do everything. Also, he's brilliant. And knows a lot.

But then I opened the link Brad gave me, and oh God! This is a brilliant project, the global company firewall; perfectly documented, perfectly designed, and with lots of links to other company docs. So I

spent the rest of the time reading all this stuff. Good pieces just happen. I learned a lot, frankly. Hope I won't forget it.

Then we have a standup; first there were just Bill and me, and we discussed what we will do if they close all Scala (for us). I said that I don't care whether to stay or to move on, it depends on the taste of the dish. Then other people came, and we kind of discussed what's going on with what we do.

That was it, I looked at the docs a little bit... basically, I can start adding this new endpoint, "redemption". Will do tomorrow. But tomorrow morning we'll be having a "team meeting" with the General, so... so, no clue. No rush to run, of course. Who knows, right? Can I continue being an optimist, like I've been all my life?

July 10, 2024

Basically, I could not force myself do anything until we had meetings. One was, I really don't know what about. The other one was a big meeting with the General. Well, this is not the West Coast, not the Bay Area. She's definitely not a typical Bay Area IT bitch. Behaves normally, talks business. Gives an impression of someone that cares about business. We will see.

Then I posted in Jira my next batch of questions for Brad, and got distracted.

At standup, where, well, Jeremey was still there, I told about my next questions, Brad said that he answered it.

I also asked Jeremey what are his plans? Turned out (while he sarcastically said that he's just moving on and getting t.f. out of here), turned out that he'll stay with "that half of the team". So, they took away our half and gave it to Rachel, because, probably, well, there were too many of us.

After the meeting I read what Brad wrote, and, well, implemented it right away. Really, not a big deal. I'll have to document it later on, but not right now.

Will send the PR tomorrow morning, early, and then... and then I have other things to do at home. Like wash the master bathroom.

July 11, 2024

Did not do much. Ok, Bill noticed that the / redeem endpoint that I added is supposed to take orgId, not userId, and I should have just copied the existing one, updating "the version", v0 to v1. Later in the standup (I had missed the main meeting, I was just sleeping after swimming) Brad agreed that yes. I don't see any meaning in it, but the guys don't draw the big whole picture and just say "how it should be". Well, whatever. Do I care? Updated it, and now returning a NON_IMPLEMENTED. All this shit could have been written explicitly in Jira, but... not so many people can write clearly.

I was also going (almost going) to auto-generate the docs for this API (it's a part of the Jira case), but had no time for that.

There's another pr, sent to me by a bot, for review and repair, and it refers to some "typelevel" library that does not exist (the version), and the dependency is hidden in some plugin that I should be using, but the version of this plugin is also not listed, because it's referred from some other plugin, so I'm bugging Sam, who points me to some projects I never heard of ("dependency hell"), meanwhile mixing the names of the projects (there's more than one, with similar names). Also, the branch in github where it is supposed to be is not main, but something like `xxx.0.0.0.0`. It's not my business to teach them how to name branches - the company-wide doc already exists, it's just that everyone's busy. And I use this chance to get distracted to either doing French, or watching movie, or reading dream, or reading poor Ratushinskaya's adventures in Gulag.

July 12, 2024

Another lazy day. If I started this, like, 10 years ago, I could have been working at two or three companies. But then, of course, my mind would have been occupied by various shit all the time. Updated my PR, etc. Then more, when Bill suggested to switch from one http4s dsl to another. I agreed with Bill - he's right.

The only meeting we had, it was at 4:30, and there were three of us, me, Bill, Esteban. We mostly talked about bicycles and mountains. Bill lives in Florida, so he's a Florida man - but he rides in other states as well. Esteban talked about los Andes.

I almost started working on a doc "project" for that project. But then there was a strange sbt behavior, so I'll look into it Monday - why t.f. does it want a ci.yml suddenly. Will check.

That's it for today. Oh, and I asked people how to make scalafix produce more details regarding its complaints. I had to install scalafix-cli, for that I had to install coursier. It all works now; made it a part of my script. Then we will see.

I would expect some meetings with the new manager, but seems like it's all in the future; and so now I have three managers: Brad, then Jeremey, then Rachel. I only have 1-1s with Jeremey, and, if I could trust whatever he says (I have no reason to trust or not to trust, so I just enjoy the show), py would be an absolutely perfect manager (so far) - like Dinesh or Vineet, or... well, it takes time to recollect who else.

July 15, 2024

Ok, so my PR was approved (after I removed all my //TODO: add tests), next I had to add a config file for our firewall, which I did, sent, and it was approved, and I merged it.

Next I got back to my doc builder, to use it to build docs for this project. That was something totally fucking failing. They (“they”) updated a plugin, so now build was complaining that a file, ci.yml, is missing. I looked around, grabbed one from another project. Now the build started telling me that it expected this content, and I have that content. Programmers. If they know what they need, why not just override, eh?

You know what I did? I copied the complaint, from the terminal, pasted it into that file, removed “[error]” parts, and saved. Now it worked.

Now there are a bunch of style checks: I can’t have a var, and I can’t throw an exception. Good advice, although funny. The only var I have is isDebug. Well, whatever. I could add a logger actually for debugging. As to exceptions, no big deal, will improve it.

Also, had a 1-1 with Jeremey, and we talked about this and that, and I told him that I would not mind having something to do (I am a stupid contractor), and he promised to give me something.

Then we had a ‘standup’ where we mostly discussed vitamins, blood pressure, blood sugar, and weather in Bogota.

That’s it. I love this kind of “work”.

July 16, 2024

Continued fixing the stuff with the doc builder. Mostly fighting off the “scala style checker” that wants to check test files, for instance.

Whatever.

Had two meetings. At one, Brad was talking about how he found XML in logs and how he parsed those XMLs. Kudos! At another, we just did standup fast, and that’s it.

What else? Well, nothing. I like this kind of work.

Also, just discovered, while converting a shell script to a Scala “object”, that if I copy the script into a comment inside that “object”, Copilot gets the idea and just helps me to convert the script into Scala code. I write something that looks like that shell function, and Copilot finishes it right away. Like an intern. I love this kind of cooperation. Ok, at times I write better loops, (I found that I needed to implement shell’s find in Scala).

Anyway, I just like producing neat code, that’s it.

July 17, 2024

The eternal vacations continue.

Brad asked me if I ever looked into a case he created. Ok, I'm looking. I need to get that tool that would let me look into production postgres. So I continued installing it. It wanted something from me, and I postponed it>

Also, there was this “sprint scheduling” meeting, where I agreed to take the tiniest “upgrade sbt version in this project” cases. But then they threw at me a 4-point case, with some functionality, implementing 2fa, etc. Oh, ok.

Meanwhile I was working on that document builder stuff, to build docs for that project where I had added an endpoint. By the end of the day the tool was ok, but it did not produce any docs; weird. Will investigate next. If not tomorrow, then Friday.

No standup today. Probably because one “sprint” ended, and the other one did not start.

That's it. I never had a work as lazy as this one.

Also, to my amazement, in a slack chat, discovered Miles Sabin as a new employee. Interesting. We will see.

July 18, 2024

Was busy with two developments. 1. Make the doc builder run for the new project, and move some script functionality to Scala. Finished by the end of the day, but somehow Bermi's code is crashing (I have to blame myself for not checking it and not preparing the environment).

2. There are a couple of jira cases for which I have to dive into the prod database, and I've spent already about two weeks trying to get “all those credentials”. Today, eventually, with the help of my friends from that team, after having created a token and legalizing the company access to that token, my postgres connector started properly. Ok, will try to reach the DB tomorrow.

At one meeting Esteban was investigating something, and I was taking snapshots, because he used the tools I need, but I had no clue about their existence.

At another Bill pushed the idea about switching to Scala 3. I sure concur.

Tomorrow I have a strange meeting with some guy I don't know, at 9:15. I checked who she is, some dev manager, so maybe they are not kicking me out, but who knows, right? I'll sure survive, and I'd appreciate a break in my, eh, career.

July 19, 2024

Had a meeting at 9:15. A new, future, manager, or, rather, tech lead, judging by what he's talking about. He's Spanish, I guess. Which explains the Spanish crowd that slapped together all this cats-based

puzzle. He was asking me what I don't like in the company, and I virtually like everything. Except the lack of documentation and the slowness of code review. Well, whatever.

Then I continued improving that document builder (still not there), and started looking into a customer case assigned to me.

The biggest problem was that I was clueless, where can I find the database? I have access now, but what do I tell psql? or should I use something else? No clue, no docs. Tried the tool that Esteban used yesterday, but it did not give me access, and it did not even know of my existence. Ok, I'll ask.

Eventually I started looking through whatever docs there are, and found a neat tool that shows a user latest history. So I looked through the history of that unlucky fake user. All I saw (with the timestamps of that exact time when "he" could not do what "he" wanted) was "wrong password", "email changed", and "name changed". So I wanted to report it in Jira, but when I tried to reproduce the page, it started returning 500. So I spent time asking around whom should I send a complaint about this repeating 500. I've learned that that team does not fucking care, and does not respond. But, Marc wrote, here's a good URL for this user. Well, ok, opened it, and reported the facts in Jira. I believe that would be enough. Bureaucracy does not care about solutions, they care about reporting.

Basically that was the end of my work today. No standup, because Friday. Just reported what I did.

July 22, 2024

Well, I've probably arrived.

Reading John de Goes' "Tagless Horror", I decided to share his wisdoms with the colleagues, posting a link to #sig-scala Slack channel. Yes, I know, Miles works here.

My new manager, Mike Intravaia, turned out to be a tough guy... or, probably, some ZIO-haters already complained to him.

What Mike wrote: Hey Vlad. For "reasons", our company is pretty hostile to John DeGoes. Even if that article is a good read, I'd delete that message for now. It's not worth the blowback. I wouldn't say all of (company), that's a big of an exaggeration. But there are a lot of engineers that are, and they are very influential engineers.

What I wrote:

How interesting. I really did not want to read that article when it was written. But now I'm reading it slowly, and it's an eye-opener for me. ZIO has pretty similar problems as well as Cats. The understanding that slapping together everything from monads and Kleisly, while and update of HTTO4S leads to big refactorings in business logic (had that problem in the previous company) illustrates that it makes sense to learn from our errors, and not repeat them.

Several years have passed since John was blamed of racism etc. We probably should move on, should not we?

OTOH, I can just sign off from that channel, and let people enjoy each other's society without an alien coming up with something new. Even if I'm a pretty much influential member of Scala community, I guess, opinions have the right to vary.

And Mike wrote:

I wouldn't sign off from the channel, you do have a lot of great info. Plus, the other Scala engineers use that channel to discuss things that we all may need to work on.

As for whether or not we should move on, that's harder to talk about. Moving on is definitely a personal and emotional decision. A leader may be able to push it, but I can honestly say that the leaders, in this circumstance, are wholly in the "won't move on" mindset.

Their general thought is that HJohn wasn't blamed, but is *actually* a bunch of not-so-nice things (or, at a minimum, enables a bunch of not-so-nice things). From what I've gleaned, they feel like this is the type of behavior that defines his personality. In other words, he won't change b/c it's who he is. So time won't heal these things.

Sorry for being long-winded. I've never dealt with John DeGoes or the others around him personally, so I only know of other people's opinions. I do know people who have had first-hand dealings with some people who are in his orbit, and those dealings were not good at all. Some of them are even public. So I have a hard time blaming them for having strong opinions.

Etc, etc.

So, I guess I have maybe several weeks left here. Does it bother me? Not a bit. They want politics, let them have politics, why would I care? Would I shut up? I see no reason for that. No, I did not remove my post, I just unsigned from their #sig-scala. It's been a while that Scala has been taken over by assholes and their friends.

Oh, and what did I do today? Almost nothing. I was on a pager duty; no pager alerts, so... so I did nothing today.

Fucking influentials!

Mike is a professional manager from New York. His only objection was mentioning John de Goes.

How can I not hate cancel culture? How can you? I had spent 40 years in the USSR. And even this is not exactly the fact, I believe I live in a free country. And if Miles complains to Mike about me daring to mention John, then fuck Miles, fuck Mike. I'm not connected with Miles on LinkedIn: I had disconnected from all the idiots who had signed that slanderous anti-Jon letter.

Oh, and I have also written a private message to Miles.

We will see. I don't think Miles is an asshole, I believe (for now) that he's just too naive and socialist.

July 23, 2024

So, in the morning I saw what Miles wrote to me - basically, we agreed that this paper by John is an important reading; then we discussed his library, and I we almost agreed that if people understood what it is about, the use cases could have been better, but they don't.

So, ok. And with that Mike, we kind of closed our discussion; and as I have unsubscribed from that #sig-scala, nobody cares anymore (probably).

I was thinking about calling my recruiter Sean, but it's too early. By the end of the day Sean called; we discussed all this, and that's it. Why did he call? Because he's just keeping in touch. He's my agent, European style.

During the day, I was looking for a place to post documentation, and found some Sam that was updating docs, and she suggested to me the right folder to store stuff. It's not wiki, it's just a git repo... they call it wiki, because they don't know how wiki works. But anyway, I'll try again.

More, I can as well just keep my own branch, or just fork it, and that's it.

What else? They threw me an old ops case to investigate. The case is too old, 3 weeks; logs are gone; so I wrote them that. They said that they will try it again. Perfect. You try, I investigate.

Oh, and access issues. How do I get to datadog? I have a link, but datadog wants me to log in. And it does not let me in. But I can click "forgot password", I click it, change password (first making sure that the one I used is known - it is). Then, with the new password, I try to log in. No way. Etc. Eventually bugged the support, they said I have to go to an okta page to log in. Perfect. Documented it.

Etc.

Well, but I have some jira case for development. I have no clue what Brad wrote there. A bunch of terms that I don't know. Asked him about slack huddle. He suggested to talk with Esteban. Perfect. We'll chat tomorrow, at 10:30.

Then we had a "standup". Jeremey said that within a week or two our team would move to work with Mike. So... so I don't know why me and Esteban should do anything with this shit that we are doing. Ok, Esteban is showing his best professional qualities, dreaming of eventually moving to the US. I'm dreaming of eventually moving to France (not actually), and in general, no reason to be too nice.

That's it for today. Probably boring, right?

July 24, 2024

Well, we had a videochat with Esteban, and he was showing me the ropes regarding what does it even mean in the Jira case when I'm supposed to get "magic link service" return credentials from OAUTH. It does not look too complicated, but the way Esteban talks about it makes it pretty weird... confabulated? Something like that.

But what really bothered me about Esteban was the way he discusses issues. I asked him, how (t.f.) to register a user we use GET method, it's really a WTF. Get is supposed to be idempotent. He nodded and totally agreed with me. More, every time I asked him about this or that, he was telling me that I'm right. I understand why this guy is trying to look the best, but well, are not we colleagues? I'm not his manager. Anyway, tomorrow I'll tell him about idempotence. He may not know. Later today I've learned that he comes from a position of project manager. Meaning, an educated politician.

We do have a pm, Janet, and she's just amazing. I asked her, how she feels about us moving to another team (she's moving too). She's in panic. For years she was focusing on this area, and became an expert. Now what, learn all the other shit. And who's going to PM that shit? Those other people? Hmm.

Anyway, I recorded our talk with Esteban, and I plan to document it.

At 11AM we were supposed to have a meeting, but the meeting was moved, and instead Sam posted a link to a talk, just starting, about Zig and Rust and TigerBeetle. It was an amazing talk, and in the end the speaker (forgot his name) mentioned that they are seriously using formal methods. The event was organized by Bermi, by the way. Anyway, I enjoyed it. Asked him about TLA being used - well, they plan to use TLA; after all, they have, in their database, algorithms that have proofs of correctness.

Later I was still trying to decipher Esteban's prezo, and then we had a "standup", and Jeremey asked if I saw Mike's comments on my post about the Ops issue I was kind of investigating. Turned out Mike wrote a really really good analysis - so I thanked Mike, and copy-pasted his comments into Jira (mission half-accomplished). This, actually, improved my mood, which was, most of the day, pretty low (thank you, market).

That's it. Tomorrow I'll really try to document Esteban's shit.

July 25, 2024

An interesting day, I hardly had time to do anything.

First meeting, two hours, was dedicated to the strange behavior, attributed to "our team's" services. What happens: admins update users roles, and these updates at times just don't get anywhere. The admin checks, and it's not there. I know that we have zero tests for that, but the opinion whether it's not exactly implemented varies. I think it's not. Brad thinks it is. It's complicated.

Anyway, today there was a discussion, logs perusal (not all logs are even available, or even exist).

Eventually, with a good help from Mike, they came to conclusion that these “updates” are not done IRL, but sent in a queue via Kafka, and the queue is trickled and batched, and it may take up to 20 minutes until this small db change gets into the db. Note, this is not a stream of users actions, this is a rather rare thing. But some people have their principles. Everything should be done in a queue, etc.

So, it was interesting.

Next we had a “team lunch” meeting. There were just five of us. First we discussed health, pills, diabetes (Jeremey has type 1), etc. Then one hispanic guy (is his name Marco? I forgot) provoked a discussion regarding how do we view street protests. Well. I tried to sit quietly and just smile. Then Janet turned this discussion into the usual Southern discourse, “stop feeding the lazy immigrants” (and niggers, I presume?) She complained about her rich sister (she’s a millionaire!) that thinks that giving away \$40k a year to everyone will solve all the country’s problems. Of course the prices that dentists, mechanics, builders, repairmen, etc charge will grow several times, but that’s unrelated, right? Well, the “rich sister” does not get it.

So, a couple of people left; I tried to make sure I don’t talk politics at work, and Janet was just giving her funny speech. I never mentioned helping Ukraine, because I know the position of Southern states. Спасение утопающих... Are they really Christians?

Ok, then I also told them I have to go, have lunch before the next meeting.

I had a fast lunch, and joined the “introduce the team” meeting. There were just two of them, I was third. Jeremey, who did all he could to entertain a new engineer, with a name something like Jig-gabunga Prettyprinty. The guy spend 5 years in Morgan-Stanley, and now joined us. I introduced myself; the other two already did introduced themselves within the three minutes that I was late.

Then I took a break from all these meetings, and got back to document the APIs. Figured that what we have is pretty unreadable, so I got back to my doc generator, found some defects in its parsing Scala, updated it, and did run something... we will see tomorrow.

And last, I checked out Slack, saw a message from Janet, she asked me if I can do some small API updates in one project that I’m familiar with; I checked it out, wrote to her that I will send a pr tomorrow, and then we will see. Not a big deal.

That’s it for today.

I love my job, it does not involve too much work. Tomorrow I’m on pager duty, which means that I may just sit at the desk and watch my pager (no, PD is not being used in this company, so it’s just checking whether somebody complains on Slack).

Am not I on a paid retirement? If you compare the amount of work I was doing at salesforce... I believe I’m pretty well paid. If I only wanted, I could get another job. But I don’t want it. I rather (naively) hope that the market will be back. Some time.

July 26, 2024

Basically, I was supposed to investigate and document that “magic link” stuff, but there was a case that Janet asked me to do, so... So, that piece was even simpler: remove “internal/” from the uri. So I did, big deal. And updated the test case.

And it failed in Jenkins. And I rolled it back, and it did not fail. I replaced “internal” with “infernal” - it fails.

More, Jenkins did not show me which test fails, and what’s the problem. I asked colleagues, and Sam told me that there’s a button in Jenkins runs, where I can see specifically test runs results.

Ok, good. And the failing test has nothing to do with what I did. It was even a different suite.

The “solution” was not to rename my specific test case, but add some text in the end of the name. Then everything works.

Otherwise one “mock” (in God knows which test suite) tells me that it expected an array of about 200 records (all shown in the test log), but it did not receive anything. And if I rename my test case, it works ok.

See, it’s mock, so blaming improperly reinitialized postgres in docker also makes no sense.

But I liked the fact that I hacked this shit. So I took a break.

And then, later, I worked on my docs.

That’s it for today. You probably guess what kind of company it is. With all that “functional scala programming”, with monad transformers, “Kleisli functions”, etc. Monkeys typing War and Peace. No, Warren Piece.

July 29, 2024

An exceptional day. Checked my two PRs that were waiting for a review (one - since June or something). Pinged them, via /remind.

Tried to read the “doc” that looks like a doc, but it does not, just an old diagram (how things worked earlier), and a stream of incomprehensible words “how things should be”.

Suddenly, Esteban decided to show his leadership qualities, and asked me how I’m doing with my part, and whether anything will be ready by Wednesday. I let him know that information is still missing, and in the doc I started describing the endpoints, then wrote several questions and suggestions what exactly we need to document before things are ready to be coded (not a big deal, just small pieces that connect requests to another service and format responses).

Except that it’s not clear, which of the two servers receives which requests.

And we scheduled a zoom for 2pm. I thought it was my time, but Bogota is one hour to the West. Ok, 3pm. Now I can play with my own stuff.

Then Esteban asked to move it a little bit further down. So we met at 3:30.

I had questions. I expected the guy to work together with me on the doc. But no. He started showing me pieces of code, one server and another. I was asking questions. This “magic link” service, which endpoint belongs to it. This one. What information does it accept. Some secret stuff. Where does this secret stuff come from, that other server? No, from the client. How do they generate that secret stuff? We generate it. Based on what? Based on the secret data we receive from the client.

About 15 minutes later another endpoint started, if you listen to him, migrating from one service to another, and back.

And I asked him to update the docs with his own hand, and then we'll discuss.

And then what happened was exactly what  **vit_r** described very recently. Esteban said that he would not do any documentation, he will be just writing code. And started showing me his code... modifying it in the process, every time, when I asked this or that question, saying “it's a good question”, and modifying the code so that it would look like it answers my question.

I enjoyed the show. But then another meeting was supposed to start, so I told him, ok, let's talk later.

Then there was a meeting with Jeremey. Ok, scheduled meeting with Jeremey, my almost-former manager. He did not show up. Meaning, I could do my French, eh.

Then we had a “standup”, and I showed which PRs are waiting for review (you have to formulate it properly, so that it does not look like you complain, but like you have accomplished something). One of Jira cases eventually was closed without my participation, just after I copy-pasted Mike's comments to Jira. Bureaucracy march! Then I mentioned how that other case requires more information, because... I did not have the chance to say “because”, because Esteban interrupted and started explaining that we should meet again and discuss. I bet he complains to the management that I'm a slow idiot that does not get it. Well, actually, today I did spend enough time to get it. The functionality is not elaborated and not documented. Esteban plans to show his achievements to the “online team”, and hear how they applaud or ask for more endpoints. Did I tell you that we have almost 2000 endpoints? Feel free to choose, it's like an Amazon store of endpoints.

Now, do I complain? Do I feel angry? No way! They pay me for my presence online. I was never paid so much for an hour of actual work.

July 30, 2024

In principle, I was supposed to update the Jira case, listing my questions (RFC). But I was too lazy in the morning, so I was just sitting, organizing my stale PRs in those couple of dozens of projects

(sent a reminder); then I looked for review requests. Reviewed Brad's stuff (e.g. asked, if he needs a current timestamp into a document, why (t.f.) does he use "a monadic timestamp", `Clock[F]` - why?) But anyway, approved his code, why not.

Then Esteban showed up, telling me that yesterday he talked with Zac, and now he knows answers to all questions, and we can chat, and he tells me everything. I asked him if he can write everything that he knows, and he did not want to.

Now I did not ask him, how come a Columbian, a compatriot of Marquez, cannot document what he heard. But I laughed anyway at the idea.

So he set up a huddle on slack, and, after I made more than one hint, included Zac, so there were three of us. But Esteban was talking and talking and talking. Former PM, what do you expect. He gave his speech that I already heard twice before. I managed to ask him whether he wrote down anything they talked about with Zac yesterday, and he admitted it. I also asked Zac about his team, his role, and what exactly do they expect from us. Zac was even more evasive than Esteban.

I spent some time and efforts to get from Esteban, where exactly does he keep the information. And he confessed.

In his local file!

I asked him whether he could copy-paste it into the shared google doc. He was insisting on "eventually" adding it to the project, on github. Then he said that he can't paste it into google doc, because it contains secret keys. (But github is ok? Well... it sounds too familiar.)

Eventually he agreed to paste it to Slack chat. And I copied it, saved it in my local file, removed all secrets, and pasted it into google doc.

Esteban will be away for a week. Sounds familiar.

So, eventually I wrote all my questions in that Jira case, which was posted by Brad, but the text (or rather sequence of characters) was written by Esteban. That case description ends with a suggestion that I write tests for the project he's working on (not the one I was supposed to update). What is it in people's heads, I wonder. Everybody thinks that he's surrounded by idiots? Well, I am. Now imagine how hard it is for females to work in such an atmosphere, where everyone tries to delegate, and nobody listens.

Well, whatever.

Then there was a meeting (the guys discussed an update of one CATs library, whereby some JWT data is not available directly anymore, but promised in a monad, so they have to update the code here and there, and at times it's tricky... because, well, because it is. But I rather agree in this case: the value is not immediately available, actually.

Then there was supposed to be a standup, but since our “sprint” is coming to an end, there’s no need for a standup.

And I shut the work computer.

I don’t know what’s going on with all this, but see, I’m happy to be a contractor. I don’t have to fucking care. I care about my money, twice a month. And I care about providing as much expertise as is requested.

So, have a nice day. I know I don’t have anything requested to do, and tomorrow I’ll be just kind of volunteering. Hopefully.

July 31, 2024

Ok, no Esteban today, so I decided to go through some rather old jira cases that are on hold. Just to make sure I work during the work hours.

Then we had a meeting (“planning”), where Brad promised me to provide me with information, and also said that he updated the jira case.

I checked out what he wrote. Just a one-liner, which basically contradicts all the shit that Esteban wrote. Later he called via slack; we huddled; and it turned out that all I need is, instead of returning some unencrypted data “in headers”, return it in a cookie, encrypted - in a new endpoint.

Oh, big deal. It turned out that the old one was also returning stuff in a cookie (where else, if we talk to a client in a browser?).

So I enjoyed slapping together all this functionality; sent the PR to Brad, not for review, but for reference. Will add tests tomorrow, then make the pr available for review and merge.

BTW, Esteban asked almost exactly that - “do something Wednesday”. It’s just that Esteban does not know what he’s talking about. How come Janet can exchange information (and enjoy the way I document stuff, in clear English), and he just does not seem to understand what he’s saying. And does not interact. I’ll have to keep that in mind.

But whatever, I enjoyed these couple of hours of writing code, maintaining the style and avoiding duplication.

August 2024

August 01, 2024

In the morning I was not feeling well, so got to the meeting at 12:30 just to show up.

But there was no meeting.

So I continued my yesterday's stuff. Updated the endpoints to make them work with encryption that was implemented yesterday.

Then I took a look at what they say on slack. Brad sent a PR for review. I opened it.

OMFG, he reshuffled and rewrote the same endpoints I was working on, the very endpoints we agreed that I work on and what I do. Today he either forgot what he was saying yesterday, or whatever.

But I am a contractor. So I don't fucking care. I told him we need to discuss it.

And after the meeting we met, and he behaved pretty much like Esteban, showing me lines and lines of code he wrote, and I asked him what are we supposed to do with the code I wrote, and whether he read the PR I already sent to him last night. Did we agree on anything?

Not sure, but I guess we agreed that I: - take a pause until he merges his stuff to master - work after that, adding encryption - schedule a meeting for tomorrow: he, me, and Zac, to make sure that our "plans" will work for Zac (Brad is adding some data to the return that nobody seems to care on the receiving side.)

That I did, scheduled a meeting for 1:30PM. Cool, I'm free until then. Profit. Better than the market.

August 02, 2024

So, what's up today?

Brad suggested that I update his PR, almost ready, with my "encryption". I suggested that he pushes his stuff, and I'll slap together the next PR. Well, because. Is not it reasonable?

Meanwhile I decided to work on an old unfinished case, where a stacktrace is dumped to the logs line by line, not like a single entry.

Basically, figured that it was because it was not reported to logger at all, and instead it was just thrown and dumped to the logs by redirecting stdout. Who could have guessed that this cats monad, F[_]: Sync, nicely allows this kind of shit. Whatever. Will experiment, and fix it... next week. I want to make sure that we do intercept shit properly.

At 1:30 we had a meeting, me, Brad, Zac. Brad was talking, and in the end we asked Zac, is it good for you, as a client? Sure, said Zac. A vague question whether they will be able to decrypt what we send encrypted... I guess it's not our problem, and not Zac's problem; Zac will delegate.

Meanwhile, in Brad's new PR, it turned out that there's just one weird value that should be encrypted, and since it is already represented as a string, big deal, right?

At the standup, Jeremey was asking me when I can finish this, and I promised, not later than Monday afternoon. Or maybe today.

And I wrote that small shit, and pushed the PR, letting it run the tests (will check Monday); and Brad suggested that we huddle to discuss this change (he did not know yet that it's ready already), and I sent him the link to the PR, asking "like this?", and closed my work computer, it was already half past six.

I love my job! I don't work at this company, so, they are my customers, and I do what they ask, but not more. No responsibility! I'd rather work on my own project. Well...

August 05, 2024

This morning I found that Brad approved my PR, Friday, even though it was WIP, and one test was failing (in mock).

Well, I fixed the mock for the test, invited more people to review, reminded them - but nobody cared.

Later today Brad just merged my branch into his, and, seemingly, merged it to master (I already approved his code, although suggested to rename one weirdly-named method. I merged back master to my branch, but the same test started failing. So I wrote to him about that.

Esteban, who is expected to be in a hospital, wrote that he had worked on the doc, and here's the new update. The update contains a flow diagram, which looks neat, but makes no sense (a service, with no prompt, suddenly calls another service, and does not care about the result... etc. Creative UML.)

Anyway, it's unreadable, and I'll prefer to stay away from that shit. If I worked in that company... but I don't.

Spent the rest of the time investigating the weird behavior of `run()` in one service, where an exception is thrown all the way to the top, while everything is supposed to be a sequence (Stream) of monadic effects. Why Stream? No reason. It's just a sequence of operations, that's it. Instead of writing the code line by line, or Kleisli-composing them, we proudly build a Stream, and then "execute" it. During the execution, an exception is thrown, and neither streams nor IO inside sees it. Functional fucking programmers, eh.

It took me half a day (and some time before today) to manage to reproduce this dumb behavior and catch it. Now that I can reproduce it, I'll find a cats-kosher way to fix it.

That's it for today.

Do I complain? No way. No reason to complain. I'm still curious about shit.

August 06, 2024

Spent some time reviewing those “version upgrade PRs” that bots assign to me to review. No big deal.

Then spent some time creating a test checking that `main` crashes stupidly, with no info when props are not being retrieved - or if anything ever happens in the code called somewhere in the server, the exception crashes the server.

So, I added some logging, but warned the guys at the “standup” that this is not how “functional” software should behave. Wrap and `flatMap`, that’s what you should do.

Anyway, and at the standup Mike asked me why I did not deploy to prod that PR that I merged in March. I told them I was not aware I’m entitled to prod deployments, and I have no clue how.

So next we spent about an hour, in google meet, deploying that server, with my update of 4 months ago, to prod. I recorded all that, just in case.

It’s not easy, except that Jenkins hangs, and Grafana hangs, and it’s all a little bit unstable. But now I know.

So, that’s it. I had closed my work computer immediately after the meeting.

August 07, 2024

I would not say I had much (or anything) to do today.

So I looked through important slack channels, found a bunch of bot-generated PRs, and looked them all up. Some needed a merge from master, after which they had 0 lines of changes, and I just deleted these; others were failing here and there, and I fixed them a little bit.

Meanwhile, I fixed one old PR (from the beginning of July), so that the style checker accepted it, and since it was approved, merged it. Then I found that IntelliJ had a couple of complaints in the code I changed, so I fixed that, and refactor it a little bit, to get rid of repetitions (and typos in messages). Sent it for review.

Also, found that one guy from the docs team approved the doc I sent for review in April, so ok, I merged that too.

I need to restore the knowledge regarding how I can run Docker in sbt. I did it before, but I forgot. And it was documented in that file that I just merged. Good.

Then there was some kind of planning meeting. It was pretty boring, and Jira cases were either trivial or enigmatic. In one of them Brad suggested that `consumers` service, which usually talks to ‘`magic_link`’ service gets one more endpoint, with some meaningful functionality, that `magic_link` would be calling. I had a chance to explain, and explain, and explain that circular dependencies make the code unmanageable, spooky and untestable (there’s a theorem for that). Brad seemed to agree.

Oh, I reviewed a couple of his PRs too today. His code looks really really nice, but his method-naming just sucks totally.

See, guys. If you want to be good programmers, READ GOOD BOOKS! Not the comic books, not the cheap shit written by idiots. At least take Stephen King, he's a good writer and a very good guys. But rather, read Jane Austen. And Hemingway. And (maybe) Shakespeare.

That's it for today. Yes, we had a standup, but, well... nothing interesting there.

August 08, 2024

What did I have to do today? Well, first, I needed to go ahead and deploy consumer's server. For that I had to review the video I recorded Tuesday. It was ok, except that the screen for this project deployment did not look right. So I asked Jeremey, how can I interpret it, and where's the problem? Jeremey pointed me at the "deployment log" (there's a link on that screen), and the fact that the screen looked weird was because the deployment failed.

The failure was reported twice, by saying that Hudson received return code 1.

Neat, right?

Ok, but it was an excuse for me not to do anything. And since we had some kind of flood...

Later there was a meeting, where things were being discussed... unrelated, but interesting. That meeting was moved back and forth several times, so I was 13 minutes late. I just enjoyed Mike's explanation regarding log messages:

- error means I need to wake up someone immediately
- warning means we'll need to take care of this issue, time permitting.

That's really cool. I'll remember it.

Then, since nobody answered me regarding this deployment failure, I went ahead to review the things that bots threw at me. It was all pretty fine.

Then we had a 1-1 with Mike - mostly talking about swimming pools, water from the well vs water from the main, etc. And also we discussed bugs, NPEs, etc. He has a pretty good vision regarding all this. I like it. Oh, and he mentioned that it was an over-engineering, to line up the processes in a "stream" - oh, I absolutely agree; I figured it out last week, probably. I'd never do it myself. This can be done much simpler. In a loop, or just in a sequence of operations. If you parallelize things, that would be a different story.

Then there was a standup, and when my turn came, I told about this strange build failure, and shared my screen, and, magically, Mike, watching the logs on a shared screen, immediately pointed at the cause: some "migration scripts" were migrated, and some tool (Hudson?) can't handle soft links, and

that's why. I promised to take care of this. Really cool. How often do I encounter smart professionals? Not so often.

Ok, and then I took a break, and after that I started looking into these scripts movements. I was sure it was me, a month ago. But actually no! It was Devon, who did it rather recently. So, after some investigation, I decided to ping him, asking if he concurs regarding the deployment failure, etc. And closed my work computer.

So far I'm enjoying it.

August 09, 2024

Since I had delegated fixing consumers to Devon last night, I spent time waiting and doing other things.

One thing was that in my “style and refactoring” pr Brad found some kind of error.

The thing is, almost all endpoint check that the user does not update his/her own permissions. But not all; and in one endpoint they did not check it, but I replaced it with the call of the method that does.

Ok, it's not a big deal to fix, but how come tests did not fail? And I added a test case that would crash if I call the endpoint with a user updating his permissions. And the test did not fail.

Ok, then I just added a require, to make sure that yes, this is the case in the test. The require did fail.

Cool. It means, the code that actually checks this constraint does not do anything. Well, it did look like that, but I'm not a pro in cats library.

So, we have a pretty dirty bug in the code. Kind of security hole. Did I mention that it's a banking software I'm working on?

Will create a jira case. Tomorrow.

Meanwhile Devon updated, got a pr approved, merged, and deployed. Which means, my stuff is also... at least deployed to staging.

Now the question is: how can I check that it works in staging? We don't have any tests for that, it must be done manually, and I have no clue how to do it manually.

That's when the workday ended. Monday, Monday... It's a weekend right now.

August 12, 2024

Morning was pretty boring, and I was slacking... I was supposed to test the new endpoint on staging, and I didn't know how.

Well, ok, at least my "style improvement" was approved, so I merged it, and watched the deployment run (takes tons of time).

And then it occurred to me. I have a tool that (theoretically) runs all endpoints of a given server - generating tests scripts from the server's scala code. And it runs it on staging. So what am I waiting for?

But the state of that project was so-so, and I had to do some cleanup, find where it fails, etc. And it was failing because it could not, for some reason, configure port forwarding. Well, I posted a question on slack, and... took a break.

Oh, I created a slack channel #scala3, posted a description, a link to my old slides, and invited our small team to join. Esteban was absolutely enthusiastic, and he was very interested, and he did not join. Neither did anybody else. Ok, ok, I got it.

By the way, I'm on pager duty today, but no alarms rang.

Brad answered my question: I need another namespace. What? Never heard of namespaces. Okey-dokey... looked it up, found it in the project that was failing in port forwarding. Updated my "doc builder", to find a file that may contain the namespace. The file is not yaml, not json, it's something that looks like Scala. Ok, this makes my work easier.

Now the code starts port forwarding.

Oh, and we also had a standup, where Brad, Jeremey and Esteban were discussing some functionality of which I was clueless. I was trying to listen, but that's not how my brain works. I just could not focus. Well, whatever. Sat there and smiled.

August 13, 2024

Not having much to do officially, I continued tweaking my documenter, since one of its jobs is to call all the endpoints and see what they answer. By the end of the day I made it all work, but well, GET still returns a 404, which is weird, so I ended the day posting a question, which sounds shortly like "wtf exactly" - but politely. So, I spent a day in my silo, but now I'm out.

What else? Reviewed a bunch of PRs, leaving some suggestions for improvements, but still approving all that shit. I'm not their mother, right?

Mike started moving the team around. First, he had moved standups to 10:30 AM, instead of 4:30 PM - which is convenient for me, but who cares, right? Also, he transformed today's standup to something

more like "hey Vlad, here are the jira cases for you; report the progress. Works for me, but I think it won't work in the long run. Before the standups were friendly meetings where those who have problems or issues share their problems, and volunteers helped. Now it's all in one direction.

Thank God I don't work at that company. Or at any company.

That's it for today.

August 14, 2024

Did not do much. Tweaked my doc builder, and I needed an org_id and user_id for staging, to test; and those that I tried did not work, so I asked, and by the end of the day Janet suggested we have a video chat (will she show me the photo of user_id?)

Anyway, meanwhile I was improving further my scripts.

Actually, I was not feeling good most of the day, so I just, in the middle of a planning meeting, told them I'll have to take off, and that I will accept anything they assign to me. After all, I'm a contractor, why should I care what they need first. Janet should know. Janet is cool and smart.

That's it. In the evening I got back to my work computer, and did some fixes, and that's it. I guess it was about 4 hours, so I won't charge for 8.

August 15, 2024

The day was a little bit enigmatic. I still did not have org_id and user_id to experiment, and so I was just playing with my scripts a little bit. Then we had a standup that now happens on mornings. By the end of the day, when I had shared my blockers, I was told that I should go to "people" web app, etc. But nobody answered me when I asked where I can find the URL. Ok, never mind. Janet promised to help me. A little bit after the meeting we huddled with Janet. She asked me again what I need. I said - either an org_id, or both org_id and user_id, or just a url of "people". She did not give me the url, but sent me an org_id and a user_id via slack.

I don't know what's the point in keeping these secrets, but whatever. They don't pay me for streamlining their processes, they pay me for being online. So I am.

Of course I ran curl, saw that my new endpoint works, and closed the case. Two cases actually, because there were two, dedicated to the same endpoint (about three lines of code).

Good! And I continued having fun (sex?) with the doc builder.

Then there was another meeting, something like "demo analysis", or whatever. It turned out that it was my turn to do presentation. I said: presentation? How about next week? But it turned out it's not what this company means. It means that this week it's my turn to share the screen, open two pages,

one with datadog and another with grafana, and look at the same graphs that I saw every thursday for the last 6 months. The shit does not look healthy to me, but people seem to be okay. There are OOMs, once a day, but there's nothing in the logs that shows what caused it. The reason being, we don't log requests. (We don't?!)

Anyway, spent about half an hour trying to penetrate the mentality of these interesting people. Now I can reproduce the show.

The next meeting was the most mysterious. There were Janet, Bill and me. Janet showed up for a moment, then shut the camera, and there was silence. Janet expressed here sincere gratitude to me and Bill for our presence. So, it was good. The meeting lasted two hours. I had time to go swim a little bit in the pool, I had lunch, with the headset on me. Later Mike joined, and he and Bill started investigating something in the logs. For some reason even if they shared the screen, it was not with me. I was just present and was listening to their discussions. Eventually I figured that Janet is not there anymore, and hung up.

And then I spent about an hour and a half improving my scripts, making them work, and tweaking Bermi's scripts to properly report all possible failures (like, missing a file that we want to send via curl - why keeping it secret?)

Ok, I like this work. See, probably nobody knows that I'm not doing anything (in their view). I feel like I'm on a bench. Ain't it good? It feels good.

August 16, 2024

I like our “standups”. Not a comedy anymore. Mike walks through the old jira cases, and asks how is it. It turned out that one of my PRs was not actually merged, so, cool, I asked Bill again, and he insisted that I don't need to add another run method to main - because in my test I just override System.out, and happily intercept the log. Really, he's right!

So I fixed it, merged it, and deployed to staging. And it works ok. Theoretically I could request an approval to deploy to prod, but it's Friday.

Then, I have one more stale JIra case, but I'll get to it later; instead, I worked on that “documenter/tester”. Some progress. Not much yet.

August 19, 2024

I like morning meetings. You chat a little bit, and then you are free to... go?

Anyway, since I was supposed to make for our team some kind of datadog dashboard, based on an existing dashboard from another team, I started looking for a team in dashboard. Turned out a) I don't belong to any team, and b) we don't have a team there.

At the meeting it turned out that nobody cares. Ok, so I'll create a dashboard. By copy-pasting, with rename. I believe I already did it, but can't find. Will do it again, no big deal.

Also, I got Mike's approval for prod deployment of that "log fixer", so I deployed it to 5%. Somehow no change in logs. Deployed to 20%. No change. Deployed to 60%. No change. Then I decided to check whether it works at all (nobody complains, but...)

And I spent the rest of the day tweaking my doc/test tool. Does not work for this specific project, because a scala file is formatted differently. I improved the tool, but will make it work with that kind of Scala tomorrow morning. It's getting better. It is getting better all the time.

That's it for today. Quiet...

Well, no, actually I did review a couple of PRs, but that was easy.

August 20, 2024

Spent half a day getting information out Nick and Brad how t.f. I can sent requests to prod. By the end of the day sent GET health, saw that it works, and finished deployment. The problem is, it still does not work properly: error is thrown and logged wrongly. Will investigate.

Meanwhile, managed to make the doc generator parse better the scala code, and... and still, getting a 404 from those to HTTP GETs.

That's a different story. It does not matter now.

What else? Oh, also Jeremey sent me a link to a form where I can post info regarding a suggested talk. Posted it. I don't believe it'll work, but why not, right? That's the same talk I'll be giving this coming Saturday.

That's it.

August 21, 2024

First of all, I was not feeling well. So... so I worked for about 4 hours.

Looked again through that weird production log; simulated the behavior locally; nothing like that happened. So, added a try/catch, and one more logline, sent for review. Will have to test it in production. But it's nothing.

Then took some rest.

Then looked into another jira case. "Add a datadog dashboard". Actually, I did it, a month and a half ago, and left for Brad for review. Now I checked it again, and changed the status of the case. If nobody bothers to take a look, I'll close the case.

That's it. And they are paying me for that. Tomorrow will check Jira, maybe I have more cases assigned, who knows.

Today I only felt better when in the evening got into the pool and spent several minutes there.

August 22, 2024

It was a strange day. I returned from the doctor by 10:00.

Checked out whether my PR was approved. Partially. Bill was telling that this experimental logging won't help anything. I wrote to him that it's experimental, and I have a suspicion that an exception will be thrown. He does not know whether it will be.

Then, that "dashboard" case - I just changed the status to "waiting for review" or something. Will label as "done" on Monday.

There were three other Jira cases, all of them require more info, so I wrote. Two of them refer to logs from three weeks ago, so I wrote to them that it's hardly possible, and can we please reproduce. Meanwhile, I learned how to see history in Jira. Googled it. It's helpful, seeing the history.

At 10:30, at the standup, I was ready to talk about five cases. But nobody asked me till almost the end of the meeting, when I got a call from a doctor. So... I'd just skipped it.

Then what I was doing? Exchanging wise thoughts with Bill.

At 2:30 we had a meeting with a new, eh... employee? Definitely not an engineer. He spent 25 years in meat canning business in Missouri state, near St.Louis. Or something. But we all were happy to talk about ourselves; how our kids are doing, etc.

Then, at 3, there was a 1-1 with Mike. He's really nice. We talked mostly about life; and in the end he gave me an idea where to store documentation... and shared some ideas about good software-documenting stuff (of course done by Polish guys), and the like. I wrote down that stuff - am not I a blogger?

August 26, 2024

In principle, I did not have much regular time to work. So, at 8 AM I opened my computer, approved one PR, pinged Bill regarding my PR, greeted Janet and Esteban who were already online before 9AM (Esteban's timezone is 1 hour behind), pinged this and that, read all I found on slack, and closed my computer, to open by 2pm. Ok, let them know that I'll be AFK in the morning. I'll be AFK tomorrow morning too.

Then, after 2pm, I checked out, and everything was still silent. Some user (from another team) asked to provide a list of users in a certain, eh, realm, and Mike answered by sending him a csv. I'm dreaming

of learning how to run these queries... not there yet.

Since there was nothing to do (oh, ok, I updated the status of that “dashboard” in Jira, which has been ready for about a month), and started working on parsing the routes written in Scala. Now I feel like having the whole AST would be exactly usable, because, well, the structure has a variety of versions. Like, a variable name in a comment, an underscore for an unused param, which type I still can obtain, and the like. Is not it a pleasure? Reminds me what I was doing in Borland.

Where's everyone, I have no clue. I spent 7 years at Borland; can do the same here. Well, I'll be... oh, no, that would be too much.

That's it for today.

August 27, 2024

Well, did not do much today.

Ok, my experimental PR was approved; I took a look at staging logs, no problems there. Now I need an approval for prod deployment; will ping Mike tomorrow.

I missed the standup; but I attended a “points assignments” meeting, where I participated in assigning points to jira cases which were, some of them, trivial, and some just enigmatic. But it's a group activity. Guess what others guess.

Then there was a long, large-team-wide meeting, where I, frankly, was clueless regarding what they were talking about, and when I did, what was the purpose of these diagrams and these speeches. But well, it's management talking to management; I don't care.

Then I spent time improving my “Route Parser” that, basically, reads HTTP4S dsl code (Scala) and tries to make sense out of it. Had to change the structure twice, then tried to find docs for HTTP4S, and it turns out that there are no docs - but ChatGPT explained to me the meaning of those connectors, like `:?` and `+&`. So, eventually, I rewrote the structure, but... but some tests are failing.

And by the end of the day I saw Esteban sent a huge piece of code for review, 36 files, with lots of code, while looking nice, but mostly monkey-see-monkey-do style. He probably does not know that Option is a monad too. Even if Option does not say it. Oh, and of course, test coverage is rather pathetic. And there's a mixture of business logic with, like “SecureRandomStringGenerator”, etc. No structure, just that. So I wrote some comments... we will see. 36 files, what do you expect, approval without reading?

August 28, 2024

On one hand, we had too many meetings; on the other hand, it was not too exhausting.

One meeting was about the jira tasks, which we have a lot, and I'm getting a feeling now that they are not for completion, but for occupying the workforce. I don't mind. I agreed to take care of a case that looks interesting to me, and probably boring to others: organize handling errors in the servers.

Oh, also, pinged Mike regarding approval of my production deployment. He wrote that he already did - but somehow it was not visible on my side. Ok, will deploy tomorrow.

Esteban sent yesterday a huge pull request; I wrote a couple of suggestions; today he implemented that stuff (adding tests), but he did not get the suggestion of handling Options the same way he handles IO: loop style. So, yes, he does not get it. FIIC, right?

Then there was a meeting regarding "what went well, what went bad during the sprint" - "post mortem". I did not have access to that doc, so this fact was added to the list of bad things. Otherwise it's fine.

Then a guy from support or qa, no clue, pinged me on Slack, and we huddled, he showed me how he reproduces the bug I was supposed to work on. Ok, really easy. I took several snapshots. Will work on it tomorrow.

Today I was working on parsing those routes in Scala, and generating proper shell scripts. Well, it works, but I have to make sure I provide the right environment, on demand. Environment values for "workflow scripts". A bit challenging, because how do you know, right? A variable can have whatever name a developer uses; I need to guess which env var matches it. My code should be AI-ish.

So, lots of fun.

August 29, 2024

Ok, so I promised Spenser to go look into that problem of error being returned when you invite someone.

But it turned out that I don't seem to have access to that internal tool. Ok, and I postponed it till a meeting.

At the standup I complained about this, and Janet promised to help.

Next was a meeting with Janet. To get access to that tool, Janet sent me an invitation from the tool. I receive an invitation in my mail, and click the link, and enter the password, twice (so that, you know...), and it redirects me to login, and my password does not work. After a couple of attempts I click "forgot password", and it sends me an email. The email link ("reset password") opens a page that first asks me my "old password". No, neither of the passwords I've been using in this company worked. We tried again, and it did not work either.

So I'll need to ping our IT guys. But Janet decided to investigate the issue. So she went to Spenser's

page, and found that he did invite himself, and there are two Spensers, but it did not work through the whole process for him.

Ok, then we decided to ask Spenser to invite someone else, and went over to datadog. I mean, Janet did. Since in that tool she found the long user id for Spenser, and now we could check out what he did and what he received. We had spent an hour getting through; my attempts to stop it, since I can browse logs myself, did not work. We skipped another meeting.

But then yet another meeting started... to which I went, but Janet did not. That meeting was “casual social”, and we chatted (I mostly just listened) about this and that, and life, and Scala, and I got an impression that Scala is really a great job security tool. People are afraid of it. The word “monad” was replaced by the word “IO”, and so this is like Scala programmers secret knowledge. And that’s how Scala programmers, all of them, are paid “a lot”, compared to others. Like, Jeremey said, if an experienced Scala programmer comes over and agrees to \$150k/year, this guy is under suspicion. There are no such Scala programmers that get \$150k/year.

Ok, anyway. After that I also worked on that dashboard (it’s okay now), and then got back to the doc generator. Basically, the problems I have there are the problems I seeded when I slapped together a prototype. Don’t build a prototype. Build something solid from the very beginning. Or else figuring out where does this content come from, a resource? A user file? Etc.

Working on it.

August 30, 2024

This must be Friday, and nobody’s there, but there’s a lot of actions.

Brad and Esteban are getting me with their urgent pull request. Brad has small but serious changes, regarding keys, GWT, all that. I had approved it, but wrote to him that in general it’s not a good idea to make these changes not having tests for that. Of course, it’s not my company, so there’s no reason to be emotional...

Spenser is writing that ok, if we use the address spenser+test@ourcompany.com the new user registration works ok, but not till the very end: permissions were not properly stored. Well, now what. I offered him a choice: either we close this case, and he opens a new one, or we update this case, so that it would not say “can’t register”, but explain what’s the problem; and in any case he should create another case, or adds some information to this existing case. And he answers: ok, but then he’ll have to wait for three months until the case reaches developers. Well, he’s right. So we came to an agreement.

There was a meeting, that is, a “standup”; for some reason we started in Spanish (me, Esteban, Mike, who is also from Puerto Rico, and his granny had taught him phrases like “una mas”); but then more

people showed up, and we started all talking, and Mike started bugging me with a new very urgent case, and it must be fixed urgently.

Do I mind? I'm being paid (just got another check), I sure can do it, with pleasure.

So now I started investigating the issue. Well, looks similar, "error creating a user". It happened on July 8th, and now it's urgent. That is, we have to investigate it before September, before the rains start...

So, I looked deeper, and I got a feeling that it's a duplicate; I was already working on something very similar, with the same Mastroianni (an engineer, not an actor). But July logs in Datadog are unavailable (may be extracted from some enigmatic archives, no clue where they are); so I wrote to Mastroianni, asking whether he can reproduce it.

A couple of hours later I looked into it again (was busy with other things), and Mastroianni writes that he managed to reproduce it. Wow! Ok, I go to Datagot - and see no trace of it. So I bug Mastroianni again. (And Mike is also nervous, he bugs me on slack regarding this.) And it's almost 5pm, and banks don't work that late. But! We managed to connect with Mastroianni via huddle (but I had no sound), and Mastroianni reproduced the case, and I found it in the logs.

Well, cool! I look through the logs, I find who sends the error; I know this service, I look into the code, locate the line in the code. This is not the fault of the service, it just receives an error from another service and reports it.

Ok, more logs search. And in the logs that other service reports HTTP 200 twice. (HTTP 200 is (almost) the best code, we all love it). So I ask, on slack, the authors of this service of ours, how would they interpret it at all if we get a 200? And they say: here, that other service sends us an error. Wait, where's the error if we have HTTP 200?

Now Mike shows up in huddle on slack and says: haha, these are our partners. They only send an HTTP 200, accompanied with a huge JSON content, and that JSON content has an error code (in our case it is 1007), and a text saying "failed to create an account".

Oh, wow. So we just redirect this case from OPS to those idiots that are sending us HTTP 200.

Then Mike told me some historical facts. That when that company, of which our team is a part, was being acquired by the big company, it turned out that the big company already had a department solving the same problems as we do. Except that that department did not know how to solve problems. They had slapped together something in Go, Python, Java, in short, as they say in Russian, out of shit and sticks. Well, and our code is, relatively, pretty clean. There's the reason why we are being paid better.

Well, of course it's a sheer pleasure to throw the ball over the fence to the idiots' field and go enjoy the long weekend.

Oh, and I also asked, in slack, whether, when in our service we mention cash, don't we mean, by chance, cache? Mike started giving me a lesson of English language; but I had shown him the code where both cash management and cache management are mentioned; and this was the moment when Mike told me this story of the company, and how we are fighting against these internal competitors.

Well, it's all totally funny, and I'm just a spectator.

September 2024

September 03, 2024

Strangely, meetings were almost all canceled. So I worked.

One case, after investigating datadog logs, was eventually assigned to another team (Jenna wrote to me that it was wrong not to use jsonconverterv7 from some project in some other project, and Spenser wrote the same thing. So, closed.

Another case, Mastroianni asked me how I'm doing, and I wrote to him that oops, the case is reassigned to another team, and I had to notify him.

Then I, well, deployed one small service to prod (observing its behavior closer), and figured that it reports an error once an hour, when a key expires. So I'm closer to getting to that shit, but well... not there yet.

What else? I'm still looking for test accounts.

That's it. Skipping work tomorrow.

September 05, 2024

Well, there's work waiting for me, right?

So I opened my work computer, looked up... btw, I'm on pagerduty today. But nothing happened during the whole day. We only had meetings. Should I talk about how we guessed the number of weeks this or that stuff should take? One case was about producing a publicly-visible document describing Consumers endpoints. Nick gave it 1 week, I gave 5, Esteban gave 5. Well, I know what it is, releasing information to the public. Eventually we agreed on 3 weeks. As if it matters.

There was also a meeting when, strangely, they looked into that service that dumps a stack trace of the same exception, happening once an hour. Somehow They decided that a) the latest code was not deployed (I did, Tuesday), and that the errors happen in canary server only.

So eventually I had to write a clarification on slack.

Oh, and in the morning I saw a slack message from some Mary, who had scheduled my talk for Wednesday, 2pm, and asked me how come I did not even join that meeting. What meeting? It turned out that there's a slack channel, of which I never heard. So I joined, I saw that yes, it was for Wednesday, 2pm. And Mary created that meeting Tuesday about 7pm. I believe she never organized any events in her life before.

So I wrote to her that I'm ready to give a talk at another time, but not next Wednesday, because, well, I'll be AFK (I'll be flying from CLT to TLS).

Never heard from her ever since.

What else did I do? Other meetings. 1-1 with Mike, when we talked about France, Italy, about Spanish programmers from 37signals that slapped together this mysterious piece of code, with IO being the only available monad (maybe not such a bad idea, eh?), etc. With weird streams connections (when the author presented it something like 10 years ago at Scala By The Bay, it did look beautiful). Also, I told Mike that yesterday I had a heart surgery. He kind of feels relieved that these things got so easy to have these days.

Well, that's it for today. Did I do anything useful? I was thinking about updating docs... did I tell you that I have no open cases in Jira? :)

Whatever.

September 06, 2024

I fucking spent most of the time trying to figure out how to pull an image from artifactory, to investigate how come the library code there does not match what I see in the source code from github.

I'm kind of there, but now I have to launch docker, and that's a problem too. Will finish tomorrow. They threw me a really small case, "start using our standard error-reporting library"; the library is good, refers some RFC 9000 something. Seems like they throw at me anything they don't want to do. And I'm just having fun. I really don't care.

Ok, it's 5pm, and nobody's there anyway. This post (10x  vit_r) describes this company, as well as many other software companies. So there's nothing to complain about. I find time to do other stuff.

September 09, 2024

Not much work today. Started looking into how to use this "error management" library, since it's hardly used anywhere. But then we had a standup, where Mike said that first, this library is wrong, there's another library, with a similar name, and I should be using it; and he is moving this jira case to the back burner anyway. So I looked up at that other library. Pretty cool, pretty serious thing. Our code is pathetic, not using this library, with localization, etc. BTW, where will localized resources come from? Nobody seems to know. But anyway. We will see.

The rest of the day I was looking into how the fuck I can make docker pull an image from artifactory. Login to docker: check. Login to artifactory from docker: check. Find the resource (which url I know): does not work. What does it mean, I wonder. Will ask Sam, probably tomorrow, since today I'm not feeling extremely well. Oh, and Devon's PR, with 71 files. A bot pinged me with it. But the build fails a couple of tests are failing. The log consists of lists of long encrypted strings, and the tests say that the

actual list does not match the expected one. Strings are several hundred characters long, and there are thousands of them. I don't know what Devon thinks. But I just wrote in that PR that tests fail.

That's it for today.

Mike is taking off for a week-long management meeting somewhere in Missouri. Anyway.

September 10, 2024

What did I do? I was trying to pull an image I needed into docker. Turned out my url was wrong. See, if you need to get to it on artifactory, you go to (company).artifactory.org/(team)/(project)/(version). If you need to pull it, you say (company).artifactory.org/(team)/(project).(version). And when talking to docker, you call it (team)/(project):(version). Wrote it all down in the wiki I'm writing.

Then learned how to get into the image, how to find the code in that image. Pulled out the jar, found the class I was suspicious about. It's the same class I have on my machine, with the same source I was looking at. More, the line numbers now perfectly match. Before, in datadog's logs they did not. Now they do. But the error is the same.

Anyway, so now I want to just mock, manually, the things I want to bypass.

But strangely, the whole directory with the project, on my machine, got magically empty. Really empty. Nothing there. Neat, right?

So I pulled it again, and tried to rebuild. Everything behaves differently. First, the style checker just does not accept the config from github. Ok, that I could fix, and let it update the code according to the new rules (which are good). But then the build, regular scala build, started spending tons of time preparing something for docker. I'm not sure if I need this docker image.

Oh, and I had to restart my computer a couple of times.

But eventually I kind of got to where I planned to start. To just launch main from my test case.

BTW, chatgpt is now banned in our company. Well, so what. I'll use it from my private machine.

We were supposed to have three meetings, but had only one, "morning standup", where Janet suggested to cancel the other two, because Mike is in Missouri, and when he returns, he will bring some totally new plans, so what's the point of meeting to plan something, right? Right. And everybody went to do their own business. But well, I still remember that stupid movie, "The Firm", where all Tom Cruz (Cruise?) could find was charging for extra time. I don't want to cheat. So I worked.

Ok, it's funny, but it's like not paying for the bus tickets.

September 11, 2024

Well, since the cat is in a big meeting in Missouri, the mice are having fun. I missed the morning standup, no clue why, I did not get the sound notification. The next two meetings... I got into one, was alone there; got into another, there were me and Nick.

Nick and Esteban were looking into some security bug, and Esteban posted a PR, I approved it asap. That was it. As to me, not having anything official to do, I decided to mock and test the problems with Vault. And you know what. I could not even launch the tests. I've created a test case in Vault, then copy-pasted it into the client project. And the test does not start. Why? Because one class cannot be instantiated. Why? Because IntelliJ (I bet it's IntelliJ's problem) loads a wrong library. A wrong version of a jar. There are two available, but it loads the old one. Which is not referred from anywhere in the project. But when I run the test in SBT, it properly starts, and fails (as expected).

WTF, really.

That was when I closed my work computer.

See you Friday. Thursday is my day off.

September 13, 2024

Not much to talk about, since the standup was in the form of short messages on slack, and there were no other meetings.

I was on pager duty today, but there was nothing to react to. Except for Janet's question about a case that was already viewed, reviewed, reassigned to BSL team, and then she's being pinged by some wise idiots from above. Since the case was not assigned to me, I only informed her on slack about the other case, where more information was provided.

And besides, I'm trying to run a test I wrote, but IntelliJ mysteriously loads a wrong jar from maven. When I run the test in sbt, nothing like that happens. Eventually I removed the wrong version of the jar everywhere on my machine - did not help. So I removed it everywhere, and turned off the wifi. Now the test at least runs. But then it crashes because, in my test case, I specify two time spans, one of 3 seconds, another of 5 seconds. A Scala library tells me it does not accept spans bigger than 292 years. Go figure. That's what I'm doing.

Pretty stupid all this, is not it?

September 16, 2024

Not much to write. Approved Esteban's PR, working on this stupid shit of code where tests only pretend to be testing anything. But anyway.

And the code is written in cargo-cult style. They redefine equals for a case class, to make it “type safely” compare fields.

Etc.

Anyway, I am not done yet for today.

September 17, 2024

We had a small meeting, discussing “what went well and what went bad” in the last “sprint”. My ideas that we need a serious test coverage did not meet much enthusiasm, and they switched to production issues. Well, whatever. I know, I know.

I eventually made that little test case pass - now I need a serious test case, the reaction to expired credentials. Such case is not covered in the test cases. So I’ll need to mock the clock. Asked the people on slack. Mike wrote that cats have it. Well, yes, they do. But it’s so over complicated, for my case, that well, I’ll rather write my own mock clock in that test suite.

That’s it for today.

September 18, 2024

Did some investigations in the morning, then I was late for a meeting after my long walk. Ok, I was just about 5 minutes late. They discussed this and that, etc, but then Mike asked me what I’ve been doing; I told him about this old issue; he suggested to drop it, and go check out an ops case - where I’ve been waiting for more info, actually. Will do. Later today.

Meanwhile, I asked Chris about that Vault code, and he told me the story. He had not been working on it for years. And the functionality (“ask again for new credentials if the old ones are expired”) were actually never implemented. Well, even with the current implementation they could have done better.

Also, we had a funny discussion regarding how come the people, following a dumb “typesafe” approach of comparing instances (their idea was to make sure we have the same type) just breaks Liskov’s principle. But that’s a general approach. When “typesafe” circue json parser gets a JSON, and tries to instantiate a value of a class from that data, and if that JSON contains something more than the class constructor needs, it’s considered an error. Now imagine, you go to a web site, download something, but eventually that company (or just that team) decides to add a new field, like “update date”, or “author reference” - and kaboom! Another non-Liskov crash. Those people are ignorant, I think.

In this specific case of redefining equals, they (our engineers) carefully compare the fields of the case class. Now if somebody adds a field to that case class, they’ll have to be on alert - where else the

structure of the class is hard-code. WTF, if we know we have two instances of the same class (ok, or of a subclass), and if we are talking about a case class, just compare them! Scala compiler provides the right comparison code. Which is more efficient, since it also includes checking the hashCode (I hope). Compare it with comparing very long strings.

Whatever.

So, ok, I've closed the case, having got all this information, and found out how it crashes, and restarts the server every hour. Because its credentials expire every hour. Whatever. They've been warned.

Now, I took a break; will do some French, and get back to my work computer (which was, meanwhile, updated and rebooted).

Ok, opened my work computer, and I see a message from Mary, who suggests that I give my talk right away. I wrote to her, suggesting to make announcements at least a day before.

Ok, and besides, there's that old case I'm supposed to investigate. The accident happened on July 25th. Almost 2 months ago. Logs are available on datadog just for two weeks. So probably I'll need to go personally visit a dusty silo, find a magnetic tape... etc. Is not it challenging? Like in the movies.

September 19, 2024

Well, the day was not very nice.

First, wtf I've been working on? The case that I closed yesterday, I got new information from the other team, so I reopened it, and added that information, and put it on the back burner. Mike wrote me a message that I should not have touched that case. Oh, yeah, right. People answered my questions, and I saved those answers to jira case, and he's not happy, wow, wow.

Anyway, and there is another case, "Ops case", which I was supposed to investigate. The original case was created on July 25h, since the failure happened July 24th. The case reached me a month later, and I saw that logs are not available, so I asked Brandi (who created the case) whether she has any ideas where I could find month-old logs. She was silent. Now that Mike told me to go work on that case, I wrote to Brandi, she wrote "invite Josh", I invited Josh, explained the problem; he invited three more people, and we together, by the end of the day, came to a conclusion that it's too late. (Where's SoX in this company, eh?)

Then we had a "scaling meeting". I was supposed to present this time. I was clueless about what exactly is this circus, but I was nominated as a Sprechstahlmeister or something. To prepare for that, I created a new dashboard in DataDog, and started investigating, what does it complain about. It complained about the module I was investigating all these recent weeks. So I clicked through, and eventually found that it complains exactly about the failure that I was told not to touch again. Cool. I repeated it at the meeting (Mike was nervous again).

The rest of the show was looking at the old saw-like graphs of garbage collector (I see them every week, as everyone does, but what's the meaning of it? We could probably improve it, but should we? I kind of know how to take care of memory leaks, but I'm like that cosmonaut that was not given the order to see God).

Ok, then there was a meeting about, tadam! SSL failure in frontend. And why we don't return 500. How come it's our, backend developers' business? More, it turned out that last week some ops changed the keys and updated DNS. So I was just sitting there listening. After every meeting I need a break.

Then there was a 1-1 with Mike. Mike is carefully trying to play a boss. I have to admit, technically he's pretty good. But as a boss, he's still learning. But whatever. He remembered me spending time working on that half-closed case (what else am I supposed to do, I did not have any cases since like mid-August... no, I'm not an idiot to tell him that, it's his business, not mine). Then he remembered that I missed my own talk again. Well, who notified me about that talks date and time? Mary, 20 minutes after it was supposed to start.

Crazy, right?

But then, on the other hand, Mike had explained to me the meaning of this "scaling meeting". It's a cargo cult: we are supposed to report up-up-up if we need more processing resources. Except that our team is not in the big spreadsheet, and Mike is not an idiot to ask to add our team to their reporting. They might as well not even know that we exist. But at least I know next time, what to do. Will document it all.

So, now I took a break, and will be back rather soon. Just have to finish my Duolingo French lesson.

BTW, nobody's holding me there. When I get bored, I'll just quit. There are more jobs around. And stocks are going up again, too.

September 20, 2024

I'm on pager duty today. So? So nothing: nothing happened.

Updated some docs. Wrote a "scaling report". I really have no problem writing reports. Or writing code. What I don't like is wasting time talking to people that use vague words and sentences, so that to get to the point one has to ask them and reask them, but nobody gives you a slot of time.

Today there was a discussion regarding a pretty neat update Esteban wrote, about reinterpreting errors coming from one stupid service. They return us an HTTP-200, with "error message" somewhere at the bottom of otherwise innocent JSON. Esteban translates it all to HTTP-500.

Mike suggested to use HTTP-503, and hide the error explanations. I suggested to log the error explanations. So we agreed.

That was a standup.

Otherwise, I was working a pretty nice “error library” created by some people in our company. By the end of the day a pr was sent.

That’s it for today.

September 23, 2024

I’m still “working”, since it’s just 2PM EST. But anyway, I was on a meeting, while we were driving through France, and so the camera was off. They talked about some stuff that does not interest me, but when asked about how I’m doing, I said: I have a PR to review, posted it Friday night, so everything’s fine. Updating some docs, and learning a new documenting tool (or just an .md text editor called Obsidian).

That’s it for today. Basically, nothing to do, but hang around.

September 24, 2024

In the morning I discovered that my half-approved pr was disapproved, and Esteban wrote that I should use another “error library” - “standard error library”. That’s a good library, but I was sure it was for frontend-looking code. But whatever. The only thing is that no project in the company is seriously using it. Ok, there are two small projects, but they work with Tapir library, Well, whatever.

Then we had a 3-hour standup. We even had a 10-minute break, for lunch or something. I had my dinner right before that break.

We were looking into the cases that are waiting for our reaction. One was a typical “report all users that did not manage to log in”. Been there. “Tell me, who is that guy that we’ve never seen before.”

September 25, 2024

Not much of a meeting, but I spent all day attaching the new error-handling library to the code. It’s no big deal, but...

1. It’s been a while (or forever) that I couldn’t run tests in IntelliJ; why? Because there is this “tpolecat plugin”. Tpolecat is Rob Norris, one of those assholes that signed a denouncing letter against Jon (and John too). This compiler plugin checks all cases when a non-unit method was called but results are ignored. Now, in tests lots of checks are done inside test cases - so if there’s more than one, kaboom, a warning, and we don’t compile the code with warnings. Now I was out of patience - I needed to check the new library’s behavior, inside.

So I googled (nothing works), and eventually asked people on slack. Got about half a dozen of advices. Neither worked. But I eventually got an idea. You can give the compiler keys to ignore specific warning texts. So I ran the shit, recording warnings, and adding them to compiler flags.

Eventually it worked. And I documented it. Good!

Next, I run it, but there's no source code available for that library. WTF, right? Updated the build script, to add source-code dependency. It did not work from scratch, and I had to restart it several times.

And eventually made it work, by our 8PM. Not bad.

September 26, 2024

Esteban suggested not to have the messages manually added to resources, but use the tool (which uses ICU to localize) that generates resources.

So I spent a couple of hours struggling with YAML - how t.f. does it handle new lines in strings? Yes, I know about 5 ways to do it - neither works in our tool, and the tool reports no errors... and the tool does not run locally. Well, whatever, wtf, I just removes new lines.

Later a guy from that tool team wrote that it's not a bright idea to push all the inter-services message to localization. Well, I not only agree, I talked about it at yesterday's meeting, but who cares, right? Me neither, it's not my company.

So, I'll look again, tomorrow, at what that guy wrote, and will do something reasonable... or not.

Meanwhile, we had a "standup", where we mostly talked about the weather. The hurricane bypassed Florida, did some destruction in Biloxi, as it usually does, and, instead of turning left to Chattanooga (choo-choo), turned right. But that was later. Meanwhile, Janet, who lives in Greeneville, said that she's prepared to stay for a week without electricity.

Oh, and Janet created a case for me, derived from OPS: a user was created twice; as she was saying last night, within the same millisecond.

Today I looked into all the data: no, the time difference was 1.5 minutes. Which means, the cause is human, not electronic. The user just clicked twice, I believe. But first, I did not find any trace of it in the logs, and second, Janet did not respond my pings regarding "hey, let's huddle".

And right now, after I had dinner, I checked it out again: wow, the OPS case is closed. Valerie just closed it. Not explaining the cause, but I guess I know what it was. Double click. Frontend people should be, well, smarter. How come David Pollak's library did not allow this kind of idiocy. Well... There's a big difference between David Pollak and Travis Brown, right?

Ok, so there.

Oh, and there was another meeting, which I decided to skip, since we were walking around the town, after the rain stopped, and I had no desire to go back and do this stupid shit. Mike wrote: Vlad, Esteban, Bill, are you joining the meeting? We were not. I was not even aware that I have to attend all of them. Bill is a Florida man, and so he has an excuse. Esteban lives in Colombia, in the mountains, and he may have an excuse too.

In short, fuck it all, we could not. Funny, because Bill was a presenter. In short, nobody came to a meeting. Mike, pretending to be a tough guy, soft-Trump style, may start thinking about his attitudes.

Not that I care. It's not my company, eh.

September 27, 2024

Probably the day is over by now.

Pretty boring. We had one “standup” meeting, just four of us. Talked about how to make it so that we pick up OPS cases before the logs expire in datadog, as they always do. The case I’ve been looking into (I’d love it if someone could help me figure out whether I’m wrong in finding almost no records in the logs) will have the logs expired Monday. Is it my fault? Well, whatever.

What else, nothing else.

September 30, 2024

How was this day? I’m on a pager duty, so I checked out an email with the cases from OPS. It turned out that there is one “fresh” case, dating 9/28. The problem is though that it’s the same case filed by that contractor dude some time in April. That time we came to some conclusions (all in Jira), and waited for something from Janet - and on Saturday Janet added a couple of lines (like, “still looking”).

So there was nothing for me to do. Oh, there was a case of “duplicate customers created by one user, 1.5 minutes apart. There were two cases for that; the cases were duplicates, so Valery closed one. I closed mine (derivative), but then reopened, and asked around if anybody can help with investigating. Since the logs had entries like “event message successfully processed”. That’s it, no request id, no details what was it. Chinese programming, I would say.

But then Valery answered my question. Yes, two customers were created because the user did it. And the user did it, because the first creation attempt was reported to him as failed. So, was not it natural?

I tried, at the meeting, to discuss this case, and turned the investigation into “why t.f. do we report a failure if a user was created”, but there was no time for that. Everybody was discussing the weather: Asheville and the areas around, badly damaged by the hurricane.

Later, after the meeting, I was still pushing through that little thing, “new error messages”, and merged, but then a format was not followed (no tools report bad yaml format for this project), so I updated that shit and sent for review again.

What should I do now? Nothing.

But I’m on alert.

October 2024

October 01, 2024

Ok, one step was approved, I mean, a pr with “error messages”. Next is to do something with a project that generates some scala code out of it. No documentation. So I asked that team, what exactly...

Silence. Picked up another jira case (“parameterize a url that points to public key”). I bet they want public keys to be as secret as possible. But anyway, slapped together a PR, sent for review?

A bot asked me to review a couple of PRs. Did it, everything’s fine.

Now what? Anything to do? No.

We had some kind of “sprint review” meeting; I had nothing to add, so I told them, and was just listening. Mostly the discussion was about “how can we find errors in logs”, if logs are either non-existent, and are kept for just 14 days. (Remember SOX?) The management above says that we should save disk space on logs. Ok, big deal. I did not participate in this discussion. After finding log entries like “service reported event processed successfully”, I don’t see how I can help them. Got a feeling that the company is just... well, you know.

That’s it, basically. People talk about bicycles, weather, donations, broken cars... I don’t care.

October 02, 2024

Now, what’s up?

I have two cases.

One is: “introduce an env var for a url for public key, with a default value”. Colleagues are reviewing it.

Esteban says: we have to check it on staging, because what if something happens when the env var is not defined. (Sure!)

Bill says: oh, no, we cannot provide a default value for an env var, it’s a bad idea. The env var should be always defined, or else we should crash.

I answered to both, and invited Devon, who had created this jira case about half a year ago.

Mike asked me why am I doing this case, and I told him that it was his suggestion that I pick up some cases when I have time. I did not tell him I have plenty of time, it’s too personal.

The second case is: ”use standard-errors module’ to enable localization of error message and to standardize them.

Ok, so I pushed that stuff, and then started asking around: how exactly will my updates get into generated scala code? No answers, but at the standup Mike told me: it’s automatic. Oh, ok, automatic, coo.

And it was automated. I pulled that automatically generated code, run a build locally, everything's fine. Started looking the build results (the jars) in artifactory. None. Started checking Jenkins' build logs. Last build was done 9 months ago. So, hey, what's up? Asked the team. Mike answers: "we had a build failure" (I did not see it in github, though), "and we are investigating".

Good! I have nothing to do. As Mike suggested during the standup: "Vlad will close the meeting tab and will go have a glass of French wine" (Actually not, with my health status I only have a glass or two of wine per week. I'm being careful. More, I'm not even enjoying my favorite local Les Queyrats.) (P.S., 2025 - I hope I will now.)

So, it's almost 8pm (that's 20h), and I'm just hanging out, nothing to do.

October 03, 2024

Had three meetings, but during the second one I had mike off, sound on, and my headset on, connected to another computer, where I was doing French.

I have two cases. One is still pending, because that team did not fix it. Have to mark it as blocked. Another is about that uri that can come from an env. Bill said it's better to store it in config. With all that surrounding BS. But ok, that's their culture. Updated the pr, sent for review (to Bill). Meanwhile Bill sent a PR where he does the same bug that was discovered by Esteban last night. String uri = s"server/v0/user/\${userId}/something", where userId: UserId(value) - etc. Oh, whatever.

Spent about half an hour chatting with Mike (1-1). Mike told me how that other team of contractors brought in free monads and "Kleisli monads". I did not tell him that there's no such thing as "Kleisli monad". Yes, I know, many people, especially haskellers, believe in such a thing. Which means: educated ignorance. Alchemy, astrology, etc.

October 04, 2024

Not much. Approved Bill's fix for his bug; he, as a returned favor, appoved my PR with updates made by his suggestion. Had a "standup" which was really a comedy - we discuss Castellano (Spanish accent in Spanish), then we discussed "y'all" that Esteban likes to use, and the other American accent; I posted the "eleven" sketch, so you can imagine.

Since I came home from a walk 2 minutes before the meeting, I did not have a chance to label my other PR as "blocked"; Mike did it.

Spent the rest of the day clicking 'space' from time to time and checking if anybody posts any updates. None. That merged really small PR, it's been building for more than 3 hours, so I thought, there will be Monday (inshallah).

That was it for today. I'm really bored at my work, but I must appreciate it. Because my head is occupied with one failing test, presheaves over Z3 (duh, I know the topos is Boolean).

October 07, 2024

I can't believe there's nothing for me to do at work.

Ok, there was a PR that was approved, and I had merged it, and it was supposed to be built and deployed to staging. But mike insists on not deploying it to prod, because there's about a dozen automatic pull requests merged, and never deployed, several months old.

So, after the meeting, I wrote to them, asking what are our options? Drop it, play with it manually on staging, write a complete batch of serious integration tests? Silence. So I'm just watching Naki, doing my French, taking care of my sick wife, and the like. Checking the work computer from time to time. Sure I could update docs, I could go ahead and learn something there, but definitely no desire.

At the standup we mostly discussed weather, remodeling, gators in Florida, bicycling, the new storm coming to Florida.

October 08, 2024

Pretty bored. In the morning I did not have anything to do at all, so I was not doing anything.

Then we had a 2-hour scrum meeting. In the end they started talking about monads, cats, and similar shit. Asked my opinion. I told them that cats library is a parody of ScalaZ, written by the people who don't understand monads and FP, so there. Then they talked about monads, and I preferred not to interfere. Before that, they discussed the big project of standardizing all error message, placing them in a spreadsheet, in resources (spreadsheet keeping links to those resources), with content duplication, and with some explanations. Since they are not exactly aware of how that "standard error library" data structure is organized... no, I did not interfere. I participated from time to time in the discussions, but mostly I was just reading a book... Then they gave me, for the next week (or two?) a bunch of user support cases and, also, compiler problems. I love it. Seriously, no responsibility, just something nobody wants to do, so nobody pushes for it to be done asap. I need my time. Besides, I'm spoiled.

But also, I'm pretty suspicious that when my year ends, my contract will end. I'm rather tired of this nonsense... although there's nonsense all around, is not it? But the hour rate is decent (for the east coast).

October 09, 2024

In the morning I had reviewed half a dozen of “ops jira cases”; one is interesting, the rest either taken or blocked.

The interesting case is that a user changes his or her “preferred name”, and this disappears when the user relogsins.

Got a bunch of information, how to reproduce, etc. Janet assured me that it only happens on prod, but not on staging. Good question regarding the difference between the code bases. No labels provided on versions deployed to prod. I can let our “capybara” team know that deployment to master should involve labelling the version. But they don’t have an order to follow my suggestions, so it makes no sense.

We spent about 3 hours with Janet, investigating this shit. First, it reproduces on staging as well. Eventually came to this: 1) there’s about four different classes in the server that handle user data; some of them have values of “preferred name”, and half of those never use it, setting it just to None.

Looking through the code where you can find a parameter passed as `Option[Option[String]]`... these people pretend to be aware of what a monad is.

Etc. Later we discovered that we register ban users in one service, and credit union users in another. And that other one, even if it does not ignore the “preferred name”, our service never asks it when it gets a GET request. Oh, it’s not a GET request. It’s a POST request, with a parameter “fetch”.

Well, you see.

But a bigger issue is that all that account management is supposed to be taken over by a central service, so we’d rather not do anything about it.

But for now that transition is on freeze, so we better do it on our side, because it’s a bug.

And you know, I seriously like working with women. No competition, just cooperation. So, we both had fun.

That’s why I like working here. Otherwise I would just have waited for getting fired. Which does not depend on anything, they may already have an order to save on my salary (which is the highest among engineers, especially if you divide it into the number of hours I work).

October 10, 2024

Ok, I’m tired of all that customer support shit, and if this doesn’t end soon, I’m gone. Today spent some time looking into cases (like, “a user created four accounts, because he was getting”failed to create an account” every time, and it was failing because when he wanted to see the created account, with

the phone number, the “phone number service” was telling that this account does not exist. That’s the result of my investigation; we had a meeting dedicated to this shit.

And another meeting, where I was presenting, dedicated to the services health, and to the fact that on “development” cloud the number of idle postgres connections doubled. Я типа контрактник.

Wrote to Mike that if they don’t have a software development work for me, we’ll need to talk (which translates like ‘fuck you all’. I don’t want headaches or heart problems. I just want to enjoy my life, and do what I like. That’s it. I don’t mind investigating the code problems, on a condition that the problems will be fixed (preferably by me). But when I see Option[Option[String]], when I see code like

```
def refactorCookies[F](arg: String): F[String] = {  
    val result = for {  
        value <- callSomethingSomewhere(arg, param1, param2, param3, param4)  
    } yield value  
    result  
}
```

I’m really losing all interest.

October 11, 2024

Last night I wrote to Mike that I’m a developer, and not happy with the things I’ve been doing lately, and we should think about it and talk, e.g. Monday. Mike answered that this is my “user support” week, as agreed. And I wrote “Well, ok.” And wrote Sean, my recruiter (I’d say, my agent).

Sure Sean will be happy to get me another job (and get paid for that); he wrote that he has something in mind, and we agreed to chat over the phone next week.

Then we had a “standup”, where they started discussing this issue with an account being created five times (they call it “duplicate”). Kind of agreed to what we had agreed yesterday: that a user creates another account after getting an error - now the authorship of this idea is totally ascribed to Devon. After like me talking about it for a couple of weeks. See, I’m like an invisible middle-aged woman here now. I know, I know, I could have been more visible. But this is not my style. I don’t fucking care. And no, I’m not angry, I just watch the show.

Eventually they came to a conclusion that an error happens because one of the services started adding one more field, “typeOfUser” to the XML they send. And you know, the whole fucking dumb universe validates the XML they get. And this field is “unknown”. Is not it an idiocracy? Short, they just ignore records that contain an extra field.

As a result, Devon, in a hurry, wrote an important update to our service: a debug log entry when an extra field is present. Good that I'm not included in his list of reviewers.

Oh, as to reviewing, Esteban last night fixed his “monadic” code (I posted it), so everything's fine now (and a test case is added), so I was glad to approve it. Well, we are professionals, are not we?

What next: I just shut the computer and... we went for a walk, and... eventually I opened the computer, looked around. There's a Dependabot notification that an Avro library has a security hole, and we need to update the dependency. I had to ask Sam (because she is the one that knows everything) about where is that dependency; she pointed it, and... and I updated that shit, and started running tests... except that one test did not even compile (yes, it's from master).

But anyway. Till Monday.

October 11, 2024

Let me entertain you

Scaling Meetingⁱⁱ

The first several months I could not figure out what does it mean at all. Every Thursday, East Coast morning time, engineers get together on Microsoft Teams, the leader of the meeting opens a dashboard with a bunch of graphs, and everybody is just silently looking at these graphs.

Some of these graphs consist of similarly looking graphs of Dirichlet function (it's the function that is 0 on rational numbers and 1 on irrational). A bunch of other graphs have the shape of saw ($y=x-[x]$). These graphs show memory status and garbage collection actions. Judging by my previous experience, this must be fixed, because they show stupid memory leaks, most probably in one of the caches.

But nobody fixes anything. They just click their tongues, and that's it. At times they find peaks and study these peaks. Like physicists or astronomers: “wow, it's a supernova... or maybe just a solar activity...” Suddenly it turns out that I'm also registered as a host of this show. Ok, and what am I supposed to do? You are supposed to know what to do! The link to this dashboard was sent to me by Nick, a nice guy; and I opened this dashboard, and scrolled it. Verbalized my view of these graphs: “here's a Dirichlet function, here's a fractional part function, and?” I asked them, but everyone's silent.

Eventually, suddenly, it turned out that I have to add a report into a special page on Atlassian. Well, that's not a problem for me. You want me to write something, I can write it easily. View me as a freelance poet. I can dedicate a small poem to these curves, but...

And finally, finally! I was told what this shit is about and why we need it! All this means that if, suddenly, the processes start taking over more resources, we would need to do “scaling”: request more processors from the upper management (and they'll cut our requests, the way they cut down our logs, in spite of all the SOX).

But we don't see any changes.

Last time I was such a show host it was yesterday. We had two non-trivial events.

Event 1. "And every evening at sun-down" a peak of solar activity Kafka activity (Kafka is what the whole world uses for passing around events). We discussed this event, and came to a conclusion that this is the time when cache is dumped into logs.

Event 2. On one of test machines one of the services had doubled the number of unused database connections. From two to four.

Here we had to go deeper to investigate. It happened October 8th, at 9:22 EST a connection was added. At 10:22 another connection was added.

Out of curiosity, we went to look for recent deployments. What did we deploy exactly. But well, Jenkins has so many deployments that we just couldn't find anything. Ok, and then I (as a show host) went to github to see the history of this service.

No code was changed for the last two years. But, October 8, in the morning, one build bot had upgraded a version of a library, which refers another library.

That's when the investigation was closed. I recorded it all in a doc on Atlassian, first having to figure out whether Atlassian Wiki even allows adding a row at the top of the table. Yes, there is this feature, if one googles it.

Now tell me, how much patience does it take to live with all this. And how long?

I'm starting to hate it, frankly.

October 14, 2024

Ok, it's just 20:00, and the workday isn't finished, but...

This morning I've eventually found the right dependency version (fixing a security hole in Avro); slapped together a PR and sent for review.

Then a bot sent a bunch of PRs, so I was reviewing them and approving.

Then there was a standup, where Mike, in his disgusting voice, was asking me, how are things with this or that ops case, and asked me to update the case in Jira. Ok, sure, do I mind. Sure.

Later I saw a comment from Devon in my PR. He wrote that they did the same fix, half a day after me, and merged it. Good guys. I need some (not much) effort to get used to this kind of attitude. First: do I care? Answer: no, I don't. But I deserve a break.

After the break I got through those ops case. As many as I saw, they are either closed or redirected to another team, who accepted them.

So I just wrote some kind words.

Oh, except the one, created over a month and a half ago, where an account was created twice, and about a week and a half ago I asked, which one to delete, and the last response was: “we are still studying, which one”. Good.

Seriously, and since they don’t want anything from me, I’ll rather spend time reading and learning French.

Not exactly, I’ll open my work computer a bit later. Also, I’m waiting for my recruiter Sean’s call later tonight.

P.S. Opened it. In my post about an ops case accepted by Prism team (so it’s not our business anymore) Mike’s boss, that Culinary college alumna that came to rule us all, wrote that she did not find any info about Prism in that case. I copy-pasted the quote, posted it on Slack, checked that actually there are 0 ops cases (yes, I did handle them all, and it’s most probably the last time I do it for them), and closed the work computer.

October 15, 2024

Ok, it’s 20:22 here, and 2:22 PM over there, but nobody shows up in Slack, so I’ve just closed my work computer.

What else happened.

I tried to dump a list of consumers from prod db. Did not work. Asked, how exactly I should do that? Ok, need a github token. Added it. Did not work. Asked again. Mike pointed to the same question, asked by Janet last week. There was a long thread, and I repeated the steps. Did not work. Asked Janet. She writes that she did not retry.

Eventually it turned out that we are now in another team, removed from the list of the previous team. And our new team is not listed at all for access in the database. They don’t have time for us.

We also had a “sprint review” later today. I was too insolent and posted three “bad aspects”. Like wtf our playbooks/instructions have the form of threads in slack. (Devon says: “because that’s where the information is”). Why people do updates of the same bugs in the same project in parallel? (Devon says: “I was first”). Can we handle random context switches? Here everyone agreed.

I should not have. They don’t pay me for my attempts of the process improvement.

OTOH, it’s not my duty day; finished yesterday. We had about 6 OPS cases; I closed five, and one is... in discussion, is it our team’s fault, is it PRISM team’s fault? Who knows. The Culinary College girl thinks it’s ours. Oh, ok. Give me a chance to investigate? We don’t have time for that.

BTW, Devon added some logging to consumer's project to investigate what's up. This logging caused errors in logs, so it was rolled back.

I guess it was NPE, when he was trying to log a phone number of an account which is null.

BTW, the problem is, I believe, this:

- you create an account
- the frontend requests the account info to show it
- the backend requests the account's phone number
- the “phone number service”, not having the phone number (yet) in its db, reports: “Unknown user”
- the backend is in panic: user does not exist!
- it reports to frontend: “user does not exist”
- frontend shows the user a message: “failed to create an account”
- the user creates another account

(rinse, repeat)

OTOH, if I closed almost (or just) all the ops cases, what will the next engineer be doing, I wonder. Was not I a strike-breaker? No clue. I behaved like a young pioneer. Bad, bad. But well...

October 16, 2024

Basically, 1) I'm getting more and more bored, and 2) all I see is nonsense.

Told my wife about political correctness in naming git branches. Politically correct companies call the most important version control branch “main”. Traditional companies have been calling the most important branch “master”. If they started like 20 years ago. Slavery was not there anymore, but people were insensitive. They were getting master degrees, used master disks... not anymore.

So, in our company some projects have “main” as main, other projects have “master” as main. Or main as master. Well, that's historical.

So in my scripts I check for master, and if missing, I use main.

Today I just noticed that “users” project has both “main” and “master” branches. And both are actively used. And now what?

What else? Oh, I have to deploy one module to prod. Of course I forgot how t.f. it's being done. But good that about 3 months ago they explained it all to me, at a standup, and I recorded it, and saved to my Downloads folder. Downloads is where I keep everything (before posting to a really safe place).

So I'm watching it.

But before that, I wanted to see that I can view the logs, right after deploying. But surprise, I found no logs in datadog. So I asked them. And I was told that only errors are reported in the logs. And the last errors happened... this morning. On a service that was deployed months ago. The error is of course a typical exception in “typelevel” shit. Which kind of gave me another argument for finding a ZIO company as my next adventure. With ZIO I can easily get in touch with John or whoever is working on it now (some good people left recently, and are now looking).

And Devon wrote to me that I should not care, unless it starts failing more often.

Ok, ok.

I think I’m too critical. Everything’s fine. I’ll just deploy this shit to prod and see that... well... that there are not many exception stacktraces. Oh, I think I’m familiar with this shit. It happened in another service before. And I was told not to care about it. Do I care? I don’t even if they tell me to care. I had two heart attacks, and that’s what I care about, eating good stuff and not caring about lives of the ignorants who are not interested in listening. Besides, a Curry-Howard-Lambek version of SKK=I is really beautiful.

October 17, 2024

Last night I wrote to Mike that I need an approval for prod deployment.

In the morning Mike wrote back that this is a week-old build, and it failed. So what do I want from him? I wrote to him that my last build was last night at 9:26PM. He answered that he had approved it already, yesterday, at 4:44 (that’s our 22:44 our time).

Ok.

And I opened the logs on Datadog page, and deployed it (eventually).

Had to rewatch some parts of the video recording of how to do that, because I forgot most of the process.

Now I’m writing a wiki page describing the process. Really no big deal, but how come nobody cared to document, right?

That’s it for today.

No, I’m not spending hours documenting stuff. I’m just getting back to it, from time to time, between learning French, reading Les Liaisons (what a sad bitch is that Merteuil), listening to Naki (he’s a great talker).

Sean, the recruiter, asked for more info (my project with Scala 3, my talks, etc). Sent it all to him.

October 18, 2024

What did I do? Almost nothing. Just three people gathered for “standup”.

Investigating grafana now, how exactly can we have a proper health dashboard? We will see. I’ll probably need to read some docs. But I know one thing: as soon as I start doing something, I’ll be given something else to do.

Oh, but I wrote a doc, “how to deploy to prod”.

October 21, 2024

In the morning, before the meeting, started studying Grafana. Dashboard for health, etc.

But at the meeting Mike told me that this is not in Jira. Ok, got it. Again I was doing something they don’t need. I think they do, but they don’t know they do. And I don’t understand their politics anyway.

But OTOH, Mike pointed at the right way to read Jira. Take the left column, and take the top case there. Because they are ordered by priority. Well, that’s what I was looking for in this, and in other companies: show me a priority queue. So, life got easier in this sense.

About half an hour later I came to a conclusion that there’s nothing to do there: a field was added who knows when, and it’s being returned in the endpoint. But a test for that endpoint has been always missing. Does it mean I should write that missing test? I’m not a QA, so... I could ping the guy who wrote that method, but he’s busy doing other things, and ensuring coverage is not my responsibility. Wrote to Devon regarding this: because the previous manager pointed at Devon when I find that some tests are missing.

Do you find it boring? I do. So about 20:00 I closed my work computer. Tomorrow, tomorrow. And god forbid me taking another case... or closing all the fucking cases they have. Guess what next? They’ll find that they have too many engineers for too little Jira cases.

October 23, 2024

It was a short day to work.

In the morning I looked into wtf was going on. My PR needed an update from master; so I did update it. Then fixed the merge. Then pushed the result. And closed my computer.

Later in the day we rushed home, to make sure I’m not late to the meeting. Arrived 10 minutes before the meeting. Jenkins shows that the PR is ok. Sent /remind to the reviewers.

At the meeting Mike asked me what’s up. I told him what’s up. And started working on that other pr from a bot. Eventually discovered that the bot complains about some manually-edited file that was supposed to be generated.

The problem was, Jeremey, in July, manually updated an automatically generated file, and now Jenkins complains about it. Esteban told me how to regenerate, and I did, pushed, and the bot has ran the build and merged it.

It's just 3pm over there, on the East Coast, but it seems like it's only me online, and Esteban (he has 2pm in Bogotá).

So, that's it for today.

October 24, 2024

Not much; two meetings passed, two meetings left to attend.

Got one of my prs approved, so merged it. Tomorrow will check the logs, and maybe deploy to prod.

Also, one pr from a bot, I fixed it (it was failing), and it merged automatically, because I previously had approved it. Well, who cares.

Another failing bot pr left to fix. Versions mismatch. Will fix soon.

Meetings... somehow there's almost nobody at work today. Except Mike, the manager, and me and Esteban, two contractors.

Boring... but financially pretty efficient.

October 25, 2024

There's some kind of disorder there. I planned to deploy in the morning, but my Jira case was overtaken by Esteban. Well, fine. There was also a case passed to me last night. And I can't find it in Jira. What is it? Ok, found out in the meeting that Esteban had closed it, and threw me that other case.

So I sit here, listening to Naki's podcast, and deploying it. Found a bug, meanwhile, and filed it to Jira. The bug is this:

```
Unknown HTTP response 500
Error: Got a 500 with Some(Invalid message {
    "error" : "rejected"
}) while calling getBlaBlaBlaV2
```

How many bugs would you count here? I found three, if we count them in our service only.

October 28, 2024

Now I use my work computer for both work and study. Cool. Was deploying that service to prod, found a problem with a frozen 9-year-old kafka library that is becoming incompatible with newer kafka

versions... that's basically it. Got a vague feeling that hardly anybody works here. Nice.

Picked up another jira case, Mike was pushing it. The case depends on another case, a blocked one. Marked this one as blocked too. Mission accomplished.

October 29, 2024

Hard to describe.

One piece of shit, the one that I had deployed yesterday, was reported as not returning "enrollment-Type". Hmm, interesting. But they did not say, which service they were talking about. It was not listed in Jira either. And the case was assigned to Esteban. So I wrote to him, all these questions.

Later Devon added his comment that it's about the other service, and pointed at the code where the field must be added. And Mike reassigned this shit to me. No problem, working on it. (Working basically consists of adding a test case.)

Then Mike was pushing another case. An endpoint "Write User Information". With a question regarding which service we are talking about (see above).

I looked up both. One has about 50 distinct record type that contain user info. Another one has about 30. So I added my questions, what exactly we are talking about. And whether, adding this information, we would also need to get this information? Delete it? Edit it? The customer did write that we cannot edit the user's first and last name. (I wonder why, can't a user marry? But, I guess, they'll have another record type and an endpoint for a married user that changed name. Or a record "user changed name". Sounds logical, right?)

Then we had a "scrum postmortem" or something like that. I think I'm done coming up with suggestions of improvements. But they discussed, they asked questions, and at times I shared my opinion, verbally. Discussed documentation. It turned out the company does not have money for storing documentation on servers. Go figure, right!

Mike, I don't know, he complained about upper management being arrogant incompetent idiots. Well, I have to admit, compared to very many managers I encountered in my life, Mike is pretty advanced and competent. Just pretty inaccurate and unorganized.

That's it for today.

October 30, 2024

What was it today? Just some nonsense. At the standup, Mike was pushing my reviewers to review asap.

Ok, reviewed; build? Deployment to staging? Turned out that Jenkins reports “scala style error”. Yeah, right. It did not report it in the before-merge task. Anyway, started again. Again “scala style error”, but at a different stage. Should I also add that there’s no log. Just “there’s an error”, use binary internet search to figure out.

And then Mike write: “I tried it again, and it did build”. Ok, cool, thanks. Now, several hours later, Jenkins still pretends to deploy to staging.

Meaning, I have a lot of time. I’m busy with an urgent task - watching it finish.

October 31, 2024

Ok, I was reluctant to deploy today, because failures were repeating: db error, duplicate user. Only by the end of the day I a) found the team that sends a request to create this duplicate user, b) learned that this has been happening for the last four years, and c) nobody cares.

So by the end of the day I deployed it, and everythings fine. By advice of Mike I notified politely the team that was waiting for this event. Wished them happy halloween, too.

We had a nice 1-1 with Mike. I praised Esteban who picked up a jira case I slapped together lately, regarding missing negative tests, and did it all perfectly.

That’s it for today.

November 2024

November 01, 2024

Hard to describe. Discussed that big 63-file pr. Devon promised to improve it more.

That's it for today. Ok, filed another ticket in Jira. Probably useless, but good for pretending being occupied.

November 08, 2024

Had a “standup”, where we mostly discussed Go, Haskell, Scala, and people’s tastes. The company has one project in Haskell. There’s just one Go person in a neighboring team, and the rest of the team start screaming when offered to switch to Go. They want Scala.

I have two jira cases. One I’ve eventually made to work the way Devon wanted it. I actually agree with him, and wonder how t.f. it was working before. Exception were either ignored, or what? No clue. Another one... see, it’s Friday before a long weekend. Nobody wants to get bothered. So there. I mostly work on my book today.

November 12, 2024

Well, still getting my stupid PR through Devon. Ok.

We also had a sprint post-mortem, but we did not discuss anything, instead talked a little bit about this and that.

It also turned out I’m on pager duty this week. Nobody asked me about Thursday, when I’ll be away. So, anyway, I swapped with Esteban.

Investigated a failure (“phone number update fails from time to time”). The ultimate culprit is known, but we don’t log the error we receive from that culprit. So I created a jira case. Also, found that these errors are stored in a table in a database. Except that I can’t login to prod postgres, and nobody knows what database is it (will try to find in configs).

Well, whatever. So there.

November 13, 2024

Hey, I’m on a “customers cases”.

One case, which I was pinging for several days, was that a user updates her phone number (it’s “her” IRL), but the phone does not get updated. When you dive deep in the server code, you see that this update is sent to some quasi-external service, that service returns an error, we don’t log the error

message, but just a warning, like “a condition was not met”, and return another error to the client, which client ignores the error, happy to have received an answer.

OTOH, the service does log the errors received. In a table in a database. I spent some time trying to log in to production postgres, and I did, but I had no clue which database to use; probably the postgres was the wrong one. I know how to switch databases and list tables in postgres (and I love postgres), but well.

Eventually I had tracked x-request-id, and found that the external service returns “risk too high”. While when we send them a request, we set “HighRiskAllowed=”highriskallowed”. FIIK if this is a good boolean value anyway. But I was happy to kick the ball over the fence. But before that I read through the OPS jira case and found that this was all already discovered by another team, a month ago. So, wtf, right?

Another problem I was supposed to investigate was when a user is allowed to access his account without any trace of EULA signed. Oh, whatever. Left it for Esteban to investigate.

Oh, and besides. I planned to deploy one service to prod today. And asked Mike to approve. Mike approved it. But then the build system told me that the approval stage had an error. There is a log. The logs says: “delayed for 5 seconds... called a script... called a script... delay another something...” etc. No trace of error in the log.

But then another build was ready, the one where a comment line was removed by Bill. So I suggested Mike to approve this one, while I’m bugging the Jenkins guys (if they’ll ever bother to react).

In short, I had a lot of time to watch movies. Like, e.g.,  **ypq** does, right?

A day off tomorrow. AFK. Away From the Keyboard.

November 15, 2024

Since I’m on a duty, started with checking, what’s new, and with attempts to deploy the stuff I was going to deploy. Discovered that Esteban, yesterday, started the deployment, and canceled. Asked him. Mike answered that we better not deploy that server for a while. Ok, life’s becoming easier. How a manager can contribute to the process? Only by blocking something

Then he asked me to delete inactive users in production db. Yesterday Esteban almost wrote a sql statement for that. The statement show a lot of theoretical knowledge and zero practical experience. The script starts with “delete (*) from users where...”.

Theoreticians. Did they ever...?

Having familiarized with this 50-lines query, I tried to connect to the db, but which server is it?

The day has ended before anybody told me the url. Oh, and Mike wanted this “users extermination “ done today before the end of the day. Reminds me Google.

November 18, 2024

Ok, weird day. Eventually I got the command to get into prod db. And started with `select count(1) from users;`. After 10 minutes I asked the colleagues: what's up with the database. And Mike writes: "it's a very bad query". What's bad in it? He did not answer, except a remark that users table is often blocked by queries.

And Devon wrote that it's better to use another db server, a read-only copy, with a slightly different name.

Okay. It turned out we have 15M users. Now what, Do a join with a couple of other tables (I checked, one has 15M records, and another has 1M records). But then... then I simplified it, and we have just 47 users to delete. From an institution that has 850 users. Oh, whatever.

Went to the right db server - ha, I'm not allowed to do any changes.

Eventually it turned out that all I can do is send a pull request with a new file containing that query. Cool! What a life. Meanwhile, Devon sent us, me and Esteban, a pull request to review. 156 files.

But the PR was good. Lots of improvements. Except some funny pieces that I suggested to sanitize.

One typical thing is: `someProcessor.someProcessing(params).flatMap(Ok(_))` - I suggested to extract this `.flatMap(Ok(_))`, being a typical pattern, to a method.

Another typical thing is this:

```
trait SomeCommonThing {  
    val x:X;  
    def y(a:A): B;  
  
    def doSomething(params: Params) =  
        this match {  
            case ia: ImplementationA => ia.dothisandthat(params)  
            case ib: ImplementationB => ib.dosomethingelse(params)  
            ...  
        }  
}
```

What, inheritance is forgotten? We are past OOP, and FP is learned just by the Red Book? Runar forgot to mention inheritance in his book? Hmm.

November 19, 2024

So, in the morning I just looked up what's up, and since nothing was up, I was working on my book. At 11:30 started a long meeting. "Planning". It started with discussing weather, animals, whatever. Mike

asked me, how about that sql query. What about it? Is there any documentation describing steps of running them in prod? Not answering this, Mike told me that the query is wrong, and he left a review in that PR. Okay-dokey, I'll take a look after the meeting.

He's a strange guy. Still trying to prove something, like his competence, or whatever. Go ahead, I don't mind. But I don't care.

The meeting consisted of listing a bunch of jira cases and voting regarding its complexity. You are supposed to guess the average; if you don't, Mike asks you, why do you think so. So I vote "medium" most of the time. I don't insist on my "opinion" (I have none, and I don't care.)

After that meeting I took another break. I need it, to evaporate that shit from my head.

Then I took a look at the query, what's wrong in this query?

```
delete from users where is_active=false and organization_id='56.....(a long guid)';
```

It was supposed to delete 47 inactive users of that specific org.

Mike writes that deletion should be done on another server, in another database, and in another table. (Where's the Jira case?) Ok, np, I went to that server, to that database, and looked up that table. Sure it does not have the fields mentioned above. So, what exactly do we do? In particular, where did that org_id come from? Esteban wrote the original query.

What could I do, talk to Mike? Fuck you, Mike. I just added a comment in that PR.

BTW, Esteban is leaving soon. He's going to that company that was supposed to interview me. But I let them know my age, and that was it. They don't need people like me. I know, since I know some people there (one Indian asshole from Google, called Pedram, total lack of integrity... typical for Google, by the way.) But well, let Esteban have fun, at least they use ZIO. Mike then wrote to me, how about a jira ops case that I was looking at last Wednesday? What about it? He probably meant that I was supposed to spend my Thursday, which I had spent over Atlantic, in business class, to connect to work vpn and browse through logs. Yeah, right. And Friday he gave me something even more urgent. Now he wanted me to inform Devon regarding what's up with that case. Nothing's up, and I informed Devon about it. Last week I didn't even know how to access production db.

November 20, 2024

Today I have not found anything to do.

That "delete inactive users" was delegated to Devon, who wrote a new PR with a query, totally unrelated, and literally listing those "bad users" (there was about ten of them). Esteban asked him, where he got the list, but he didn't answer.

Well, whatever.

I also tried to figure out whether I can remove messages in our HTTP 500, as they wanted. Could not find figure out, after all, what they wanted when they wanted the 500 to pass around details of server problems? All this goes to logs anyway.

Oh, and they again scheduled the “customer support” days. Like, a week every four weeks, or something. At times I feel like I should just quit. OTOH, nothing else to do anyway. They are paying me for being on a bench or lazily looking into complaints from like 2-3 weeks ago, when the logs are gone. Why do I complain? It’s just not fair.

November 25, 2024

Since there was no outside activity (ok, we met for a “standup” and discussed Bill’s kids and Devon’s being sick (many people get sick around Thanksgiving, as well as other similar events). I said that I started working on 684, with “proper error reporting”. Devon created a pretty neat library. There could be better solutions, but this one is simple to use, and is ok in general.

By the end of the day my PR was ready, and I sent it for review. That will happen next week, most probably. But who cares. It’s always quiet around holidays.

November 26, 2024

Bill wrote a bunch of good notes on my PR, I fixed it all. he approved. But then I continued improving the code (removing calls like `something.somefun(..., None, None, None, None)`) etc.

It turned out there’s about 6 files updated. So I asked Bill if he does not mind re-reviewing, but later figured I’ll send it in another PR. And asked Esteban to add his review.

We were supposed to have a sprint postmortem, but there were just three of us, so we dropped it.

I found pretty weird sql injection in a bunch of code, but it turned out (with thanks to Brad and Mike and Bill) that Doobie processes all these things properly, and creates a correct sql statement, so everything’s fine.

By the end of the day there was.a little bit of a panic, where one of our services started rebooting. Turned out it was because it was returning 500 all the time. And why was it? Because the service we call decided not to accept userId. It’s a known feature of that team. They deployed it today, in the afternoon. Good timing.

November 27, 2024

There were just four of us at the “standup”. Mike suggested, instead of camera turned off have an avatar, and be more present. So we did. The problem is, the cat avatar is a female, so I don’t know. Rabbit was taken.

My previous pr was approved by Esteban (whom I kind of convinced); I approved his PR, with a suggestion regarding not splitting responsibility. Then I sent another PR; Esteban approved it, but gave a couple of good suggestions, which I implemented. Pinged Devon regarding reviewing it, but Devon did not react.

There was one PR sent by a bot, which was failing, because of dependencies, etc. I tried to push it to Devon... oh, whatever. Nobody cares, right? Nobody cares.

I’ll have to find something to do tomorrow. There must be one jira case that I had not touched yet.

December 2024

December 02, 2024

Not much happened. Mike is somewhere, so we got together, exchanged our progresses; as a result, my PR was approved (thank you, Esteban and Bill). And that was it. I merged it... ok, also approved one bot's code - and that's it for today. I love my job.

My recruiter Sean called, asked me about whether I'm interested in moving on. Oh, no, I'm totally fine here; prolong the contract please.

December 03, 2024

Lazy days. I was supposed to do this jira case, but I'm on pager duty ("customer cases"), so I participated in a long and boring and meaningless meeting, and then started looking into cases. Most of the cases are from October, so nothing can be done: logs gone. One is from July. And one is new: "user changed something, but this change is not visible". And they provide two user ids. Checked out the database. One id does not match anything in the db. Another points to TWO records, one for a priest in Virginia, and another for his wife. Now what? I wrote to them, in Jira, that this is what I found, and now what.

By that time I was too tired to do anything, it was past 3pm, so, you see, nobody was online anyway. And I closed my work computer.

December 04, 2024

Not much - just investigated, where t.f. is that place where I should add an endpoint. By the end of the day found it. The code is 6 years old, and written in a weird way.

While looking, I made that first experiment, removing the "monad" that "main" is supposed to pass to "server", which passes it to every class and every method.

Got some progress there, because we all know that the "monad" being passed in type parameters is typesafe's IO. FIIK what they mean, but it's just IO, and will never be anything else.

So the code is getting more simplified. I'll stop simplification here, and will, either tomorrow or Friday, implement that endpoint I'm supposed to implement.

And, since I'm on "customer duty", I was answering questions, like "how come consumers in this institution don't have SSN?" - told them we have just so many users with SSN, and if he gives me the id of that institution, I can do a query and count. No response, so far.

We had a “standup”, where we mostly replaced ourselves with avatars on Zoom, laughed, talked about the weather, etc. I love this company. Esteban says he’ll miss us, but we’ll forget him soon. A wise guy, this Esteban.

December 05, 2024

Tried to simplify the code. A typical solution is to declare something like

```
def server[F[_]: GenFiberLocal: Async: Parallel: Network]: Stream[F, ExitCode] = ...
```

But only pass IO as an F, and there will be never any change to another “IO monad”.

So, what’s the fucking point? Why pass that F at all, and not just use IO? Declare it like

```
def server: Stream[IO, ExitCode] = ...
```

And also declare that type, Stream[IO, ExitCode] somewhere in a common area.

Esteban agrees, but Bill came up with the ideas that we have to minimize the requirements. What fucking requirements, it’s a project-private method, called once from main, not a library function.

Well, we will see. There’s a lot of high-level stupidity in our code. Cargo cult.

We had a “standup” at 10:30, just me, Janet, Bill, and mostly showed our avatars and talked about neighbors and HOAs.

Then there was a 4-hour meeting, where some people, looking like architects, designed something, mostly using abbreviations and a whiteboard in the office. Clueless.

Then, during that meeting, at 12, there was supposed to be another meeting, “scaling”, which I was supposed to lead. I opened Zoom, there was nobody there for about 5 minutes, and I closed it.

Ok, did some small refactorings later on, working on enabling one endpoint. The code, written 6 years ago, uses stuff like Option[Either[CuUser, BankUser]] - obviously, “expression problem” was not something these people were familiar with.

But, to make sure we have reasonable functionality, posted a question for Janet, and closed my work computer.

Don’t I like my job? I do. But now it’s time for dinner.

December 06, 2024

In short: - Esteban is leaving, today was his last day; - Had a standup, me, Bill, Devon. It was short and business-like;

- Devon suggested to use his library for user types, do I mind?

- Ok, Devon's library does not build; and it requires Scala 2.13.15, which, well, breaks my build. But whatever.

December 11, 2024

This is either ridiculous or hilarious, or both, but I don't mind.

First, my pr is still waiting for a review.

Second, Bill was said to be not in our team anymore, but he denies it.

Third, at our "standup", everybody was wearing an avatar - a kitty, a puppy, a robot, but I was just myself. And somebody said: "Vlad is already a personality" - well, ok, good to know. Then, at the standup, Mike asked, what about that jira case 684, can we deploy it? It was merged to master (and deployed to staging) 2 weeks ago. I said: "you asked me to ask Brad if he does not mind if we deployed; and Brad never answered" (that's a relatively new story for me, I observe that less than a half of my messages get answered, at work and IRL). Mike said "really, I said that?". Etc. So, maybe we deploy it? And then Devon interfered, and said that we can't deploy it, because we have to use the new library regarding errors (the one that enables localization); and I said - well, except that the functionality we need is not there yet; and Devon said "it is now"; and I said ok, and they created a Jira case for that update.

After the meeting I checked. No, the classes with messages are still not being generated. I mean, they are, but not with the functionality we were asked to use. So I asked those "library guys", what about this stuff. And there's silence.

In other news, Sean called me, and he used all the French he knew (his father is French), and then told me that the company will keep me for another year.

This will make my life easy, and I'll get another year's salary. (I don't spend that salary, we live on my pension, that's enough for us.)

Then some company bots told me to upgrade the MacOS, which basically was the end of the day for me, was not it.

I don't love my work, but I enjoy it. And now I just won't have time for it, since I have to watch the movie.

December 12, 2024

Three meetings. First: 1-1 with Mike. We talked mostly about FP, Category theory, tagless-final, Kiselevov, and the like. And whether they'll keep me for the next year. seems like yes. Nothing to complain about. Second: standup; they told me to put on the back burner the shit I got back to yesterday, and do the thing that Esteban dropped when leaving. Also, I had a PR; turned out Devon approved it, so

I ping again Bill. And approved a couple of Devon's PRs. He's good. We do have some problems regarding DRY, but well... nie moje mawpy. Third: "scaling meeting". I missed most of it, since my computer was supposed to be upgrading, but it was paused, and then suddenly self-resumed. AI inside? The meeting was dedicated to a mysterious night peak in users handling API. I continued figuring out what was that Esteban did: turned out, not much (just some boilerplate), and asked Devon regarding which "update user email" method am I supposed to use (there's plenty); turned out there's a really good one:

```
def updateUser(userId: UserId, update: User => User)
```

Well, and that's it for today.

December 13, 2024

Not that I'm happy every day. First, today got a bunch of rather stupid remarks on my old PR, now from Bill. That's up to "why do you have this comment here?" - the comment is for me, a TODO that this is the spot where I'll need to inject the new functionality. Etc. Bill's idea that we should not have any abstractions... oh, whatever. I know this kind of people. Copy/paste is their main development tool. DRY, they either never heard or never believed.

But I have other cases to work on. One is the one that was "on a parking lot" at yesterday's standup, and now it's as urgent, as the other two.

The other two is the one which they've been reviewing for a week now, and the one left for me by Esteban. This one is pretty neat, except that it depends on a newer version of Devon's library, with which the project just does not compile. Otherwise, I implemented the functionality, but what's the point of it does not compile the tricky HTTP4S macros. Will have to either tell Devon, or investigate. I guess delegating, aka telling Devon, makes more sense. I'm not paid for wasting too much time... on the other hand, I love HTTP4S, and it makes sense to investigate, wtf, right?

That's it for today.

Oh, we have to finish... finish something, a project that probably nobody has been aware of, and finish it by the end of the year. Mike smiles slyly about all this. I just nod. Others have those avatars - cats, dogs, fish, and also nod and smile.

Is not it all a game? In which we are paid for the participation. A show. Investors pay. Customers pay. We play.

Anyway, I'm busy, I have to read stuff, learn le français et... i polsku, etc. And I have to remember, I don't work at that company, I just sell them my time, and have fun doing it.

December 16, 2024

In principle, everything is fine.

Spent some time trying to make the stuff I'm working on compile. Ended up writing a message for Devon on our slack channel. One issue was: security warning from dependabot, another was that nothing compiles, and will not, because of a strange feature in Devon's new library version. He responded privately that he's going to fix my branch with his PR. Good idea. Fixing means, probably, fixing his code. Whatever. Good.

Meanwhile, Bill goes crazy. He is trying to convince me that I have no write to add a TODO comment in the code I'm working on. I wrote to him that if he guarantees me staying with this project until the end, I can keep the records in my private files, but if not, this is a note for the next developer.

But also, he was insisting that an rng function should be wrapped in an "Effect". Ok, nie mój cyrk, let him have it. Next I'll try to avoid this crazy guy. And in any case, minimize the improvements. And be more aggressive with his PRs... if I see any. Seems like he's not developing anything, unlike Devon, who is so proliferate that I feel ashamed.

Mike wrote to me that I missed a deadline for sexual harassment training. I opened my email (I do it once a month), found a link, clicked. The page says I have two trainings missed. Which ones? Here's the link. There are about 40 tiles by that link, with suggestions to learn something (mostly, "how our company is good", "how we overcome difficult circumstances", etc). I used search, and found about a dozen links to sexual harassment courses for a variety of states. None for SC. So I wrote to them, they sent me a link to "federal sexual harassment" (it's "herasment" in Russian), and I spent about 3 hours watching Naki, reading social networks, and lazily clicking buttons on the tutorial, "how to behave". The tutorial was pretty nice, except for the lies regarding how the company handles whistleblowers. We all know how every company in the world handles whistleblowers.

About 6 pm I opened my work computer again, checked if anybody answered. Probably nobody works after 4pm, so what's the point. Just curiosity, I guess.

December 17, 2024

Devon slapped together an update for my PR that will be using his new lib. In short, everything works. Let me send him an updated PR. I tried to slap together a good negative test case, but it seems like the whole infrastructure is only ready for positive ones. Ne moje mawpy.

And it's 6pm already, why should I try more.

Most of the day was spent on a 3-hour meeting, and then a break after that.

Enough for today.

December 18, 2024

Wrote it in Russian, originally, out of boredom. Then translated it.

Short, my shit was approved, and I merged it, and wrote in slack, asking, well, ok, do we deploy it? And Devon responds: no, don't do it, I have a library to tweak, then a project to tweak, then send you a Jira case. Well... okay. What Devon does, I actually appreciate it; his code is pretty cultured. No a lot of perfection, but a lot of common sense. It's a rare thing in the code people write these days. My engineers, back in the USSR, all females, were producing this kind of reliable code.

Ok then. I opened my old pull request (three weeks old; the one where Bill has been insisting on me removing a line with comment). And this pr does not compile anymore. Wow, how come?! A curly is missing in the end. And? And it does not build. You know why? Build machine can't find sbt (Scala's "simple build tool").

Fuck, I had enough of it, and decided to create an alternative update. Started with taking several classes and methods and renaming them, removing the trailing "V2" (added 6 years ago, by the Spanish, I guess). There are no other "versions". And guys... versions are in version control systems, not in the code, eh.

Ok, anyways. Created a new PR. And oops, it does not build. SBT not found. Then I started asking the people around (the wide audience).

Sam answers: you have to ask this and that team; and the problem is that my sbt plugin is too old. And I need version 3.0.0. Ha, ok; then I updated it. It was about 3PM. It's half past six now. The build hangs.

Wrote to Mike about it. Mike started showing me links to slacks where Sam is telling that version must be changed. And told him that I already did it.

That's how my life is going on, in rather funny ways.

How good I feel that I'm a contractor there, and I don't fucking care. Don't I have things to do? I have French to do, and I have to watch a movie. And?

December 30, 2024

Suddenly Bill and Devon showed up at our standup. Wow, ok, sent them /remind in github - let them approve!

But generally, I'm starting to get it. This struggle of the "locals" with an alien contractor does me no harm; on the contrary. The longer it takes for them to bother to approve, the less job I have.

Won't be able to deploy this user service. Jenkins is telling me that the build crashes (with strange

causes); and Mike claims that the build is ok, but deployment requires an approval. His, Mike's approval. Oh, ok, everything's fine then!

Also, I've just learned that it's not my "pager day". Ok, perfect. Then I only look at my work computer from time to time, to see if somebody writes me something. But I'm fine anyway.

Oh, and the main discovery is that if you are a contractor, all the actions of full-time employees directed to block your activities are increasing your real income (as expressed in \$/h). I like it, or, in Ukrainian, мені подобається.

December 31, 2024

Out of politeness took a look at jira case 674m, where our partner had described everything in good details, what to take where, so that I have no questions. It remains to go totally refactor the code. Then I looked for similar shit in other projects, and found that the class I need was copy-pasted, 1:1. Okey-dokey, Esteban was cutting corners, that's understandable.

Meanwhile, the time has come for the Lont Meeting ("permanently active production meeting", as it was called by the communists during Brezhnev's times). We were four. Buill, who got gracefully distracted for a moment from his amazing new bicycle. Janet, who got pretty much gone crazy after her son moved to Atlanta. Mike who does not fucking cares, and who find everything funny. And me, a poor sinner.

It started with reminiscences regarding what was good this year. Janet, of course, mentioned that her son has moved, and now she's getting annoyed by chemtrails, which cause her headaches. I don't know how long she can last in such a difficult situation. Bill showed his bicycle. Mike is going to a month-long visit Italy: after all, Vlad goes regularly to France, and he's okay; Mike wants it took, especially because Italiano is his native language. I told them how we had a long hike with Mimi, the cutest cat I met in my life; it was 7 miles along French trails. The listeners liked it. Further we discussed feral cats, who had how many. Somehow nobody likes possums. I don't know why. They are so cute. And humble. And useful. And they have beautiful hands.

Turning to business, we spend some time discussing two Jira cases. One was filed by Bill: "we need to add documentation to such and such end point". We agreed that this will take several days. (OMG, who pays for all that?!). Another one was filed by me: "wtf, on staging we regularly see in the logs"duplicate login error" - shouldn't we fix something in our code? Then we agreed that this case qualifies as an "investigation".

After that we had a warm goodbye (nobody bothered to express a wish for Janet to get rid of chemtrails). This was the end of the work day. Actually, the meeting was supposed to drag till 3pm, but Bill urgently had to go ride his bicycle, and the others had supported the initiative.

Imagine how much effort it took me not to try to interfere to control the software development process and increase the efficiency.

January 2025

January 02, 2025

Well, (almost) everybody's back. I had to ping Devon and Bill... no, not exactly. Bill is writing to me, asking, how about the pull request that you were reviewing (I suggested to do some renamings there). I went ahead, approved it, and then wrote to him, saying, hey, I have a couple of PRs for you to review. He approved one, and in another he found a variable with a bad name. Well, I renamed it. He approved it.

Some kind of kindergarten, no? Oh, whatever.

Could not deploy it, though, some shit is happening. Asked Mike, what's that, do you know? There's a black screen instead of a deployment form.

The rest... everything is in progress. Janet has a headache (she took 6 pills against her headache, but the chemtrails are still visible in the sky.) Mike also has a headache. They probably just drank too much lately. Colleagues!

Devon sent a beautiful pull request, wherein he kicks out the ubiquitous passing around the logger. Devon has just put it there in the form of `T : IO : Logger` - like Shevchenko teaches us here. The rest is implicit. The same way he passes the parameters of an incoming request. I love it!

The second meeting was about scaling: that's what we do on Thursdays, we get together and look whether we need more resources. Grafana graphs looks so suspicious that were it my company, I'd immediately start looking wtf is going on with memory leaks. But, fortunately, it's none of my business. If/when I have nothing to do, I'll create a Jira case about this. Well, ok, memory leaks, since cache is written by some sick people, no? Chris Davenport slapped together something, in the style of approximately year 2005. Chris is a show-offish dude, I don't know, is he someone with connections or what. Do I fucking care? I don't fucking care.

As to the third meeting, 1-1 with Mike, it didn't happen. What can we do, the guy has a headache, it's January the 2nd, after all. Give the man a break. And of course you have to line up your drinks in the right order. Not start with cognac, then polish it with champagne, then color it up with a "Red Wine from California".

January 03, 2025

So, what was happening today.

Strangely, I found that I have at least four "threads" running. Deploy users, do the last step in adding `modify_email`, do the last step in... fiik what was it; and implement the trick with using another server for some requests, and pass it something like `x-request-id` (not exactly), depending on the company on which behalf the request comes. It turns out that the content is in a json, which is in github,

and also on jfrog, but it's a json file, so I have to use sbt-jfrog to make it work properly. But there are some hitches... this json is only for staging.

Devon sent another nice PR, which I again enjoyed reading and approving.

Then I discovered that modify_email was actually finished, by Devon, of course, and the case is closed.

Also, the deployment, when I asked Mike whether it makes sense to deploy it again, already runs, started by Mike.

So, fine. Exchanged some questions with other partners, and that was it.

Kind of strange, eh. Sounded like Monday, but it was Friday.

January 07, 2025

Most of the day was spent in meetings.

The first was about “results of the sprint”. There was no sprint actually, since it was PTO for most. And we had filled a table, “good, bad, ugly”. Good were the PTO and (I added it) the beautiful recent refactorings (made by Devon... mostly). Strangely, my refactorings were also appreciated.

Bad were (noted by me) huge PRs, which we should stop doing, and (added by me) a lack of documentation.

There was nothing ugly.

And we had almost two hours of discussions. I used my ears to participate, and my eyes to read Frid's memoirs. Had to listen carefully: when Janet started talking about how impossible it is to sleep with two dogs... no, I didn't ask for details.

BTW, that 71-file PR from Devon, it was merged yesterday, but it was rolled back today, because shit happens if you rename something over 71 files.

Another meeting was about the safety of our software, it was almost a company-wide meeting, and I figured that I have to turn off the camera, and the microphone, and then the sound.

As to the case I was working on, I got another info update, where to get the information regarding organizations - it was almost a secret endpoint, the one that does not require credentials. Ok, so I decided to add that call to the code, and then I found that we already have that call, and the whole case was to get rid of that call. So I said “fuck”, and scheduled a meeting with Brad for tomorrow afternoon. I bet he won't show up, so then I'll add “need more info” and postpone the case. There's another case waiting for an info, from Janet; it's been a month. But she's busy (sleeping with dogs and getting rid of chemtrails).

Checked out on Jira if there's something else for me to do; found nothing, closed my work computer.

January 08, 2025

In the morning we had a standup, where I explained to them wtf is going on with “changing the host for a server”. Devon was eager to help me, and showed me how things are being done in another project, with a copy-pasted code of what I’m supposed to “repair”. My attempts to explain all this did not succeed. Told them that I’ll have a 1-1 with Brad in an hour, and we’ll settle it all. In an hour we had a 1-1, it lasted about 10 minutes. Yes, all this shit that they wanted me to do is not needed. There are two issues. 1. Staging installation *may* be calling the prod. 2. Cache is under suspicion (my suspicion). That cache library, in Java, introduced in the company by this weird guy, Chris Davenport... in short, everything’s fine, but I’ve decided to check its behavior. Nobody seems to have done it.

So I tweaked the code, some refactorings here and there, and started writing the cache perf tests, and found that, well, not only a negative test for that service is missing, but the behavior of the service also sucks. So I started fixing that first.

Ok, finished it around 6:30, and tomorrow I’ll add the perf tests to see how to tweak the cache params. That’s it for today, see ya tomorrow folks.

January 09, 2025

Spent a day slapping together a test to check whether the cache behaves properly. By the end of the day it was working and reporting a good behavior.

Then I had a 1-1 with Mike. We mostly talked about Northern Italy and Southern France, and the Devon’s 71-file prs. I like what he does, but I don’t like the size. Strangely, Mike said that he (Devon) should better do what our customers want. Fuck, of course this is the first priority. It’s like studying Chinese while your kids are hungry.

Then I went for a walk, and, during a walk, I figured that my test is wrong. When I returned, I looked at the test, updated it, it started showing what I suspected: CACHE DOES NOT FUCKING WORK! Wrote to the author of the cache adapter.

The story is this.

At Google I took over Cache library. Because it was in a very bad condition. Fixed it; worked with Bob Lee (aka crazybob). Made it work. Then I left, and Fry (I guess that’s his name) took over, and rewrote it, improving. Good stuff, actually. A part of Guava. Then Java people (forgot the name) kind of improve it even more, but I’m not sure. Then Chris Davenport (our company’s employee) slapped together an adapter. Which looked suspicious to me, but I had a vague feeling that it works.

But today I have a proof that it doesn’t.

SO THERE. Too late to go fix it tomorrow (or go replacing it). But I already got a confirmation from Chris that he has no tests for delays and timeouts. Just no tests.

This is what fucking causes all those spikes in the services. Ok, that's my suspicion, so far. Working on it.

January 15, 2025

So, I'm on pager duty, and there was a complaint about some weird behaviors. Pretty boring - I collected the logs; Janet made a hypothesis regarding what's wrong, I sent her the logs, and that was it. No more problems. Ok, ok, one PR from outside; there was one test case that I asked to add yesterday; it was added, I approved it.

And then, of course, my cache fix. Pinged them twice, Nick and Devon. Devon wrote a big comment regarding how a test case should be written in a "functional way"; by "functional way" he means using the tagless final style (they believe in free monads), and get rid of mutable mock log and real timer and Thread.sleep. I would, but cache library, or rather the adapter that this company is using, does not pass a mock timer to the internal library. Don't ask, it's just local dumb scientists.

So, what can I do? Create the whole test case-specific monad for all that? I could, but really not interested. Wrote him an answer, mentioning Kerievsky's book, and asking if he has any idea how can we convert the test into his favorite style (and why).

Nick wrote that he will approve my pr after Devon approves it. Is it what they call "unanimity"?

That's it for today. No more problems, no more cases.

January 16, 2025

The scandal (or kind of) continues.

Devon is writing me a bunch of stupid ideas, like "the test code should be function style". If I were his manager, I'd have kicked him out right away, but I'm not.

Then he suggested, okay, remove this test case, because it tests cache library, and the library is not ours.

I wrote to him that it tests whether we configure cache properly, because we just did it wrongly, without a test.

Later that day Brad showed up in that PR and suggested to set one of the timeout parameters to None (with some dumb explanations why). I tried, and the test fails with this update. Fuck what kind of idiots am I working with.

And here's Nick, that wrote that he would approve my "cache PR" when Devon approves it.

Oh, whatever. Gives me time to relax doing something different.

At 10:30 we had a “standup”, but since they were mostly talking about dogs and weather, I was happy not to mention the details, just told them that I have a PR which is under review.

At 12:30 we had a “scaling meeting”, and I was leading it. It’s Google Meet, and you can turn on a bot to write a summary.

In the beginning there were just Mike and me, and we talked about languages - Esperanto, Italian, Spanish. Then the others came, and we looked at the usual memory graph, which has a shape of a saw. I asked them, how can we interpret it, what happens when the curve drops? Oh, Devon says, it’s just that the pod is being rebooted. Oh, nice, so every hour the service goes out of memory and gets rebooted. Ok. We’ll need to investigate it.

And there was another curve, where we have too many 500 coming from one bad service (another team). Agreed that I will create a case to investigate it.

After that I was kind of pissed off, so I did not work, but just went out to relax. Well, I still did create one “investigate case”, but not another.

Oh, and the bot wrote a beautiful summary, which I had posted into those “scaling meeting logs” that the team keeps for years.

January 17, 2025

Ok, I was wrong regarding that cache. There’s another configuration, and it works. So there’s nothing to fix.

Spent the rest of the day approving bots’ pull requests and the like.

January 21, 2025

I’m so bored at work that I’m not even interesting in describing all this.

Gradually doing something, otherwise just getting distracted to social media. That’s it.

January 22, 2025

Ok, I have a couple of PR for that long case with urls. Not reviewed yet.

And, just for fun, I was approving, or fixing and approving, a bunch of PRs from the bot.

Also, strangely, some tests started failing *when* I run them together, with postgres in docker. And some also crash individually when I run it as a single test, but pass it as sbt “`testOnly *TestNameSpec*`”. If I remove the leading asterisk, postgres in docker behaves. Did not happen last week.

Will investigate.

There was a standup, they gave me a jira case to make sure we have endpoints documented. It could be either writing them manually, or generating it (e.g. via my half-ready tool).

One would say: boring! Sure boring. But I spend about 3 hours a day working, so my rate is pretty nice, and anyway, I so don't care, that I really don't care.

January 23, 2025

Took a look at my PRs - no progress. Added '/remind' to remind them.

Checked out what else do I have in Jira. One PR, about 2 months old, was waiting for Janet to answer my question. Reminded her on slack. Another case...

It was Tuesday that Mike said that here's a jira case: create and keep up-to-date docs for all public and internal endpoints, with links if necessary. Nobody was interested; Mike asked me if I mind to take it, I said "with pleasure", and he said he'd assign it to me.

Actually it was not assigned, but I looked it up, and added my notes, that this is 2025, and we can as well involve an AI bot to regularly scan the code and write docs, and ping the people if the code is unparseable or something. And left it for now.

In a couple of hours Devon, who does not have time to review my PRs, pending for several days now, eagerly volunteered to assign this case to himself. See, that's because the case became fashionable, right? Funny, I think.

Also, in the free time I'm still struggling with making sure that the tests do run in batch. Plugins, docker, postgres image... the previous image turned out to be bad too. The logs say that it's a timeout in postgres in docker. Thinking about it.

One meeting was a "standup" - nothing interesting there. There were just four of us, Janet, Bill, Devon, me. Talked about the weather. Snow in Florida.

Next meeting was "scaling". Bill, Devon, me. Same status, nothing to talk about. Bill was reading aloud the summary, produced by a bot last week, which I posted last week.

Next meeting was "meet the team. Two new guys, one with a Romanian last name, and one with an Italian last name. It was boring.

Next meeting was 1-1 with Mike. We have lots of fun chatting about life in general and our previous experiences. And I mentioned that JIra case with AI to be involved, and Mike says that he has some leads regarding getting such an AI bot. Cool.

In the end of the day I checked again, if there's anything new: nothing.

Of course I spent most of the day reading social networks and watching this crazy movie, "Lost".

January 24, 2025

As we agreed with Mike yesterday, we'll have short "code review" after-meetings, after the "standups". During the standup they were discussing instant pots, pressure cookers, rice cookers, etc. I was reading a book - the thing I did since I was about 8. But after that standup we had a pretty efficient chat, and my PR was approved, and Devon's PR was approved (at times I really like his code).

So I merged to master (or is it "main"?), and waited for it to be deployed to staging. Well, ok, by the end of the day the server still got 0 requests. I guess Monday I'll have to do some curl and see how it behaves. Unfortunately we don't have a habit of pinging these things on staging. But we should.

The rest of the day was spent in my attempts to learn, how the fuck can I modify the startup timeout for an image in docker, called by sbt. So far it did not work for me. Learned something about sbt guts; docker is ok, but I see its log, so... so I need to learn to control it via sbt.

That's it for today.

January 27, 2025

Monday. We had a standup, and the merge that I did Friday, was under question, whether to deploy it to prod or not. I'd rather not. This endpoint wasn't called on staging in the last couple of weeks. More, it wasn't called on prod either. So, what's the point, and why rush.

Janet said that she could test it, but not today and not tomorrow. Ok then. But... I tried to ping this endpoint on staging; found that if you send it an empty json, it returns a 500 - created a Jira case for that. Then sent it a correct json, but it was crashing here and there, unrelated to what I was supposed to test.

So, I decided to discuss this thing tomorrow, and close it for today.

January 28, 2025

Spent 2.5 hours at a "planning meeting". Strangely, seems like it's only me and Janet that create new Jira cases.

Nobody had time to talk about the shit that was happening with this service that nobody uses and which does not work: just 6 log entries for the last two weeks, all failures. That's the status before deploying my updates.

So? No clue. Will talk tomorrow.

I like my job.

January 29, 2025

We had a long discussion regarding what to do with this service that is never called. Eventually decided this:

- revert my latest update, leaving only those from bots;
- deploy it as is, updating prod;
- see that prod does not crash;
- add better logging to that service (because logging there is just dump);
- deploy it to prod, see that everything's fine;
- add my functionality, watch it (but it will be turned off, by the old url);
- turn on the new url and watch it - with good logging.

I already have a short integration script that checks it. But the script actually returns a 202 (it should return a 200, with a value).

Does it all sound dumb? It does to me, but not 100%.

Right now I'm in the process of deploying to prod.

And again: nobody uses this functionality in the last 2 weeks, and definitely not after 5pm Eastern time.

January 30, 2025

With lots of troubles, eventually deployed that shit to prod.

It started failing with 403 coming from some other service (and returning a 500). Since we don't have it properly logged, we were kind of clueless, so Devon suggested to deploy an older version. So he did (as he's on pager duty). No we are not seeing 403.

He also made a bunch of suggestions regarding logging.

I don't think the thing works, actually, because when I curl a request that is supposed to produce a "magic link", it returns HTTP 202 ("accepted").

Pretty shitty, right?

Will think about it tomorrow. I'm too occupied with adding Wolfram Axiom to my book.

January 31, 2025

Spent time working, but with long breaks.

The problem is that the logging we have is way too complicated; and since the code is supposed to run in that "effect" mode... in short, took me time.

So I took a break in the middle of the day, sitting by fire and doing nothing.

Then later, in the evening, came back, fixed all that shit, except that I don't have tests for logging yet. Doesn't matter, I can do it Monday or later - code reviews take time. And since I did some refactorings, they'll be arguing, as usual. Like "you can't define a function if it does not take an effect parameter. Etc. We will see. Bill went for a week-long bike ride, so I'll have Devon and Nick to review. We will see.

February 2025

February 03, 2025

It was pretty nice today. Everything's quiet. Mike asked me to look into another Jira case. I did, and since it was assigned to Nick, I asked in slack, him and Nick, whether this is the case they want me to work on, and is there something that Nick already did. Mike wrote back saying that there's already a pr waiting for an approval. Since the pr was not sent to me for review, I rest(ed) this case. Since that "logging pr" was not reviewed, I spent some time adding a negative test case, and, as a result, fixing the usecase when a requested bank is not found in the database. We just have to return "Not found", not some HTTP 500, right? So there.

In short, it's quiet (as always). J'adore mon boulot.

February 04, 2025

Since no-fucking-body is reviewing my neat PR, I decided to add logs testing. No big deal, really. StructuredTestingLogger is the class, and even inside cats IO dealing with it was easy. By the end of the day I had a couple of test cases doing all that stuff. and created a pretty generic fixture, so it can be used anywhere.

Devon sent me another neat PR to review. But since he does not review mine, I don't review his.

Oh, and I'm on pager duty today. The only thing is, there are no alerts. There's a list of customer cases in Jira; I'll take a look tomorrow. Today I was busy, visiting the Capitol, visiting the National Gallery of Arts... no time to waste.

February 05, 2025

Well, I've been too busy today. Devon approved my PR, so I approved his. I like his code quality, so it was not a problem. Maybe I'm the only one who appreciates it.

Mike reminded me that I should be focusing on Customer Issues. As if I don't. I reviewed all these issues, saw that there is our jira case for each customer issue, and felt like ok, we are fine. One issue did not have a case, I created one, but it depended on my existing logging case, so there.

We will see. I was really busy all day, but I love my job.

February 06, 2025

Three meetings. I pinged Nick regarding my small pr with logging; he approved it, I merged, and then, at the second meeting, we discussed the logs. Turned out I can improve them; so I did. Also, there

were “alerts” coming as a result of logs analysis: too many errors in one service. I spent some time talking to people and figuring out. Eventually we came to a conclusion that 404 is not an error for the service. It’s legit. No bank with such an id -> return a 404. Funny that I was looking through the names of the people who were trying to get bank info; I knew one of them, and asked him, wtf is going on, and he said that yes, 404 is not an error from the server p.o.v. Sure. So I created a case, and looked into the codebase. It’s just 3 years old, and it’s totally crazy. At 3:10 we had a 1-1 with Mike; talked mostly about his plans to move to Italy, get their citizenship (he has an Italian grandfather), and work on contract. So we talked about advantages and disadvantages (I know none, except maybe money) of working on contract. Later, after a walk, I got back to the computer, and started working on something, and discovered something like this:

```
trait ImportantOperations[F: Sync: ...] {  
    // some methods  
}  
  
object ImportantOperations {  
    def impl[F: Sync: ...](param1: Option[String], param2:...) = new impl[F](param1,  
  
        class impl[F: Sync: ...](param1: Option[String], param2:...) {  
            //...  
        }  
    )  
}
```

I guess I may have some hard time explaining to the author how senseless it looks. Because... it’s the tradition of FP! (That’s how they see it.)

February 07, 2025

Not much happened.

Still waiting for review in one PR. Created another PR, and now waiting for an approval.

I’m on pager duty, but nothing happens.

Also, my conscience told me to update some docs, since I spent most of the time in museums today.

That’s it. I consider myself a 10x programmer, so I feel like working 1 hour a day (really working, not pretending) is enough.

There’s one more jira case I’m going to work on, but that’s on Monday.

February 12, 2025

Ok, that last case, implemented it all, sent for review. No biggie.

One of those two that were waiting for almost a week was approved right at the meeting. And I merged it. What happened to another one, it's kind of complicated; I expected it to be approved too, but could not find any trace.

That one that was merged, I ran my test curls to check the behavior. And kaboom, all I get is 500. With nothing in the logs.

I kind of rest my case till tomorrow. Ok, having posted my bewildered question, what's up. healths answers ok; if the institution is non-existent, I get a 404. But if it exists, all I get is a 500, and that's it.

That's it for today.

February 13, 2025

Mike was on something like all-day meeting, so we had meetings without him.

First meeting, just four of us; I shared my trouble with HTTP 500 and no logging; nobody has a clue (I have a vague suspicion, though). Bill sent a PR for the same service, disabling INFO in logging; I said "no, I need it". Actually, we all need it. What a stupid idea, to disable INFO. How do you investigate issues then? Discussed with Janet how to grow grass on our lawns with clay as a soil. She said, it just takes time.

Also Janet said that the company is going to abandon Jenkins and start using something FIIK what. Okey-dokey. The less builds we have, the less I need to do.

Next meeting was exactly about that new system. There were about 30 people attending, and two, well... high-level geeks? They two geeks started talking about the movie they just saw, "Dirk Gently", saying that it's "something like Matrix". Obviously they never heard of the book; not even sure about the author. America... Then they started showing some logs, pages, tables... in short, it was not a presentation, it was just that two guys decided to disrupt the process, and for some reason the "upper management" invited their future victims to listen to the wizards.

Ok, for me, again, it just a window; I do have stuff to learn (tricky scala 3.6 tricks), so I can sit and watch their shit not working, and do my own stuff. Whatever.

Then there was a "scaling meeting", but me being the only attendant, it was short: after 5 minutes of black screen I disconnected.

And I deployed my shit to production. And I was really happy, seeing in the logs the clear picture of the data being sent to some other service. Ok, our part is ok. I closed a Jira case, and added a note in the OPS case, saying that we can check the behavior if anything ever happens.

Meanwhile, of course, now I'm pretty sure that, if you send, probably, to any of our services either a bad GUUID in the URL, or a malformed JSON in data, it will return HTTP 500.

Still I don't have a proof for that yet.

February 14, 2025

So, since currently that service clearly logs everything, I found the guys who are responsible for actually sending invites - and got them involved with the OPS; my mission is accomplished.

Also, restored that old rolled-back change, now that things are clearly logged.

Also, looked around that third PR, I thought it was merged - no shit, it was ignored. Sent them two reminders, and that's it for today.

It's a long weekend, nobody at work anyway.

Around 5:30 I closed my work computer, to open it in Tuesday, overseas.

February 15, 2025

Had two Jira cases today. Wrote to Dave, asking, how to append extra data to the logs (except just logging them ourselves), and he answers: "in July 2023 I had posted a pull request where logs are getting customizable, where customers add what they need." Its us who are customers. That was enough for me, and I wrote in those two Jira cases: "we need to upgrade this library - or add manually its functionality" - and sent it to Jeremey.

Seems like that's it for today. Pinged k8s a little bit, but so far did not get it. Yes, I have kubectl, I have it, and now what? I'll need to read docs.

We had two meetings today, but they were too busy to listen to me; they had all those boring problems, like "why do we have a memory leak..." I tried to give them a hint that in the previous company that's what I was solving... but my status in this company is not high enough to trust me this kind of problems. Well, I shouldn't care. I'm not their mother.

February 18, 2025

Starting in the (their) morning, was kicking something with pull request, and then there was an hour-long meeting. I pretended to participate in the beginning, but they started some kind of philosophy, which I'm getting bored of, so this is what I did. I set an avatar into the video - a rabbit, looking around, moving its ears. And I, as a human, just snoozed. No, I did hear what they were quietly babbling, but I didn't connect. But it's nothing.

Ok, and we'll have another meeting, at our 21 hours. I could just skip it, there are thirty attendees, and two weird guys are going to push some shit, like what movings they watched, and how we need to replace our build sistem with something that, most probably, they themselves had slapped it together. But it's curioser and curioser; even Jean the recruiter started getting worried about our company. You should have seen the graph of their stock. I don't take black slopes of this level... nobody does. Almost nobody.

And another meeting, at 22:45: we are going to interview someone. If they allow me, I'll ask to write the K combinator in two languages. And we will see how enthusiastic is our candidate going to be. Or not.

February 19, 2025

Not much to say.

One PR was approved, I merged it.

Others, well, they just stopped building. Because the build system now says that my PR depends on Scala 2.13.15, and it should depend on Scala 2.13.16. No, I did not change anything. They did.

But it's too late for deploying, so will do it tomorrow.

And ok, I have a jetlag anyway.

Sean called. He got rumors that things are not good with our company. I don't know, I feel good. Of course they can close it just at any moment. Not that I care much; the market is doing good these days, it can feed me easily.

February 20, 2025

Started funny. I deployed one 'facade' service to 17% of the servers and watched it run. But who would run any bank client software at 3AM? So I left it running. By lunch I saw mixed results: some log entries were as expected, some still looked like error messages regarding 404. I was puzzled, perplexed, confused, contrarié. And only later I figured: my version is on 17% of the servers. So I deployed it to 49%; in an hour I saw that there are no problems, and so I made a full deployment, and everything fine, and no errors anymore. (Sigh.) Good.

Now, about the other service? All PRs for that project fail their builds - mine, Bill's, bots'. So I started investigating its dependencies. There is some progress.

At 21:10 had the last meeting of today, 1-1 with Mike. Discussed builds, and everything, and then we talked about Europe, USA, travel, nice places in Europe and USA; about stone houses where it's cold all the time (like right now here).

That's it for today.

February 21, 2025

It was all pretty stupid. Some people up in the stream change “opensource dependencies” file, on which we depend. But these updates contradict what we have, and, as a result, nothing compiles.

Also, by the end of the day, I merged my PR, by mistake, the one that changes configs; this will break the functionality, since the code is still old (because nothing builds in the build system).

That's it. Will continue Monday.

February 24, 2025

Seems like I'm now doing something devopsic. Not that I care, it helps me handle my own projects, which are behaving stranger and stranger, curioser and curioser.

In short, fixed builds for three projects, and there are more. People are busy solving more urgent problems. Sure, I'm a contractor, what can you ask from me, right?

Tomorrow Mike will be in Missouri, there's an all-company (“world”) meeting, so we'll be alone on our standups. There's about 4 hours of meetings scheduled, but I can't believe we'll be meeting that much.

Well, you know, it brings some pleasure, solving the puzzles of build system, and aligning versions of all those tools. Automating it is a little bit challenging too. Working on it.

February 25, 2025

Spent most of the day trying to make sure that one specific project builds under the new “scalacheck” and “scalafix” tools. The problem was with the order of imports (as if somebody should fucking care). By the end of this circus I found that scalacheck's and scalafix's requirements contradict each other. So what I did? I just removed “OrderImports” step in scalafix config. Who fucking cares, right? Why is it their business, the order of imports?

But as a result, the pr, with these “upgrades” took 52 files. Just reordering imports. And just because it was a challenge for me.

The rest of the day was this:

1. Interviewed a guy, Dario, who is in London, but he is from Portugal, and from Africa originally. Pretty brilliant, I'd say. Imagine, I asked him about the difference between applicative functors and monads, and he did it with flying colors. I don't remember anybody in the Bay Area (except, well, my friends) who could explain it.

2. A 2- or 3-hours “planning meeting”. Mike was not here, so it was Janet. Janet, in spite of all chemtrails, is pretty efficient and technical. But she spent time discussing technical issues with Bill and Devon; I was not needed, mostly. Just informed how things are with me. Oh, and the meeting, traditionally, started with “what’s good”. I told them that nothing’s good these days, but I have a good story about a cat I met in the morning. I read about a month ago that there is a cat’ word, “ma-a”, which means “come over”. But I forgot. I opened a can of cat food for her, and called her, and she started walking towards me and said “ma-a”. Is not it cute!

Anyway, after these meetings, and since I succeeded with merging that “style” pr, I was too exhausted, and called it a day.

Tomorrow, tomorrow.

February 26, 2025

Half of the time was wasted in meetings, but the last one, the long one, was rather productive (maybe not for me).

Janet managed to review all those “tech debt” cases, starting from 2023. Filed by the people who don’t work here anymore. It was pretty cool.

I picked up one ticket, supported the idea of a web client library (company-specific). The library exists, it’s just that nobody cared to kick out ad-hoc clients. And we closed a bunch of meaningless tickets.

Otherwise, shit, I did fix a bunch of build problems (dependencies), but my own PR is still failing. A test is failing. This test passes ok locally. And in Jenkins, it does not say what exactly failed. Just the name of the test suite. “You are wrong”, as some idiots in our profession use to say.

Well, you must be creative to solve such puzzles, right? Working on it.

February 27, 2025

2.5 meetings again. The last one was not attended by anyone except me and Janet.

What else? Eventually I’ve fixed my strangely failing test. The thing was, the official url that I used for testing is not available on staging. So now I know, it’s only for prod. Ok. Took me some time to get to it, and then even more time to make sure scalacheck does not complain about the code.

At another meeting we discussed an interesting graph, where “cache hit” is about 3%. Why? Because the timeout for that cache is 1 minute, and there’s about 3k requests an hour. And do we really need a cache for that? And do we need to have a 1 minute account? The information requested (and cached) is something about users status, like address, etc. I suggested to ask the people who insisted on a) caching, and b) having a 1 minute expiration timeout. Devon suggested to think about kicking out the

cache. Bill suggested to wait and see. What's funny, about two weeks ago the hit rate was about 20%. But not anymore.

Kind of agreed (on my initiative) with Bill that his updates have to be deployed to prod before I merge my stuff. But then Devon jumped in with his huge and weird updates. His style is incomprehensible. What do you think about "DebugAlgebra" class? It's just an object that logs debug messages. I'm already exhausted trying to explain what the word "algebra" means. And, fuck, why should I care, it's not my business anyway. So I approve anything he sends, that's it. BTW, it all works ok. But the style... not to my taste. But again, it's not my company, I'm just a contractor thered.

Their HR sent another "training" where we were trained not to bribe and not to give bribes, and if we see something, report it to the HR without any fear of revenge or something. Yeah, right. No fear. I swear I won't bribe anybody, and won't take anybody's bribe... wait, I'm not their employee!

That's it. Boring...

P.S. That was the last day of my job at Jack Henry, and, I guess, my last job ever. Had a warm goodbye from Mike and from others, that's it.

My job is over! (I'm virtually celebrating the end of my "career".)