Getting Into OpenSource

Everything you wanted to know about open source that nobody told you
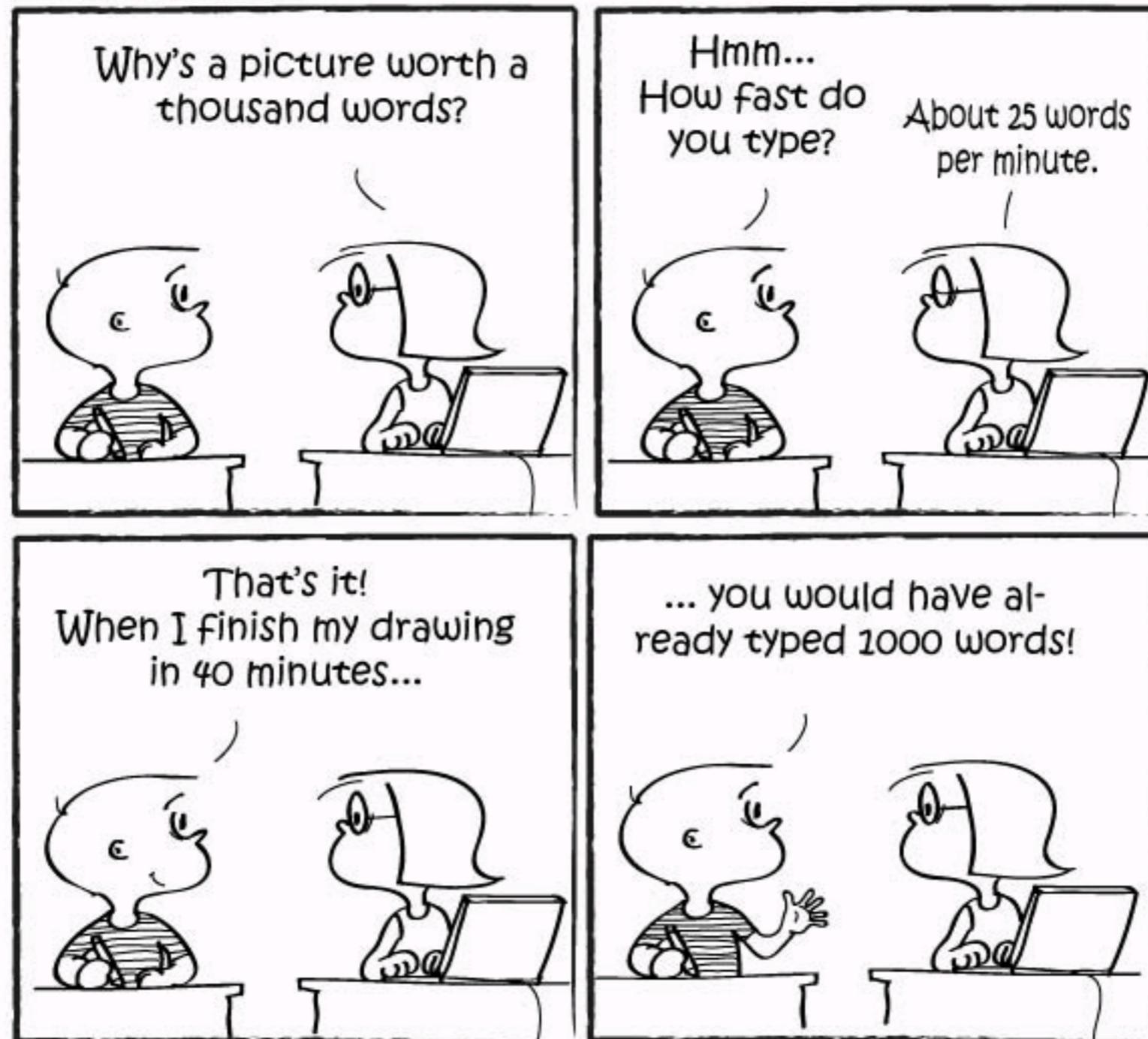
Jeff Genender
CTO, Savoir Technologies

jgenender at savoirtech.com
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savoir
TECHNOLOGIES

My Style - I ain't a bullet reader
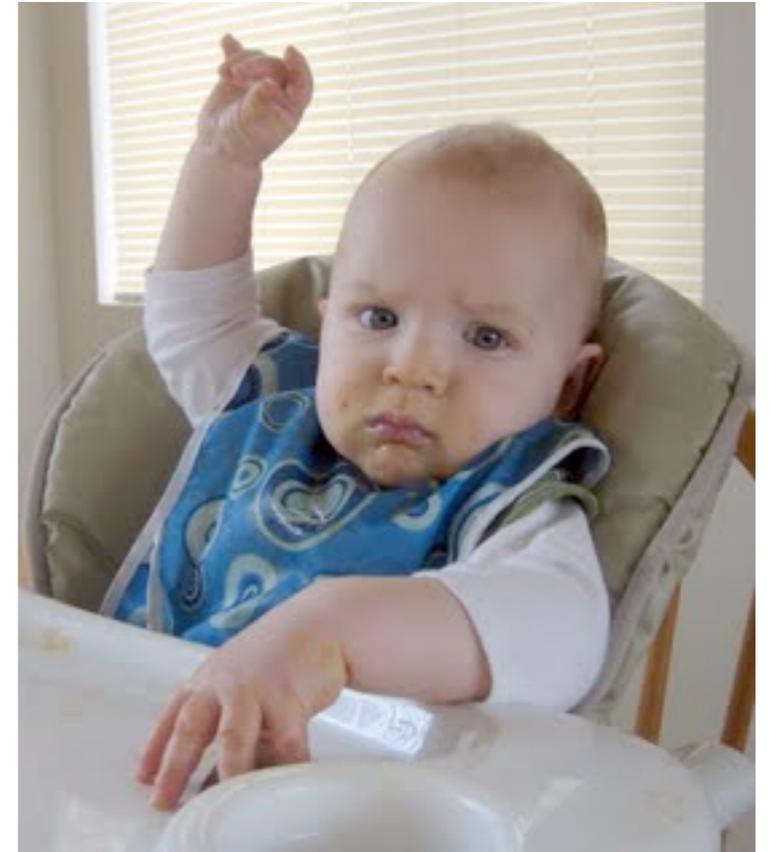
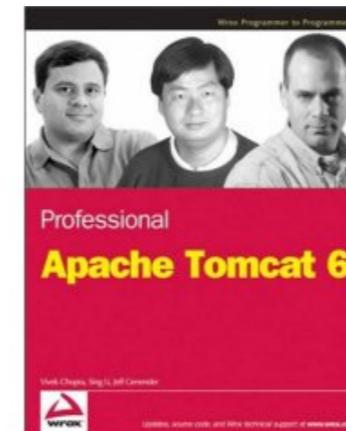# Rules of Engagement

Engage yourself!
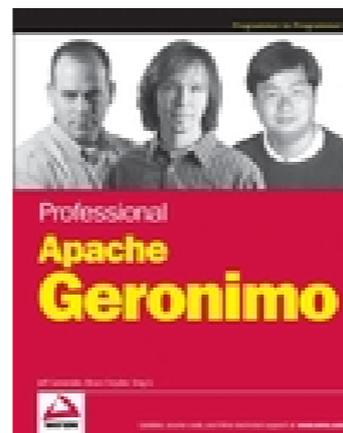
This preso is my opinion and others' may differ
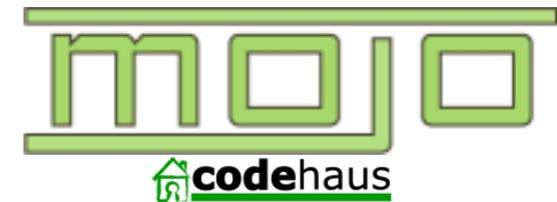
Jeff Genender and OpenSource
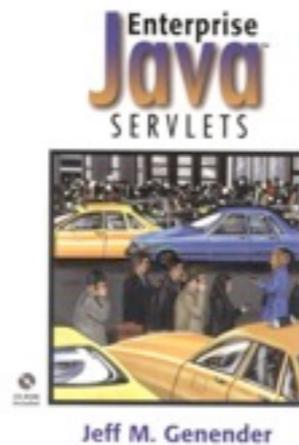
OpenSource - Why its cool - Do I need to tell you why?

Do you care?

Is it because its Free? Free as in Beer?

Surprisingly Enough: What is the best advantage of OpenSource?

- Is it Lower Cost?
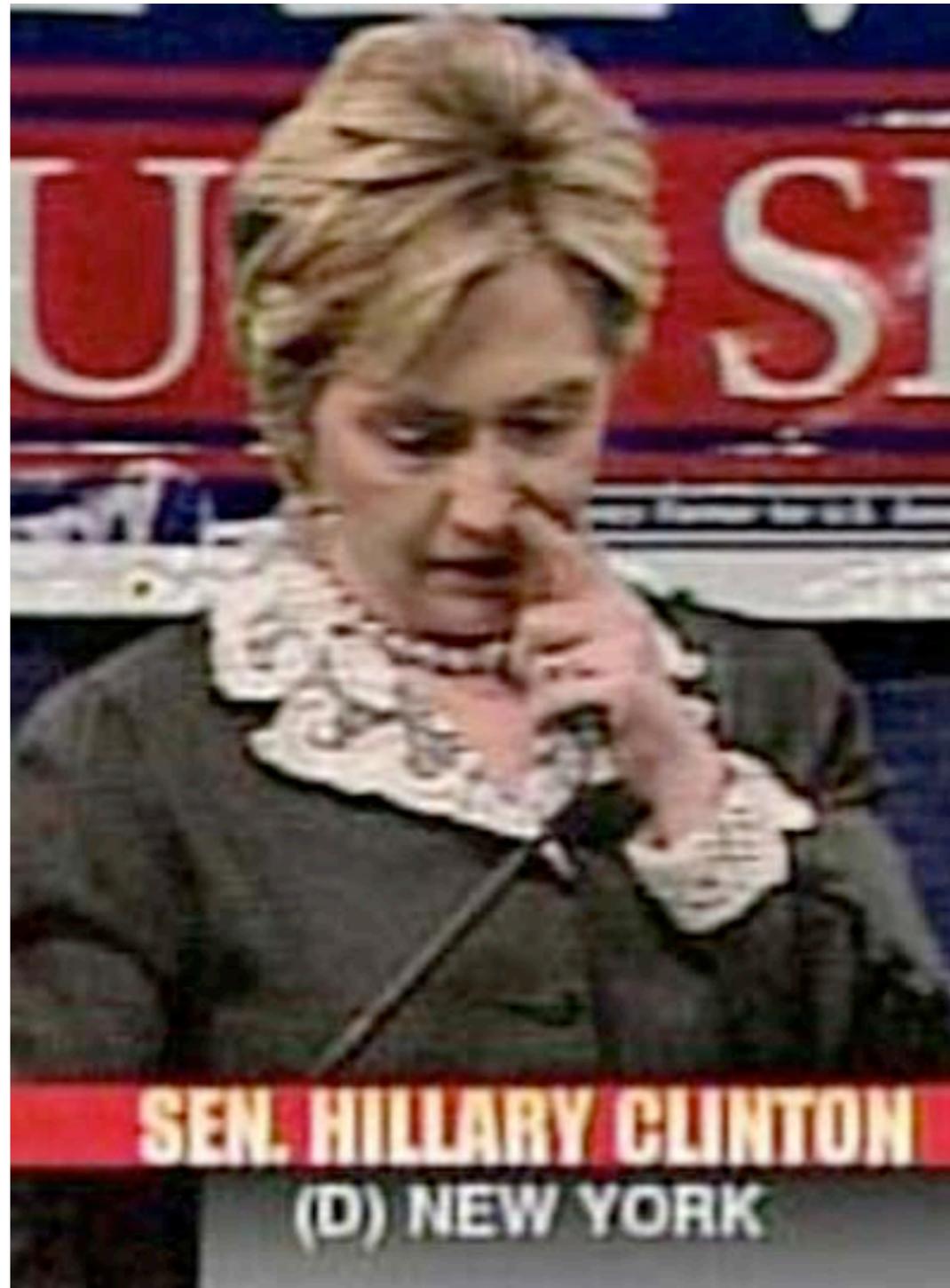- Is it easier to customize?
- Better security?
- Something else?
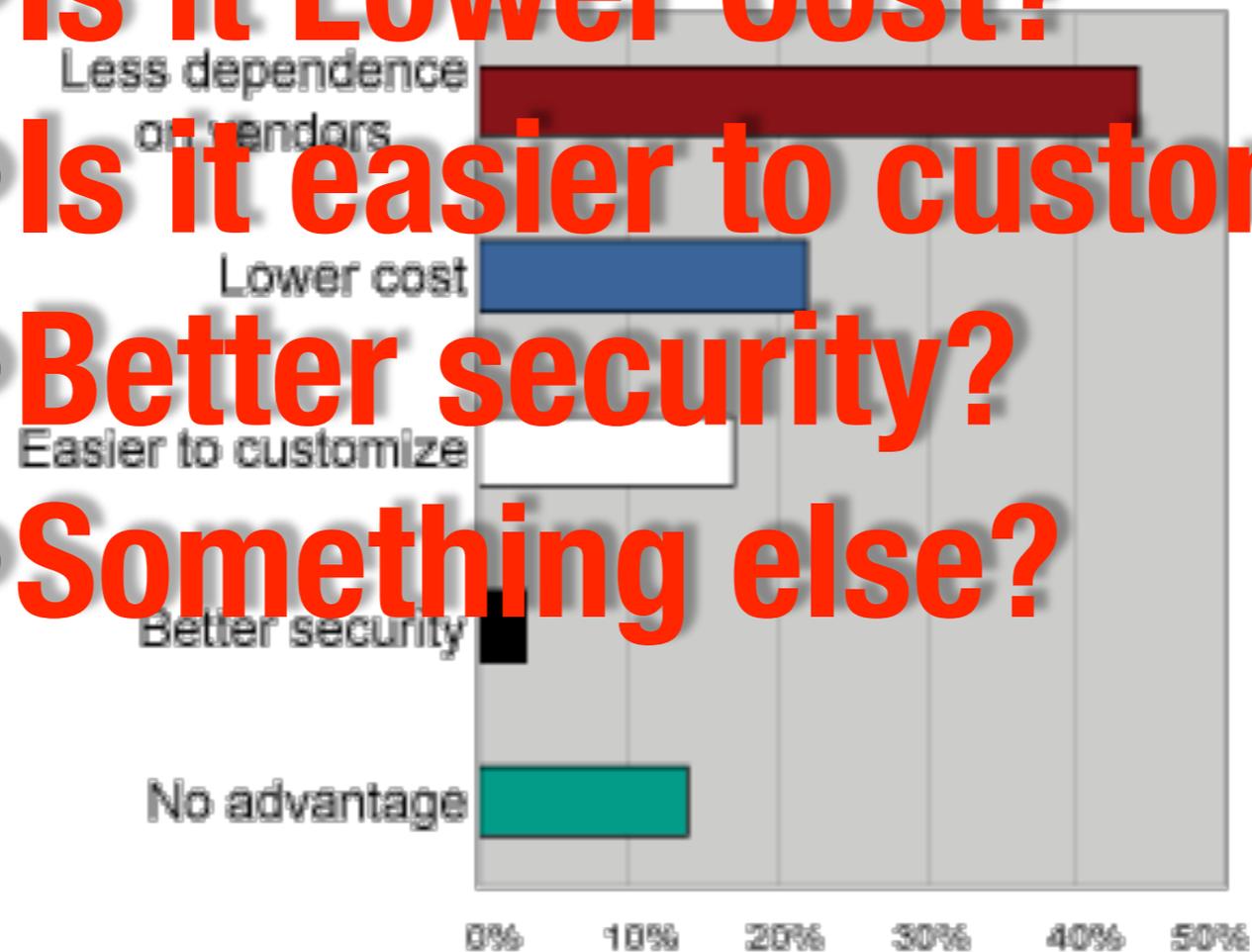
Diving Into Open Source - How?
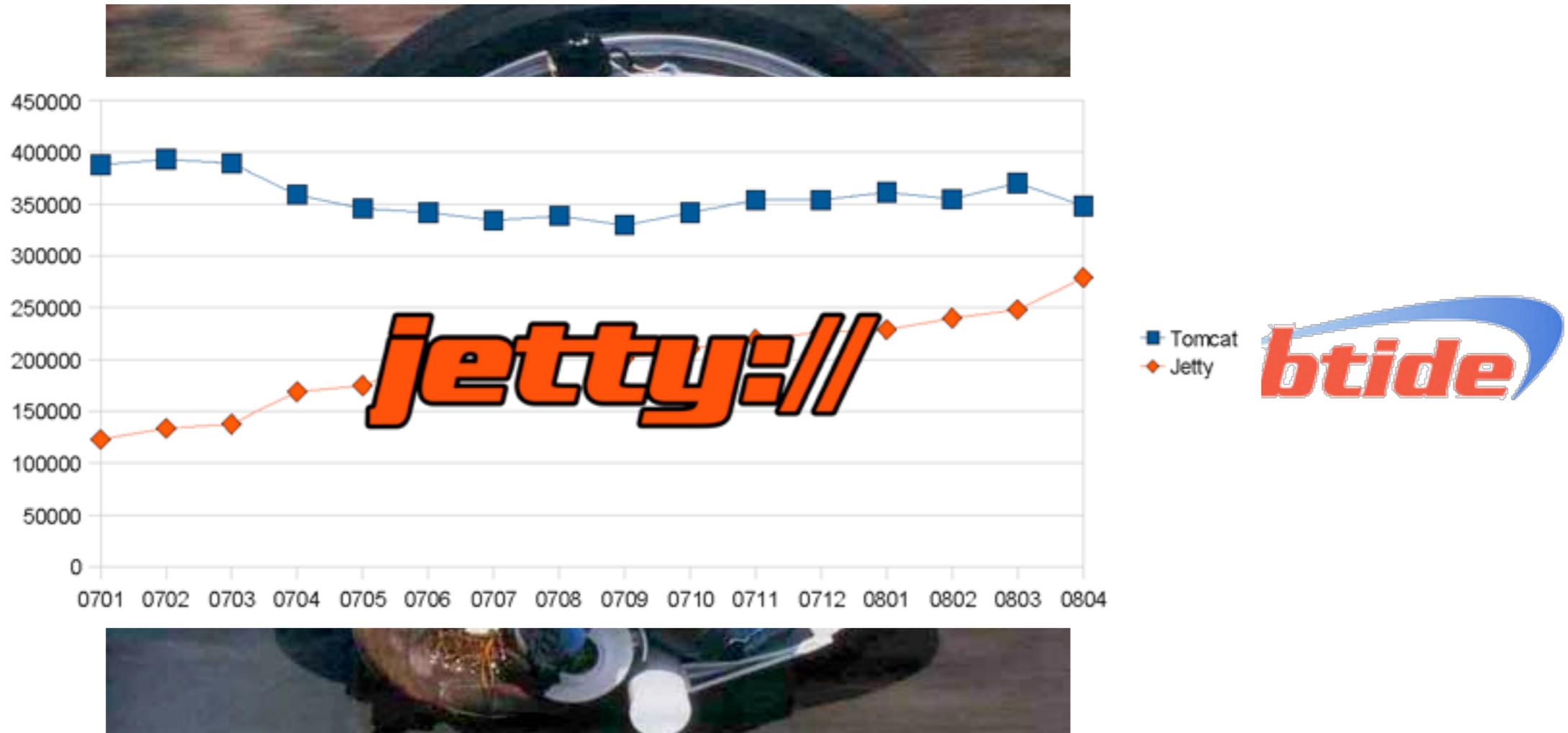
Scratch That Itch!

Pick your Project - Does it Exist?

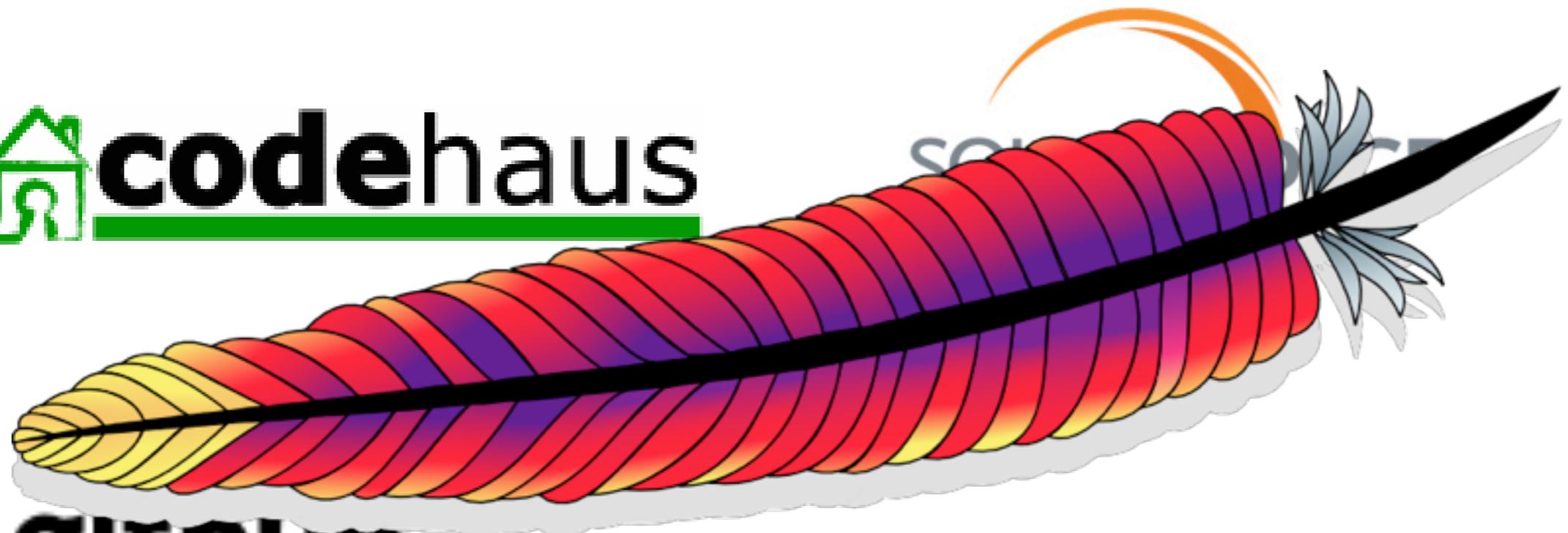# Don't Reinvent The Wheel

You Decided To Reinvent The Wheel

Community - The Most Important Piece

Community Types

Community Locales

Interacting on the Projects

Play Nice - Don't be poisonous
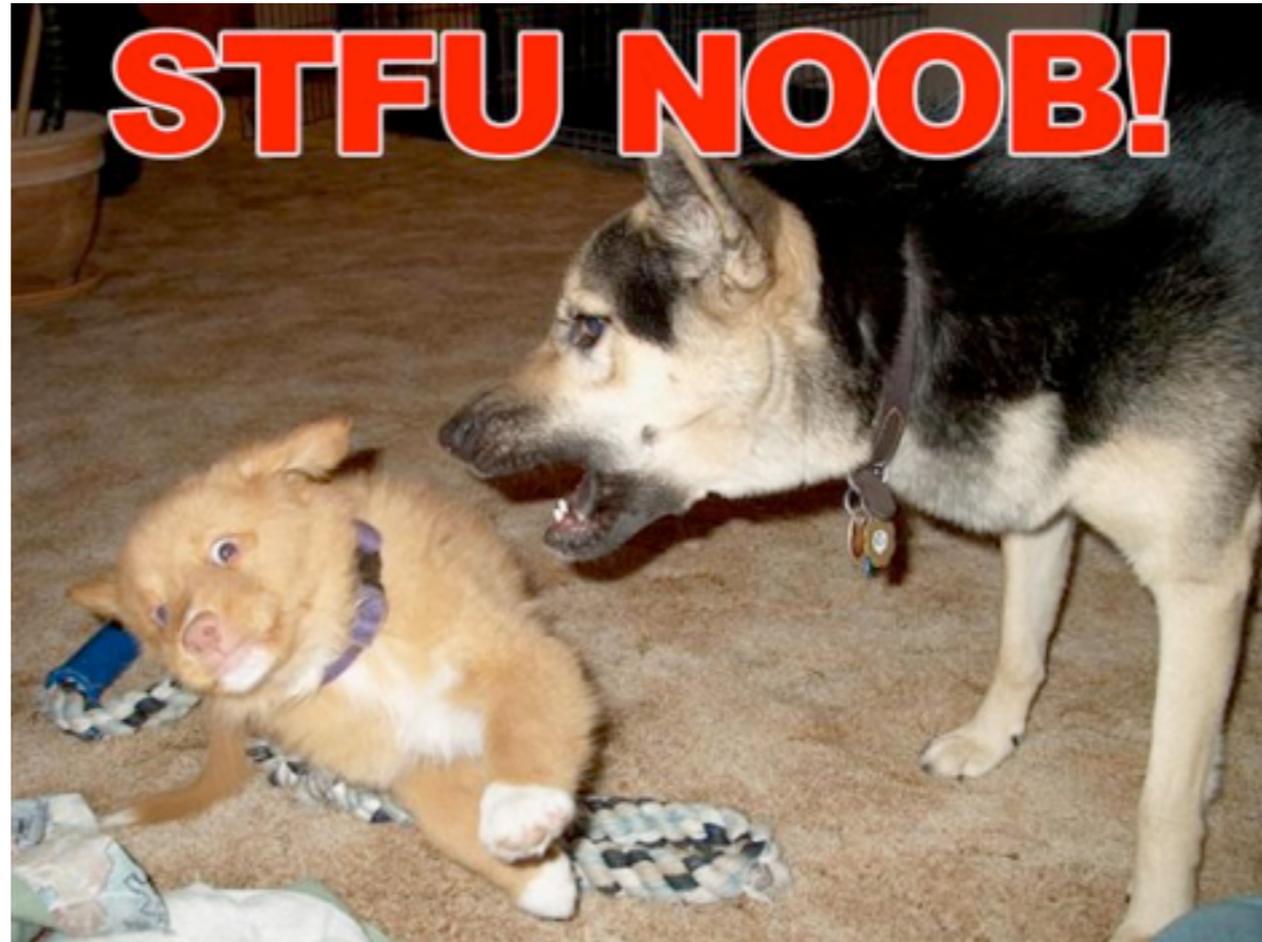
Parkinson's Law of Triviality (The Bike Shed)

AVOID THE BIKESHED!!!

Interaction and the tools

Tools for Interacting Remotely

● **Server Side Tools**

- **Source Control**

- **Mail Lists**

- **Wiki**

- **Forum**

- **Ticket System (Issues)**

- **Continuous Integration**

● **Client Side Tools**

- **IRC**

- **Skype - Keep usage low**

Source Control

Source Viewers

Mail Lists

dev@   **commits@**

private@   **users@**

Wiki - Where to go to to RTFM

Forips

Ticket System

Continuous Integration

Client Side Tools

Follow the rules

Your goals for contributing to OpenSource

- **Learn the tools**

- **Learn the code base and intimately know it**

- **Monitor the mail lists**

- **Find a small itch to scratch on a project**
    - **Fix a bug**
    - **Offer to contribute some functionality**

- **Learn to submit good patches and involve yourself**

- **Be helpful in the lists and on IRC**

- **Main Goal ---> Get commit!**

Bringing the Open Source Way To Your Work

What's the Open Source Methodology?

OpenSource Method – Pass the gate keeper first...

- Are you already using OpenSource technologies?

- Are you already Agile?

- Are others willing to play in a more Agile environment (or just you)?

- Is your boss cool?

Mimic It! THAT is the OpenSource Methodology
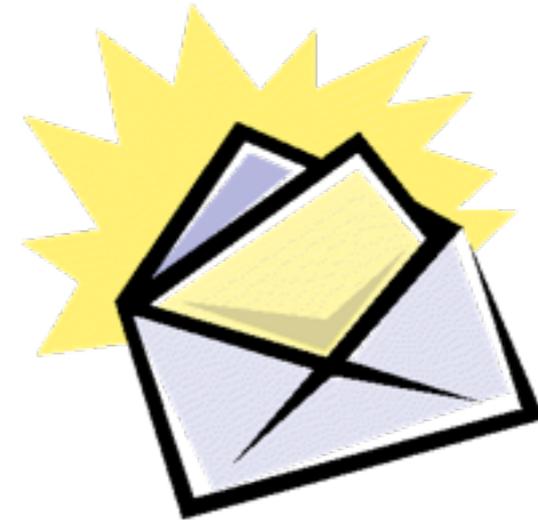
dev@ users@ commits@
(no need for private@)

Real Life Example #1

Real Life Example #2

Now what you have been waiting for...
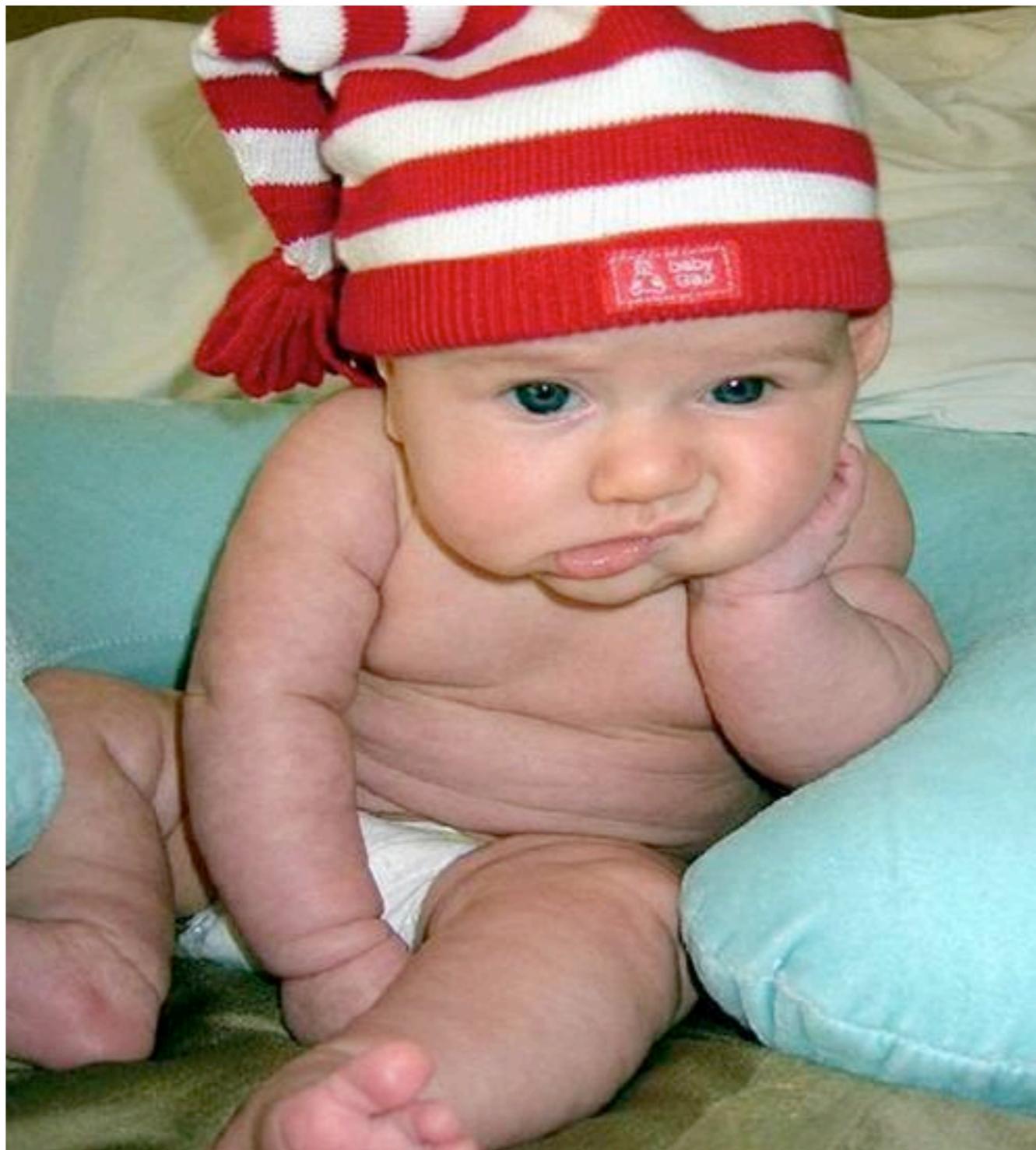
Hey Jeff... How can I get paid to write OpenSource?

How I did it - About me

Jeff The Lowly Contractor

2004

axis

APACHE GERONIMO

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And one thing led to another...

And it kept on leading...
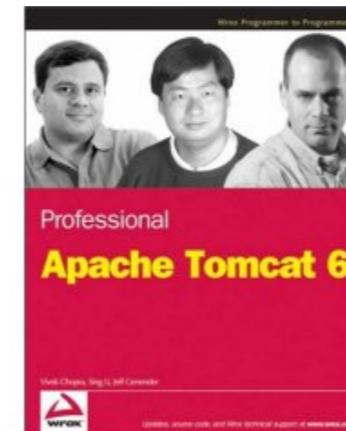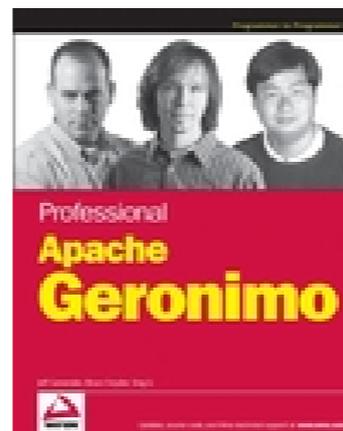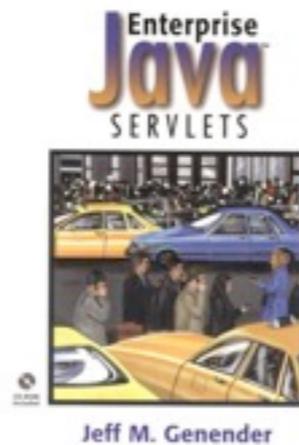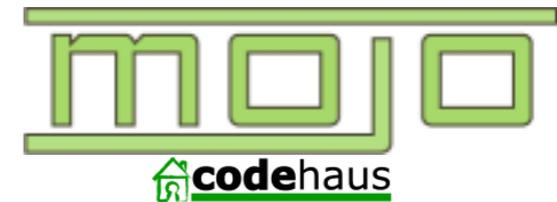
Tip #1 - Pick a project that has legs

I AM THE POPULAR KID

Take The Popular Test
At QuizRocket.com
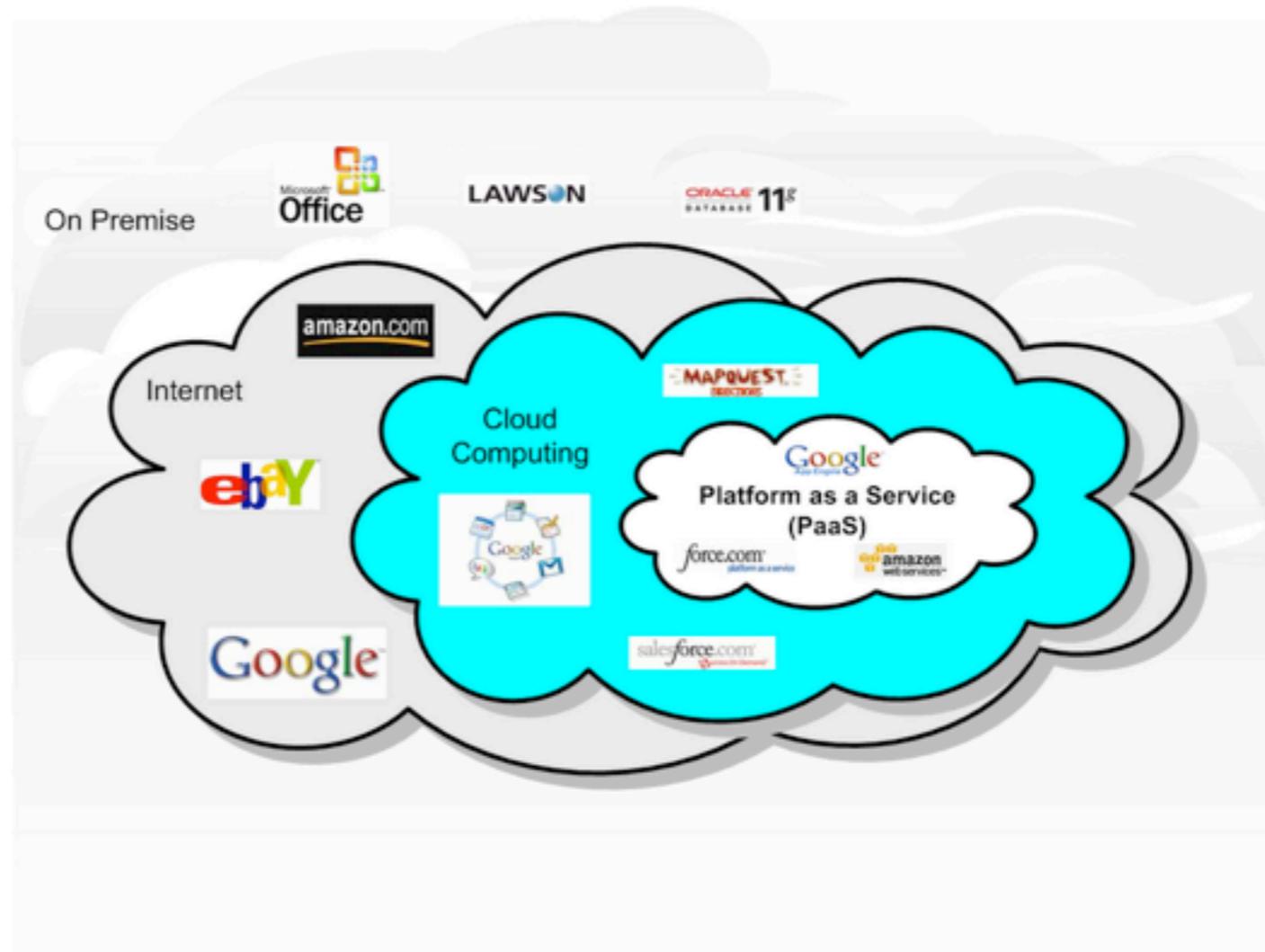
Tip #2 - Get Commit!

How to get commit

- **Learn and support how things are done on a project**

- **Learn politics... every project has them**

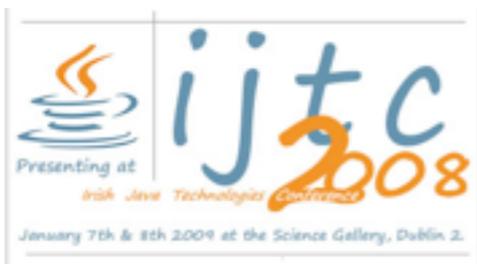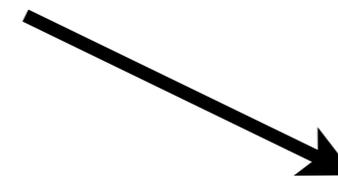- **Be nice**

- **Get involved on mail lists and IRC**

- **Submit patches to fix bugs (check the bug tracker list)**

- **Discuss and submit a major component**
  - **This one can get you commit very very quickly**

Tip #3 - Do conferences - Speak!

Fat ugly
guy here
(Sweden 2008)
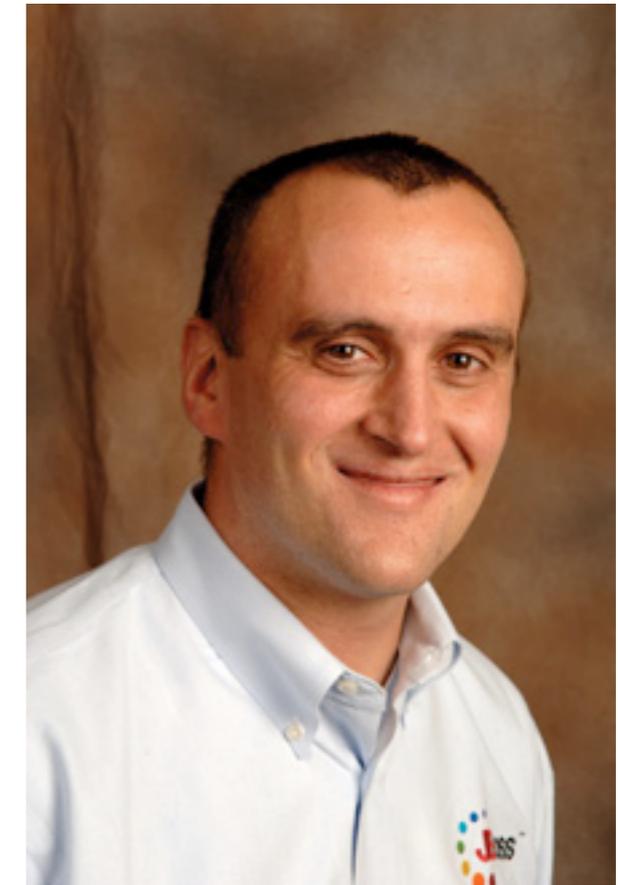
Tip #4 - Ego sucks

Tip #5 - Keep at it

Questions?

Thank You!

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