

# Final Class

17-313 Spring 2025

Foundations of Software Engineering

<https://cmu-313.github.io>

Michael Hilton, Austin Henley, and Nadia Nahar

# Administrivia

- Final Exam attendance Mandatory:
  - Monday, Monday, May 5, 2025 01:00pm - 04:00pm
  - **Location WEH 7500**

# AMA

Ask the professors any question you want

# Michael Hilton

Associate Teaching Professor at CMU



A.S. Grossmont Community College 1999



B.S. San Diego State University - 2002



Software Engineer at DoD - 2002 to 2011



M.S. Cal Poly San Luis Obispo - 2013



PhD at Oregon State - 2017



Internship at Microsoft Research - Summer 2017



Assistant/Associate Teaching Professor at CMU - Fall 2017 to current





# Austin Henley

B.S. Austin Peay State University, 2011

M.S. University of Memphis, 2013

Ph.D. University of Memphis, 2018

---

Software Engineer Intern @ First Tennessee Bank, 2012-2013

Research Intern @ National Instruments, 2014

Research Intern @ National Instruments, 2015

Research Intern @ Microsoft, 2016

Research Intern @ IBM, 2017

Assistant Professor @ University of Tennessee 2018-2022

Visiting Researcher @ Microsoft, 2019

Senior Researcher @ Microsoft, 2022-2023

CTO @ BYBE, 2023

VP of Engineering @ Swiftly, 2023-2024

Associate Teaching Professor @ CMU, 2024-present



# Nadia Nahar

B.S. University of Dhaka, 2014

M.S. University of Dhaka, 2016

Senior Software Engineer, Icebreakers, 2016 – 2017

Lecturer @ University of Dhaka, 2017 – 2020

PhD, Carnegie Mellon University, 2020 – Ongoing

Software Engineering Intern @ Microsoft – Summer 2022



Research Intern  
**Carnegie  
Mellon  
University**

Microsoft



Microsoft Summer 2024

# Teaching Assistants



**Kush Jain**



**Sophia Witt**



**Yerim Song**



**Haomin Ng**



**Juan Ageitos**



**Yu Fang**



**Kareem Segizekov**



# Software is everywhere



# Vasa



# Smoking Section

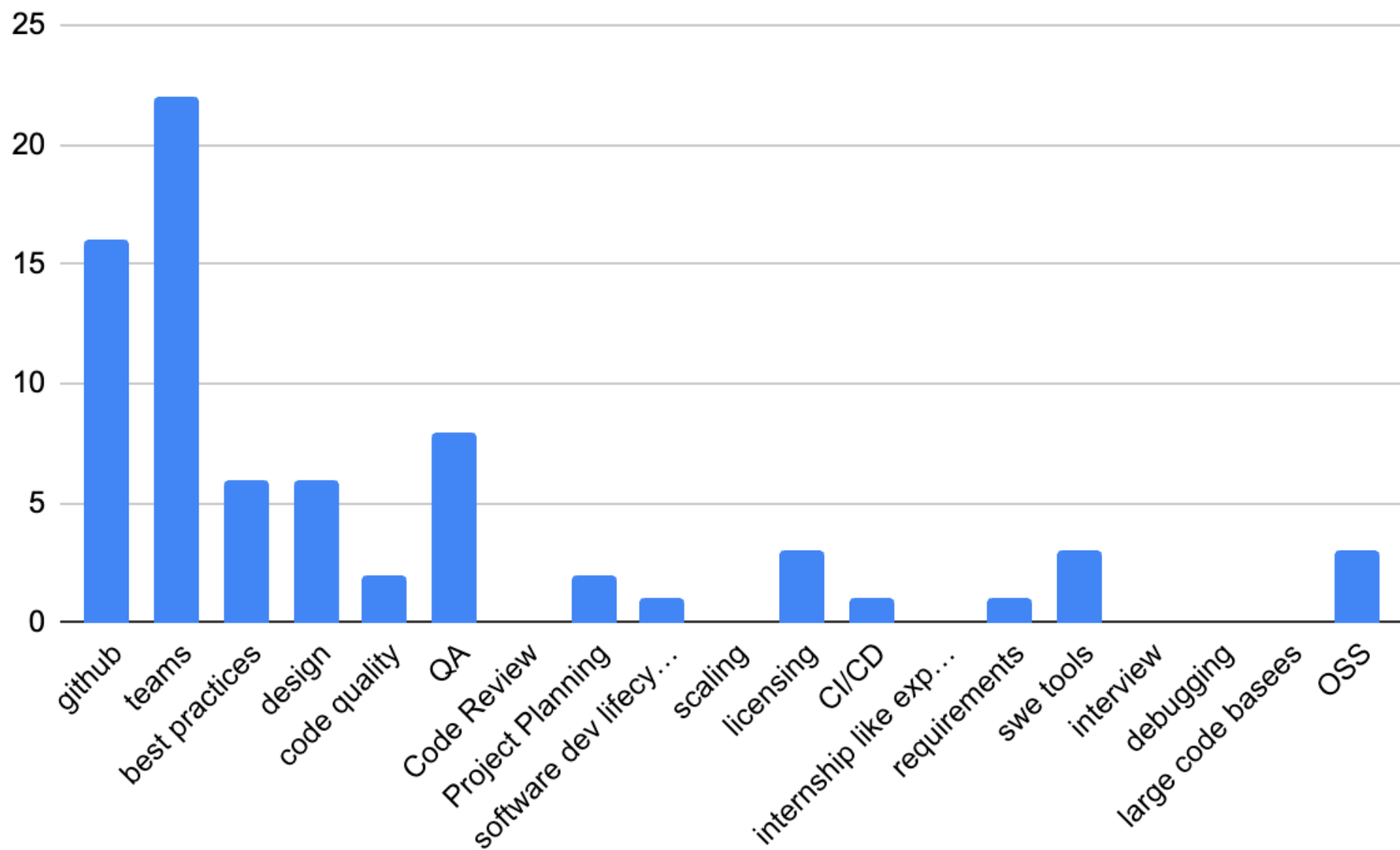
- Last full row



# Project P1 posted online



- P1A: Checkpoint due this Friday (January 17th, 11:59pm)
  - Only 5% of total P1 points – meant to ensure you start on time
  - Only need to be able to install and run NodeBB locally
- P1B: Due next week on Thursday (January 23rd, 11:59PM)
  - Refactor code in a single file to address code quality warnings.
  - Validate change via test coverage and manual testing
  - Expect to be **technically challenging** for non-experts; purpose is to learn new things and engage with a large code base without much hand-holding.



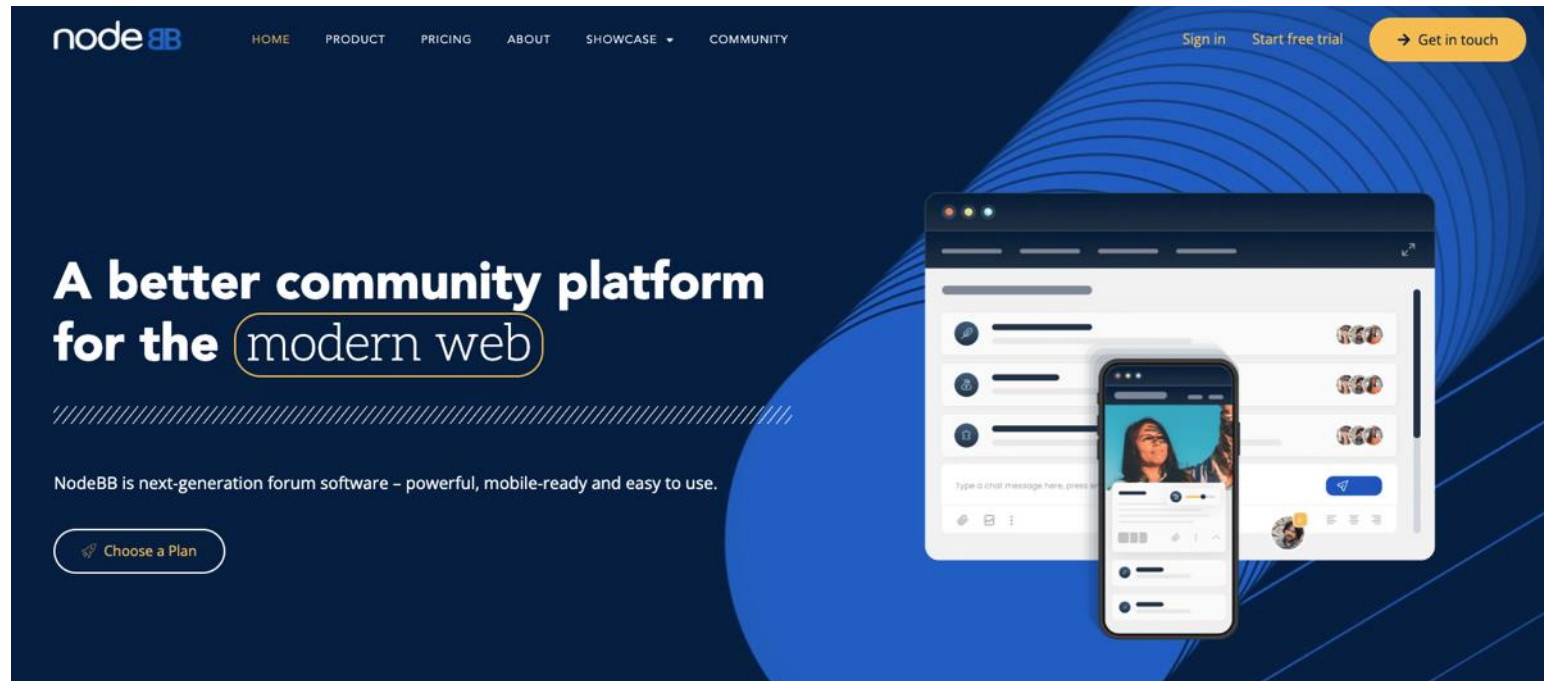


# Discussion



# Context: big ole pile of code

- ... do something with it!



# Steps to Understand a New Codebase

- Look at README.md
- Clone the repo.
- Build the codebase.
- Figure out how to make it run.
- What do you want to mess with?
- Traceability - Attach a debugger
  - View Source
  - Find the logs.
  - Search for constants (strings, colors, weird integers (#DEADBEEF))

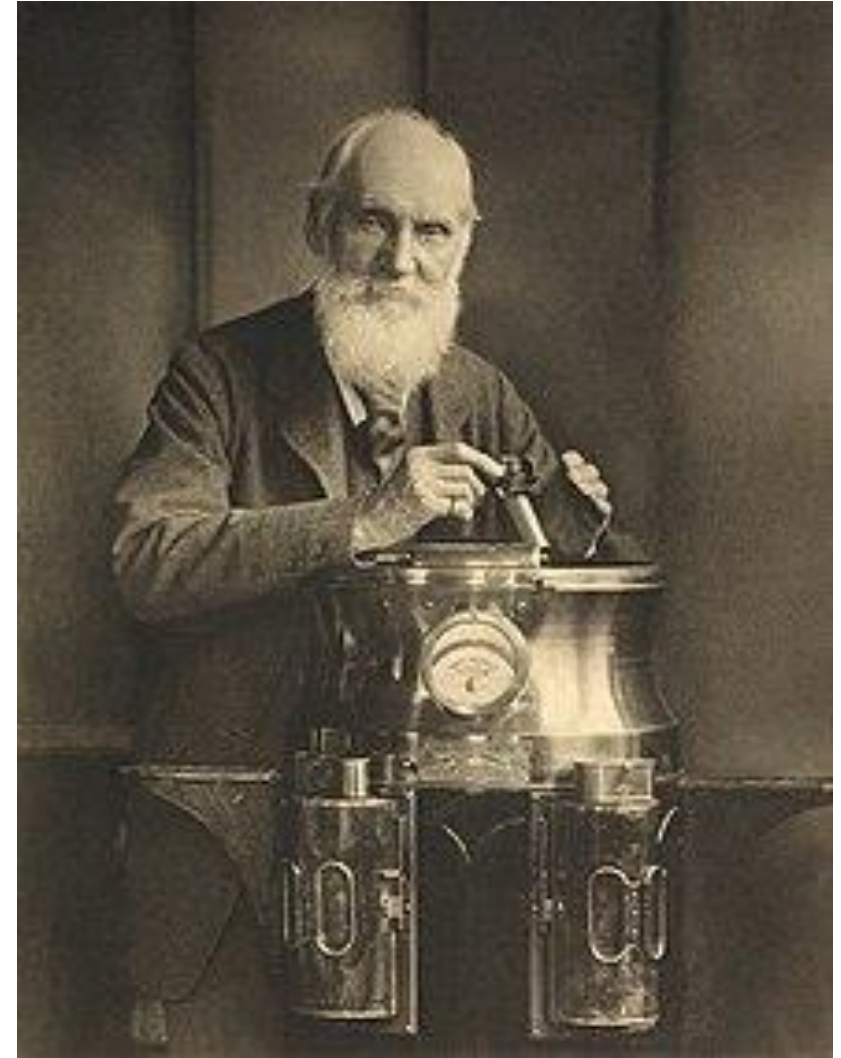
# My experiences (headaches) at companies

- Documentation was **ALWAYS** out of date—often the core devs didn't know
- Had to ask someone to ask someone to help me get the project building (i.e., sit beside me for hours)
- Better take notes... not unusual to break something and need to do it all again
- Often the authors are no longer there
- So many design decisions are never written down, or they are trapped in old Jira tickets, commit messages, and emails

*“To measure is to know;  
if you can not measure it,  
you can not improve it”*

William Thomson, Lord Kelvin

$$K = \left( \frac{5}{9} (F - 32) \right) + 273.15$$





#1 NATIONAL BESTSELLER

IN

"Unsparring...a clear, concise and extremely interesting look at a crucial period of U.S. decision making. It deserves to be widely read."

—Wall Street Journal

# RETROSPECT

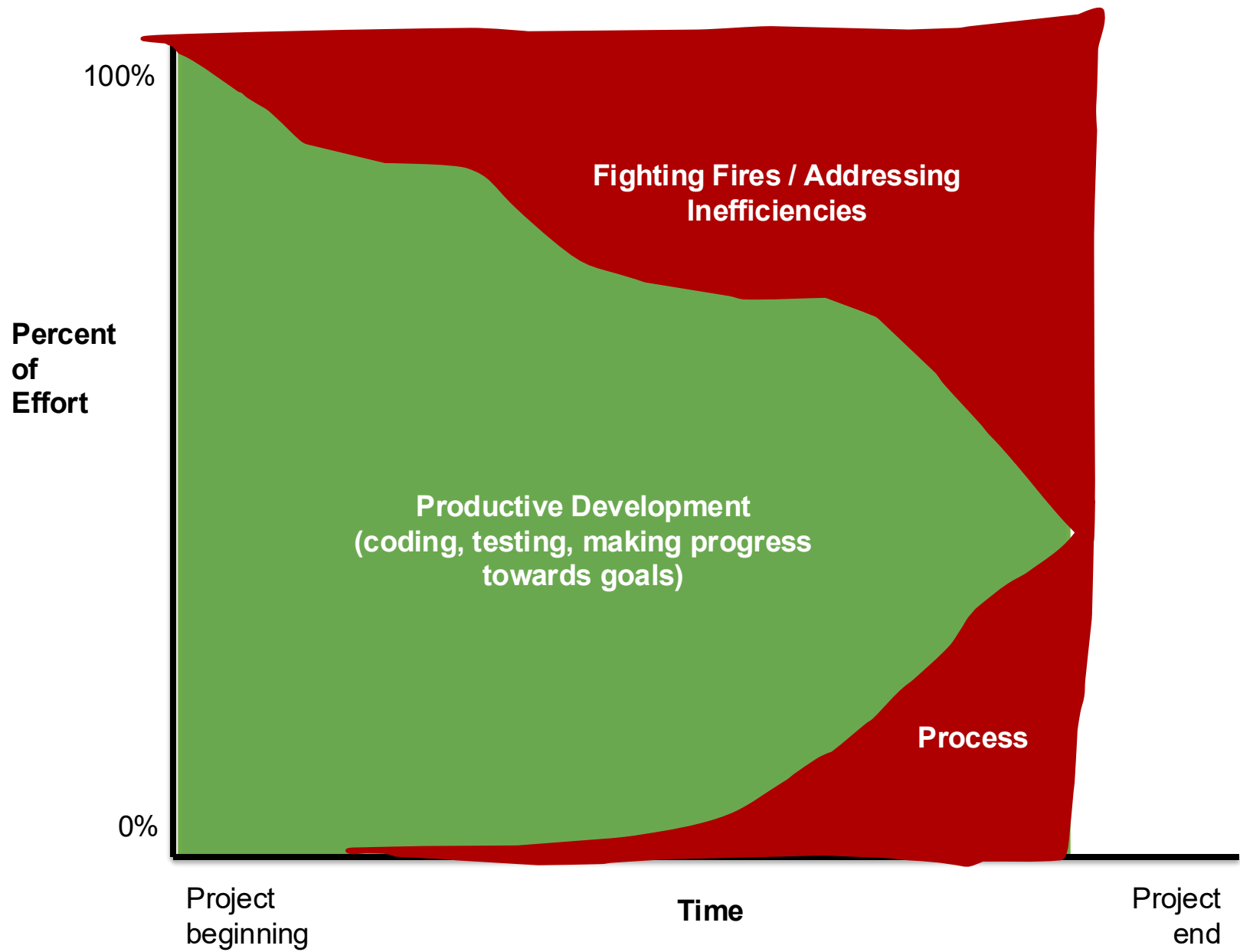


THE TRAGEDY AND LESSONS OF VIETNAM

ROBERT S.  
MCNAMARA

WITH BRIAN VANDEMARK





... akin to processes pioneered in mass manufacturing (e.g., by Ford)

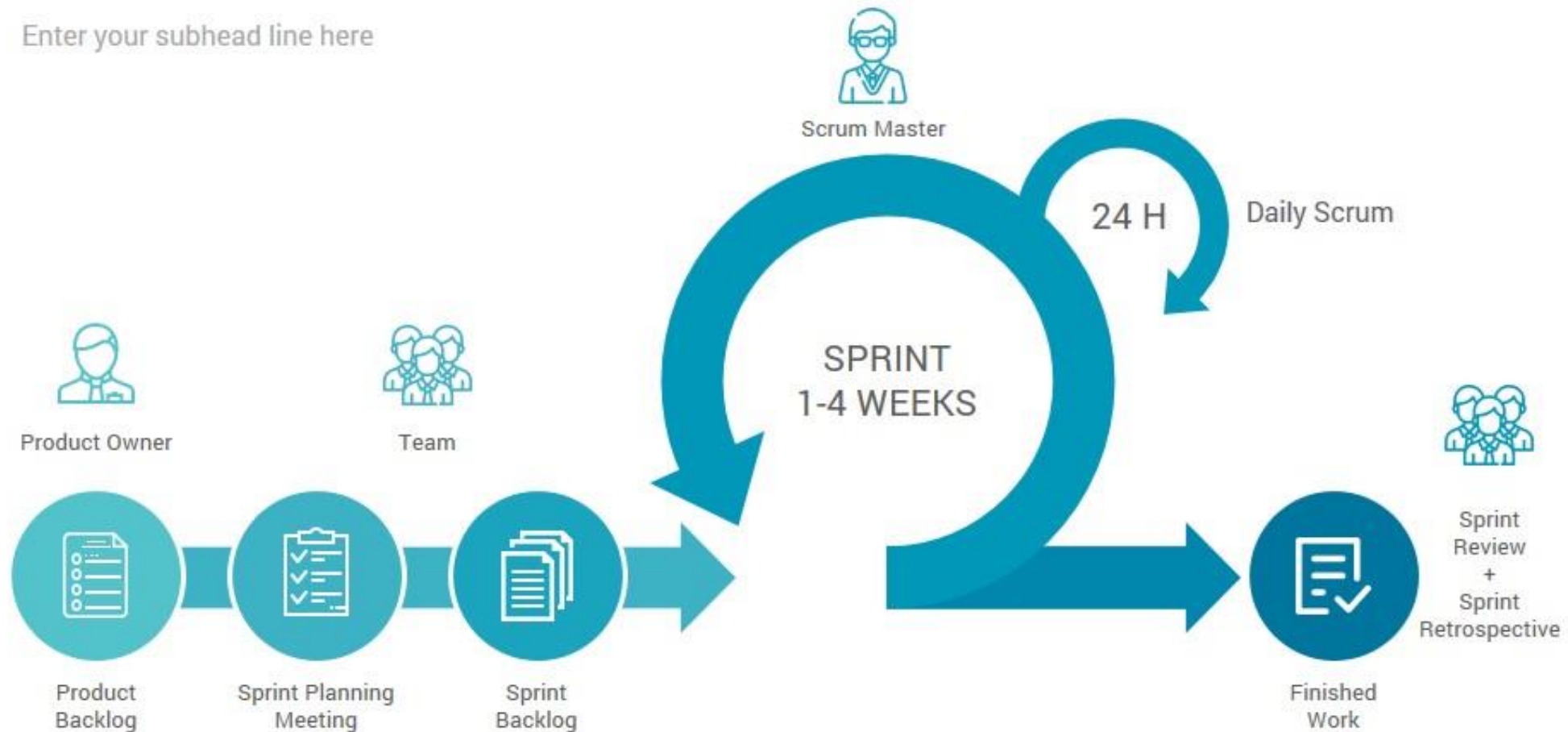




# Elements of Scrum

## Scrum Process

Enter your subhead line here





**XS**



**S**



**M**



**L**

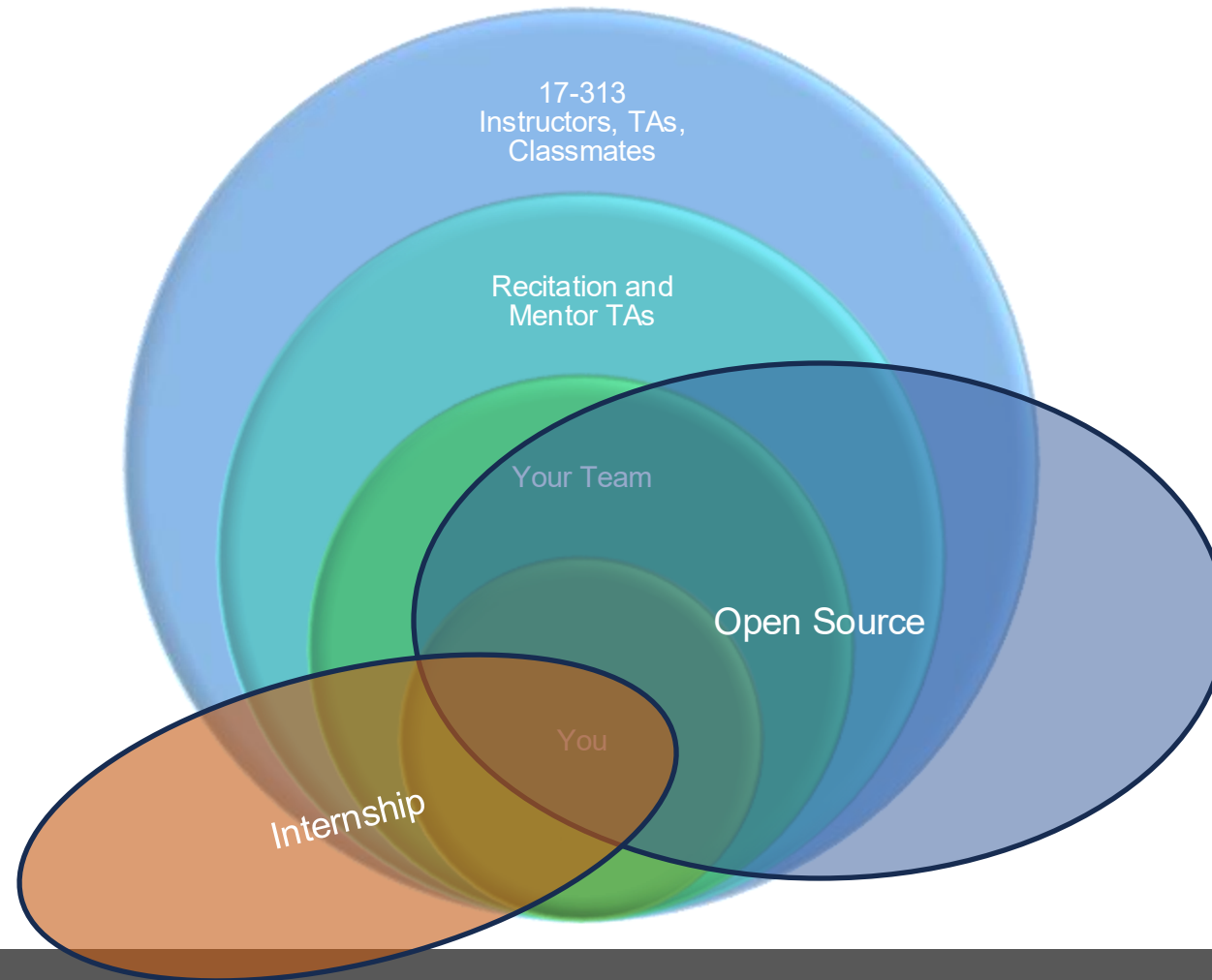


**XL**

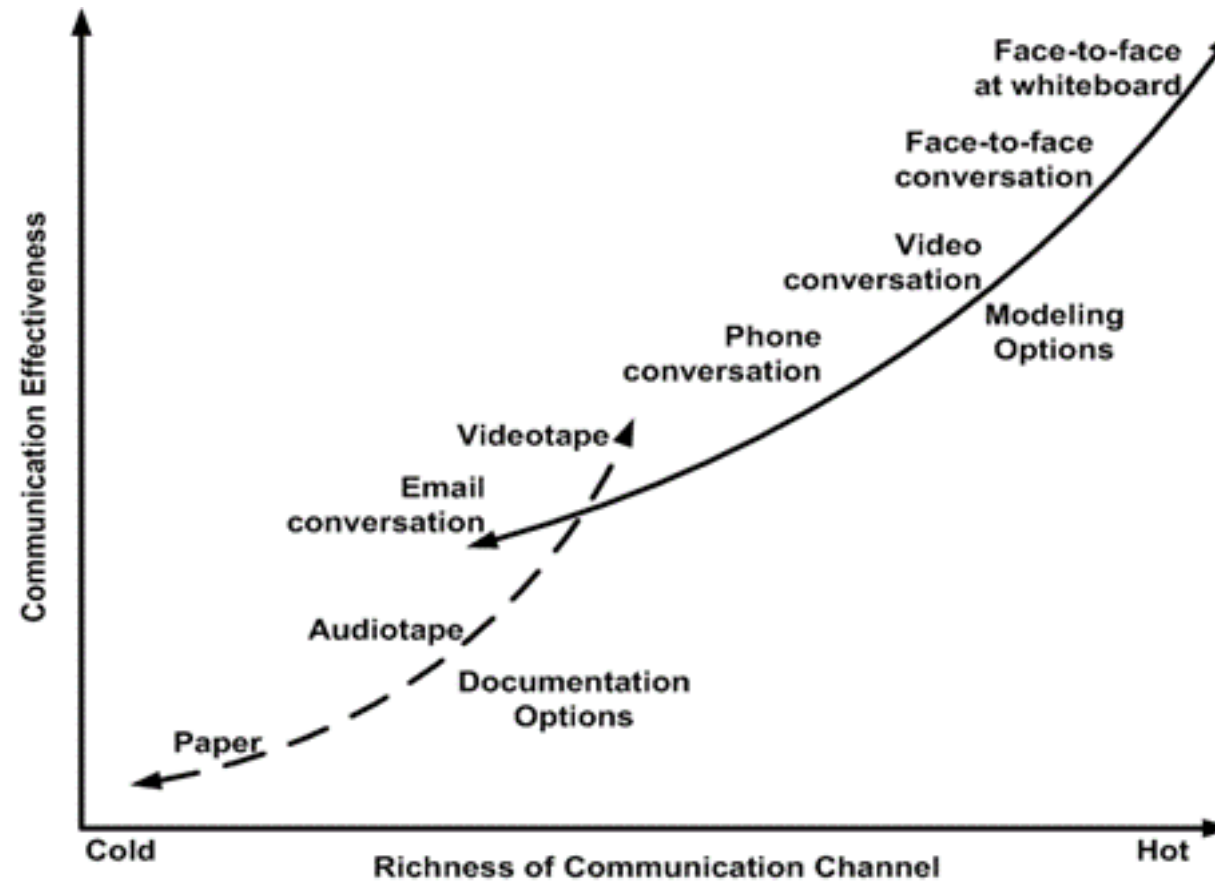
made by **:codica**

[codica.com](http://codica.com)

# We all work in a team



# Select the right comm. tools



Copyright 2002-2005 Scott W. Ambler  
Original Diagram Copyright 2002 Alistair Cockburn

# Writing useful Github issues

## ◀ Cropping of Image Slider Pics #3

Edit

New Issue

Open

calebsylvest opened this issue just now · 0 comments



calebsylvest commented just now

<http://calebsylvest.com/>

The cropping of the images in the slideshow seem to be off. The text is not visible and partially hidden by content below. The Developer Tools show the full-size un-cropped image is being loaded, but obviously not displaying.

Browser: Google Chrome

OS: Mavericks

Hardware: MacBook Pro Retina



Labels

bug

Milestone

No milestone

Assignee



calebsylvest

Notifications

Unsubscribe

# Make it easy for people to help you

- I am trying to \_\_\_\_, so that I can \_\_\_\_.  
I am running into \_\_\_\_.  
I have looked at \_\_\_\_ and tried \_\_\_\_.
- + I'm using this tech stack: \_\_\_\_.
- + I'm getting this error/result: \_\_\_\_.
- + I think the problem could be \_\_\_\_.

# Team survey

RESEARCH-ARTICLE



## Identifying Struggling Teams in Software Engineering Courses Through Weekly Surveys

**Authors:**  [Kai Presler-Marshall](#),  [Sarah Heckman](#),  [Kathryn T. Stolee](#) [Authors Info & Claims](#)

SIGCSE 2022: Proceedings of the 53rd ACM Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education V. 1 • February 2022

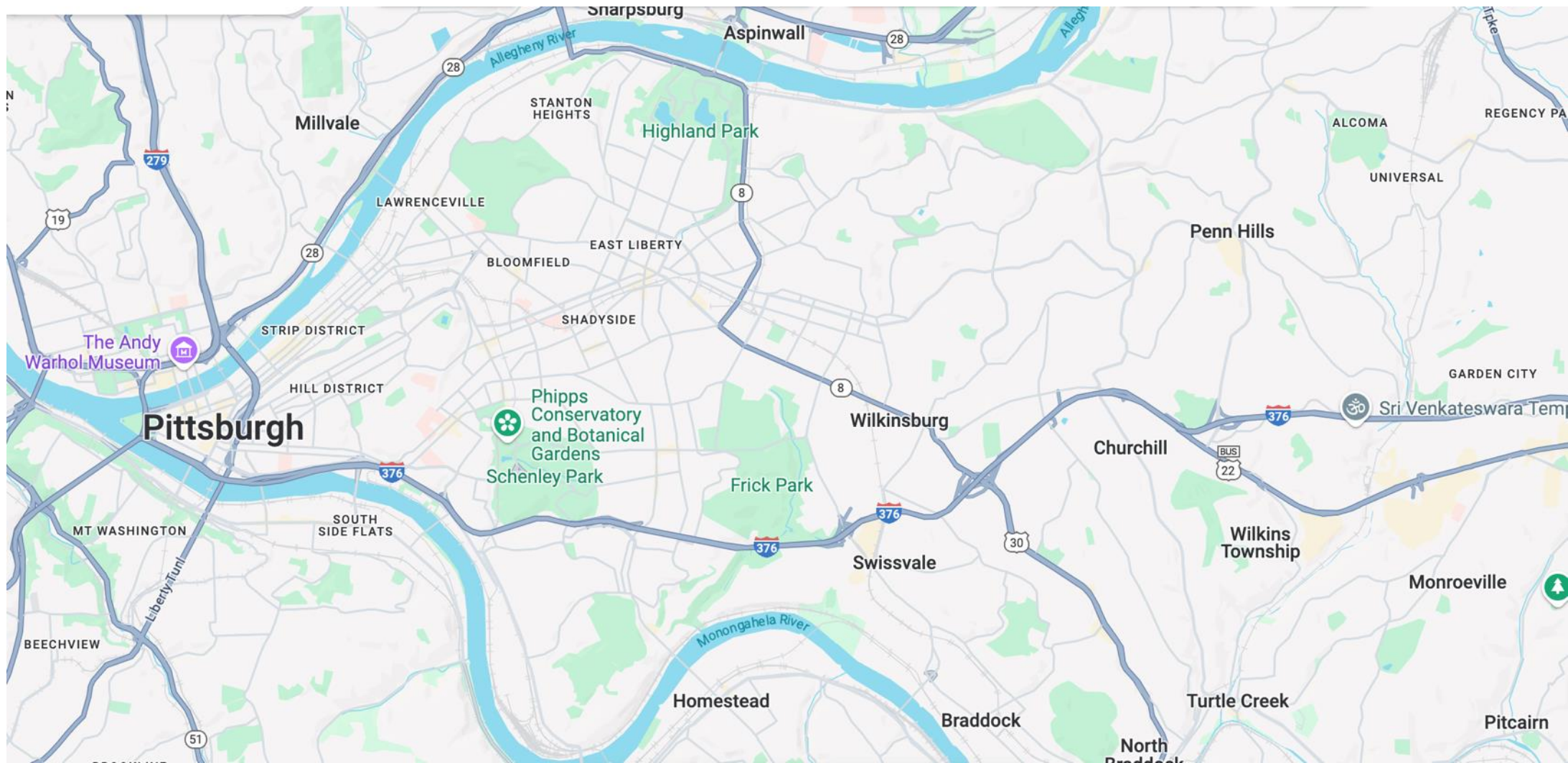
• Pages 126–132 • <https://doi.org/10.1145/3478431.3499367>

# Project 2: Collaborative Development

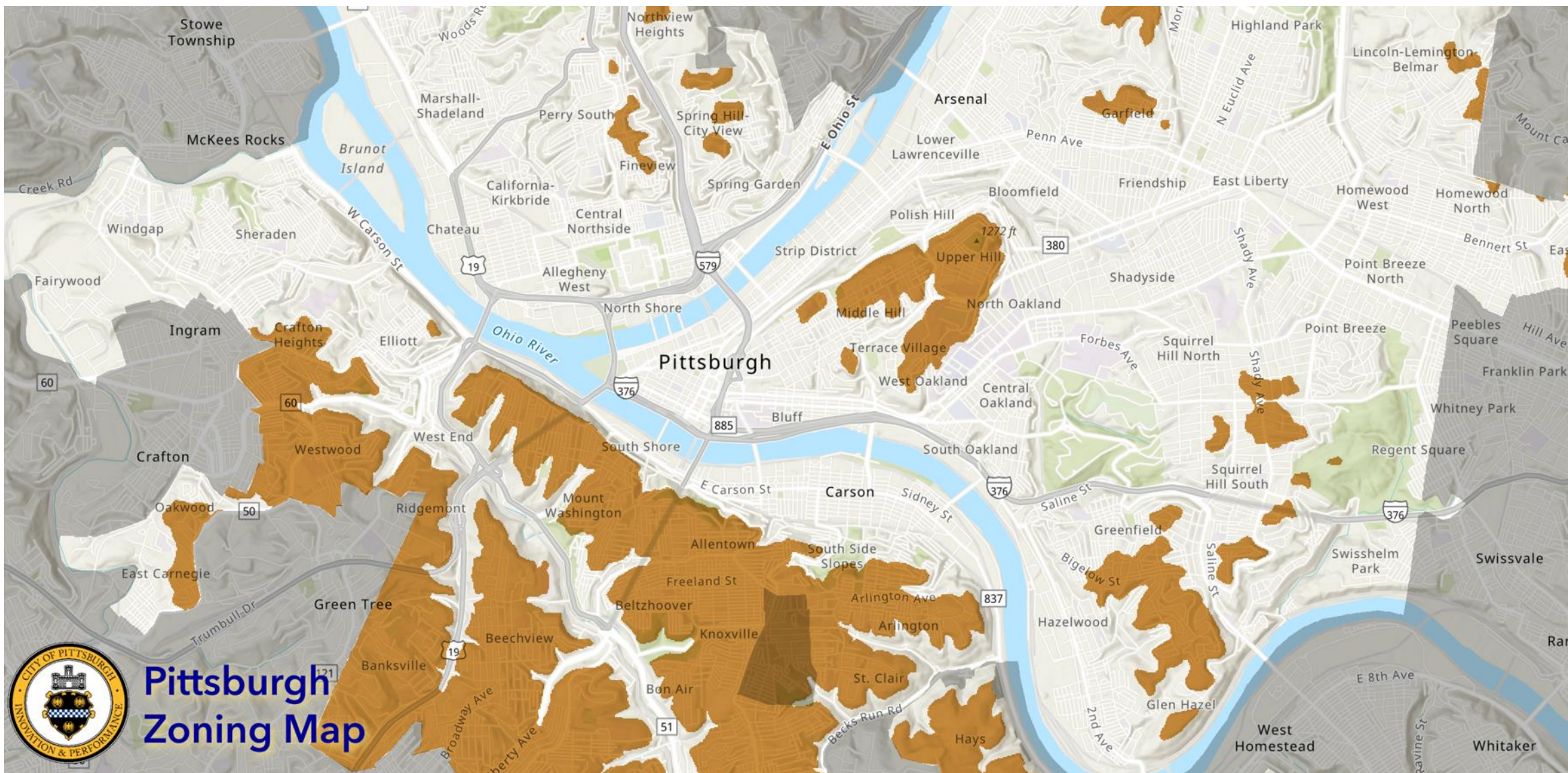
## Learning Goals

- Translating requirements into actionable user stories
- Practice getting to know a pre-existing code base and developing new features for it using previously unfamiliar technology
- Practice version control and development best practices within the context of a group assignment
- Plan and schedule projects in terms of tasks, milestones, and time estimations, and re-plan as required
- Make initial decisions on a team process, and reflect on your experience with the process
- Effectively coordinate among team members and conduct team meetings
- Meaningfully reflect on the experience of working in teams

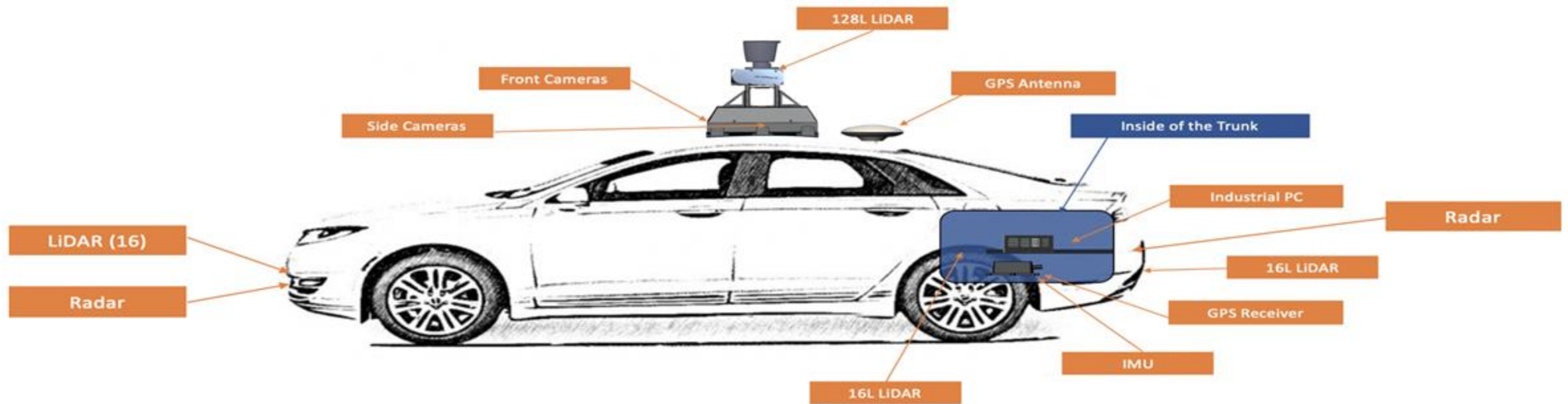








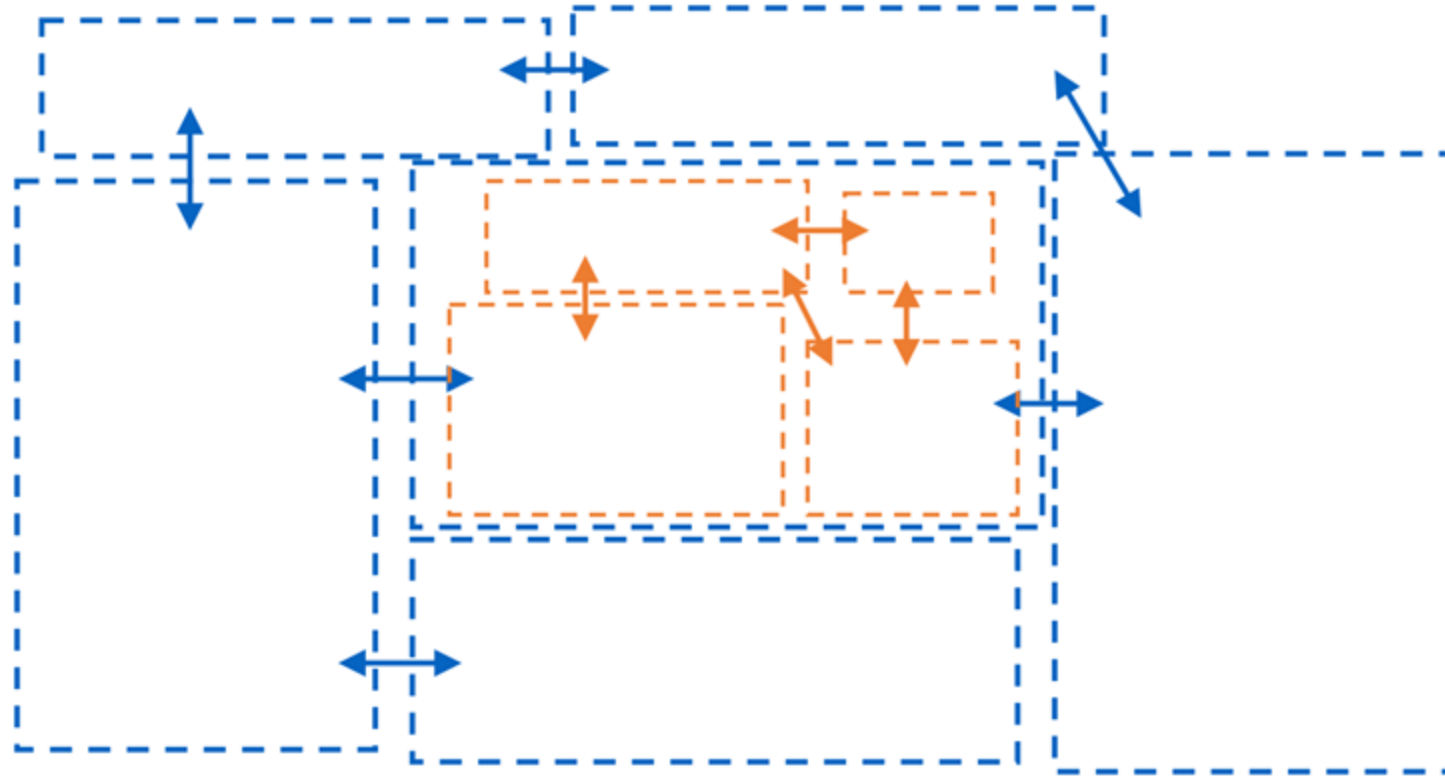
# Apollo Hardware/Vehicle Overview



Source: <https://github.com/ApolloAuto/apollo/blob/v6.0.0/README.md>



# Architecture





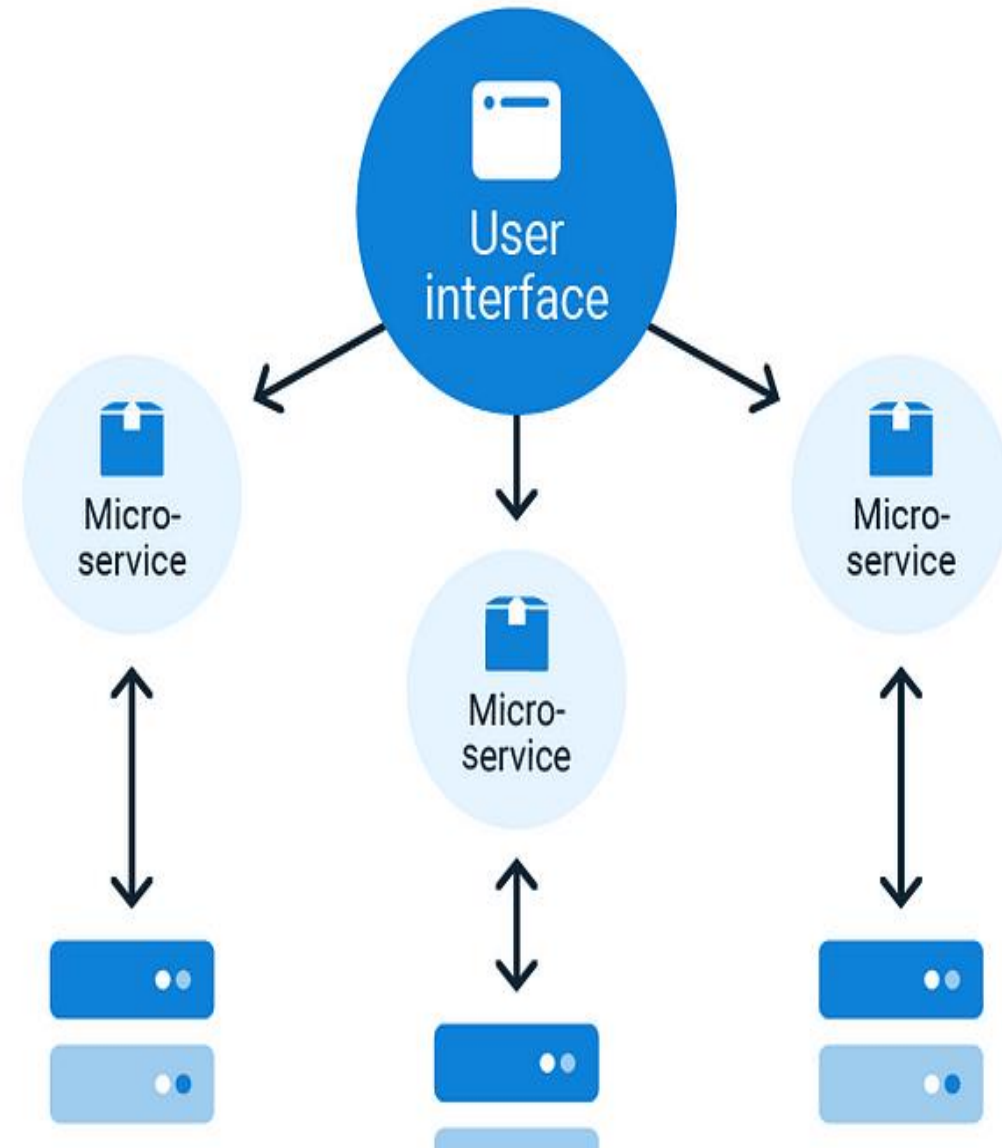
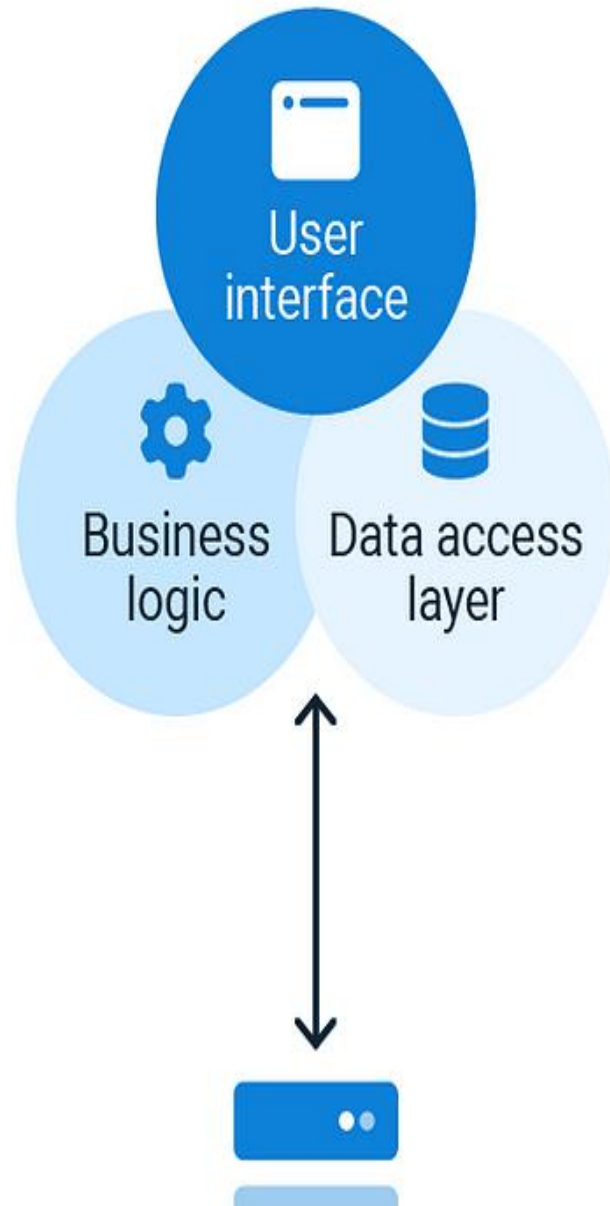


<https://www.instagram.com/architectanddesign>



<https://www.mykonosceramica.com/>



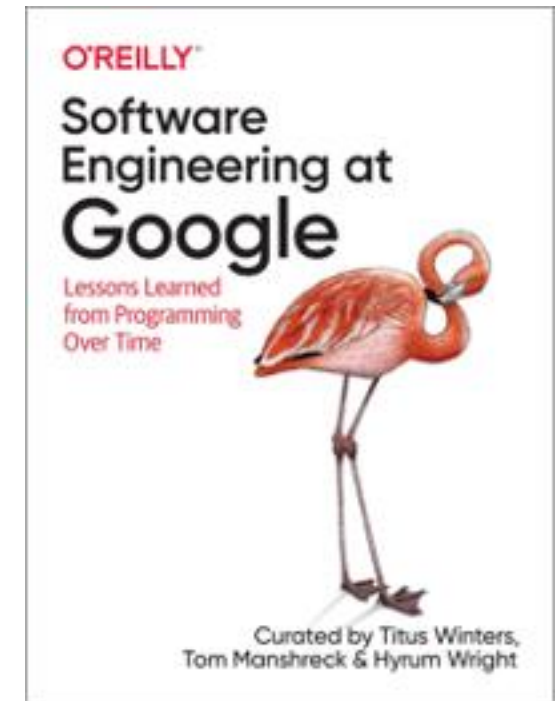




[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V\\_oxbj-a1wQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V_oxbj-a1wQ)

# Design documents

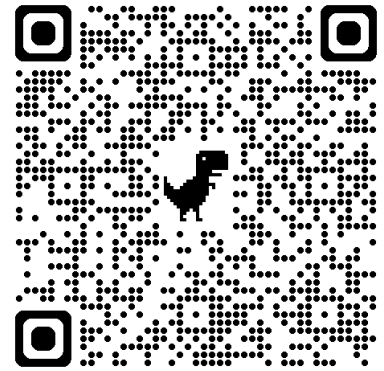
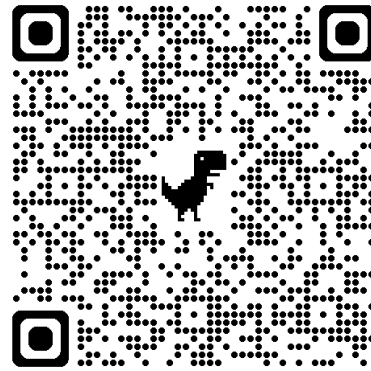
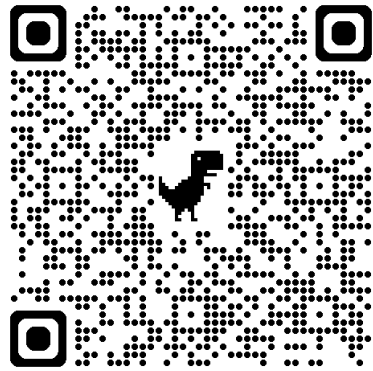
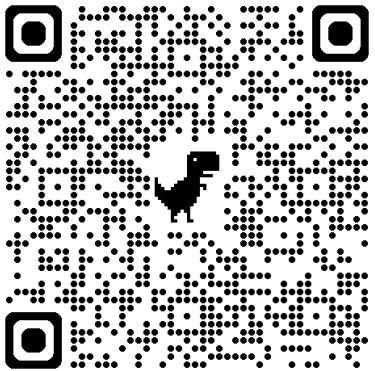
- **Code review before there is code!**
- Collaborative (Google Docs)
- Ensure various concerns are covered, such as: security implications, internationalization, storage requirements, and privacy concerns.
- A good design doc should cover
  - Goals and use cases for the design
  - Implementation ideas (not too specific!)
  - Propose key design decisions with an emphasis on their individual tradeoffs



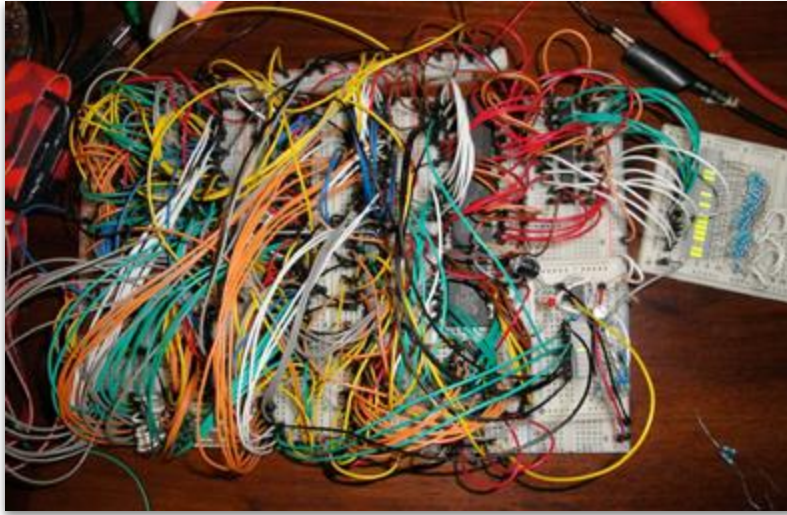


# Time to write our own design docs!

- Divide up into 4 sections –NOTE: you should be signed in w/Andrew to google
- Your mission:
  - Brainstorm a feature to add to a scooter app and write a design spec, together, in real time!
  - Review the design doc, collaborate around text
  - Review another team's design doc ask questions/leave comments



# Internal Quality



- Is the code well structured?
- Is the code understandable?
- How well documented?

# External Quality



- Does the software crash?
- Does it meet the requirements?
- Is the UI well designed?

# Technical Debt



# Risk





# Risk assessment matrix

TABLE III. Risk assessment matrix

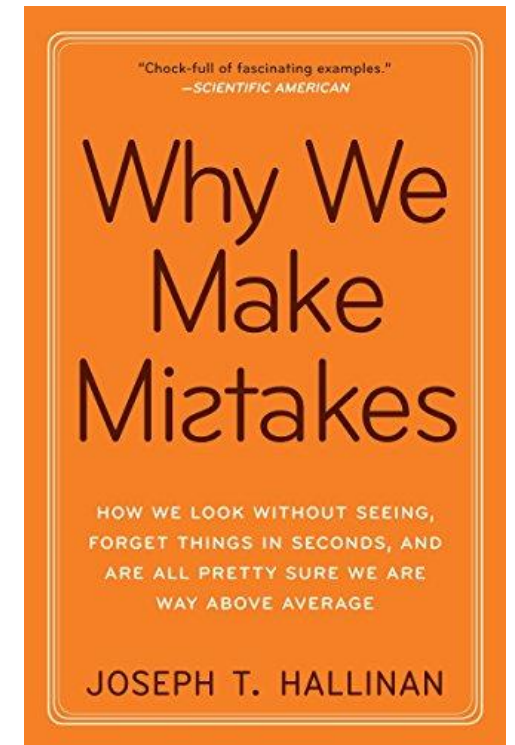
RISK ASSESSMENT MATRIX				
SEVERITY PROBABILITY	Catastrophic (1)	Critical (2)	Marginal (3)	Negligible (4)
Frequent (A)	High	High	Serious	Medium
Probable (B)	High	High	Serious	Medium
Occasional (C)	High	Serious	Medium	Low
Remote (D)	Serious	Medium	Medium	Low
Improbable (E)	Medium	Medium	Medium	Low
Eliminated (F)	Eliminated			

- MIL-STD-882E

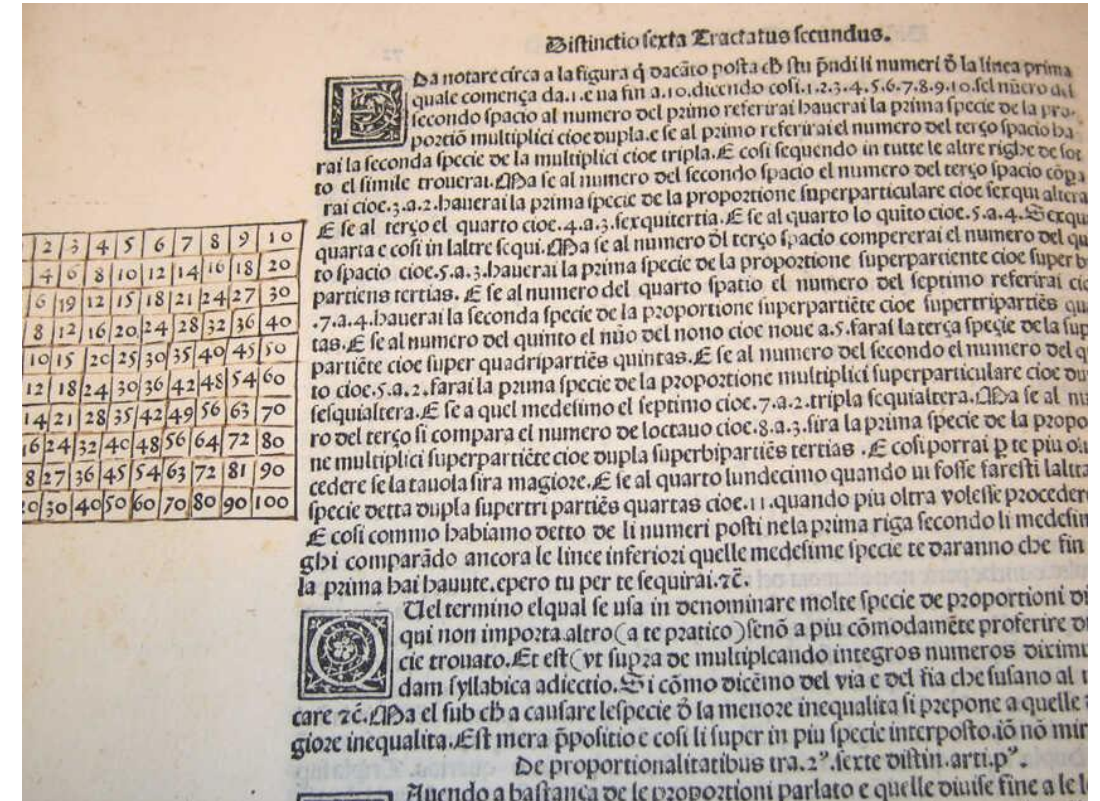
<https://www.system-safety.org/Documents/MIL-STD-882E.pdf>

# Why do we make mistakes?

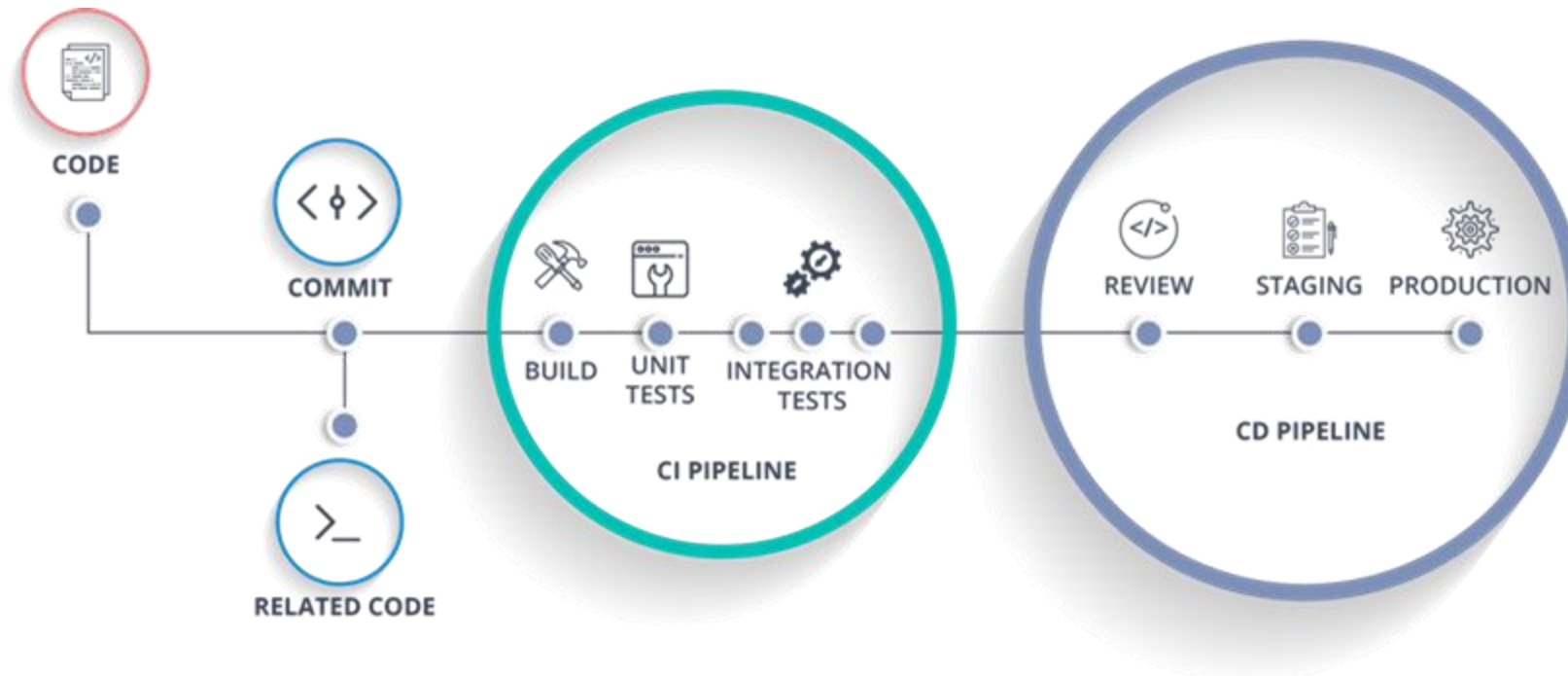
42

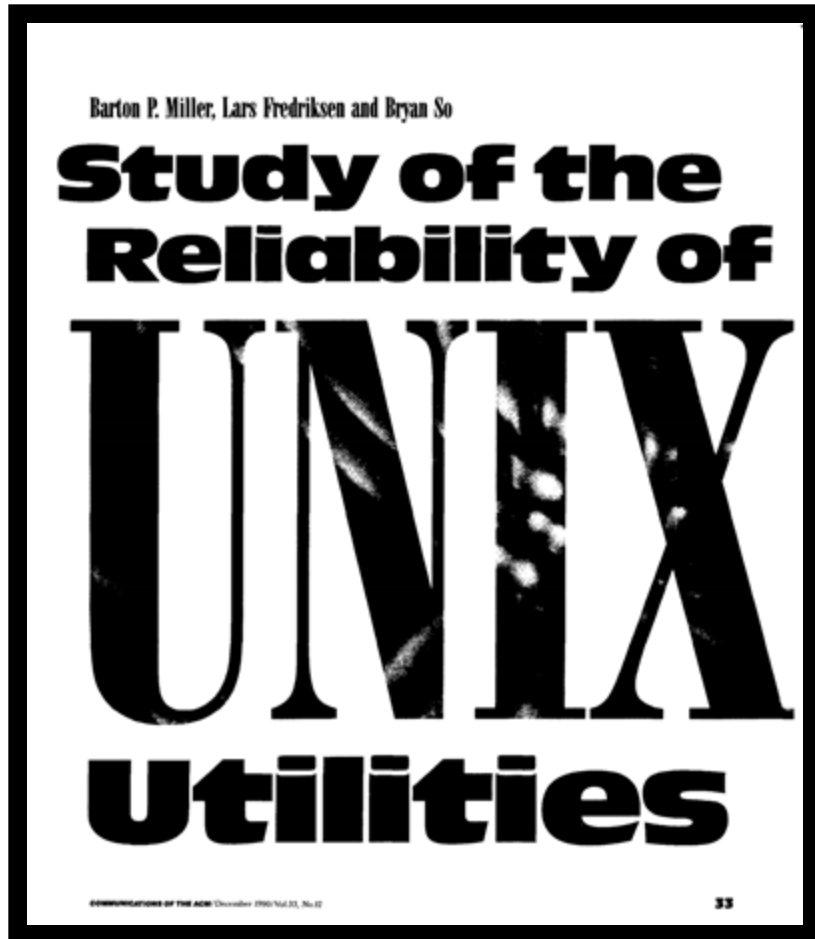






# Example CI/CD Pipeline





Communications of the ACM (1990)

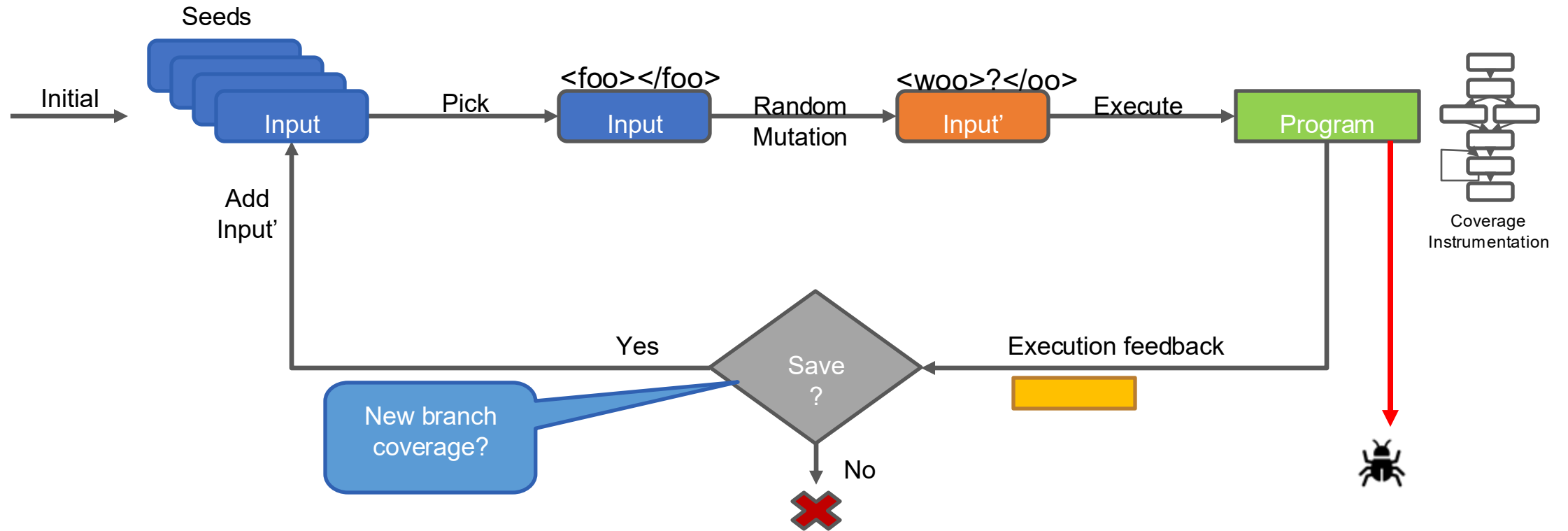
“

On a dark and stormy night one of the authors was logged on to his workstation on a dial-up line from home and the rain had affected the phone lines; there were frequent spurious characters on the line. The author had to race to see if he could type a sensible sequence of characters before the noise scrambled the command. This line noise was not surprising; but we were surprised that these spurious characters were causing programs to crash.

”

How to identify these bugs?

# Coverage-Guided Fuzzing (e.g. AFL)





# Example: Netflix

Significant deployment on AWS cloud. Hundreds of updates to microservices and infrastructure through the day.

**Chaos Monkey** randomly takes down AWS instances or network connections or randomly changes config files.

How to tell "are we still good?"

Key metric: Stream Starts per Second (SPS)  
Measures *availability*

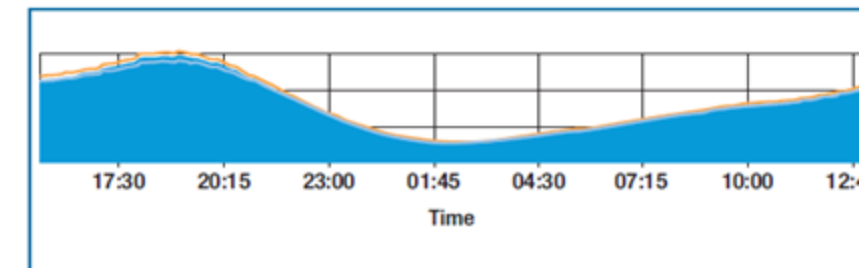
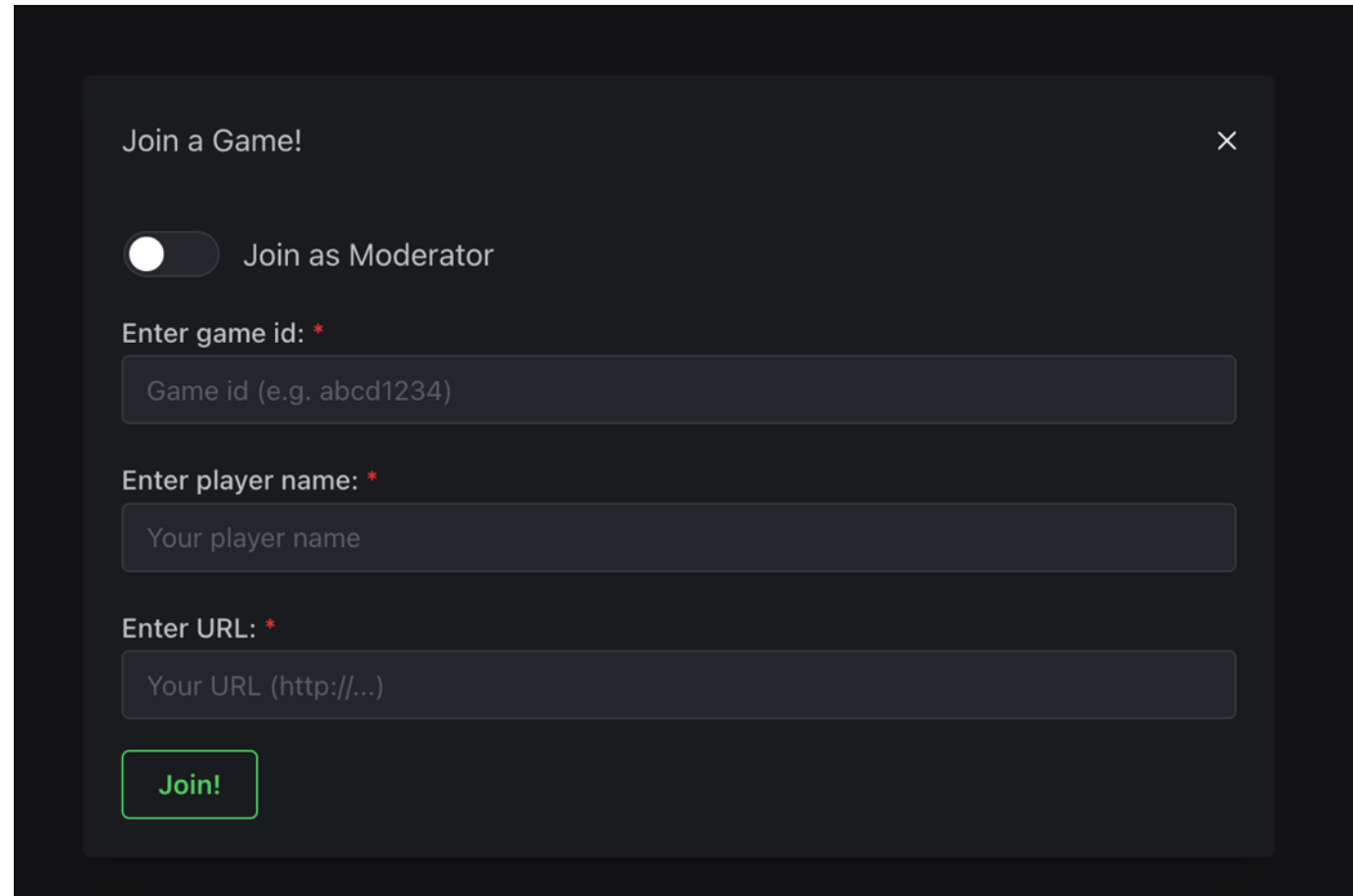


FIGURE 2. A graph of SPS ([stream] starts per second) over a 24-hour period. The metric varies slowly and predictably throughout a day. The orange line shows the SPS for the prior week. The y-axis isn't labeled because the data is proprietary.

# Step 2: Join game

- Game id: from board
- Player Name:
  - Remember what you put in
- URL:
  - IMPORTANT: PASTE YOUR URL BUT ADD '/API'
  - E.g.  
`http://myurl.com/API`



A dark-themed dialog box titled "Join a Game!" with a close button (X) in the top right corner. The dialog contains three input fields and a toggle switch. The first input field is labeled "Enter game id: \*" and has a placeholder "Game id (e.g. abcd1234)". The second input field is labeled "Enter player name: \*" and has a placeholder "Your player name". The third input field is labeled "Enter URL: \*" and has a placeholder "Your URL (http://...)". A green "Join!" button is located at the bottom left of the dialog.

Join a Game! X

☐ Join as Moderator

Enter game id: \*

Game id (e.g. abcd1234)

Enter player name: \*

Your player name

Enter URL: \*

Your URL (http://...)

Join!



Extreme Startup

128.2.24.106/7b268e54/players/1948b7c8

☆⋮🔒👤⋮

≡

Player: hilton

Player ID

1948b7c8

Game ID

7b268e54

Copy Game Id

API

https://basic-web-app-fawn-eight.vercel.app/api

Score

-100

Events

ID	Query	Points	Timestamp	Outcome
3e751752	What is your name?	-10	01:09:31	INCORRECT
813aaeff	What is your name?	-10	01:09:26	INCORRECT

## Scenario

You work as a lead software engineer at a local Pittsburgh startup called “Grandma-as-a-service”, or *Gaas*. *Gaas* was founded when a CMU student was sick, and realized that they didn’t have anyone to take care of them. This is a problem for many different people in the Pittsburgh Community. *Gaas* allows you to hire a grandma to come help you recover if you are unwell. *Gaas* are able to come to your house, make fresh, homemade soup, remind you to take your medication, and help with small chores around the house. The app leverages the gig-economy model, so it can hire local Grandmas to help in this role.

When looking to hire a Grandma, the user logs in to the app and fills out a questionnaire. If their symptoms are too severe, they are instructed to call 911. Once they order a visit from a Grandma, they can choose the type of soup they would like, as well as the time and location of the visit. Additionally, parents who have children in Pittsburgh can order a visit from *Gaas* for their child, if they know they are not feeling well. For Grandmas who are looking for some extra income, they can sign up with the app, and are notified of students looking for visits. They can create a profile based on the types of soup they can make, as well as other factors such as distance and hours available to work. The system is responsible for matching customers with Grandmas.

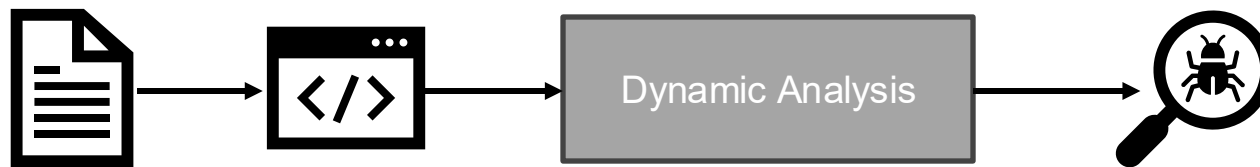
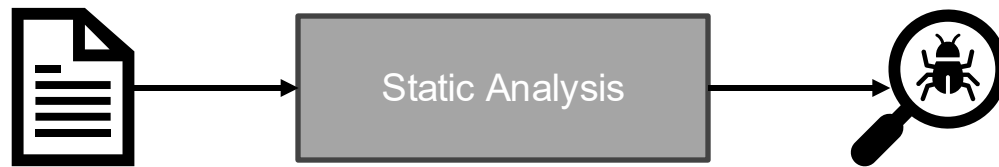


# Project 3: Continuous Integration + Deployment

## Learning Goals

- Learn how to deploy a full-stack application
- Gain hands-on experience with analysis tools, including setting up, customizing, and using them
- Practically assess and compare the costs and benefits of existing static and dynamic bug-finding tools
- Integrate CI/CD tools into development practice

# What are Program Analysis Tools?

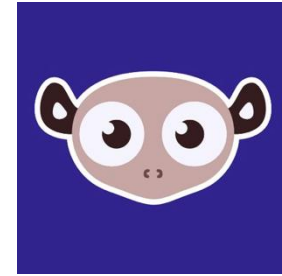


```
src/controllers/accounts/posts.js
Show 135 more lines
136 - },
137 - },
138 - };
139 -
140 - postsController.getBookmarks = async function (req, res, next) {
141 -   await getPostsFromUserSet('account/bookmarks', req, res, next);
142 - };
143 -
144 - postsController.getPosts = async function (req, res, next) {
145 -   await getPostsFromUserSet('account/posts', req, res, next);
146 - };
147 -
```

This function expects 3 arguments, but 4 were provided.

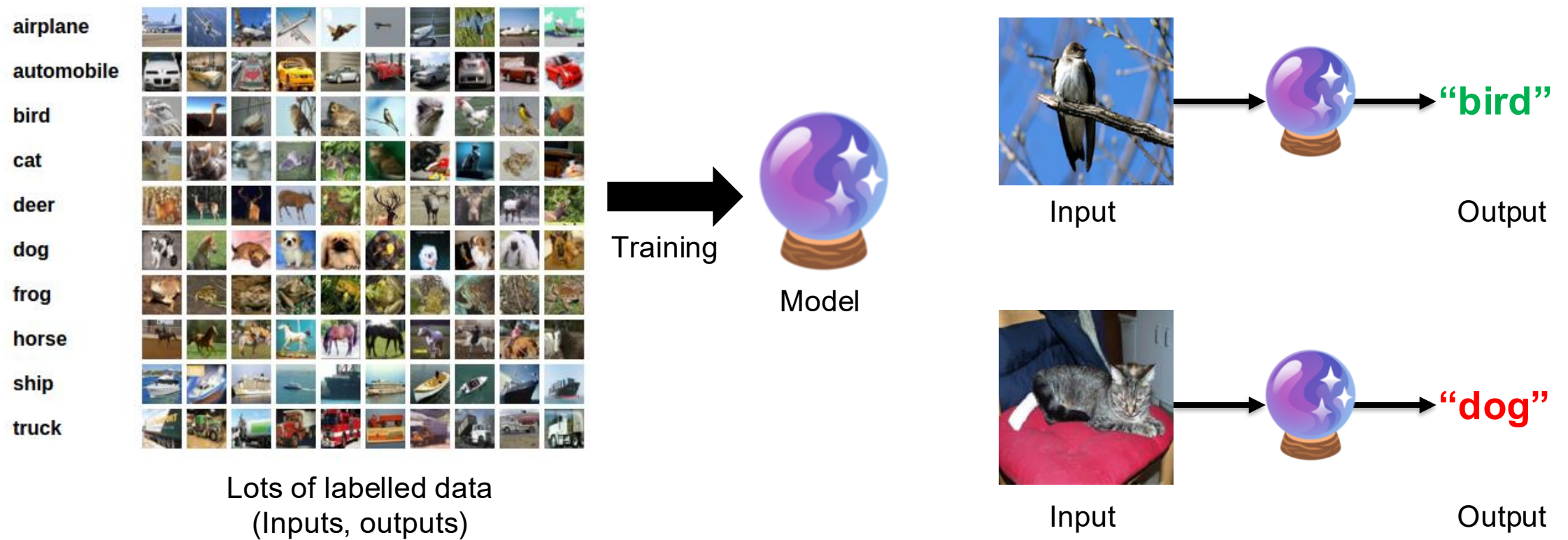
```
COVERALLS
66 Auth.reloadRoutes = async function (params) {
67   loginStrategies.length = 0;
68   const { router } = params;
69
70   // Local Logins
71   if (plugins.hooks.hasListeners('action:auth.overrideLogin')) {
72     winston.warn(['authentication'] Login override detected, skipping local login strategy.);
73     plugins.hooks.fire('action:auth.overrideLogin');
74   } else {
75     passport.use(new passportLocal({ passportToCallback: true },
76       controllers.authentication.localLogin));
77
78   // HTTP Bearer authentication
79   passport.use('core.api', new BearerStrategy({}, Auth.verifyToken));
80
81   // Additional logins via SSO plugins
82   try {
83     loginStrategies = await plugins.hooks.fire('filter:auth.init',
84       loginStrategies);
85   } catch (err) {
86     winston.error(['authentication'] $err.stack);
87   }
88   loginStrategies = loginStrategies || [];
89   loginStrategies.forEach((strategy) => {
```

# Tools for Static Analysis



# Machine Learning in One Slide

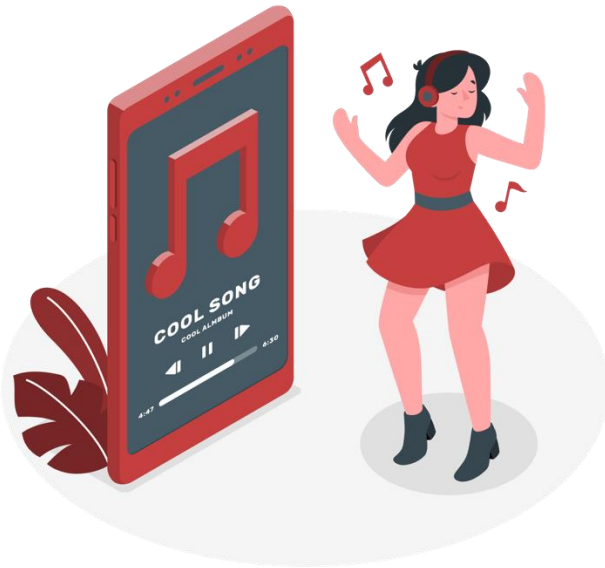
(Supervised)





# Activity: Choosing the Algorithm

Three Scenarios:



Scenario A: **Music Recommendation App**

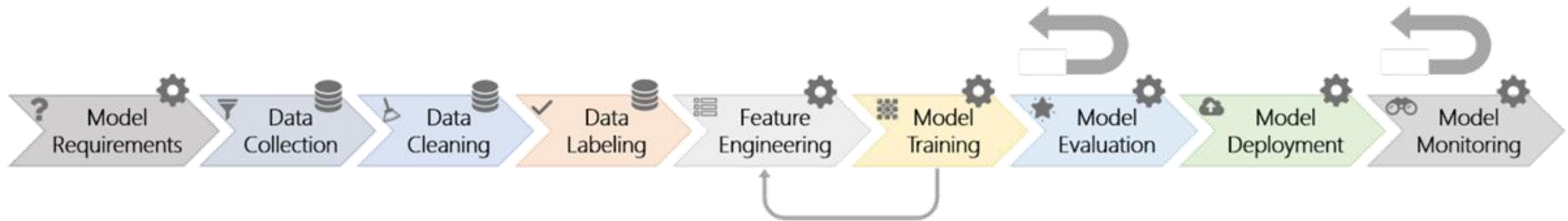


Scenario B: **Analyzing Sales Data**

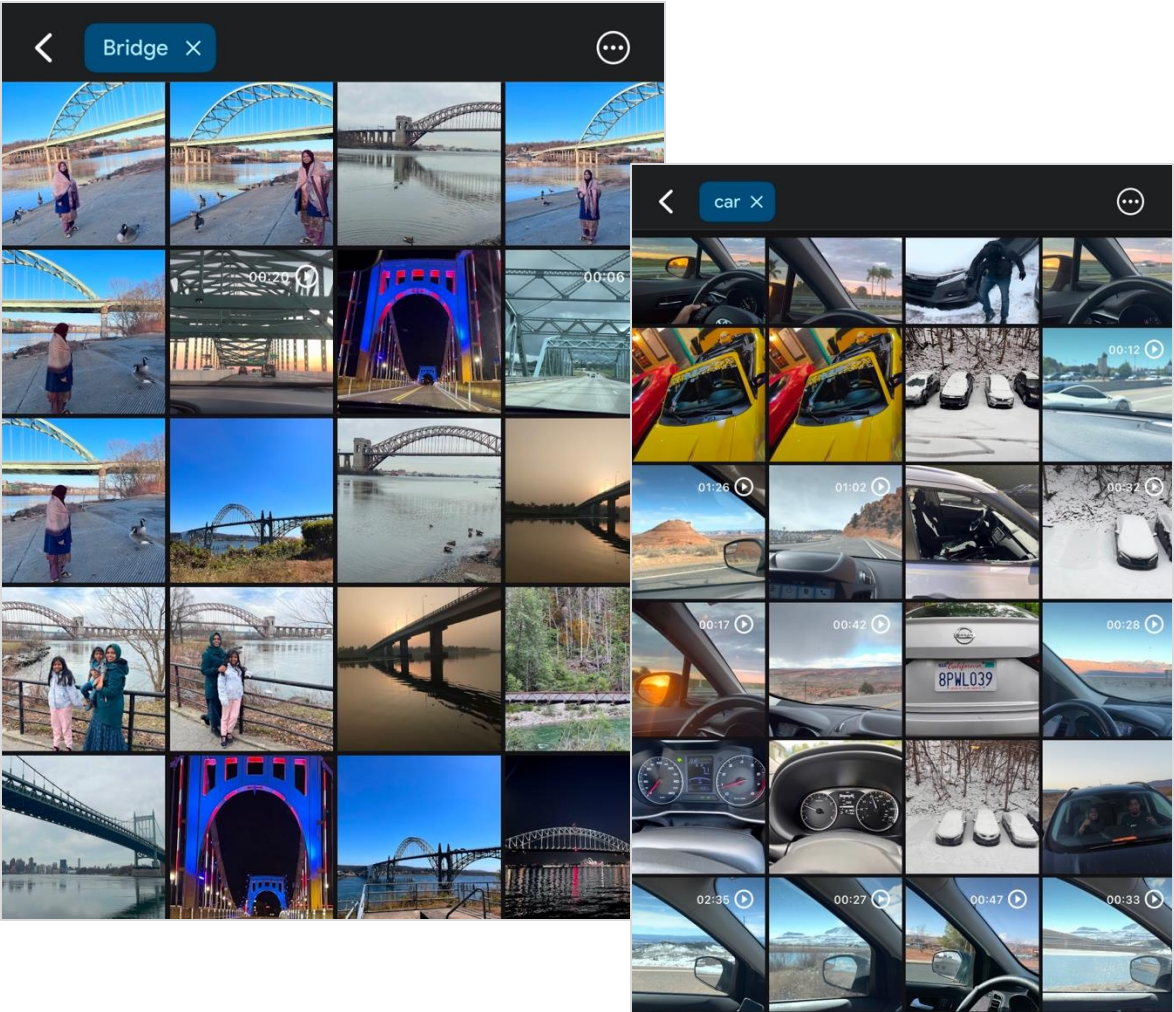


Scenario C: **Adaptive Game Difficulty**

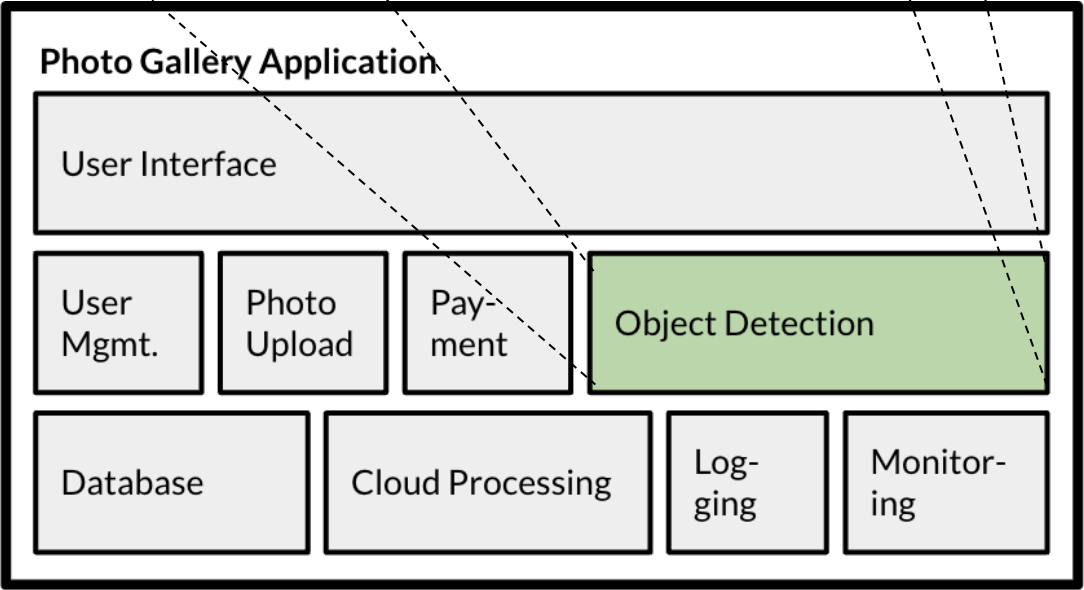
# ML Development Process (ML Pipeline)



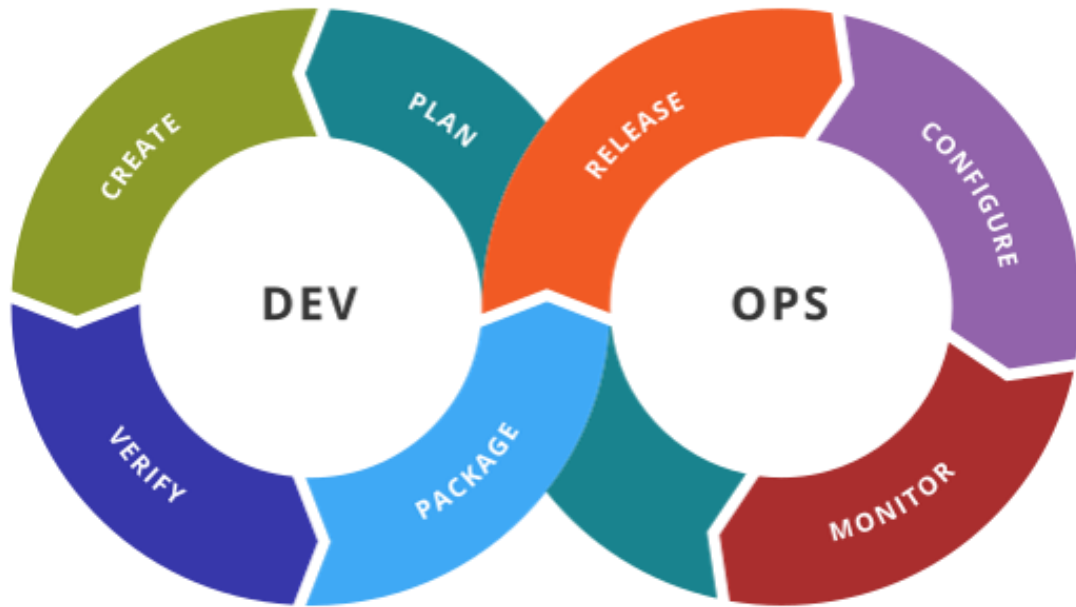
# ML Model vs. ML System



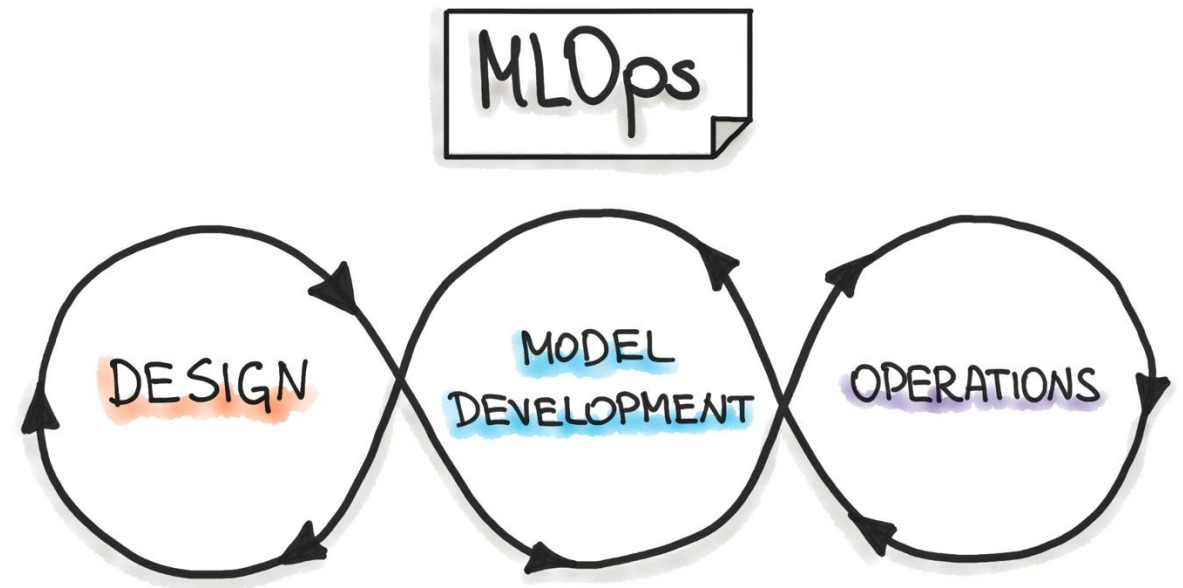
```
Object detection
File Edit View Insert Runtime Tools Help Cannot save changes
+ Code + Text Copy to Drive RAM Disk Editing
[5] module_handle = "https://tfhub.dev/google" module_handle: https://tfhub.dev/google/fast
detector = hub.load(module_handle).signature
INFO:tensorflow:Saver not created because there are no variables in the graph to re
INFO:tensorflow:Saver not created because there are no variables in the graph to re
[6] def load_img(path):
img = tf.io.read_file(path)
img = tf.image.decode_jpeg(img, channels=3)
return img
```



# DevOps and MLOps



Set of practices for continuous delivery; relies on heavy automation, e.g., continuous delivery, monitoring



Automation around Machine Learning pipeline, including training, evaluation, versioning, and deployment

**Think about MLOps as a specialized subset of DevOps for machine learning applications**

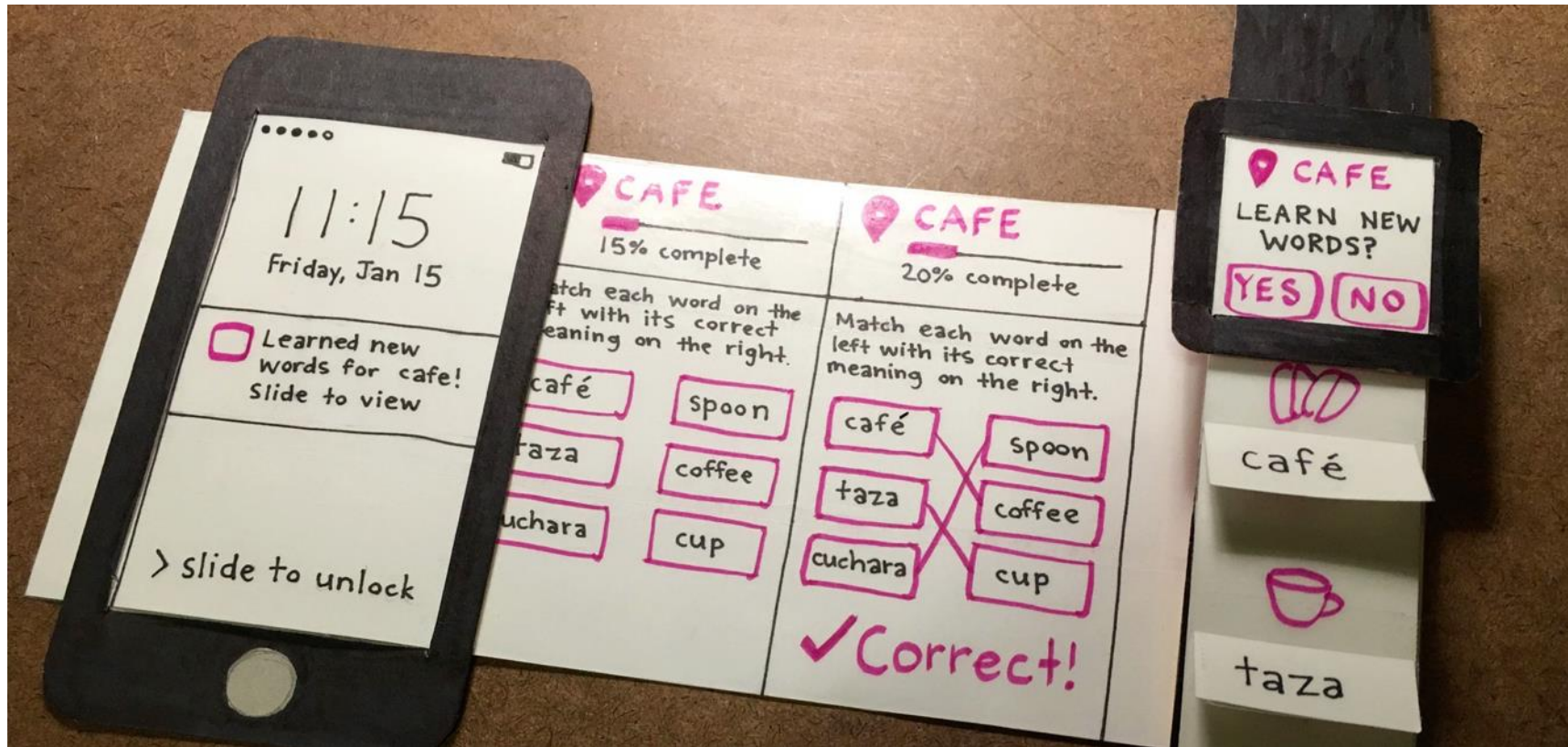








# Paper prototype



# Project 4: Architecting an LLM Integration

## Learning Goals

- Design a software architecture for a software system that incorporates a foundational large language model
- Decide the appropriate architecture for a given problem
- Address and describe the tradeoffs of different architectures
- Integrate pre-trained foundational large language models into an existing software system
- Evaluate the performance/quality of LLM powered features
- Design test suites that include unit, integration, and mock testing, to ensure robustness and reliability
- Engineer techniques to improve the performance of pre-trained models on application-specific tasks
- Decide whether an LLM powered solution is production ready



# What is Human Flourishing?

According to Harvard's Human flourishing program: Human flourishing is composed of five central domains: **happiness and life satisfaction, mental and physical health, meaning and purpose, character and virtue, and close social relationships.**

# Three questions to promote human flourishing

1. Does my software respect the **humanity** of the **users**?
2. Does my software **amplify positive** behavior, or **negative** behavior for users and society at large?
3. Will my software's **quality** impact the **humanity** of others?

## Why do we need difficult conversations?

When collaborating to accomplish a task, team members may need to engage in difficult conversations—discussions about issues that people might find uncomfortable or be hesitant to raise. These discussions might involve addressing behaviors that negatively impact the group, voicing an unpopular perspective, talking through a disagreement, or providing constructive criticism on a teammate's work. In teamwork, these are ubiquitous and necessary conversations, but often people avoid them or handle them poorly.

Take a look at the following reflections from CMU students. **What do these reflections suggest about difficult conversations?**

1. During a homework assignment, I realized that my partner had misunderstood the requirements and was approaching the problem incorrectly. Since we were close to the deadline, I knew I had to address it quickly. I called them and politely explained the assignment's expectations, walking through the key points to clarify the misunderstanding. At first, they seemed surprised, but once I showed them specific details from the assignment, they appreciated the clarification. We adjusted our approach, and in the end, our submission was much stronger.
2. In a previous team project, I noticed that one of my colleagues was submitting work that didn't meet the agreed-upon quality standards. Their sections often required extensive revisions, causing delays and frustration among the rest of the team. As the project progressed, the issue worsened. Other teammates also grew frustrated, and we ended up having to stay late to compensate for the extra revisions. Looking back, I wish I had spoken up sooner with a supportive approach, as it could have helped both the individual and the team as a whole.

## Examples

Options 1B and 2A on the first page of this handout both follow this framework.

Here are these two options broken down:

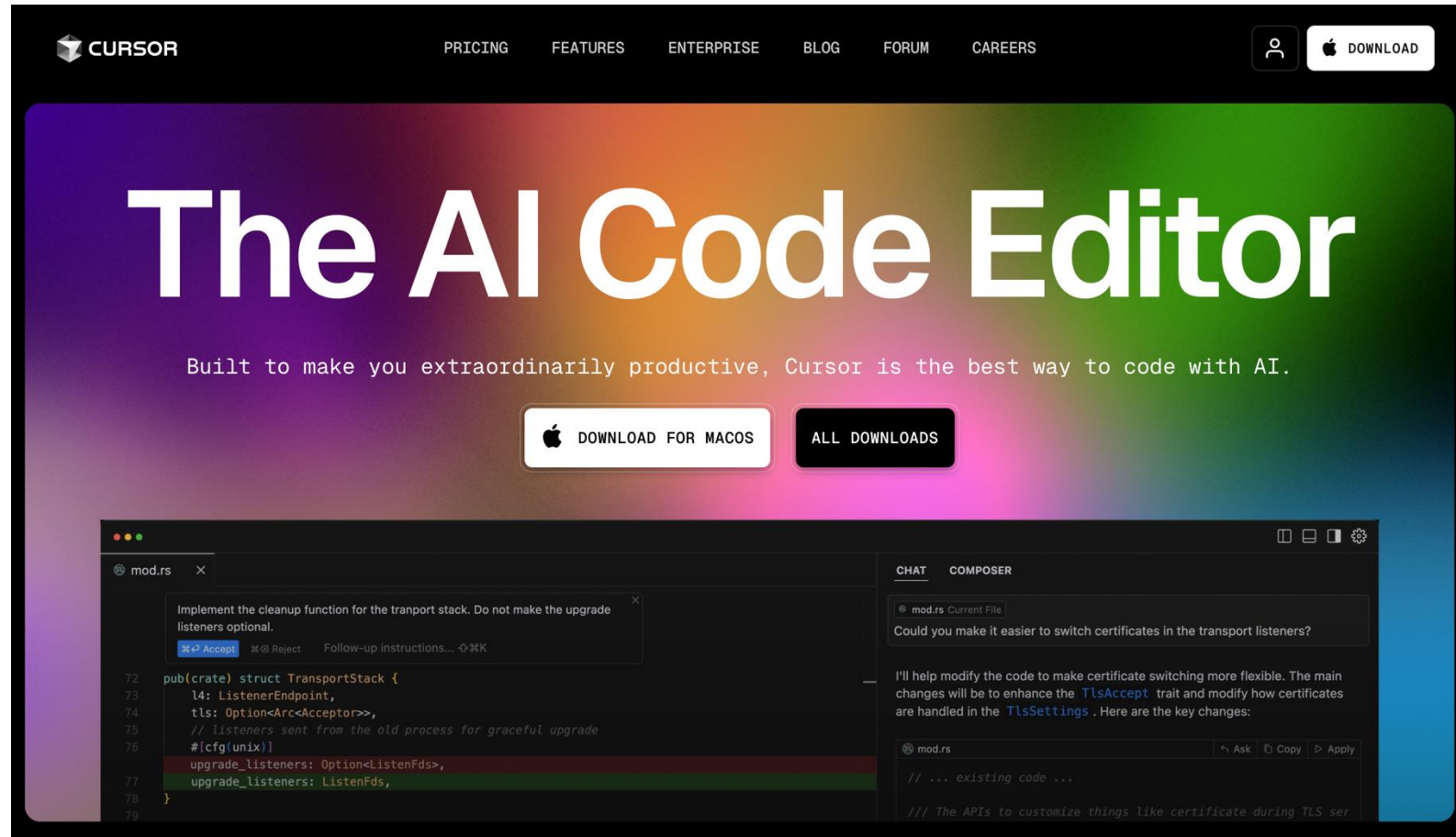
Step	Scenario 1	Scenario 2
00. OPTIONAL: Use a starter phrase	The reason for this conversation is to discuss challenges with communication in our team.	
01. Describe situation and behaviors	Last week team members sent you multiple messages asking for information and several are still waiting for responses.	Our current plans and milestones include feature X.
02. Explain the impact on shared group goals and values	Not responding promptly impacts our team's ability to move forward on other parts of the project, which is putting us behind schedule, and could ultimately result in a failed project.	I'm concerned that this feature adds a lot of complexity, which could ultimately distract us from doing a good job on the mandatory features described in the specifications document.
03. Communicate respect and curiosity for others' perspective	You may not have realized how much our team depends on your expertise in answering these questions.	I understand why we might want to include it, though I'd love to hear more.
04. Jointly identify a path forward	What would make it easier for you to give timely answers to our questions?	Could we return to our specifications document, review the goals we have for the project, and discuss the potential benefits versus risks of including feature X?

# How are you using AI for coding?





Let's try Cursor: <https://www.cursor.com>



# Reliably Releasing Software

## Foundations of Software Engineering

**Christopher S. Meiklejohn**

Software Engineer, DoorDash

Adjunct Faculty, Carnegie Mellon University

**Carnegie Mellon University**

# Goals



**Identify** the core challenges with modifying, testing, and deploying applications **safely**.



**Describe** and **differentiate** the possible techniques for ensuring **reliable** and **safe delivery of software at scale**.



**Practice** authoring a **safe rollout plan** for a new feature.

# Dark Launch

Solution: **Dark Launch**

## Rollout with Features Dark

Perform rollout of code at the “same” existing version with all new features turned “off” – no-op rollout.

## Incremental Ramp of Flag

Incrementally enable feature to users based on percentage and roll out to employee (or other limited cohort first) for early detection (*i.e., dogfooding.*)

## Rollback: First Response

Ensure that code can be rolled back immediately on the first indication of issue.

## Rolling Upgrade with Dark Feature



## Incremental Feature Release

Remember to write tests with the feature flag = **false** and **true** prior to rollout!



# Databases: What's Hard About This?

We have one database schema, **how do we change it?**  
(recall: we have to add a new field called *starred*)

## No Rolling Upgrades

Can't synchronize rolling upgrade between app + database, no rolling upgrade for DB, even schema changes in distributed databases are atomic across nodes.

In short: changes are **atomic**.

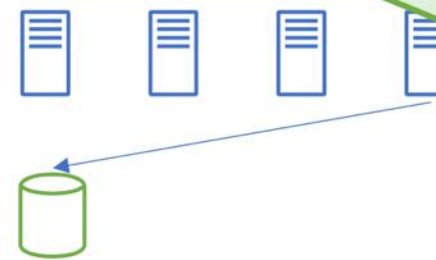
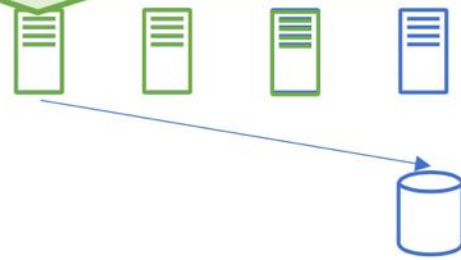
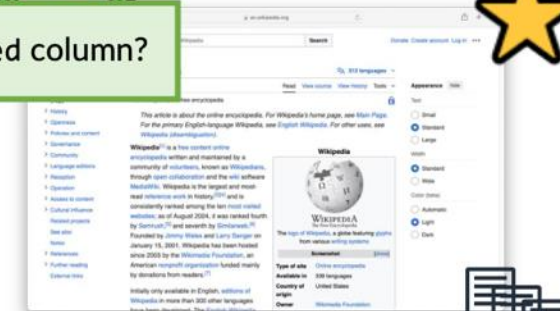
New version might be **incompatible with old DB**  
(i.e., access *starred* before there.)

## Problems During Rolling Upgrade/Release

What type of problems does a **rolling upgrade of our app code** introduce if our DB change takes effect immediately?

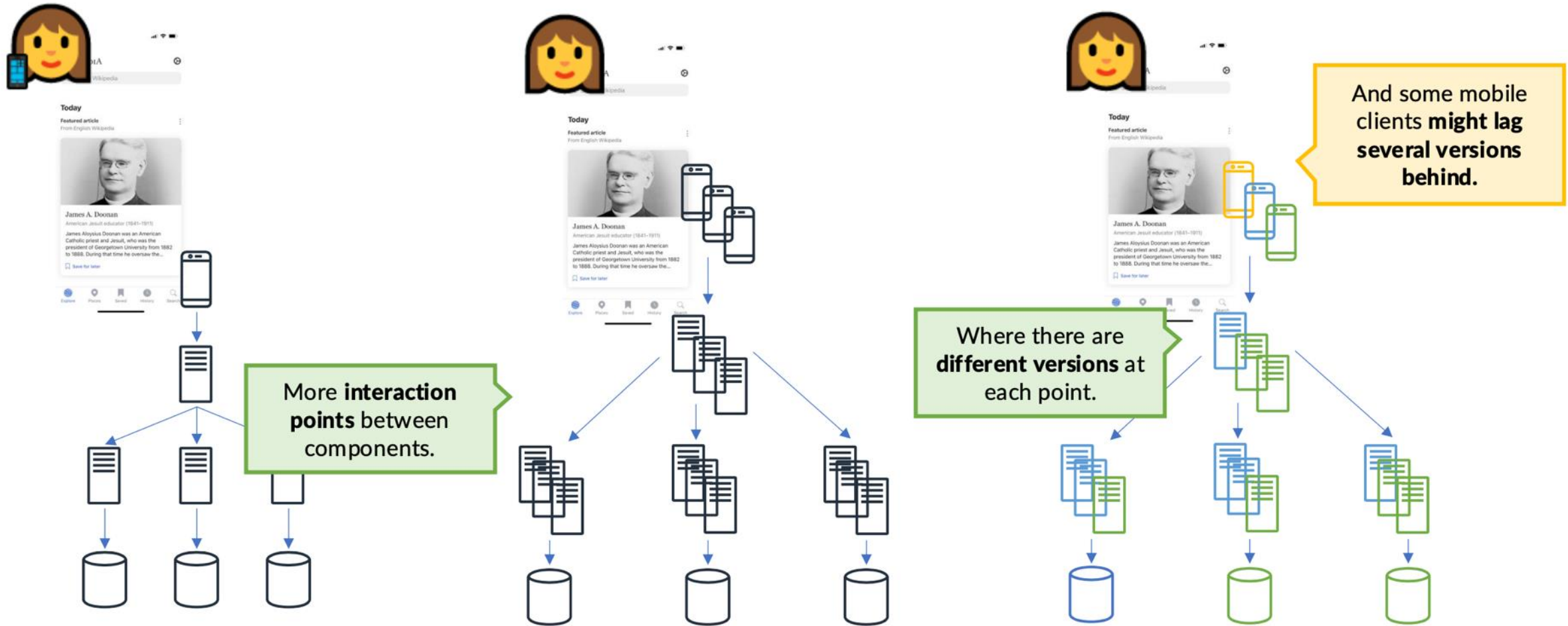
What type is the starred column?

Old version might be **incompatible with new DB version**.  
What scenarios might this be?

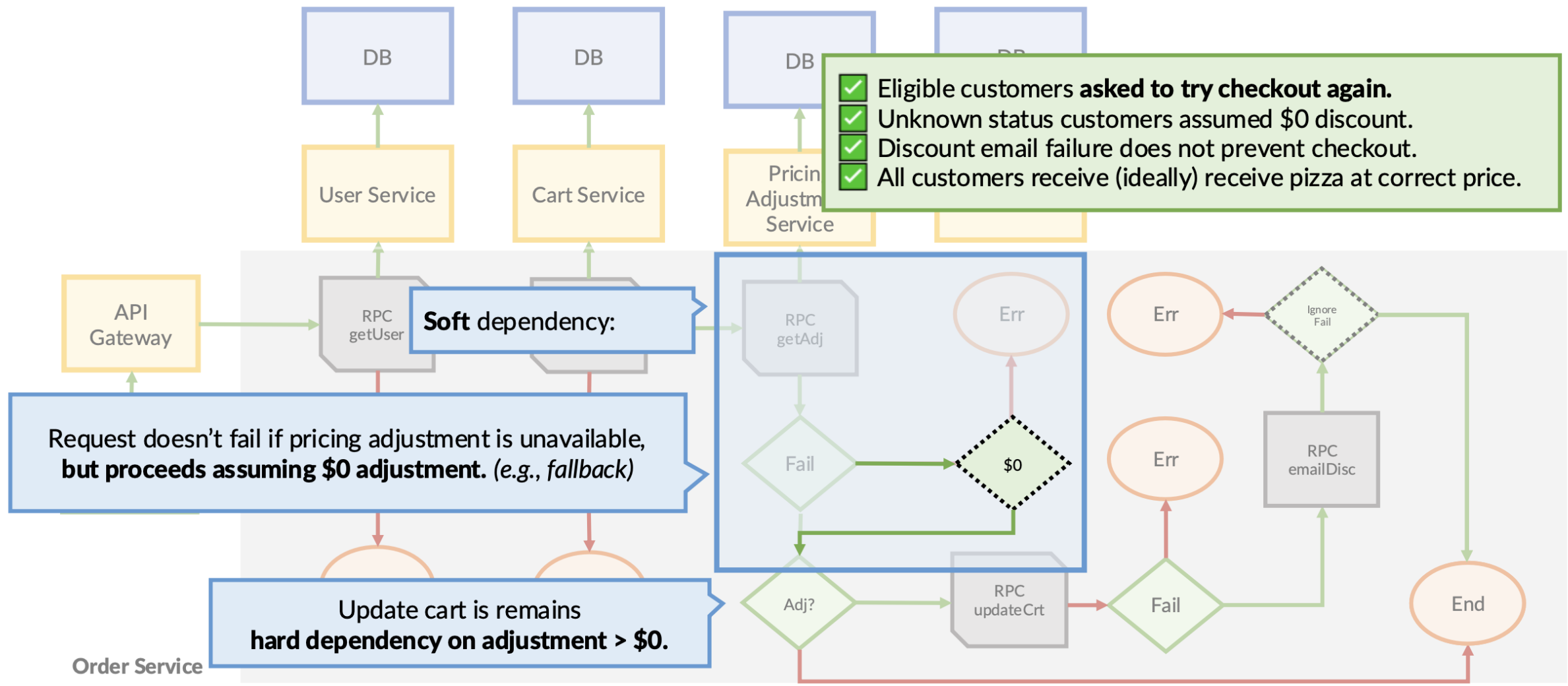




# Revisiting: Wikipedia



# Purchase: Soft Dependencies with Fallbacks



# Project 5: Open Source Excursion

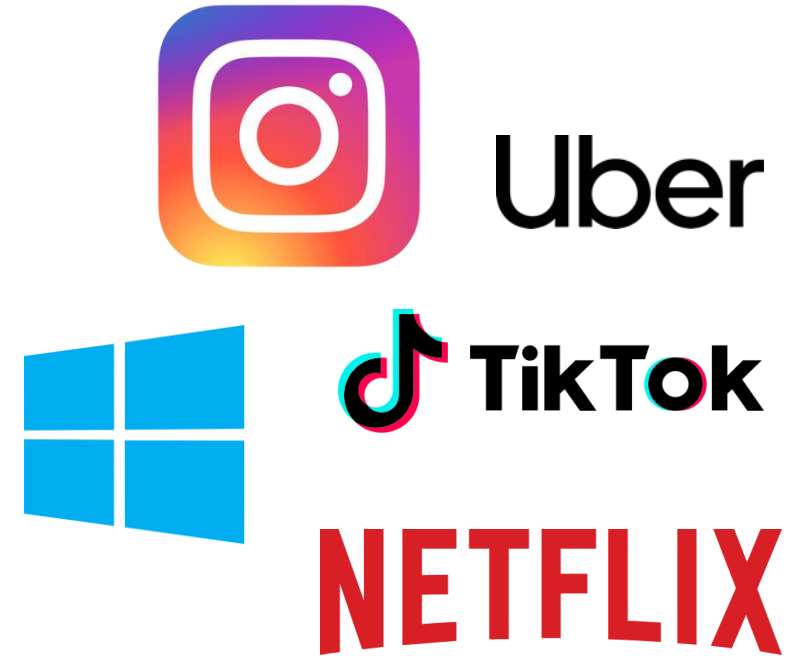
## Learning Goals

- Holistically apply software engineering methods in the context of a real-world problem, including process, requirements, architecture, measurement, and quality assurance
- Gain broad and deep exposure to the culture and practices of open-source communities
- Understand commonly used infrastructure used in open-source, and how to choose infrastructure when starting a new open-source project
- Engage with an open-source community
- Identify process issues and suggest improvements in real-world projects, including communication, collaboration, tooling, quality assurance, formal and informal rules and policies
- Coordinate within a team and adopt practices for efficient teams
- Understand a project's architecture and design and make a decision about the feasibility of a proposed task
- Divide and schedule work within a project
- Discuss how agile practices affect development
- Discuss business concerns and business models of software development

## Open-source



## Proprietary



# Free software as a Philosophy

- “Free as in Speech, not as in beer”

Richard Stallman's Free Software Foundation — free as in liberties

- Freedom 0: *run code as you wish, for any purpose*
- Freedom 1: *study how code works, and change it as you wish*
- Freedom 2: *redistributed copies (of original) so you can help others*
- Freedom 3: *distribute copies of your modified version to others*



Richard M Stallman (Licensed under GFDL)




# Which license to choose?

← → ↻ 🏠 🔒 choosealicense.com

## Choose an open source license

An open source license protects contributors and users. Businesses and savvy developers won't touch a project without this protection.


{ Which of the following best describes your situation? }



**I need to work in a community.**

Use the [license preferred by the community](#) you're contributing to or depending on. Your project will fit right in.


If you have a dependency that doesn't have a license, ask its maintainers to [add a license](#).



**I want it simple and permissive.**

The [MIT License](#) is short and to the point. It lets people do almost anything they want with your project, like making and distributing closed source versions.

[Babel](#), [.NET](#), and [Rails](#) use the MIT License.



**I care about sharing improvements.**

The [GNU GPLv3](#) also lets people do almost anything they want with your project, *except* distributing closed source versions.

[Ansible](#), [Bash](#), and [GIMP](#) use the GNU GPLv3.

{ What if none of these work for me? }

**My project isn't software.**

[There are licenses for that.](#)

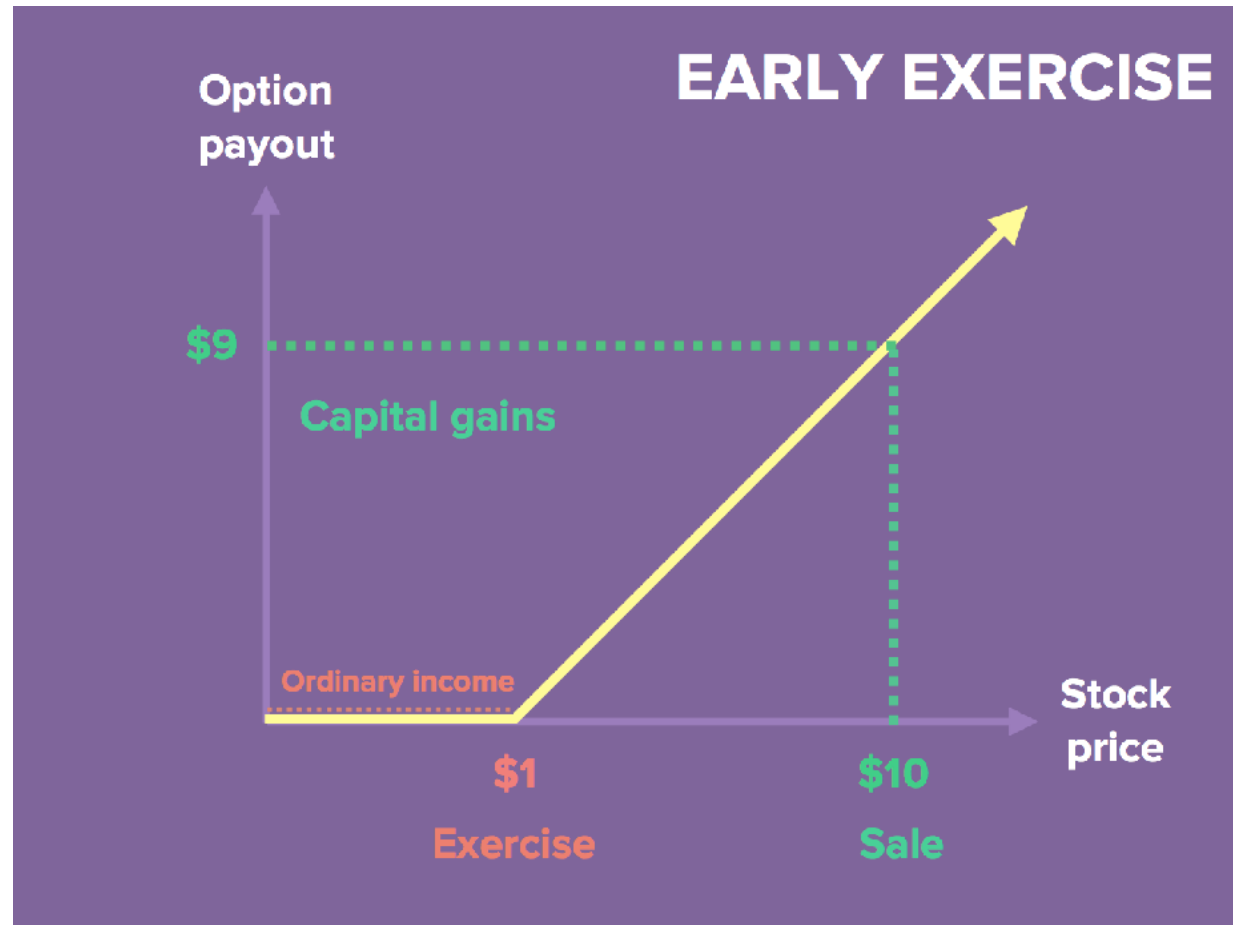
**I want more choices.**

[More licenses are available.](#)

**I don't want to choose a license.**

[Here's what happens if you don't.](#)

# Holding periods in Kerri's example



Risky because:

**There is no guarantee that your stock will ever be liquid, so you are paying to buy stock that could one day be worthless.**

# AMA

Ask the professors any question you want

