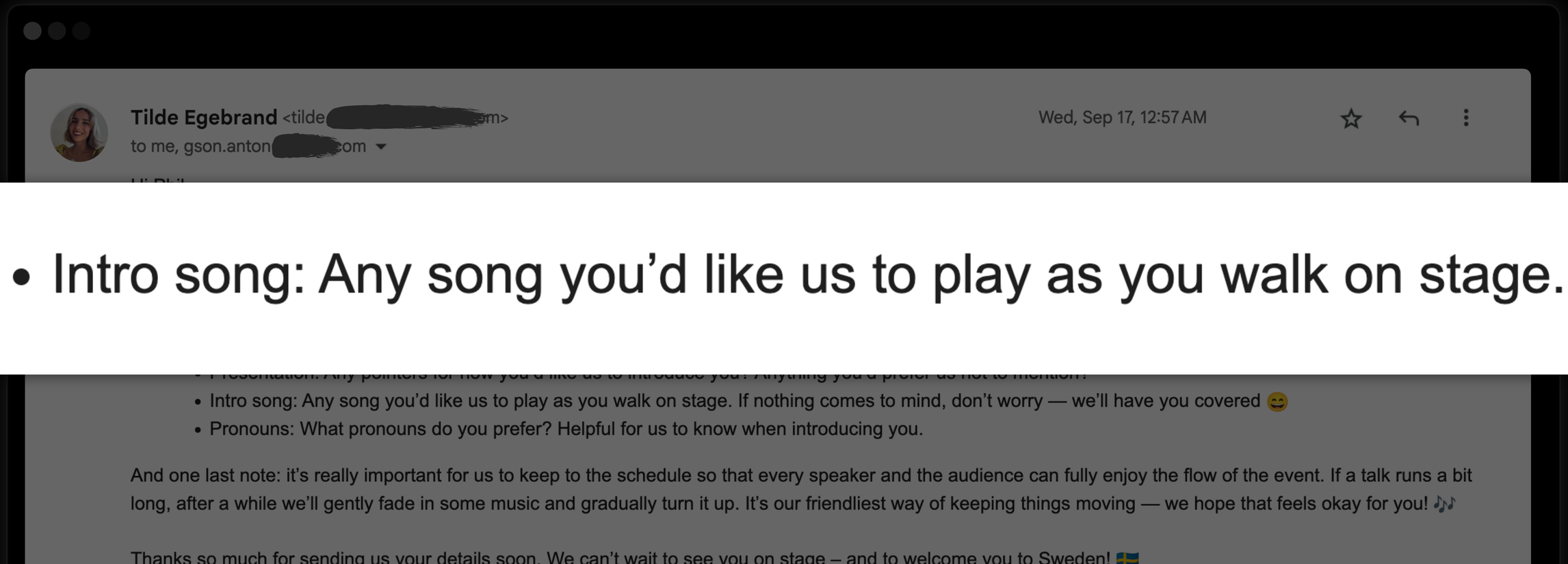
2nd October 2025
Nordic.js

The time traveller's guide to web technologies

Phil Hawksworth
he/him

DENO

17th September 2025



Tilde Egebrand <tilde[redacted]m>
to me, gson.anton[redacted]com

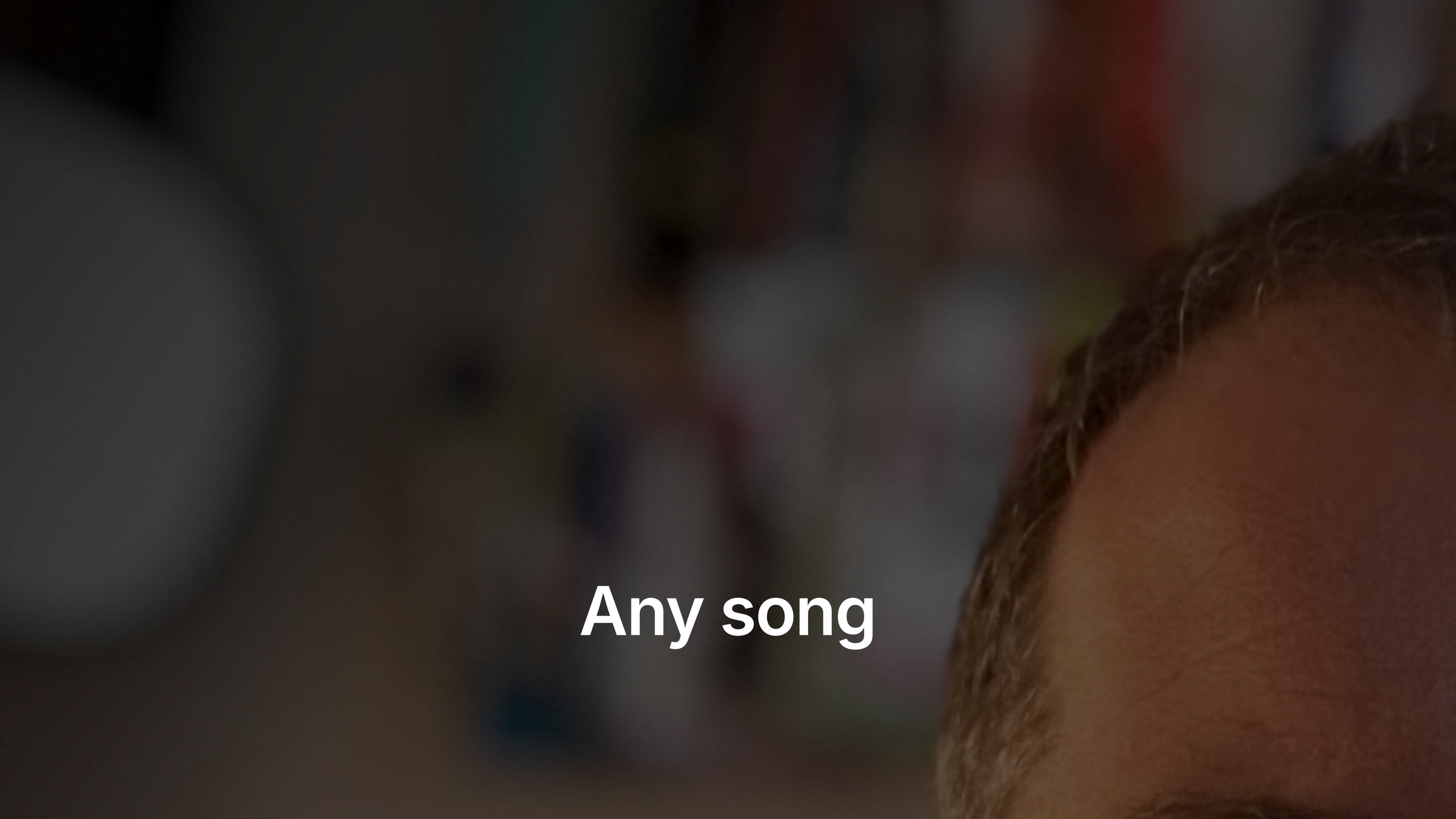
Wed, Sep 17, 12:57 AM

- Intro song: Any song you'd like us to play as you walk on stage.

- Intro song: Any song you'd like us to play as you walk on stage. If nothing comes to mind, don't worry — we'll have you covered 😄
- Pronouns: What pronouns do you prefer? Helpful for us to know when introducing you.

And one last note: it's really important for us to keep to the schedule so that every speaker and the audience can fully enjoy the flow of the event. If a talk runs a bit long, after a while we'll gently fade in some music and gradually turn it up. It's our friendliest way of keeping things moving — we hope that feels okay for you! 🎶

Thanks so much for sending us your details soon. We can't wait to see you on stage – and to welcome you to Sweden! 🇸🇪


Any song

18th September 2025

Phil Hawksworth
@philhawksworth.dev

he/him

Spiralling into self reflection and a crisis of confidence when asked nicely by a conference:

"What walk-on music would you like?"

I might need a FigJam board, a Notion document, and some focus groups to help me figure this one out.

Help me Bluesky friends. You're my only hope.

alex
@bates64.com

Dancing Queen youtu.be/tbCDFNRA-Wo

Theresa May dances on to the stage at the Tory party conference
YouTube video by Guardian News

youtu.be

OPPORTUNITY
OPPORTUNITY
OPPORTUNITY
OPPORTUNITY
OPPORTUNITY
A STRONG ECONOMY
IMPROVING EDUCATION
TACKLING INJUSTICES
MORE HOMES
The Guardian

18th September 2025

Phil Hawksworth
@philhawksworth.dev

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2nd October 2025
Nordic.js

The time traveller's guide to web technologies

Phil Hawksworth
he/him

DENO

10

Years

Nordic.js

10

Days

JavaScript

30

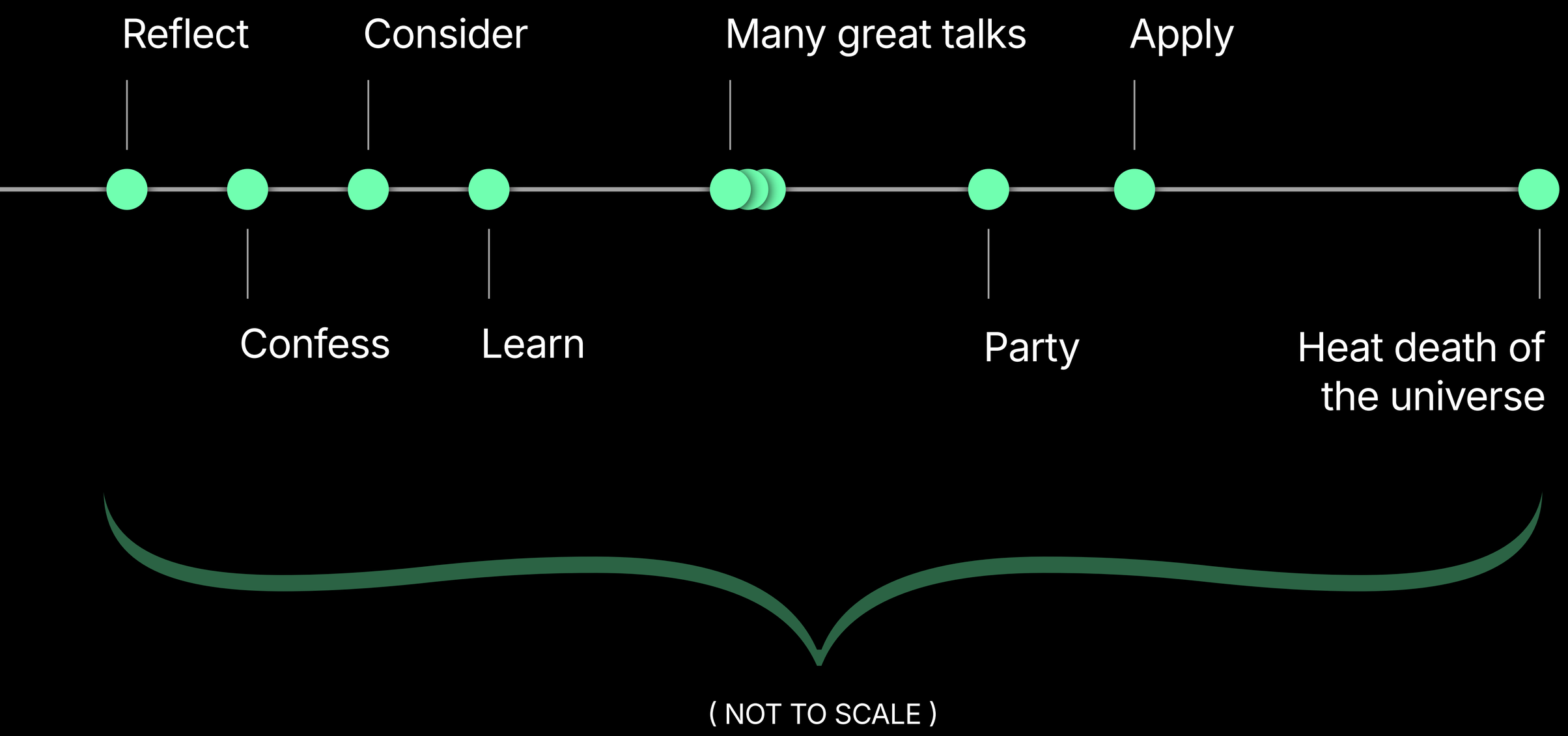
Years

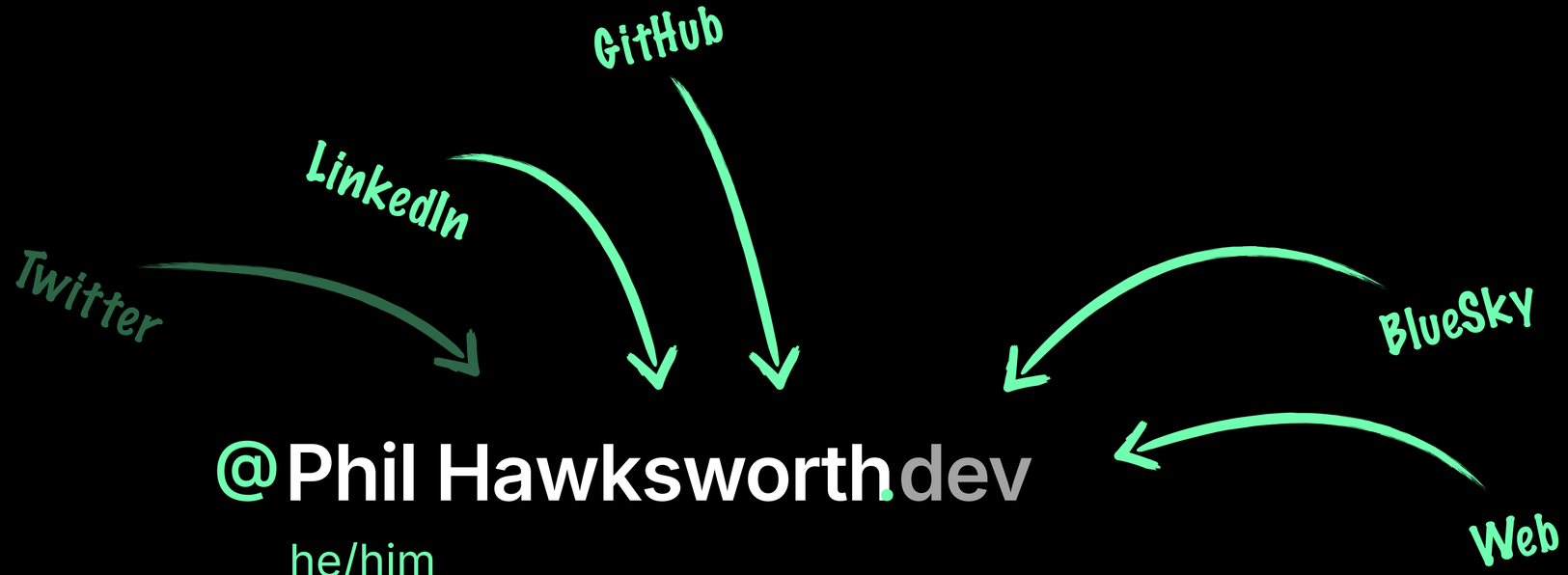
JavaScript

30

Minutes

Me


Reflect
Consider
Many great talks
Apply
Confess
Learn
Party
Heat death of the universe
(NOT TO SCALE)



@Phil Hawksworth.dev

he/him

Head of Developer Relations, Deno

In the beginning...

May 1995

Brendan Eich creates the first version of JavaScript

https://cybercultural.com/p/1995-the-birth-of-javascript/

Evolve
&
Improve

December 1995

Netscape and Sun Microsystems announce JavaScript

https://www.tech-insider.org/java/research/1995/1204.html

March 1996

Microsoft introduces JScript in Internet Explorer

https://cybercultural.com/p/1996-microsoft-activates-the-internet-with-activex-jscript/

March 1996

Netscape Navigator 2.0 is released with JavaScript 1.0

Netscape - [Version 2.01]

File Edit View Go Bookmarks Options Directory Window Help

Back Forward Home Reload Images Open Print Find Stop

Location: about:

What's New! What's Cool! Handbook Net Search Net Directory Software

NETSCAPE

Netscape Navigator (TM)

Version 2.01

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This software is subject to the license agreement set forth in the license. Please read and agree to all terms before using this software.

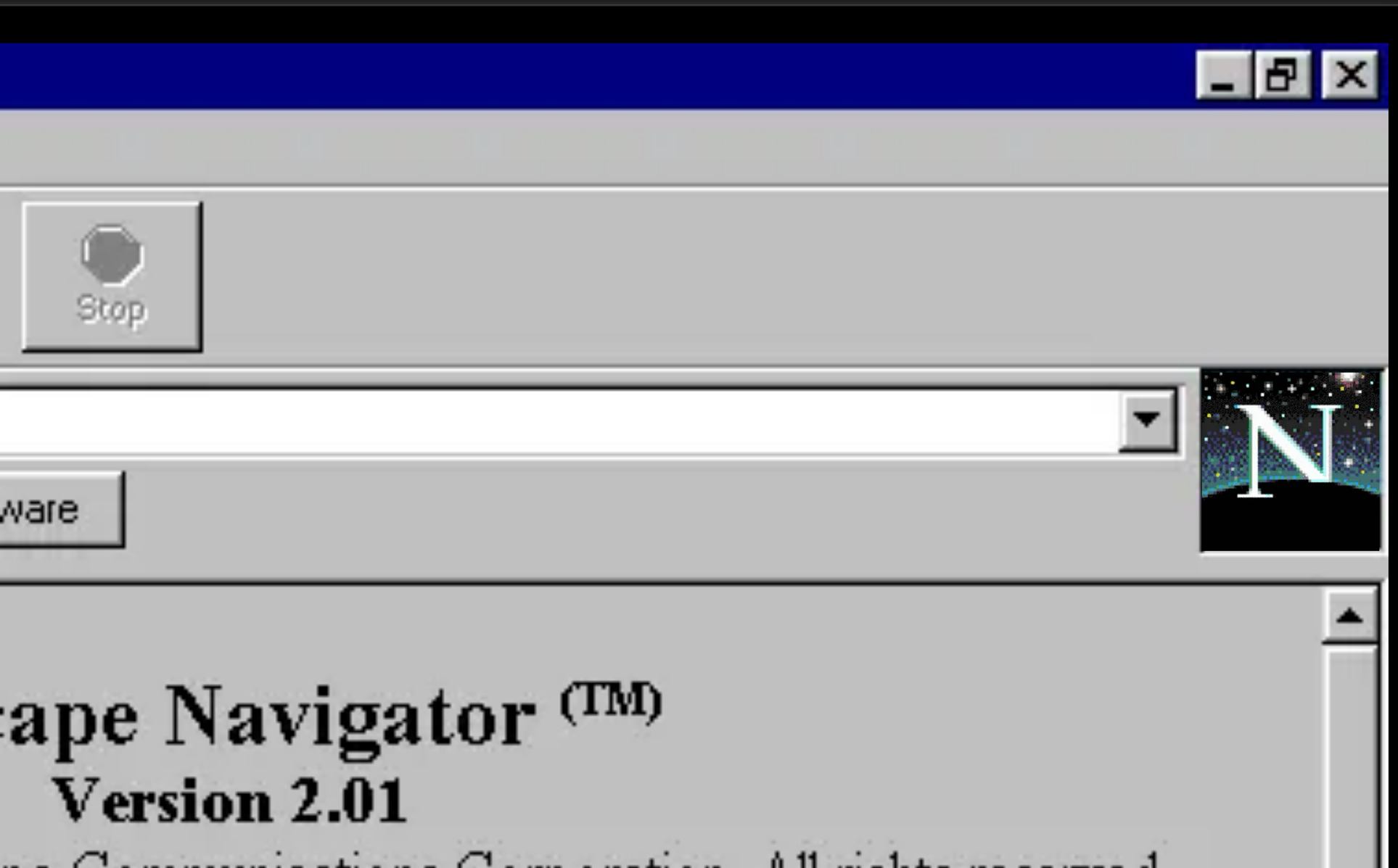
Report any problems through the feedback page.

Netscape Communications, Netscape, Netscape Navigator and the Netscape Communications logo are trademarks of Netscape Communications Corporation.

JAVA COMPATIBLE

Contains Java™ software developed by Sun Microsystems, Inc.
Copyright © 1992-1995 Sun Microsystems, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Document: Done


Stop
ware
ape Navigator (TM)
Version 2.01

```
if (document.layers) {
   // Do all the Netscape things
} else {
   // Do all the Internet Explorer things
}
```

June 1997

Netscape submits JavaScript to ECMA International

Technical Committees

TC39

ECMAScript

TC26

Acoustics

Technical Committees having completed their tasks

TC14 ✓

Paper sizes

TC34 ✓

Office devices

March 1999

Microsoft releases Internet Explorer 5

April 2001

The first JSON message is sent

https://twobithistory.org/2017/09/21/the-rise-and-rise-of-json.html

June 2002

JSLint is introduced

Ecosystem Enrichment

https://web.archive.org/web/20180226015758/https://codekitapp.com/help/jslint/

September 2002

Mozilla releases Phoenix 0.1 to compete with Internet Explorer

January 2003

Apple introduces Safari and WebKit

April 2004

A beta version of Gmail is released

February 2005

Jesse James Garrett coins “AJAX”

https://designftw.mit.edu/lectures/apis/ajax_adaptive_path.pdf

Ajax: A New Approach to Web Applications

adaptive path

by Jesse James Garrett
February 18, 2005

If anything about current interaction design can be called “glamorous,” it’s creating Web applications. After all, when was the last time you heard someone rave about the interaction design of a product that wasn’t on the Web? (Okay, besides the iPod.) All the cool, innovative new projects are online.

Despite this, Web interaction designers can’t help but feel a little envious of our colleagues who create desktop software. Desktop applications have a richness and responsiveness that has seemed out of reach on the Web. The same simplicity that enabled the Web’s rapid proliferation also creates a gap between the experiences we can provide and the experiences users can get from a desktop application.

That gap is closing. Take a look at Google Suggest. Watch the way the suggested terms update as you type, almost instantly. Now look at Google Maps. Zoom in. Use your cursor to grab the map and scroll around a bit. Again, everything happens almost instantly, with no waiting for pages to reload.

Google Suggest and Google Maps are two examples of a new approach to web applications that we at Adaptive Path have been calling Ajax. The name is shorthand for Asynchronous JavaScript + XML, and it represents a fundamental shift in what’s possible on the Web.

Defining Ajax

Ajax isn’t a technology. It’s really several technologies, each flourishing in its own right, coming together in powerful new ways. Ajax incorporates:

A confession

https://unsplash.com/photos/a-man-holds-his-head-while-sitting-on-a-sofa-BuNWp1bL0nc

I adore JavaScript
but I like to use as little of it as possible.

And ideally, no less.

— Phil Hawksworth, today
(hoping we can still be friends)

WEBCONSOLE

Library and utility functions.

```
document.getElementById(“some-id");
```

Library and utility functions.

```
function getById(id) {
  return document.getElementById(id) || null;
}
```

Library and utility functions.

```
function $(id) {
  return document.getElementById(id) || null;
}
```

March 2006

John Resig pushes the first commits to jQuery

https://github.com/jquery/jquery/commit/8a4a1edf047f2c272f663866eb7b5fcd644d65b3

jquery.com

jQuery
New Wave Javascript
jQuery is a new type of Javascript library. It is not a huge, bloated, framework promising the best in AJAX - nor is just a set of needlessly complex enhancements - jQuery is designed to change the way that you write Javascript.
New: The jQuery Mailing List is now up - join and discuss!
New: The jQuery Blog has just been opened - subscribe now!
What is jQuery?
jQuery is a Javascript library that takes this motto to heart: Writing Javascript code should be fun. jQuery acheives this goal by taking common, repetitive, tasks, stripping out all the unnecessary markup, and leaving them short, smart and understandable.
What does jQuery code look like? The quick and dirty:
$("p.surprise").addClass("ohmy").show("slow");
» Run

New: The jQuery Blog has just been opened - subscribe now!

What is jQuery?

jQuery is a Javascript library that takes this motto to heart: **Writing Javascript code should be fun.** jQuery acheives this goal by taking common, repetitive, tasks, stripping out all the unnecessary markup, and leaving them short, smart and understandable.

What does jQuery code look like? **The quick and dirty:**

```
$("p.surprise").addClass("ohmy").show("slow");
```

» Run

The above code snippet looks for all paragraphs that have a class of 'surprise', adds the class 'ohmy' to them, then slowly reveals them. Click the 'Run' button to see it in action!

Quick Facts:

- jQuery supports CSS 1-3 and basic XPath.

Writing JavaScript should be fun

— jQuery.com, 2006

An interactivity explosion

January 2007

The first Apple iPhone released

Reach & Habitats

iPhone
Contacts
Playlists
Artists
Songs
Settings
DEF 3
ABC 2
1
GHI 4
JKL 5
MNO 6
PRS 7
TUV 8
WXY 9
0

MENU
Ice Age 2

The way we interact with the UI
all seems so obvious
now

OMFG
DEVICES

Flash vs HTML5

IT'S DEV AGAINST DES

4TH MAR FRI

SEE IT LIVE IN THE RSA HOUSE'S 'GREAT ROOM'
TIX: ENHANCECONF.COM

PHIL THE HAWKSWORTH
HAWK

VS

STEPHEN THE WALLER
WALL

WHY

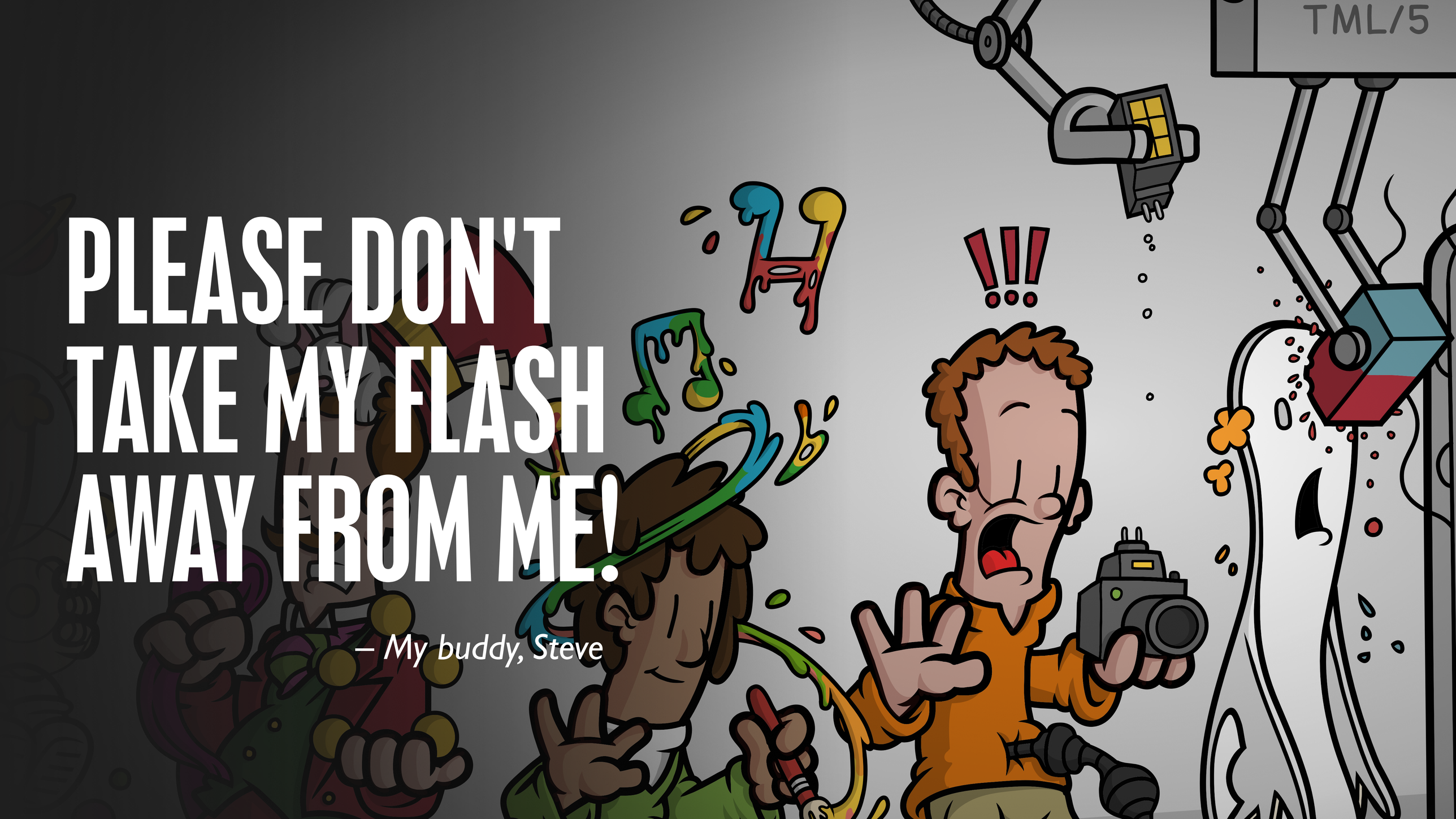
We care!

Suddenly stakeholders
gave a shit

Awareness and empathy

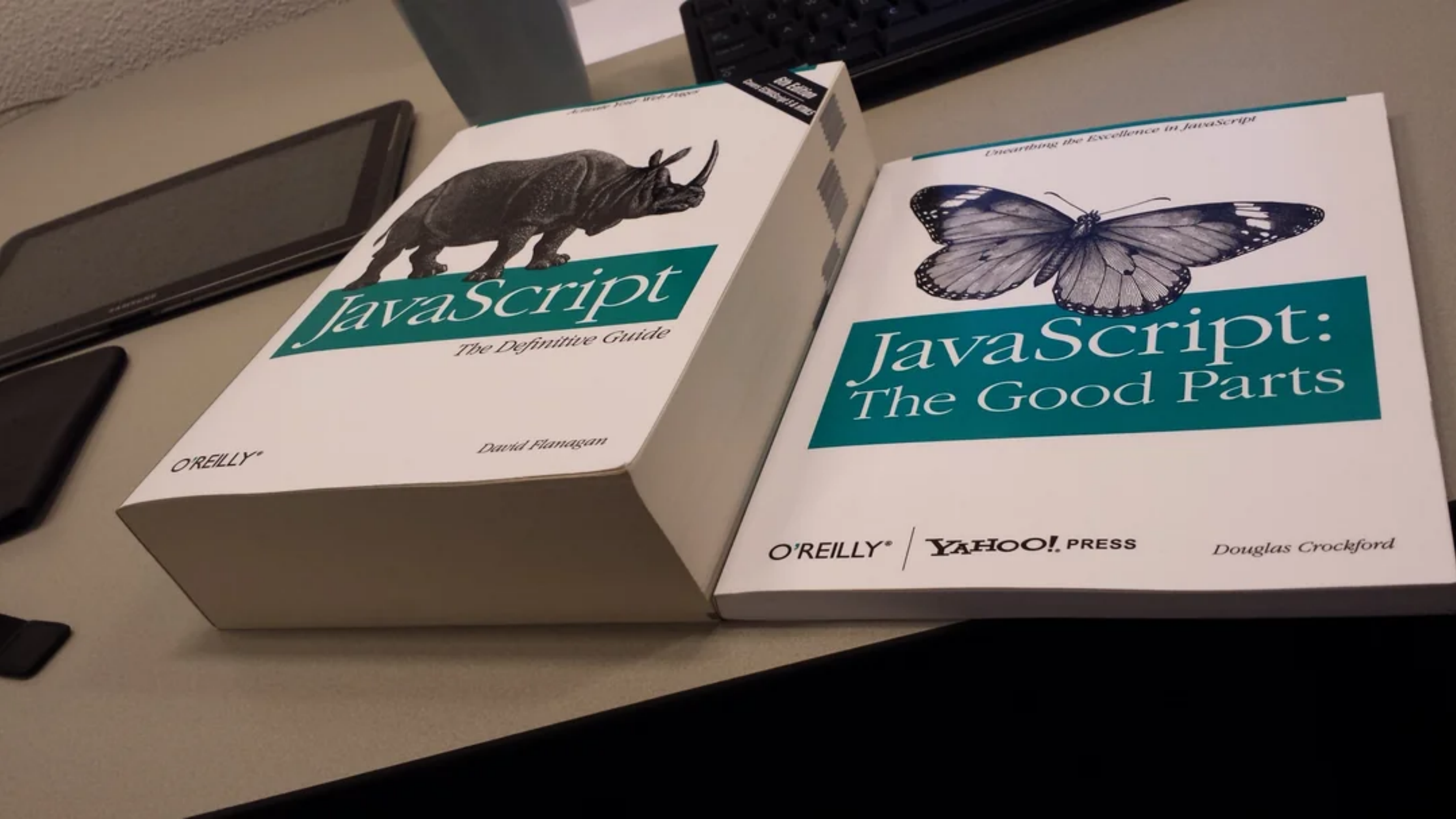
Play

ERASE
TML/5
JAVA
STRIP
!!!
FAILED
COMPLIANT
COMPLETE SINEW SUCTION 3.0


PLEASE DON'T
TAKE MY FLASH
AWAY FROM ME!
– My buddy, Steve
!!!
TML/5

May 2008

Douglas Crockford publishes “JavaScript: The Good Parts”


JavaScript
The Definitive Guide
David Flanagan
O'REILLY
JavaScript:
The Good Parts
Douglas Crockford
O'REILLY
YAHOO! PRESS

May 2008

Google releases the Chrome browser

https://googleblog.blogspot.com/2008/12/google-chrome-beta.html

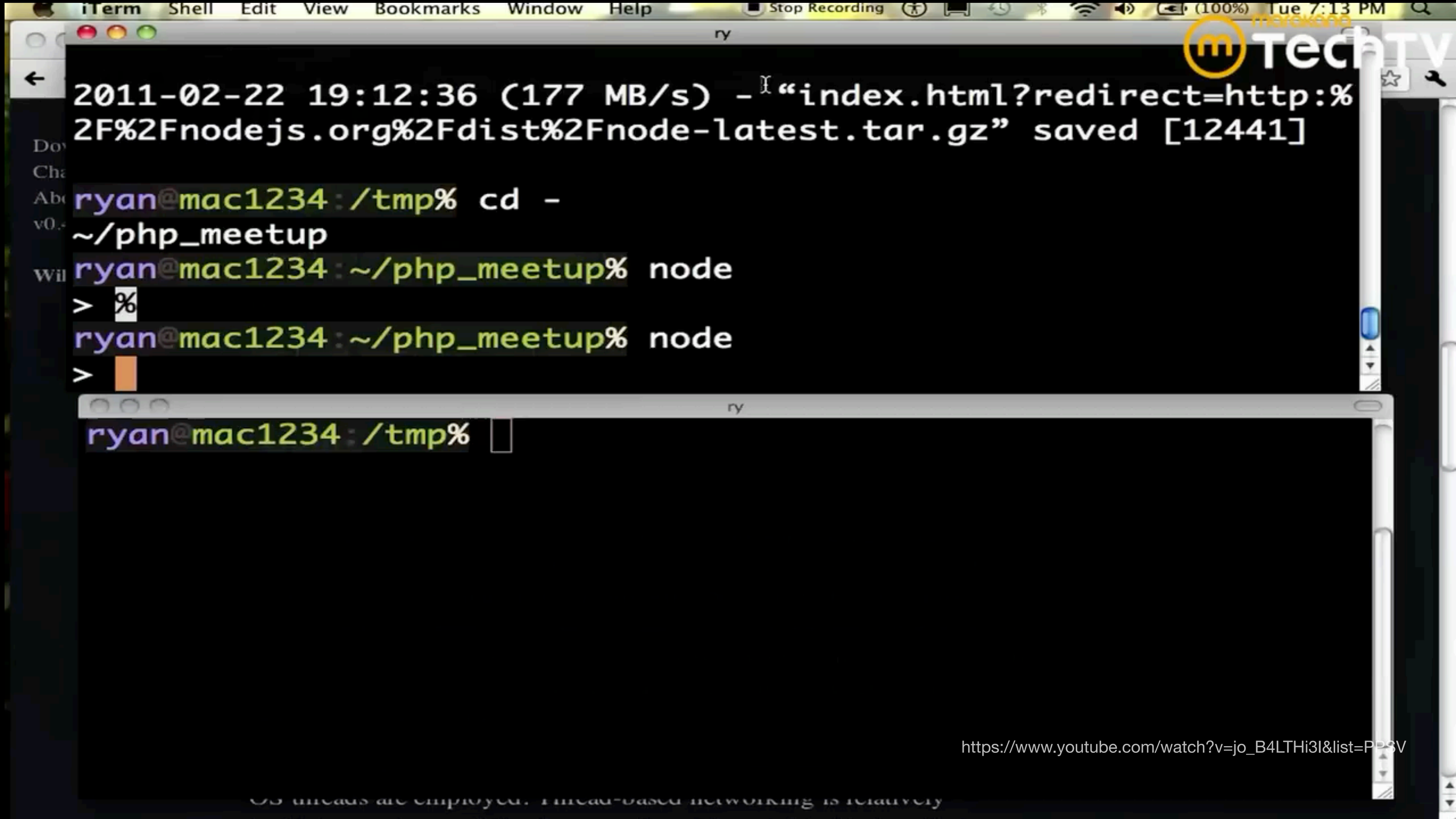
January 2009

CommonJS is created (originally named ServerJS)

March 2009

Ryan Dahl begins work on Node.js

Reach & Habitats


iTerm Shell Edit View Bookmarks Window Help
Stop Recording
(100%) Tue 7:13 PM
ry
2011-02-22 19:12:36 (177 MB/s) - “index.html?redirect=http:%2F%2Fnodejs.org%2Fdist%2Fnode-latest.tar.gz” saved [12441]
ryan@mac1234:/tmp% cd -
~/php_meetup
ryan@mac1234:~/php_meetup% node
> %
ryan@mac1234:~/php_meetup% node
>
ry
ryan@mac1234:/tmp%
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jo_B4LTHi3I&list=PP

April 2009

Oracle acquires Sun Microsystems

https://www.oracle.com/corporate/pressrelease/oracle-buys-sun-042009.html

JavaScript™

June 2009

The first commit on Express.js is created

August 2009

Jeff Atwood coins Atwood’s Law

Any application which **can** be written in javaScript,
will eventually be written in JavaScript

— Atwood's Law

January 2010

npm 1.0 is released

Ecosystem Enrichment

October 2010

AngularJS and Backbone.js are released

Ecosystem Enrichment

June 2011

Node.js is ported to Windows

Reach & Habitats

October 2012

Microsoft makes TypeScript 0.8 available for the public

Ecosystem Enrichment

May 2013

Facebook releases React

Ecosystem Enrichment

July 2013

Gulp is released

Ecosystem
Enrichment

GRUNT
GULP
BRUNCH
BELCH
BURP
COUGH
SNEEZE

the

HIPSTER TAX

the

HIPSTER TARRIF

@philhawksworth

Over Engineered

Over
Under Engineered

February 2014

Vue.js is released

Ecosystem Enrichment

October 2014

Meteor reaches 1.0

Ecosystem
Enrichment

November 2014

Facebook launches Flow

Ecosystem Enrichment

November 2014

Amazon announces AWS Lambda

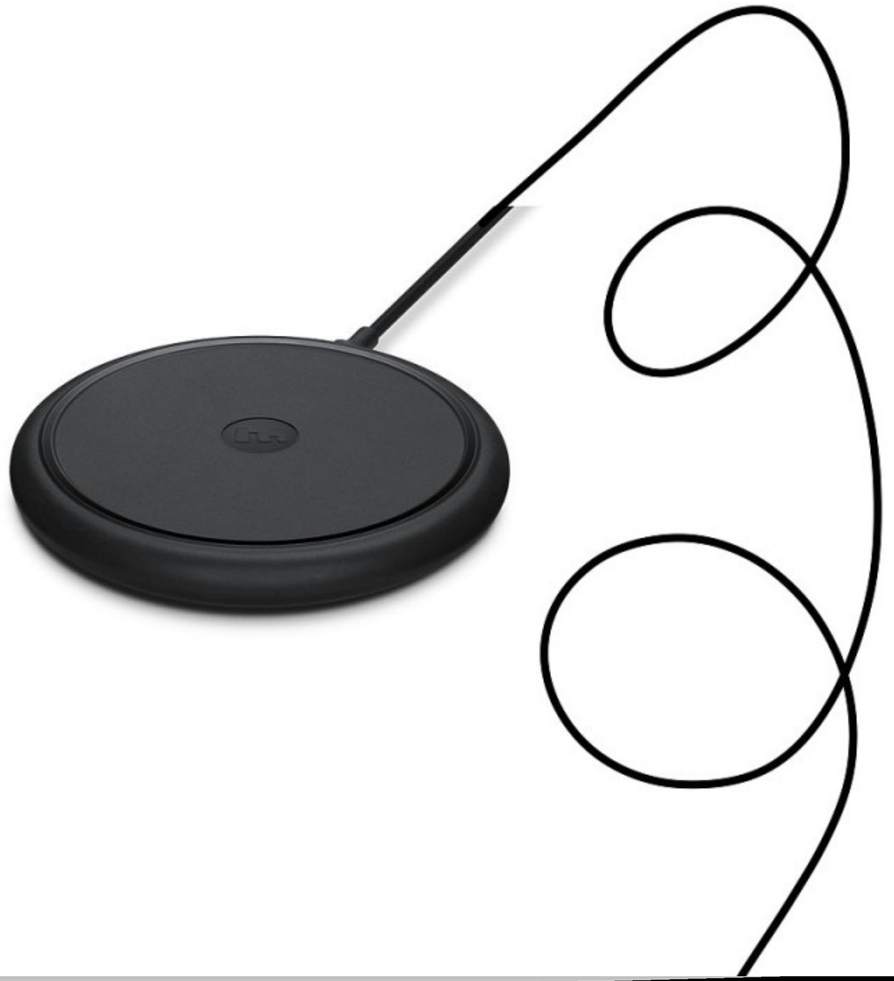
Reach & Habitats

https://press.aboutamazon.com/2014/11/amazon-web-services-announces-aws-lambda

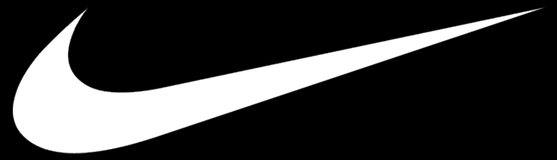
Serverless

ANKER

ANKER



Just write code



Just write code

July 2015

ECMAScript 6 is released (ES2015)

March 2016

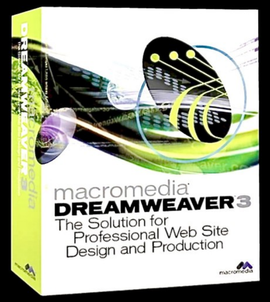
Azer Koculu removes Leftpad from npm

April 2016

Microsoft releases VSCode 1.0

I’m a user ‘til I die.

I’m a user ‘til I die.

I’m a 

user ‘til I die.

I’m a user ‘til I die.

I’m a user ‘til I die.

I’m a user ‘til I die.

I’m a user ‘til I die.

I’m a for the time being.

September 2016

Angular (Angular2) released

October 2016

Next.js 1.0 released

Some things move

Quickly

Some things move

Slowly

March 2017

The initial commit for the Temporal proposal is created

Because...

Working with time and dates
in JavaScript can be a
massive pain in the arse

— Brendan Eich

(citation needed)

March 2017

The initial commit for the Temporal proposal is created

April 2017

Prettier 1.0 released

September 2017

Facebook launches Yarn

September 2017

Cloudflare launches Cloudflare Workers

Reach & Habitats

June 2018

Ryan Dahl teases a new project in a talk about his regrets about Node

```
"node".split("").sort().join("");
```

May 2020

JavaScript makes it into space with SpaceX Dragon

Reach & Habitats

May 2020

Deno 1.0 released

September 2024

The legal battle against Oracle to #FreeJavaScript begins

javascript.tm

Update 2025/02/04: Oracle asks the USPTO to dismiss our petition. Read more

Update 2024/11/22: We've filed a petition to cancel with the USPTO. Read more

Deliver to:
Oracle Corporation
2300 Oracle Way
Austin, TX 78741
United States of America

Oracle, it's time to free JavaScript.

Dear Oracle,

You have long ago abandoned the JavaScript trademark, and it is causing widespread, unwarranted confusion and disruption.

JavaScript is the world's most popular programming language, powering websites everywhere. Yet, few of the millions who program

Sincerely,

Ryan Dahl - creator of Node.js

Brendan Eich - creator of JavaScript

Michael Ficarra - editor of the JavaScript spec

Rich Harris - creator of Svelte

Isaac Z. Schlueter - creator of npm

Feross Aboukhadijeh - CEO of Socket

James M Snell - member of Node.js TSC

Wes Bos - host of Syntax.fm

Scott Tolinski - host of Syntax.fm

Shu-yu Guo - editor of the JavaScript spec

Jordan Harband - emeritus editor of the JavaScript spec

Matt Pocock - author of Total Typescript course

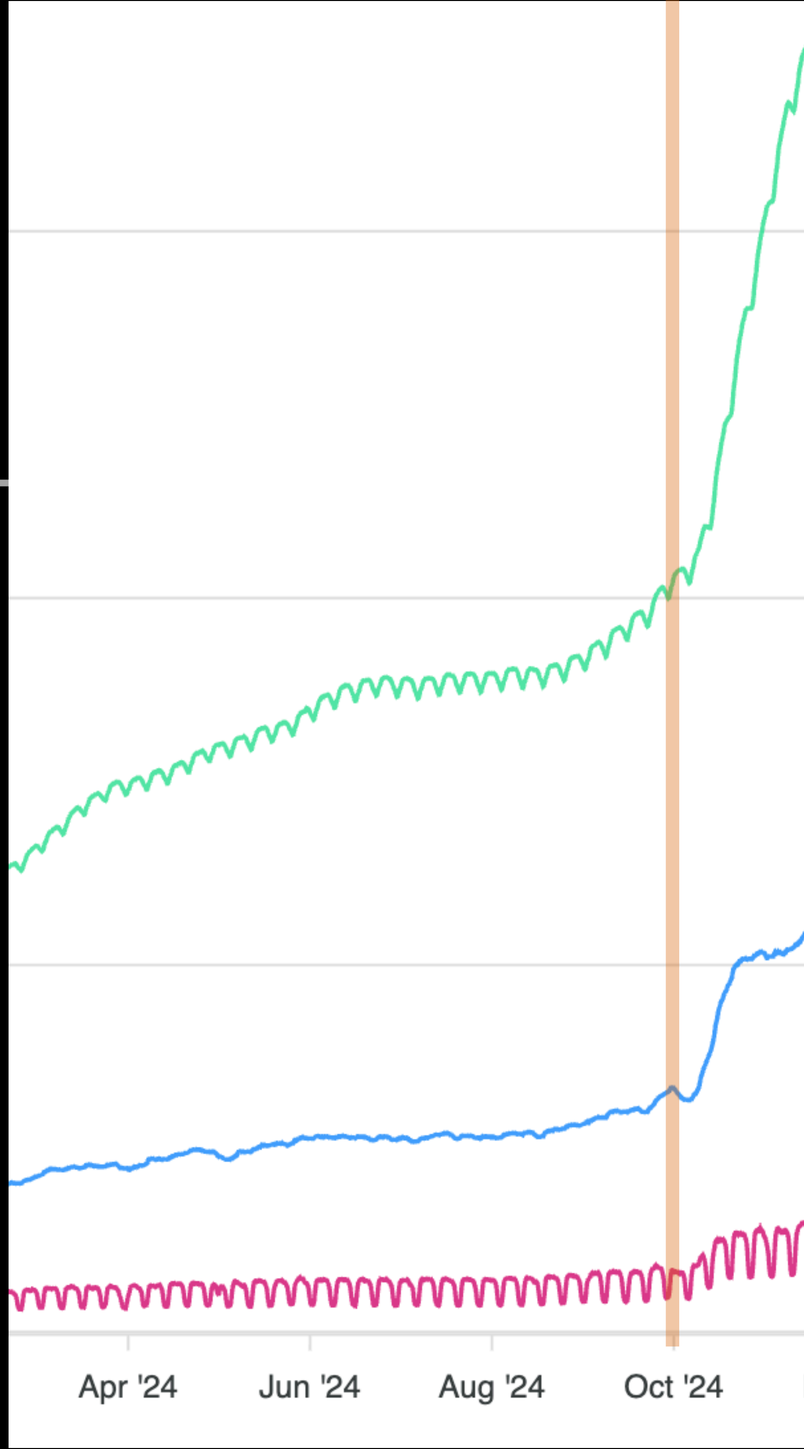
and 27,727 more members of the JavaScript community

Sign the letter

October 2024

Deno 2.0 released

and I join Deno



So?

Heat death of
the universe

We’re not done

Evolve
&
Improve
We do that
Ecosystem
Enrichment
Reach & Habitats

WHY

We care!

We own JavaScript™

We drive it forward

We use it to do incredible things

We can use it responsibly

We can use it whimsically

deno.com/blog/history-of-javascript

A Brief History of JavaScript

javascript.tm

Open letter to Oracle

bsky.app/profile/philhawksworth.dev

Phil Hawksworth on Bluesky

Thanks.

philhawksworth.dev

Deno

findthat.at / time