Not Invented Here

Things Rails Didn’t Innovate

Caleb Thompson

We'll talk a bit about Rails

But that's my elevator pitch

The point:

You can be more effective

at your job

by not innovating

Rails didn’t really invent much at all.

Its success is just a matter of **execution** and **delivery**

Great ideas brought together in new ways

How we got here

GIFTS
FOR DAD

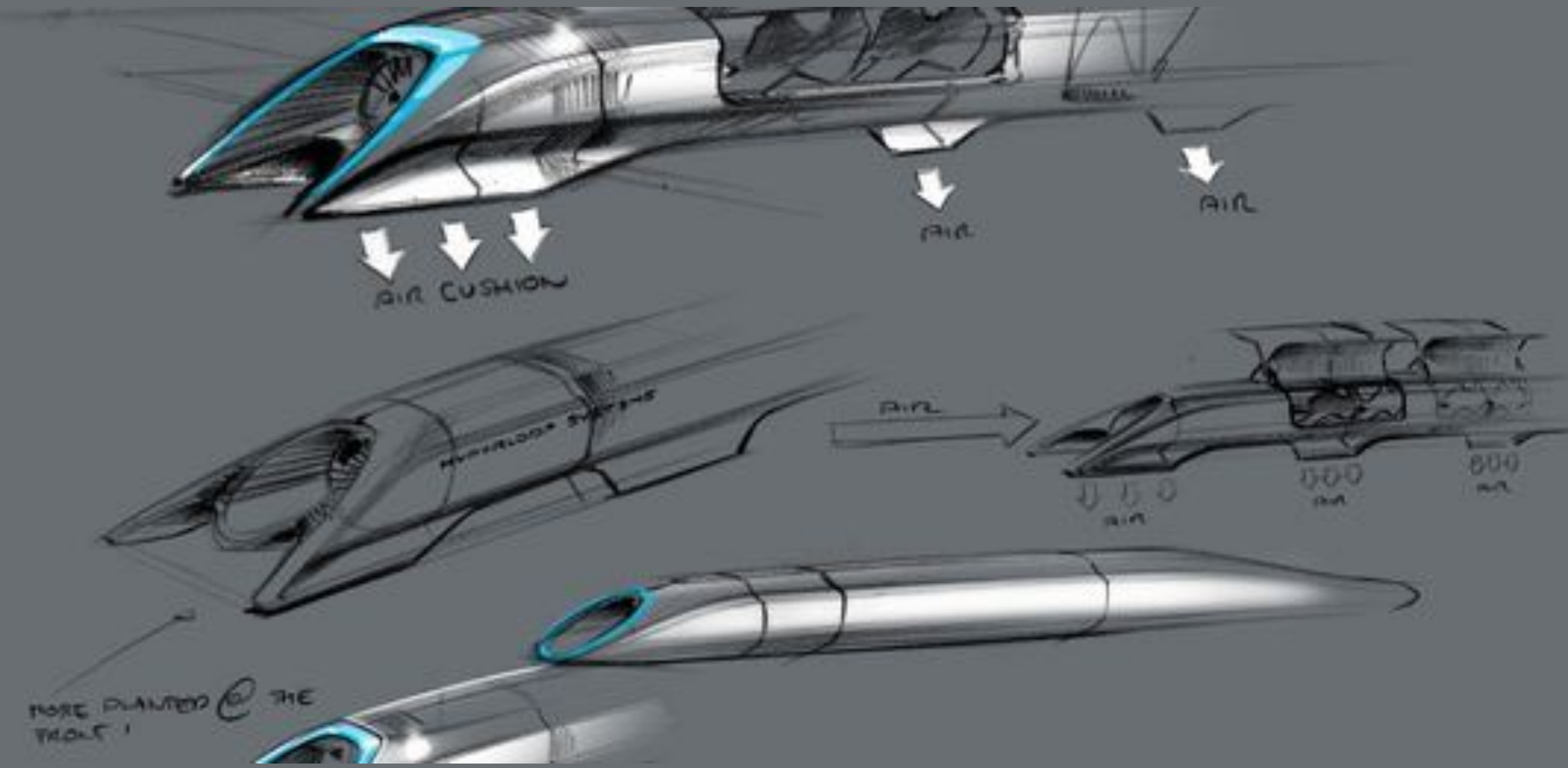
Neue S-Klasse.

14
5
T. FREEMAN

ROYAL ROAD

Zurück
68 Jul St.
#405
11201
Deutsche Post
HUB 55
United States Postal Service
Customs Declaration
CN 22
Book
INSUFFICIENT ADDRESS
ATTEMPTED NOT KNOWN
NO SUCH NUMBER/ STREET
NOT DELIVERABLE AS ADDRESSED
- UNABLE TO FORWARD
OTHER
RTS
RETURN TO SENDER
NY, 11201
$10.35
DHL
ZIP: 11
1.334.639 8
Deutsche Post
bitte nicht bekleben
PÜB

A
ICE
DB


AIR CUSHION
AIR
AIR
AIR
AIR
MORE PLANTED @ THE FRONT !

Haha, what?

They weren’t reinventing the wheel

Rails stole ideas

...but which ones?

What do we think of when we think Rails?

Model
View
Controller was conceived as a general solution to the problem of developers controlling a large and complex data set.

The essential purpose of MVC
is to bridge the gap between
the human user's mental model
and the digital model that exists
in the computer.

Trygve Reenscrag
XEROX PARC 1978-79

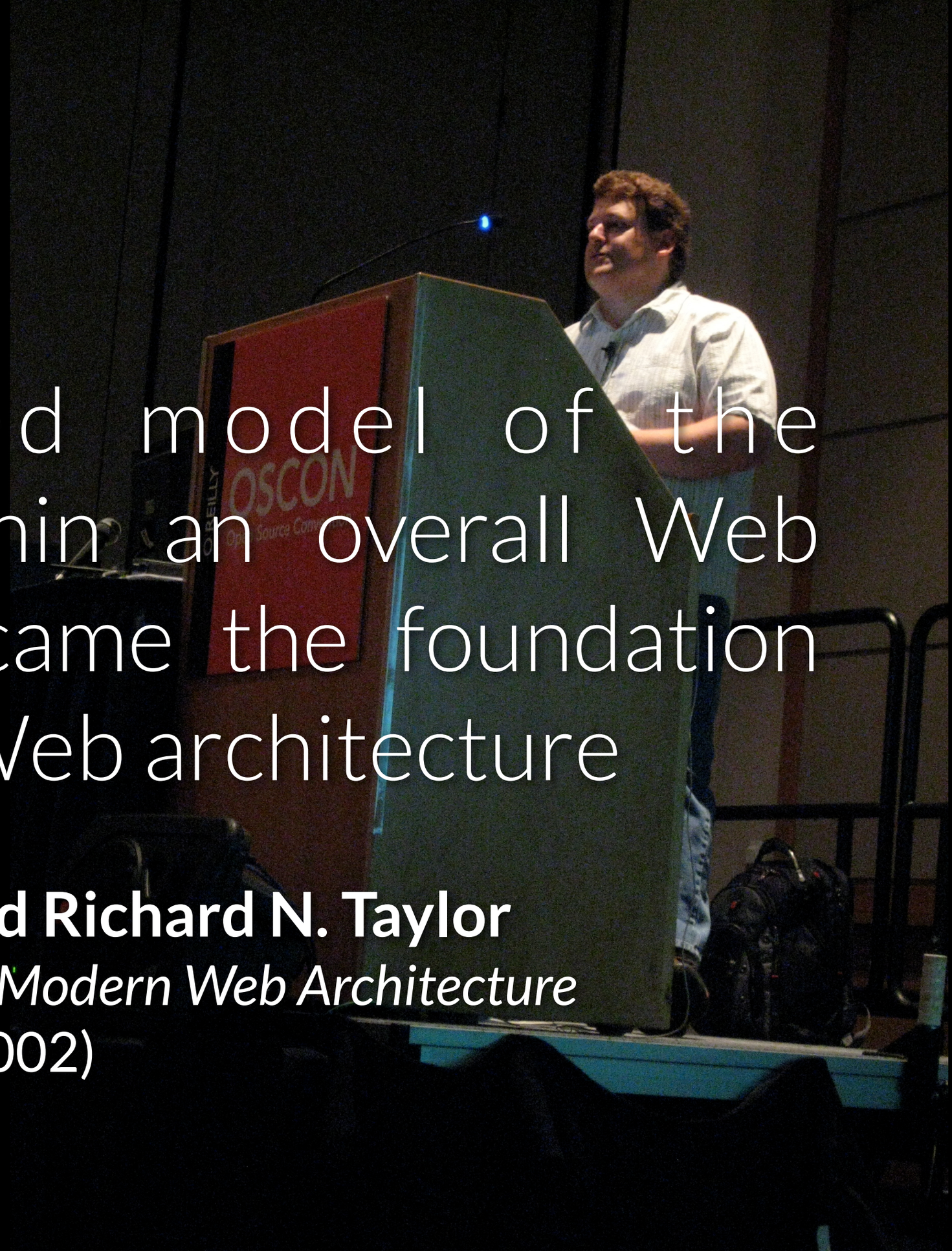
The mapping between database tables and business logic in applications happens in

Active Record

An object that wraps a row in a database table or view, encapsulates the database access, and adds domain logic on that data.
Martin Fowler
Patterns of Enterprise Application Architecture

REpresentational **S**tate **T**ransfer

is a uniform interface for the web



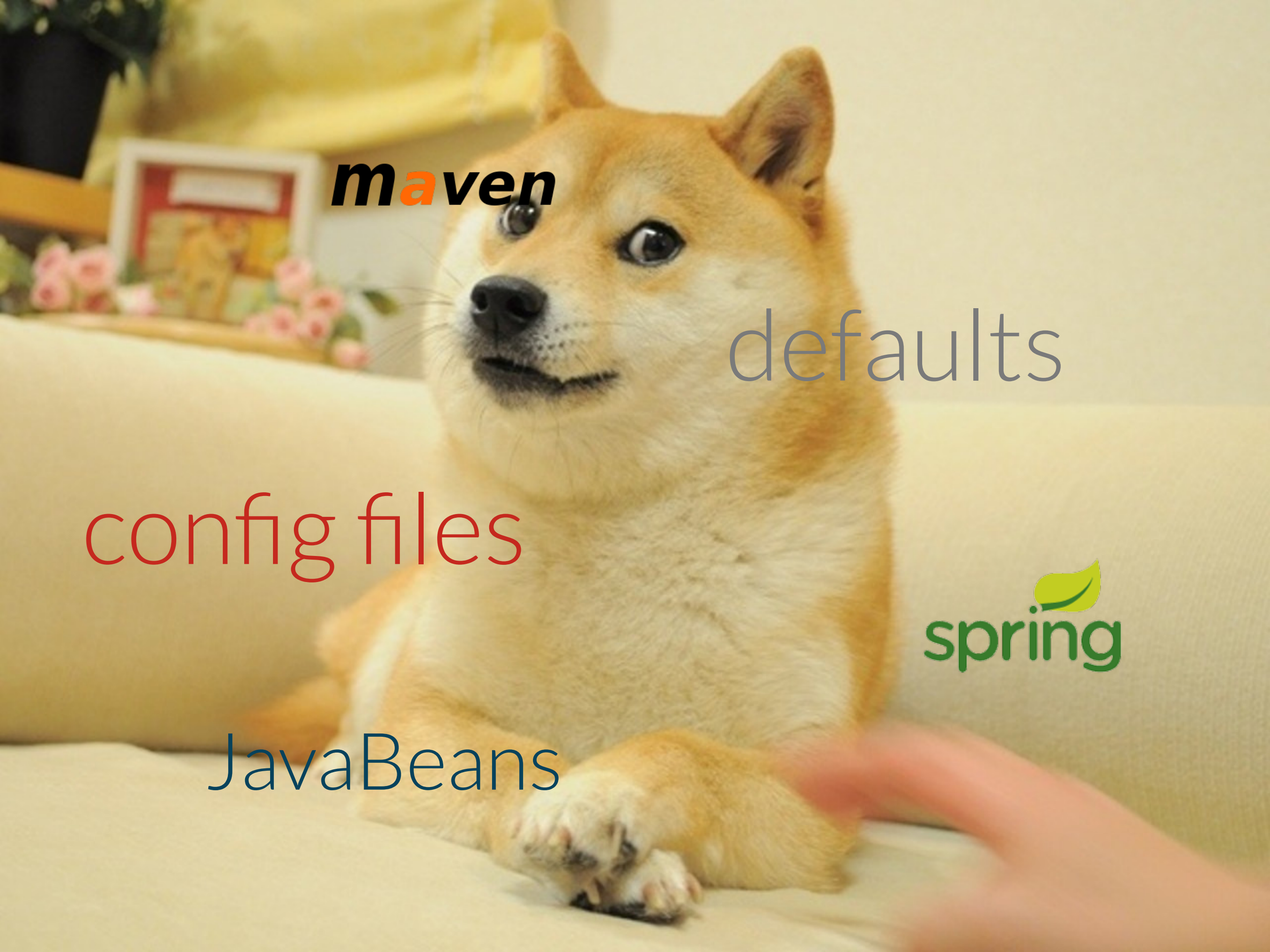
This idealized model of the interactions within an overall Web application... became the foundation for the modern Web architecture

Roy T. Fielding and Richard N. Taylor
Principled Design of the Modern Web Architecture
(2002)

Rails didn't *invent* REST

Convention over Configuration

seeks to decrease the number of **decisions** that developers need to make, gaining **simplicity**, but not necessarily losing **flexibility.**


maven
defaults
config files
spring
JavaBeans

ERB provides an **easy to use** but **powerful templating system** for Ruby.

ruby / **ruby**

branch: **trunk** **ruby** / lib / **erb.rb**

Merb

- asset pipeline
- extension api
- parameter whitelisting and blacklisting (strong_parameters)
- ORM / JavaScript agnostic

So why is Rails so popular?

Google | Slashdot: New... | Woot: One Da... | BBC NEWS | Ne... | Penny Arcade! ... | Google

Google

Execution is crazy important

Presentation

is key

What can we learn from this?

There is nothing wrong with taking other’s ideas

Rails was built on the shoulders of giants

That worked out pretty well

Keep it simple.

Strong, useful conventions make code easy to find and reduce mundane decision making

Not designed by committee

DHH still contributes

Released in July of 2004

Didn’t share commit rights until February of 2005

strong_parameters

turbolinks

turbolinks

(not a popular decision)

While we may not always agree with him

It doesn’t matter; he’s doing it anyways

While this can be frustrating, you can’t argue with success

rails 4.1.1

Ruby on Rails is a full-stack web framework optimized for programmer happiness and sustainable productivity. It encourages beautiful code by favoring convention over configuration.

```
INSTALL > gem install rails
```

Download Badge Subscribe RSS

Authors

David Heinemeier Hansson

34,979,484 total downloads

32,104 for this version

What can we take from this?

Take ideas

I know you want to build.

Interesting problems are fun to solve

but they already have been

Don't be seduced by the problem

You are trying to get something out the door

Buy for parity build for competitive advantage

123 Main St
Anytown, MA 12345

123 Main St
Apartment #5
Anytown, MA 12345

123 Main St
Basement
Anytown, MA 12345

c/o somebody else
123 Main St
Anytown, MA 12345

Bank of Canada

234 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
K1A 0G9

Caleb Thompson

FNBA Downtown branch
Downtown, Anchorage, Alaska

Caleb Thompson

FNBA Downtown branch Downtown, Anchorage, Alaska

Are you going to have a better idea than Fielding had about REST?

maybe

probably not

Take ideas

But don’t take it from me

Thank you.

Caleb Thompson

@thompson_caleb

calebthompson

caleb@calebthompson.io

Don't just sit there. Learn Something.

learn.thoughtbot.com

SCOTRUBY14 for 30% off a Learn Prime subscription

thoughtbot