







Sometimes in order to keep moving forward, not only must you take one step at a time, but you must be willing to look back occasionally and evaluate your past, no matter how painful it is.

Looking back lets you know whether or not you are headed in the **right direction**.

-G.K. Adams

So many good ideas are never heard from again once they embark in a voyage on the semantic gulf

-Alan J. Perlis, Epigrams on Programming (1982)

Epigram 53



Brooklyn Zelenka @expede



Brooklyn Zelenka @expede

- CTO at Fission (https://fission.codes)
 - Edge apps ("post-serverless")
 - Goal: make back-ends and DevOps obsolete
- PLT, VMs, distributed systems
- Standards: DIF, UCAN, Ethereum, Multiformats, others
- Founded VanFP, VanBEAM
- Primary author of Witchcraft, Algae, Exceptional, etc.







TRAINING FROM EXPERT SPEAKERS

> THE FUTURE OF THE ERLANG & ELIXIR ECOSYSTEM

ONLINE 24 MAR/2022 Hosted by Functional Conf





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THE FUTURE OF THE ERLANG & ELIXIR ECOSYSTEM

ONLINE 24 MAR/2022 Hosted by Functional Conf









How do we move forward as an ecosystem, cross language, cross paradigm?



How do we move forward as an ecosystem, cross language, cross paradigm?





















Breaking out of linear thinking / von Neumann 6 1.





Breaking out of linear thinking / von Neumann 6 1.

New types of modularity (for the BEAM) 🔌 2.





- Breaking out of linear thinking / von Neumann 6 1.
- New types of modularity (for the BEAM) 🔌 2.
- 3. Composable languages 🛸









Epigram 28

-Alan J. Perlis, Epigrams on Programming (1982)

Around computers it is difficult to find the **correct unit of time** to measure progress. Some cathedrals took a century to complete. Can you imagine the grandeur and scope of a program that would take as long?







In the Beginning... 💎 🕵



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– Douglas Crockford, The Power of the Paradigm (2018)

It's really difficult to distinguish a new paradigm from a really bad idea |...| The new shiny object is part of the old paradigm

Paradigm Redshift 🌈 **Novelty Budget**

Paradigm Redshift 🥟 **Novelty Budget**

TWORKSONLYMAGHINE

THEN WE'LL SHIP YOUR MACHINE





Paradigm Redshift // Novelty Budget





THEN WE'LL SHIP YOUR MACHINE





Law of Conservation of Complexity

Paradigm Redshift 🥟 Law of Conservation of Complexity

Every application has an inherent amount of complexity that **cannot be removed** or hidden, but only moved from place to place



– Larry Tesler

Paradigm Redshift (// The "What If" Tree



Speeckooling (1953)



Speedcoding (1953)



Speedcoding (1953)



Speedcoding (1953)

Let's start with something alien





{↑1 ωv.∧3 4=+/,¹ 0 1∘.⊖¹ 0 1∘.φ⊂ω}

Paradigm Redshift (// Something Alien

{↑1 ωv.∧3 4=+/, 1 0 1∘.⊖1 0 1∘.φ⊂ω}



Paradigm Redshift (// Something Alien

LIFE←{↑1 ωv.∧3 4=+/, 1 0 1∘.⊖1 0 1∘.φ⊂ω}



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Attribution: wikipedia user LucasVB

What can we learn from APL?





What can we learn from APL?





What can we learn from APL?

Cellular Automata & Actors as Organisms 🍀

· Each step is very simple





What can we learn from APL?

- Each step is very simple •
- · Reasoning about dynamic organisms is hard!





What can we learn from APL?

- Each step is very simple
- · Reasoning about dynamic organisms is hard!







What can we learn from APL?

- Each step is very simple
- Reasoning about dynamic organisms is hard!
- Emergent behaviour 😱







What can we learn from APL?

Cellular Automata & Actors as Organisms 🍀

- Each step is very simple
- Reasoning about dynamic organisms is hard! •
 - Emergent behaviour 😡

• VM in your brain to reason at a higher level



1/2 Glucose

А 2 NAD Acetate В NAD Acetyl-CoA glcB aceB atpIBEFHAGDC Glyoxylate acnB aceA FAD* Succinate NADPH 2-Ketoglutarat sucAB
lpdA sucDC Succinyl-CoA CO₂





What can we learn from APL?

Cellular Automata & Actors as Organisms 🍀

- Each step is very simple
- Reasoning about dynamic organisms is hard! •
 - Emergent behaviour 😱
- VM in your brain to reason at a higher level
 - We can abstract away some of this
 - Broadway
 - Arrows



1/2 Glucose

А Acetate В NAD Acetyl-CoA glcB aceB atpIBEFHAGDO Glyoxylate acnB aceA FAD* Succinate NADPH 2-Ketoglutarate sucAB
lpdA -NAD sucDC ~P ATP Succinyl-CoA CO₂







http://www.perfdynamics.com/Manifesto/USLscalability.html



http://www.perfdynamics.com/Manifesto/USLscalability.html





http://www.perfdynamics.com/Manifesto/USLscalability.html



http://www.perfdynamics.com/Manifesto/USLscalability.html

What can we learn from APL?

doall / Automatic Parallelism / Cyclic Multithreading 🔁



What can we learn from APL?

doall / Automatic Parallelism / Cyclic Multithreading





- Shared-nothing architecture
- 2. Good for embarrassingly parallel problems
- 3. Macro could do a LOT more with this at compile-time
- 4. Impurity and granular control mean that we don't get this by default (with good reason)





Table Oriented Programming


Table Oriented Programming

Naive Tables

Paradigm Redshift Table Oriented Programming Naive Tables



| ame | Handle | City |
|-------|-------------|---------------|
| oklyn | expede | Vancouver |
| uinn | quinnwilton | Mountain View |
| even | icidasset | Ghent |



Paradigm Redshift // Table Oriented Programming Naive Tables



| ame | Handle | City |
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Paradigm Redshift **Table Oriented Programming Naive Tables**



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Table Oriented Programming

Perfectly Parallel Control Tables

Table Oriented Programming

Perfectly Parallel Control Tables



Table Oriented Programming

Perfectly Parallel Control Tables





Table Oriented Programming

Perfectly Parallel Control Tables



Table Oriented Programming

Perfectly Parallel Control Tables



Paradigm Redshift 🌈 **Table Oriented Programming** The Nth-Dimension 🚀

[& + /2, & + /2]> provide([1, 2, 3]) > provide([4, 5, 6])



5, 6, 7, 6, 7, 8, 7, 8, 9, 4, 5, 6, 10, 12, 8,



Paradigm Redshift // Table Oriented Programming



Composition & Modularity







-Alan J. Perlis, Epigrams on Programming (1982)



Epigram 6 Symmetry is a complexity-reducing concept; seek it everywhere

-Alan J. Perlis, Epigrams on Programming (1982)



Epigram 6 Symmetry is a complexity-reducing concept; seek it everywhere

Epigram 105 You can't communicate complexity, only awareness of it

-Alan J. Perlis, Epigrams on Programming (1982)















Application





Commutativity

Application







Application





Focus 🗟





Composition in the **data** dimension





Composition in the **data** dimension





Focus 🗟





Composition in the **function** dimension





Composition in the **function** dimension







Composition in the **function** dimension





Focus 🗟





Composition in the **capabilities** (protocols and HOFs)





Composition in the capabilities (protocols and HOFs)



Function



What do you mean by "composition"? Execution Symmetry

Complexity & Modularity What do you mean by "composition"? **Execution Symmetry**

- Robert Harper, Practical Foundations for Programming Languages (2012)

A program can be developed on a sequential platform, even if it is meant to run on a parallel platform, because the behaviour is not affected by whether we execute it using a sequential or parallel dynamics





Complexity & Modularity & What do you mean by "composition"? **Execution Symmetry**

- Robert Harper, Practical Foundations for Programming Languages (2012)

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What do you mean by "composition"? Explicit Data Flow



What do you mean by "composition"? Explicit Data Flow





What do you mean by "composition"? **Explicit Data Flow**



arrow_diagram = fanout(fn x -> x / 5 end, fn y -> y + 1 end <~> unsplit(&String.at(&2, round(&1)) end)

<~> fanout(&inspect/1, fn z -> z end) <~> unsplit(fn(a, b) -> "#{b}#{a}" end))





What do you mean by "composition"? **Explicit Data Flow**









How Modular are Modules?



How Modular are Modules?

(and libraries)



How Modular are Modules?



(and libraries)

end

```
@modulespec Todo.Verical :: (Query.m(), Schema.m(), JSON.m() -> Vertical.m())
  use Phoenix.Vertical
  use queryMod
  use schemaMod
  schema "users" do
    field :name, :string
   field :complete, :bool, default: false
  end
  def view_one(todo), do: json.encode(todo)
```

defmodule Todo.Vertical(queryMod \\ Ecto.Query, schemaMod \\ Ecto.Schema, jsonMod \\ Poison.Encoder) do



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```

"Hot-swappable dependencies"

defmodule Todo.Vertical(queryMod \\ Ecto.Query, schemaMod \\ Ecto.Schema, jsonMod \\ Poison.Encoder) do



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"Hot-swappable dependencies"



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use queryMod use schemaMod

schema "users" do field :name, :string field :complete, :bool, default: false end

def view_one(todo), do: json.encode(todo) end

"Hot-swappable dependencies"



Complexity & Modularity & How Modular are Modules?

Hacking Extending the Module System

Complexity & Modularity & How Modular are Modules?

Hacking Extending the Module System

```
defmodule TypeClass.Dependency do
  defmacro __using__(_) do
    quote do
      import unquote(__MODULE__)
      unquote(__MODULE__).set_up()
    end
  end
  defmacro set_up do
    quote do
      import TypeClass.Utility.Attribute
      register(:extend, accumulate: true)
    end
  end
  defmacro extend(parent_class) do
    quote do
      require unquote(parent_class)
      @extend unquote(parent_class)
    end
  end
```

Complexity & Modularity How Modular are Modules?

Hacking Extending the Module System

```
defmodule TypeClass.Dependency do
  defmacro __using__(_) do
    quote do
      import unquote(__MODULE__)
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    quote do
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      register(:extend, accumulate: true)
    end
  end
  defmacro extend(parent_class) do
    quote do
      require unquote(parent_class)
      @extend unquote(parent_class)
    end
  end
```

```
defmacro extend(parent_class, alias: true) do
    quote do
      extend unquote(parent_class)
     alias unquote(parent_class)
    end
 end
 defmacro extend(parent_class, alias: alias_as) do
    quote do
      extend unquote(parent_class)
     alias unquote(parent_class), as: unquote(alias_as)
    end
 end
 defmacro run do
   quote do
     def __dependencies__, do: @extend
    end
 end
end
```





Higher Order Modules

Behaviours



Declarative Embedded DSLs









- Tony Hoare, Turing Aware Lecture, 1980

I have regarded it as the highest goal of programming language design to enable good ideas to be elegantly expressed



Declarative Embedded DSLs









Framework Interface Application



Declarative Embedded DSLs Isn't *Everything* a DSL?

Counterexample



> hypothetical_returns_exception()



Declarative Embedded DSLs Isn't *Everything* a DSL?

Counterexample



This is just Elixir!

> hypothetical_returns_exception()



Declarative Embedded DSLs (a) Isn't *Everything* a DSL? Algebraic Data Type eDSL



Declarative Embedded DSLs Isn't *Everything* a DSL? Algebraic Data Type eDSL

```
defmodule Maybe do
  defsum do
     defdata Nothing :: none()
     defdata Just :: any()
  end
end
Maybe.new()
#=> %Maybe.Nothing{}
defmodule Light do
 defsum do
   defdata Red :: none()
   defdata Yellow :: none()
   defdata Green :: none()
 end
```

```
def from_number(1), do: %Light.Red{}
  def from_number(2), do: %Light.Yellow{}
  def from_number(3), do: %Light.Green{}
end
```

Declarative Embedded DSLs Isn't *Everything* a DSL? Algebraic Data Type eDSL



defdata do end end end

```
defmodule Player do
    name :: String.t()
    hit_points :: non_neg_integer()
    experience :: non_neg_integer()
  @spec attack(t(), t()) :: {t(), t()}
  def attack(%{experience: xp} = player, %{hit_points: hp} = target) do
     %{player | experience: xp + 50},
     %{target | hit_points: hp - 10}
```





Business Language for Business Time






What can we learn from **COBOL?**

(Yes, really. COBOL.)



Toggl, How to Kill at the Dragon in 9 Programming Languages



```
*Run the code as performed paragraphs
     PERFORM GET-DATA
     PERFORM CALC-DATA
     PERFORM SHOW-DATA
     PERFORM FINISH-UP
*A performed paragraph to get user input
     MOVE SPACE TO WS-USER WS-FULL-NAME
     DISPLAY "What is your first name?"
     ACCEPT WS-FIRST-NAME OF WS-USER
     DISPLAY "What is your last name?"
     ACCEPT WS-LAST-NAME OF WS-USER
     DISPLAY "What is your age?"
     ACCEPT WS-AGE OF WS-USER
     STRING WS-FIRST-NAME OF WS-USER DELIMITED BY SPACE
     SPACE DELIMITED BY SIZE
           WS-LAST-NAME OF WS-USER DELIMITED BY SPACE
           SPACE DELIMITED BY SIZE
           INTO WS-FULL-NAME
           ON OVERFLOW
           DISPLAY "SORRY, YOUR DATA WAS TRUNCATED"
     END-STRING.
*A performed paragraph for doing calculation
* Sample addition statement
      ADD WS-AGE-DELTA WS-AGE OF WS-USER TO WS-NEW-AGE.
*A performed paragraph to display output
      DISPLAY "Welcome " WS-FULL-NAME " In ten years you will be: "
       WS-NEW-AGE.
*A performed paragraph to end the program
     DISPLAY "Strike any key to continue".
     ACCEPT WS-CLOSE
     DISPLAY "Good bye".
END PROGRAM RESEL-WORLD.
```

Declarative Embedded DSLs What Can We Learn from COBOL? When No One Wants to Go To Jail 🤮

TOKEN cross_border IS ERC777 IS ERC902 CONFORM bc_securities_commission AND usa_sec AND korea_exchange ALLOW issue AFTER BLOCK 900000 BEFORE BLOCK 1000000 **RESTRICT** holder CHECK allowed IN ERC902 AT 0xaa9cf224d798123fde793fc41c72d3bb8c1c9a09 ISSUANCE START 🖯 MAX 10_000





- Needs to be readable by lawyers
 - · (Who can't read code)
- Formal methods & static analysis
 - Down to the compiler, of course
- An unholy union of COBOL and Prolog

```
TOKEN cross_border
 IS ERC777
 IS ERC902
 CONFORM
   bc_securities_commission
   AND usa_sec
   AND korea_exchange
 ALLOW issue
   AFTER BLOCK 9000000
   BEFORE BLOCK 1000000
 RESTRICT holder
   CHECK allowed IN ERC902 AT 0xaa9cf224d798123fde793fc41c72d3bb8c1c9a09
 ISSUANCE
   START 0
    MAX
         10_000
```





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 ISSUANCE
   START 0
    MAX
         10_000
```



Declarative Embedded DSLs

Declarative Embedded DSLs

- 1. Fabulous for communicating with domain experts
- 2. We know how these DSLs work (e.g. they form an algebra)
- 3. They can be correct-by-construction
- 4. Check for various properties (compile- or run-time)
- 5. A language that exactly fits your needs (DDD)







But We Have a Problem (Hint: it's inflexibility)













- Just use the built-in AST
- · What it can represent is limited
- e.g. Ecto, Algae

Declarative Embedded DSLs Shallow Embedding

defsum do

end end end

- Just use the built-in AST
- What it can represent is limited
- e.g. Ecto, Algae

```
defmodule Algae.Tree.BinarySearch do
 alias __MODULE__, as: BST
   defdata Empty :: none()
   defdata Node do
     node :: any()
     left :: BST.t() \\ Empty.new()
     right :: BST.t() \\ Empty.new()
```

Declarative Embedded DSLs Shallow Embedding

defsum do

end end end

- Just use the built-in AST
- What it can represent is limited
- e.g. Ecto, Algae

```
defmodule Algae.Tree.BinarySearch do
 alias __MODULE__, as: BST
```

```
defdata Empty :: none()
```

```
defdata Node do
 node :: any()
```

```
left :: BST.t() \\ Empty.new()
```

```
right :: BST.t() \\ Empty.new()
```

```
BST.Node.new(
  42,
  BST.Node.new(77),
  BST.Node.new(
    1234,
    BST.Node.new(98),
    BST.Node.new(32)
```



Declarative Embedded DSLs Shallow Embedding

defsum do

end end end

- Just use the built-in AST
- What it can represent is limited
- e.g. Ecto, Algae

```
defmodule Algae.Tree.BinarySearch do
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  42,
  BST.Node.new(77),
  BST.Node.new(
    1234,
    BST.Node.new(98),
    BST.Node.new(32)
```

```
%Algae.Tree.BinarySearch.Node{
  node: 42,
  left: %Algae.Tree.BinarySearch.Node{
    node: 77,
    left: %Algae.Tree.BinarySearch.Empty{},
    right: %Algae.Tree.BinarySearch.Empty{}
  right: %Algae.Tree.BinarySearch.Node{
    node: 1234,
    left: %Algae.Tree.BinarySearch.Node{
      node: 98,
      left: %Algae.Tree.BinarySearch.Empty{},
      right: %Algae.Tree.BinarySearch.Empty{}
    right: %Algae.Tree.BinarySearch.Node{
     node: 32,
      left: %Algae.Tree.BinarySearch.Empty{},
      right: %Algae.Tree.BinarySearch.Empty{}
```











Three Steps





Three Steps

- 1. Build a game plan
- 2. Transform (optional)
- 3. Tear down







Declarative Embedded DSLs

Deep Embedding

"Build a Game Plan" Example

```
%Unsplit{
  split: %Split{
    left: fn x \rightarrow x / 5 end,
    right: %Tree{
      node: fn y -> y + 1 end,
      left: %Unsplit{
        node: %Split{
          left: &inspect/1,
          right: fn z -> z end
        with: fn (left, right) -> "#{right}#{left}" end
  with: &String.at(&2, round(&1))
 > Witchcraft.Functor.map(&IO.inspect/1)
```



Declarative Embedded DSLs Deep Embedding "Build a Game Plan" Example %Unsplit{ snlit: %Snlit{ > split do fn $x \rightarrow x / 5$ end fn y -> y + 1 end |> split(do &inspect/1 fn $z \rightarrow z$ end end) -> "#{right}#{left}" end | unsplit(fn (a, b) -> "#{b}#{a}" end) end > unsplit(&String.at(&2, round(&1))) with: σ_{σ_1} , σ_{σ_1} , σ_{σ_1})

> Witchcraft.Functor.map(&IO.inspect/1)



Tradeoffs

Declarative Embedded DSLs Deep Embedding Tradeoffs

- More work to write (write your own AST)
- ·Way more powerful (full control)
- Precisely the vocabulary that you need exact surface area
- Can check more things about the meaning of your code
- Logic-as-data is MUCH simpler to debug than running functions
- Time travelling debugging!
- Unlike protocols, you're not locked into one canonical implementation

Combine Powerful, Modular, Reusable DSLs! with_npc :dog do go_north wait_seconds 2 set_caps true print "woof" set_caps false go_west wait_seconds 1

end

Desugar

%GoNoth{},
%Wait{seconds: 2},
%SetCaplock{is_cap: true},
%Print{text: "woof"},
%SetCaplock{is_cap: true},
%GoWest{},
%Wait{seconds: 3}

%AST{
 cmd: %GoNoth{},
 next: %AST{
 cmd: %Wait{seconds: 2}
 next: # ...
 rext: # ...



Declarative Embedded DSLs

Deep Embedding

"Huh, this kinda feels like GenServer" 😉

"Huh, this kinda feels like GenServer"

```
def handle_text(%Print{msg: msg}, _), do: I0.puts(msg)
def handle_text(%SetBlink{should_blink: should_blink}, _) do
  if should_blink, do:
    IO.ANSI.blink_rapid()
  else
    IO.ANSI.blink_off()
  end
end
```

def handle_text(%SetColour{red: r, green: g, blue: b}, _), do: IO.ANSI.color(r, g, b)

def handle_text(%CAPSLOCK{set_caps: is_caps}, state_agent), do Agent.update(state_agent, fn state -> %{state | is_capslock: is_caps } end IO.ANSI.cursor(@agent.current_line - 1, column) end

def handle_text(not_text_cmd, _), do: not_text_cmd

"Huh, this kinda feels like GenServer" 😉

```
def handle_text(%Print{msg: msg}, _), do: I0.puts(msg)
def handle_text(%SetBlink{should_blink: should_blink}, _) do
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    IO.ANSI.blink_off()
  end
end
```

def handle_text(%SetColour{red: r, green: g, blue: b}, _), do: IO.ANSI.color(r, g, b)

def handle_text(%CAPSLOCK{set_caps: is_caps}, state_agent), do Agent.update(state_agent, fn state -> %{state | is_capslock: is_caps } end IO.ANSI.cursor(@agent.current_line - 1, column) end

def handle_text(not_text_cmd, _), do: not_text_cmd

def handle_gameplay(%BuyItem{item: item}, _), do: ... def handle_gameplay(%ApplyPowerup{item: item}, _), do: ... def handle_gameplay(not_gameplay, _), do: not_gameplay



"Huh, this kinda feels like GenServer"

```
def handle_text(%Print{msg: msg}, _), do: I0.puts(msg)
def handle_text(%SetBlink{should_blink: should_blink}, _) do
  if should_blink, do:
    IO.ANSI.blink_rapid()
  else
    IO.ANSI.blink_off()
  end
end
def handle_text(%SetColour{red
def handle_text(%CAPSLOCK{set
  Agent.update(state_agent, f
  IO.ANSI.cursor(@agent.curre
end
```

def handle_text(not_text_cmd, __, ao: not_text_cma

def handle_gameplay(%BuyItem{item: item}, _), do: ... def handle_gameplay(%ApplyPowerup{item: item}, _), do: ... def handle_gameplay(not_gameplay, _), do: not_gameplay

def handle_movement(%GoNorth{}, _), do: ... def handle_movement(%GoSouth{}, _), do: ... def handle_movement(%GoEast{}, _), do: ... def handle_movement(%GoWest{}, _), do: ... def handle_movement(not_movement, _), do: not_movement





Deep Embedding With Their Powers Combined!

def interpreter(cmd, agent) do cmd > handle_gameplay(agent) > handle_movement(agent) > handle_text(agent) end



Deep Embedding One Last Line

with_npc :dog do
 go_north
 wait_seconds 2

set_caps true
print "woof"
set_caps false

go_west
wait_seconds 1
end
/> Enum.map(fn cmd -> i

> Enum.map(fn cmd -> interpreter(cmd, agent) end)

Declarative Embedded DSLs Deep Embedding **One Last Line**

with_npc :dog do go_north wait_seconds 2

> set_caps true print "woof" set_caps false

go_west wait_seconds 1 end

> Enum.map(fn cmd -> interpreter(cmd, agent) end)

More Flexible Than protocols

More Flexible Than protocols

- Protocols require canonicity 1.
- 2. Libraries of well-defined mini-languages, even without interpreter
- 3. Different in tests and prod (trivial to mock)




5 Problems for the Next 30 Years of BEAM

1. Wasm — client & edge BEAM

5 Problems for the Next 30 Years of BEAM

Wasm — client & edge BEAM 1.

2. Lower the barrier to entry (low code)

- Wasm client & edge BEAM 1.
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- 3. Correctness tools (i.e. better static & dynamic analysis, formal methods)

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- Wasm client & edge BEAM 1.
- 2. Lower the barrier to entry (low code)
- 3. Correctness tools (i.e. better static & dynamic analysis, formal methods)
- 4. Automatic dynamic parallel evaluation
- 5. Mobile agents (incl. dynamic FaaS)



–Alan J. Perlis, Epigrams on Programming (1982)

-Alan J. Perlis, Epigrams on Programming (1982)

-Alan J. Perlis, Epigrams on Programming (1982)

Epigram 101 Dealing with **failure is easy:**

-Alan J. Perlis, Epigrams on Programming (1982)

Success is also easy to handle:

-Alan J. Perlis, Epigrams on Programming (1982)

Success is also easy to handle: you've solved the wrong problem.

-Alan J. Perlis, Epigrams on Programming (1982)

Success is also easy to handle: you've solved the wrong problem.

Work hard to improve.

-Alan J. Perlis, Epigrams on Programming (1982)



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