OPEN SOURCE IS NOT JUST ABOUT CODE

BUILDING OPEN SOURCE COMMUNITIES OF STARFISH

BEN GREENBERG

nexmo® | The Vonage® API Platform

@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev

TELL ME AND I'LL FORGET,
SHOW ME AND I *MAY* REMEMBER,
INVOLVE ME AND I'LL UNDERSTAND

@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev

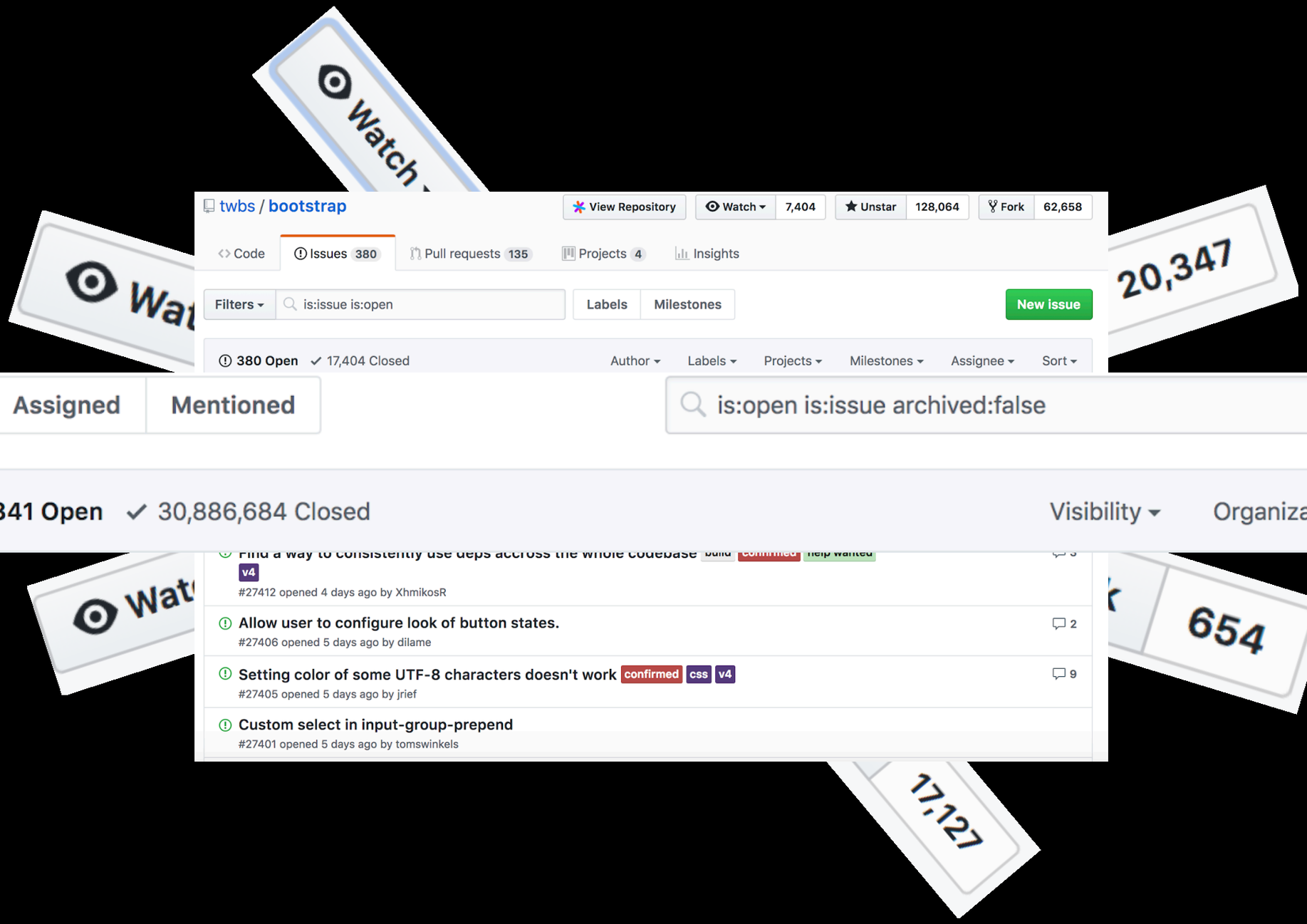
WRITING GOOD CODE

CAN BE CHALLENGING

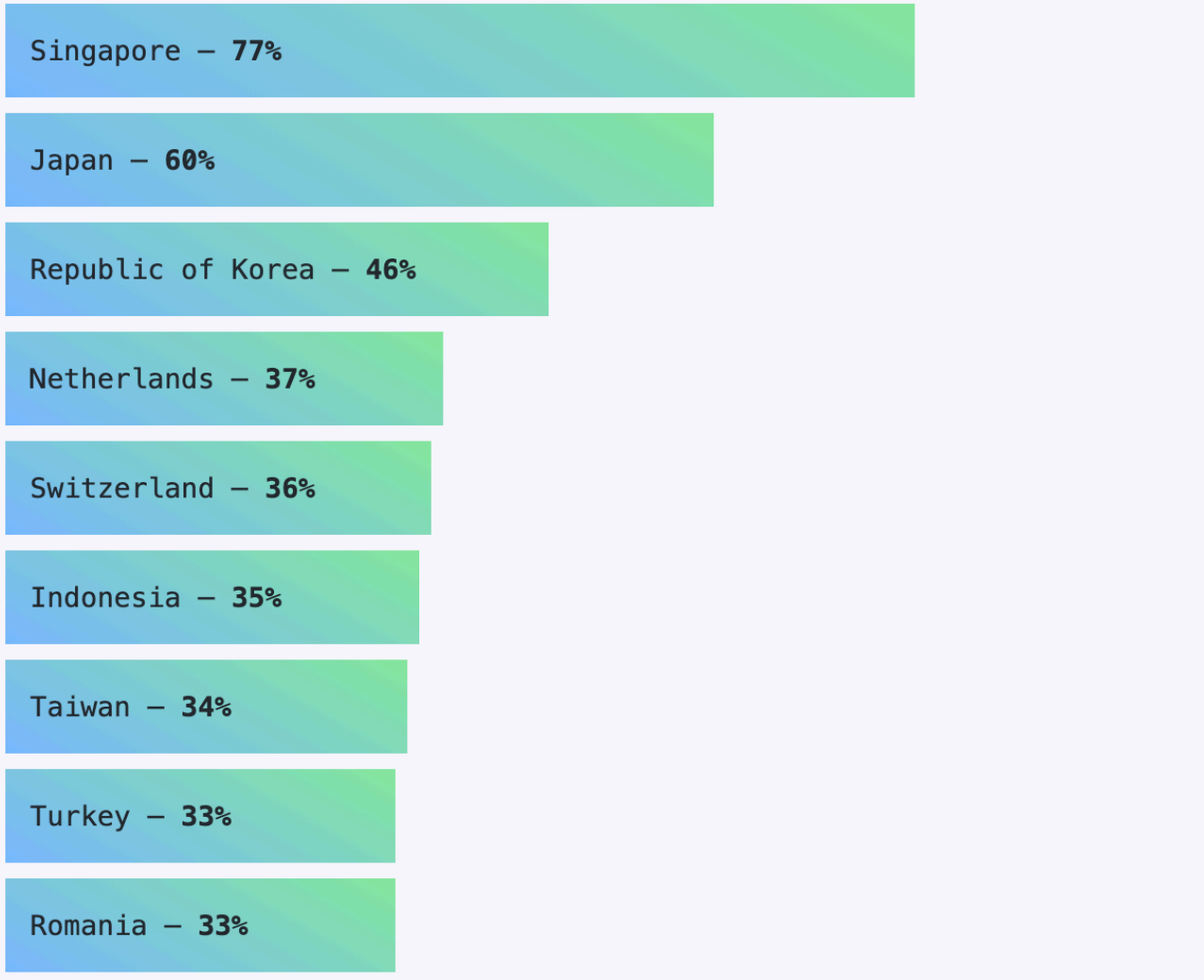
@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev

SO CAN COLLABORATION

@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev


Watch
20,347
twbs / bootstrap
View Repository
Watch 7,404
Unstar 128,064
Fork 62,658
Code
Issues 380
Pull requests 135
Projects 4
Insights
Filters
is:issue is:open
Labels
Milestones
New issue
380 Open
17,404 Closed
Author
Labels
Projects
Milestones
Assignee
Sort
Created
Assigned
Mentioned
is:open is:issue archived:false
15,974,841 Open
30,886,684 Closed
Visibility
Organization
Sort
v4
#27412 opened 4 days ago by XhmikosR
Allow user to configure look of button states.
#27406 opened 5 days ago by dilame
2
Setting color of some UTF-8 characters doesn't work
confirmed
css
v4
#27405 opened 5 days ago by jrief
9
Custom select in input-group-prepend
#27401 opened 5 days ago by tomswinkels
654
17,127

The State of the OCTOVERSE



By percentage growth of open source contributors

This year, contributor growth was fastest in Hong Kong (SAR), Singapore, and Japan.*

HELLO! 👋

(I.E. WHO IS SPEAKING RIGHT NOW?)

- I 💙 RUBY & ELIXIR
- CO-EDITOR OF TORAH && TECH
- FORMER RABBI & COMMUNITY ORGANIZER
- 🌎 SAN DIEGO → NYC → BOSTON → DENVER → NYC → ISRAEL 🌍
- DEVELOPER ADVOCATE @ NEXMO

@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev

WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO

DIAGNOSE THE PROBLEM

OFFER STRATEGIES

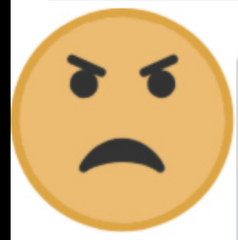
PUT IT TO PRACTICE

DIAGNOSE THE PROBLEM

COMMUNICATION

Shitty website ! #1

Open AARGH! opened this issue on Apr 4 · 1 comment



AARGH! commented on Apr 4 — Contributor

This website looks horrible, I can only recommand you to `npm install` a cool design m8

“

A 2013 study, from Beihang University in Beijing, of Weibo… found that anger is the emotion that spreads the most easily over social media.

… we are willing to join in the rage of strangers.

”

“CLICKING THEIR WAY TO OUTRAGE”

NEW YORK TIMES

3/7/2014

@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev

"

"The Internet exacerbates impulse-control problems," he said. "You get mad, and you can tell the world about it in moments before you've had a chance to calm down and think things through."

"

"CLICKING THEIR WAY TO OUTRAGE"
NEW YORK TIMES
3/7/2014

@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev

PROBLEM AREA #1

THE WAY WE COMMUNICATE

TIME

Michael Heap @mheap · 20h

Can we talk about #hacktoberfest? I love the concept and have contributed to various projects over the years because of it

However, there's a real sense of people doing it just for the swag. This is my first year as a maintainer going through it, and it's painful.

1 1 7

Show this thread

@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev

TIME

Michael Heap @mheap · 20h

I just read a PR that had a substantial amount of code and (in my opinion) fantastic commit messages

As I was reading it, I realised that it felt familiar - very similar to how I would have implemented the feature

It turns out, that's because I did. It was my code from a branch

1 1 5

Show this thread

@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev

TIME

Michael Heap @mheap · 20h

So many people clone a repo, run a spell checker over it and commit the results.

The other common PR I've seen it adding emoji to the README, or adding badges (which is at least partially useful)

The best one though... let me tell you about the best one

1 3

Show this thread

@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev

TIME

Michael Heap @mheap · 20h

They'd taken a WIP branch that I was working on and raised it as a PR. The only comment they added was:

> just for #hacktoberfest

So, whilst I love the idea of contributing, how can we help people make meaningful contributions rather than taking time away from maintainers?

6 2 5

Show this thread

@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev

PROBLEM AREA #2

TIME IS A LIMITED RESOURCE

THE FOX & THE CAT

IT HAPPENED THAT THE CAT MET THE FOX IN A FOREST, AND AS SHE THOUGHT TO HERSELF:

@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev

'HE IS CLEVER AND FULL OF EXPERIENCE, AND MUCH ESTEEMED IN THE WORLD,'

@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev

SHE SPOKE TO HIM IN A FRIENDLY WAY.

'GOOD DAY, DEAR MR FOX, HOW ARE YOU? HOW IS ALL WITH YOU? HOW ARE YOU GETTING ON IN THESE HARD TIMES?'

@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev

THE FOX, FULL OF ALL KINDS OF ARROGANCE, LOOKED AT THE CAT FROM HEAD TO FOOT, AND FOR A LONG TIME DID NOT KNOW WHETHER HE WOULD GIVE ANY ANSWER OR NOT.

AT LAST HE SAID:

'OH, YOU WRETCHED BEARD-CLEANER, YOU PIEBALD FOOL, YOU HUNGRY MOUSE-HUNTER, WHAT CAN YOU BE THINKING OF? HAVE YOU THE CHEEK TO ASK HOW I AM GETTING ON? WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT?

HOW MANY ARTS DO YOU UNDERSTAND?'

'I
UNDERSTAND
BUT ONE,'

REPLIED THE
CAT,
MODESTLY.

'WHAT ART IS THAT?'

ASKED THE FOX.

'WHEN THE HOUNDS ARE FOLLOWING ME, I CAN SPRING INTO A TREE AND SAVE MYSELF.'

@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev

'IS THAT ALL?' SAID THE FOX.

'I AM MASTER OF A HUNDRED ARTS, AND HAVE INTO THE BARGAIN A SACKFUL OF CUNNING. YOU MAKE ME SORRY FOR YOU; COME WITH ME, I WILL TEACH YOU HOW PEOPLE GET AWAY FROM THE HOUNDS.'

JUST THEN CAME A HUNTER WITH FOUR DOGS.

THE CAT SPRANG NIMBLY UP A TREE, AND SAT DOWN AT THE TOP OF IT, WHERE THE BRANCHES AND FOLIAGE QUITE CONCEALED HER.

@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev

'OPEN YOUR SACK, MR FOX, OPEN YOUR SACK,' CRIED THE CAT TO HIM,

BUT THE DOGS HAD ALREADY SEIZED HIM, AND WERE HOLDING HIM FAST.

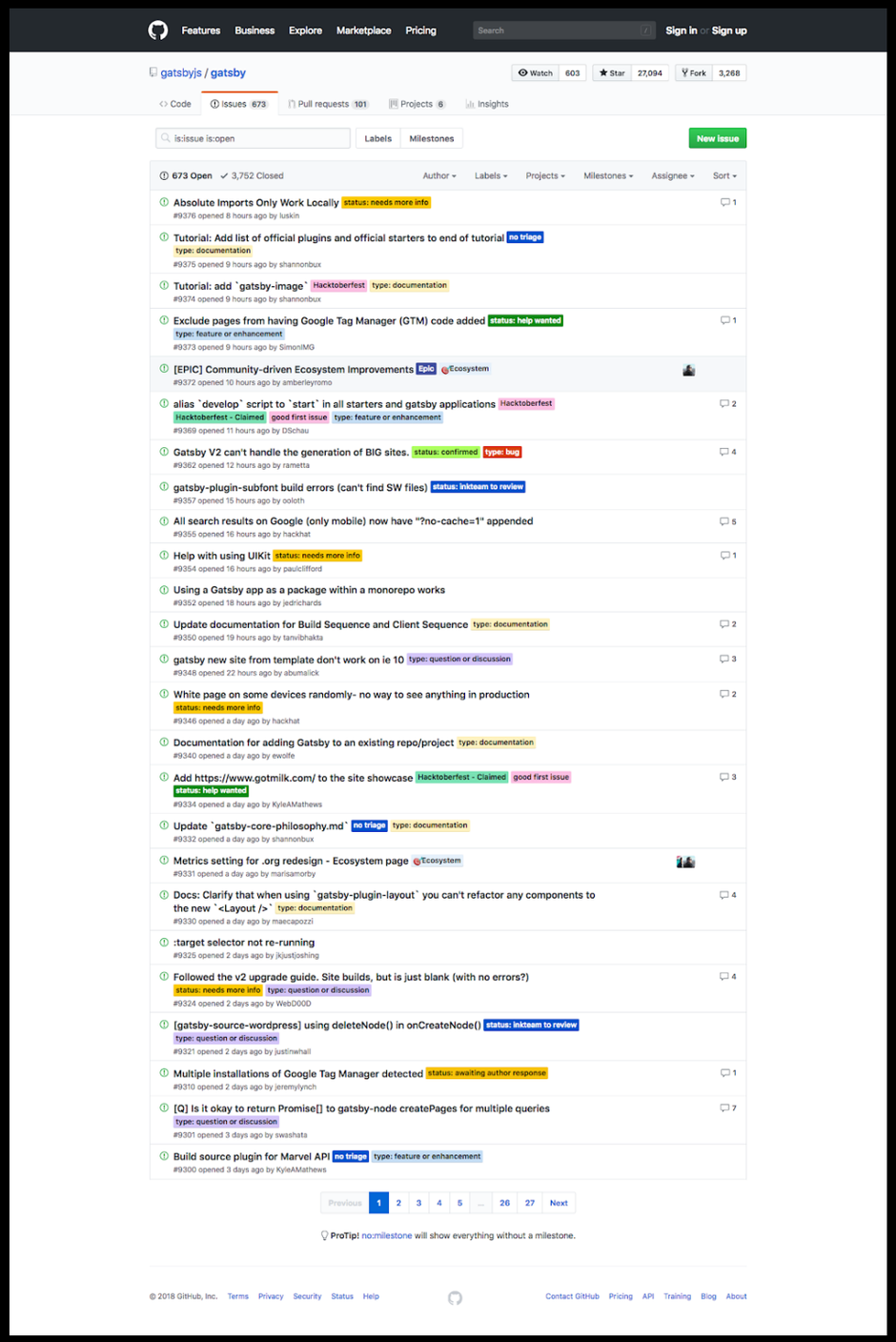
@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev

"'Ah, Mr Fox,' cried the cat.
'You with your **hundred arts** are
left in the lurch!"

–THE FOX AND THE CAT
GRIMM

@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev

DECISION SHUTDOWN



@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev

PROBLEM AREA #3

NO CLEAR PATHWAYS FOR INVOLVEMENT

No code of conduct

Issues not well labeled

Abusive Behaviour

Spam Pull Requests

FRUSTRATION

Same Questions Repeated

No README

Newbies not welcome

No Moderation

@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev

(1) COMMUNICATION

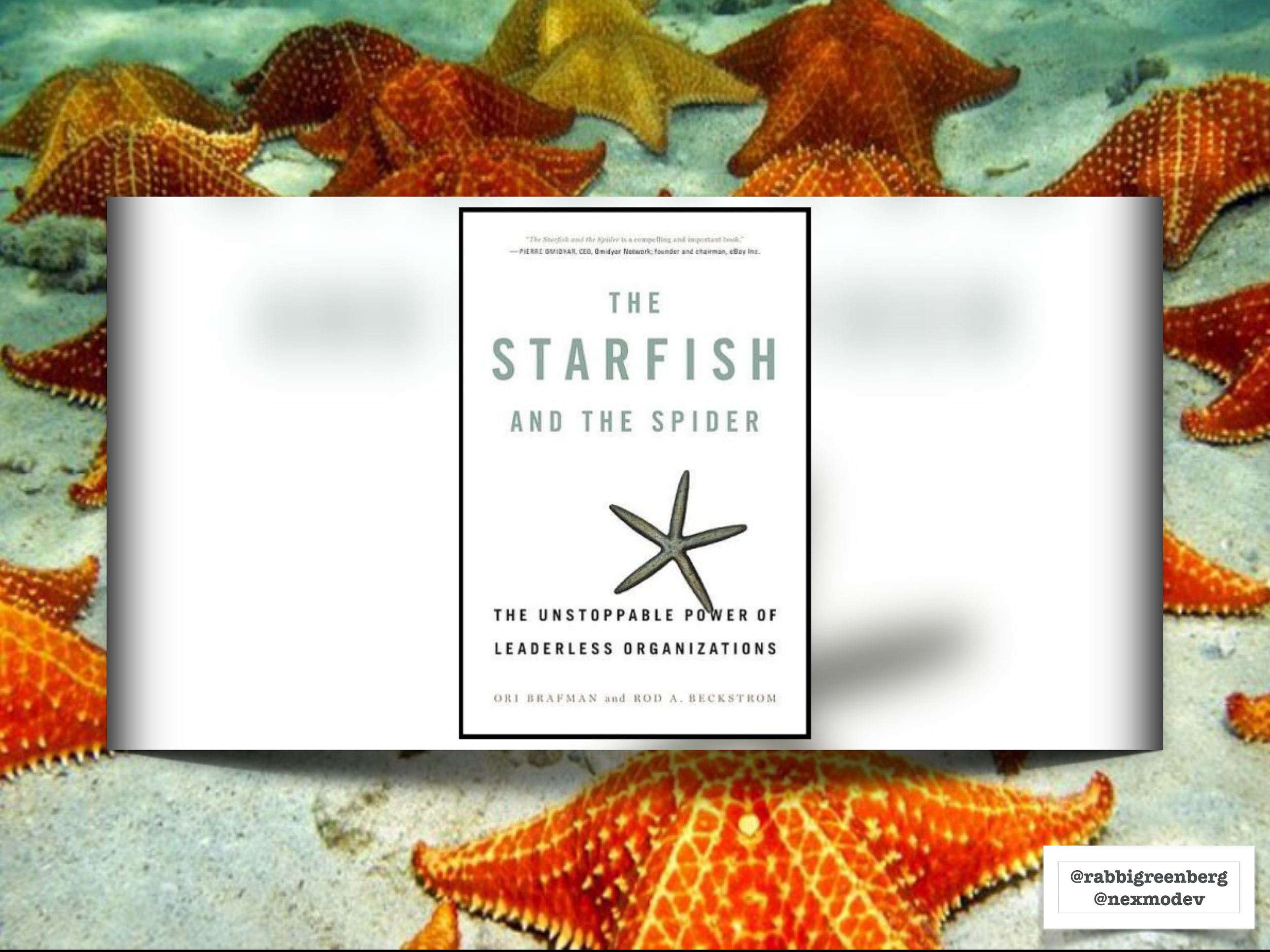
(2) TIME

(3) NO CLEAR PATHWAYS

@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev

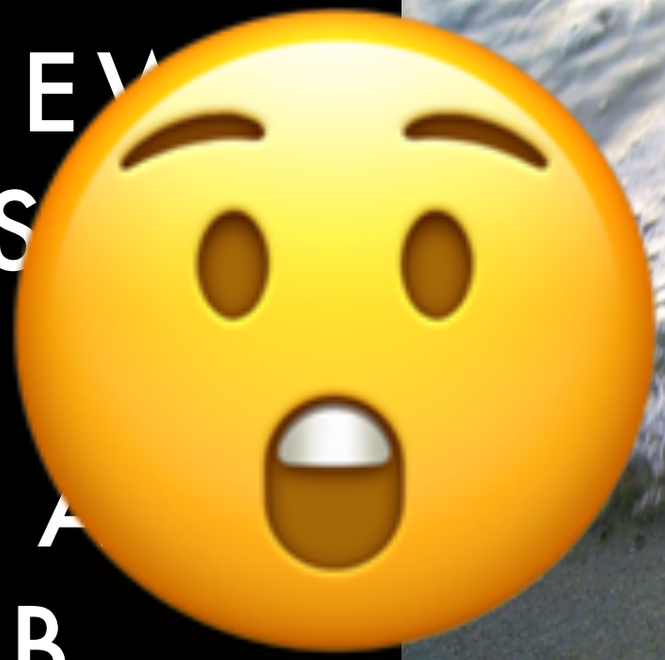
WHAT CAN WE DO?

@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev



@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev

... CAN GROW AN ENTIRE NEW SEA STAR JUST FROM A PORTION OF A SEVERED LIMB



- NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

STARFISH ARE NEURAL NETWORKS

THE USE OF WATER SAVES SPACE, NO NEED FOR A COMPLEX BLOOD SYSTEM.

SEAWATER IS HIGHLY ABUNDANT AND THEY WILL NEVER RUN OUT OF IT.

@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev

visitsealife.com

OUR COMMUNITIES CAN BE MORE LIKE STARFISH

@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev

DECENTRALIZATION

“When you give people freedom, you get chaos, but you also get incredible creativity.”

–THE STARFISH AND THE SPIDER

@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev

"When you put people in an open system, some of them will get high, dance all night long and attack street signs. But most people will create elaborate art … and try as hard as they can to contribute to the community."

TURNING HIERARCHY INTO STARFISH ARMS

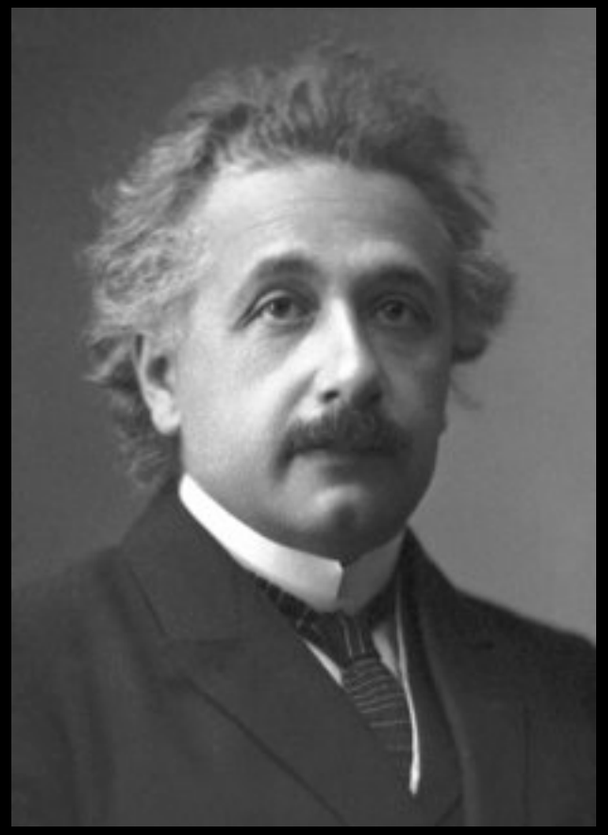
K.I.S.S

@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev

K.I.S.S.

“MAKE EVERYTHING AS SIMPLE AS POSSIBLE, BUT NOT SIMPLER”

–ALBERT EINSTEIN



@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev

What do you want people to know?

What do you want people to do?

Why should people care?

@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev

“The measure of intelligence is the ability to change.”

–ALBERT EINSTEIN

SOMETIMES AN AD

SAYS IT ALL

... OR CROWD-SOURCED ON TWITTER

Ben Greenberg [🇮🇱🛩🇩🇴@ #CDC2019]
@RabbiGreenberg

When you think of examples of businesses that weren't adaptive fast enough, what do you think of?

2:11 AM · Sep 27, 2019 · Twitter Web App

Rabbi Josh Yuter @JYuter · Sep 27

Replying to @RabbiGreenberg

Kodak

3

Yechiel K @yechielk · Sep 27

Replying to @RabbiGreenberg

Radio shack

4

Aaron Wolf @wolf_math · Sep 27

Replying to @RabbiGreenberg

Blockbuster

2

Benjamin Aronov @AronovBenjamin · Sep 27

Replying to @RabbiGreenberg

Yahoo!

1

@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev

... AND MY PERSONAL FAVORITE

Chris Tankersley @dragonmantank · Sep 27

Replying to @RabbiGreenberg

Every cable TV provider

1

@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev

"When others took note of AA's success, they borrowed the twelve-step model and launched organisations combating a variety of addictions, including narcotics, food, and gambling.

AA's response?

Good for you."

–THE STARFISH AND THE SPIDER

@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev

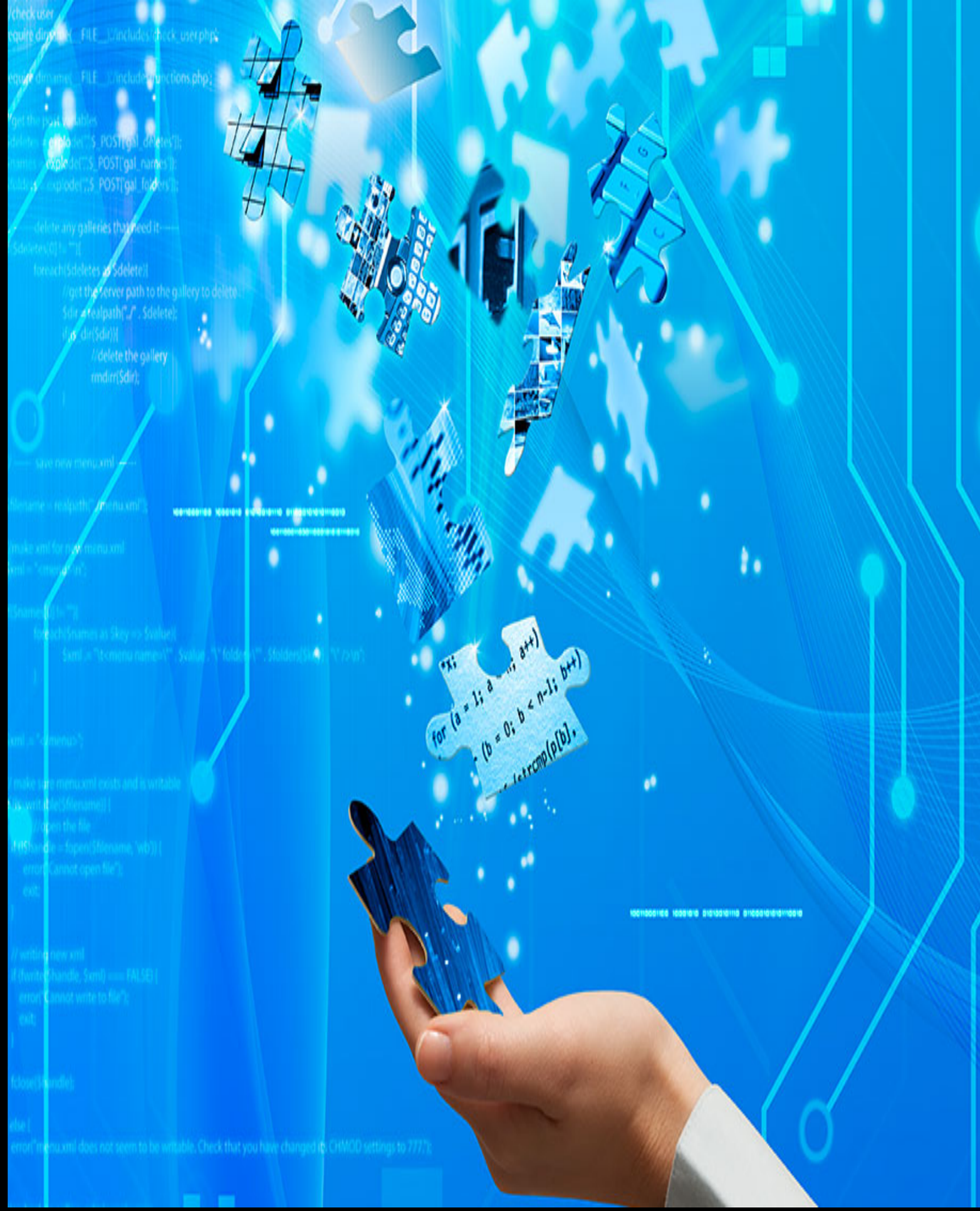
"... Open systems can easily mutate."

–THE STARFISH AND THE SPIDER

@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev

SCALABILITY

@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev



"A successful product may not be scalable, a successful **process** always is."

–DR. FAISAL KHOSA

@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev

"As the software industry becomes more decentralized, an entirely new logic system is being adopted, it seems like something from *Alice in Wonderland*..."

THE STARFISH AND THE SPIDER

"Who would ever have imagined, for example, that companies would race to give away their software for free?"

@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev

EVERYONE CONTRIBUTES

"If you want user contributions, build platforms that are familiar and easy.

Lower the barriers to participation, focus on helping users to understand what you want from them."

–NEIMAN LAB

@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev

(1) DECENTRALIZATION

(2) K.I.S.S

(3) ADAPTABILITY

(4) SCALABILITY

(5) EVERYONE CONTRIBUTES

@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev

BUT, IS THERE AN EXAMPLE?

@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev

RAILS
OBJOO
DEV
DEV
DEV
DEV
DEV
DEV
DEV
DEV
DEV
TOP
DEV.together

KEEPING IT SIMPLE

WHAT DO PEOPLE NEED TO KNOW?

"WE ARE A FOR PROFIT COMPANY... TRAŃSPARENCY THAT COMES WITH OPEN SOURCE SHOULD ADD ACCOUNTABILITY."

@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev

KEEPING IT SIMPLE

WHAT SHOULD THEY DO?

"REFACTORING CODE... FIXING BUGS...
BUILDING FEATURES.

THE PRODUCT ROADMAP SHOULD BE A
GOOD GUIDE TO FOLLOW."

@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev

KEEPING IT SIMPLE

WHY SHOULD PEOPLE CARE?

"WE ARE A LARGE COMMUNITY OF SOFTWARE DEVS COMMITTED TO TE`ACHING ONE ANOTHER, BUILDING OUR CAREERS, AND GENERALLY MAKING SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT A MORE HUMANE ENDEAVOR."

@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev

EVERYONE CAN CONTRIBUTE

REIMAGINE YOUR GITHUB REPOSITORY

AS A HOMEPAGE

@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev

README.md

DEV Community 👩‍💻👨‍💻

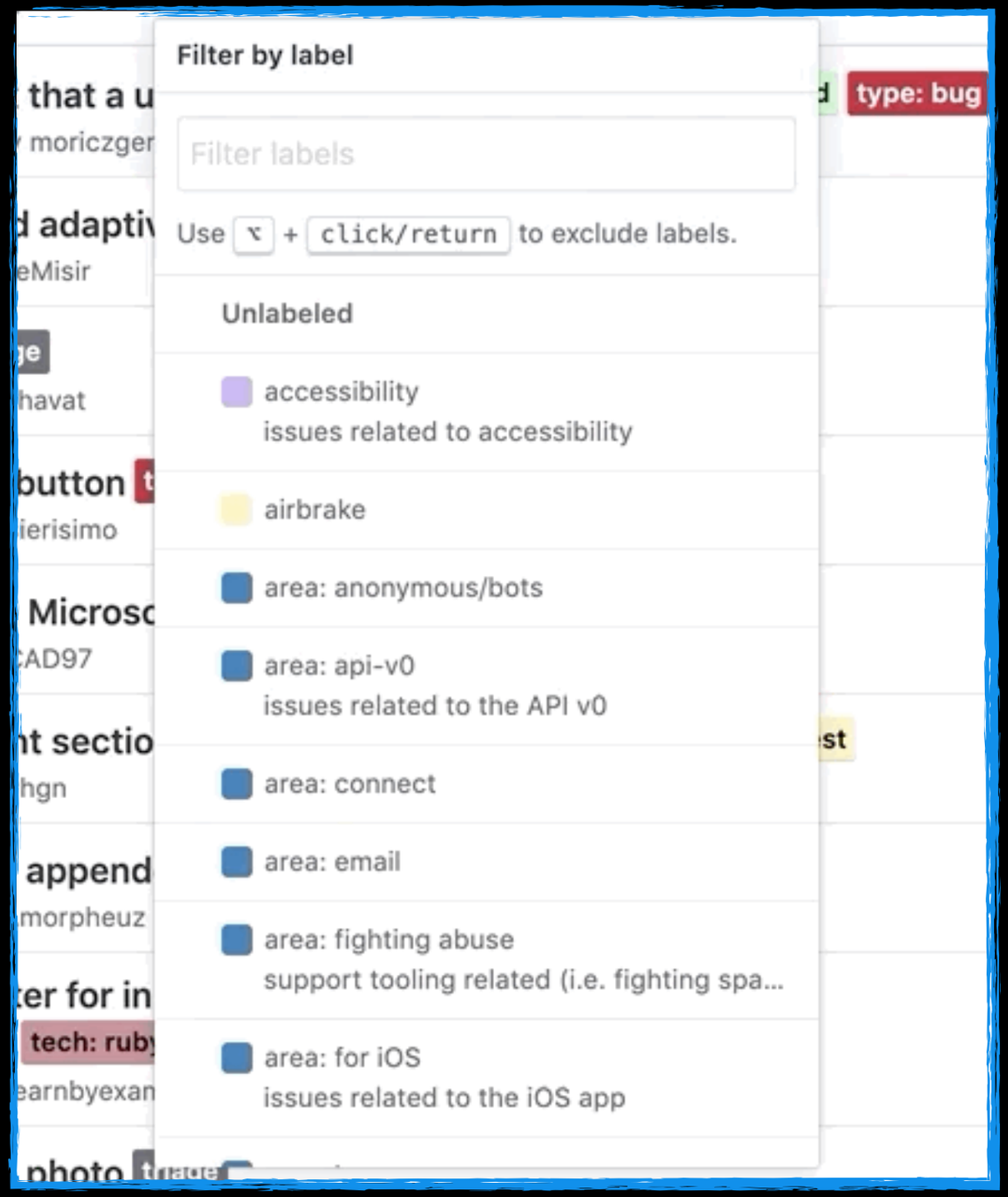
The Human Layer of the Stack

Welcome to the dev.to codebase. We are so excited to have you. With your help, we can build out DEV to be more stable and better serve our community.

What is dev.to?

dev.to (or just DEV) is a platform where software developers write articles, take part in discussions, and build their professional profiles. We value supportive and constructive dialogue in the pursuit of great code and career growth for all members. The ecosystem spans from beginner to advanced developers, and all are welcome to find their place within our community. ❤️

THE BEST OF THE FOX *AND* THE CAT



@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev

ROADS ARE PAVED WITH GOOD INTENTIONS

... SO ARE CODES OF CONDUCT

COMMUNICATION

Enforcement

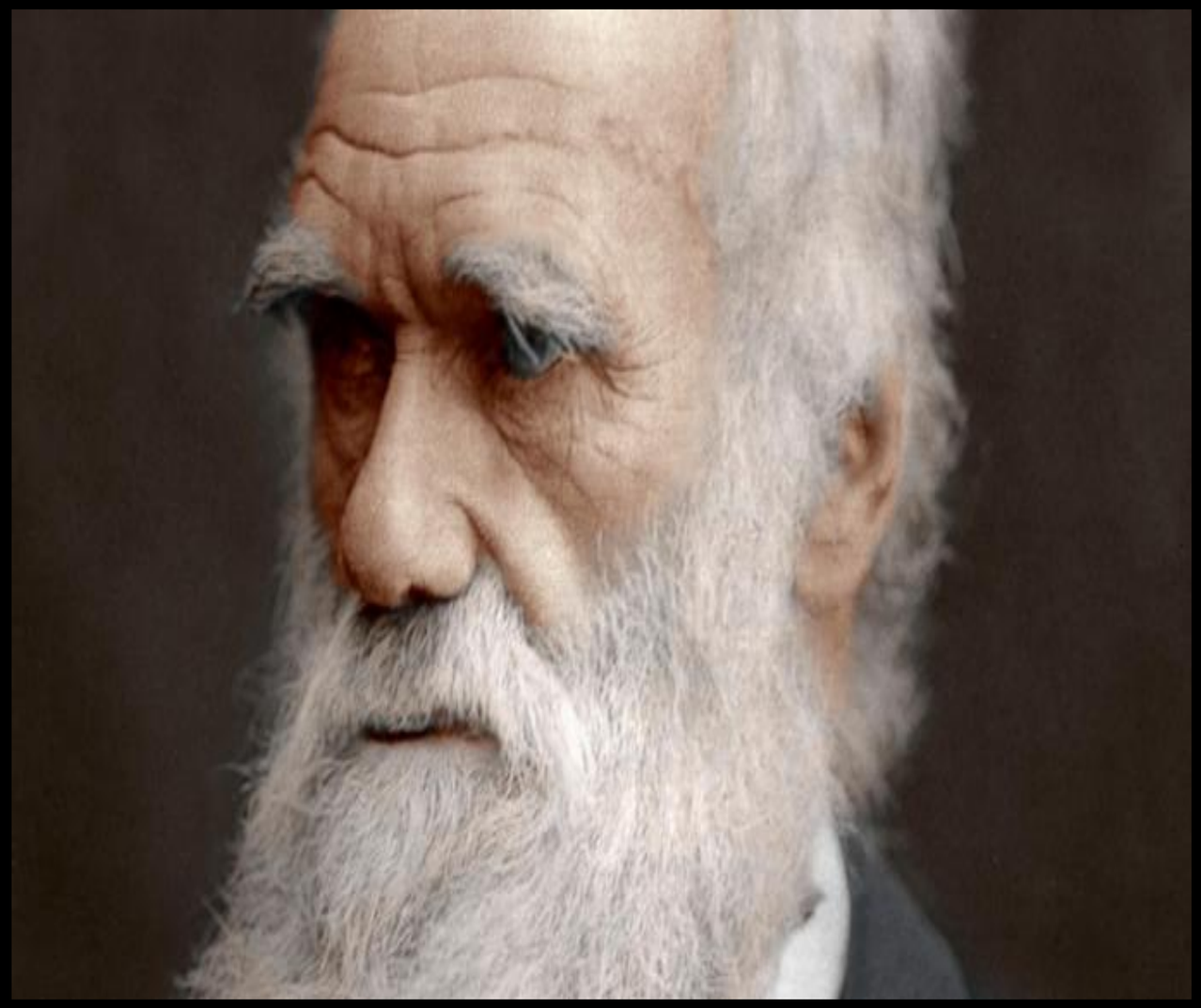
Violations of the Code of Conduct may be reported by contacting the team via the abuse report form or by sending an email to yo@dev.to. All reports will be reviewed and investigated and will result in a response that is deemed necessary and appropriate to the circumstances. Further details of specific enforcement policies may be posted separately.

Moderators have the right and responsibility to remove comments or other contributions that are not aligned to this Code of Conduct, or to ban temporarily or permanently any members for other behaviors that they deem inappropriate, threatening, offensive, or harmful.

@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev

IT IS IN THE LONG HISTORY OF HUMANKIND THAT THOSE WHO LEARNED TO COLLABORATE AND IMPROVISE MOST EFFECTIVELY HAVE PREVAILED.

CHARLES DARWIN



@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev

THANK YOU!

@rabbigreenberg
@nexmodev