



**Yes, you can choose Erlang for
your new open source project**

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COO @af83 – twitter : @ineation
ERLANG FACTORY LONDON 2011

Yes, you can choose Erlang for your new open source project

Well, we believe this is the right answer.
But we are not sure yet

The aim of this presentation is to share our thinking, doubts and decisions regarding the use of Erlang for our last open source project.



U.C.Engine is a young open-source project
started somewhere in April last year.

Not yet a success, not yet a failure...

U.C.Engine allows you to build real time collaboration applications



Meetings



Conferences



Live events



Project management



Idea generation



E-learning



Customer support



Medical diagnostic



Product demonstration



User research



Games



Analytics



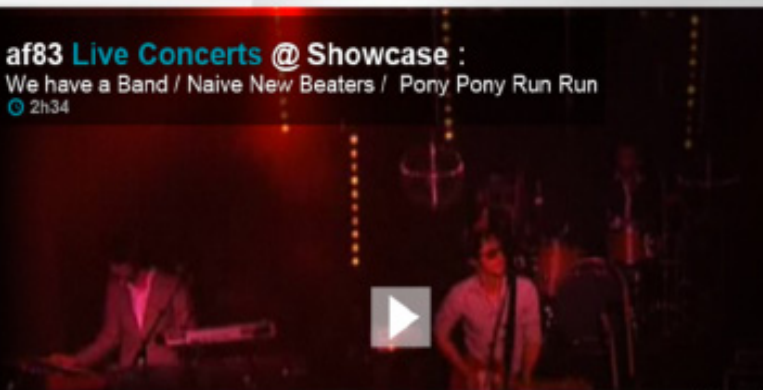
Interactive web TV or radios

recherchez Connexion Inscription

U.C. engine ACCUEIL CONCERTS ARCHIVES EXPLORATEUR DE CONTENU

af83 Live Concerts @ Showcase :

We have a Band / Naive New Beaters / Pony Pony Run Run
2h34



Flash Quizz

Gagnez des points pour accéder aux Bonus VIP

vous avez **45** pts / 100

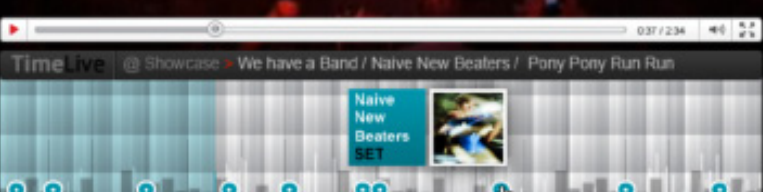
Quel titre a révélé les Pony Pony Run Run ?

- Cherry Love Brazil
- Hey you
- Show Me Show Me

Valider

Il vous reste : - 0mn30s

TimeLive @ Showcase - We have a Band / Naive New Beaters / Pony Pony Run Run

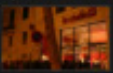


Live Experience


Filtrez par

Tout Tchat Tweet Photos

Marr_D
Aenean dolor et amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Phasellus euismod ante id risus gravida vel vulputate erat convallis. Nullam netus.

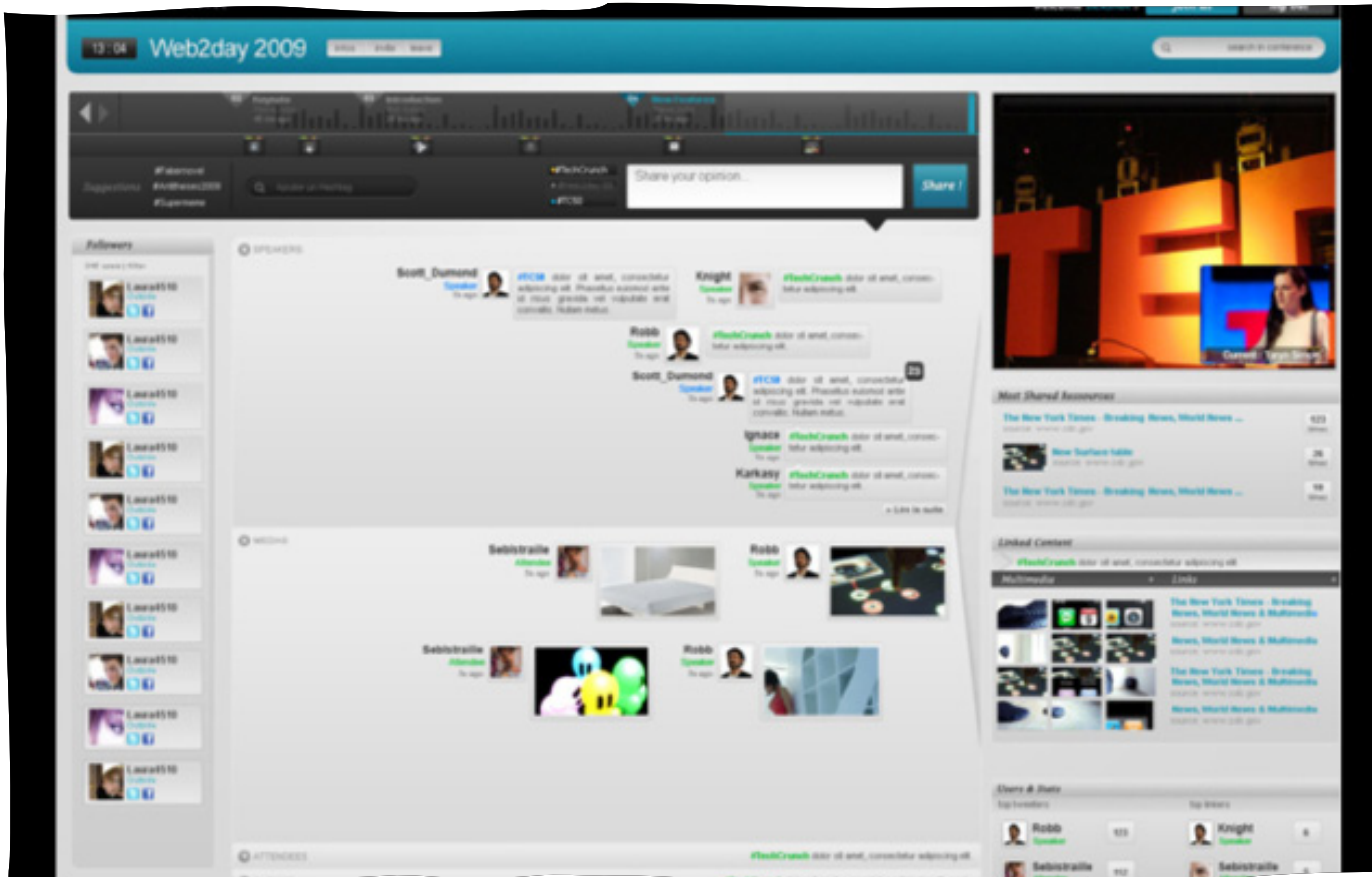
Sylvie Elchetarra


Bunt
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Praem


Syst-M
Aenean id risus gravida vel vulputate erat convallis. Nullam netus. Baccoustrinc tere. berrin laoreetam

Envie de partager un avis, une émotion, un commentaire ? C'EST ICI





INFORMATIONS

Meeting name: **Demonstration room**
Description: **U.C.Engine Demonstration room**

CONVERSATIONS

CHATROOMS

All users (1)

TWEETS

Add hastag
ADD

YOU CAN WRITE JUST HERE **POST**

SHARING

UCEngine splendida 08-25-10 by Ineation **DOWNLOAD**

1 / 25 100% **SEARCH**



MEETING MANAGER

- Users connected (4)
- <Unnamed> You **REQUEST LEAD**
 - Me22 Owner
 - Archibald Pilot
 - Ineation
 - F2M
 - Abigail123
 - S/.

FILES

List of files: All - Your files **UPLOAD A FILE**

- UX design Trends 2011.pdf**
08-25-10 by Abigail
SHARE **DOWNLOAD**
- WeDontPlay.jpg**
08-25-10 by Abigail
SHARE **DOWNLOAD**

VIDEO

WHITEBOARD

Whiteboard toolbar with drawing tools and color palette.

U.C.Engine framework includes:

- a publish/subscribe server with persistence,
- a Javascript frontend application
- widgets (chat, file sharing...)
- backend clients (video, file converters...)



We knew the language and we knew
Erlang made perfect sense for the core
pubsub component
(and is much more fun)

So why were we unsure
about the choice ?

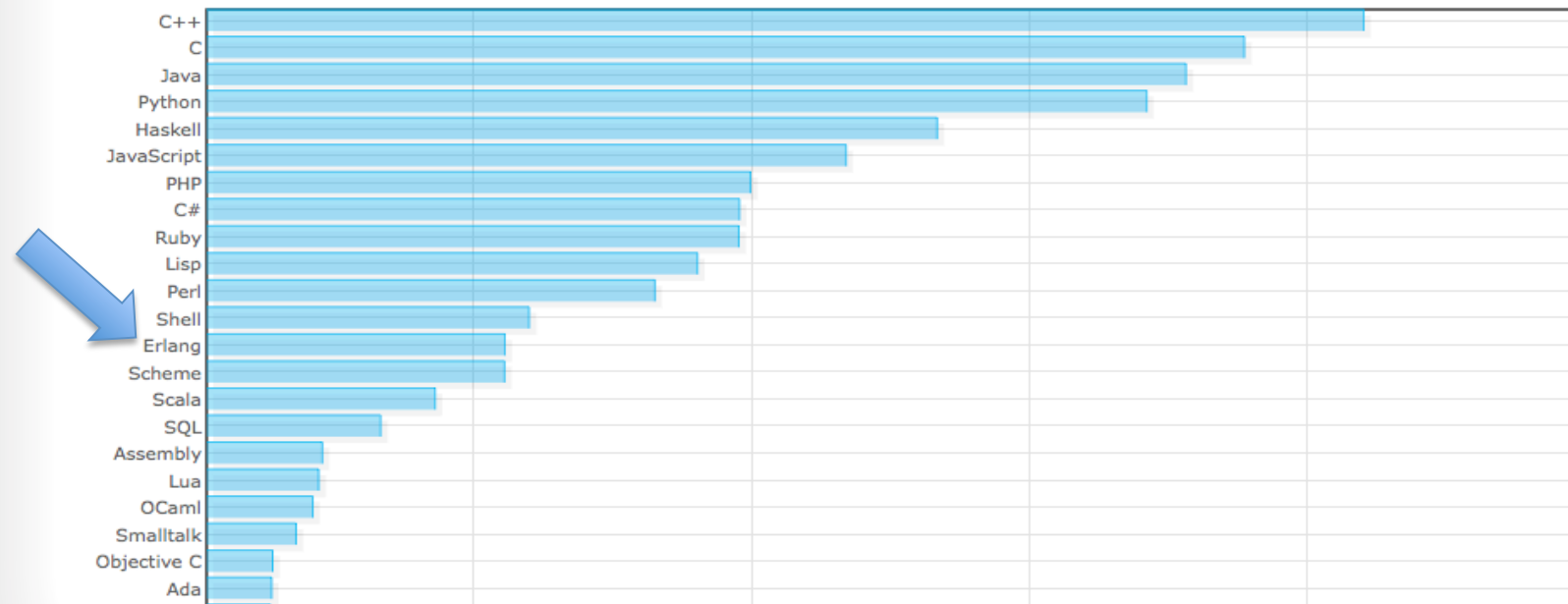
An outlook at the Erlang community

A little bit of profiling

A vibrant discussion

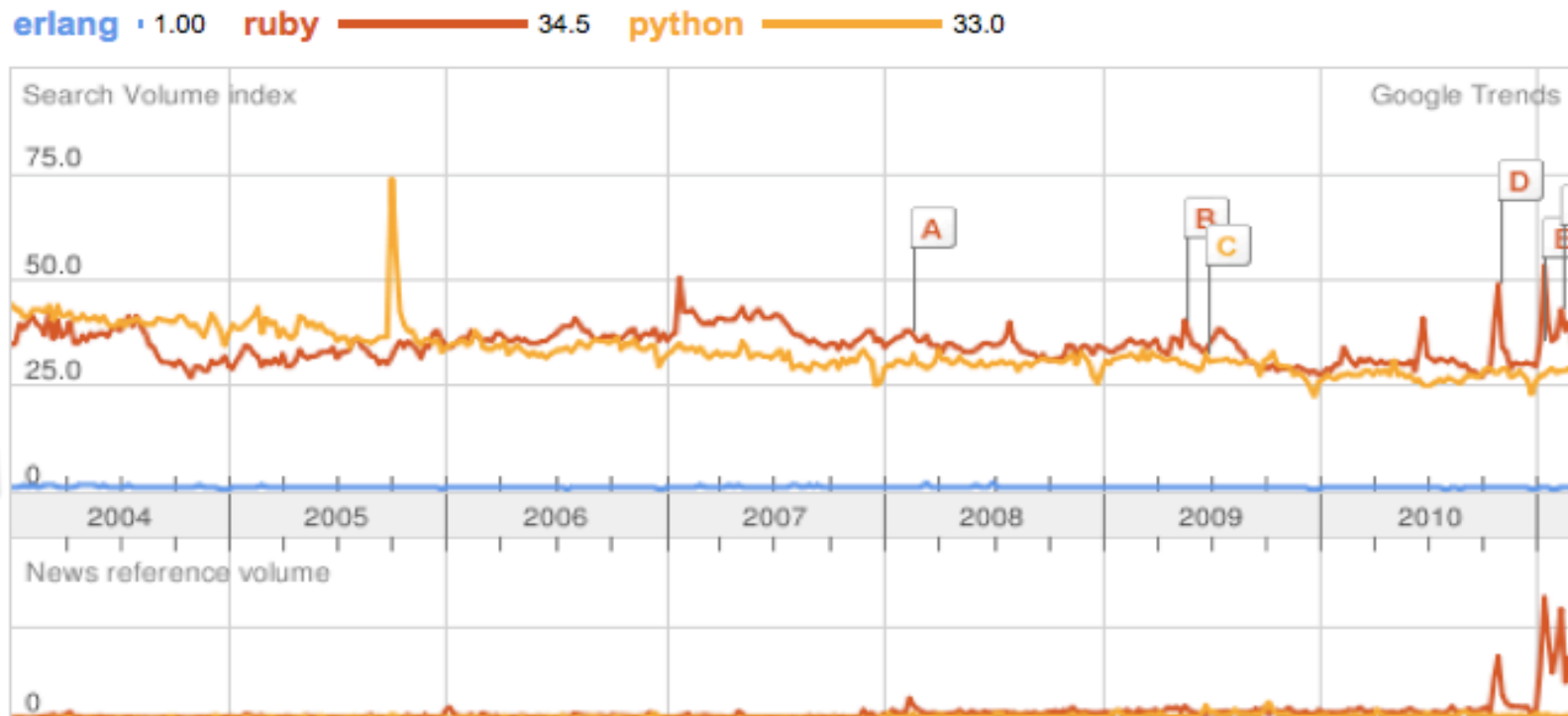
Normalized Discussion Site Results

Normalized results from the discussion site data sets - these results are not included with the 'normalized results' above. It's interesting to note how languages like Haskell and Erlang are talked about a lot, despite scoring fairly low on the normalized popularity chart above. People are interested in them, but haven't begun to use them on a large scale yet.



Programming Language Popularity
Featured on LangPop.com
Language popularity statistics by DedaSys.com

But a small number of participants



Google trend - Erlang, Ruby, Python search trends

<http://www.google.com/trends?q=erlang%2Cruby%2Cpython&ctab=0&geo=all&date=all&sort=0>

Innovative actors and projects

github SOCIAL CODING

ineation Dashboard Inbox Account Settings Log Out

Explore GitHub Gist Blog Help Search GitHub...

Erlang is the #20 most popular language on GitHub

Explore Repositories Languages Timeline Search Tips

Erlang Recently Created Recently Updated

Most Watched Today

- yariv / **erlyweb**
- evanmiller / **ChicagoBoss**
- cliffmoon / **dynamite**
- processone / **ejabberd**
- AtillaE / **Exago**

Most Watched This Week

- extend / **cowboy**
- josevalim / **elixir**
- apache / **couchdb**
- erlang / **otp**
- couchbaselabs / **IOS-Couchbase**

Most Watched This Month

- couchbaselabs / **IOS-Couchbase**
- josevalim / **elixir**
- extend / **cowboy**
- erlang / **otp**
- apache / **couchdb**

Most Watched Overall

- erlang / **otp**
- apache / **couchdb**
- tarcieri / **reia**
- nitrogen / **nitrogen**
- cliffmoon / **dynamite**

Recently Created Repositories more »

- tdx / **lhttpc**
- wooga / **elogger**
- ndim / **cowboy**
- garazdawi / **cth_tools**
- nguyennv / **webmachine**

Most Forked Today

- oscarh / **lhttpc**
- knutin / **elogger**
- extend / **cowboy**

Most Forked This Week

- apache / **couchdb**
- extend / **cowboy**
- couchbaselabs / **IOS-Couchbase**
- arjan / **zotonic**
- basho / **webmachine**

Most Forked This Month

- erlang / **otp**
- couchbaselabs / **IOS-Couchbase**
- josevalim / **elixir**
- apache / **couchdb**
- mochi / **mochiweb**

Most Forked Overall

- erlang / **otp**
- apache / **couchdb**
- nitrogen / **nitrogen**
- basho / **rebar**
- mochi / **mochiweb**

Recently Updated Repositories more »

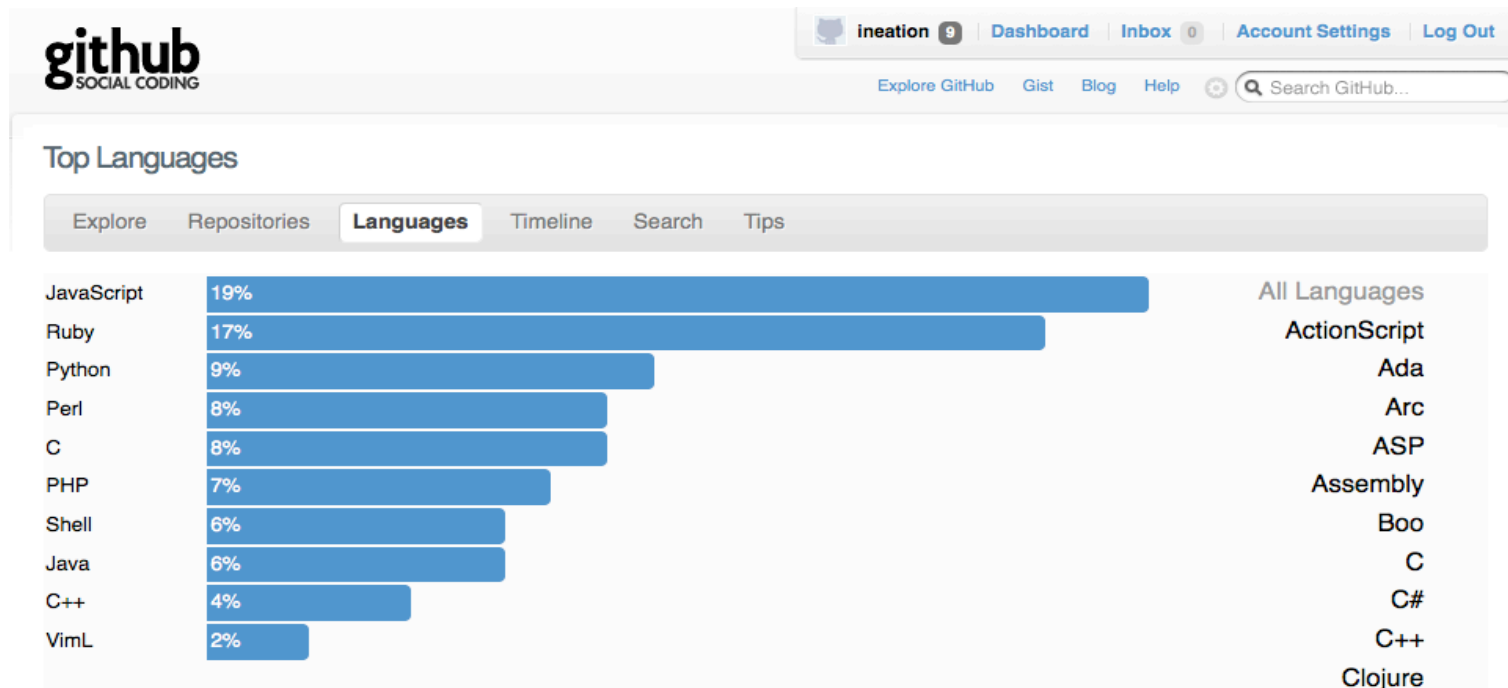
- rabbitmq / **rabbitmq-server**
- Zhilmoen / **distproj**
- qoocku / **estdcoll**
- ytakano / **EBT**
- khueue / **distsys**

All Languages

- ActionScript
- Ada
- Arc
- ASP
- Assembly
- Boo
- C
- C#
- C++
- Clojure
- CoffeeScript
- ColdFusion
- Common Lisp
- D
- Delphi
- Duby
- Eiffel
- Emacs Lisp
- Erlang
- F#
- Factor
- FORTRAN
- Go
- Groovy
- Haskell
- HaXe
- Io
- Java
- JavaScript
- Lua
- Max/MSP
- Nu
- Objective-C
- Objective-J
- OCaml
- ooc
- Perl
- PHP

Github - Top Languages
<https://github.com/languages>

But small usage



➔ Erlang is the #20 most popular language on GitHub

Github - Top Languages
<https://github.com/languages/erlang>

An excellent career opportunity!

erlang Job Trends



Indeed.com - Erlang job trends
<http://www.indeed.com/jobtrends?q=erlang&l=>

But a small number of opportunity

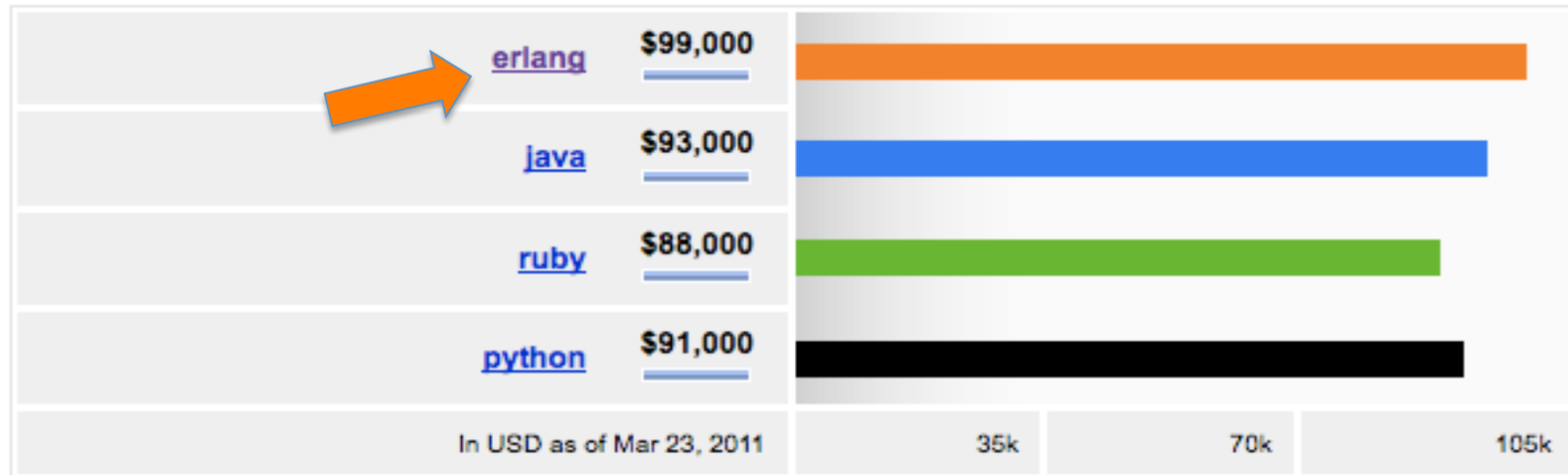
erlang Job Trends



Indeed.com - Erlang job trends

<http://www.indeed.com/jobtrends?q=erlang&l=&relative=1>

Average Salary of Jobs Matching Your Search



Average erlang salaries for job postings nationwide are 12% higher than average ruby salaries for job postings nationwide.

And no small salaries!

Indeed.com – Erlang salary
<http://www.indeed.com/salary?q1=erlang&l1=>

Size != quality

We all know that

Community profile

My father

Tourists

Workers

Passionate

In the DNA

Erlang Community profile

My father

Tourists

Workers

Passionate

In the DNA



Source : gut-feeling.com
Come on, did you really think this was data driven ?

ROR Community profile

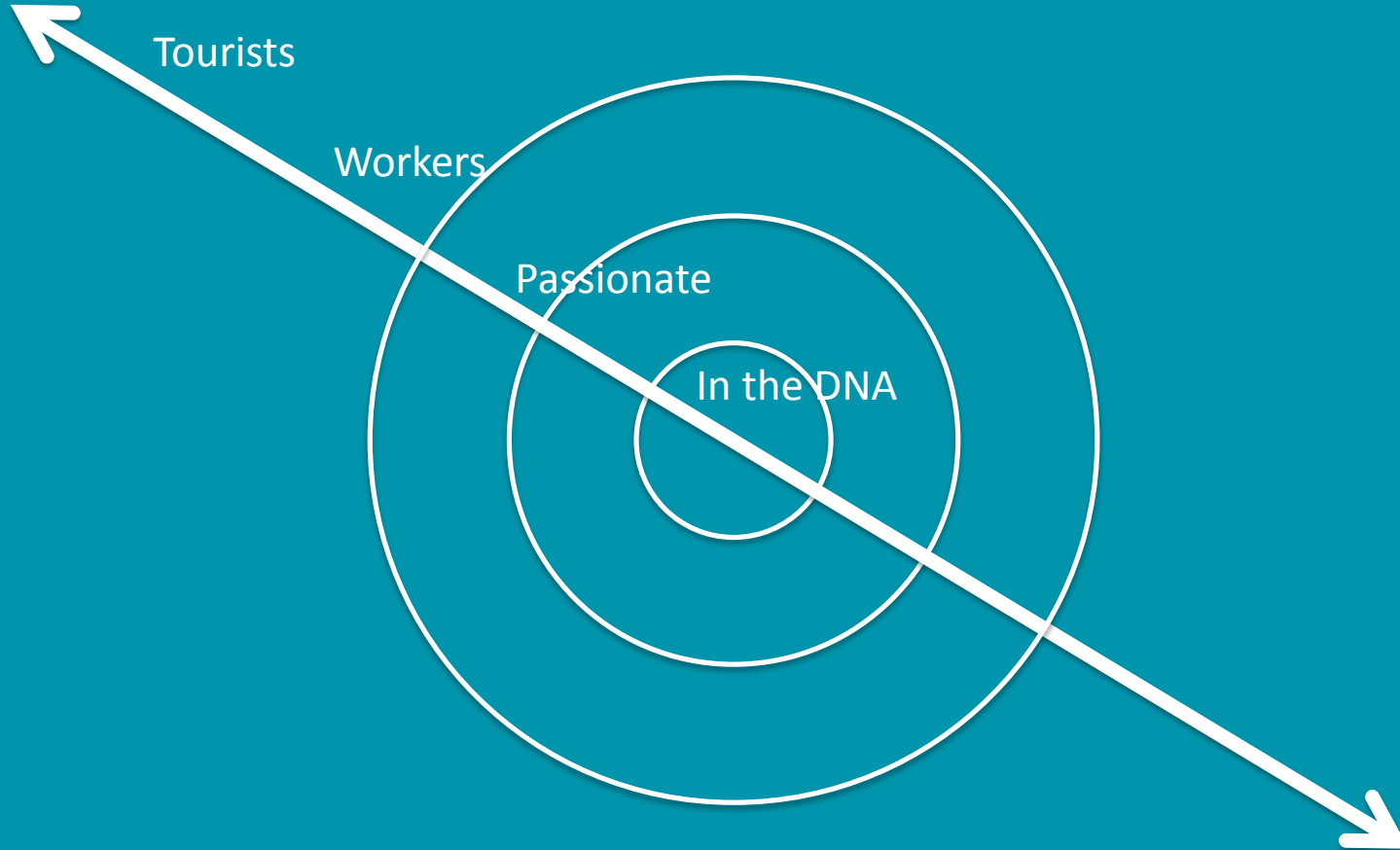
My father

Tourists

Workers

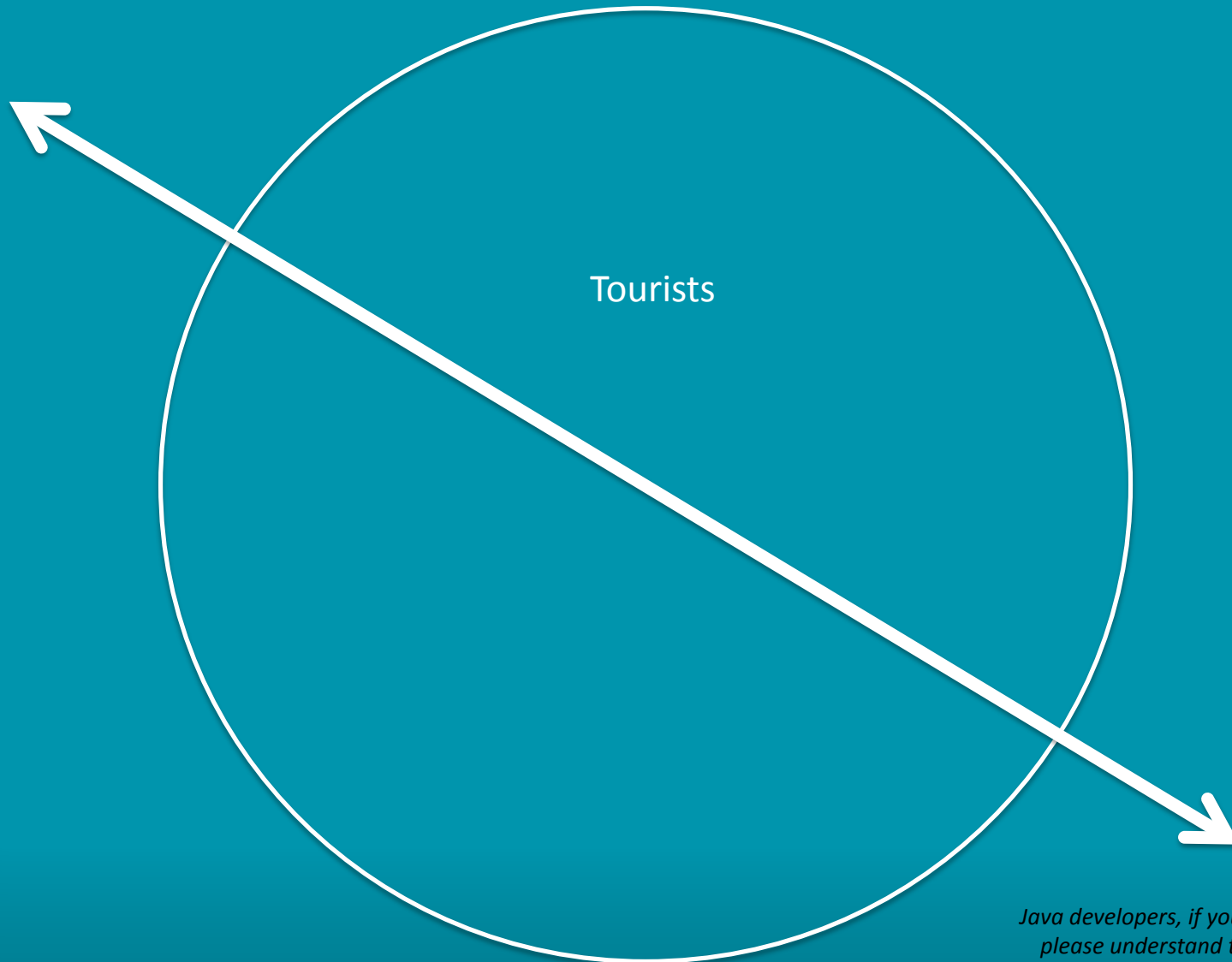
Passionate

In the DNA



Source : gut-feeling.com
Come on, did you really think this was data driven ?

Java Community profile



*Java developers, if you come across that slide,
please understand that it's only a (bad) joke*

Erlang Community profile

My father

Tourists

Workers

Passionate

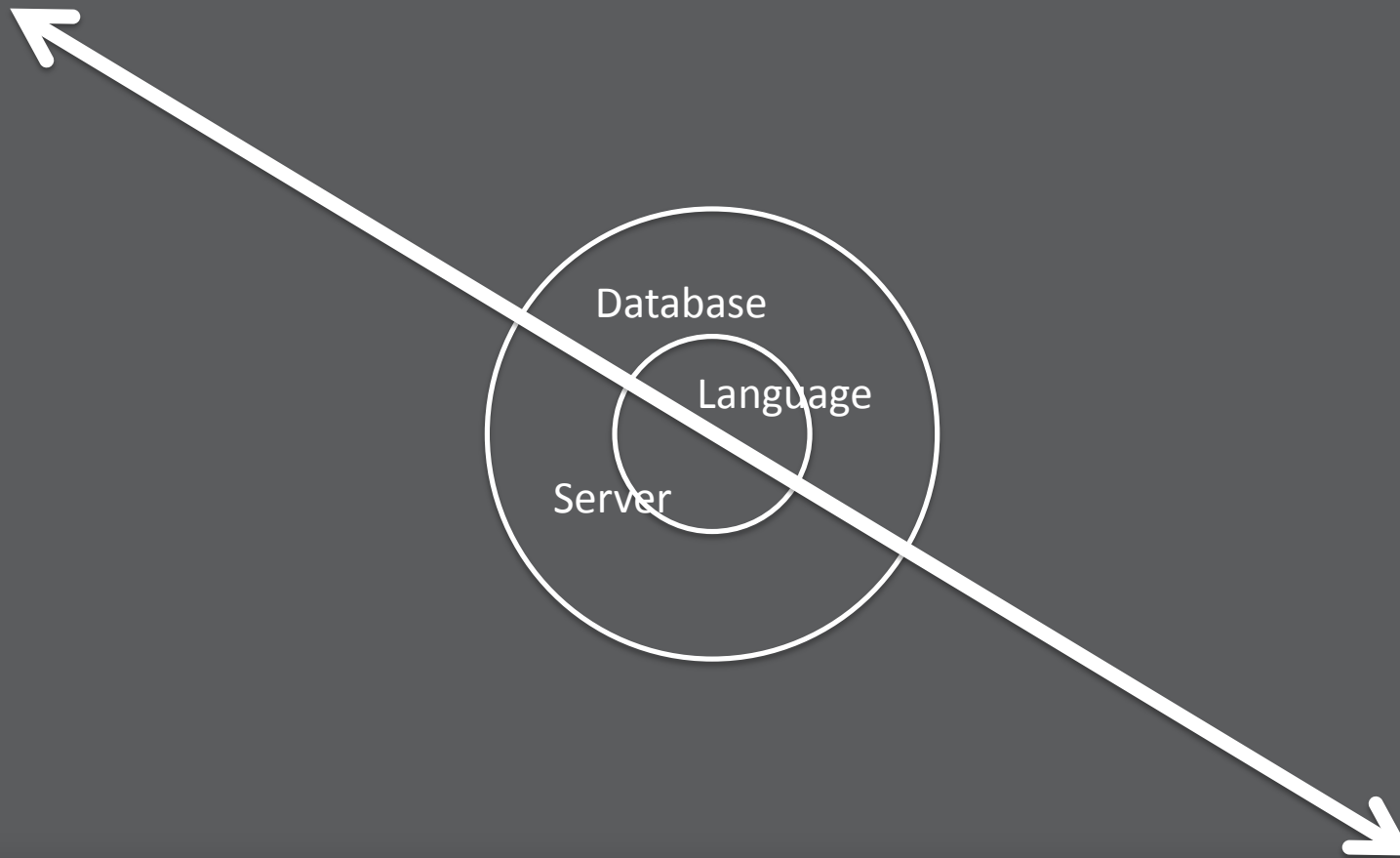
In the DNA



Source : gut-feeling.com
Come on, did you really think this was data driven ?

So that's great there is a bigger proportion
of core & passionate developers

But, at the same times these guys may prefer to focus on core or next-to core topics than in our next fancy Erlang project



Source : gut-feeling.com
Come on, did you really think this was data driven ?

small means that only few happy Erlang projects get the full benefit of being open sourced

Still, Erlang made perfect sense for our
project

(and is much more fun)

So what should we do?

We decided:

Not to destroy our (should be) community

To leverage our plans for Erlang virality

To organize locally

First of all we should avoid to “destroy our community”

Let's try to learn from
Josh Berkus, CEO of PostgreSQL Experts Inc.
“10 Ways to Destroy Your Community”
<http://pgexperts.com/document.html?id=8>
(creative commons attribution license)

#1 Make the project depend as much as possible on difficult tools

Hum, too late, we are using git + erlang + javascript + ruby.

*Inspired by Josh Berkus, CEO of PostgreSQL Experts Inc.
<http://pgexperts.com/document.html?id=8>*

#2 Encourage the presence of poisonous people

Have you seen them ?

*Inspired by Josh Berkus, CEO of PostgreSQL Experts Inc.
<http://pgexperts.com/document.html?id=8>*

#3 Provide no documentation

Documentation is in progress and
progress is good.

*Inspired by Josh Berkus, CEO of PostgreSQL Experts Inc.
<http://pgexperts.com/document.html?id=8>*

#4 Project decisions should be made in closed-door meetings

Doesn't matter, I can make whatever decision, the devs do whatever they want.

*Inspired by Josh Berkus, CEO of PostgreSQL Experts Inc.
<http://pgexperts.com/document.html?id=8>*

#5 Employ large amounts of legalese

No contributor agreement, no trademarks. Just send us a patch.

I said “Just send us a patch!”

*Inspired by Josh Berkus, CEO of PostgreSQL Experts Inc.
<http://pgexperts.com/document.html?id=8>*

#6 The community liaison must be chosen carefully

We don't have a community liaison. We have coders. Coders code 24/7 and are always accessible. Even when in the toilets. They respond to patches in millisecond timeframes.

*Inspired by Josh Berkus, CEO of PostgreSQL Experts Inc.
<http://pgexperts.com/document.html?id=8>*

#7 Governance obfuscation

Like #4, just provide code that goes in your direction

*Inspired by Josh Berkus, CEO of PostgreSQL Experts Inc.
<http://pgexperts.com/document.html?id=8>*

#8 Screw around with licensing

Erlang code == AGPL
javascript == BSD/GPL.

Inspired by Josh Berkus, CEO of PostgreSQL Experts Inc.
<http://pgexperts.com/document.html?id=8>

#9 Do not allow anybody outside the company to have commit access

Just demonstrate you are not going to
(even more) break everything

*Inspired by Josh Berkus, CEO of PostgreSQL Experts Inc.
<http://pgexperts.com/document.html?id=8>*

#10 Silence

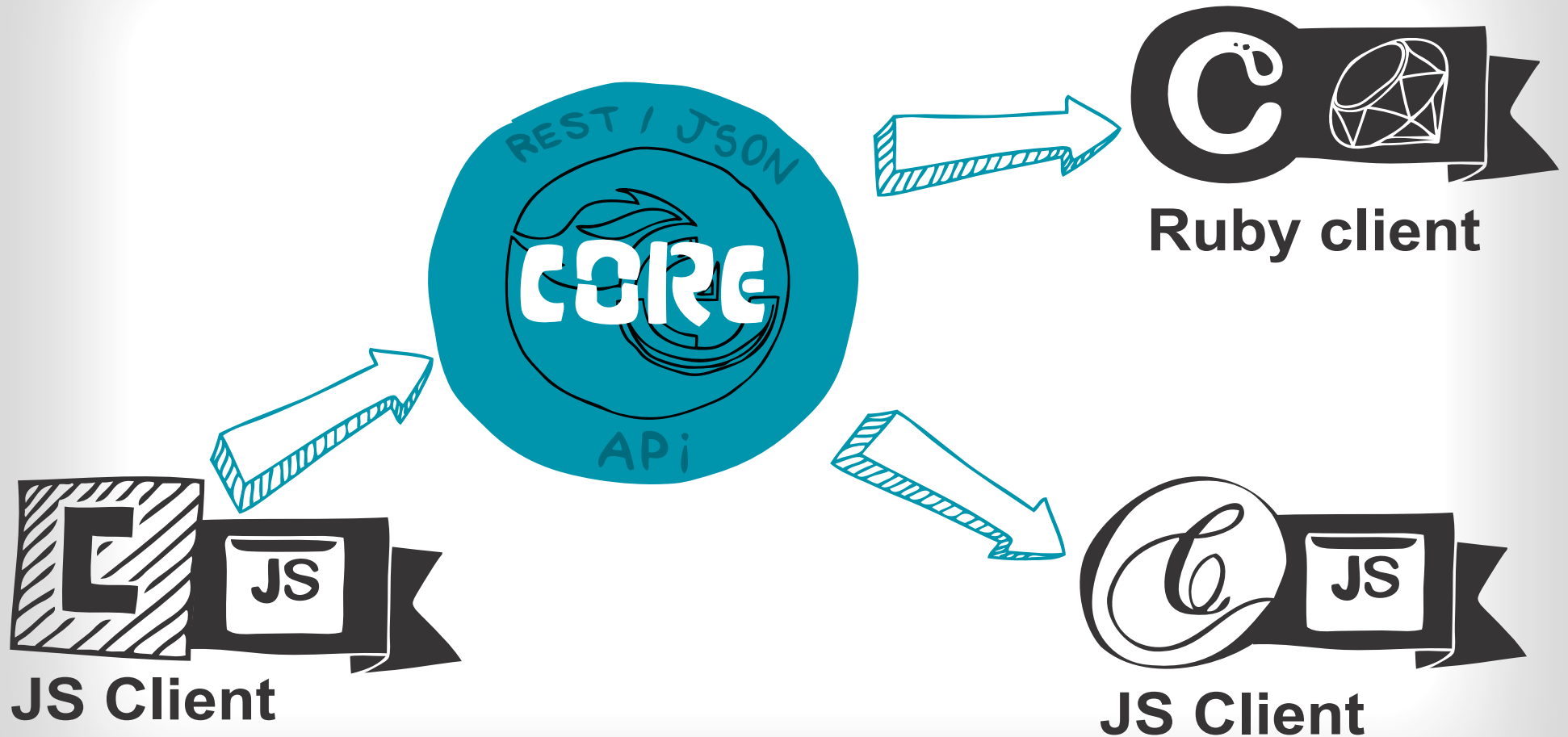
Yeah, right... 7 weeks wo tweeting. Hum, you don't see time passing while coding!

*Inspired by Josh Berkus, CEO of PostgreSQL Experts Inc.
<http://pgexperts.com/document.html?id=8>*

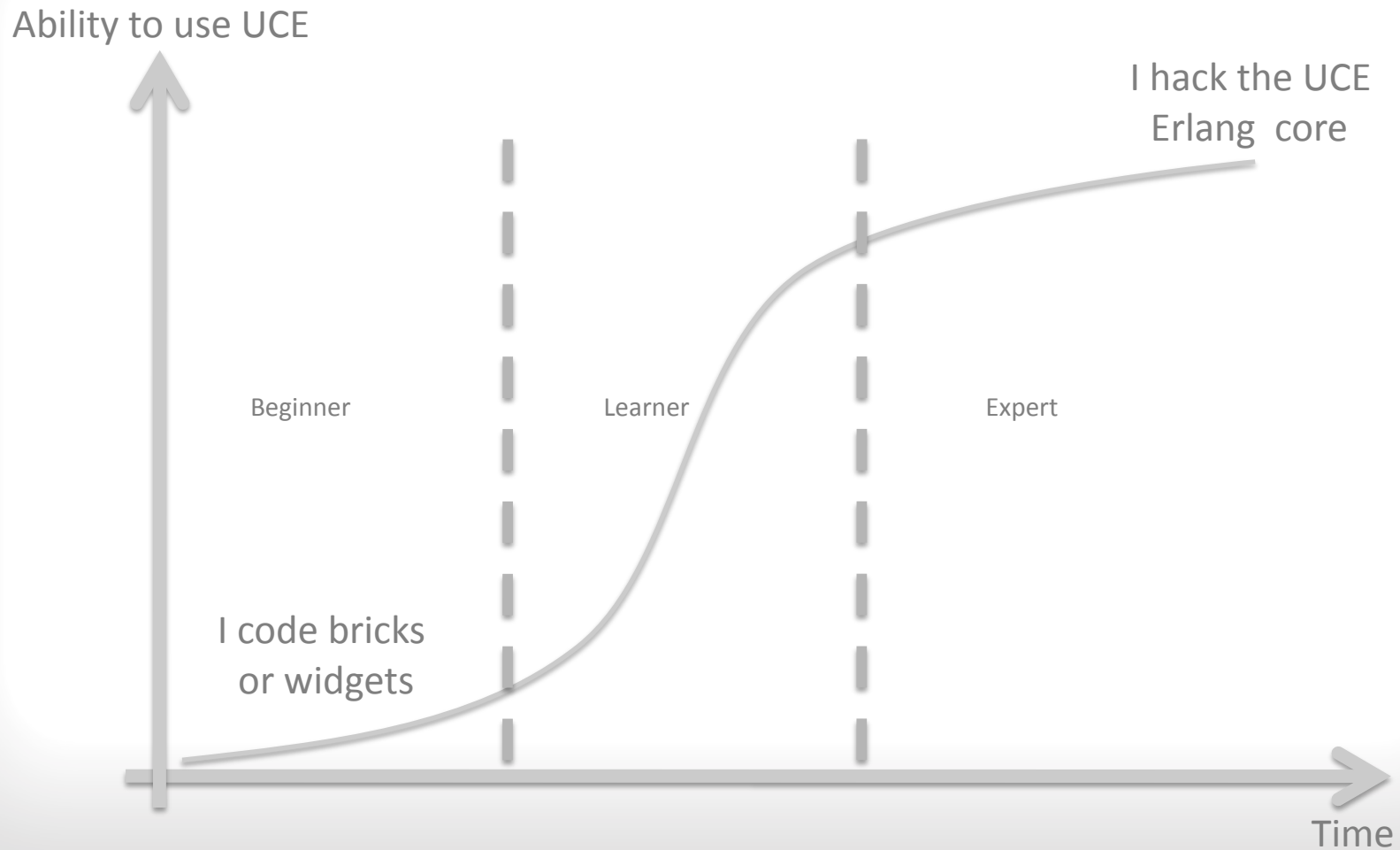
Then, we should leverage our plans for Erlang virality

...bring other people to Erlang

Distributed contribution opportunities



Our “Erlang virality” plan



Reminder : our roadmap to Erlang virality

1. Brainstorm and list all potential contributions sources
2. Create contribution opportunities outside code
3. Create code contribution opportunities outside Erlang
4. Contribute to Erlang domination!

Finally, we should organize locally

We cannot indefinitely rely on Francesco & Jodie to organize all the gatherings ;-)

Local mixed events

- Nothing beats real physical interactions (even a U.C.Engine application)
- Local is easier to grasp
- Mix with other communities, Erlang is also about
 - Realtime
 - NoSQL
 - Gaming
 - ...

**Yes, you can use Erlang for your
open source project.**

But you need to:

Avoid to destroy your community

Leverage plans for Erlang virality

Organize locally

Where are we now ?

Contribution

- Some companies testing the framework for building :
 - A web meeting application
 - A conference broadcast application
 - A live opera streaming platform
 - A collaborative space for distant development teams
 - Instant news site
- + we are building a virtual workspace app.
- Few of them are contributing JS code
- None of them are contributing Erlang patches... But some are reporting bugs

One contributor of Erlang code
outside af83...

One contributor of Erlang code outside af83...

And we hired him ;-)

Organize locally

- We have included Erlang talks in our « WebworkersCamp » April, 15th & 16th.
- We should drink beers with other Erlangers in Paris on June the 28th. We should bring non Erlang devs with us...
- We may push for an Erlang Factory lite in Paris



This is just the beginning...

Questions, suggestions,
testimonials are welcome

@ineation
@ucengine

