# Disk is fast, memory is slow Forget all you think you know

Daniel Magliola

@dmagliola

GOCARDLESS



# Disk is fast, memory is slow Forget all you think you know

Daniel Magliola

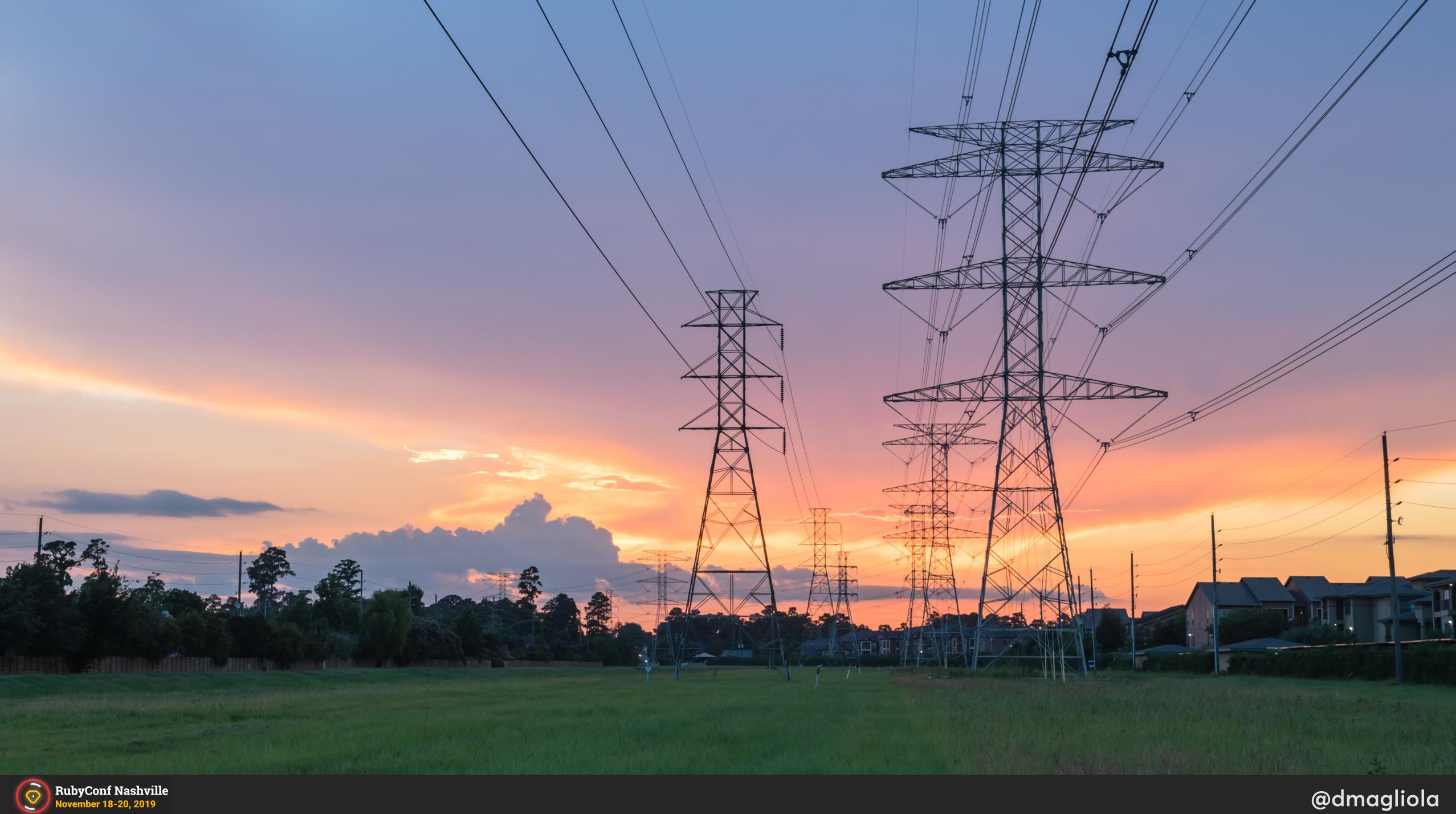
@dmagliola

GOCARDLESS





# GOCARDLESS





# Prometheus

### Prometheus polls your app for its metrics

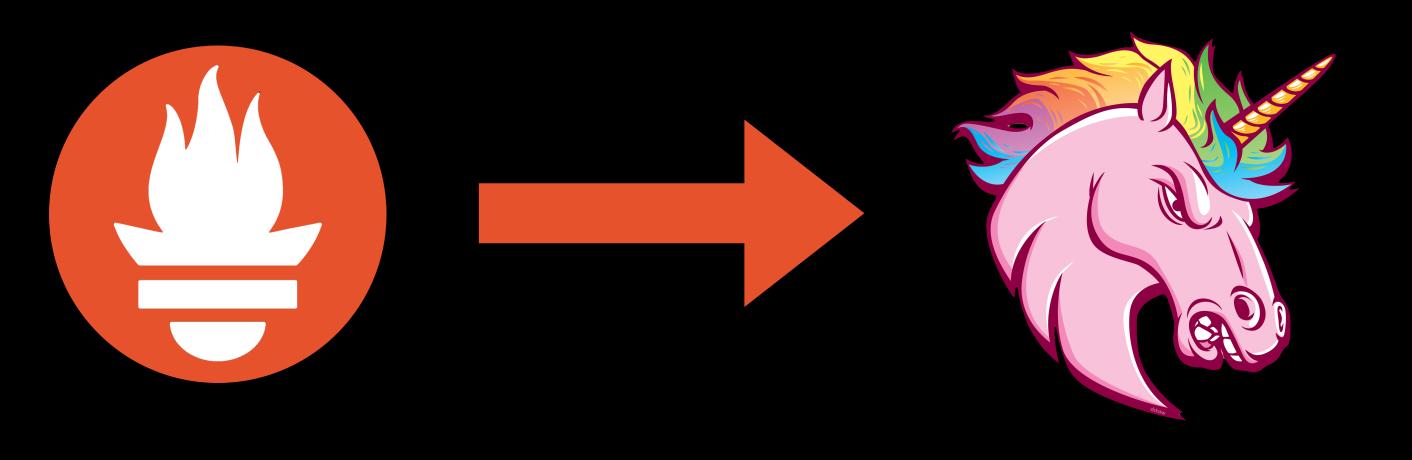




http\_requests\_count[code: 200] = 1000
http\_requests\_count[code: 500] = 2

payments\_count[currency: 'USD'] = 1024
payments\_count[currency: 'EUR'] = 128

### Prometheus polls your app for its metrics









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### Prometheus polls your app for its metrics





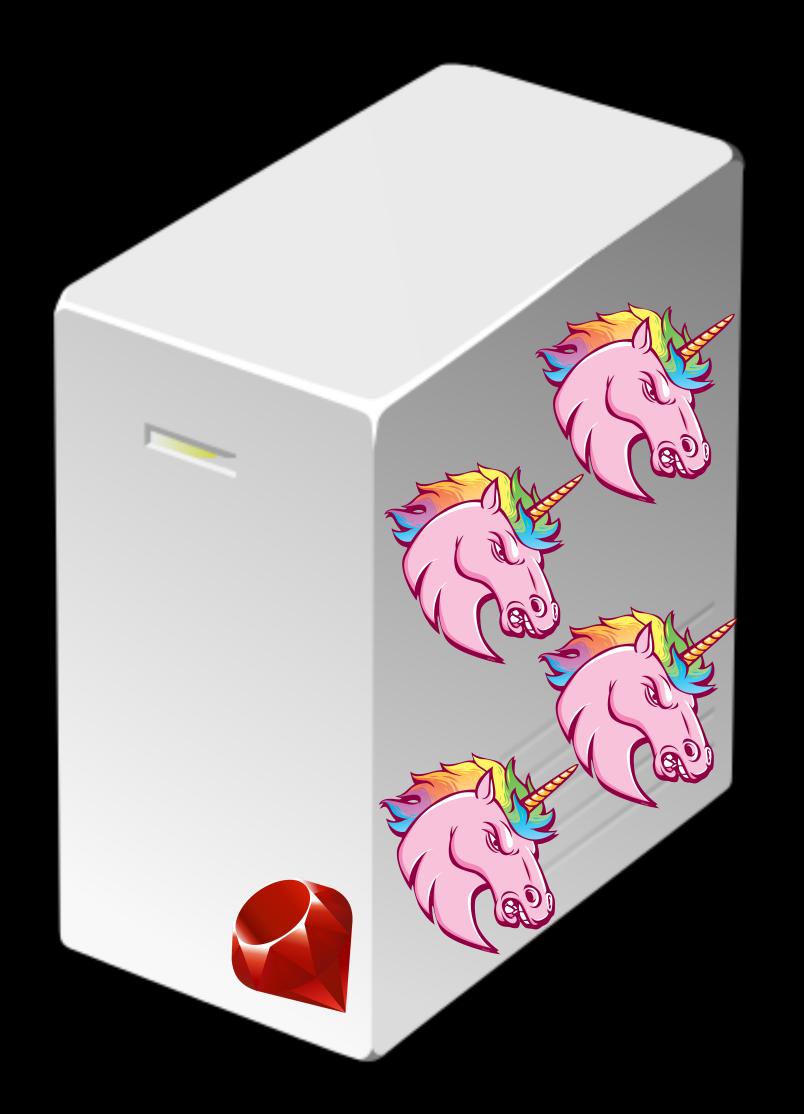




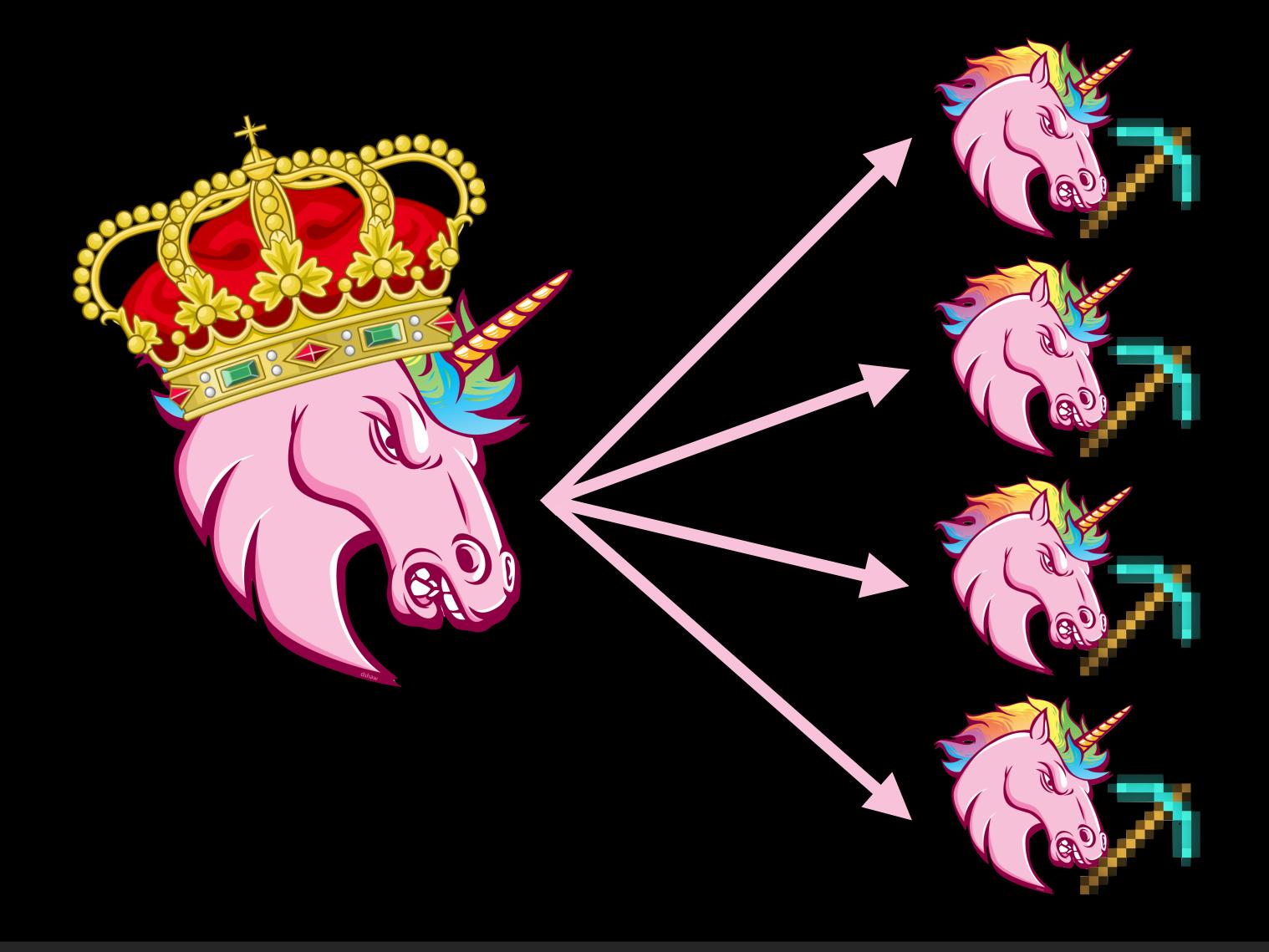
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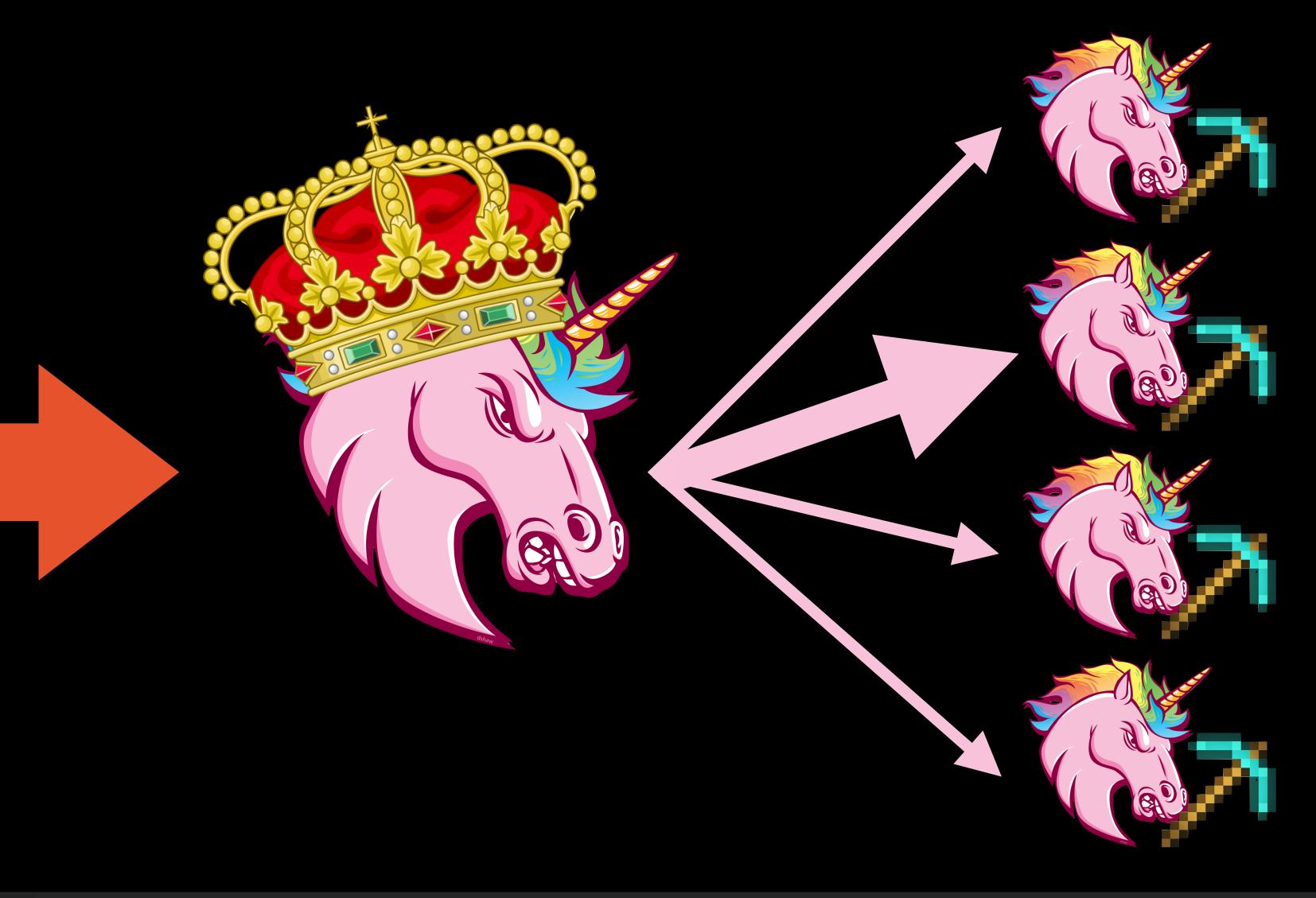
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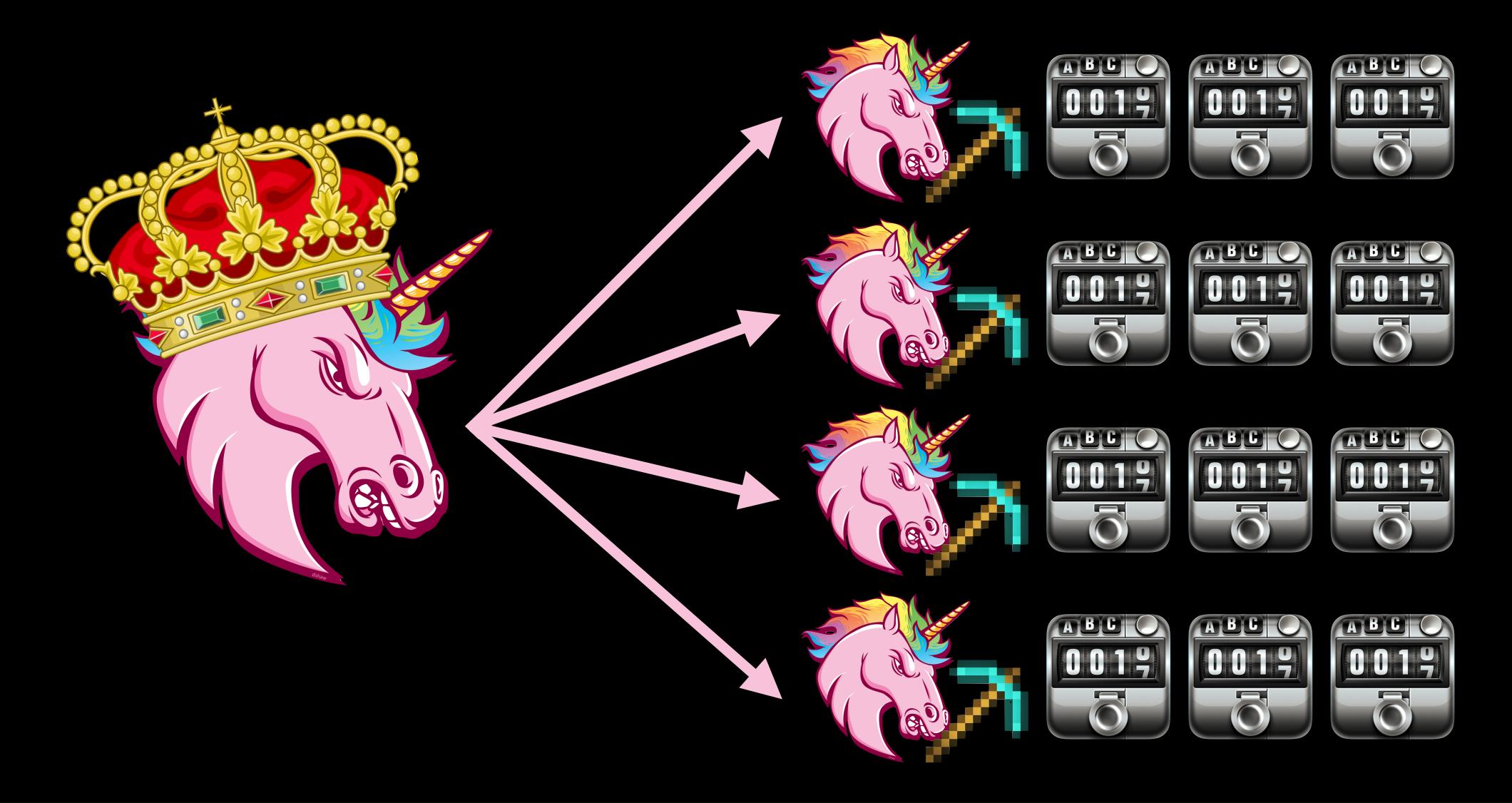


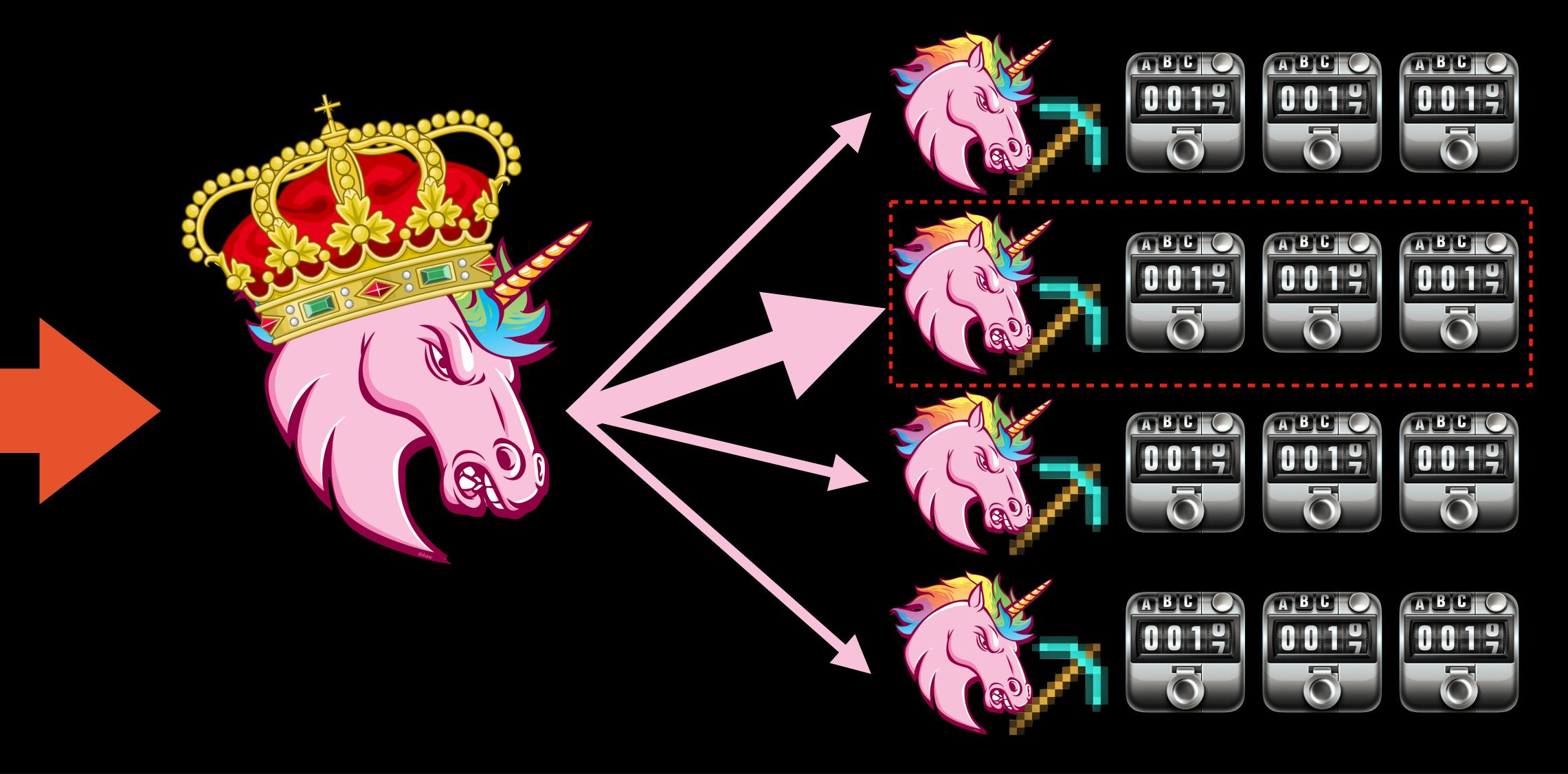


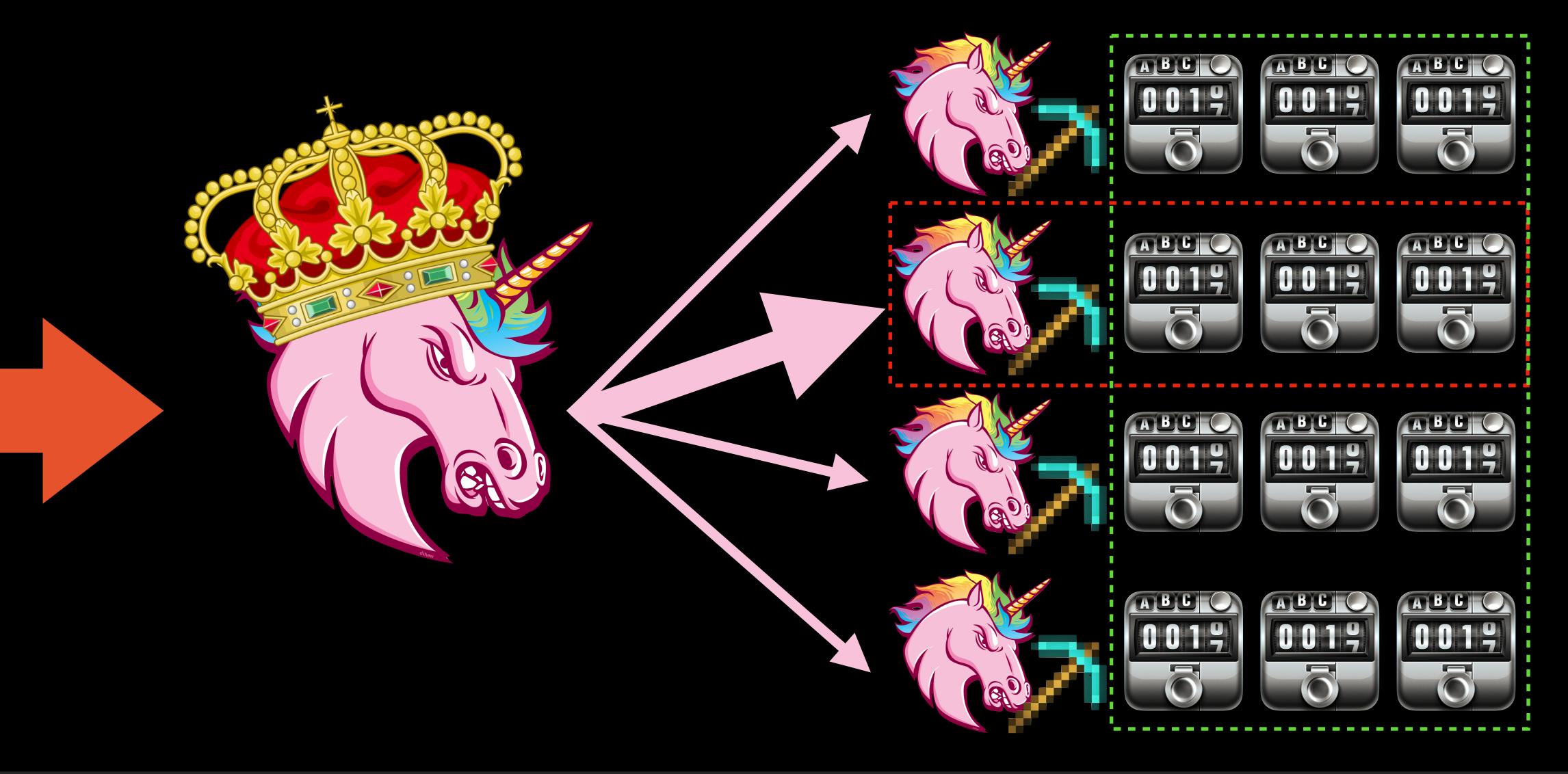




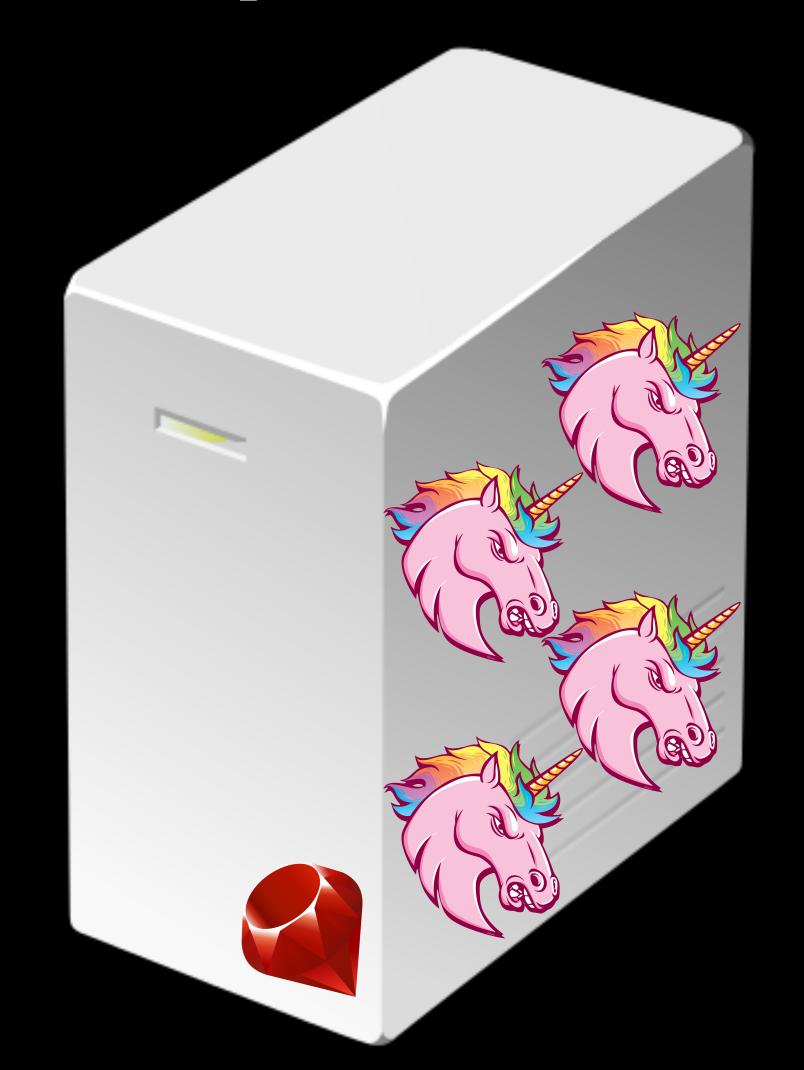






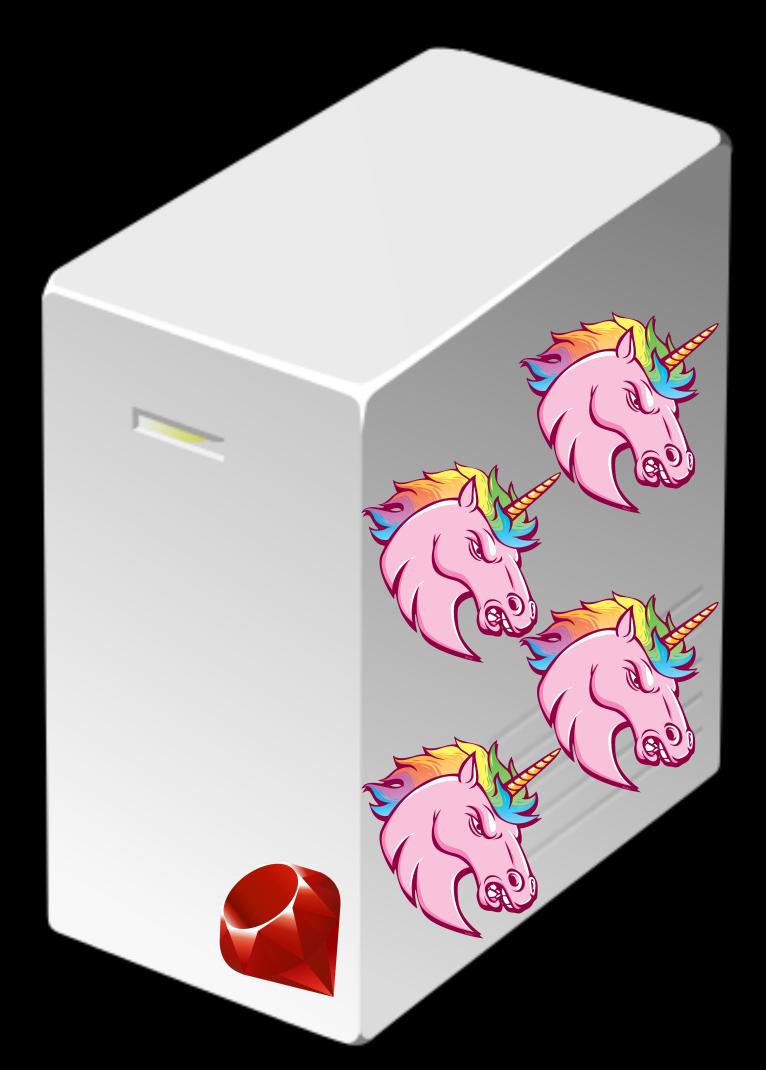


# The problem



Everyone:

# The problem





# ne problem

### Support pre-fork servers #9



atombender opened this issue on 8 Feb 2015 77 comments



#### atombender commented on 8 Feb 2015



If you use this gem with a multi-process Rack server such as Unicorn, surely each worker will be returning just a percentage of the correct results (eg., number of requests served, total time), thus making the exposed metrics fairly meaningless?

To solve this the easiest solution is to create a block of shared memory in the master process that all workers share, instead of using instance variables.

# ne problem

### Support pre-fork servers #9



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To solve this the easiest solution is to create a block of shared memory in the master process that all workers share, instead of using instance variables.

# The problem







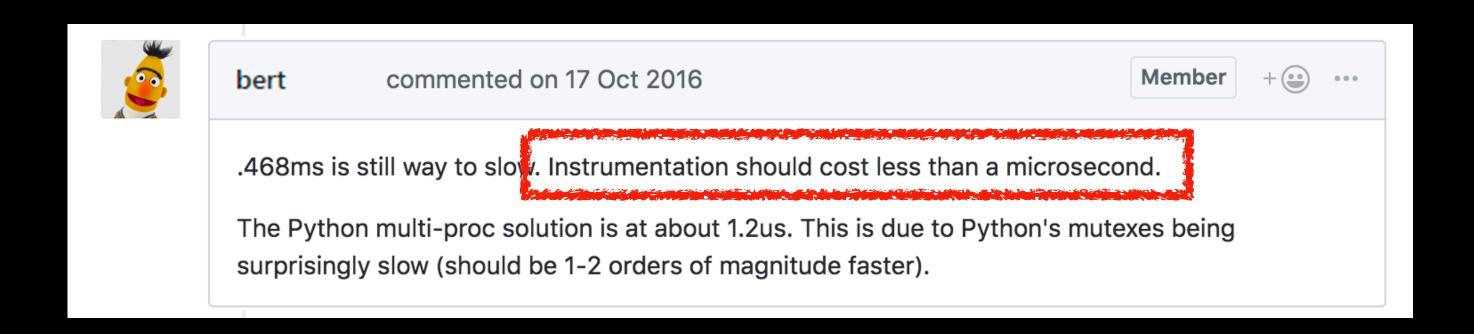
bert commented on 17 Oct 2016

Member



.468ms is still way to slow. Instrumentation should cost less than a microsecond.

The Python multi-proc solution is at about 1.2us. This is due to Python's mutexes being surprisingly slow (should be 1-2 orders of magnitude faster).





ernie commented on 17 Oct 2016

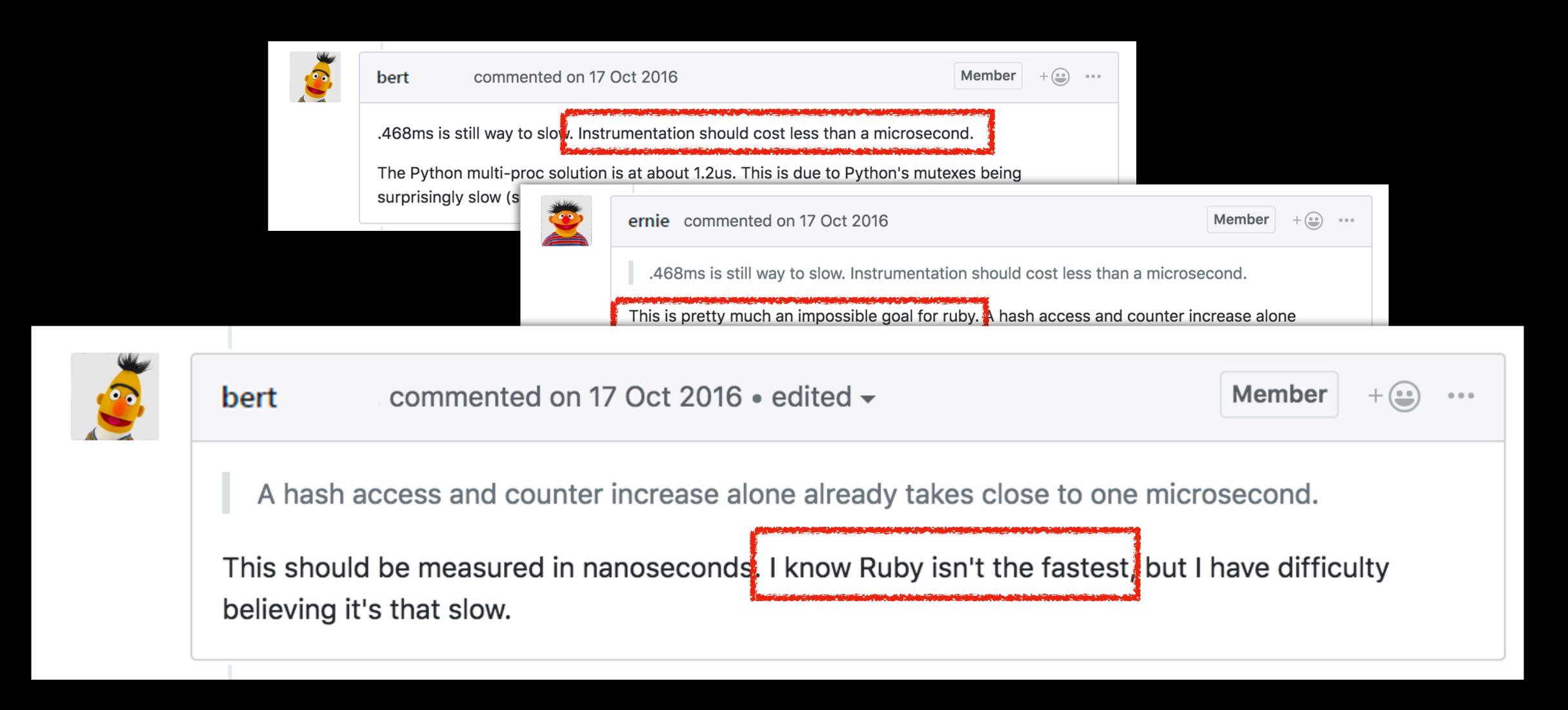
Member

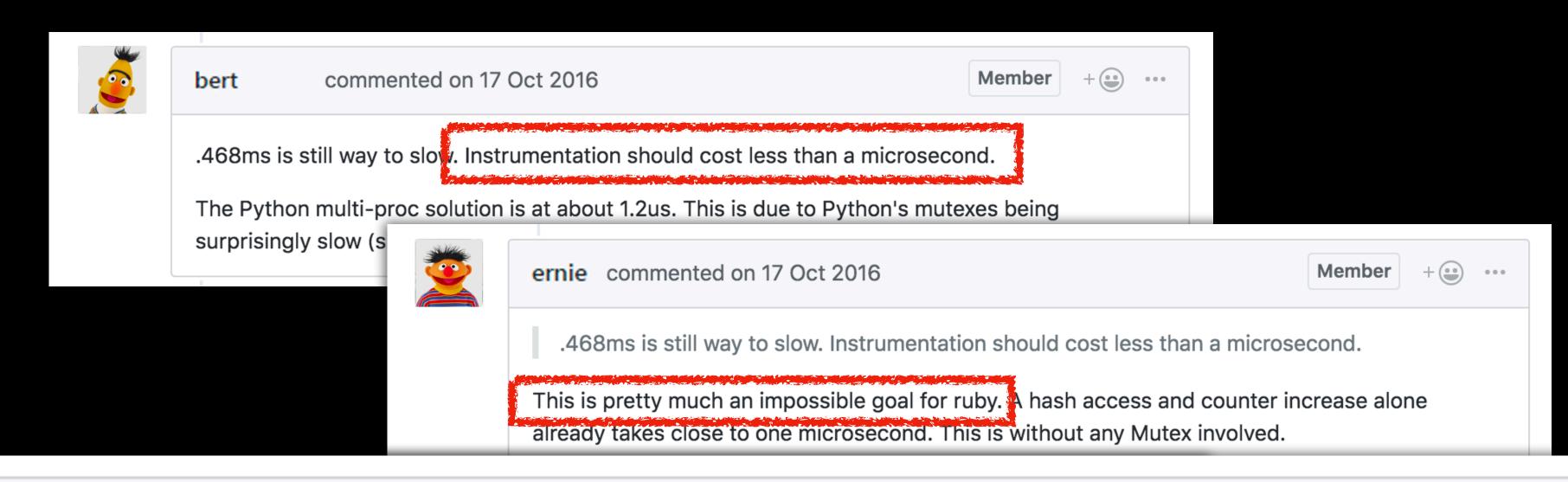
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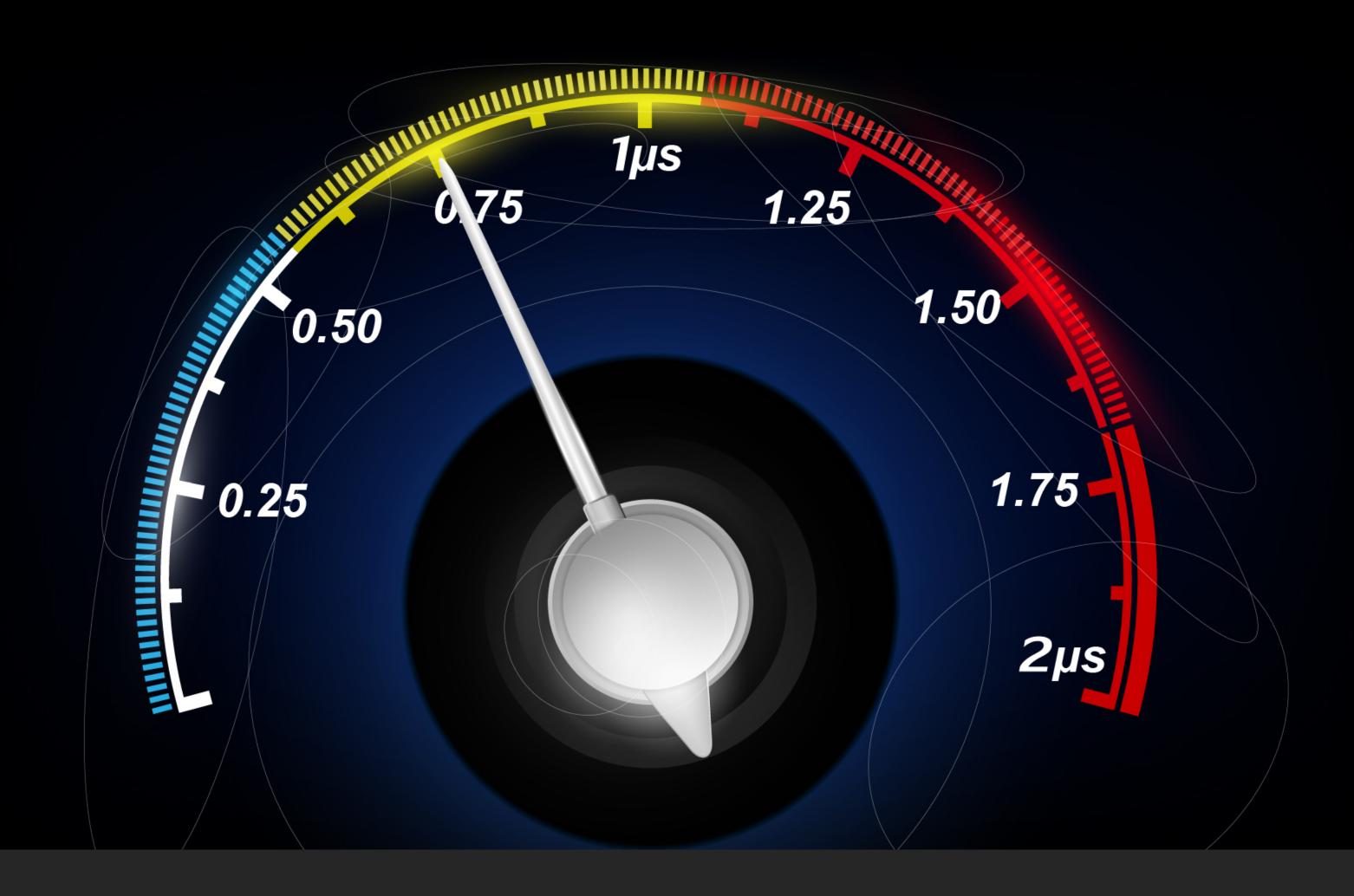
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This is pretty much an impossible goal for ruby. A hash access and counter increase alone already takes close to one microsecond. This is without any Mutex involved.











# Separate storage

```
class Metric
  @value = 0

def increment
    @value += 1
  end
end
```

### Separate storage

```
class Metric
  @value = 0

def increment
  @value += 1
  end
end
```

```
class Metric
  @store = SomeStore.new

def increment
    @store.increment(metric_name, 1)
  end
end
```



• Support pre-fork servers

- Support pre-fork servers
- Abstract away storage of numbers

- Support pre-fork servers
- Abstract away storage of numbers
- Follow current best practices

- Support pre-fork servers
- Abstract away storage of numbers
- Follow current best practices
- Be fast

The task:

sharing numbers between processes

The challenge:

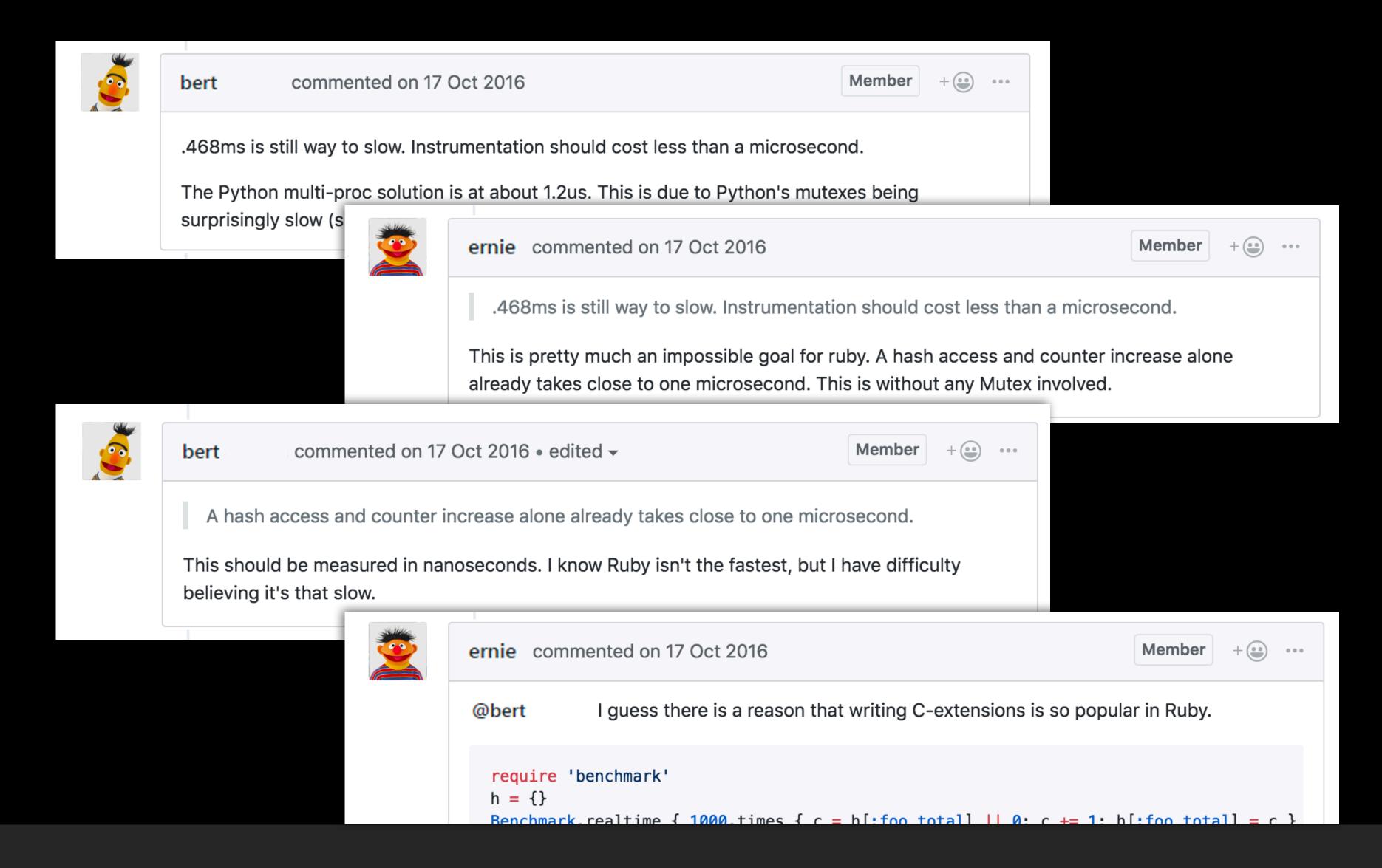
doing that fast

Performance budget:

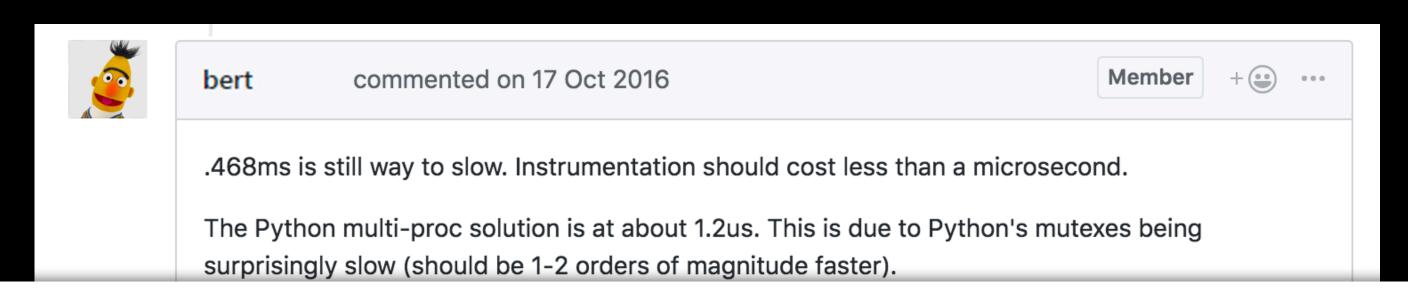
1µs per increment



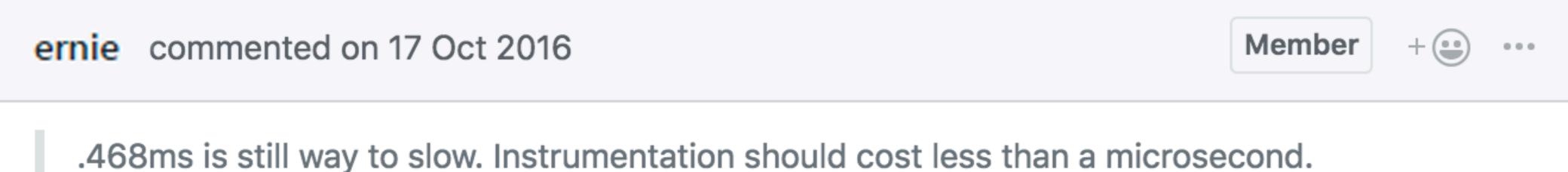
## The road ahead



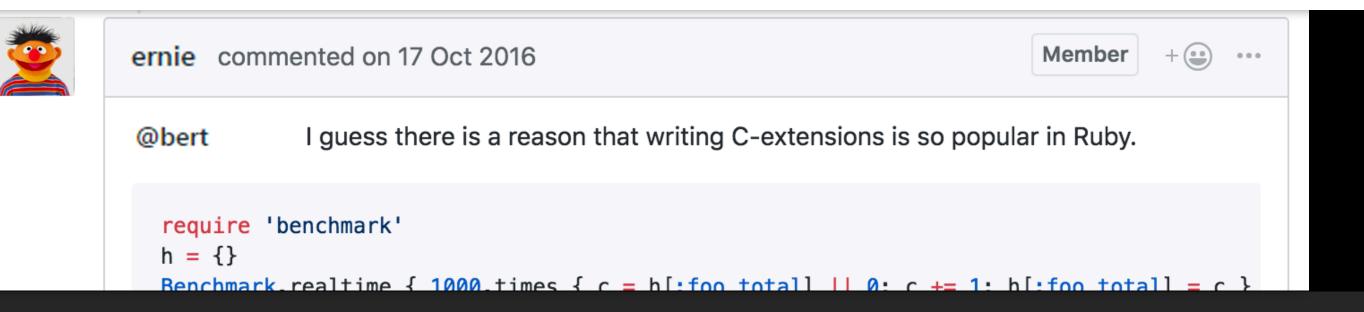
### The road ahead

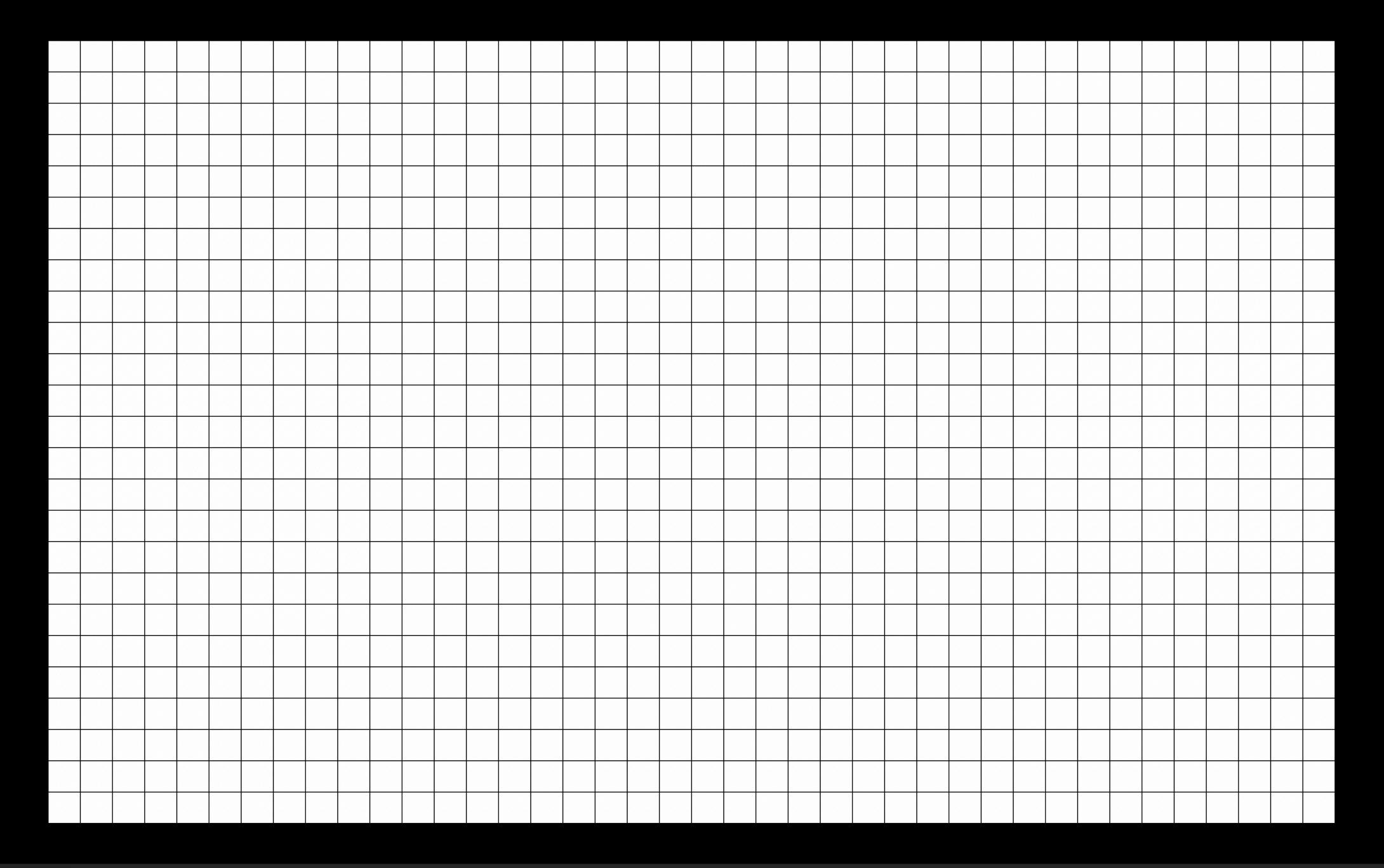




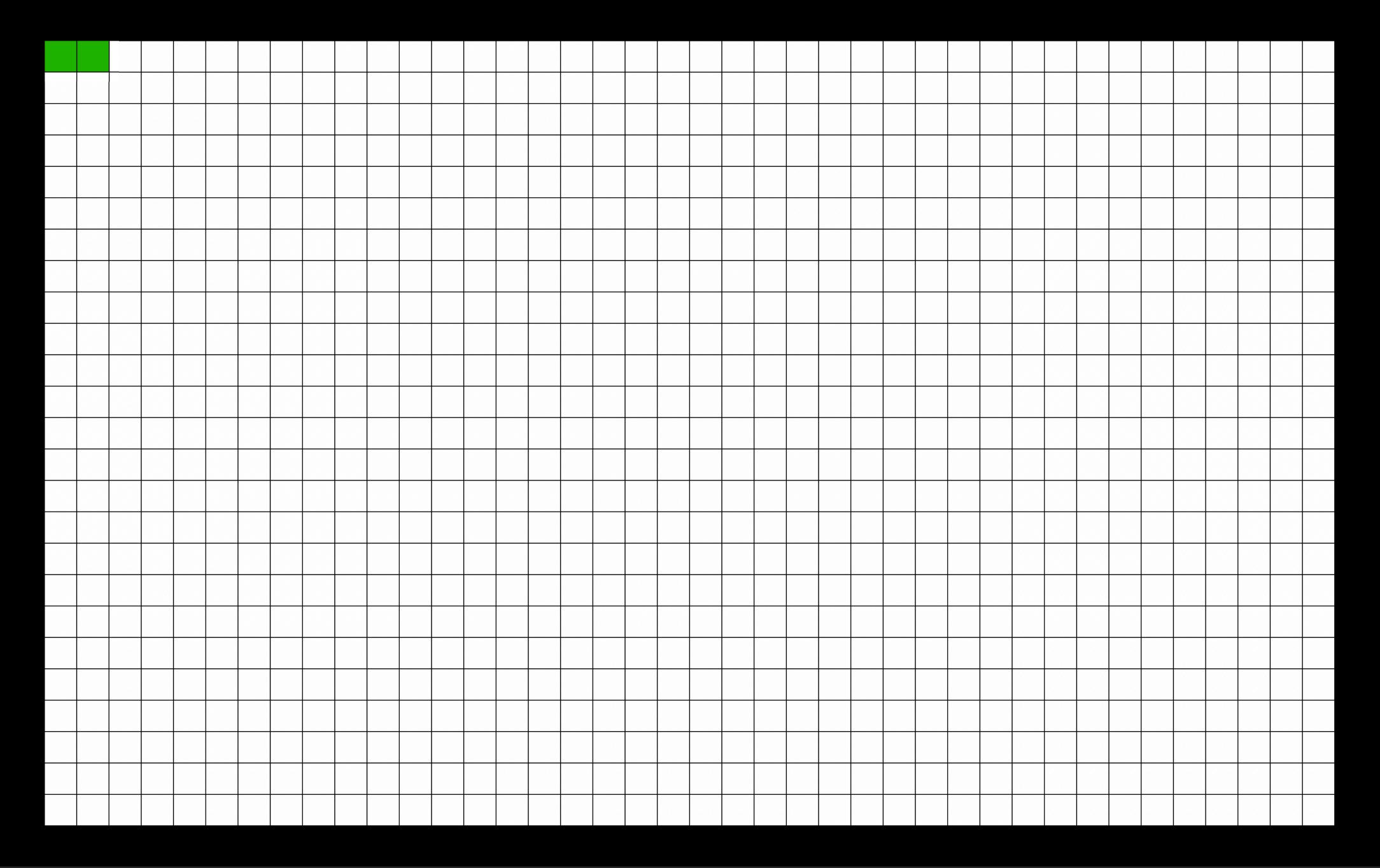


This is pretty much an impossible goal for ruby. A hash access and counter increase alone already takes close to one microsecond. This is without any Mutex involved.

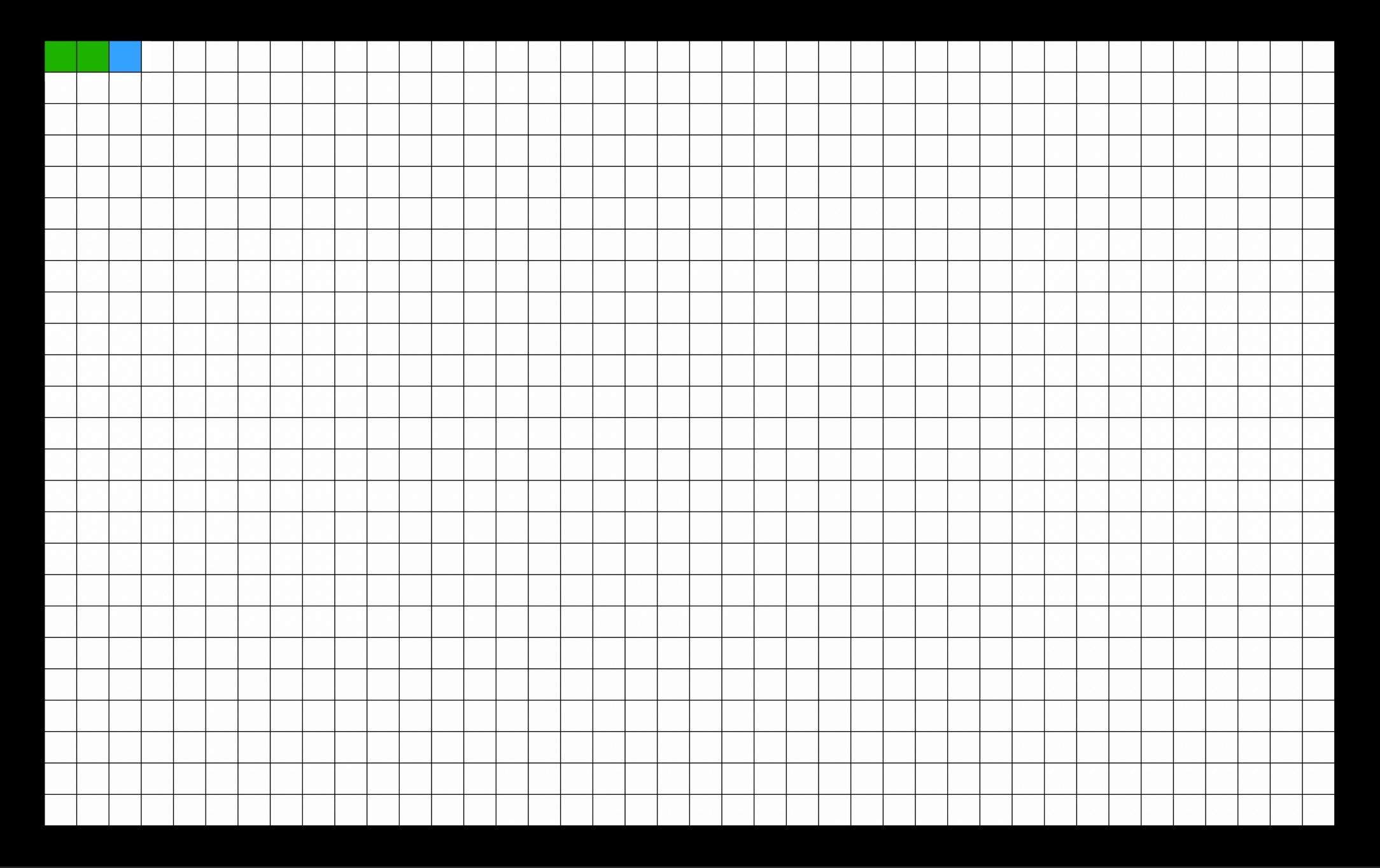




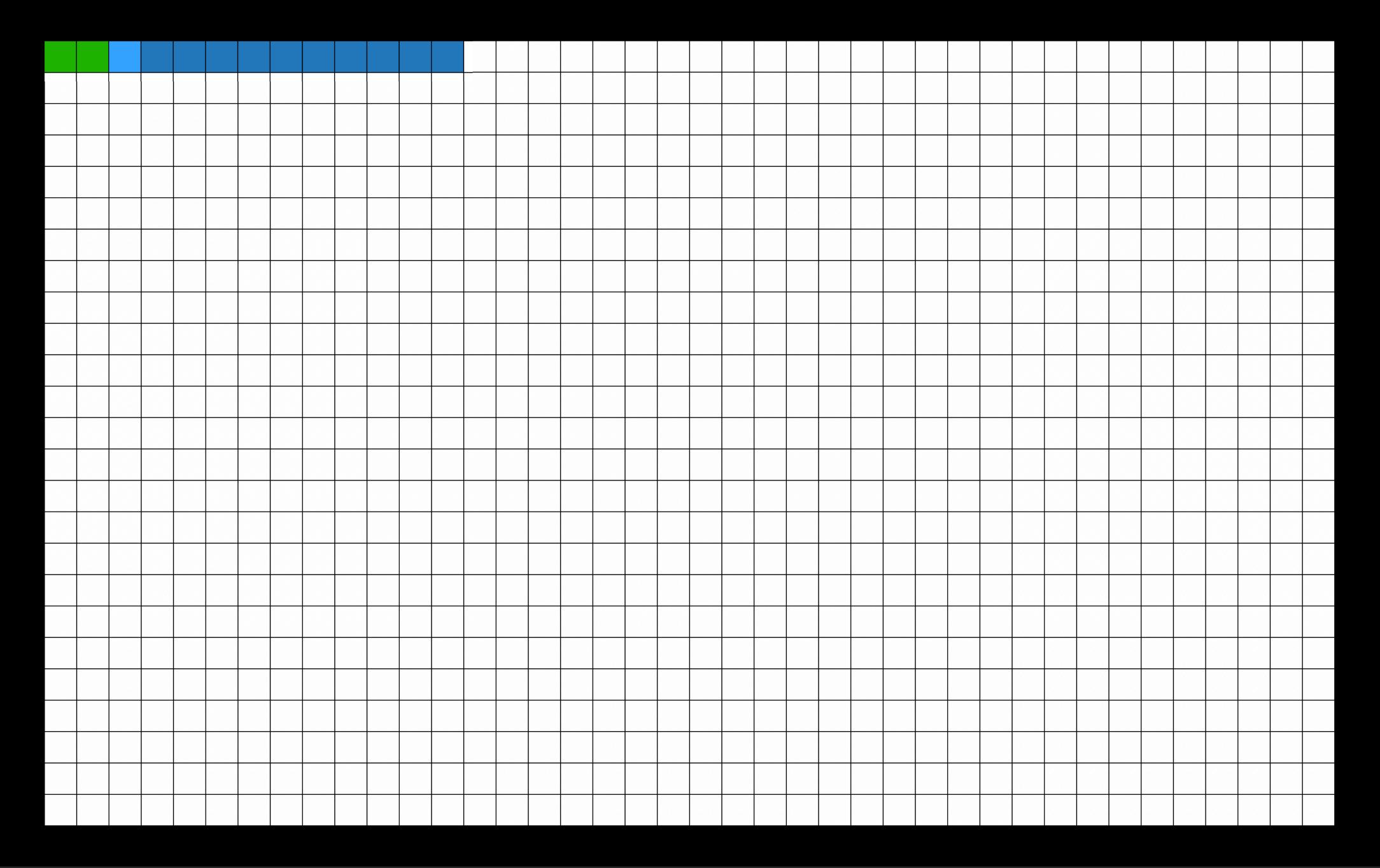




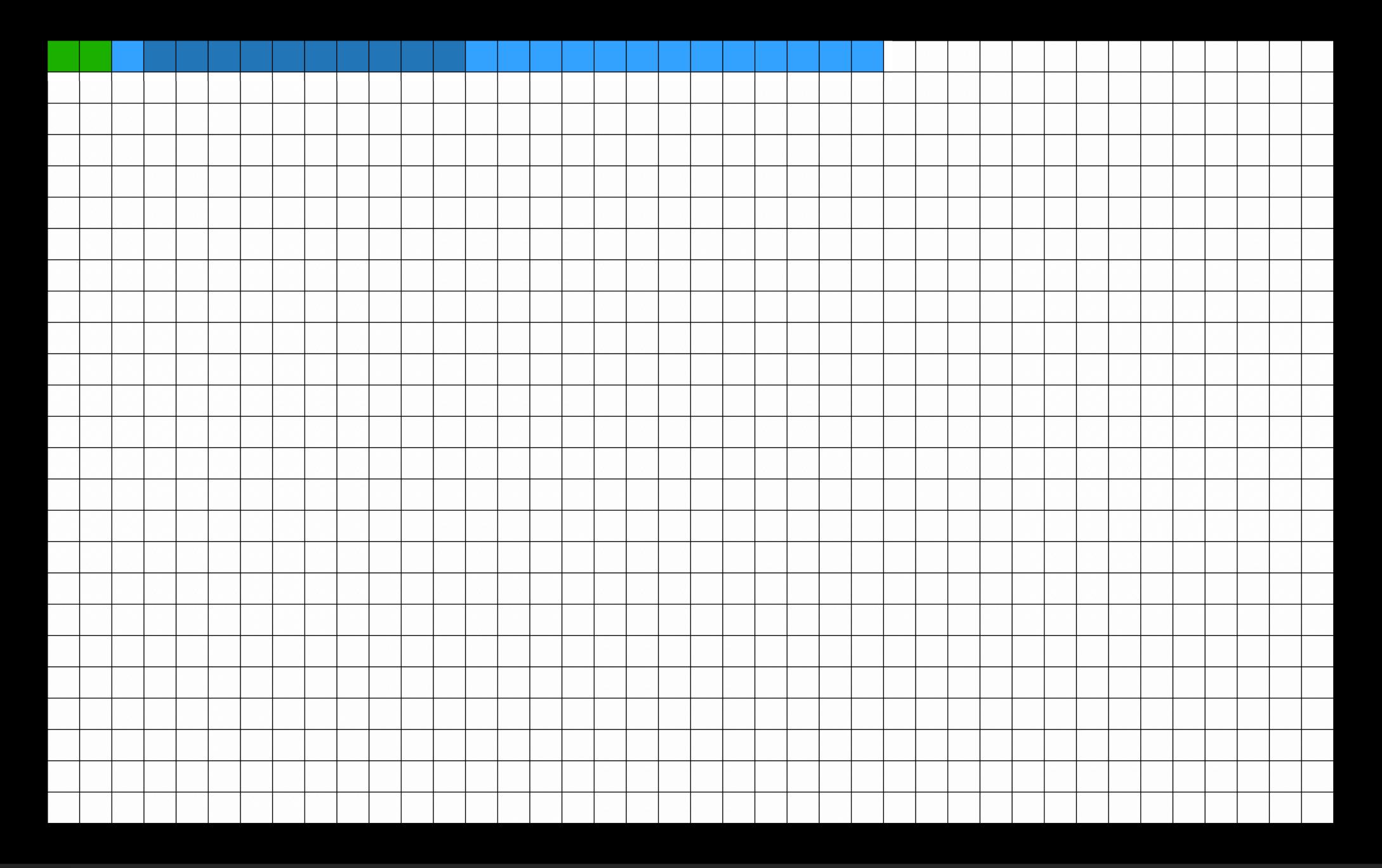




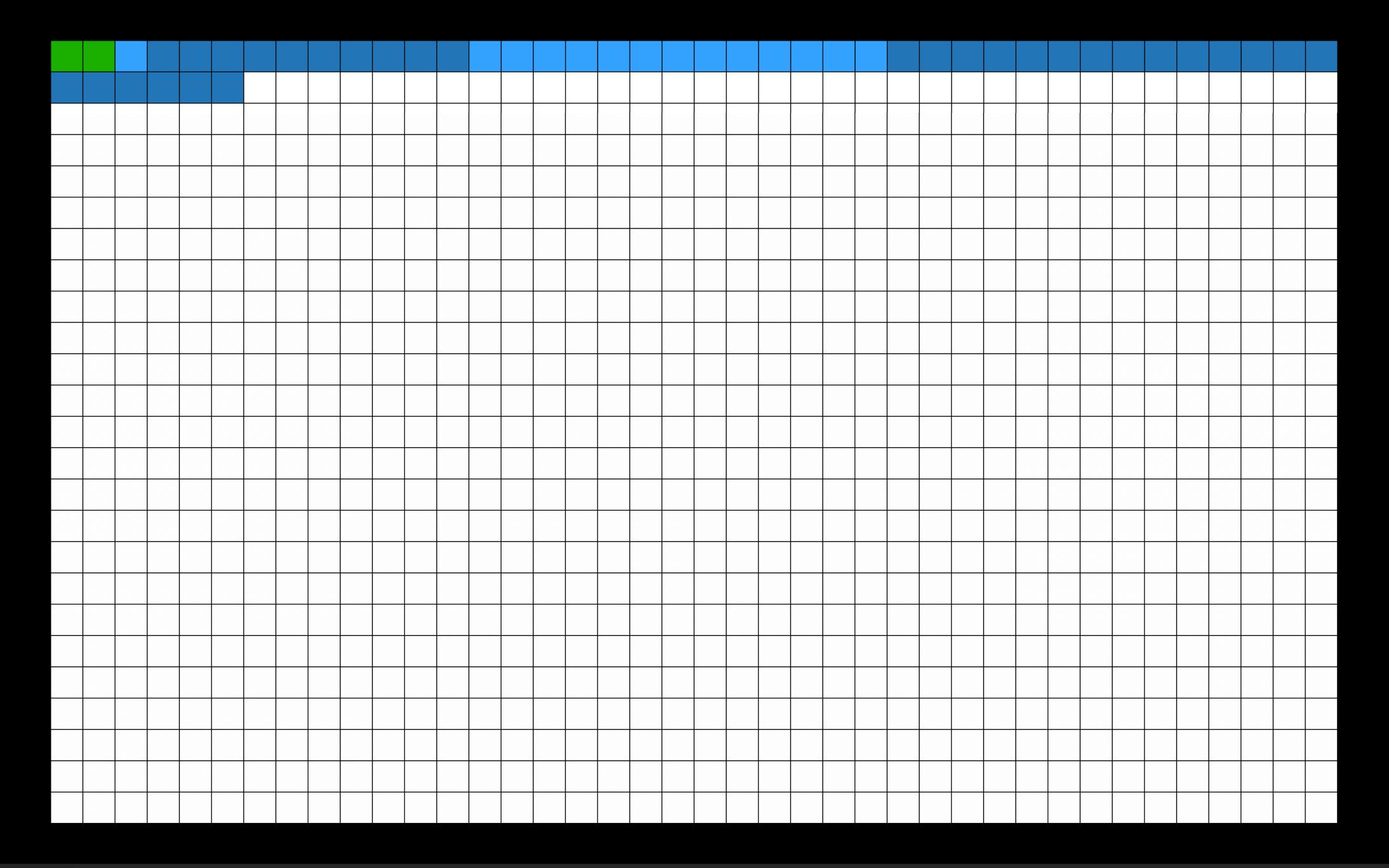




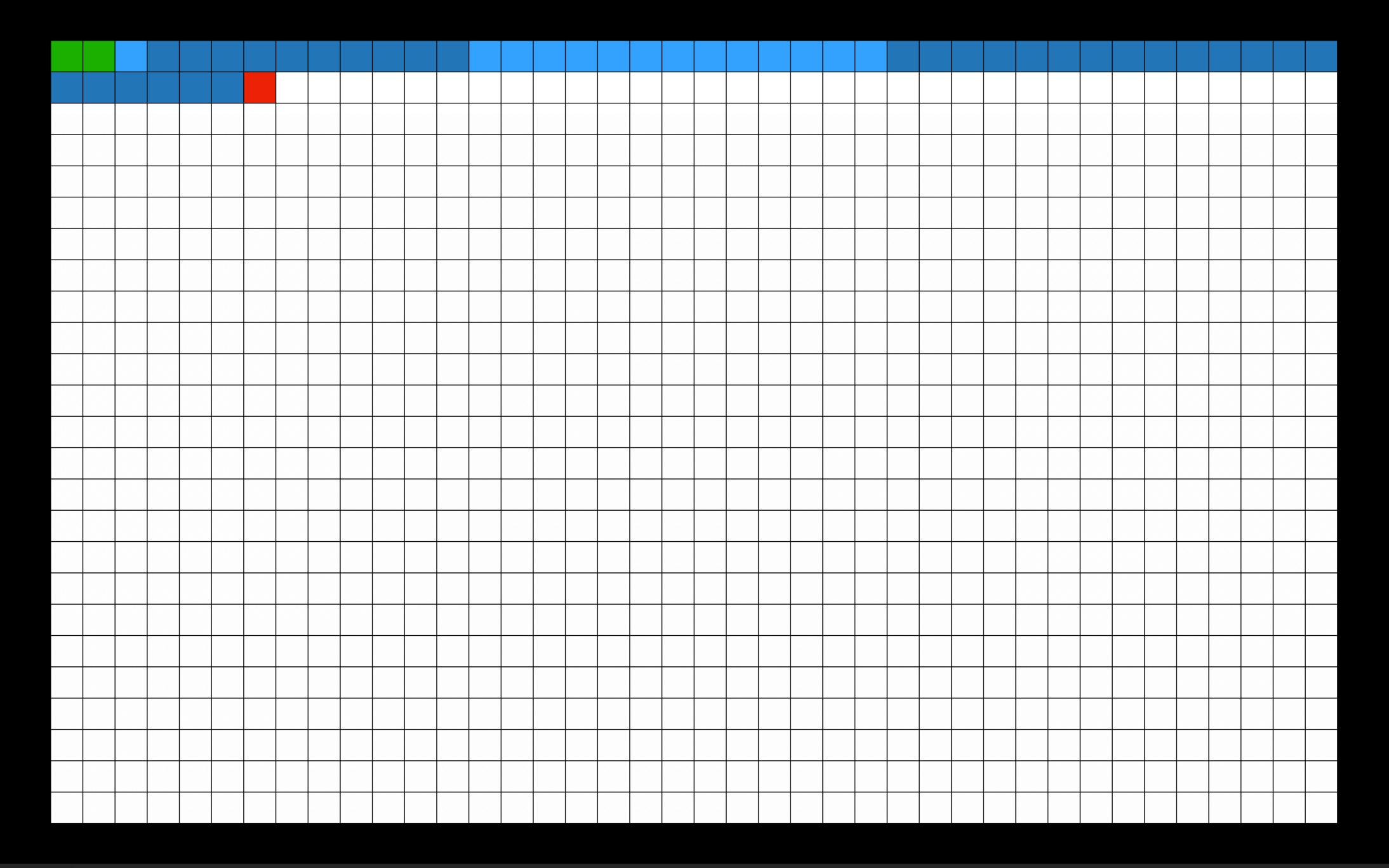




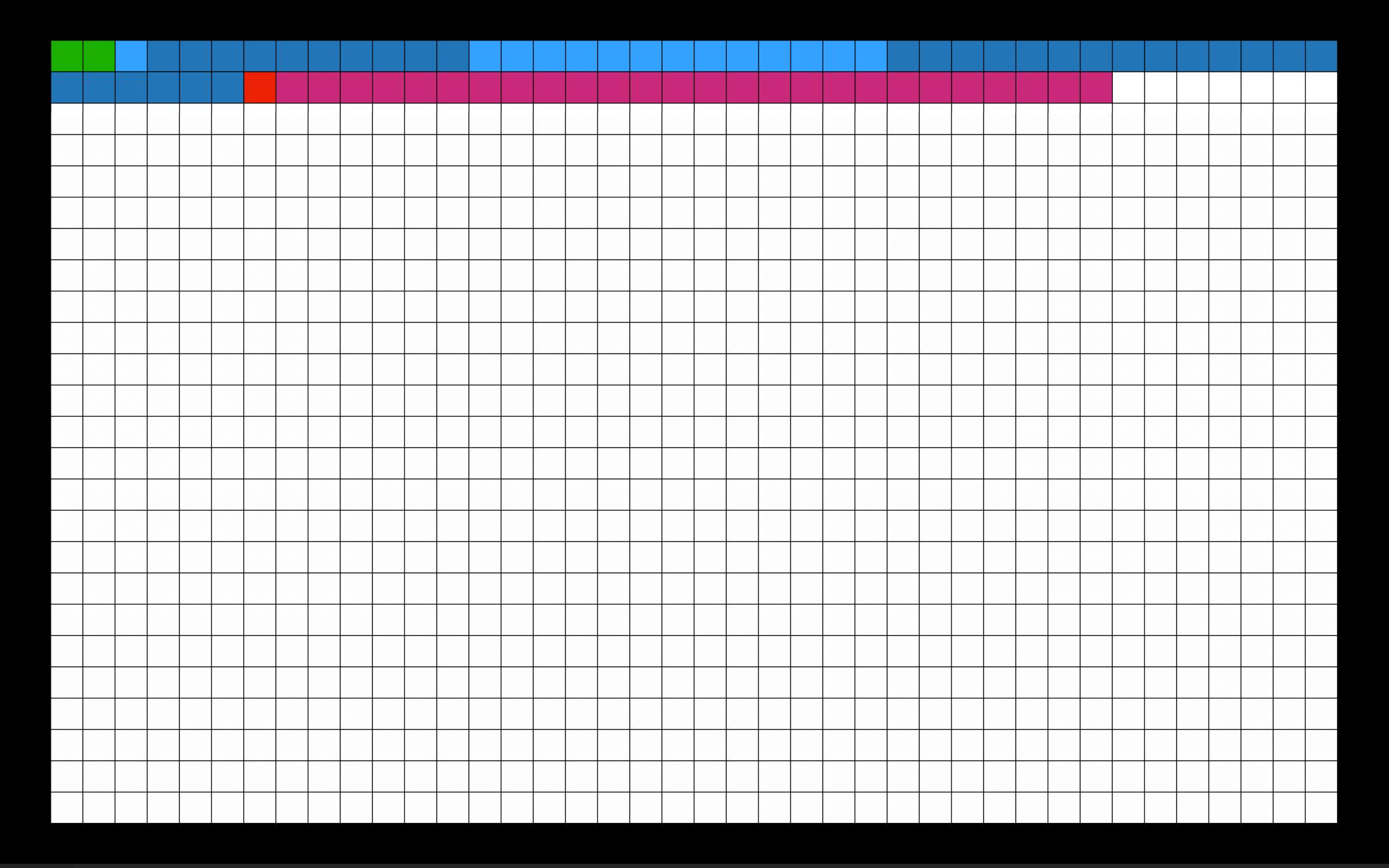




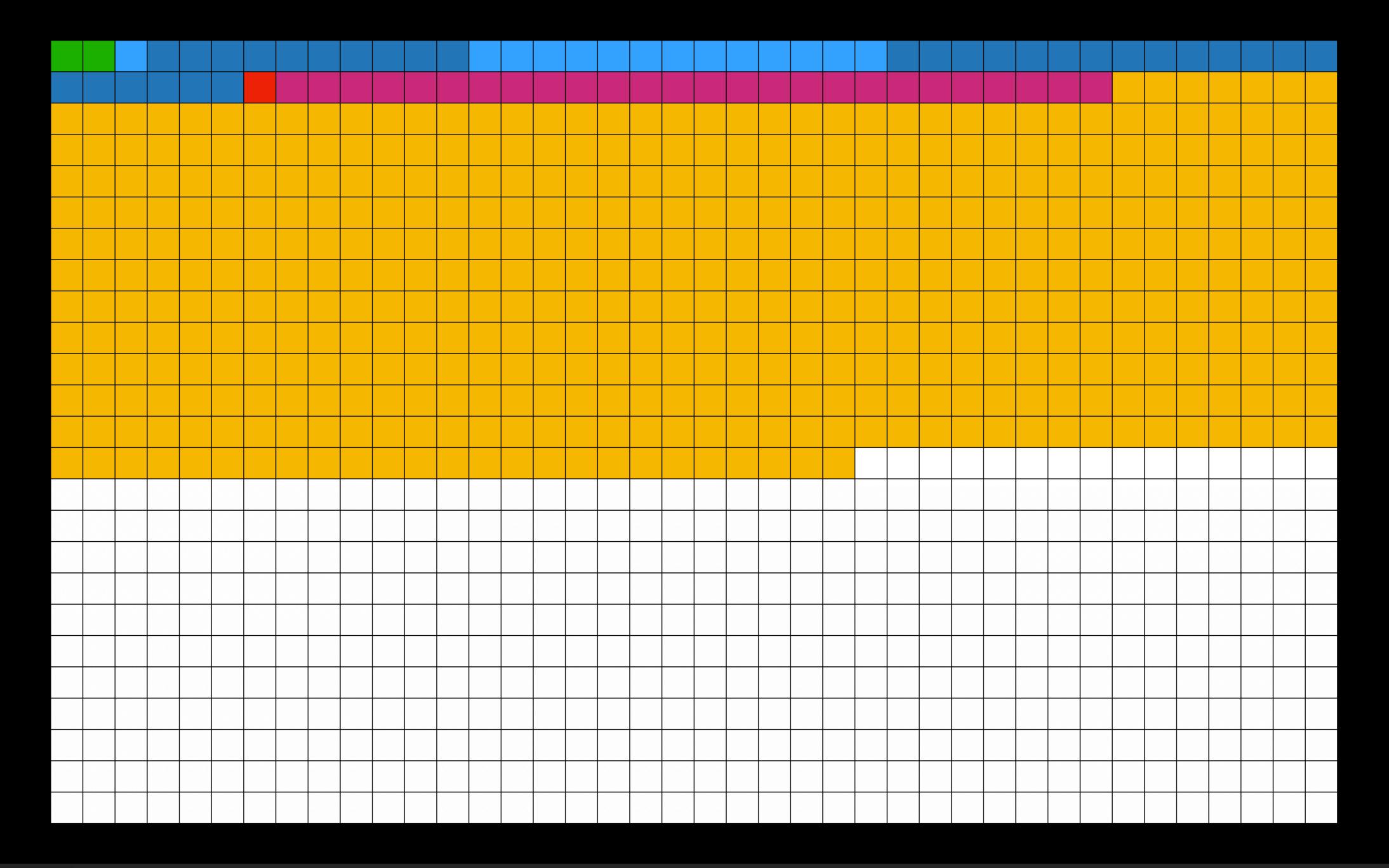




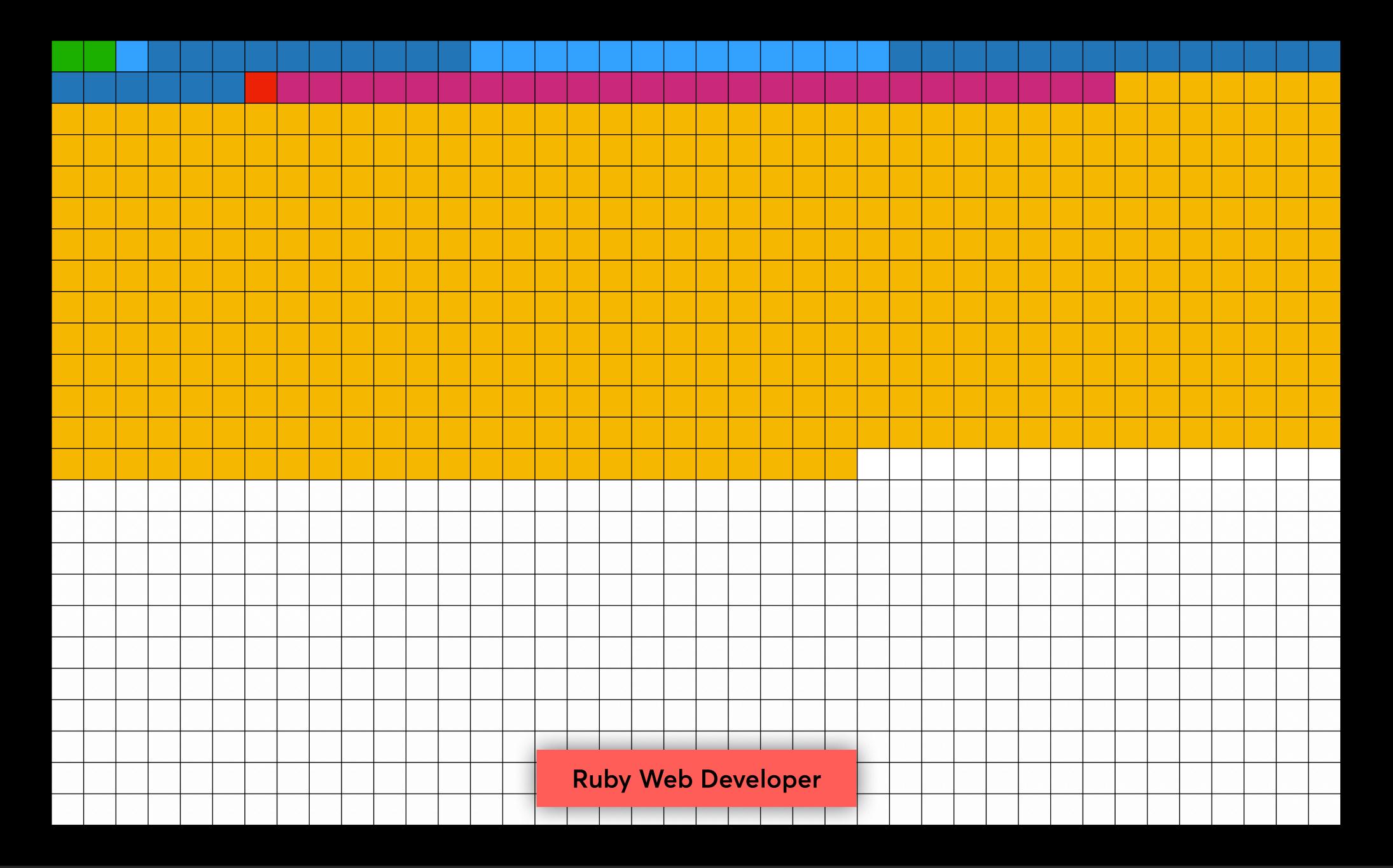




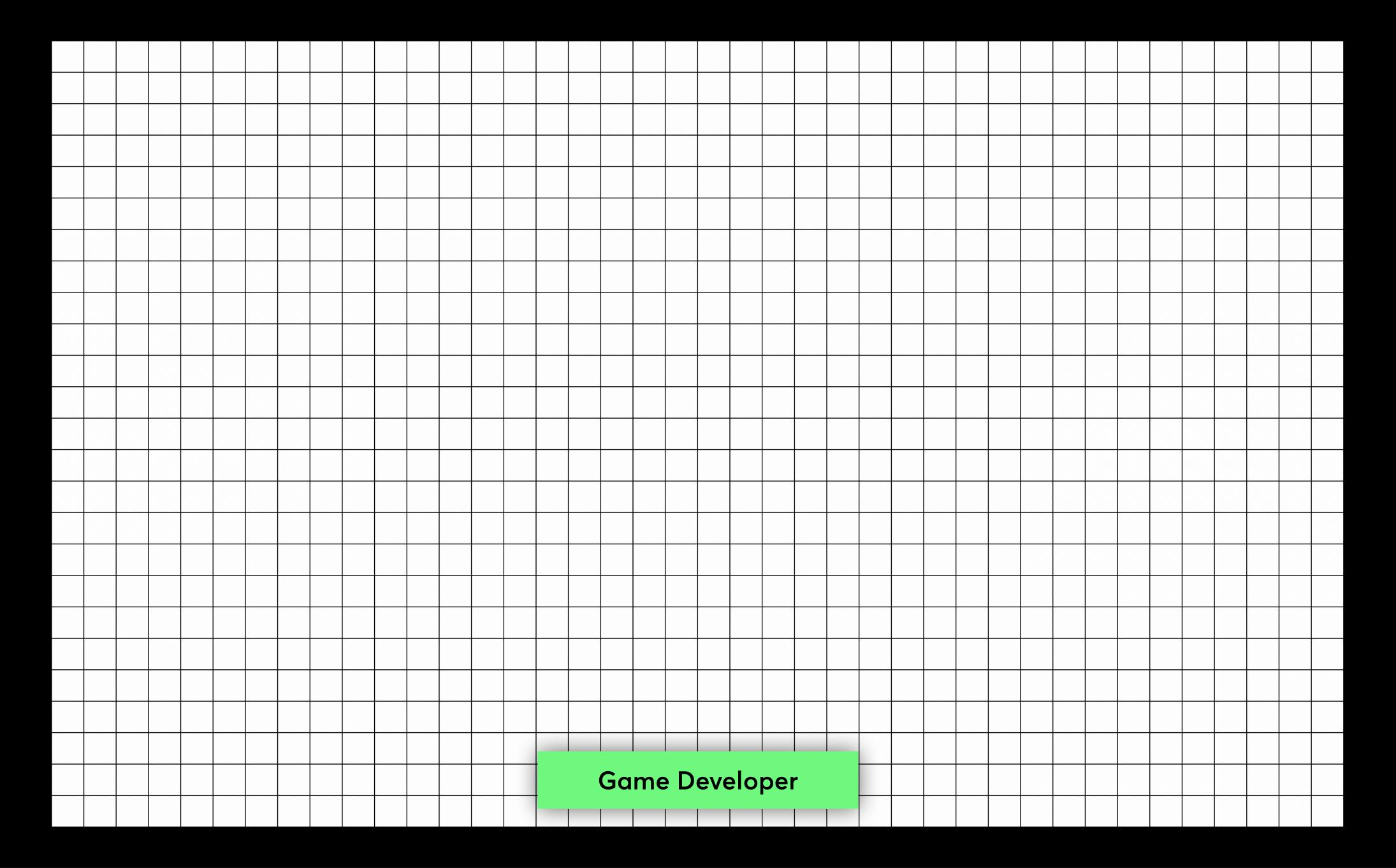




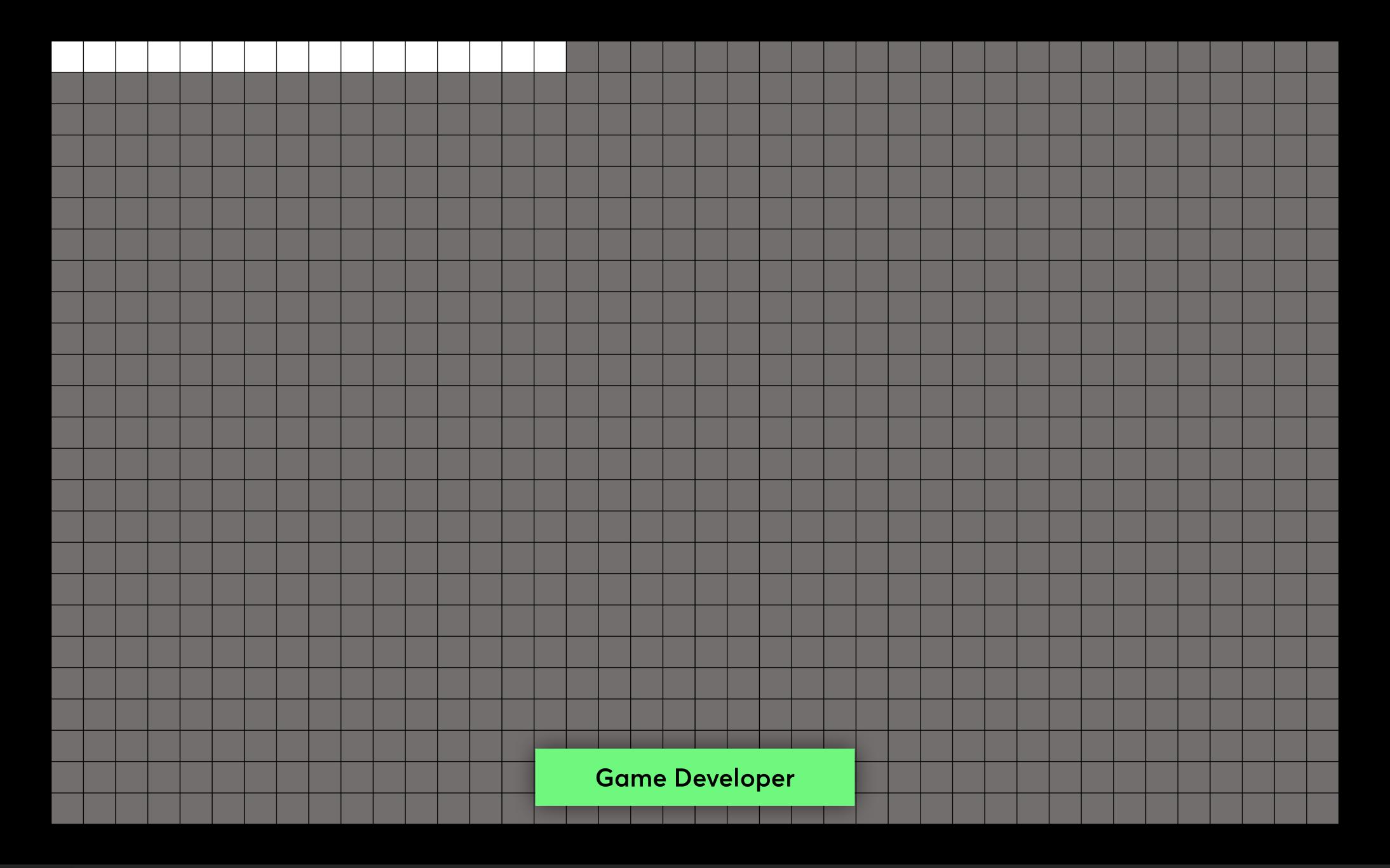














High Frequency Trader

Kernel dev HFT Game dev Web dev

Kernel dev HFT Game dev Web dev

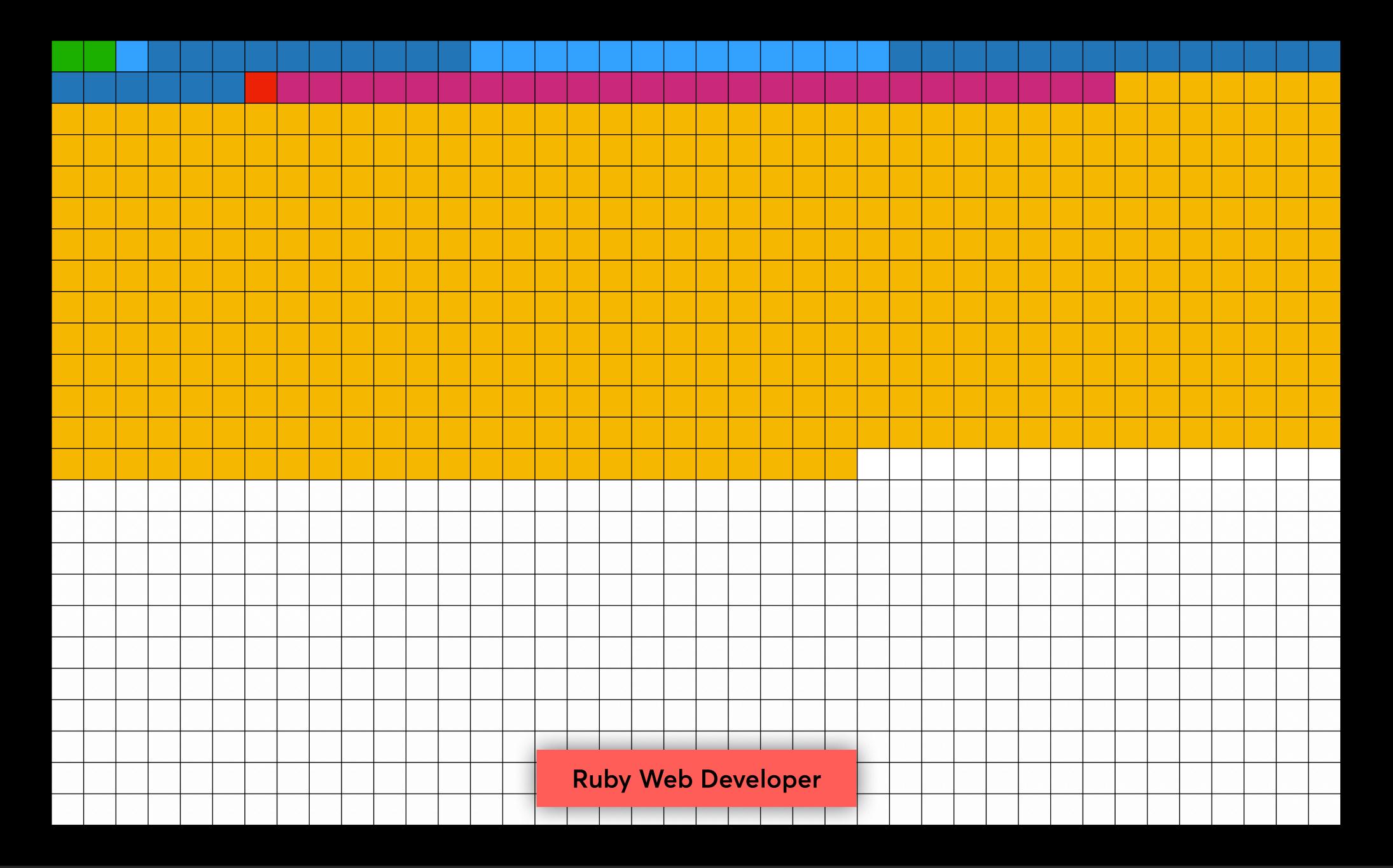
"I'm paging to memory and wasting nanoseconds" Kernel dev HFT Game dev Web dev

"I'm paging to memory and wasting nanoseconds" "Let's maybe not hit the database so much" Kernel dev HFT Game dev

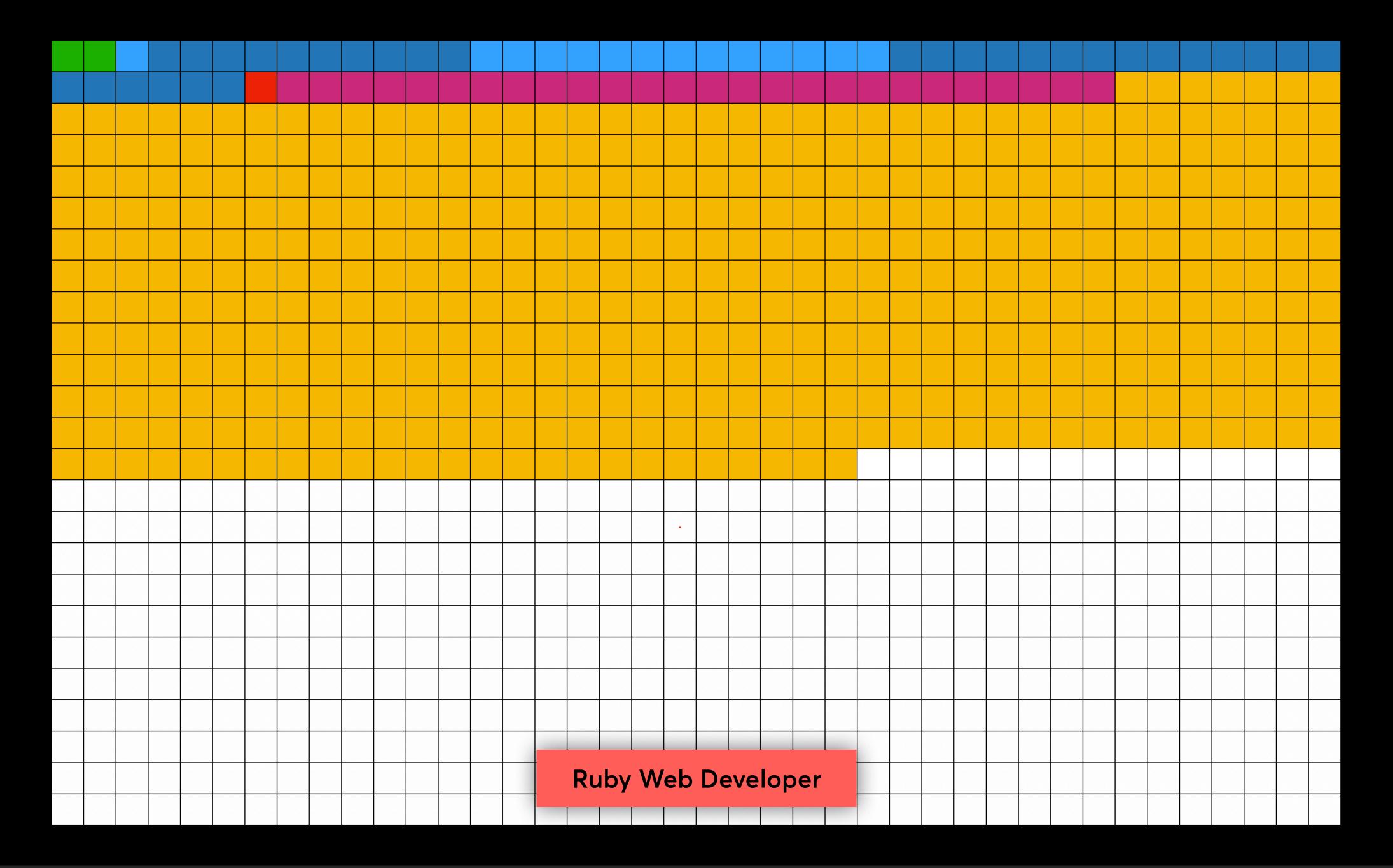
"I'm paging to memory and wasting nanoseconds"

"Let's maybe not hit the database so much"

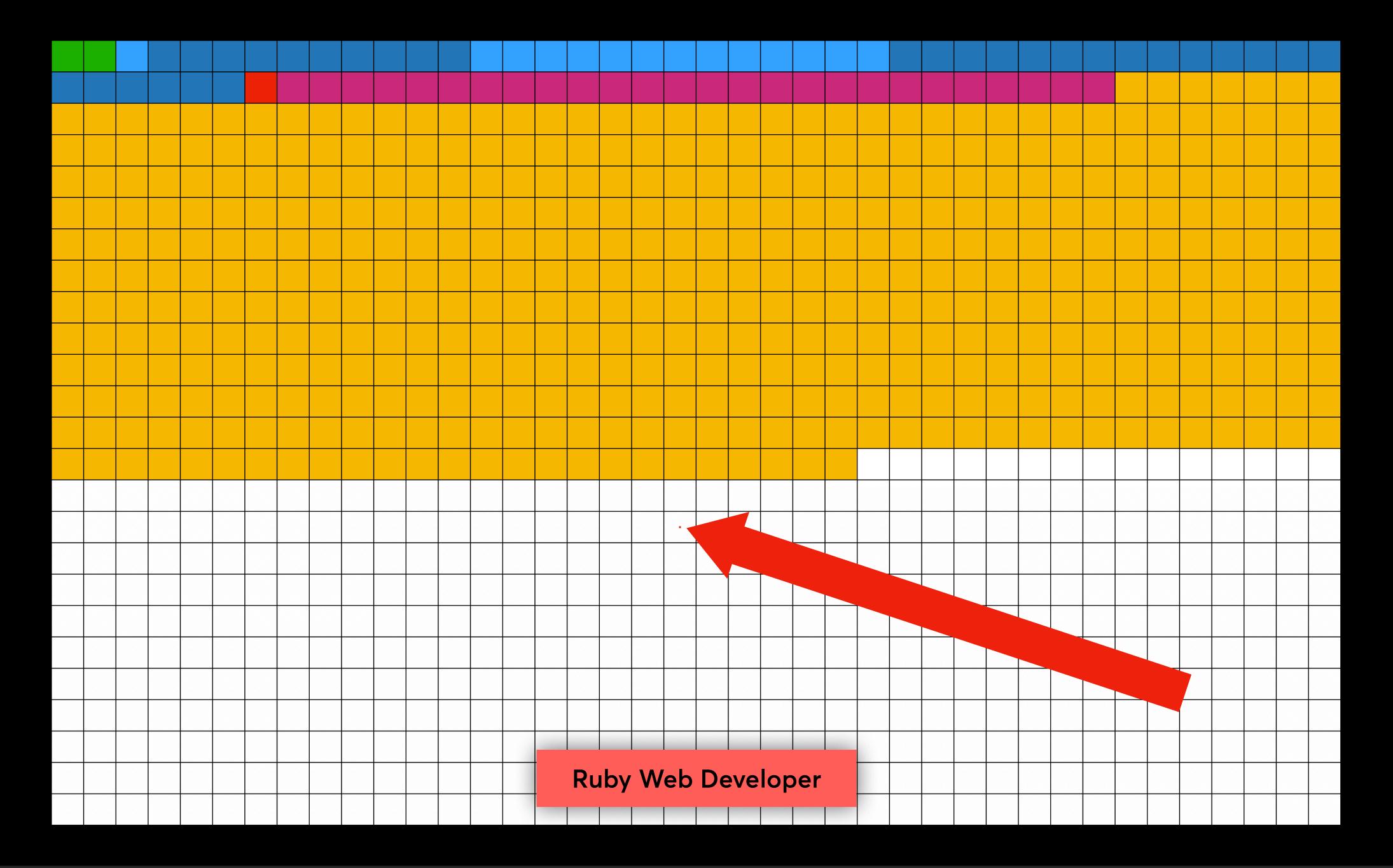
> 1,000,000x difference in timespans we care about



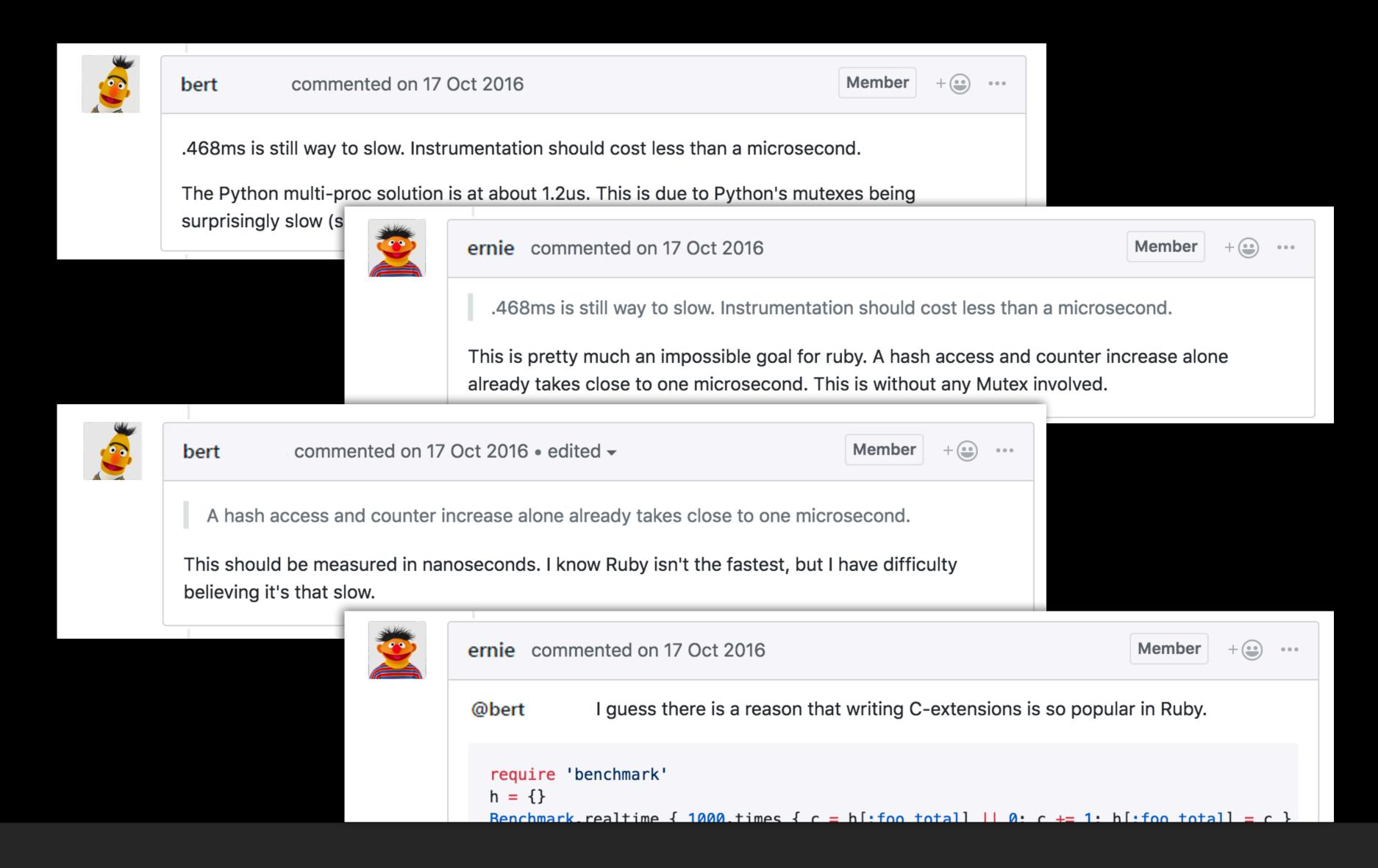












```
Benchmark.ips do |x|
    x.report("Increment Constant") do
        HASH[:x] += 1
    end
end
```

```
Benchmark.ips do |x|
    x.report("Increment Constant") do
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```

```
5.186M (± 3.7%) i/s \approx 0.2 \ \mu s
```

```
Benchmark.ips do |x|
   x.report("Increment Constant") do
        HASH[:x] += 1
        end
end

while (i < ITERS)
        HASH[:x] += 1
        i += 1
        end</pre>
```

```
5.186M (\pm 3.7%) i/s \approx 0.2 \mus

2x faster!

\approx 0.1 \mus
```

```
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```

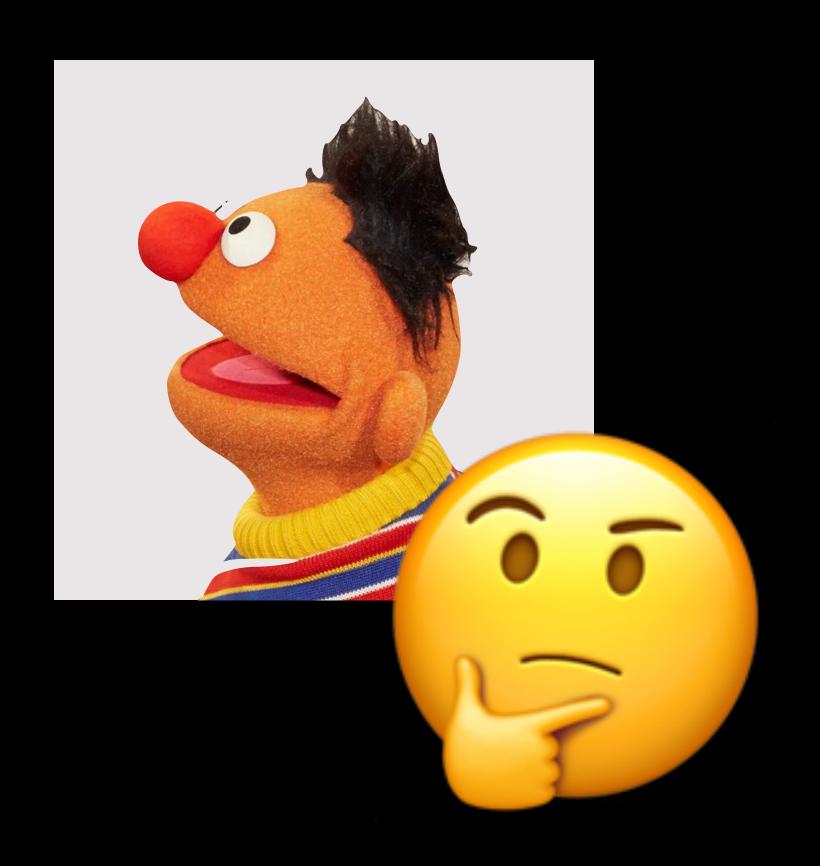
```
5.186M (± 3.7%) i/s \approx 0.2 \mu s
2x faster!
\approx 0.1 \mu s
```

HASH[:x] += 1

0.0825 µs







```
payments_count[{currency: "USD"}] = 1030
payments_count[{currency: "EUR"}] += 143

http_requests[{path: "/payments", status: 200}] = 100
http_requests[{path: "/payments", status: 500}] = 1
http_requests[{path: "/nope", status: 404}] = 1
```

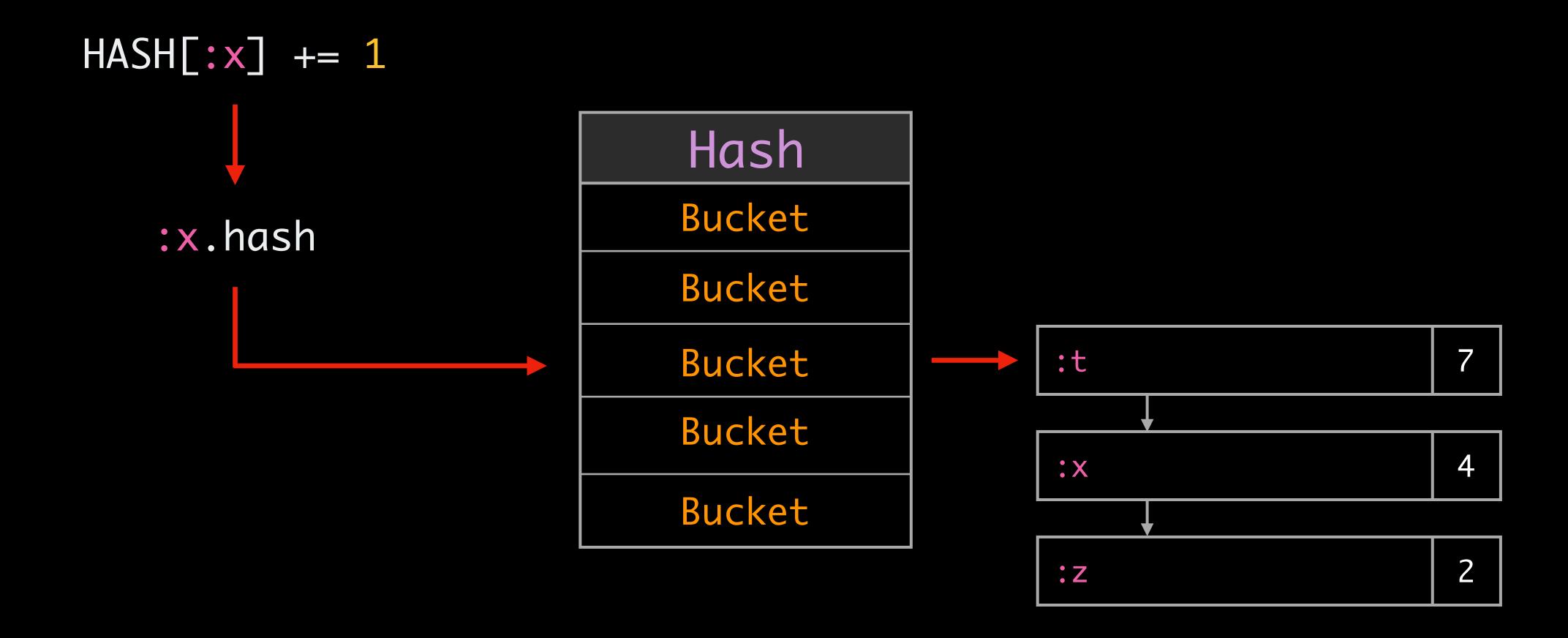


#### Labels

```
payments_count [{currency: "USD"}] = 1030
payments_count[{currency: "EUR"}] += 143

http_requests[{path: "/payments", status: 200}] = 100
http_requests[{path: "/payments", status: 500}] = 1
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```

#### Labels payments\_count {currency: "USD"} = 1030 payments\_count[{currency: "EUR"}] += 143 http\_requests[{path: "/payments", status: 200}] = 100 http\_requests[{path: "/payments", status: 500}] = 1 http\_requests[{path: "/nope", status: 404}] = 1 With a Hash for a key Hash



```
HASH[{currency: "USD"}] += 1
                                 Hash
                                 Bucket
 {currency: "USD"}.hash
                                 Bucket
                                                   {currency: "GBP"}
                                 Bucket
                                 Bucket
                                                   {currency: "EUR"}
                                                                       4
                                 Bucket
                                                   {currency: "USD"}
                                                                       2
```

HASH[:x] += 1

0.0825 µs



 $HASH[{a: 1, b: 2, c: 3}] += 1$ 

$$HASH[:x] += 1$$

0.0825 µs



$$HASH[{a: 1, b: 2, c: 3}] += 1$$
 5.0000 µs



$$HASH[{}] += 1$$

```
def increment(some_labels)
  HASH[labels] += 1
end
```

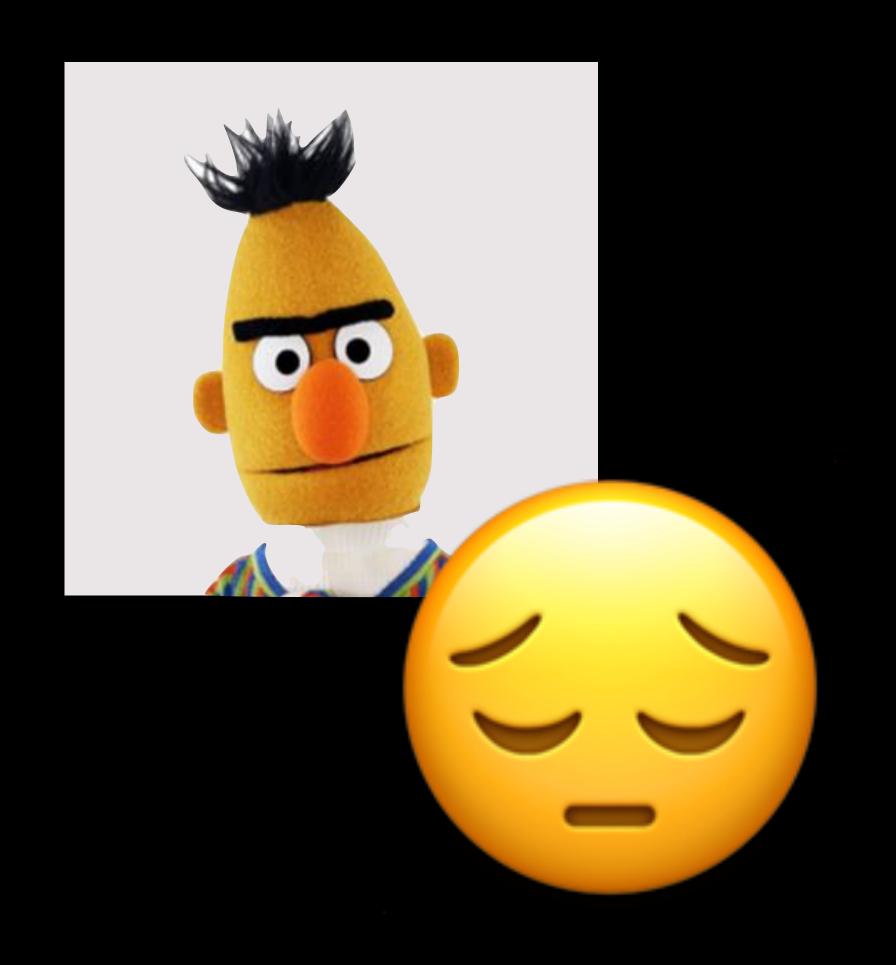
```
def increment(some_labels)
  validate(some_labels)
  labels = process(some_labels)

MUTEX.synchronize do
    HASH[labels] += 1
  end
end
```

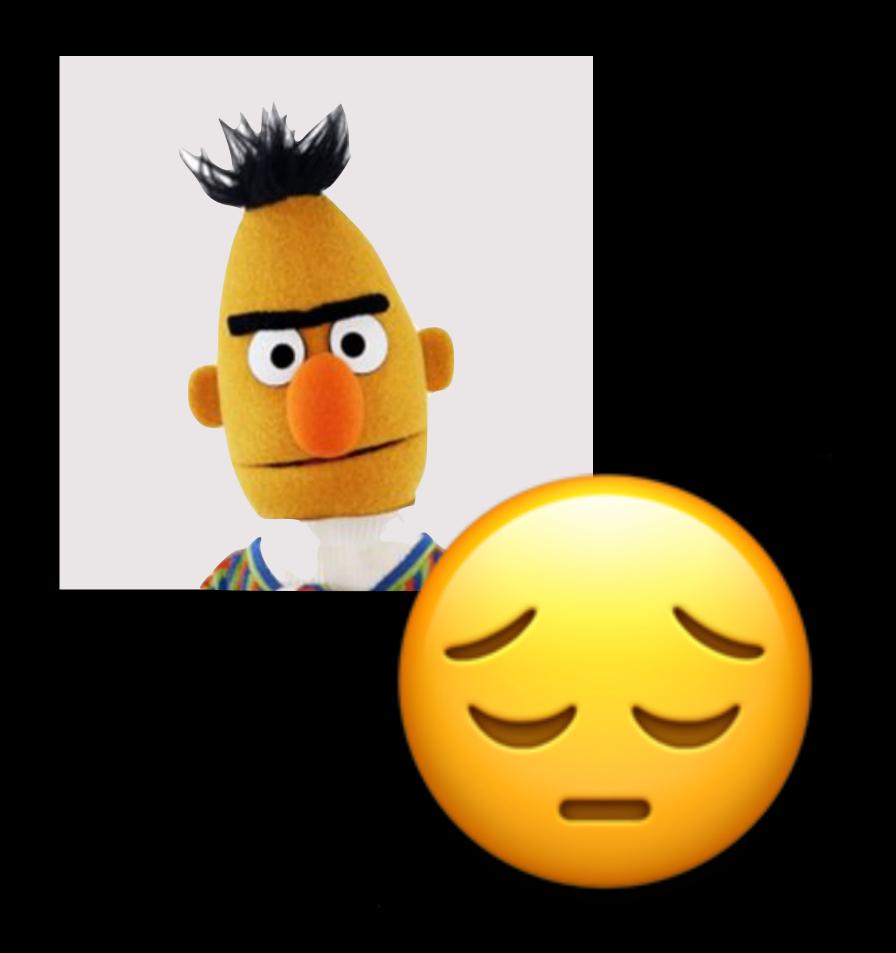
 $1.5 \mu s$ 



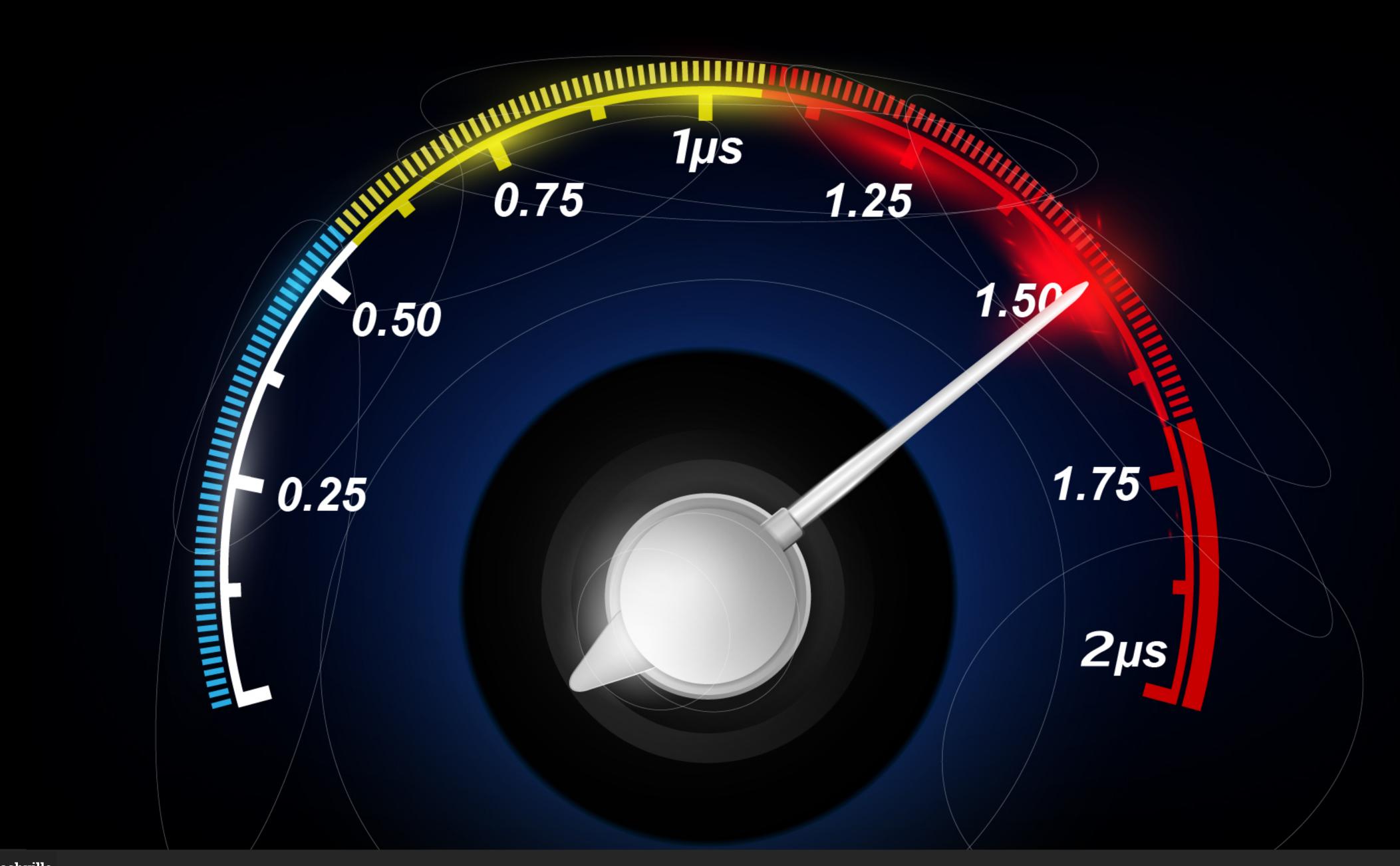














### **Home Classes Methods**

### In Files



### **Parent**

Object

### Namespace

ss PStore::Error

### Methods

::new

#[]

#[]=

#abort

#commit

#delete

#fetch

#path

## **PStore**

PStore implements a file based persistence mechanism based on a Hash. User code can store hierarchies of Ruby objects (values) into the data store file by name (keys). An object hierarchy may be just a single object. User code may later read values back from the data store or even update data, as needed.

The transactional behavior ensures that any changes succeed or fail together. This can be used to ensure that the data store is not left in a transitory state, where some values were updated but others were not.

Behind the scenes, Ruby objects are stored to the data store file with Marshal. That carries the usual limitations. Proc objects cannot be marshalled, for example.

# Usage example:¶↑

```
require "pstore"

# a mock wiki object...

class WikiPage
  def initialize( page_name, author, contents )
```



Experiment: PStore

store[:x] += 1

Experiment: PStore

```
store = PStore.new("/tmp/mydata.whatever")
store.transaction do
  store[:x] += 1
end
```

Experiment: PStore

Hash without lock:

0.9 µs

Hash with a Monitor lock:

 $1.5 \mu s$ 

PStore:

35.0 µs

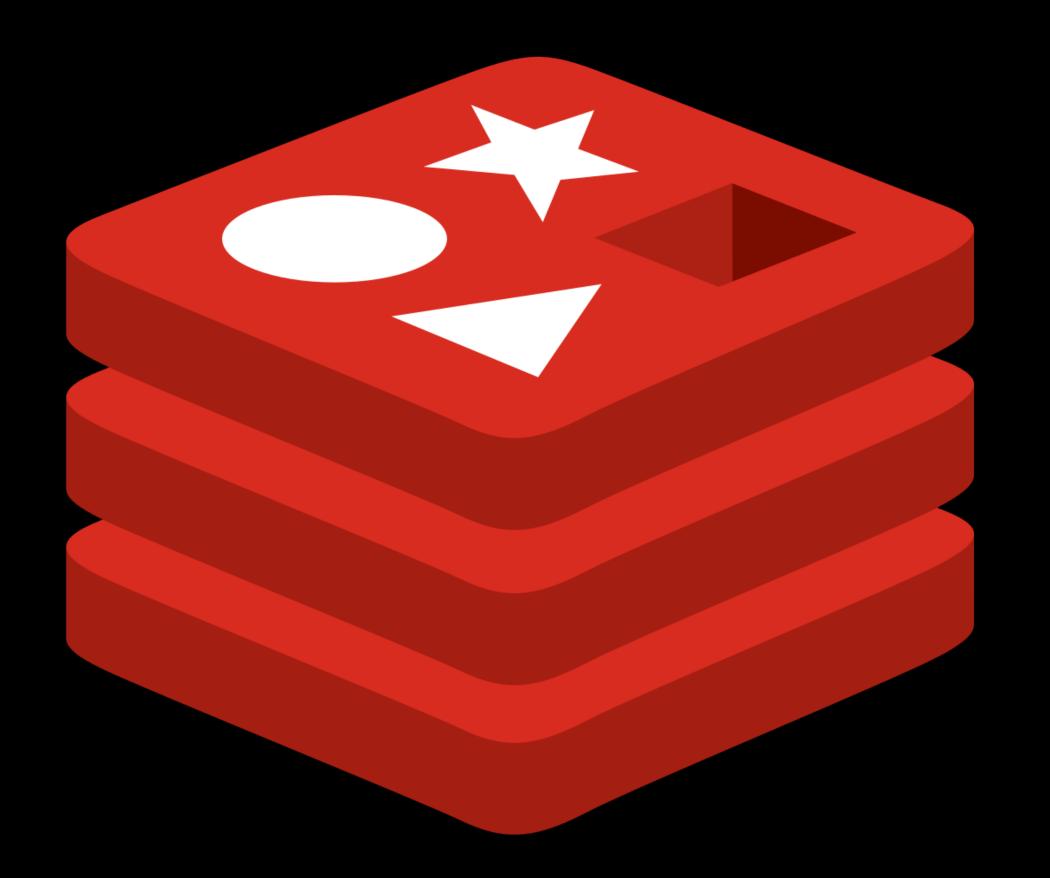




**Tiago 09:55** 

Why don't we use SQLite?





Hash without lock: 0.9 µs

Hash with a Monitor lock: 1.5 µs

PStore: 35.0 µs

Redis: 65.0 µs

Hash without lock:

 $0.9 \mu s$ 

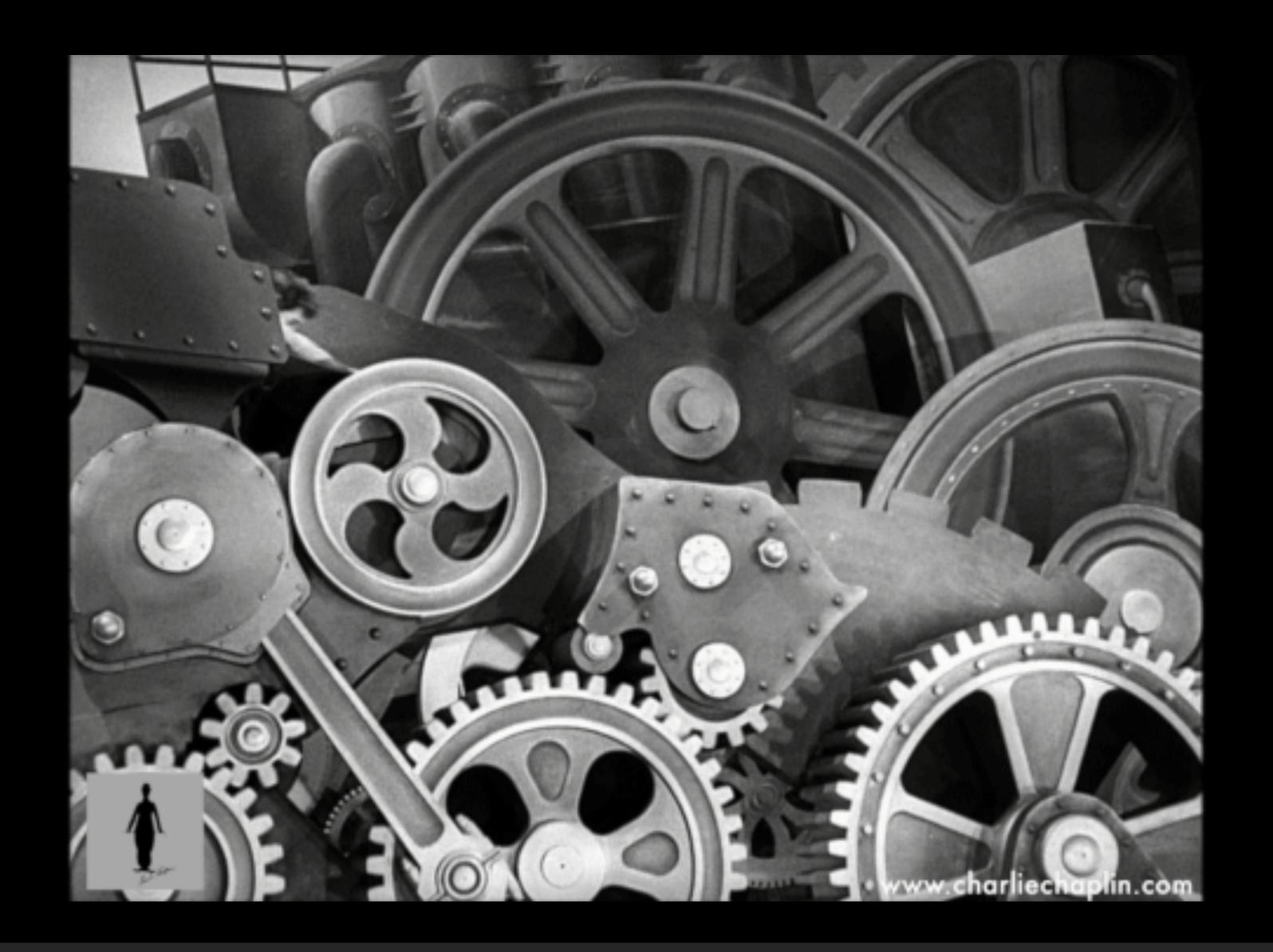
Hash with a Monitor lock:

1.5 µs

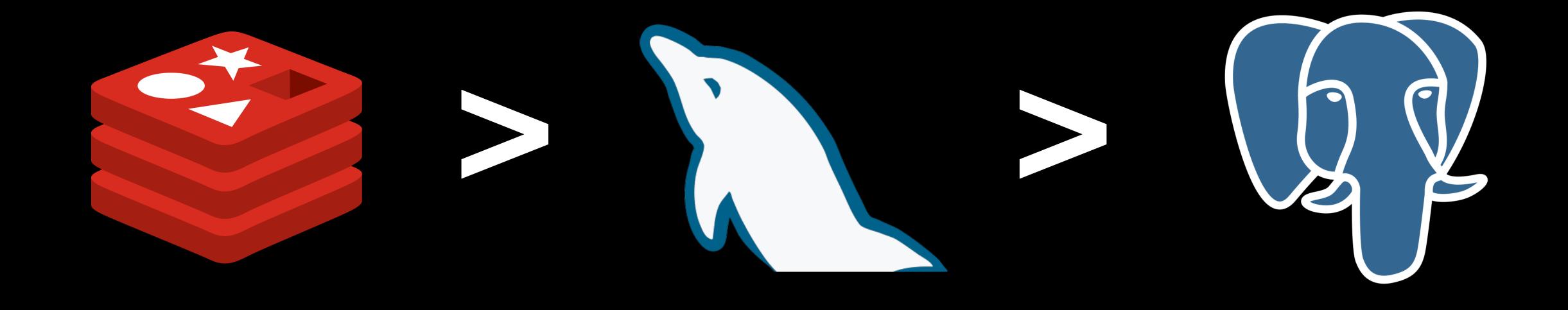
PStore:

35.0 µs

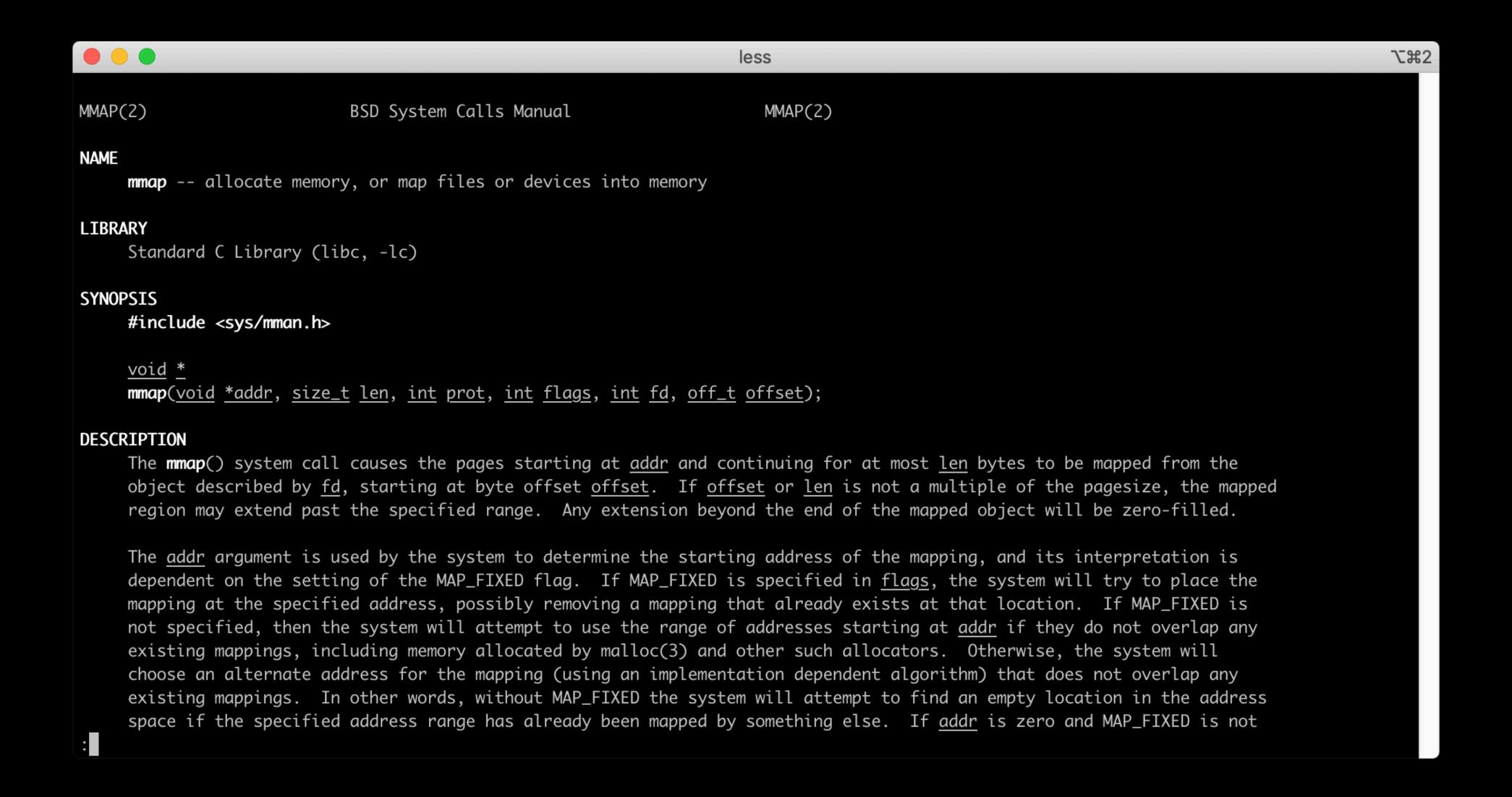
Dodi







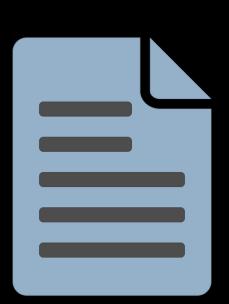




```
_init___(self, filename, read_mode=False):
60
             self._f = open(filename, 'rb' if read_mode else 'a+b')
61
             self._fname = filename
62
             capacity = os.fstat(self._f.fileno()).st_size
63
             if capacity == 0:
64
                 self._f.truncate(_INITIAL_MMAP_SIZE)
65
66
                 capacity = _INITIAL_MMAP_SIZE
             self._capacity = capacity
67
             self._m = mmap.mmap(self._f.fileno(), self._capacity,
68
                                 access=mmap.ACCESS_READ if read_mode else mmap.ACCESS_WRITE)
69
```

The prometheus\_multiproc\_dir environment variable must be set to a directory that the client library can use for metrics. This directory must be wiped between Gunicorn runs (before startup is recommended).

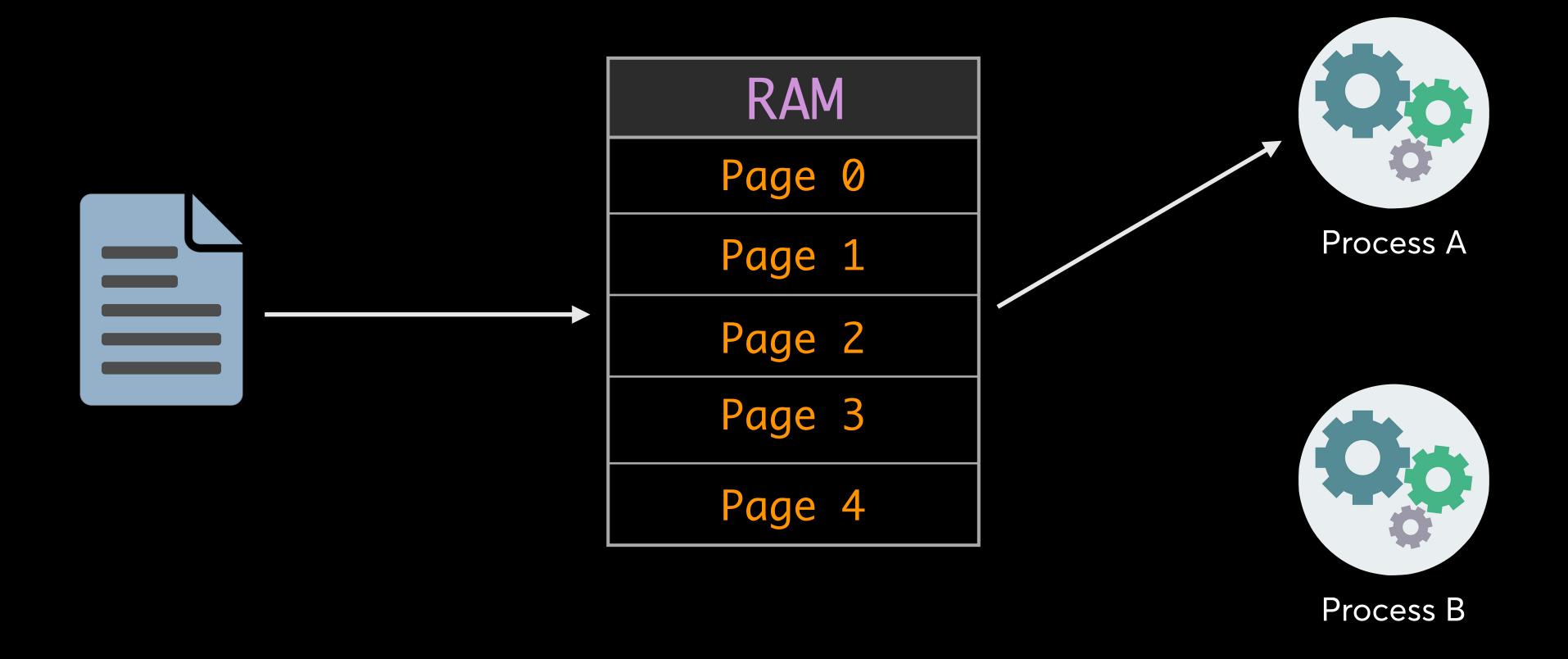


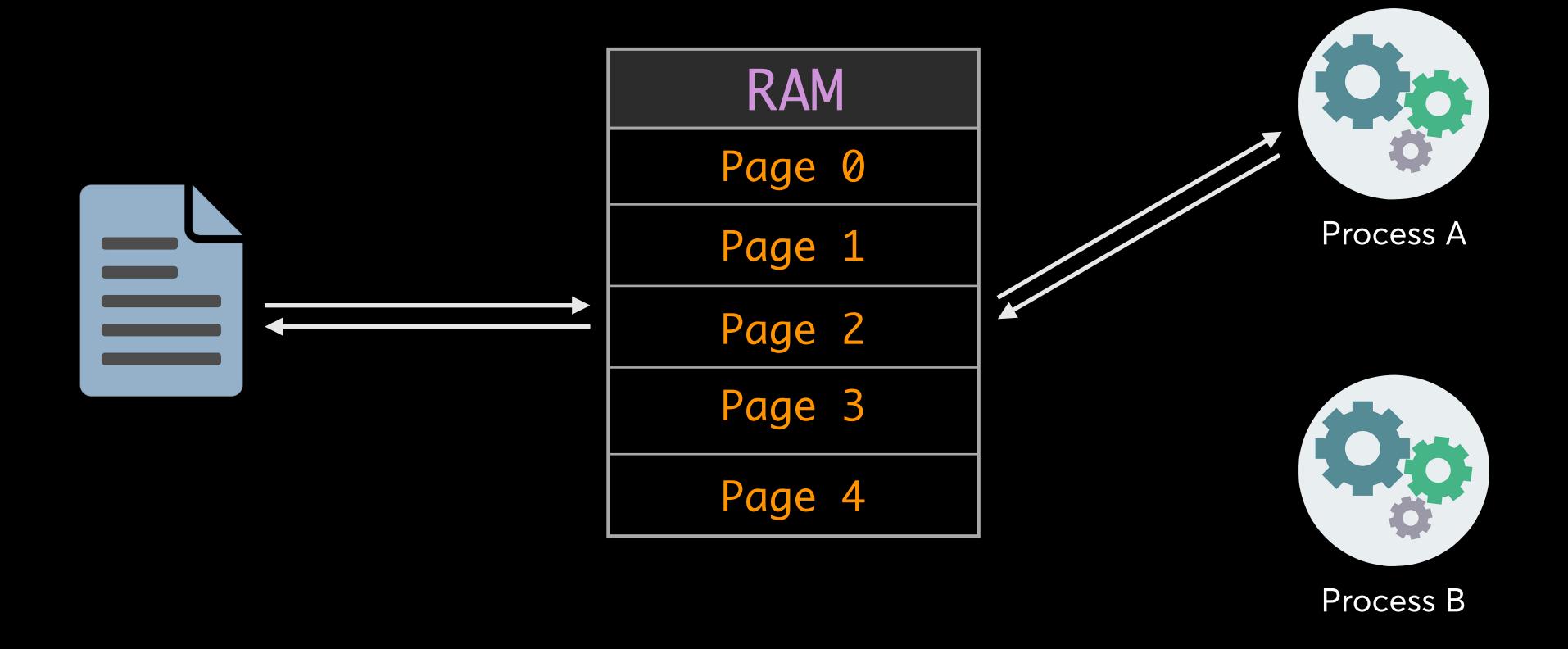


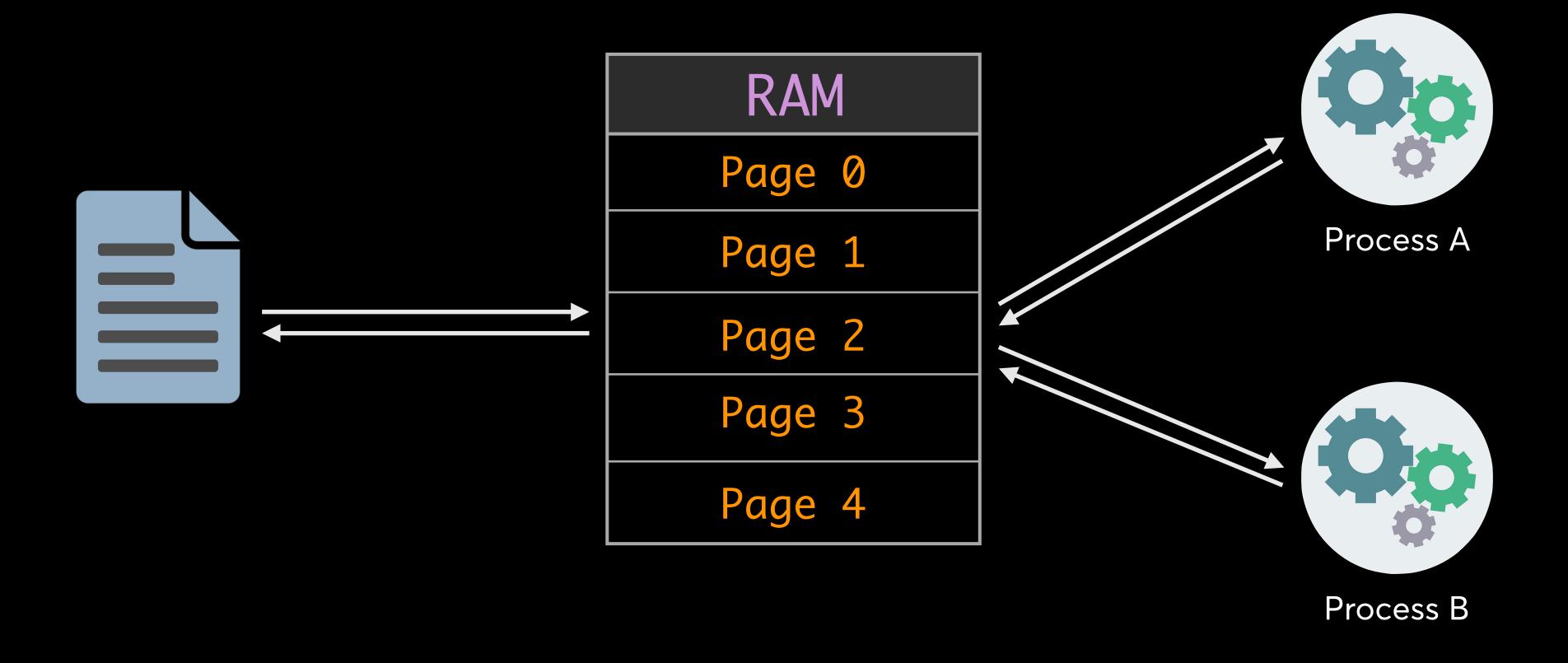
RAM
Page 0
Page 1
Page 2
Page 3
Page 4

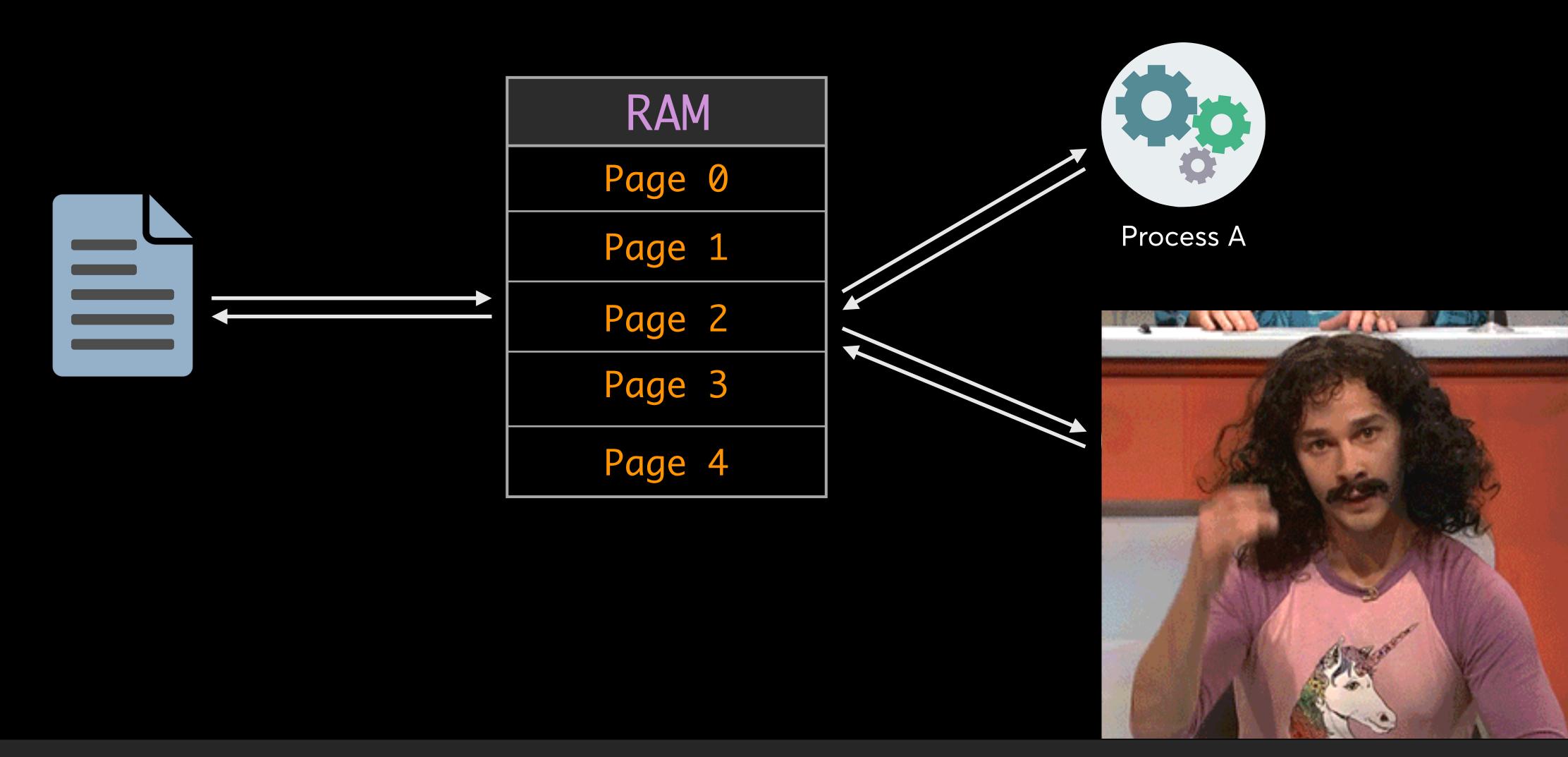


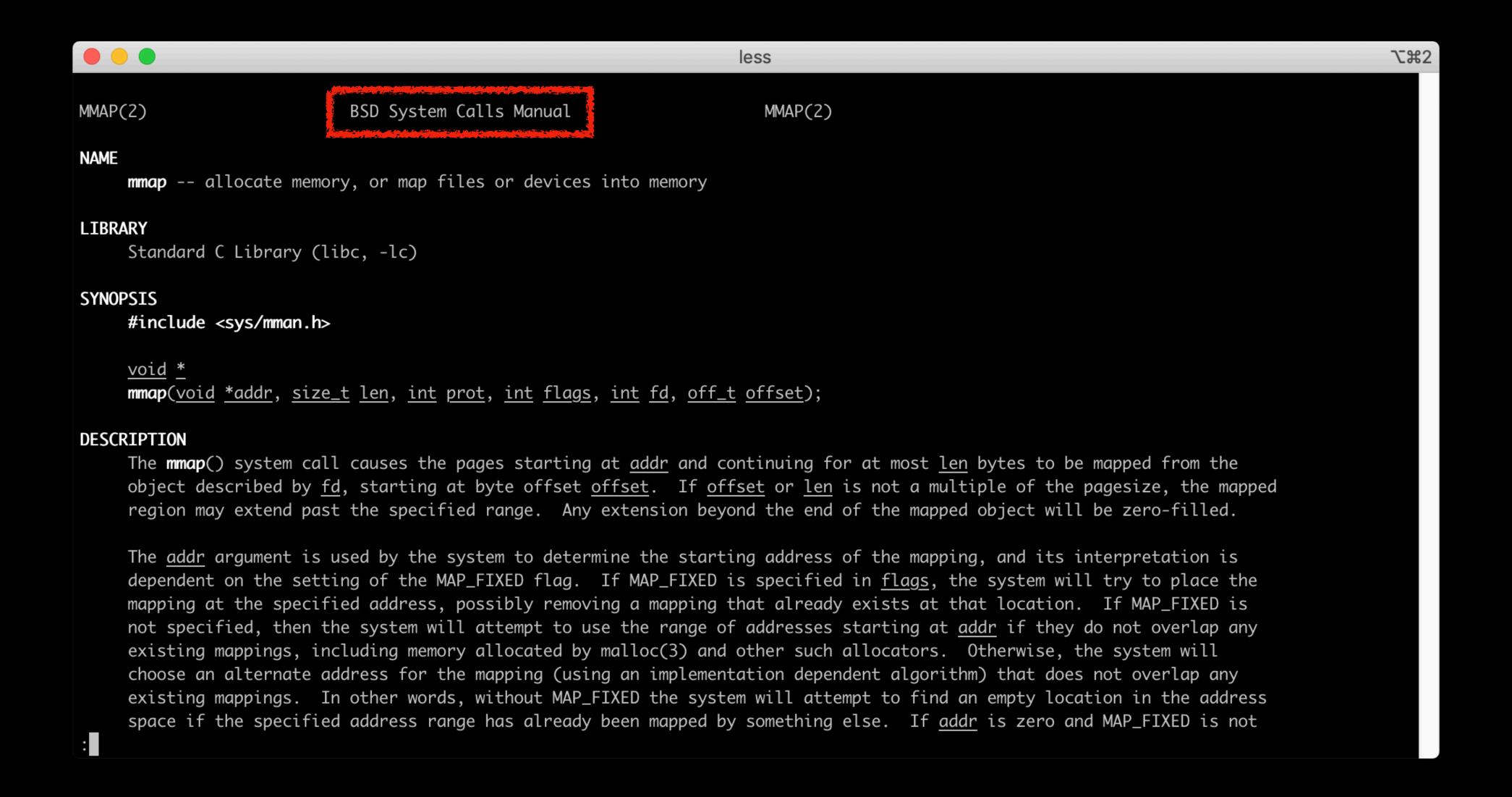




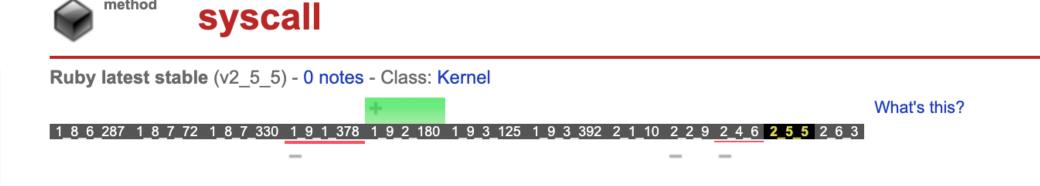








# Experiment: MMaps



syscall(\*args) public

Calls the operating system function identified by num and returns the result of the function or raises SystemCallError if it failed.

Arguments for the function can follow num. They must be either string objects or Integer objects. A string object is passed as a pointer to the byte sequence. An Integer object is passed as an integer whose bit size is same as a pointer. Up to nine parameters may be passed.

The function identified by num is system dependent. On some Unix systems, the numbers may be obtained from a header file called syscall.h.

```
syscall 4, 1, "hello\n", 6 # '4' is write(2) on our box
```

produces:

hello

Calling syscall on a platform which does not have any way to an arbitrary system function just fails with NotImplementedError.

Note: syscall is essentially unsafe and unportable. Feel free to shoot your foot. The DL (Fiddle) library is preferred for safer and a bit more portable programming.

Show source

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### SECOND EDITION

# THE

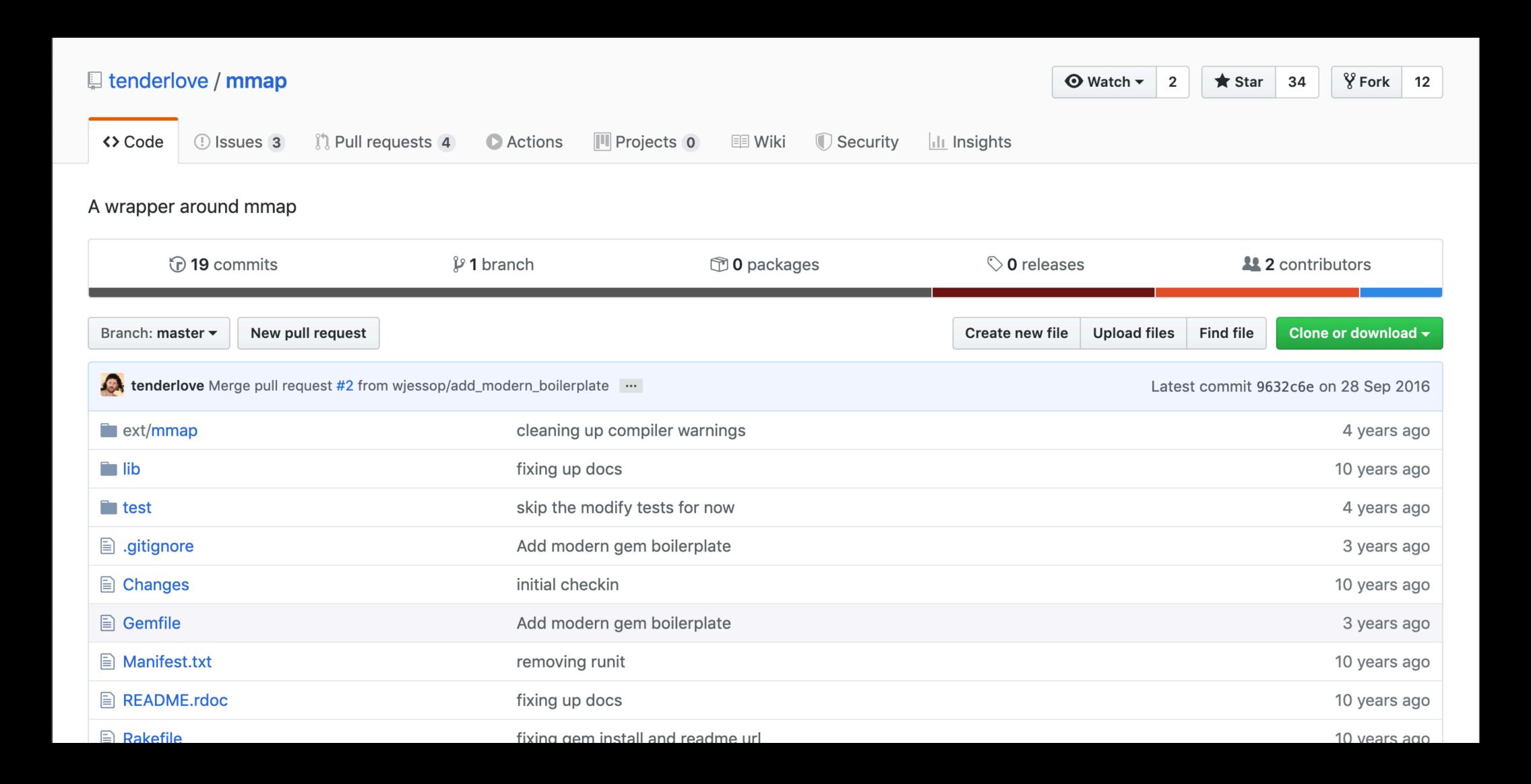


BRIAN W. KERNIGHAN DENNIS M. RITCHIE

PRENTICE HALL SOFTWARE SERIES

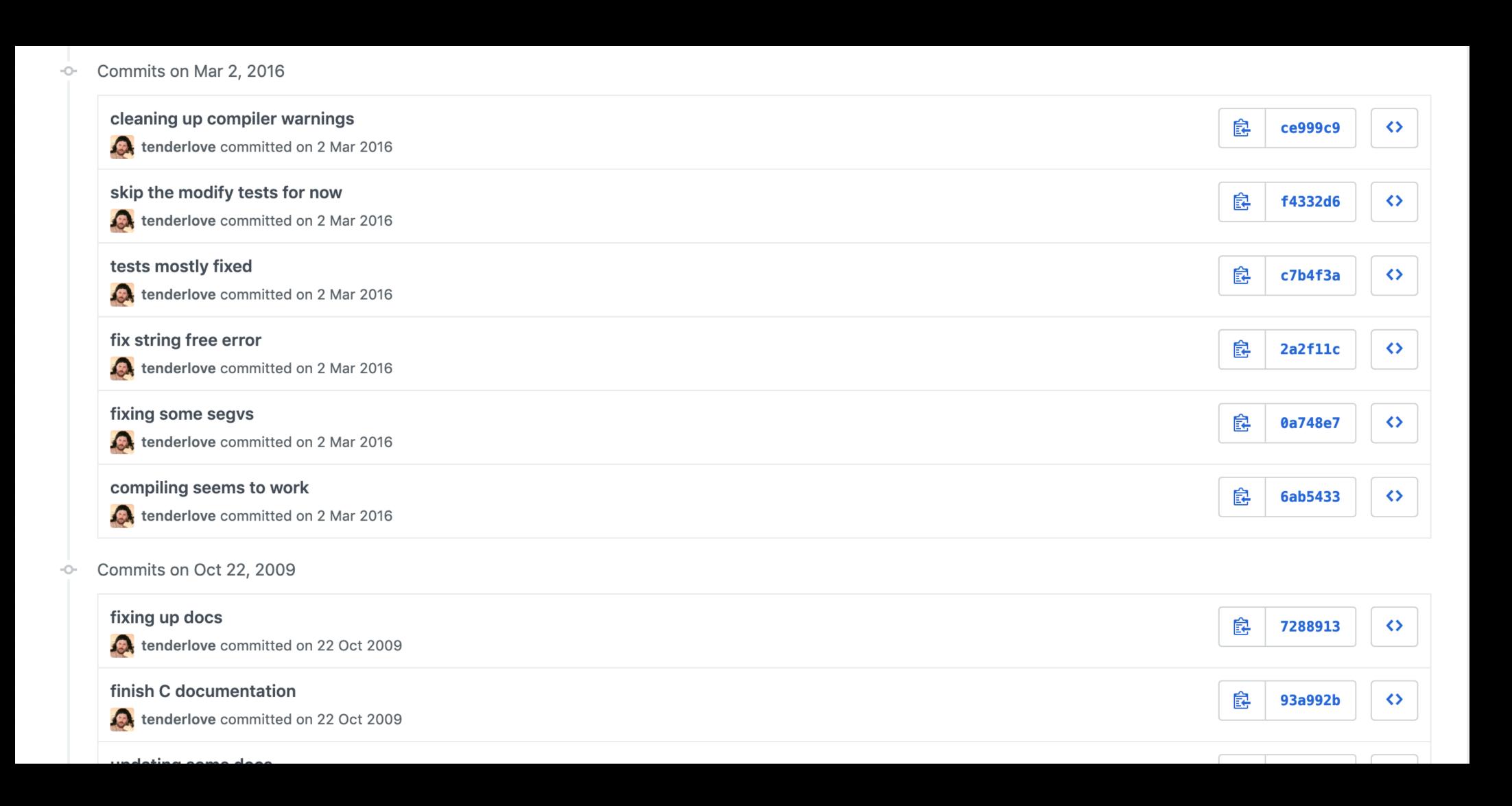
# NOPENOPENOPE

# Experiment: MMaps



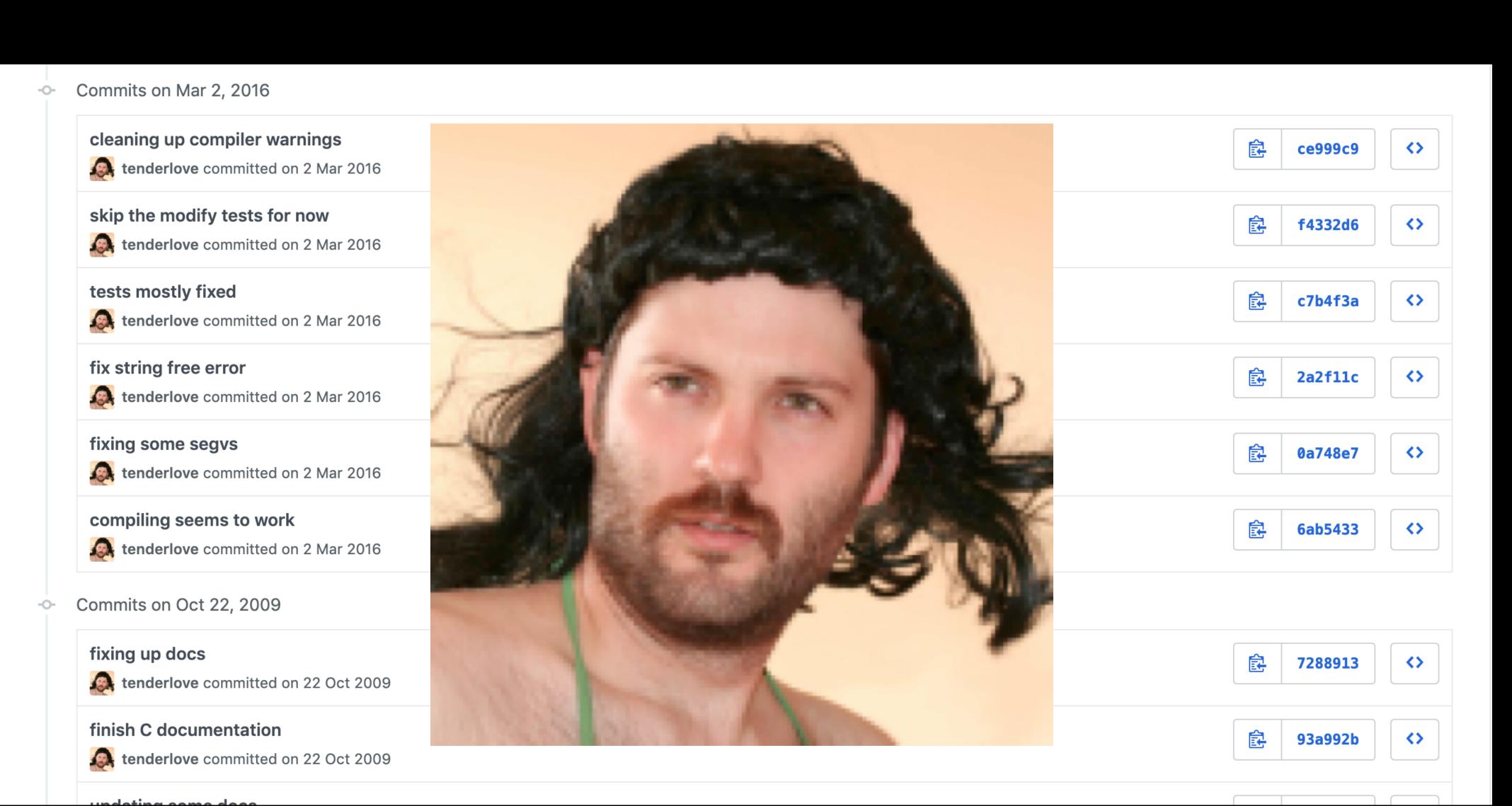


# Experiment: MMaps



# Experiment:





```
@f = File.open('/tmp/whatevs', 'a+b')
@f.truncate(INITIAL_MMAP_SIZE) # Init to 1Mb

m = Mmap.new('/tmp/whatevs', 'rw', Mmap::MAP_SHARED)

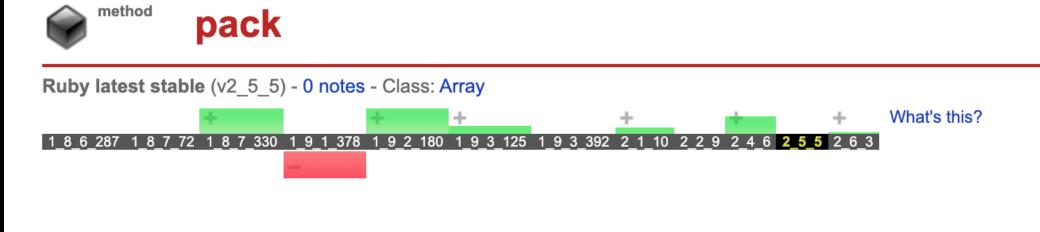
raw_bytes = m[pos..pos + 3] # Read 4 bytes

m[pos..pos + 3] = raw_bytes # Write 4 bytes
```



```
@f = File.open('/tmp/whatevs', 'a+b')
@f.truncate(INITIAL_MMAP_SIZE) # Init to 1Mb
m = Mmap.new('/tmp/whatevs', 'rw', Mmap::MAP_SHARED)
raw_bytes = m[pos..pos + 3] # Read 4 bytes
m[pos..pos + 3] = raw_bytes # Write 4 bytes
```

#### Experiment: MMaps



 $pack(p1, p2 = {}) public$ 

Packs the contents of *arr* into a binary sequence according to the directives in *aTemplateString* (see the table below) Directives "A," "a," and "Z" may be followed by a count, which gives the width of the resulting field. The remaining directives also may take a count, indicating the number of array elements to convert. If the count is an asterisk ("\*"), all remaining array elements will be converted. Any of the directives "sSillL" may be followed by an underscore ("\_") or exclamation mark ("!") to use the underlying platform's native size for the specified type; otherwise, they use a platform-independent size. Spaces are ignored in the template string. See also String#unpack.

```
a = [ "a", "b", "c" ]
n = [ 65, 66, 67 ]
a.pack("A3A3A3") #=> "a b c "
a.pack("a3a3a3") #=> "a\000\000b\000\0000\0000"
n.pack("ccc") #=> "ABC"
```

If aBufferString is specified and its capacity is enough, pack uses it as the buffer and returns it. When the offset is specified by the beginning of aTemplateString, the result is filled after the offset. If original contents of aBufferString exists and it's longer than the offset, the rest of offsetOfBuffer are overwritten by the result. If it's shorter, the gap is filled with "0".

Note that "buffer:" option does not guarantee not to allocate memory in pack. If the capacity of aBufferString is not enough, pack allocates memory.

Directives for pack.

Integer   Array   Directive   Element   Meaning		
С	Integer	8-bit unsigned (unsigned char)
S	Integer	16-bit unsigned, native endian (uint16_t)
L	Integer	32-bit unsigned, native endian (uint32_t)
Q	Integer	64-bit unsigned, native endian (uint64_t)



```
m = Mmap.new('/tmp/whatevs', 'rw', Mmap::MAP_SHARED)
pos = last_position_used

m[pos..pos + 7] = [my_float].pack('d')

last_position_used += 8
```



```
m = Mmap.new('/tmp/whatevs', 'rw', Mmap::MAP_SHARED)
pos = last_position_used
```

$$m[pos..pos + 7] = [my_float].pack('d')$$

last\_position\_used += 8



Hash without lock:

 $0.9 \mu s$ 

Hash with a Monitor lock:

 $1.5 \mu s$ 

PStore:

35.0 µs

MMaps:

#### Experiment: MMaps

Hash without lock: 0.9 µs

Hash with a Monitor lock: 1.5 µs

PStore: 35.0 µs

MMaps: 6.1 µs

Experiment: MMaps





/Users/danielmagliola/Documents/prometheus\_client\_ruby/lib/prometheus/client/data\_stores/mmap\_store.rb:221: [BUG] Bus Error at 0x000000010c4853c0 ruby 2.4.2p198 (2017-09-14 revision 59899) [x86\_64-darwin16]

```
Crash Report log information ------
  See Crash Report log file under the one of following:
    * ~/Library/Logs/DiagnosticReports
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  for more details.
 on't forget to include the above Crash Report log file in bug reports.
-- Control frame information ------
c:0011 p:--- s:0053 e:000052 CFUNC :[]
c:0010 p:--- s:0050 e:000049 CFUNC :
c:0009 p:0057 s:0045 e:000044 METHOD /Users/danielmagliola/Documents/prometheus_client_ruby/lib/prometheus/client/data_stores/mmap_store.rb:221
c:0008 p:0012 s:0039 e:000038 BLOCK /Users/danielmagliola/Documents/prometheus_client_ruby/lib/prometheus/client/data_stores/mmap_store.rb:96
c:0007 p:0006 s:0035 e:000034 BLOCK /Users/danielmagliola/Documents/prometheus_client_ruby/lib/prometheus/client/data_stores/mmap_store.rb:137
c:0006 p:0040 s:0032 e:000031 METHOD /Users/danielmagliola/.rbenv/versions/2.4.2/lib/ruby/gems/2.4.0/gems/concurrent-ruby-1.1.2/lib/concurrent/atomic/reentrant_read
c:0005 p:0011 s:0028 e:000027 METHOD /Users/danielmagliola/Documents/prometheus_client_ruby/lib/prometheus/client/data_stores/mmap_store.rb:137
c:0004 p:0019 s:0024 e:000023 METHOD /Users/danielmagliola/Documents/prometheus_client_ruby/lib/prometheus/client/data_stores/mmap_store.rb:95
c:0003 p:0057 s:0016 e:000015 METHOD /Users/danielmagliola/Documents/prometheus_client_ruby/lib/prometheus/client/counter.rb:17
c:0002 p:0050 s:0008 e:000007 BLOCK high_cardinality_test.rb:23 [FINISH]
c:0001 p:--- s:0003 e:000002 (none) [FINISH]
-- Ruby level backtrace information ------
high_cardinality_test.rb:23:in `block in <main>'
/Users/danielmagliola/Documents/prometheus_client_ruby/lib/prometheus/client/counter.rb:17:in `increment'
/Users/danielmagliola/Documents/prometheus_client_ruby/lib/prometheus/client/data_stores/mmap_store.rb:95:in `increment'
/Users/danielmagliola/Documents/prometheus_client_ruby/lib/prometheus/client/data_stores/mmap_store.rb:137:in `in_process_sync'
/Users/danielmagliola/.rbenv/versions/2.4.2/lib/ruby/gems/2.4.0/gems/concurrent-ruby-1.1.2/lib/concurrent/atomic/reentrant_read_write_lock.rb:147:in `with_write_lock'
/Users/danielmagliola/Documents/prometheus_client_ruby/lib/prometheus/client/data_stores/mmap_store.rb:137:in `block in in_process_sync'
/Users/danielmagliola/Documents/prometheus_client_ruby/lib/prometheus/client/data_stores/mmap_store.rb:96:in `block in increment'
/Users/danielmagliola/Documents/prometheus_client_ruby/lib/prometheus/client/data_stores/mmap_store.rb:221:in `read_value'
/Users/danielmagliola/Documents/prometheus_client_ruby/lib/prometheus/client/data_stores/mmap_store.rb:221:in `[]'
/Users/danielmagliola/Documents/prometheus_client_ruby/lib/prometheus/client/data_stores/mmap_store.rb:221:in `[]'
-- Machine register context -------
 rax: 0x00007fed01817500 rbx: 0x00007fed018174f0 rcx: 0x00007fed008cfe20
rdx: 0x00000000000000000 rdi: 0x00007fed01817500 rsi: 0x000000010c4853c0
r9: 0x00007fecff6003a0 r10: 0x000070000e9724c8 r11: 0x00007febf5392140
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rdx: 0x00000000000000000 rdi: 0x00007fed01817500 rsi: 0x000000010c4853c0
r9: 0x00007fecff6003a0 r10: 0x000070000e9724c8 r11: 0x00007febf5392140
```









Experiment: MMaps



```
@f = File.open('/tmp/whatevs', 'a+b')
@f.truncate(INITIAL_MMAP_SIZE) # Init to 1Mb

m = Mmap.new('/tmp/whatevs', 'rw', Mmap::MAP_SHARED)

m[pos..pos + 7] = [my_float].pack('d') # Write our float
```

```
@f = File.open('/tmp/whatevs', 'a+b')
@f.truncate(INITIAL_MMAP_SIZE) # Init to 1Mb

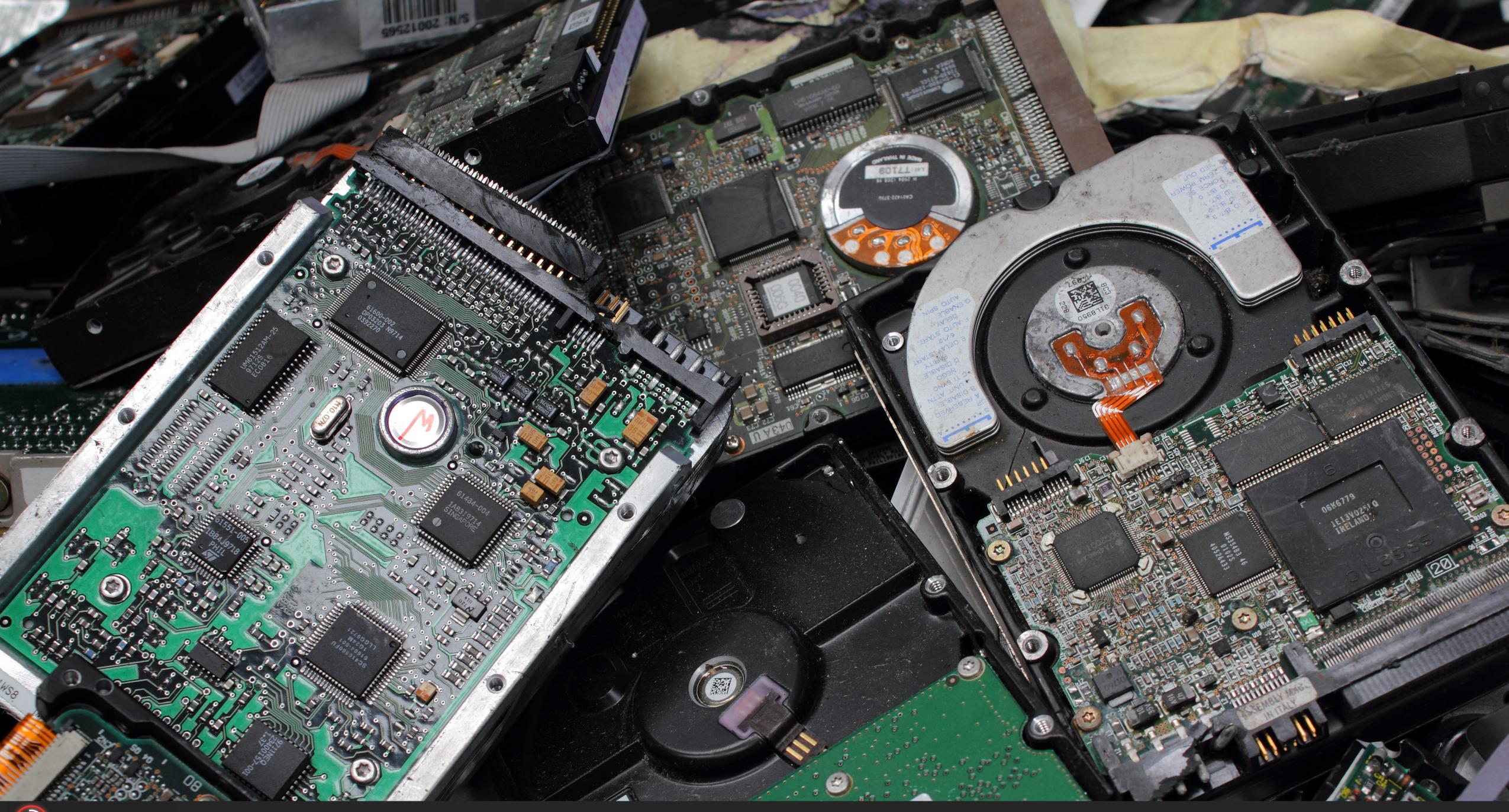
m = Mmap.new('/tmp/whatevs', 'rw', Mmap::MAP_SHARED)

m[pos..pos + 7] = [my_float].pack('d') # Write our float
@f.seek(pos)
@f.write([my_float].pack('d'))
```



Experiment: Files

```
@f.seek(pos)
@f.write([my_float].pack('d'))
```



Hash without lock: 0.9 µs

Hash with a Monitor lock: 1.5 µs

PStore: 35.0 µs

MMaps: 6.1 µs

Boring, SLOW, old files:

#### Experiment: Files

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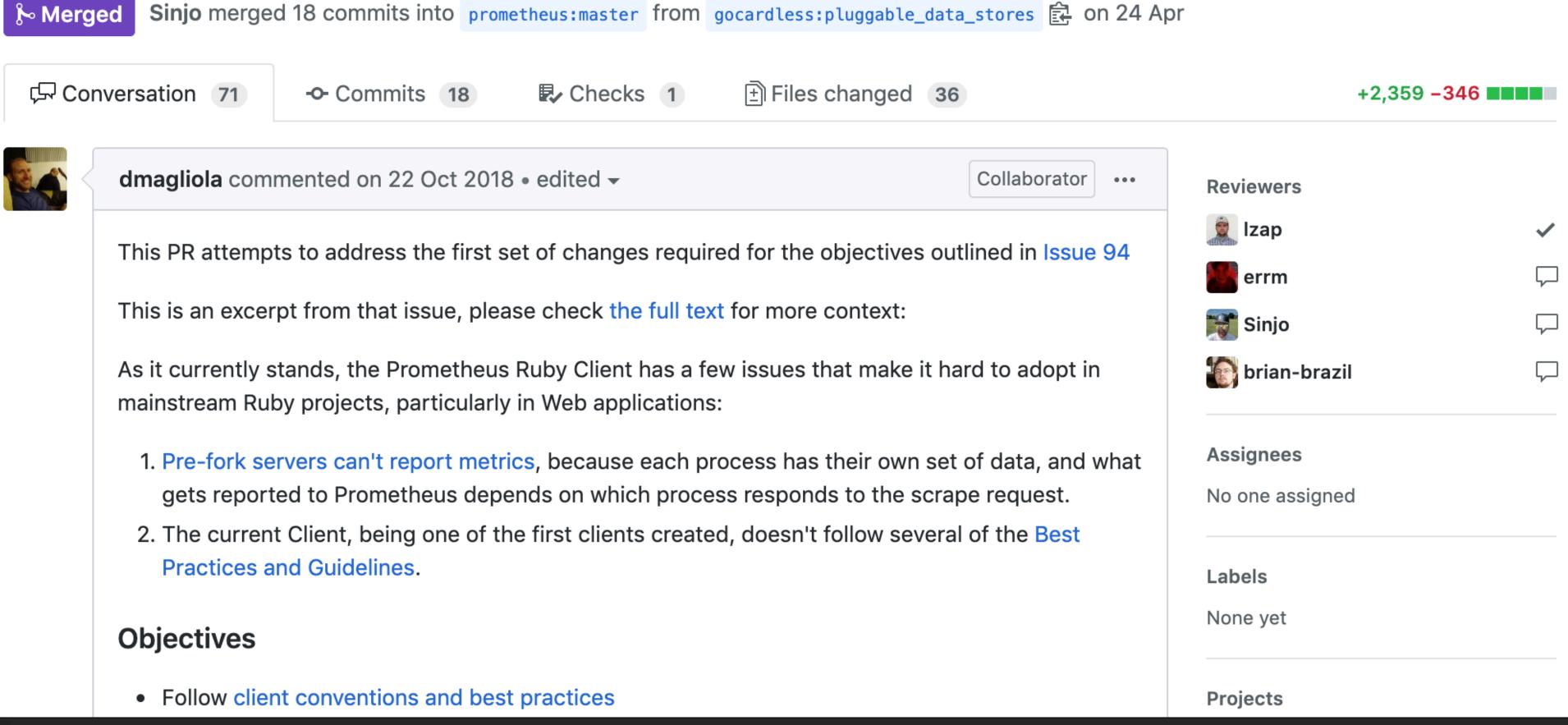
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- No segfaults
- Compatible with all editions of Ruby
- 100% understandable
- No things that keep me up at night



#### Abstract Data Storage away from Metric objects, introduce Swappable Data Stores, and support Multiprocess Pre-fork Servers #95





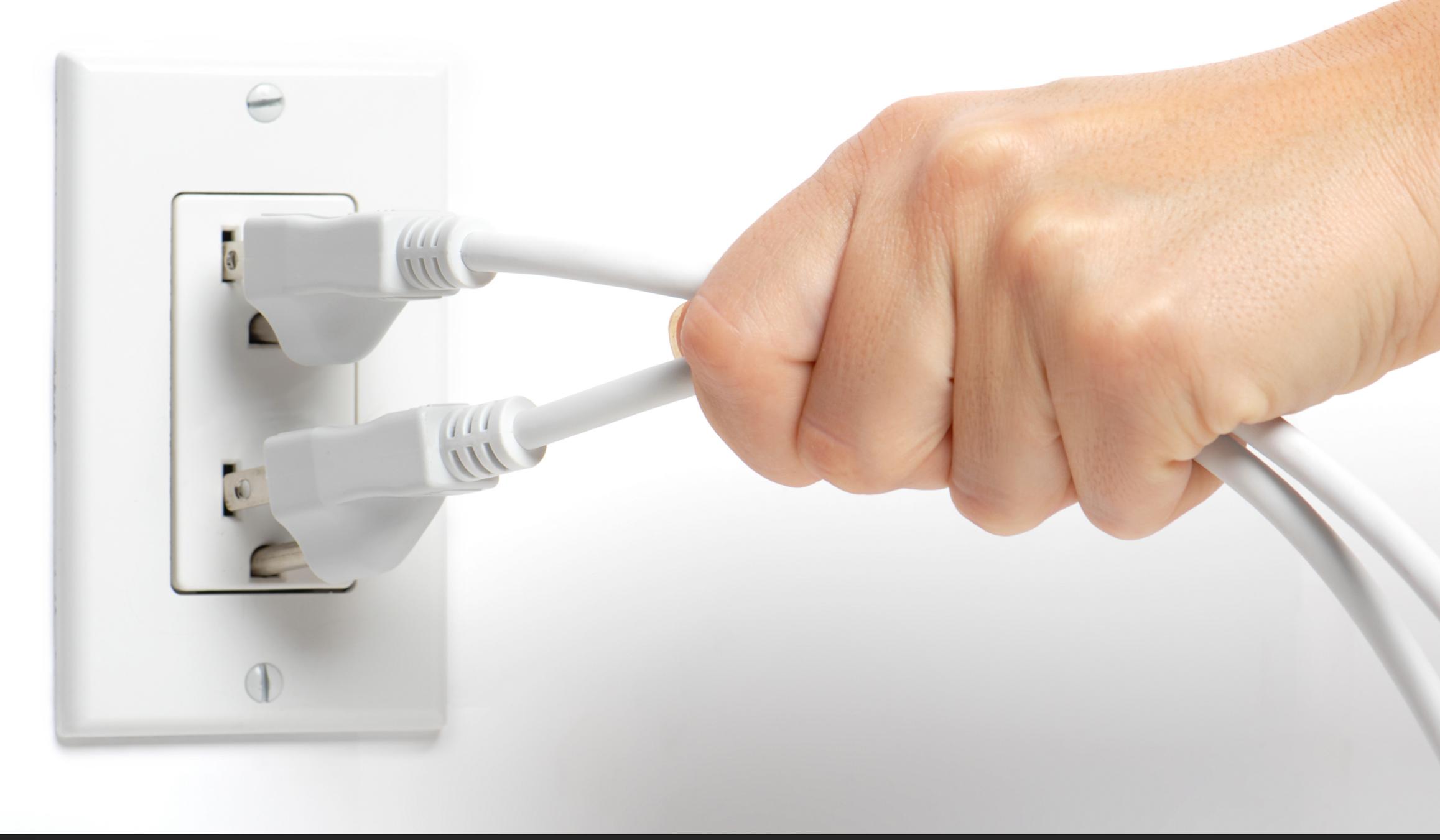


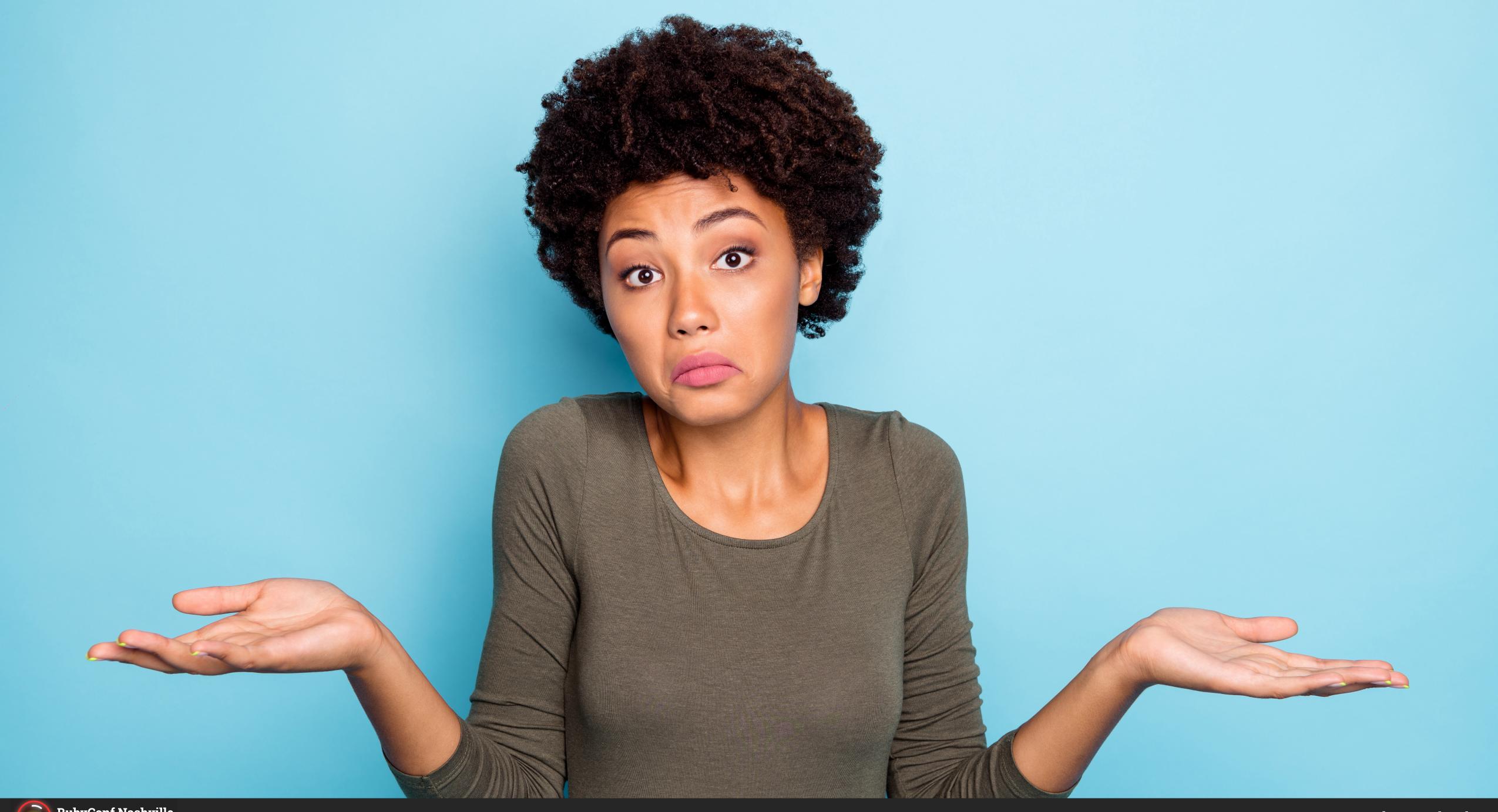
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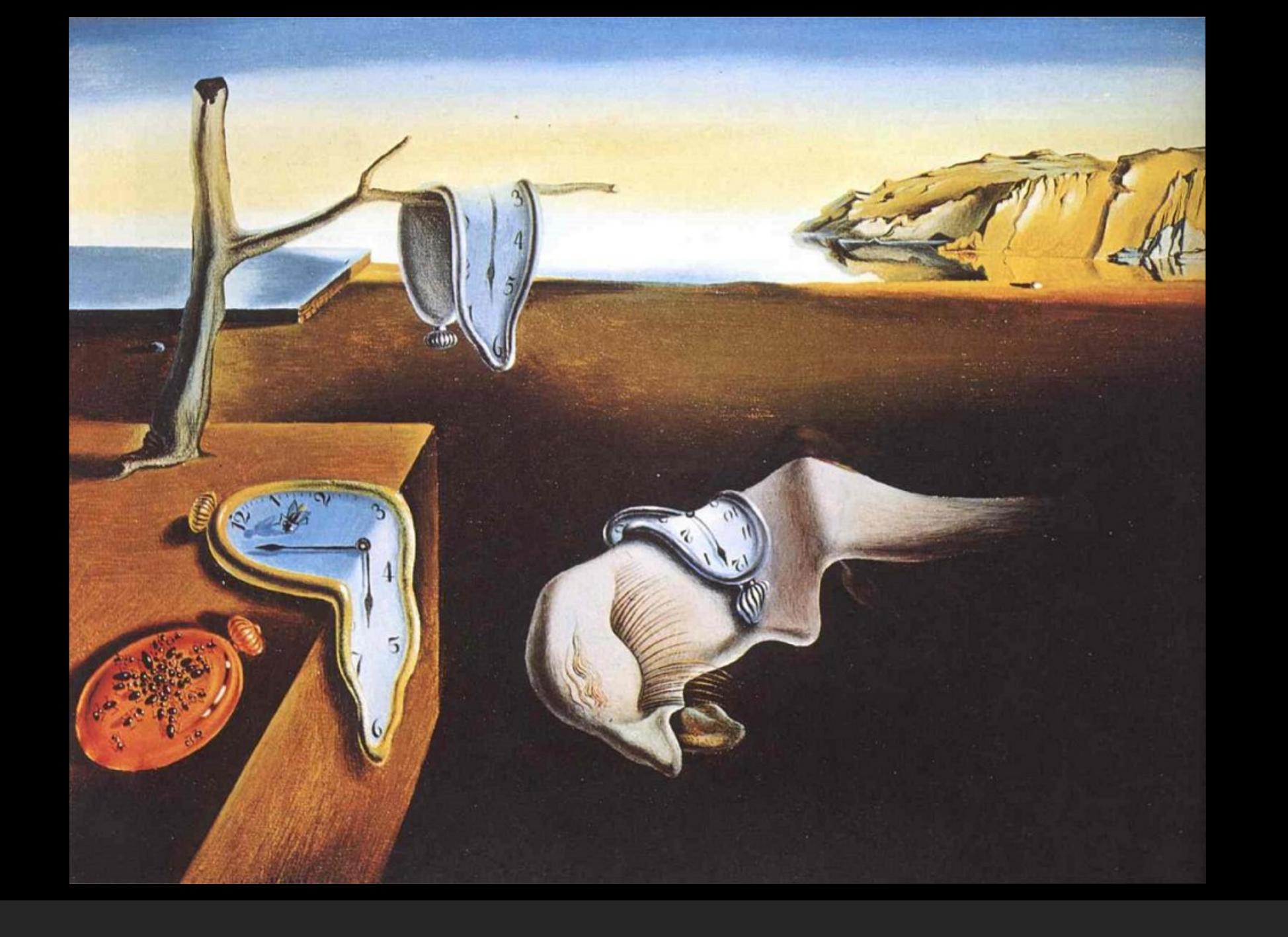












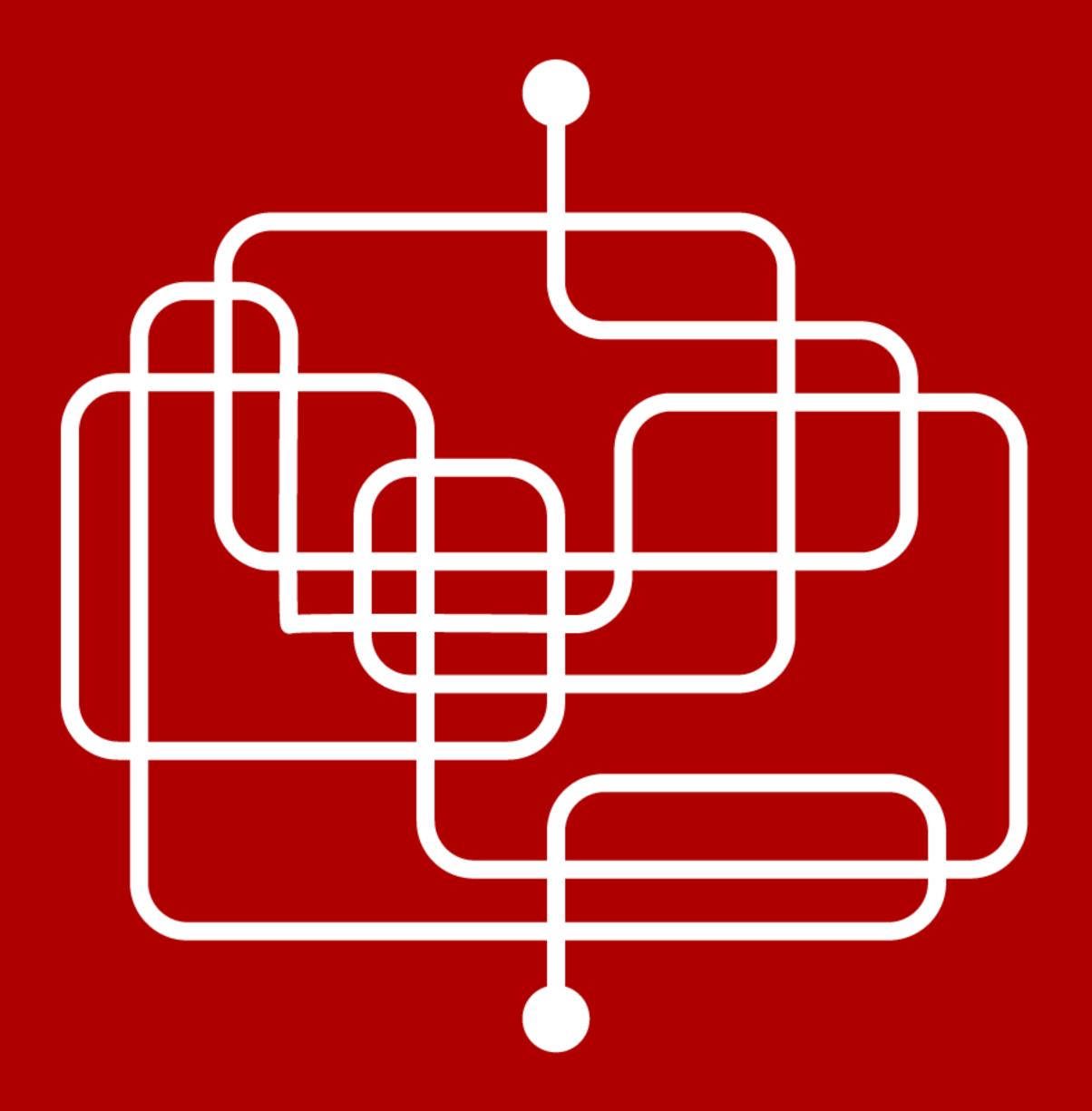
















# Thankyou



## Disk is fast, memory is slow

"Fast" and "slow" are meaningless constructs of puny brains desperately seeking simple answers in a brutally complex existence



Slides: https://bit.ly/dcm\_rubyconf\_2019

https://github.com/prometheus/client\_ruby

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