

good thing we're not writing a database

how and why automerge isn't a database

pvh; ink & switch; HYTRADBOI 2025

The image features several black ink splatters of various sizes and shapes scattered across a white background. A prominent cluster of splatters is located to the left of the text, while other smaller splatters are positioned above and below the main text area.

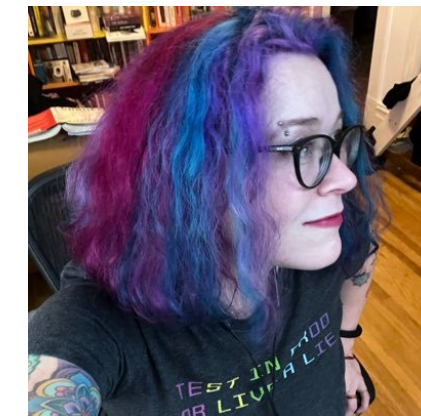
Ink & Switch



Automerge

"Never write a database. Even if you want to, even if you think you should. Resist. Never write a database. Unless you have to write a database. But you don't."

Charity Majors (@mipsytipsey)





How Honeycomb works

Your systems send us events

- aka structured logs
- aka JSON blobs

```
{  
  "endpoint": "/dashboard",  
  "hostname": "app32",  
  "response_time_ms": 435,  
  "mysql_latency_ms": 102,  
  "status": 200,  
  "user_id": 42  
}
```



Sept 28-30, 2017
thestrangeloop.com

2:19 / 42:40 • How Honeycomb ...

▶ ⏸ 🔊 ⏪ ⏩ ⏹ ⏶ ⏷ ⏸ ⏹ ⏶ ⏷ ⏸

"Why We Built Our Own Distributed Column Store" by Sam Stokes



Strange Loop ...
84.2K subscribers

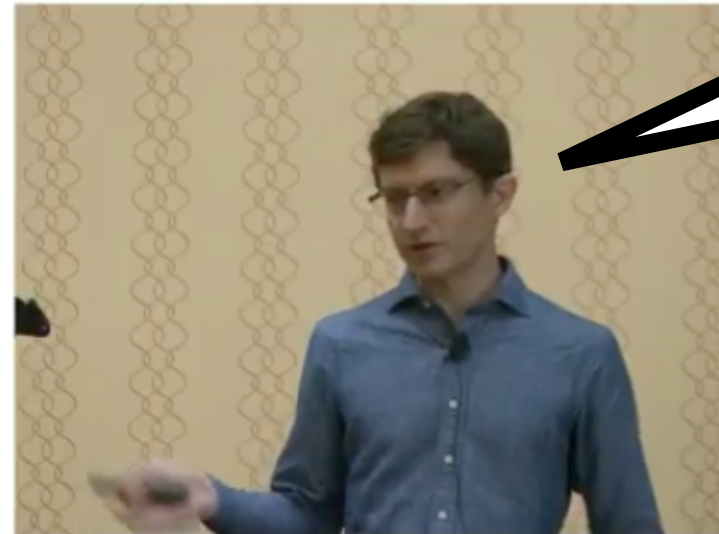
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It's a column store
not a database!



Sept 28-30, 2017
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Your systems send us events

- aka structured logs
- aka JSON blobs

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"Why We Built Our Own Distributed Column Store" by Sam Stokes



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2023-01-18
Intro Draft

DRAFT

UPWELLING
A toolkit for collaborative writing

Karissa Rae McKelvey, Scott Jenson,
Eileen Wagner, Blaine Cook, Martin Kleppman

DRAFT

... ideas as at ...

... collaborative text edit ...

... It is a proof of ...

... software; it ...

... but rather ...

... on satisfying ...

... multi-author ed ...

... Upwelling ...

... layers ...

... is attributed to a single author. Each layer ...

... as "Reworking the Introduction", or "Copy edi ...

... This semantic bundling helps contributors ...



UPWELLING IMPLEMENTATION

Upwelling is a collaborative text editor that follows the pattern goals listed above. It is a research prototype, not a finished product. But we hope that it will inspire other collaborative writing products.

Upwelling introduces a few new concepts. A document consists of a stack of layers, and every edit to the document ~~is made in a~~ layer. A layer is a ~~document~~ document that is ~~not~~ not editable. ~~OR it can be merged into the stack (after which it cannot be~~ changed anymore. The stack contains the complete editing history of the document. A layer is called a draft until it is merged into the stack, at which point it cannot be changed further. Thus, is always edited through a draft layer, and over an edit on existing text or creates new text at any time.

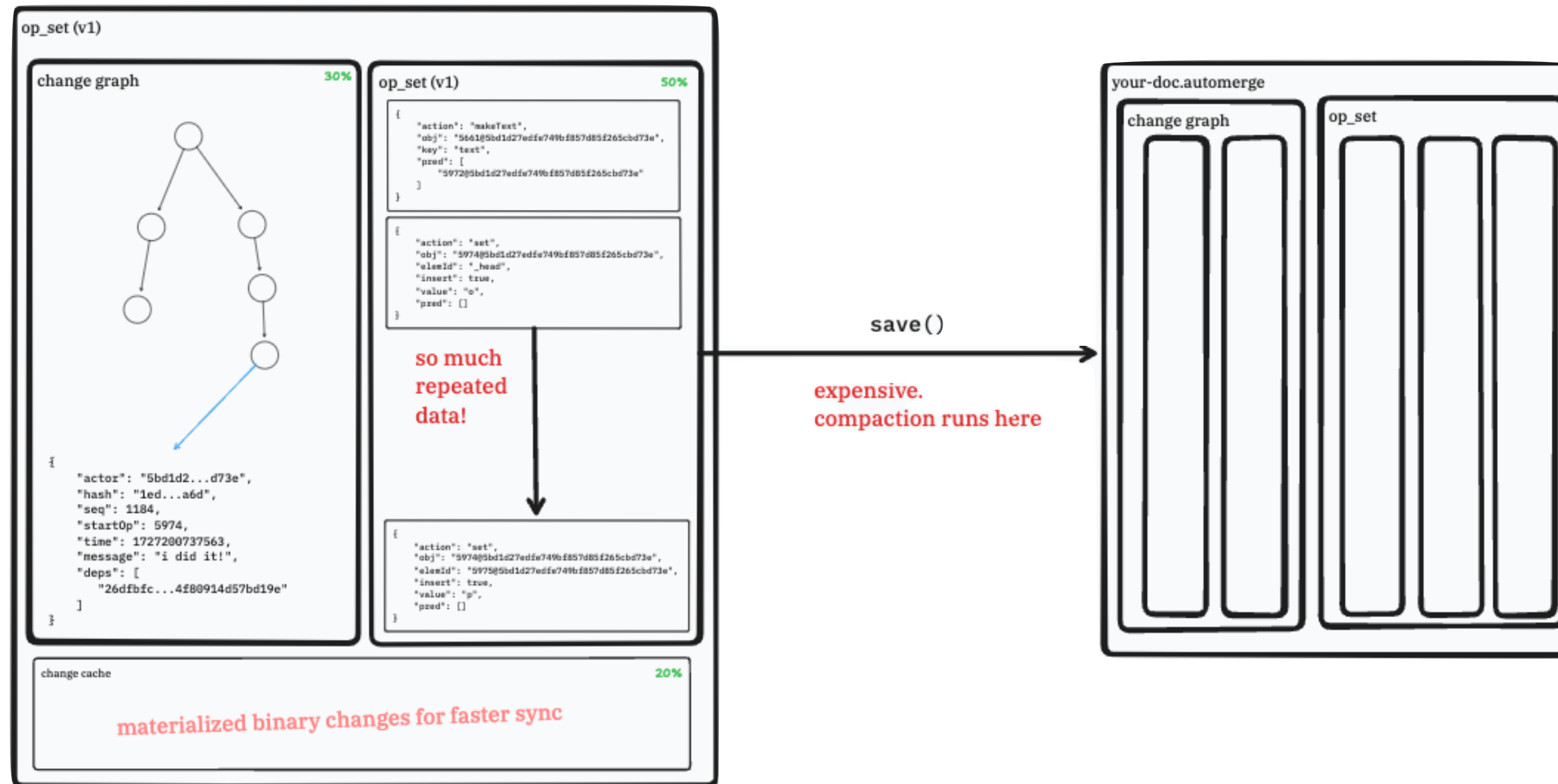
Draft Layers

An Upwelling document ~~is always edited through a draft layer, and~~ is always edited through a draft layer, and over an edit on existing text or creates new text at any time.

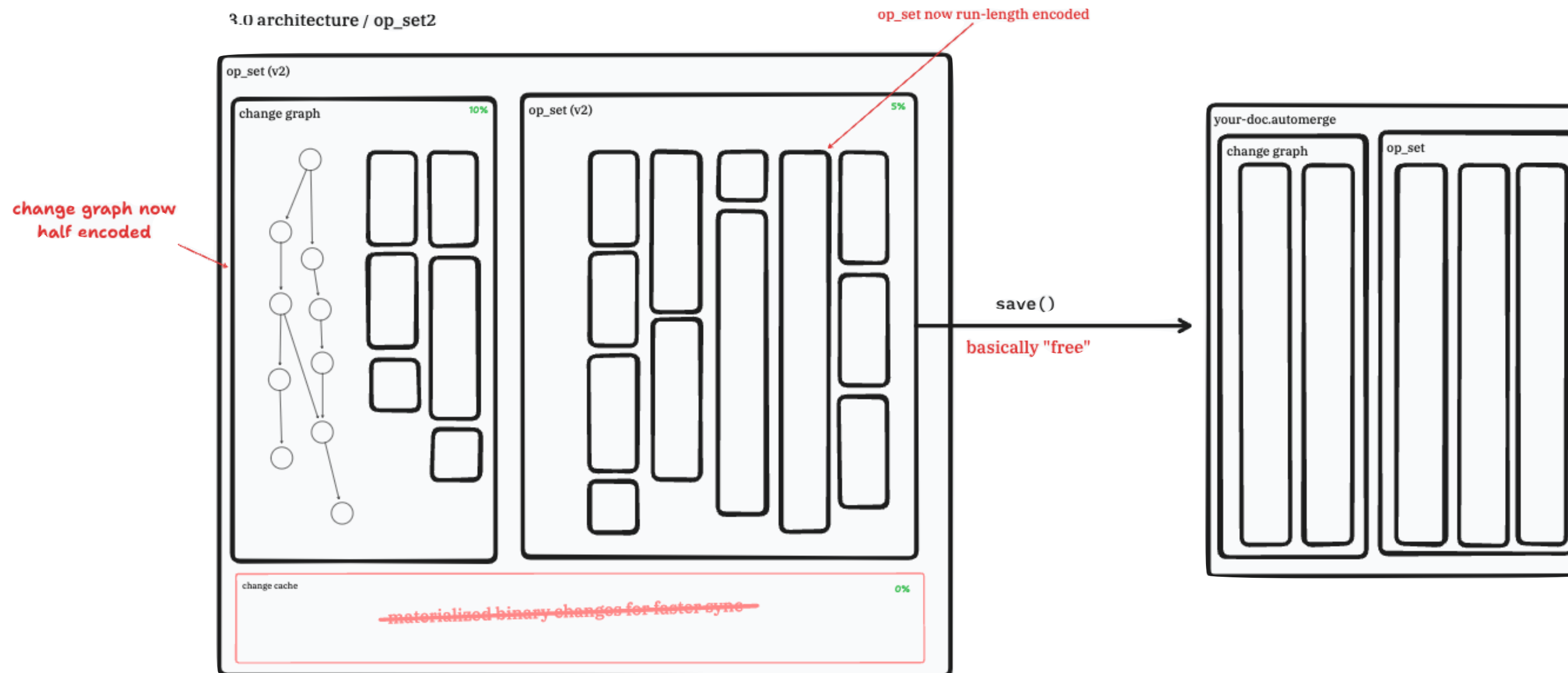
Once a draft layer has been selected, the user can use the document like any other text editor, by ...

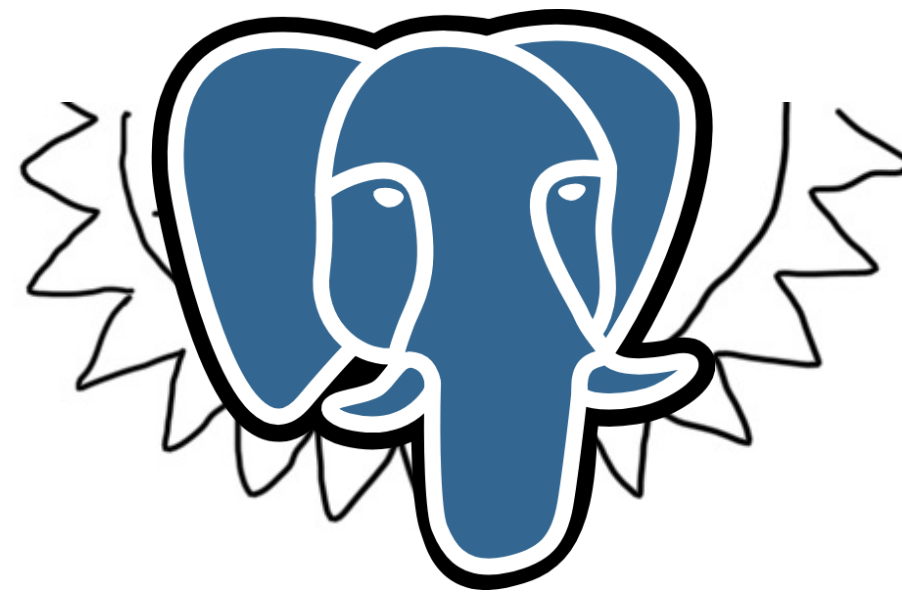


1.0 architecture

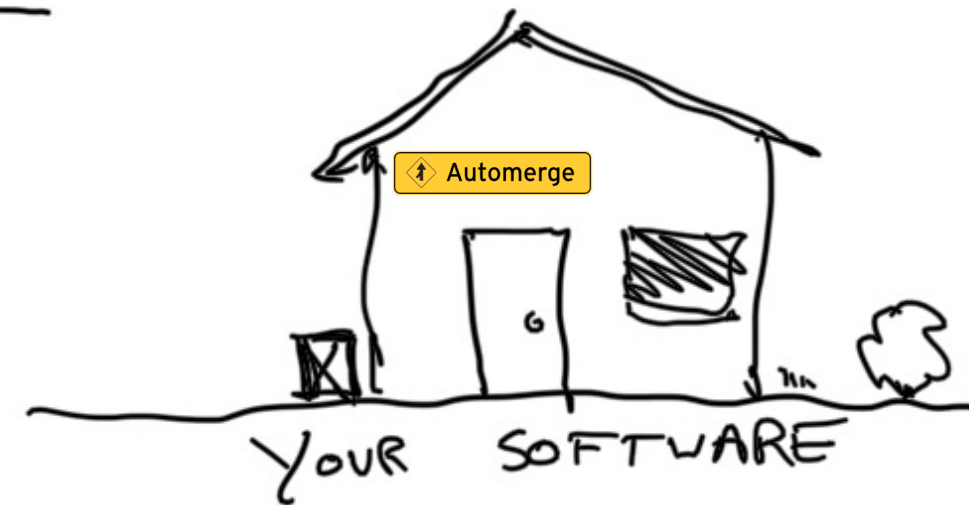
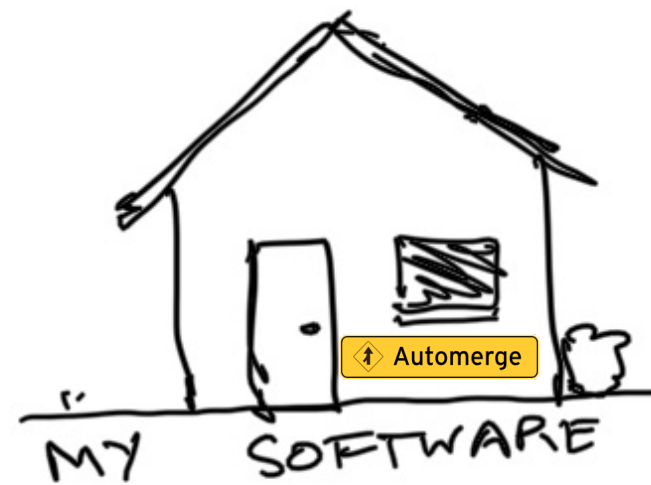
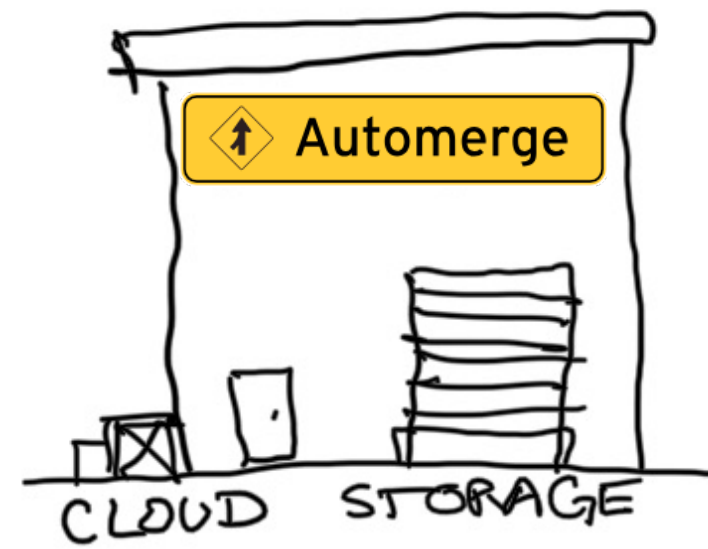
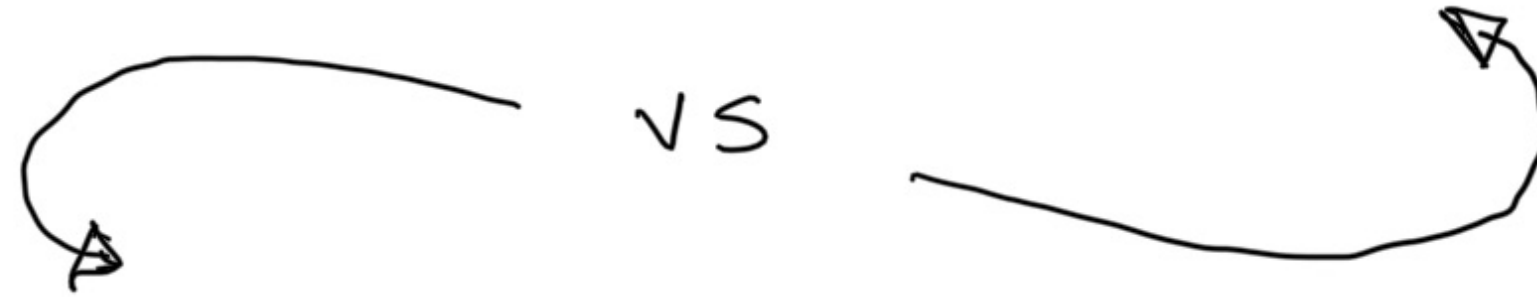


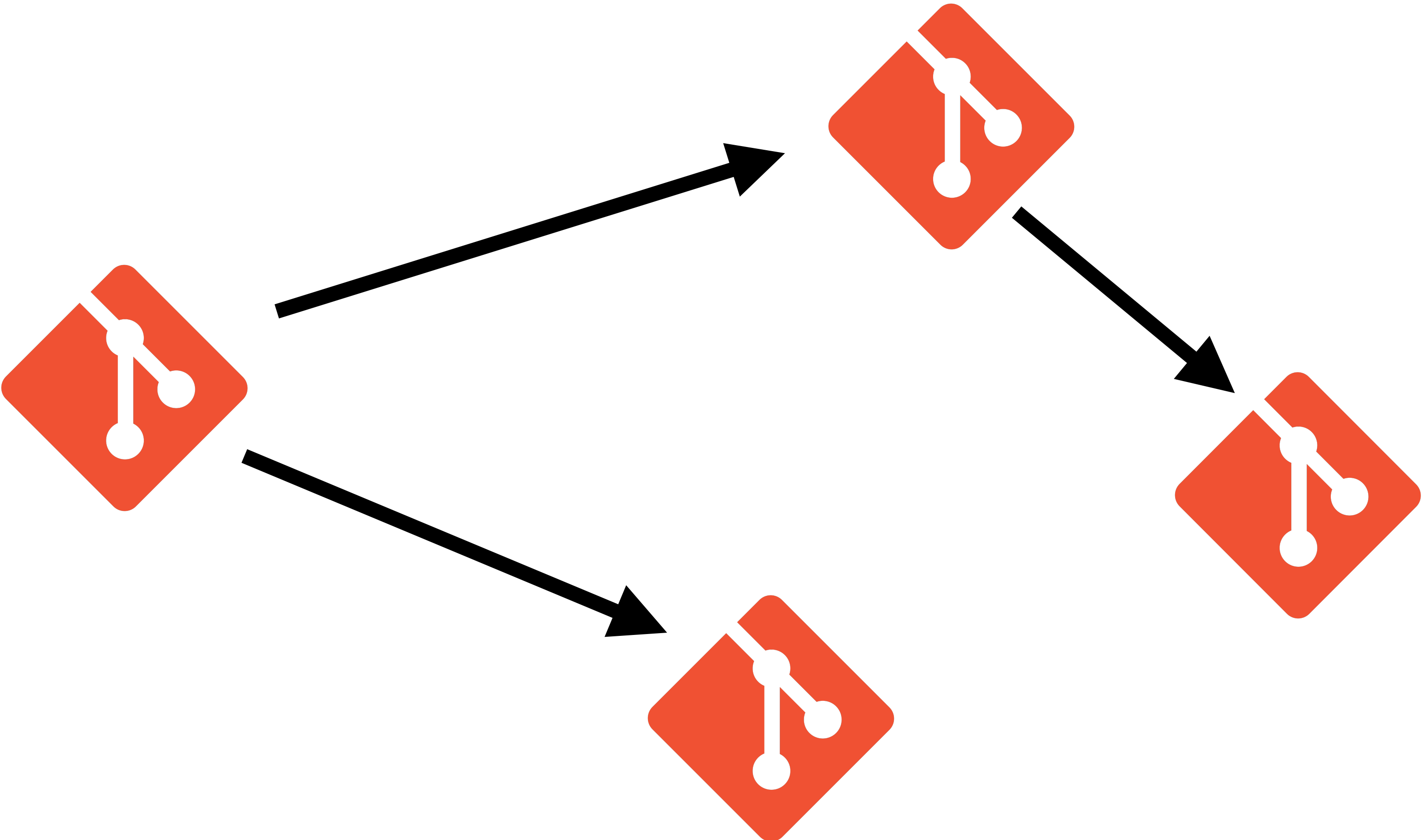
3.0 architecture / op_set2





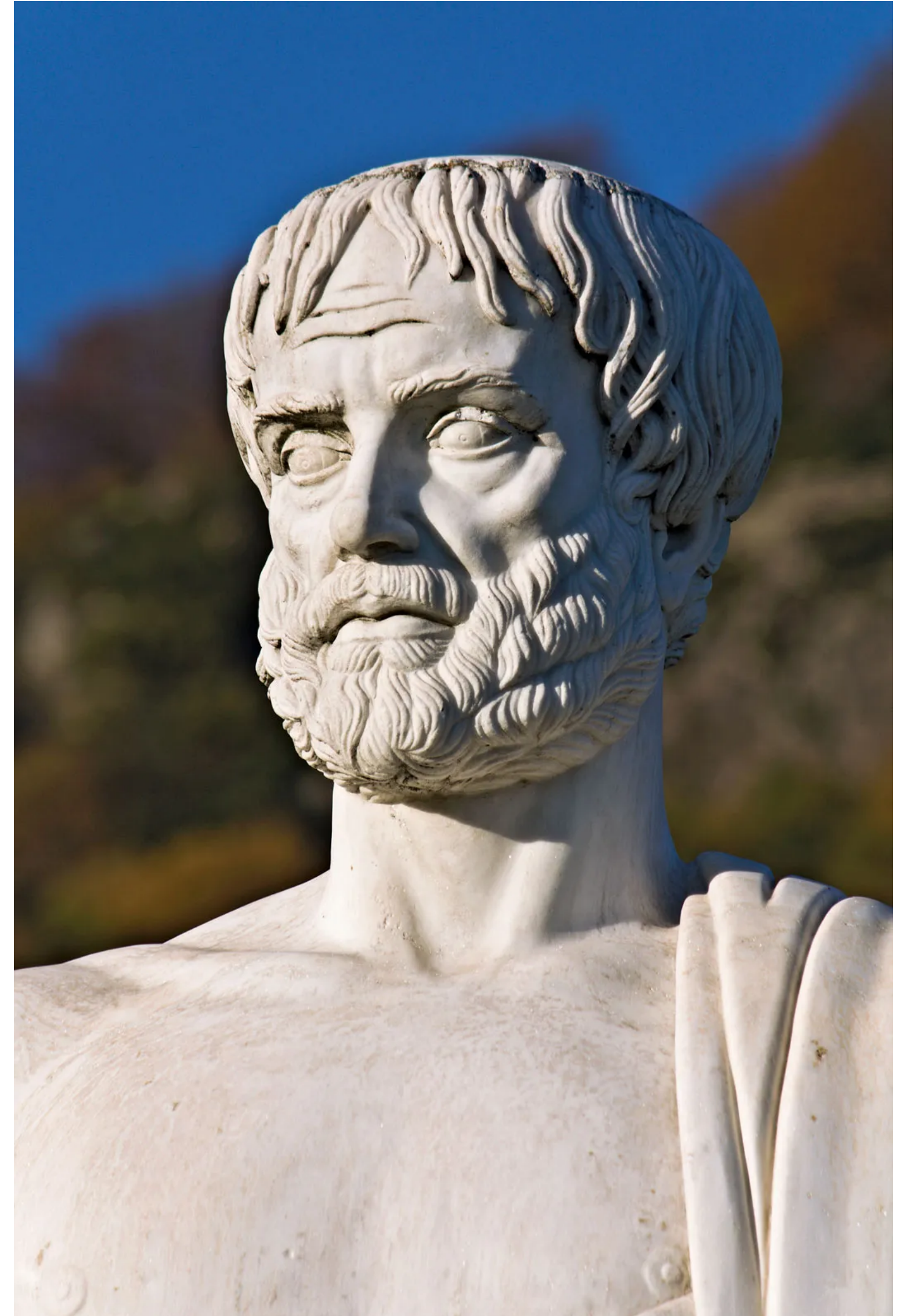
GRATEFUL CLIENTS

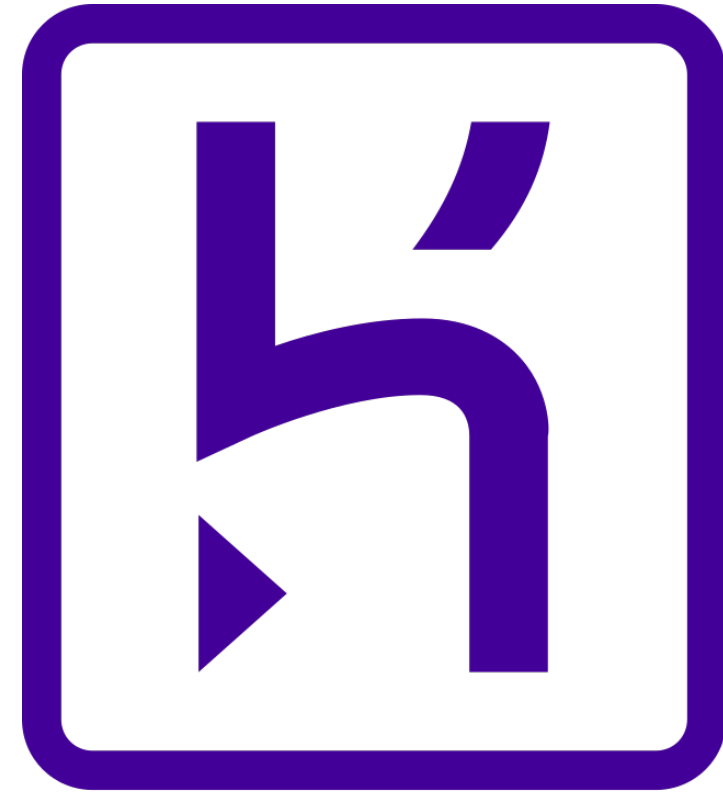




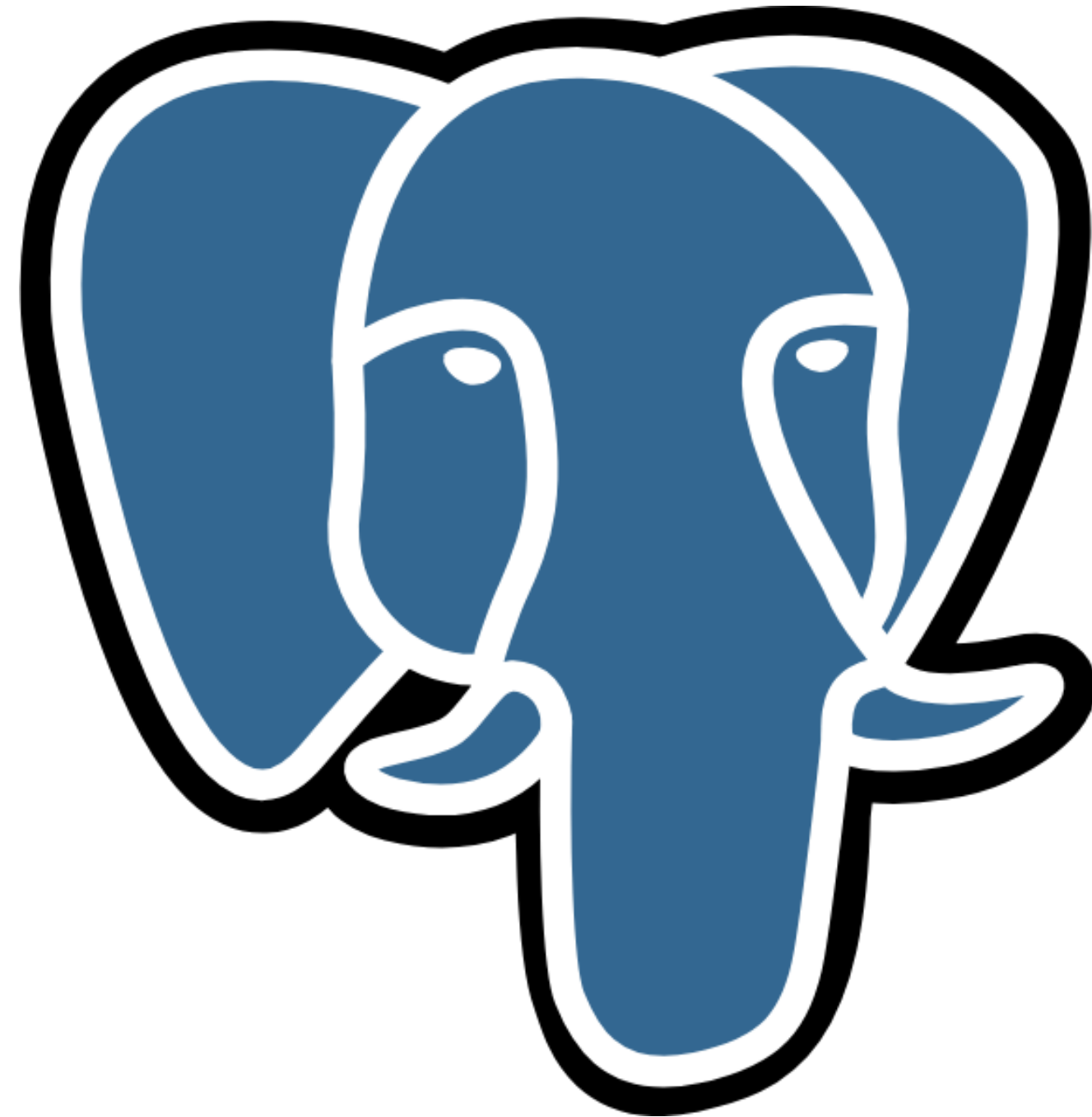
“That’s not a database!”

Aristotle





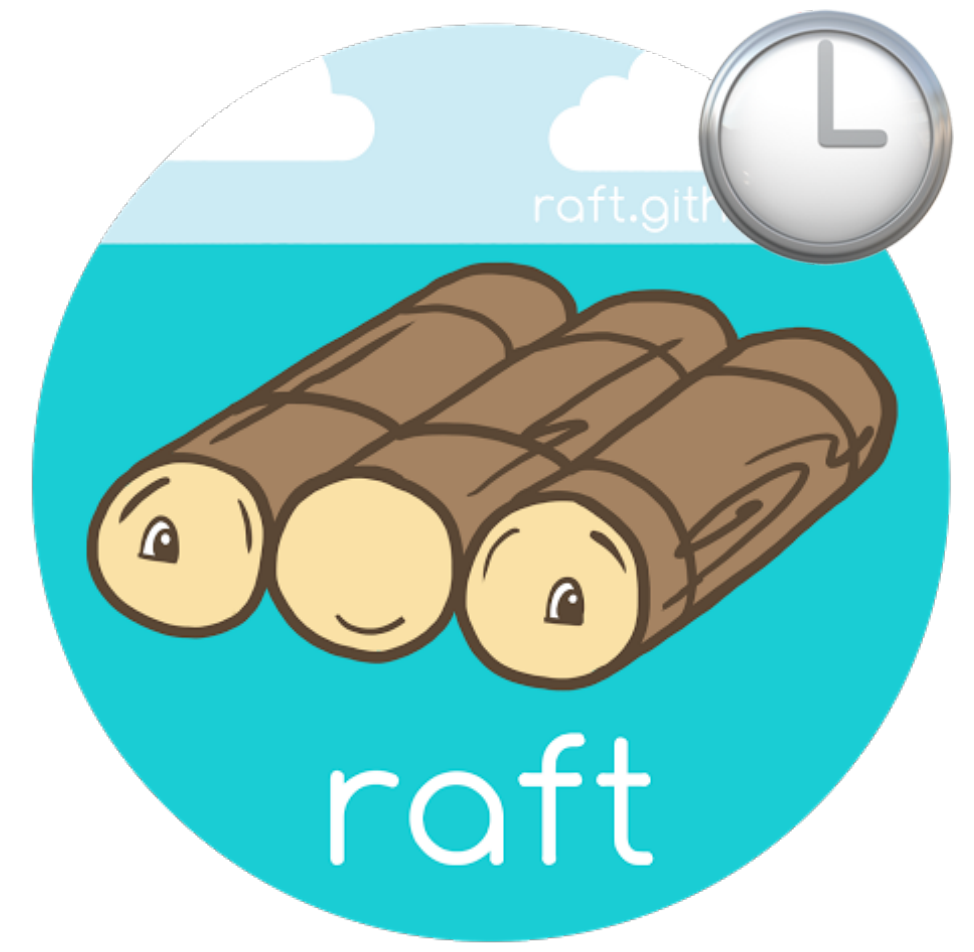
HEROKU

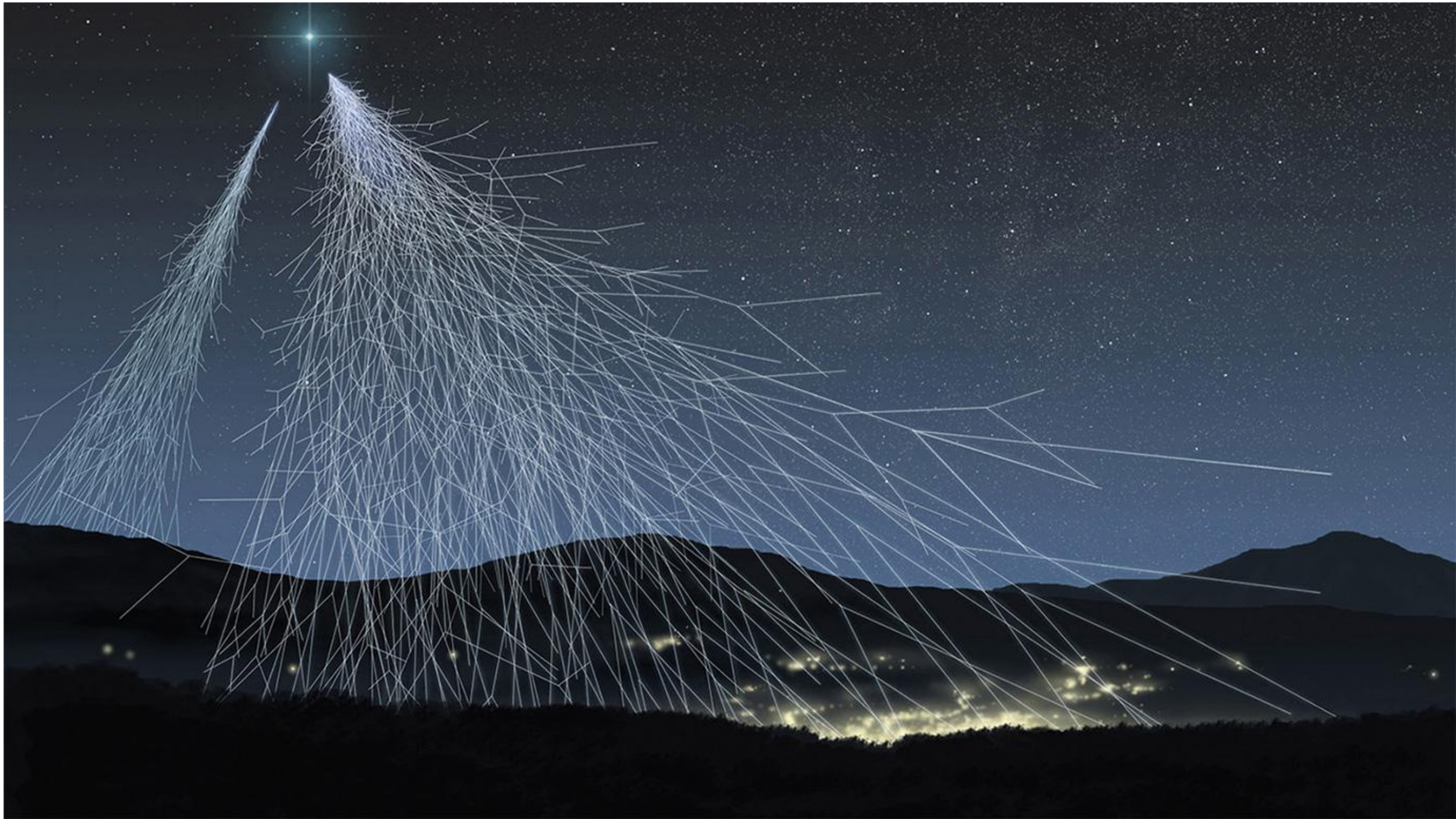


COMMIT ;

(now what?)





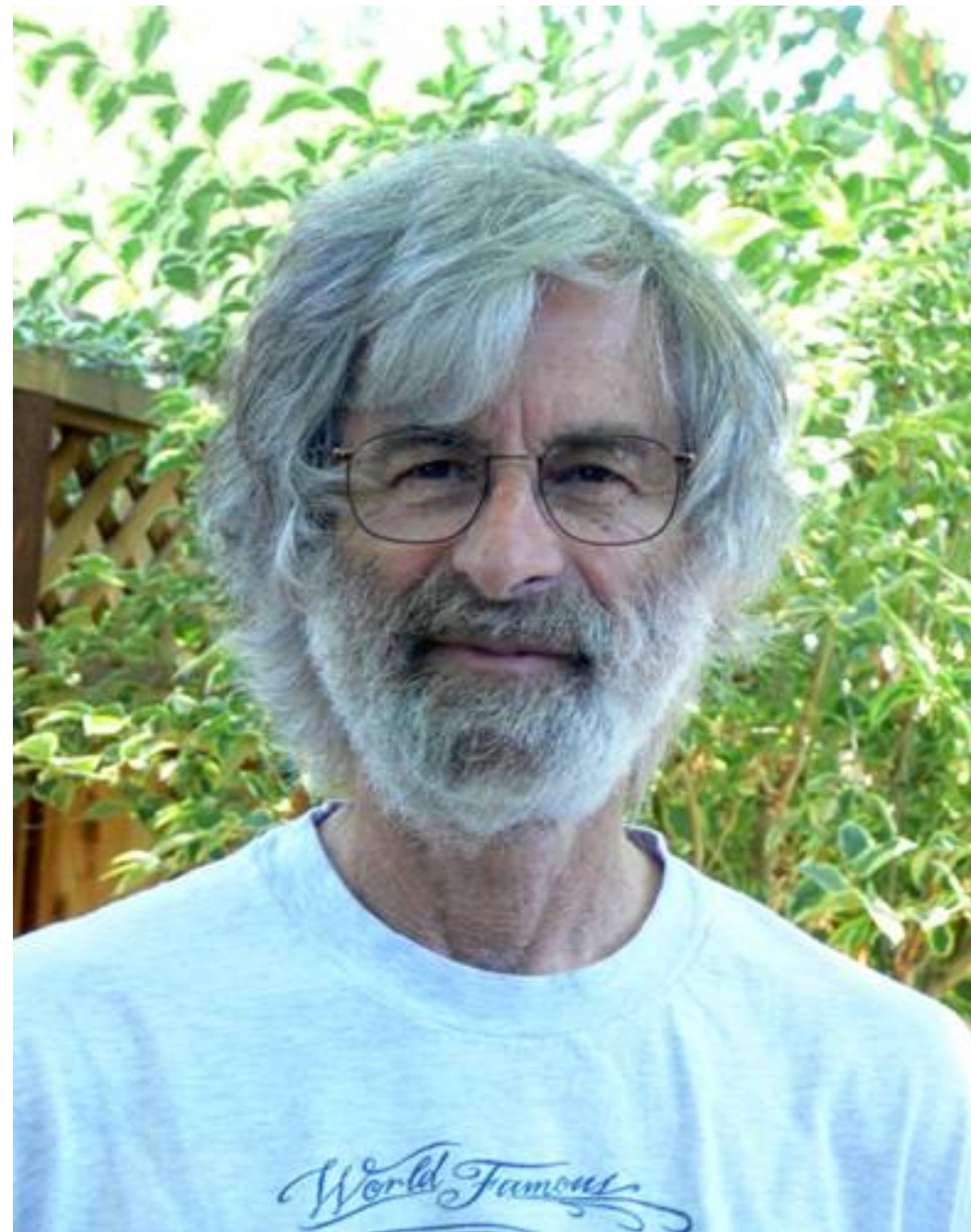




local-first software



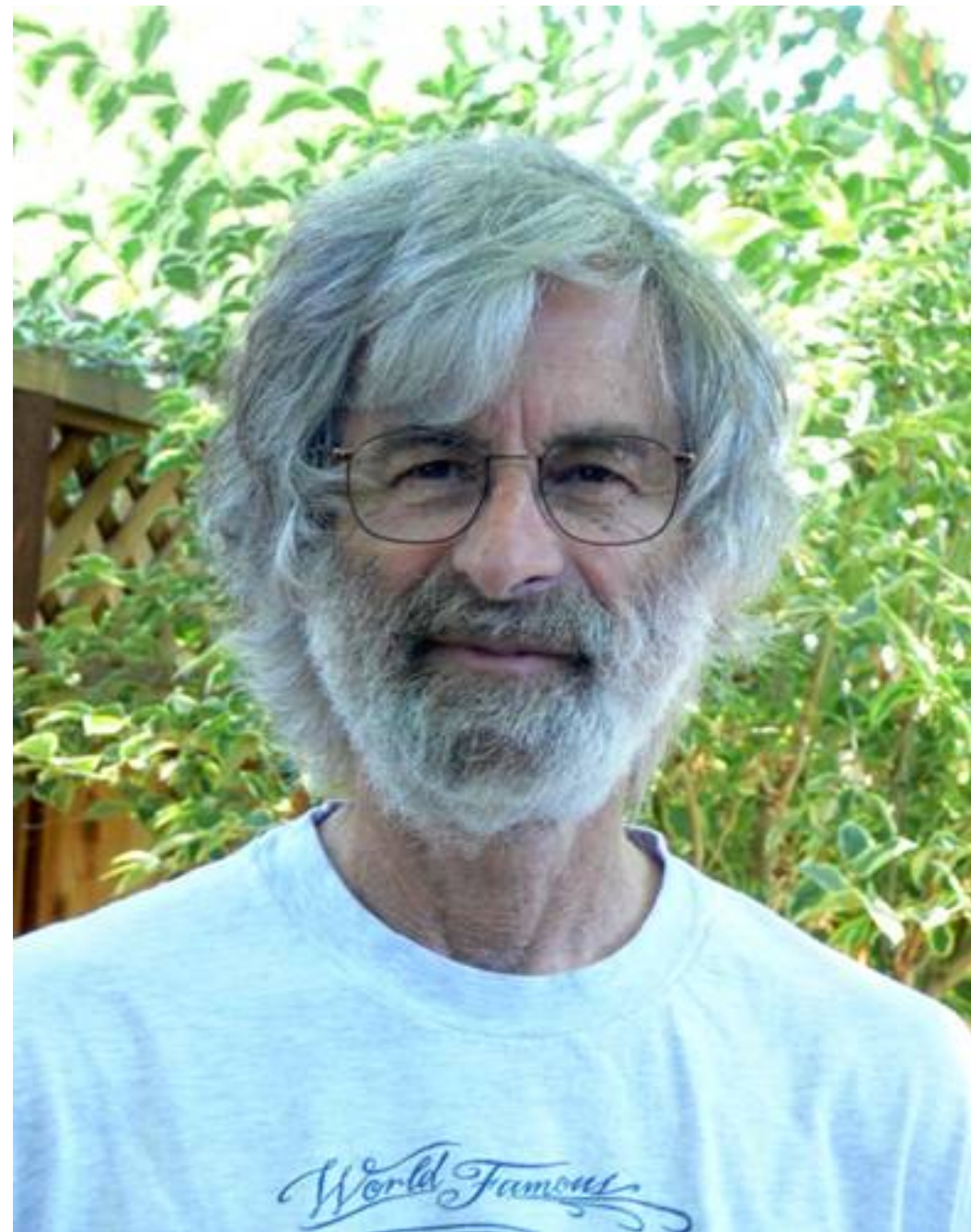
local-first software



“A distributed system is one in which the failure of a computer you didn’t even know existed can render your own computer unusable.” (1987)



local-first software



~~“A distributed system is one in which the failure of a computer you didn't even know existed can render your own computer unusable.” (1987)~~

not a distributed system!



**The map
is not
the territory.**

**The schema
is not
the application model.**

**The schema
is not
the user's reality.**

not my problem!
(we're not building a database)

fin

bluesky: @pvh.ca / @inkandswitch.com

<https://inkandswitch.com>

<https://automerge.org>