CONFIG MANAGEMENT COMMUNITY: AWESOME, AWFUL OR APATHETIC?

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WHOAMI

Geek, traveler, reader

Community and open source consultant at The Scale Factory

20+ year tech career. Past 15 years doing community & open source (Intel, Jive, Puppet Labs, etc.)

PhD student at University of Greenwich researching Linux kernel

Photos by Josh Bancroft, Don Park

AGENDA

Configuration Management Community

- **Awesome: things to keep doing**

- **Not awesome: room for improvement**

Photo by Alexa Clark

AWESOME: THE PEOPLE

"Welcoming and friendly."

- Anonymous Chef user

"The openness and the knowledge of the members."

- Anonymous Juju user

"Let people be themselves. No name calling, harassment or whatever."

- TonK

Ansible and Puppet user

Image by Torley

AWESOME: THE PEOPLE

"They're doing a job that is often left to 'everyone and no one.' "

- Anonymous Puppet user

"Config Mgmt Camp is so great. Igor in particular is dope af. The people are what make it worthwhile."

- Spencer Krum (nibalizer)

Ansible & Puppet user

Igor Galić

igalic

AWESOME: COMPETITORS

"Every year, I get to work with my favorite competitors to organize Config Management Camp and the FOSDEM devroom."

- Dawn Foster

NOT AWESOME? CONTAINERS?

"It feels a bit like we're starting to be the joke, the bad, the punchline. All the containers folk love to crap on CM using words like 'traditional' and 'legacy.' That isn't great. It's also hilarious, have fun with your untested hypeware folks!"

- Spencer Krum (nibalizer)
Ansible & Puppet user

"Containers can go fuck themselves."

- Anonymous Puppet user

Image by Paul Townsend

NOT AWESOME: FASHION

"The community is not driving toward a better evidence-based practice, but perpetuating tribalism and fashion."

- Anonymous Puppet user

"The hostility towards change/new stuff."

- Anonymous Juju user

"I remember at cfgmgmtcamp 2014 serious shade being thrown at Ansible ('pull is always better than push' etc), which was bullshit."

- Anonymous Chef, Ansible, Puppet user
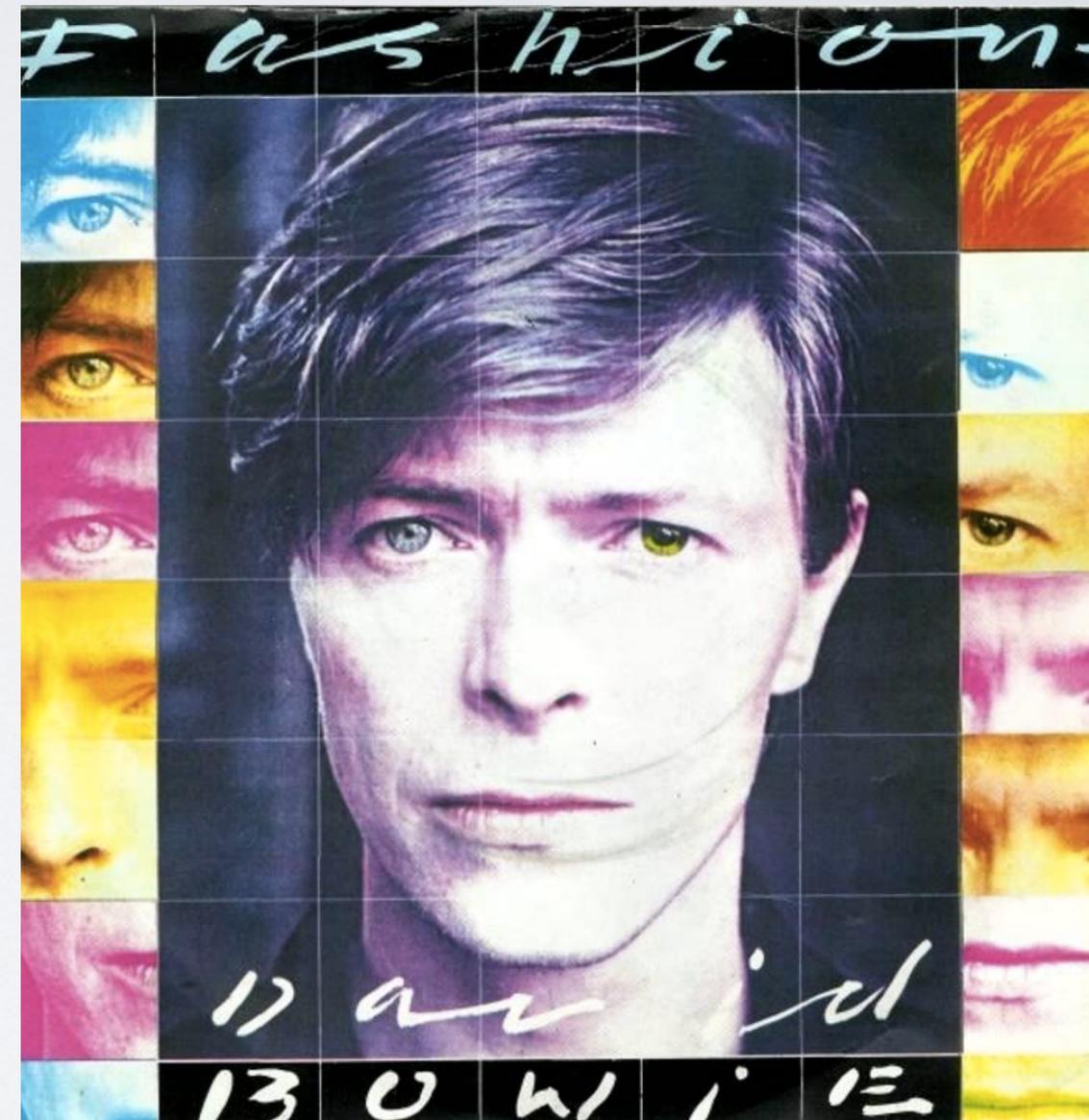
AWESOME: OPEN

"Open-source and community-led projects, it's great that the leaders in the space aren't proprietary."

- Anonymous Chef, Ansible, Puppet user

"Excitement about technology, and a willingness to share."

- Anonymous Ansible, Puppet, OpenStack user

"Collaboration and reuse ... (integration between e.g Ansible and Puppet, Puppet and Consul...)"

- **Kris Buytaert**
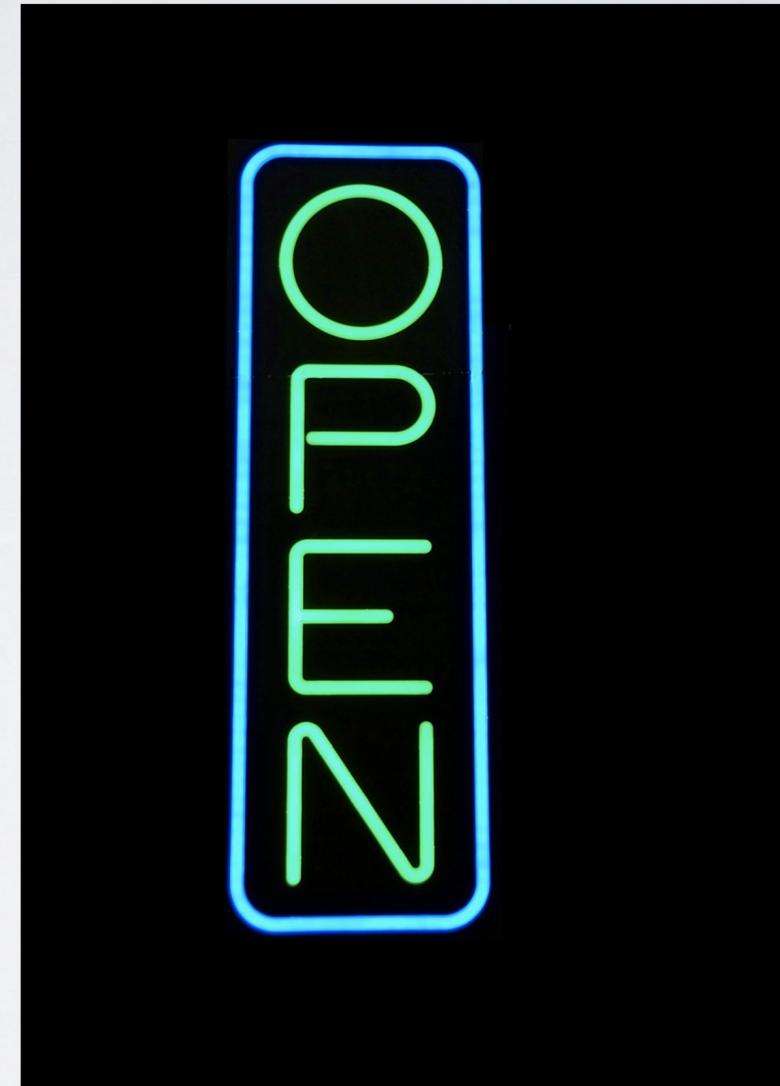
NOT AWESOME: VENDOR GAPS

"The gap between the developers of the cfgmgmt solutions and their users -- at a certain point you must admit a cfgmgmt tool is feature complete and stop rewriting it or try to fill non-existent needs."

- **@roidelapluie**
Foreman and Puppet user

"Vendors rarely understand how and why they should support and help building standard libraries. Choices are **NOT GOOD**, we just want to get things done."

- **@beddari**
Ansible, Foreman, Puppet, Habitat user

Image by Álvaro Millán

AWESOME: OPS CODING

"It is awesome to see more and more Ops people, without coding background, being able to write and test code. Positive feedback for contributions is common, which doesn't happen in most of the companies."

- Tim 'bastelfreak' Meusel
Puppet user

Image by Stefan Goethals

NOT AWESOME: TALKING SHIT

"When I talk to devops people they talk a lot of shit about the technical abilities of others behind their backs. It often makes me wonder what they're saying about me behind my back. It really makes me sad."

- Anonymous Ansible, Puppet, OpenStack user

Image by Hannibal Poenaru

AWESOME: HELPFUL

"Very helpful community. Community owns the framework and is determined to take it to newer heights. New features are added very frequently. They take negative feedback positively."

- Anonymous Juju user

"Very good and quick collaboration on solving issues."

- @ttarczynski
Foreman and Puppet user

THIS IS GIT. IT TRACKS COLLABORATIVE WORK ON PROJECTS THROUGH A BEAUTIFUL DISTRIBUTED GRAPH THEORY TREE MODEL.

COOL. HOW DO WE USE IT?

NO IDEA. JUST MEMORIZE THESE SHELL COMMANDS AND TYPE THEM TO SYNC UP. IF YOU GET ERRORS, SAVE YOUR WORK ELSEWHERE, DELETE THE PROJECT, AND DOWNLOAD A FRESH COPY.

https://xkcd.com/1597/

NOT AWESOME: IGNORED HISTORY

"The fact that you can predict when a new tool is going to bump into the same issues the older ones have already solved ... The fact that some tools still think they can build one size fits all modules / charms whatever."

- Kris Buytaert
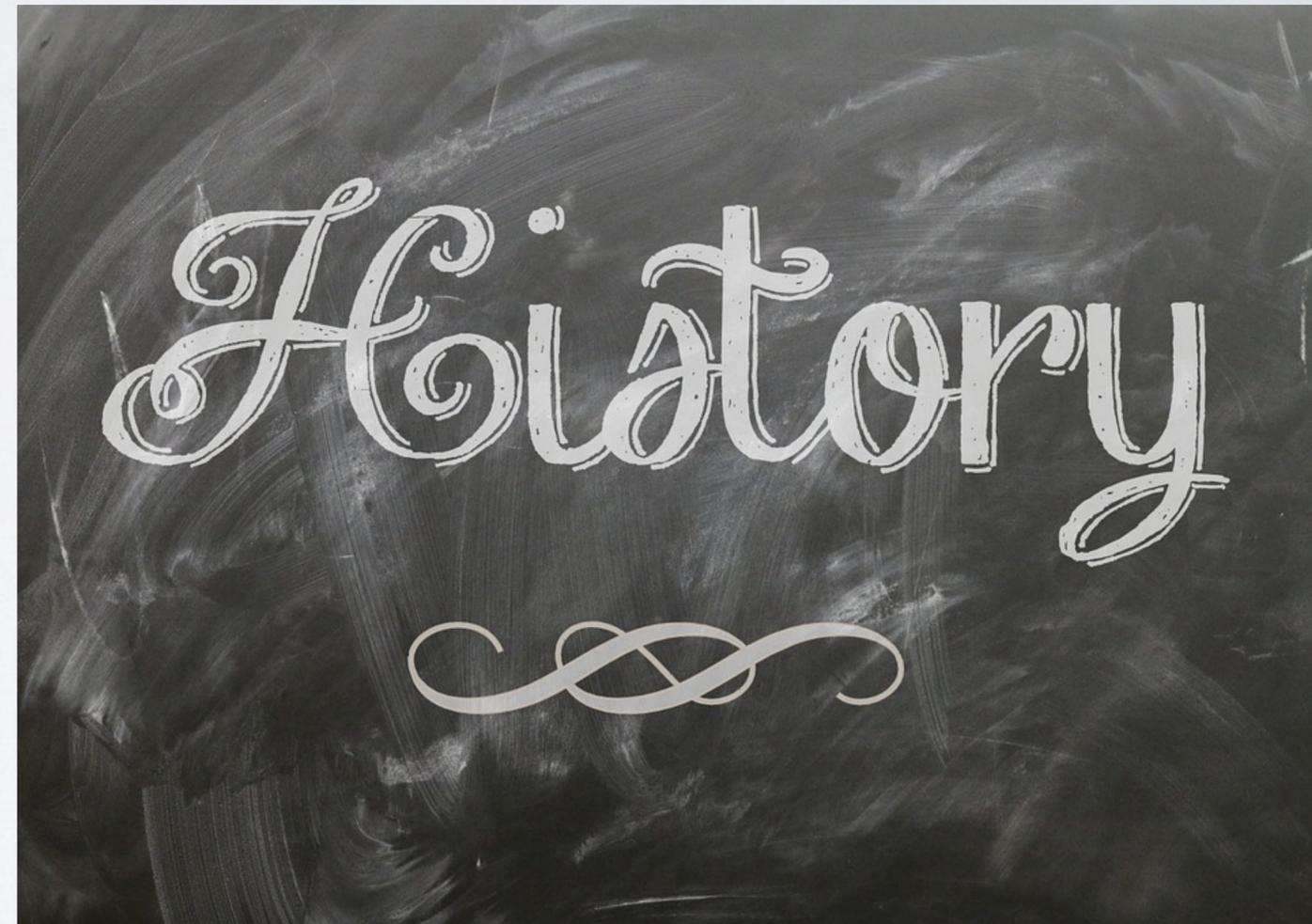
Image by ArtsyBee

NOT AWESOME: COMPLEX MODULES

"The complexity of pre-packaged modules is obnoxious ... A billion config options in the module? Please kill me now."

- Anonymous Ansible, Puppet, OpenStack user

"Puppet modules and Ansible roles are never simple or complete enough for what I need."

- **Spencer Krum (nibalizer)**
Ansible & Puppet user
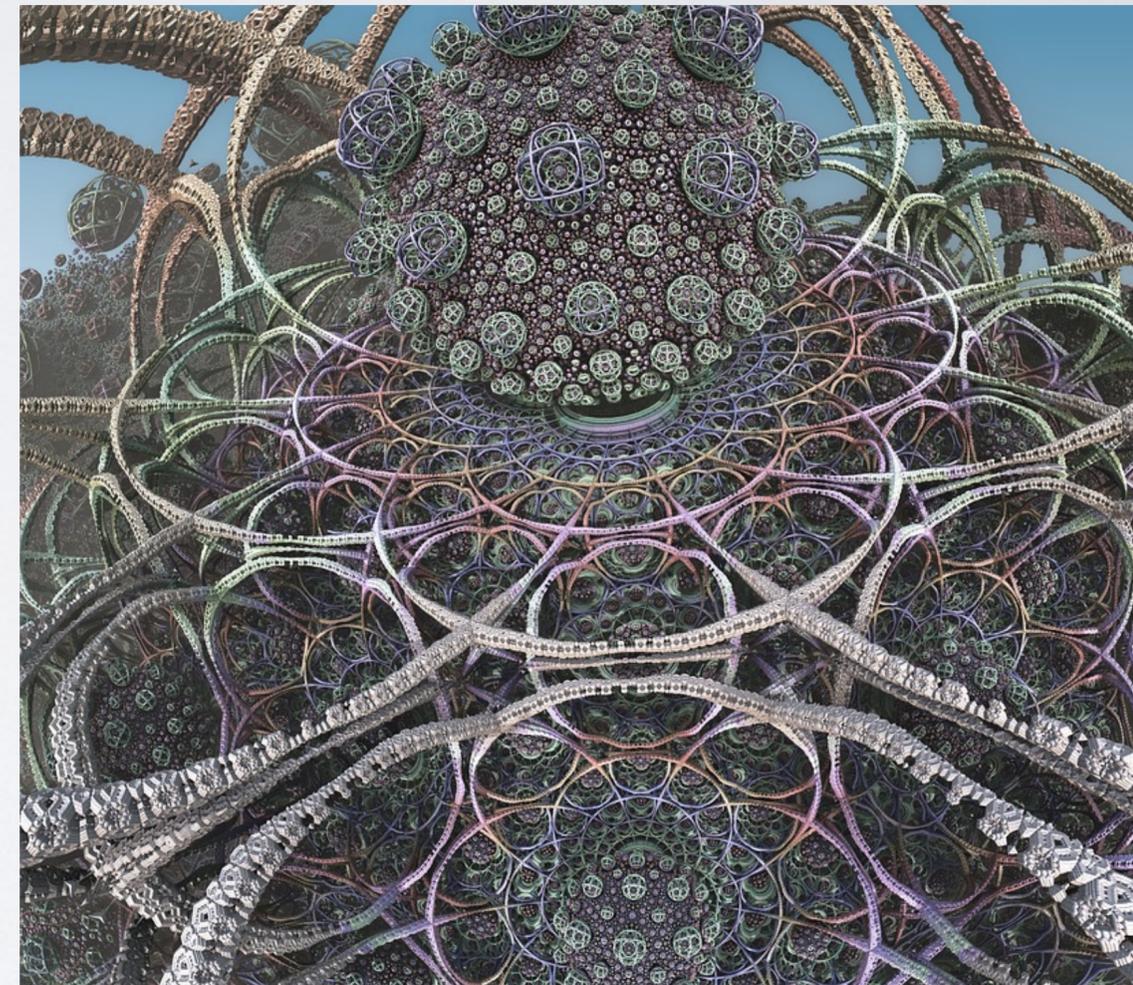
Image by Pete Linforth

NOT AWESOME: MODULE QUALITY

"Galaxy/Forge/Supermarket have quality issues to varying degrees, IMHO this is due to a lack of leadership on how to develop Roles/ Modules/Cookbooks."

- Anonymous Chef, Ansible, Puppet user

"Seeing old modules that aren't maintained anymore always makes me sad. Many people forget that others use their software and simply stop developing it, without any notice."

- **Tim 'bastelfreak' Meusel**
Puppet user

Image by Silvia Foglia

AWESOME: VOX PUPULI

"Vox Pupuli is awesome; basically the Puppet community working together under one name to maintain modules -- much better than previous situation where modules died under their creator's namespace."

- @roidelapluie
Foreman and Puppet user
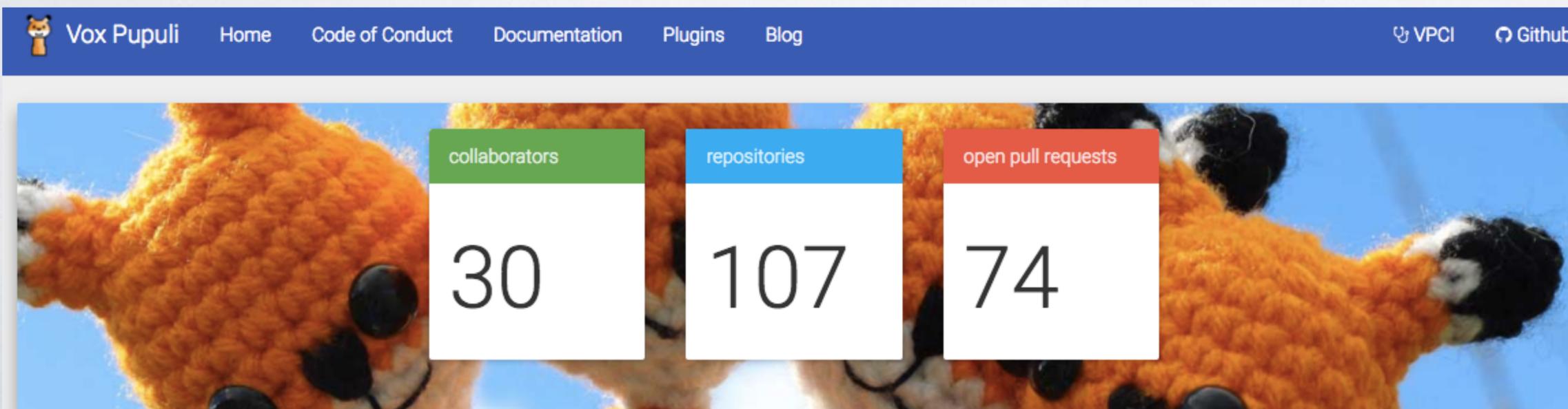
NOT AWESOME: OS VENDOR VERSIONS

"Red Hat forking Puppet 4 to repackage it back into /etc/puppet is really frustrating."

- Spencer Krum (nibalizer)

Ansible & Puppet user

AWESOME: CAREER

"Career opportunity, not many domain experts."

- @beddari

Ansible, Foreman, Puppet, Habitat user

"We're hiring at The Scale Factory!"

- Dawn Foster

"We're hiring!"

- Almost everyone

Image by Steven Depolo

NOT AWESOME: PAINFUL UPGRADES

Semantic versioning is tricky. We had several cases where a new release of a dependency had only a patch/minor release but with breaking changes ... which breaks many, many CI/CD systems and produces a lot of work for everybody else."

- Tim 'bastelfreak' Meusel
Puppet user

"Puppet forcing me to do an ugly upgrade to Puppet 4 is really annoying."

- Spencer Krum (nibalizer)
Ansible & Puppet user
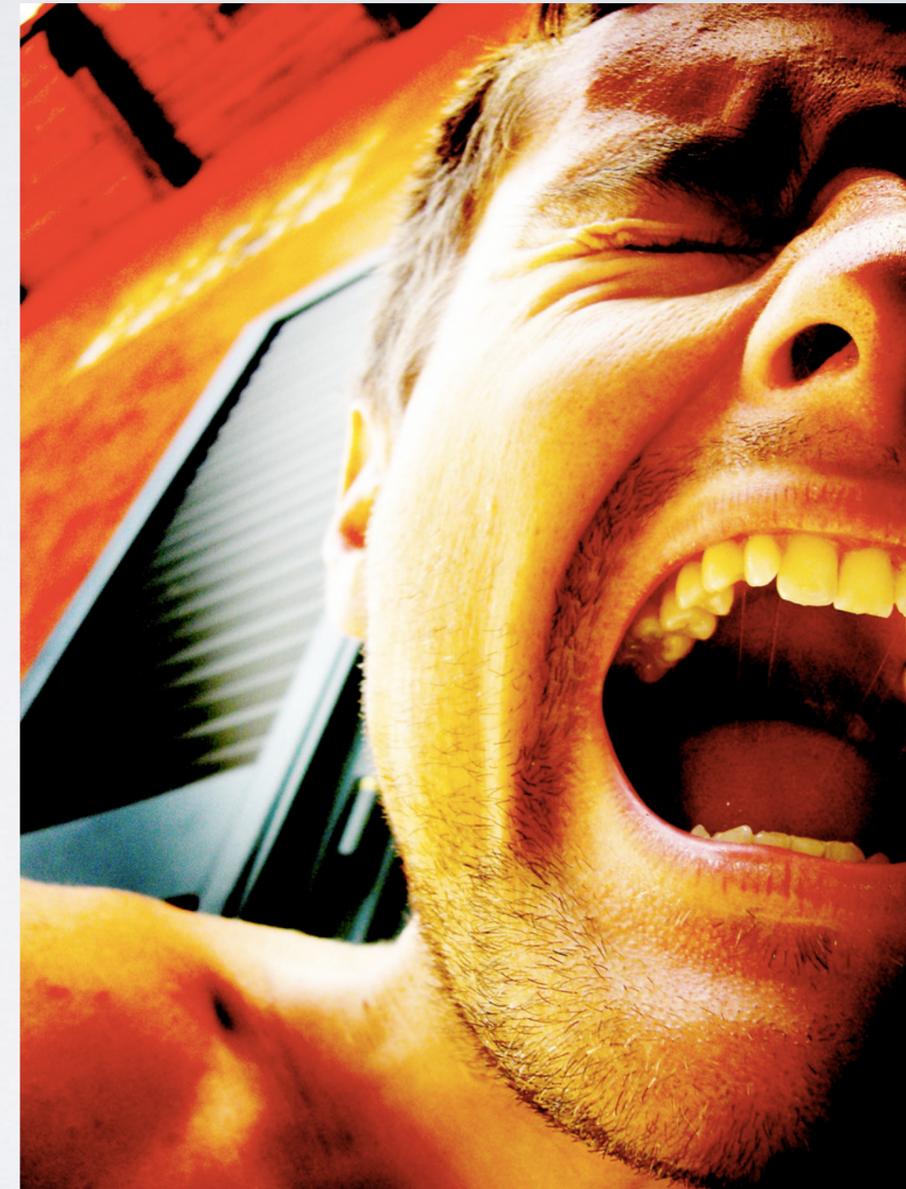
Image by Michele Di Trani

NOT AWESOME: DOCS

"The documentation is sparse, hard to find, and worse of all, recorded in video format that is impossible to search and is time insensitive to the value I need to be creating elsewhere."

- Anonymous Ansible and Juju user

"Documentation is how you scale community. If your documentation sucks, you'll waste time answering the same questions over and over."

- Dawn Foster
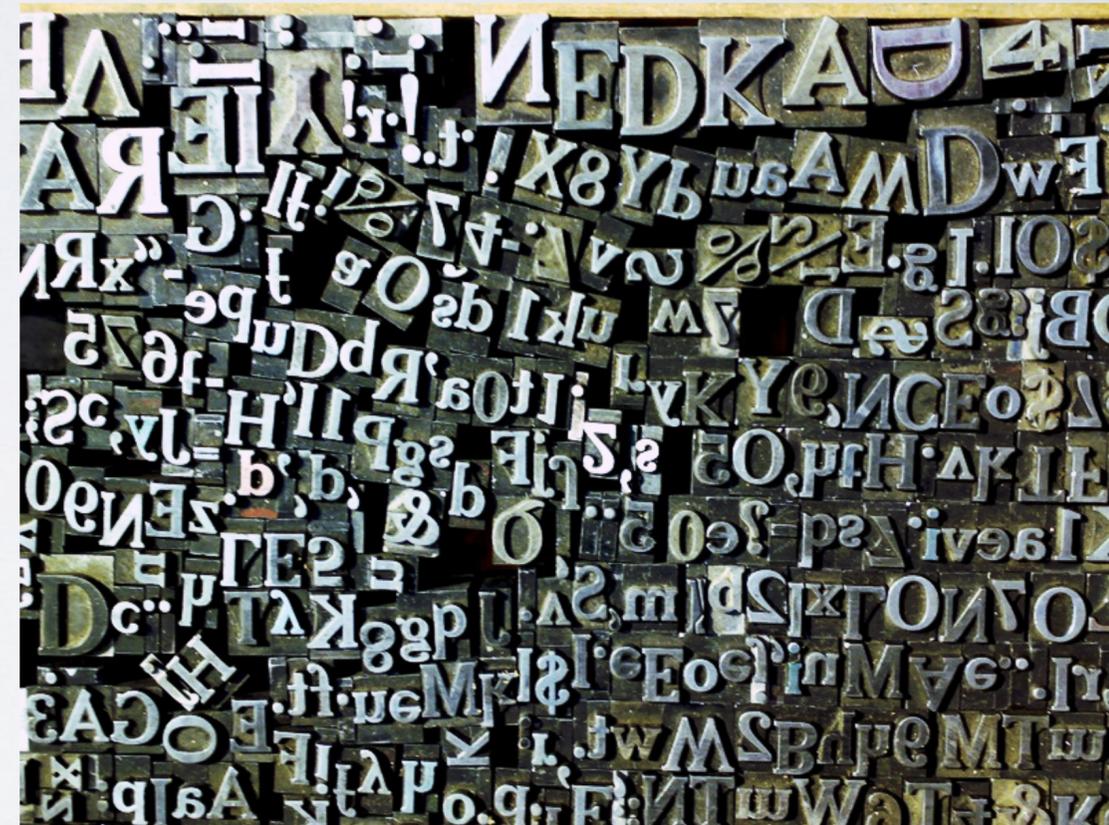
Image by jm3

AWESOME: EMPATHY

"Making mistakes is totally okay, this will always happen. But as a maintainer you need a bit of empathy. Rob Nelson once said 'DevOps is all about empathy' which is totally true."

- Tim 'bastelfreak' Meusel
Puppet user

Image by Sharon Sinclair

AWESOME: LEADERSHIP

"The great moments where you see Luke and Mark leaving a venue together discussing stuff ... or Luke and Adam"

- Kris Buytaert

THANK YOU

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