

Will Postgres Live Forever?

BRUCE MOMJIAN



This presentation explains the long life of open source software, and the life cycle differences between proprietary and open source software. *Title concept from Renee Deger*

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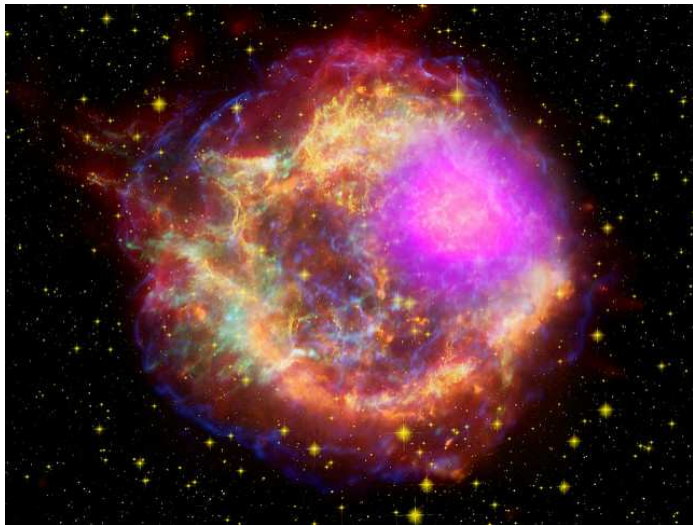


Last updated: July, 2020

Outline

1. Forever
2. Software life cycle
3. Open source adoption
4. Postgres innovation
5. Community structure
6. Conclusion

1. Forever



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/gsf/>

Forever Is a Long Time

- Age of the Universe: 13.7 billion years
- Age of the Earth: 4.5 billion years
- Age of civilization: 6,000 years
- Civilized era vs. Earth years: 0.00001%
- Digital era vs. Earth years: $\sim 0\%$

Brief Digital History

1804: Jacquard loom

1945: ENIAC

1970: E. F. Codd Relational Theory

1974: System R

1977: Ingres

1986: University-based Postgres

1994: Postgres95

1996: Internet-based Postgres

2. Software Life Cycle



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tarynmarie>

Proprietary Software Life Cycle

1. Innovation
2. Market growth
3. Market saturation
4. *Maximize profit, minimize costs (development, support)*
5. Maintenance mode (no new features, no innovation)
6. End-of-life

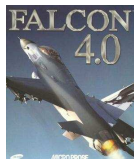
Open Source Software Life Cycle

1. Parity with proprietary software, low cost
2. Market growth
3. *Continue innovation or decline*
4. Source code is always available to continue

Illustrative Example of Open Source Growth

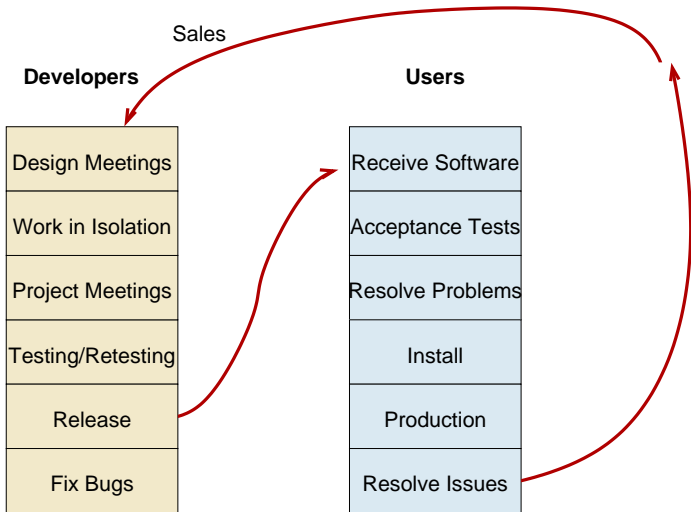
One of the longest-developed computer games:

- 1984: Spectrum HoloByte begins Falcon development
- 1998: MicroProse releases Falcon 4.0
- 1999: MicroProse ends development
- 2000: **leak of source code**
- 2003: **Benchmark Sims (BMS) releases community modifications**
- 2005: Lead Pursuit releases Allied Force, which **includes BMS mods**
- 2015: GOG.com republishes Falcon 4.0
- 2015: **BMS releases version 4.33, plus later minor releases**

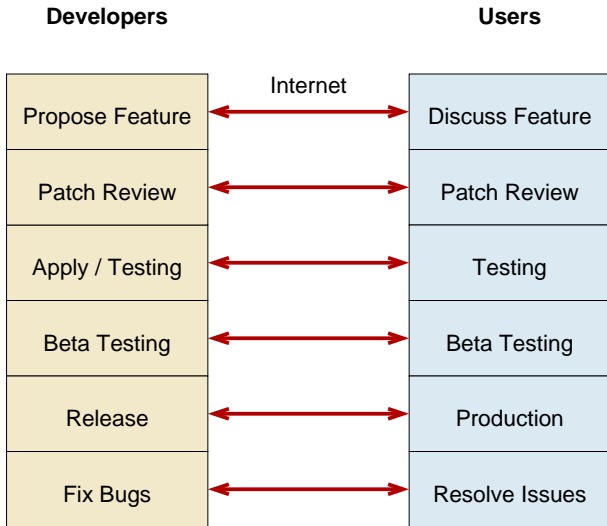


https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Falcon_4.0

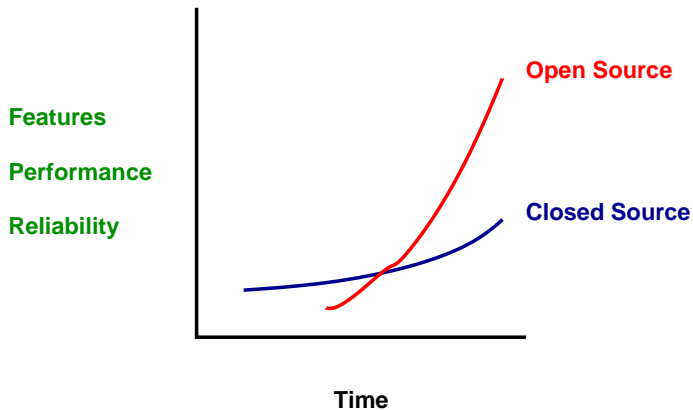
Proprietary Development Flow



Open Source Development Flow



Rise of Open Source



Linux attained feature parity with:

- HP-UX
- AIX
- Solaris

and then went on to innovate beyond them.

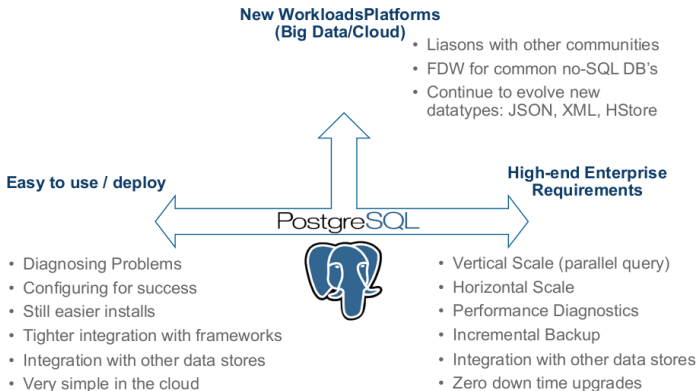
Postgres

Postgres nearing feature parity with:

1. Oracle
2. DB2
3. MS-SQL
4. Sybase
5. Informix
6. Ingres Corp.

and then going on to innovate beyond them.

Many Focuses



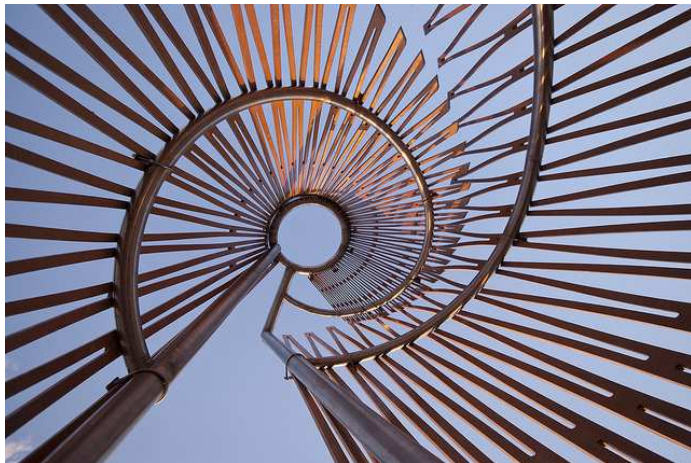
When Does Software Die?

- Proprietary software dies when the owner of the source code can no longer profit from it.
- It declines long before death due to profit maximization.
- Open source cannot die in the same way.
- Open source remains active while it serves a purpose.
- It can always be resurrected if useful.
- Postgres was given new life in 1996.

Ideas Don't Die

1. Ideas don't die, as long as they are shared.
2. Ideas are shared, as long as they are useful.
3. Postgres will live, as long as it is useful.

3. Open Source Adoption



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Open Source Survey, 2016

When the first survey launched 10 years ago, hardly anyone would have predicted that open source use would be ubiquitous worldwide just a decade later, but for many good reasons that's what happened. Its value in reducing development costs, in freeing internal developers to work on higher-order tasks, and in accelerating time to market is undeniable. Simply put, open source is the way applications are developed today.

*Lou Shipley
President And CEO
Black Duck Software*

[https://www.slideshare.net/blackducksoftware/
2016-future-of-open-source-survey-results](https://www.slideshare.net/blackducksoftware/2016-future-of-open-source-survey-results)

Advantages of Open Source

1. Competitive features, innovation
2. Freedom from vendor lock-in
3. Quality of solutions
4. Ability to customize and fix
5. **Cost**
6. Speed application development
7. Reduce development costs
8. Interoperability
9. Breadth of solutions

<https://www.slideshare.net/blackducksoftware/2016-future-of-open-source-survey-results>

Open Source Today

Open source today is unequivocally the engine of innovation; whether that's powering technology like operating systems, cloud, big data or IoT, or powering a new generation of open source companies delivering compelling solutions to the market.

Paul Santinelli
General Partner
North Bridge

[https://www.slideshare.net/blackducksoftware/
2016-future-of-open-source-survey-results](https://www.slideshare.net/blackducksoftware/2016-future-of-open-source-survey-results)

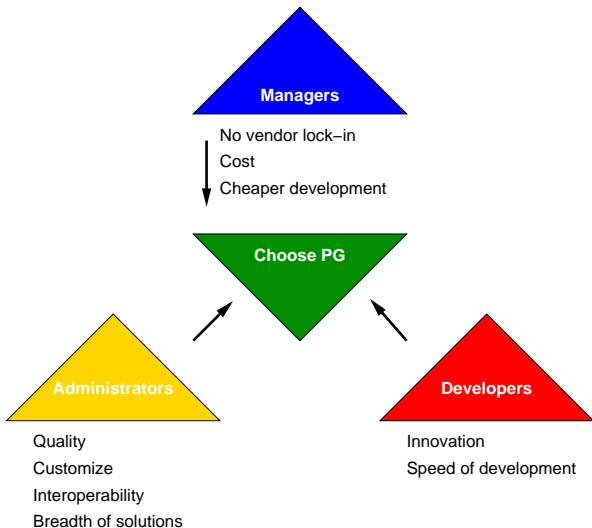
Open Source Usage, 2016

1. Operating Systems
2. Database
3. Development tools

Database didn't appear in the top three the previous year's survey (2015).

<https://www.slideshare.net/blackducksoftware/2016-future-of-open-source-survey-results>

Advantages of Open Source for Database Decision Makers



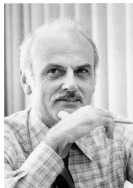
4. Postgres Innovation



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Relational Innovation

- E. F. Codd introduces relational theory
- Row, column, table
- Constraints
- Normalization, joins
- Replaces key/value data storage systems
- Pre-Postgres



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edgar_F._Codd

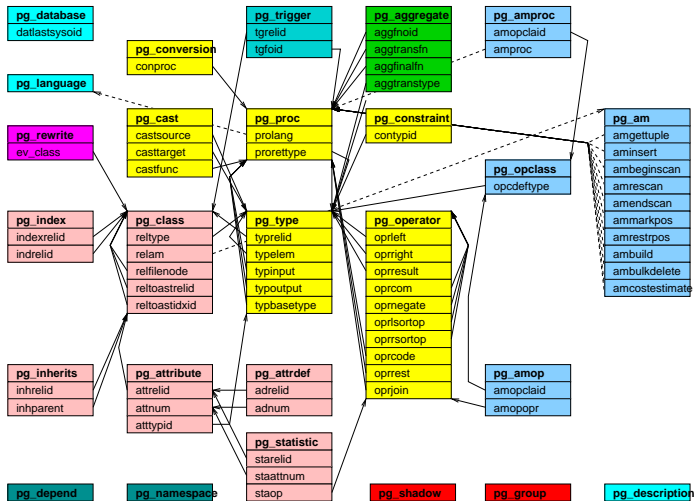
University Postgres Innovation

- Michael Stonebraker creates university Postgres
- Allows extendability via system table contents:
 - Data types
 - Indexing methods
 - Server-side languages



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Stonebraker

Postgres Extensibility



Postgres Extension Data Type

```
CREATE EXTENSION isn;
```

```
\dT
```

List of data types

| Schema | Name | Description |
|--------|--------|--|
| public | ean13 | International European Article Number (EAN13) |
| public | isbn | International Standard Book Number (ISBN) |
| public | isbn13 | International Standard Book Number 13 (ISBN13) |
| public | ismn | International Standard Music Number (ISMN) |
| public | ismn13 | International Standard Music Number 13 (ISMN13) |
| public | issn | International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) |
| public | issn13 | International Standard Serial Number 13 (ISSN13) |
| public | upc | Universal Product Code (UPC) |

<https://momjian.us/main/writings/pgsql/central.pdf>

Postgres Server-Side Languages

- PL/Java
- PL/Perl
- PL/pgSQL (like PL/SQL)
- PL/PHP
- PL/Python
- PL/R (like SPSS)
- PL/Ruby
- PL/Scheme
- PL/sh
- PL/Tcl
- PL/v8 (JavaScript)
- SPI (C)

<https://momjian.us/main/writings/pgsql/central.pdf>

Postgres Index Types

- BRIN
- BTREE
- Hash
- GIN (generalized inverted index)
- GiST (generalized search tree)
- SP-GiST (space-partitioned GiST)

<https://momjian.us/main/writings/pgsql/indexing.pdf>

Postgres Innovation: Full Text Search

- Supports full text search capabilities in a relational database
- Whole-word, word prefix, *and*, *or*, and *not* searches
- Stemming for 21 languages
- *Pg_trgm* extension allows search of letter combinations and similarity
- Specialized indexing, operators, and functions
- Full transaction semantics

<https://momjian.us/main/writings/pgsql/non-relational.pdf>

Postgres Innovation: Full Text Search

```
EXPLAIN SELECT line
FROM fortune
WHERE to_tsvector('english', line) @@ to_tsquery('pandas');
                                QUERY PLAN
```

```
-----...
Bitmap Heap Scan on fortune  (cost=12.41..94.25 rows=21 width=36)
  Recheck Cond: (to_tsvector('english'::regconfig, line) @@ to_ts...
-> Bitmap Index Scan on fortune_idx_ts  (cost=0.00..12.40 rows...
   Index Cond: (to_tsvector('english'::regconfig, line) @@ t...
```


Postgres Innovation: NoSQL

- Supports NoSQL capabilities in a relational database
- Mix structured and unstructured data in the same row and query; the best of both worlds
- Specialized indexing, operators, and functions
- Full transaction semantics

<https://momjian.us/main/writings/pgsql/yesql.pdf>

Postgres Innovation: NoSQL

```
EXPLAIN SELECT data->>'last_name'  
FROM friend2  
WHERE data::jsonb @> '{"first_name" : "Jane"}'  
ORDER BY 1;                                QUERY PLAN
```

```
-----  
Sort (cost=24.03..24.04 rows=1 width=139)  
  Sort Key: ((data ->> 'last_name')::text)  
    -> Bitmap Heap Scan on friend2 (cost=20.01..24.02 rows=1 ...  
      Recheck Cond: (data @> '{"first_name": "Jane"}')::jsonb)  
        -> Bitmap Index Scan on friend2_idx (cost=0.00..20.01 .....  
          Index Cond: (data @> '{"first_name": "Jane"}')::js...
```

Postgres Innovation: Range Types

- Combines start and stop times into a single field
- Allows sophisticated indexing and comparisons
- Allows automatic range overlap prevention

<https://momjian.us/main/writings/pgsql/non-relational.pdf>

Postgres Innovation: Range Types

```
EXPLAIN SELECT *  
FROM car_rental  
WHERE time_span @> '2007-08-01 00:00:00'::timestampz;
```

QUERY PLAN

```
-----  
Index Scan using car_rental_idx on car_rental (cost=0.15..8.17..  
  Index Cond: (time_span @> '2007-08-01 00:00:00-04'::timestamp...
```

Postgres Innovation: Geometric Types

- Handle multi-dimensional data
 - Points
 - Lines
 - Circles
 - Polygons
- Multi-dimensional indexing and operators
- Allows efficient nearest neighbor searches
- Avoids using a separate geometric data store

<https://momjian.us/main/writings/pgsql/non-relational.pdf>

Postgres Innovation: Geometric Types

```
EXPLAIN SELECT *  
FROM dart  
ORDER BY location <-> '(50, 50)::point'  
LIMIT 2;
```

QUERY PLAN

```
-----  
Limit (cost=0.14..0.33 rows=2 width=20)  
-> Index Scan using dart_idx on dart (cost=0.14..92.14...  
    Order By: (location <-> '(50,50)::point)')
```

Postgres Innovation: GIS

- PostGIS is a full-featured Geographical Information System (GIS)
- Implemented as a extension
- Independent development team and community



<https://postgis.net/>

Postgres Innovation: GIS

```
SELECT ST_Area(the_geom)/10000 AS hectares  
FROM bc_municipality  
WHERE name = 'PRINCE GEORGE';
```

hectares

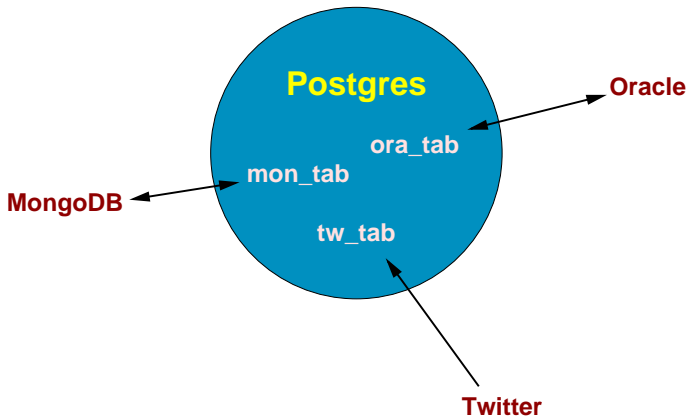
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Postgres Innovation: Foreign Data Wrappers

- 100+ interfaces to foreign data
- Read/write
- Sophisticated push down of joins, sorts, and aggregates

<https://momjian.us/main/writings/pgsql/central.pdf>

Postgres Innovation: Foreign Data Wrappers

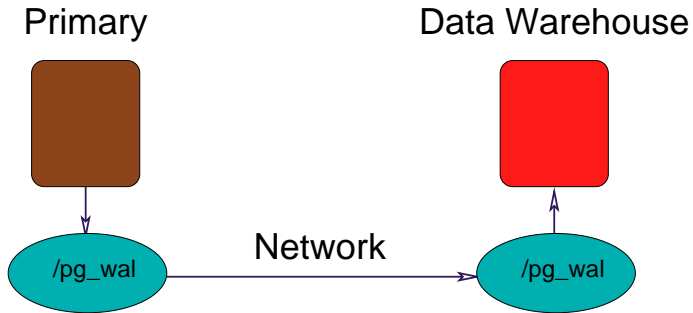


Postgres Innovation: Data Analytics

- Aggregates
- Optimizer
- Server-side languages, e.g., PL/R
- Window functions
- Bitmap heap scans
- Tablespaces
- Data partitioning
- Materialized views
- Common table expressions (CTE)
- BRIN indexes
- GROUPING SETS, ROLLUP, CUBE
- Just-in-time compilation (JIT)
- Parallelism
- Sharding (in progress)

<https://momjian.us/main/writings/pgsql/central.pdf>

Postgres Innovation: Data Analytics

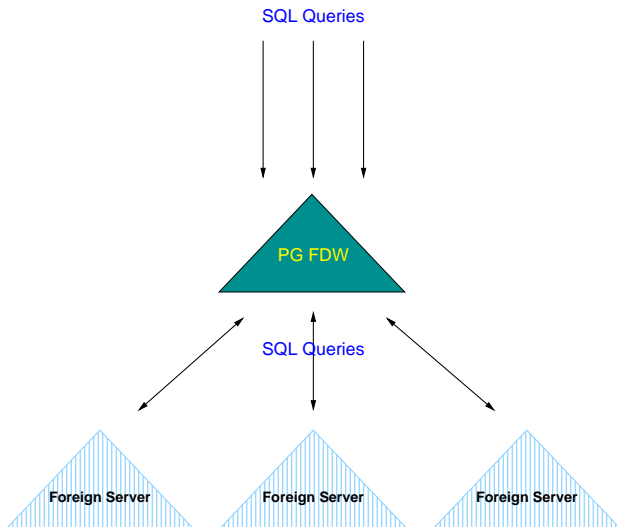


Postgres Innovation: Sharding

- Allows multi-host databases
- Uses existing functionality
 - Partitioning
 - Parallelism
 - Foreign data wrappers
 - Logical replication
- Needs new functionality
 - Global transaction manager
 - Global snapshot manager

<https://momjian.us/main/writings/pgsql/sharding.pdf>

Postgres Innovation: Sharding



5. Community Structure



https://www.flickr.com/photos/tomas_vondra/

Community Structure

- BSD license guarantees software will be available forever, including for proprietary use.
- Development and leadership is diversified geographically, culturally, and is multi-company.

Still Going Strong

- 32 years of development
- 22 years of annual major releases
- ~180 features per major release
- Quarterly minor releases
- Most-loved relational database
 - <https://insights.stackoverflow.com/survey/2018/#technology-most-loved-dreaded-and-wanted-databases>

PgLife

PgLife Postgres Community Life

Users

General Re: Obvious data mismatch in View2 which basically SELECT * from View1
Other Re: Policy on cross-posting to multiple lists
Announce PostgreSQL 13 RC 1 Released!

Developers

Hackers Re: Planner, check if can use consider HASH for groupings (src/backend/optimizer/plan/planner.c)
Commit Re: Add support for building GiST index by sorting.
Versions **Stable:** 12.4+, 11.9+, 10.14+, 9.6.19+, 9.5.23+ | **Development:** 13 rc1+, 14 devel, in commitfest

External

Blogs Marco Slot: Talking about Citus & Postgres at any scale
News PostgreSQL 13 RC 1 Released!
Tweets RT by @PostgreSQL: The @PostgreSQL yum repository repository now includes ...
Media Crunchy Data Announces Fully Managed Cloud Postgres Database Service - PRNewswire
Events PGDay Austria 2020 - CANCELLED

IRC (also Slack)

Myon: arrays are only good if you never want to search for a tag (which is unlikely to be the case)

Myon: make a table (noteid, tag)

xocolatl: ??tags

pg_dochot: <http://www.databasesoup.com/2015/01/tag-all-things.html>

dysfigured: fwiw it's a personal note-taking system, and I doubt I'll ever make it a multi-user system, so it's unlikely there will be more than a few thousand entries

xocolatl: in that case, don't worry about anything

dysfigured: just trying to come up with the table structure for now, and debating whether it makes more sense if links between notes would be directed or undirected

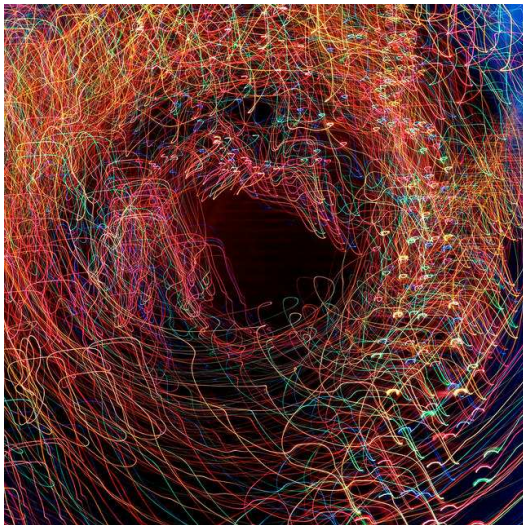
RhodiumToad: Myon: arrays are very good for searching on tags

London 21:15 Berlin 22:15 Moscow 23:15 Mumbai 01:45 Beijing 04:15 Tokyo 05:15 Los Angeles 13:15 New York 16:15 São Paulo 17:15

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6. Conclusion



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