



# INSTAGRAM UNDER THE HOOD

Django Under the Hood 2016  
Carl Meyer



carl.j.meyer [Follow](#) ⌵ ⋮

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Carl Meyer











4,200,000,000



EVERY DAY

2,300,000,000,000



# DJANGO REINHARDT

AND THE QUINTET OF THE HOT CLUB OF FRANCE



## DJANGOLOGY

180g VINYL



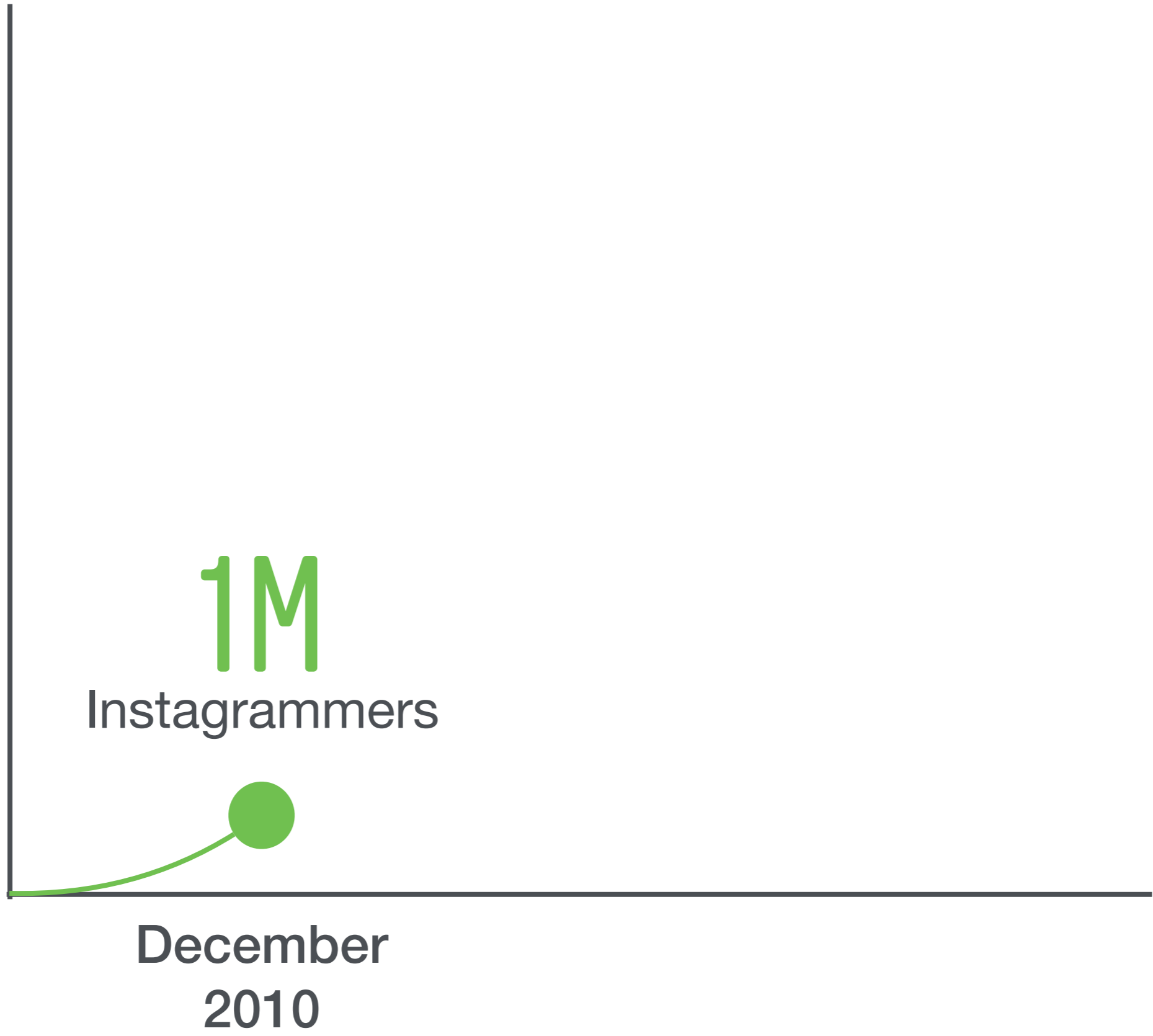
October  
2010



"SUPER EASY SET-UP...  
ONE WAY OF DOING THINGS...  
EASY TESTING."



— Mike Krieger









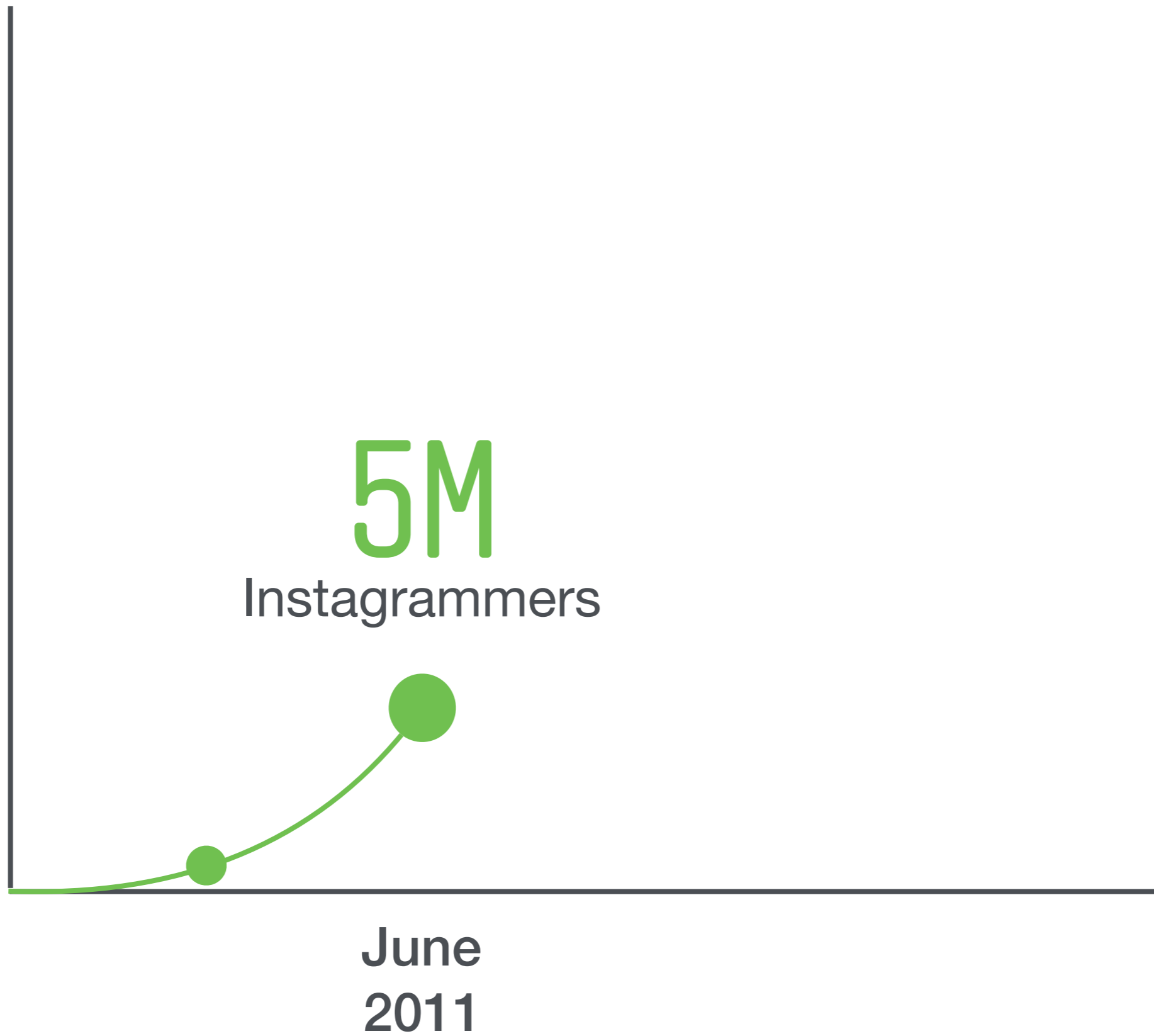


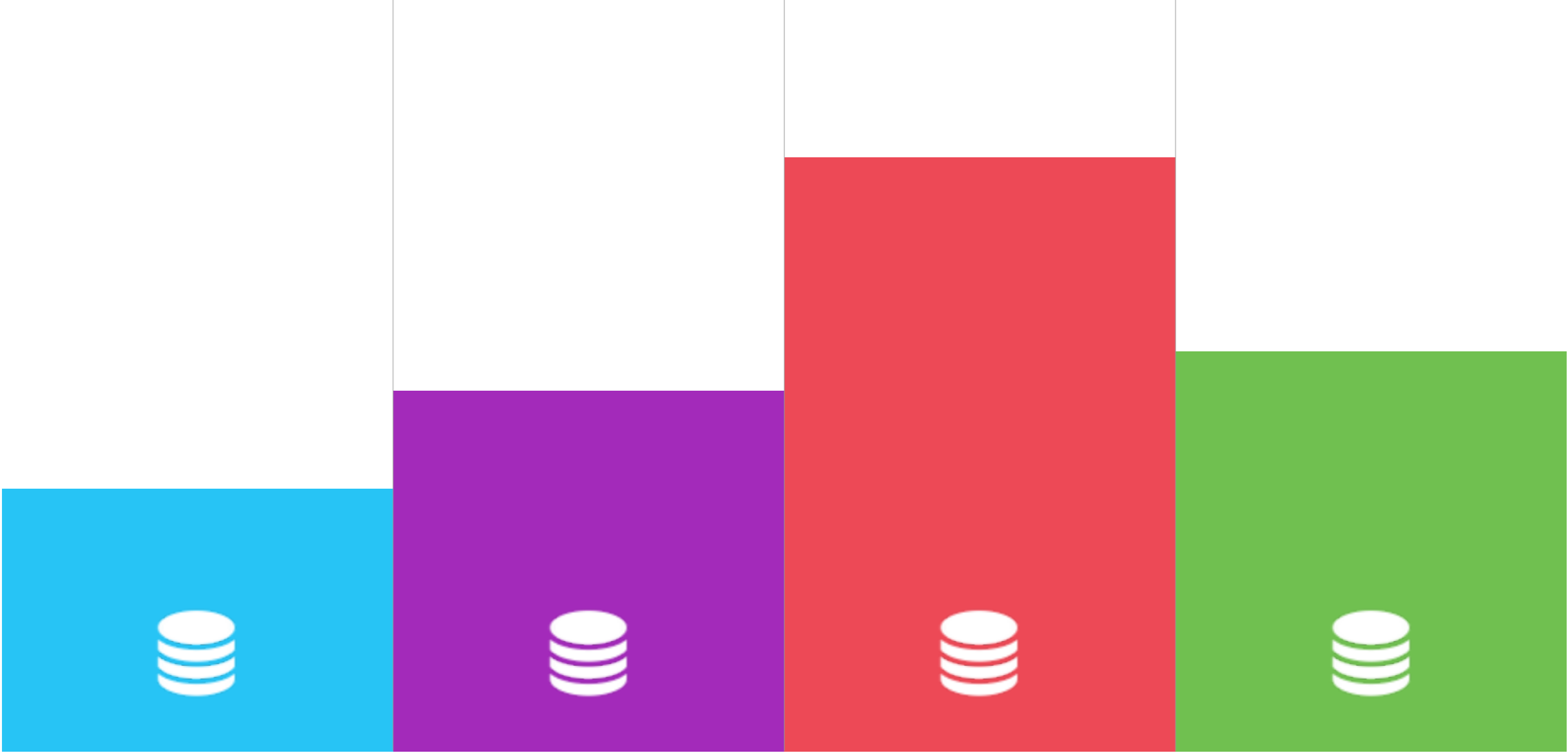












USERS

MEDIA

LIKES

COMMENTS

```
class VerticalPartitionRouter(object):
    DB_FOR_MODEL = {
        'likes.like': 'likes',
        'comments.comment': 'comments',
        'media.media': 'media',
    }

    def _db_for(self, model_or_obj):
        label = model_or_obj._meta.label_lower
        return self.DB_FOR_MODEL.get(label, 'default')

    def db_for_read(self, model, **hints):
        return self._db_for(model)

    def db_for_write(self, model, **hints):
        return self._db_for(model)

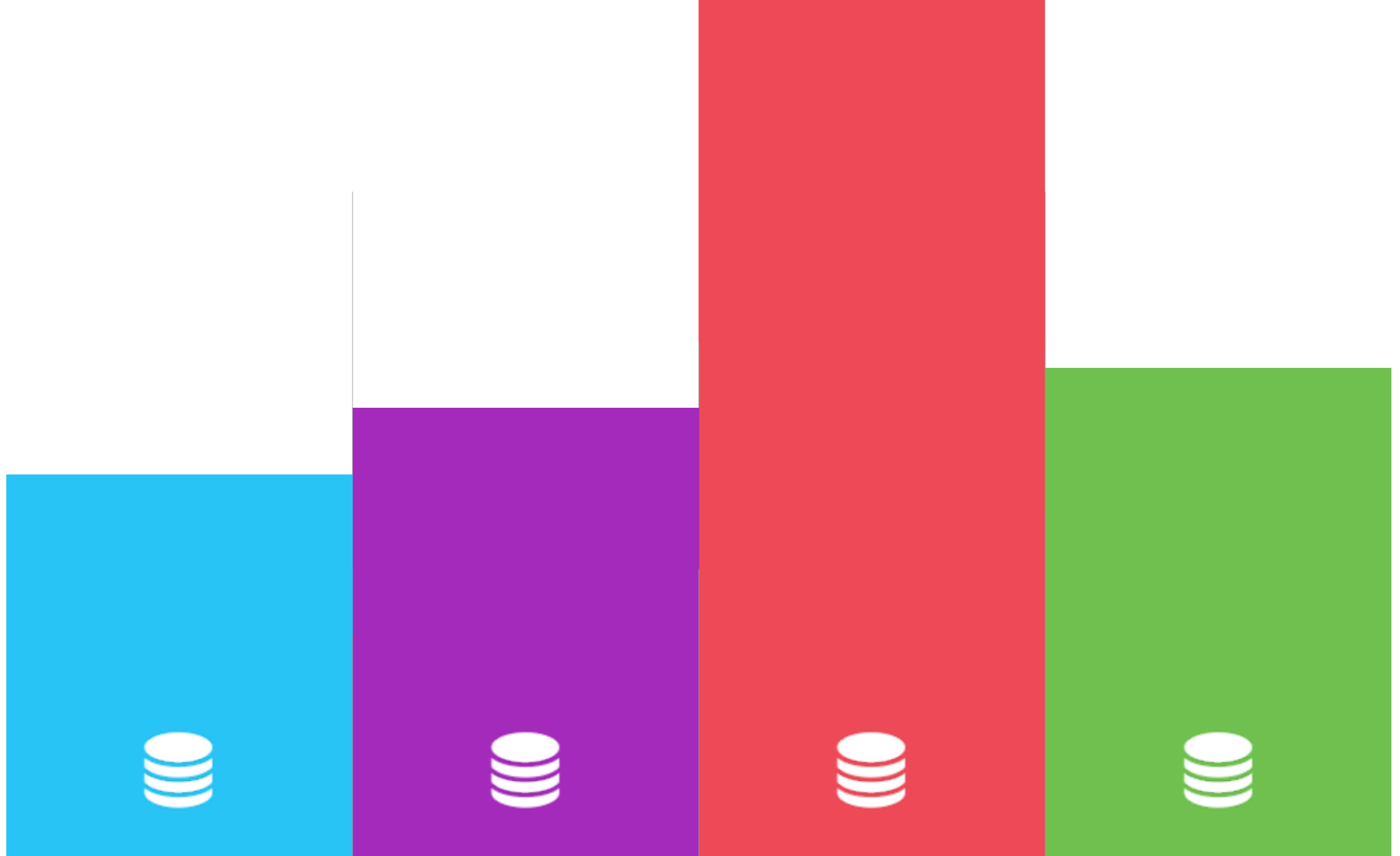
    def allow_relation(self, obj1, obj2, **hints):
        return self._db_for(obj_1) == self._db_for(obj_2)
```



```
501 lnst
502 history
alex@alex-laptop:~$ hg log
alex@alex-laptop:~/projects/pypy$ ^Cory here (.hg n
alex@alex-laptop:~/projects/pypy$ python pytest.py
ainterp/test/test_optimizeopt.py
##### test session starts #####
platform linux2 -- Python 2.6.6 -- pytest-2.0.3.dev
pytest-2.0.3.dev1 from /home/alex/projects/pypy/pyt
collecting 236 items

pypy/interplib/metainterp/test/test_optimizeopt.py .....
.....
.....
##### 235 passed, 1 skipped in 2.06 seconds
alex@alex-laptop:~/projects/pypy$
```





USERS

MEDIA

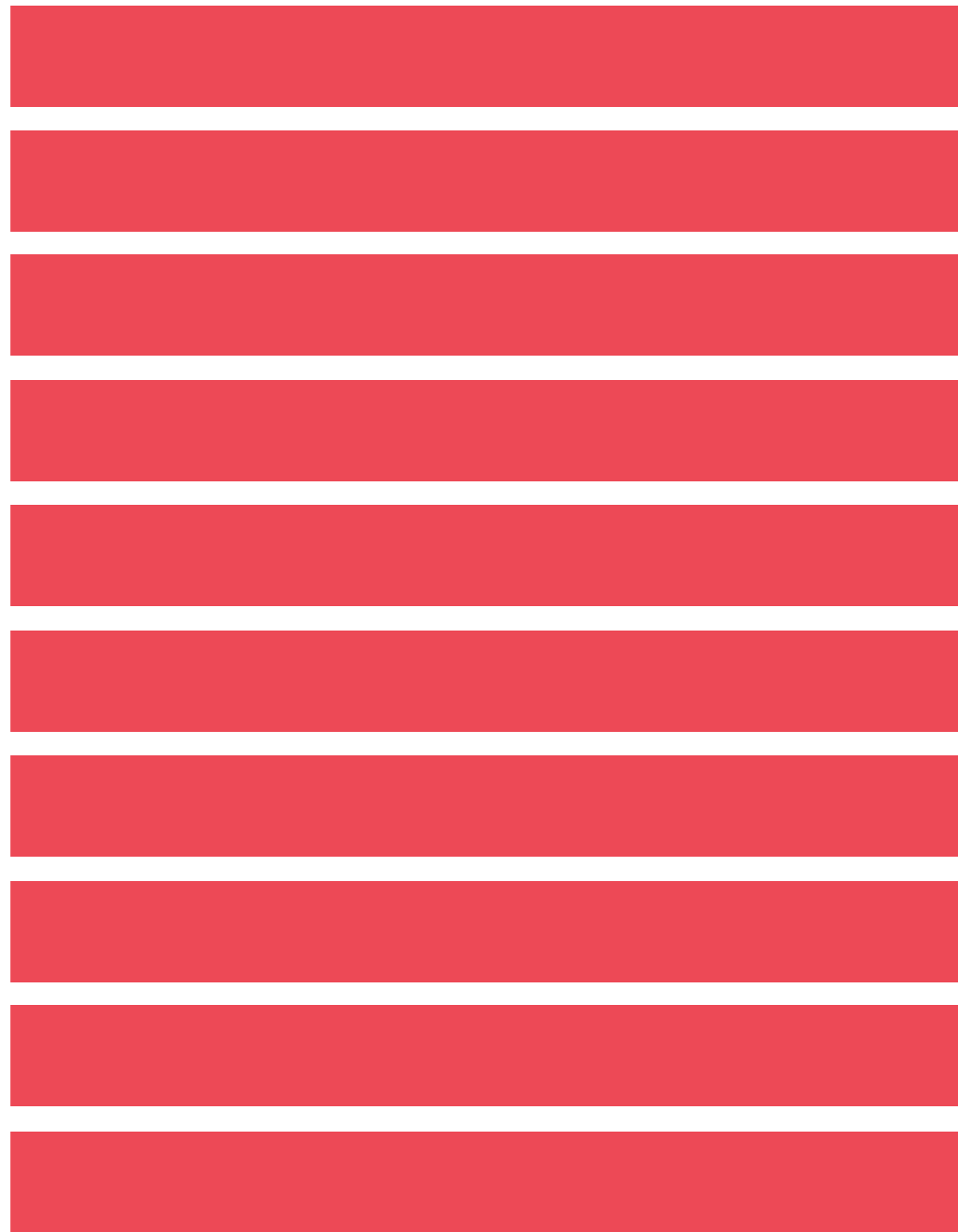
LIKES

COMMENTS



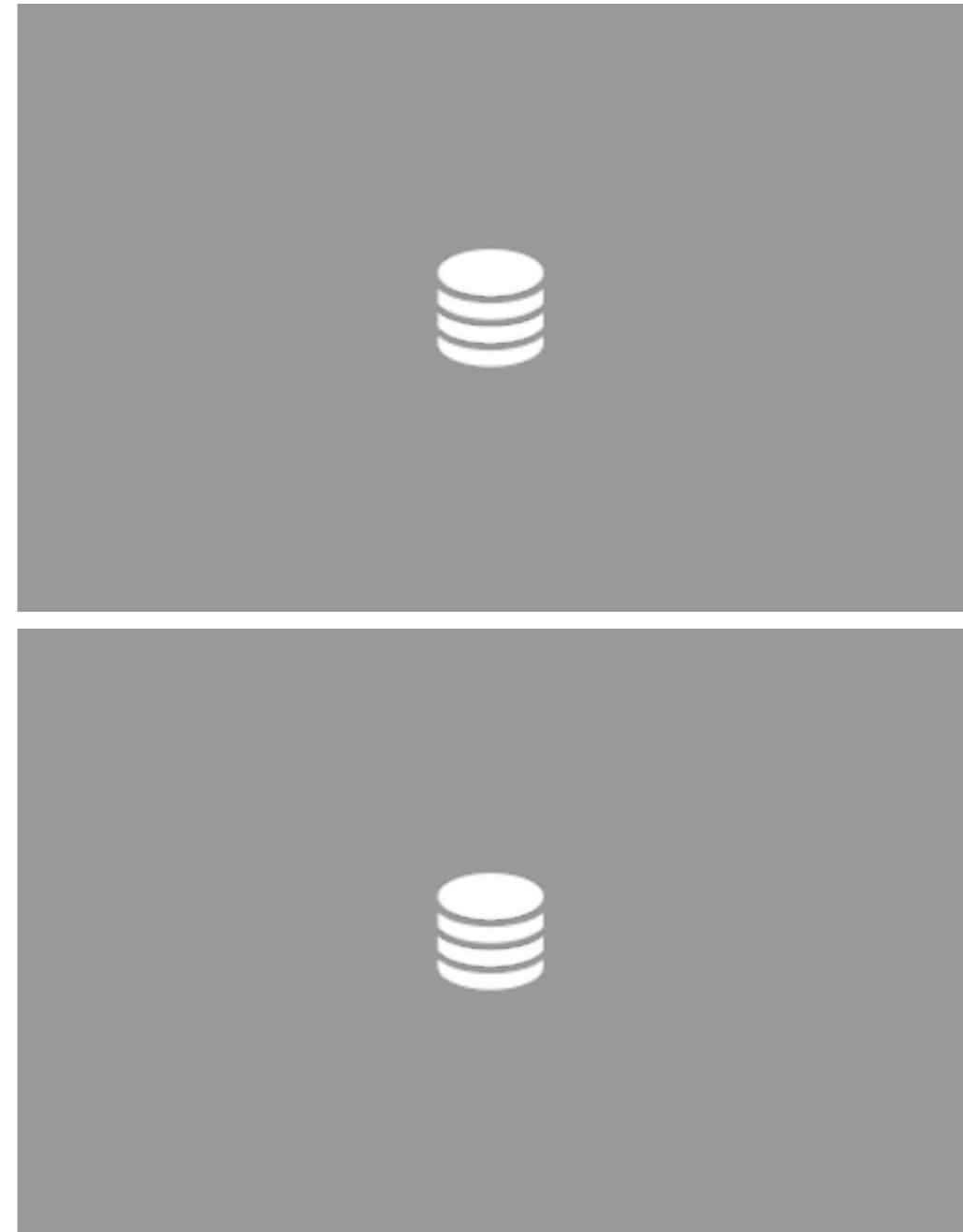


# LOGICAL SHARDS

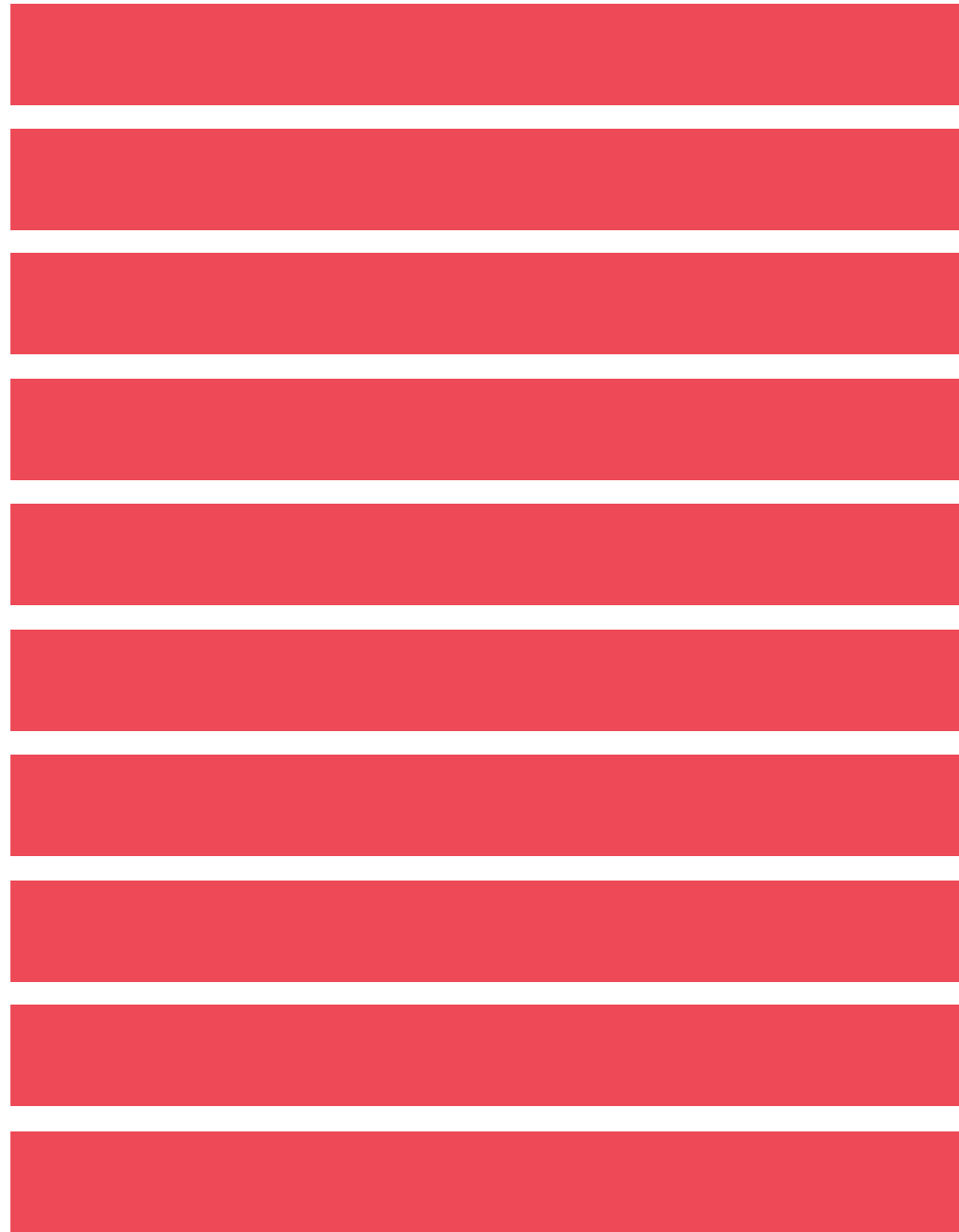


(PG SCHEMAS)

# PHYSICAL SERVERS

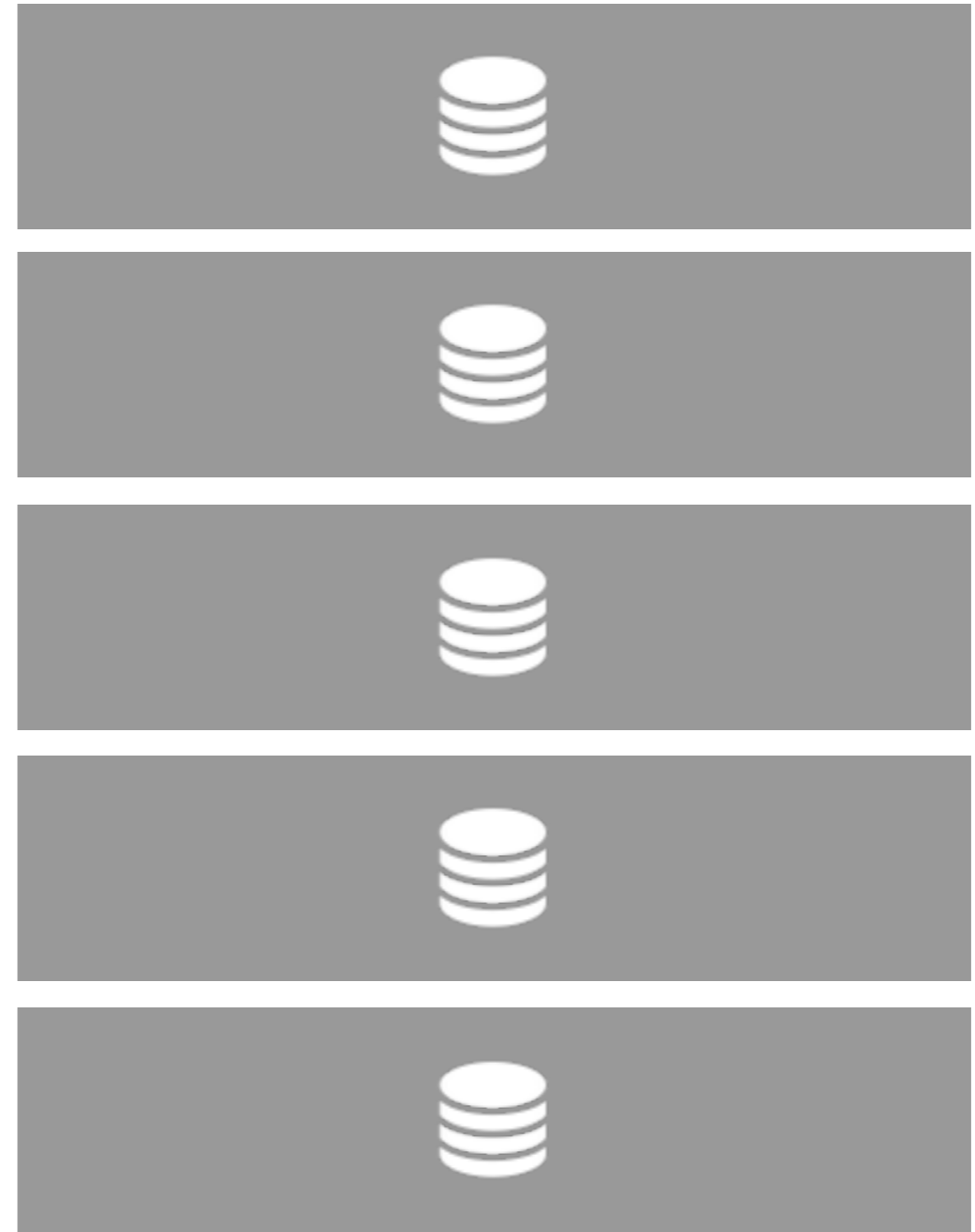


# LOGICAL SHARDS



(PG SCHEMAS)

# PHYSICAL SERVERS



commit 5c7034fa8b934569ccea5c1bf4bb202f2f3f18bc9

Author: Mike Krieger

Date: Tue Jul 19 23:47:26 2011 -0700

**WIP**



```
class ShardedObject(object):
    def insert(self, shard_on_id, from_table, values):
        shard, db = get_conn_for_shard_key(shard_on_id)
        cursor = db.cursor()
        placeholders = ','.join(
            ["%(%s)s" % key) for key in values.keys()])

        columns = ','.join(values.keys())
        insert_statement = (
            "INSERT INTO idb%s.%s (%s) VALUES (%s)" %
            (shard, from_table, columns, placeholders)
        )

        cursor.execute(insert_statement, values)
        db.commit()
```

# SHARDED UNIQUE IDS

138726300013410905

TIMESTAMP

SHARD ID

SEQUENCE

```
CREATE OR REPLACE FUNCTION insta5.next_id...  
CREATE TABLE insta5.our_table (  
    "id" bigint NOT NULL DEFAULT insta5.next_id(),  
    ...rest of table schema...  
)
```

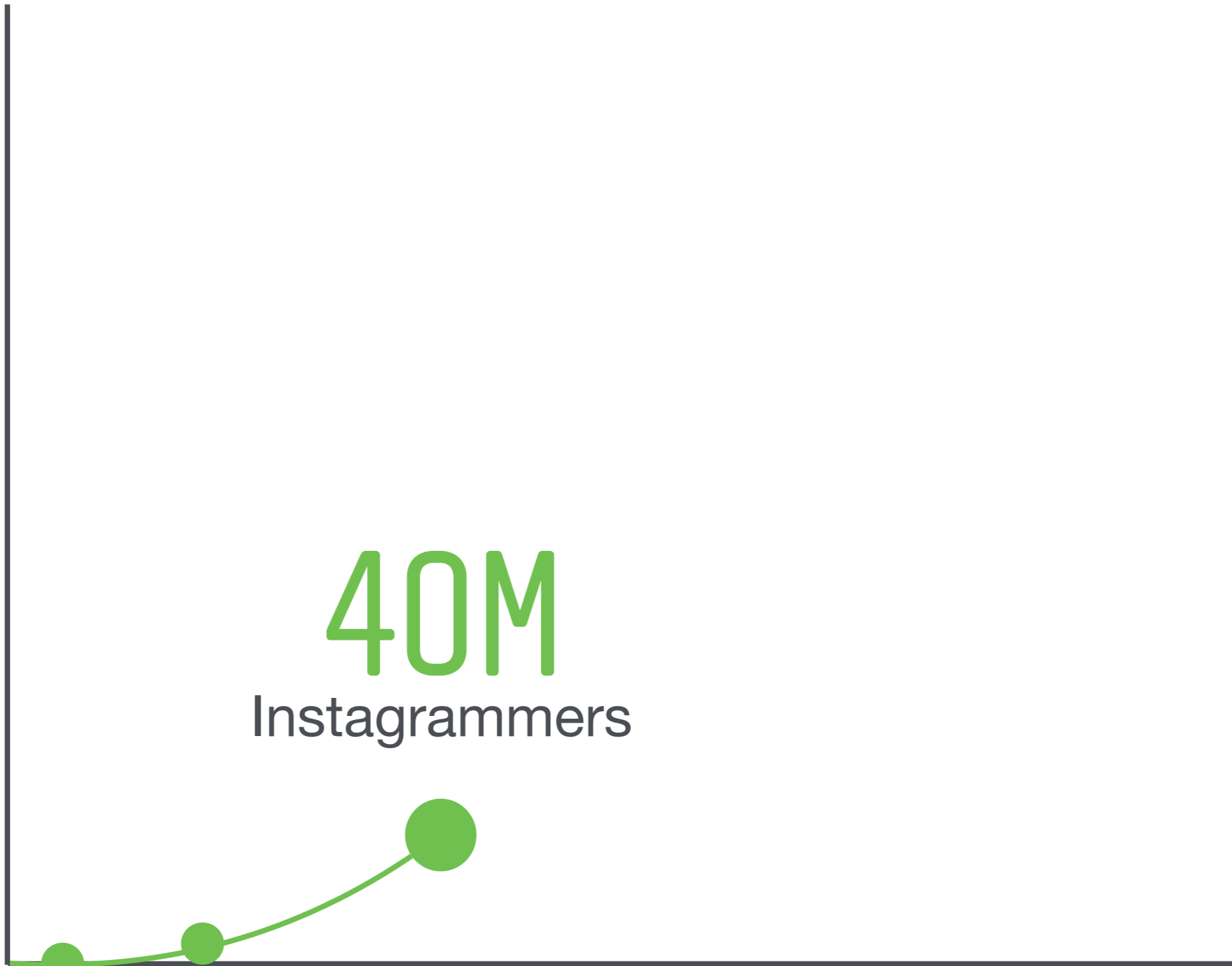




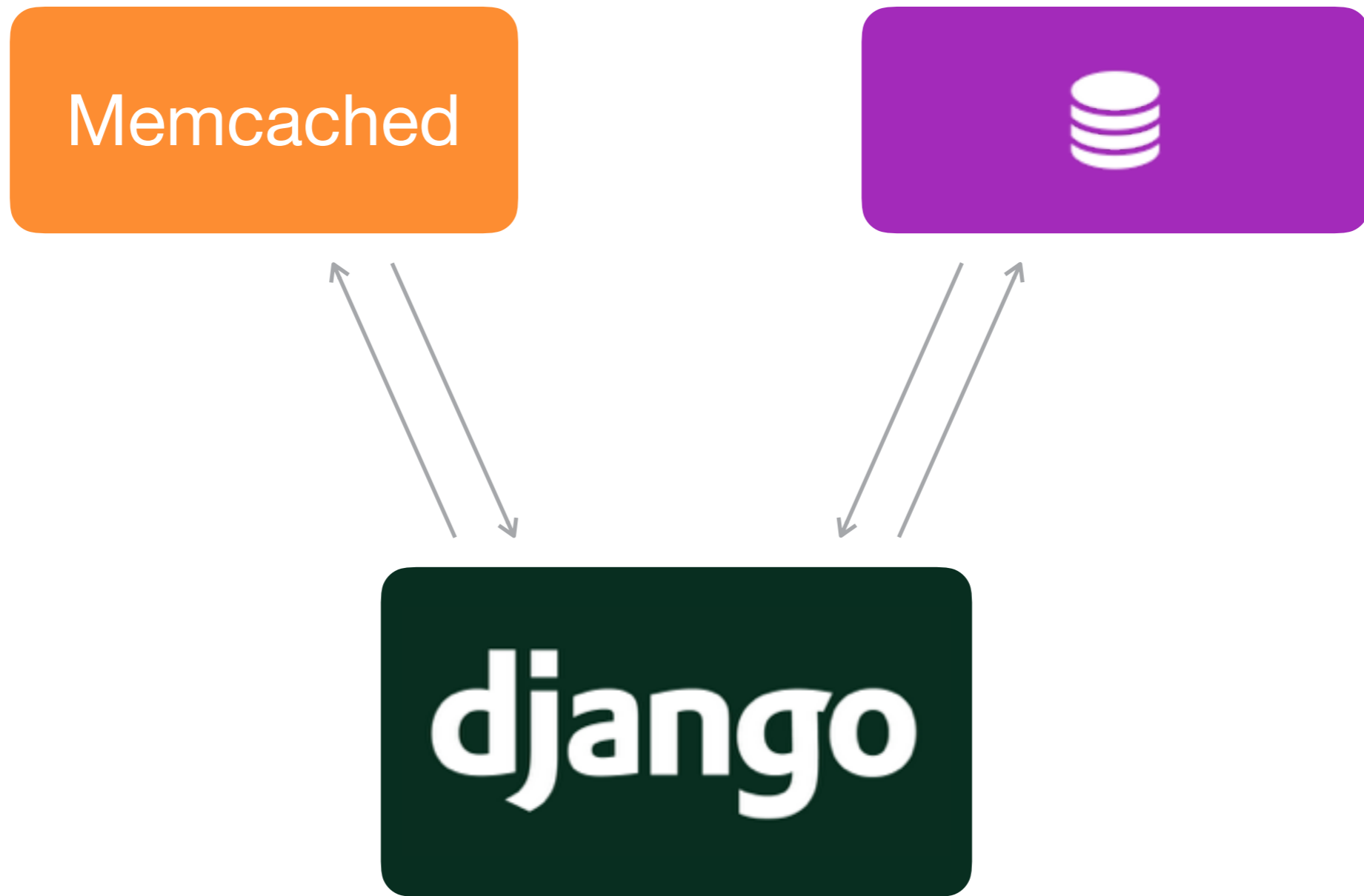
**JUSTIN  
BIEBER**



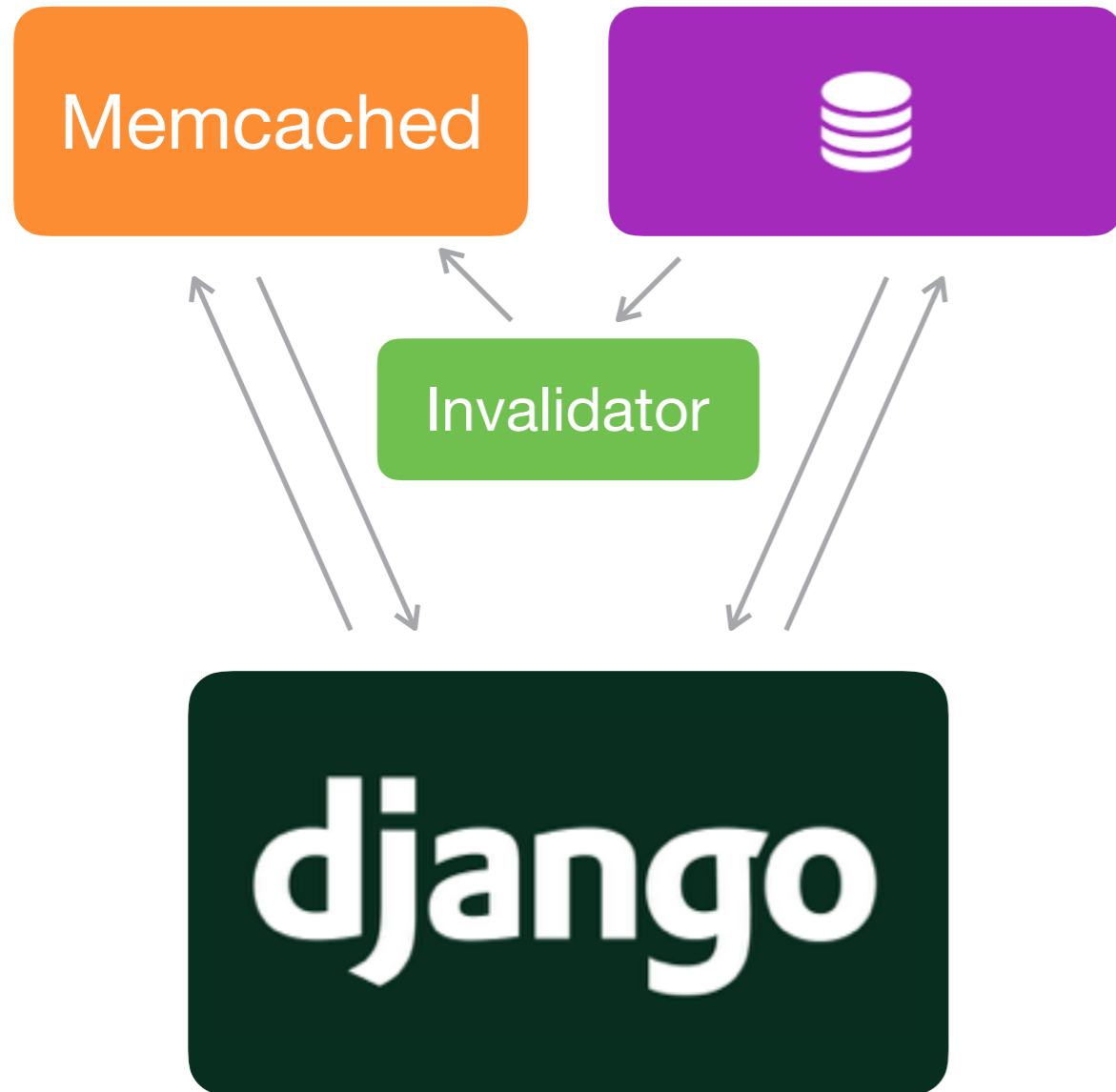
40M  
Instagrammers



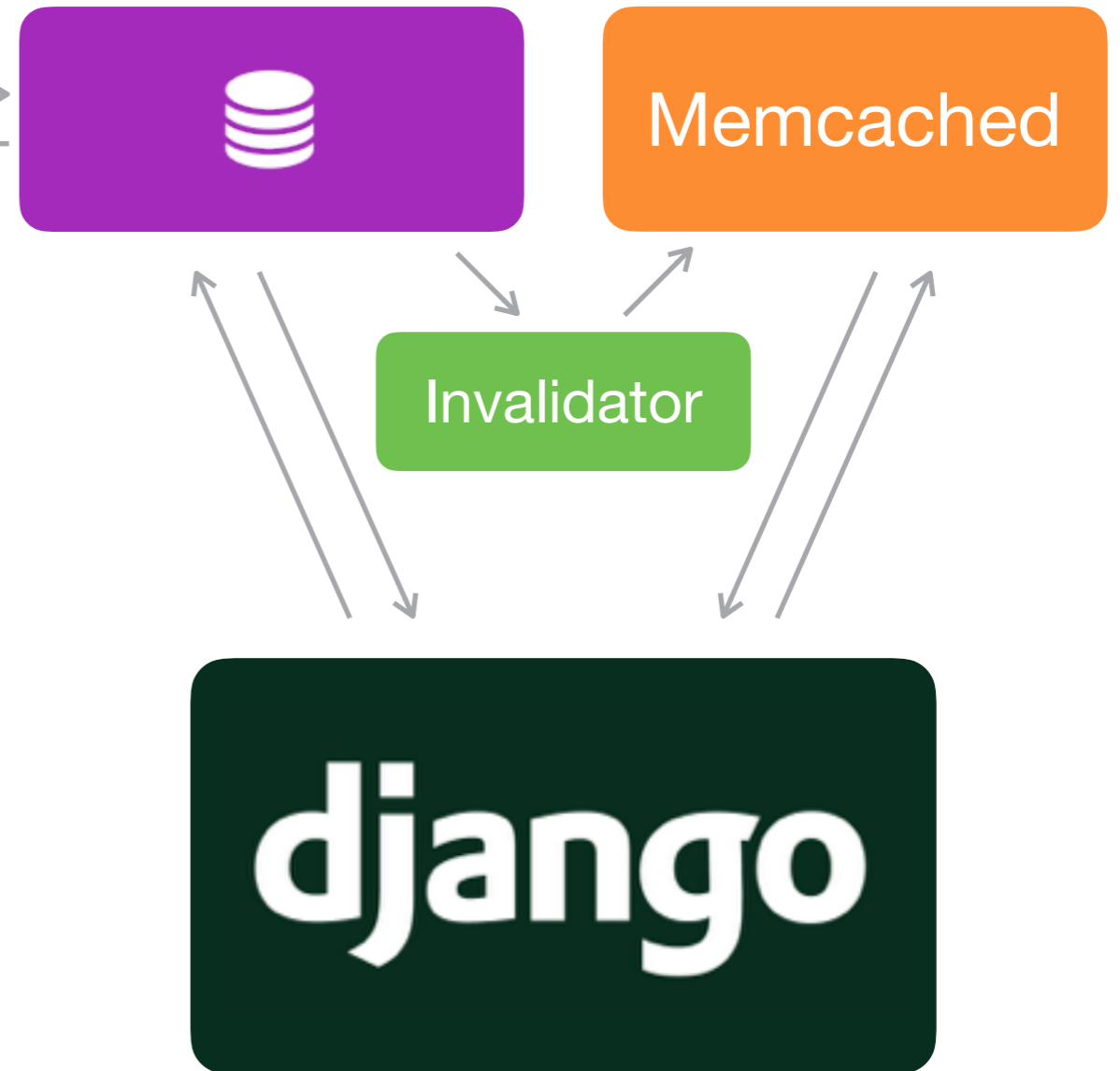
April  
2012



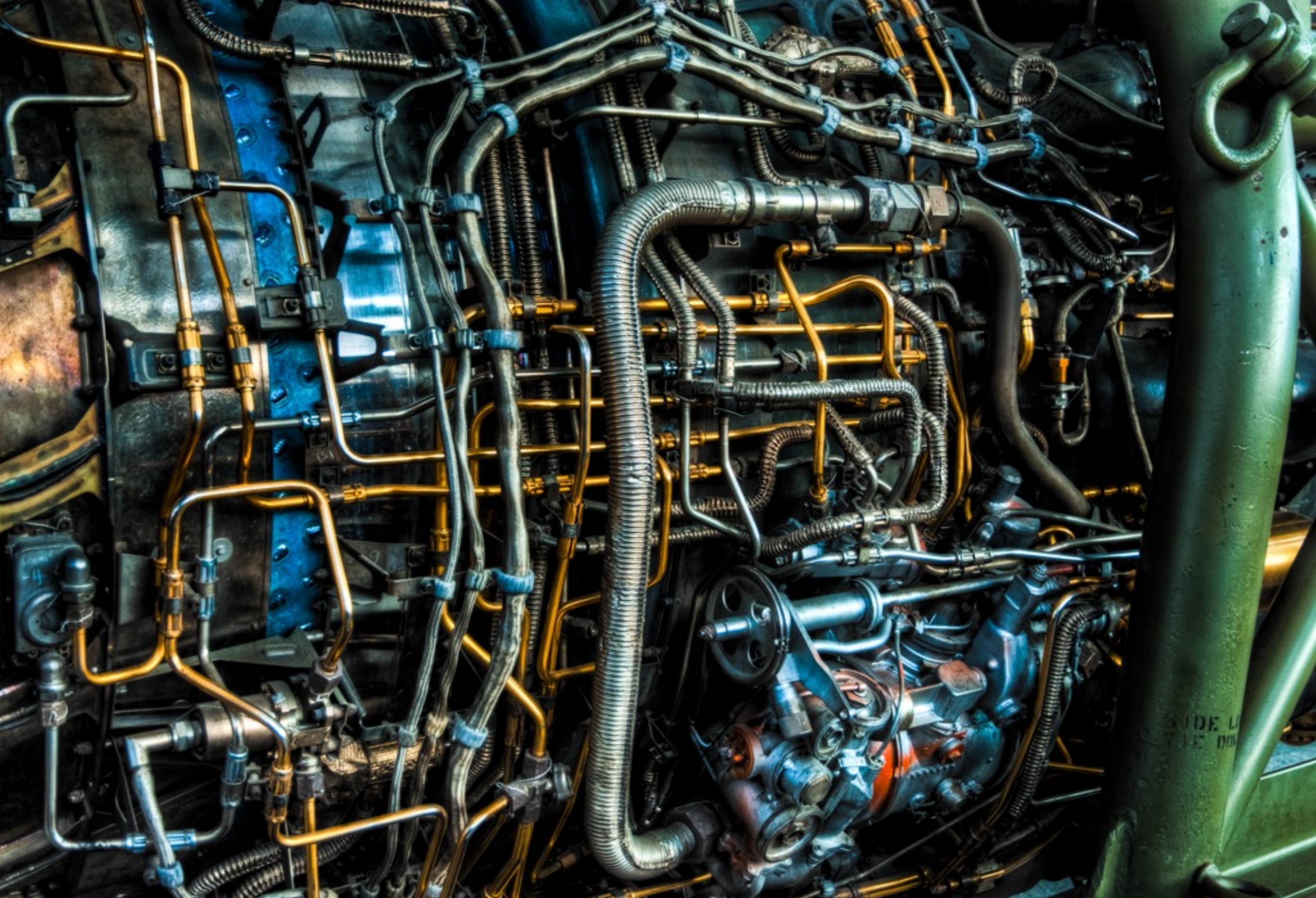
## Data center A



## Data center B







MULTI-REGION CACHE INVALIDATION

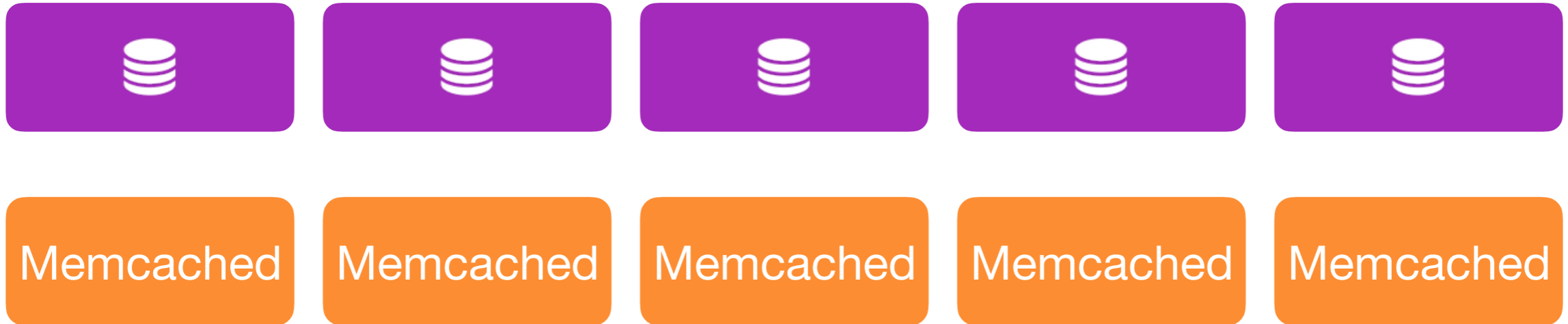




*straight-to-reality*

CONTEMPLATING THE TAO

# TAO





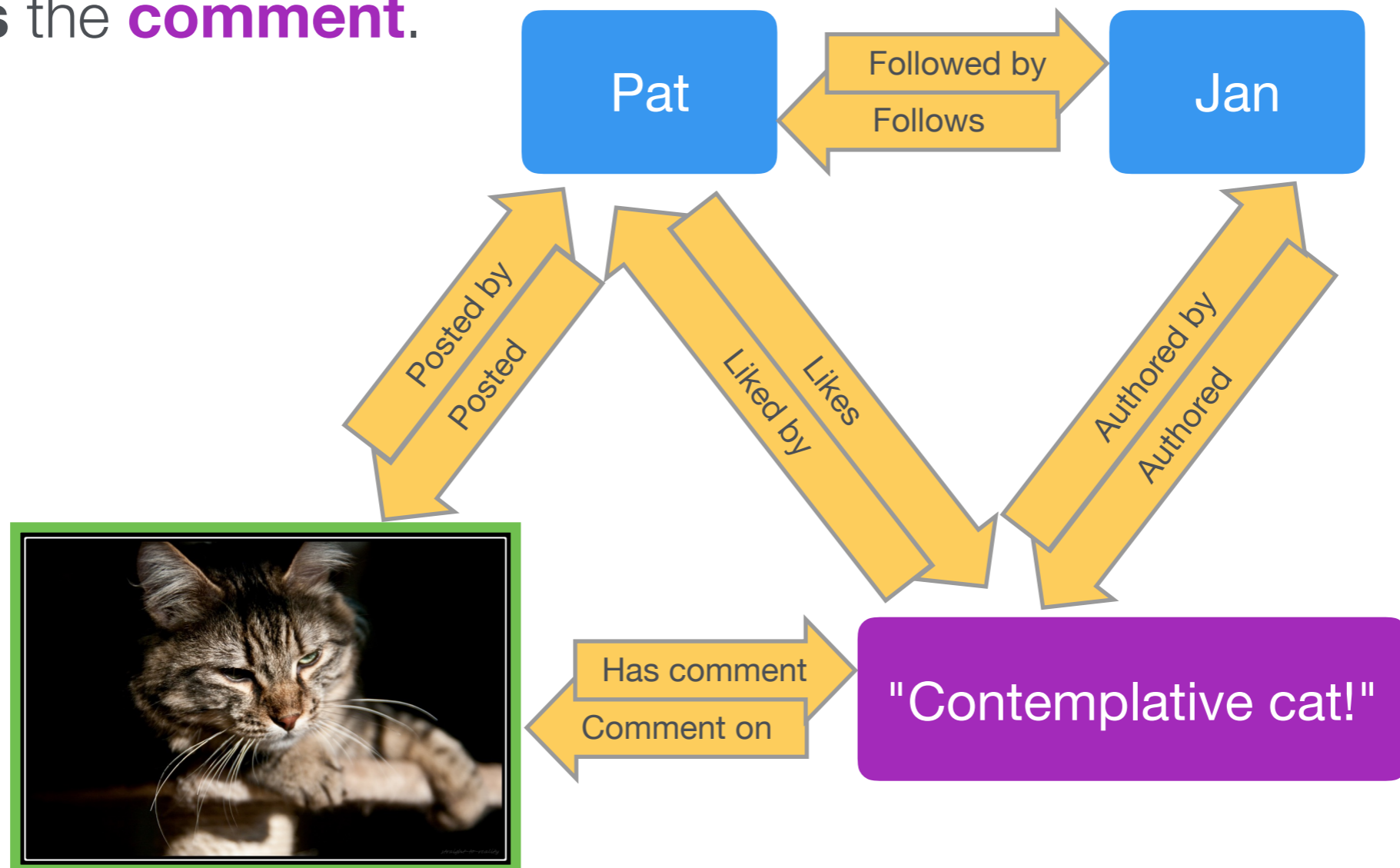
# TAO DATA MODEL

**Jan** follows **Pat**.

**Pat** posts a **photo**.

**Jan** authors a **comment** on the **photo**.

**Pat** likes the **comment**.





*straight-to-reality*

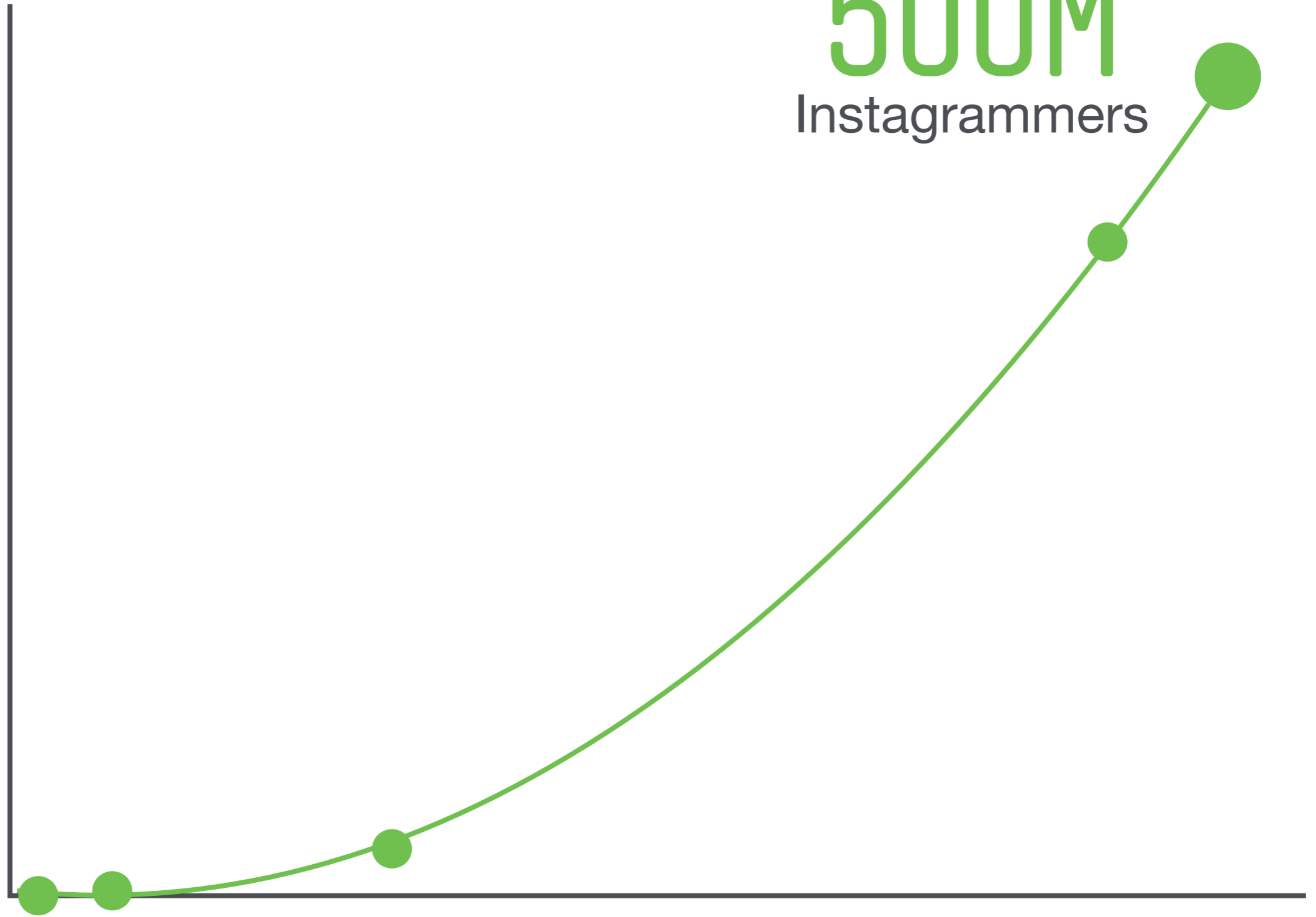
CONTEMPLATING THE TAO







500M  
Instagrammers



June  
2016

# UPGRADING DJANGO

"JUST KEEP FIXING  
UNTIL THE TESTS PASS."

# INSTAGRAM:

---

Now compatible with  
Django 3.1<sup>TM</sup>

(1.3 + 1.8)



# INSTAGRAM:

---

Now compatible with  
Django

**1.8!**

# OUR (MONKEY) PATCHES

1 Don't recompile URL regexes for every active language.

---

2 Don't try to load translations from an app with no locale directory.

---

3 Unlazified settings!

# UNLAZY ALL THE SETTINGS!

```
from django.conf import settings

def force_unlazified_settings():
    for key in dir(settings):
        settings.__dict__[key] = getattr(settings, key)
```



# INSTAGRAM:

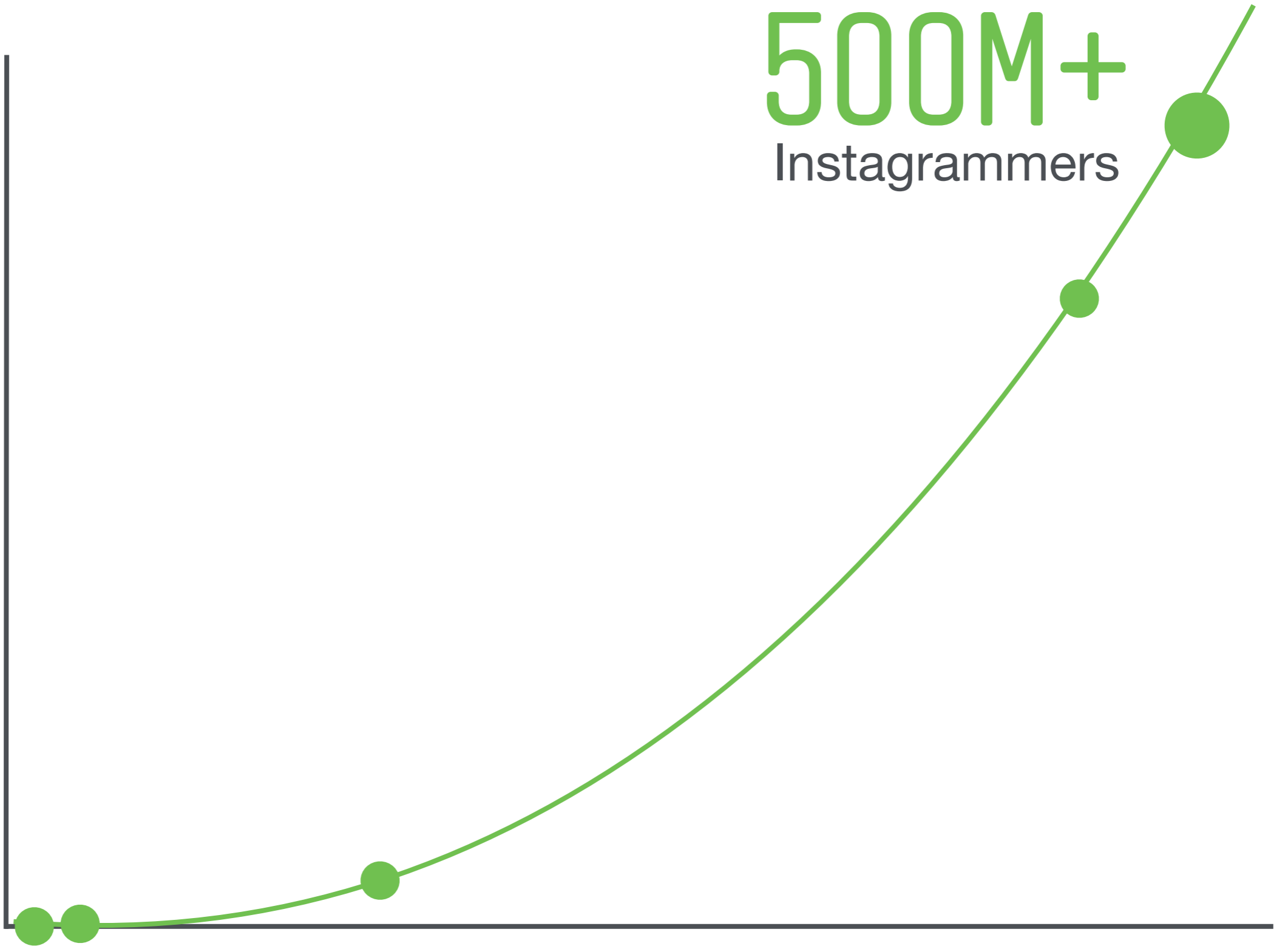
---

Now compatible with  
Django

**1.8!**

(and fast as ever)

500M+  
Instagrammers



Today!

Proxygen

Django & uWSGI

TAO

Cassandra

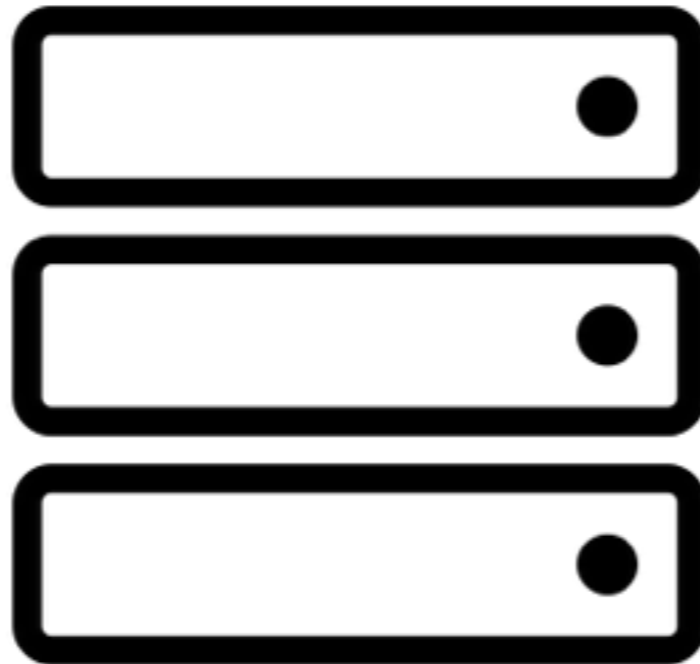
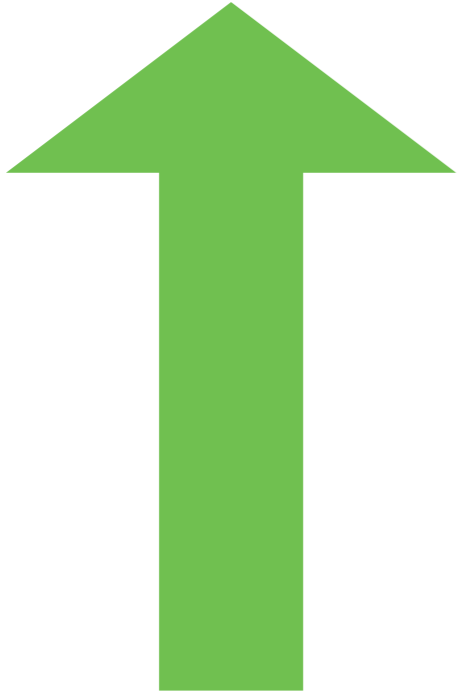
Everstore

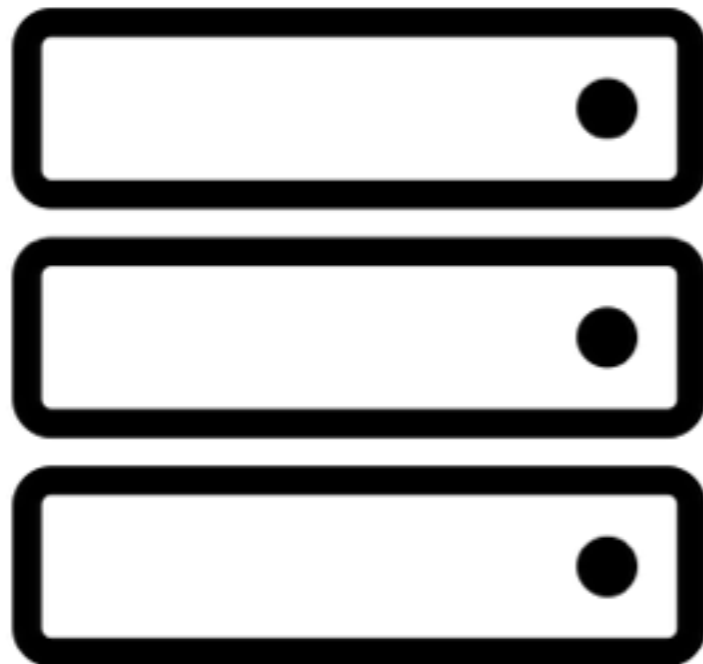
Celery &  
RabbitMQ



**YOU KEEP USING THAT  
WORD**

**I DON'T THINK IT MEMES  
WHAT YOU THINK IT MEMES**





Active Last Minute

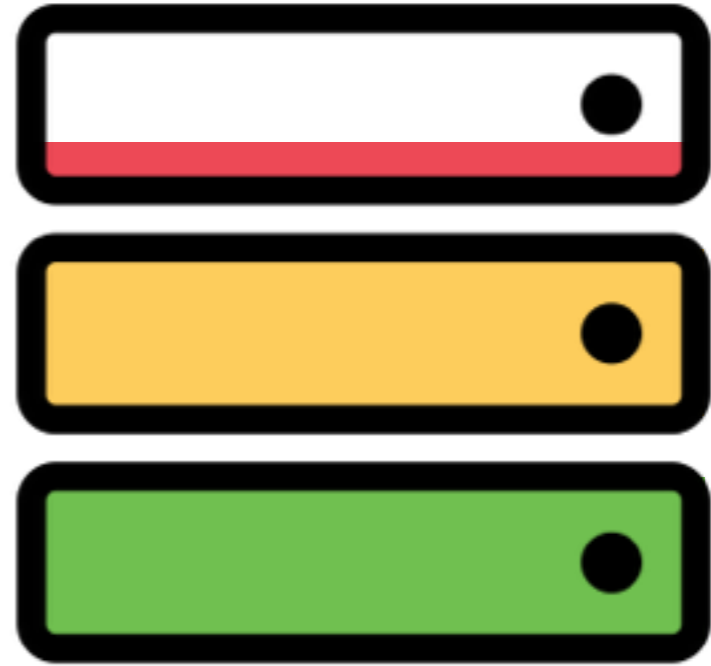
???



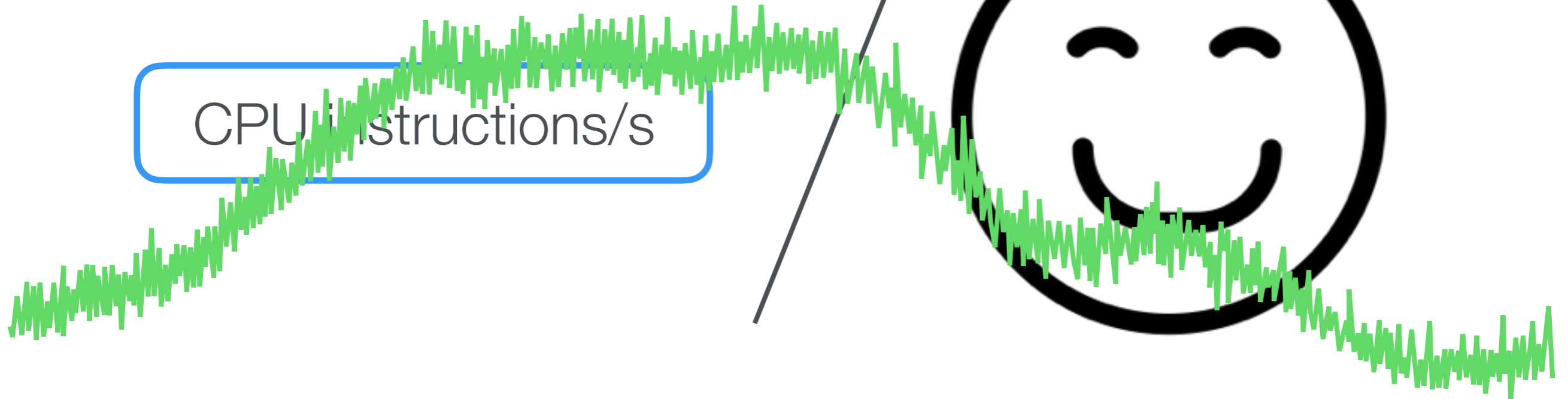
# COUNTING CPU INSTRUCTIONS WITH PERF

```
struct perf_event_attr pe;
pe.type = PERF_TYPE_HARDWARE;
pe.config = PERF_COUNT_HW_INSTRUCTIONS;
fd = perf_event_open(&pe, 0, -1, -1, 0);
ioctl(fd, PERF_EVENT_IOC_ENABLE);
// code whose CPU instructions you want to measure
ioctl(fd, PERF_EVENT_IOC_DISABLE);
read(fd, &count, sizeof(long long));
```

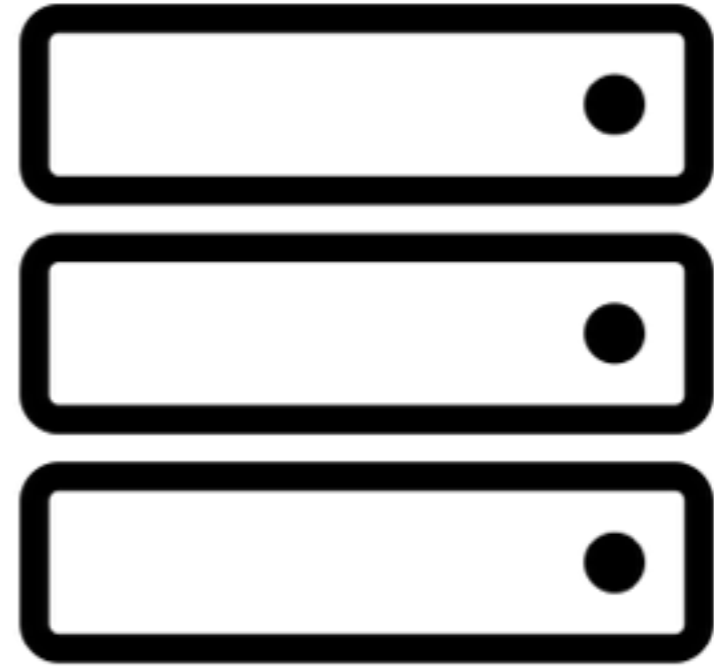
CPU instructions/s



CPU instructions/s



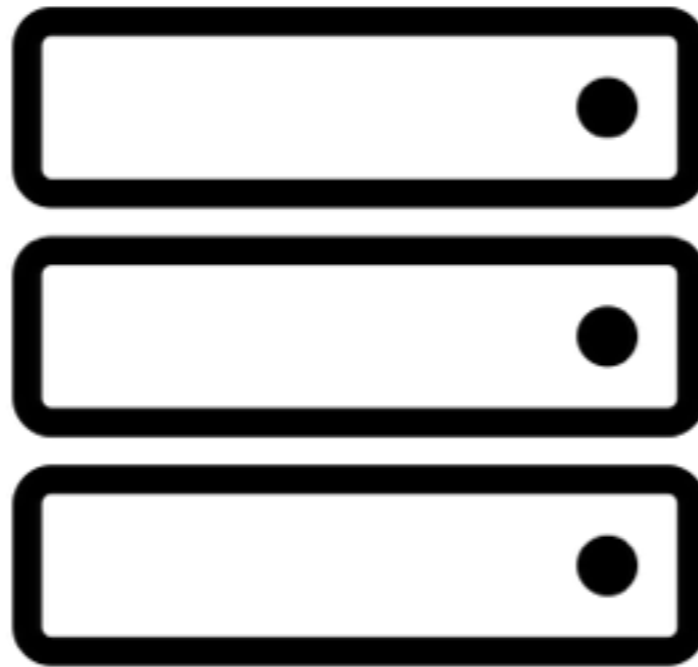
CPU instructions/s



CPU instructions/s







Wed, Oct 26th, 2016

From: 2016

# IG Weight

## Instagram

# 17.9%

### Improvement

Latest Goal:  
≤ 13.1% regression



# AppWeight





Continuous deployment

30-50 deploys per day





QUARTERS ONLY

25¢

TO OPERATE  
LONG RANGE BINOCULARS

1. DROP COIN IN SLOT
2. PULL HANDLE DOWN ALL THE WAY-LET GO
3. TO CLEAR VISION - TURN RED KNOB

241A

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11/17/15

# DYNOSTATS

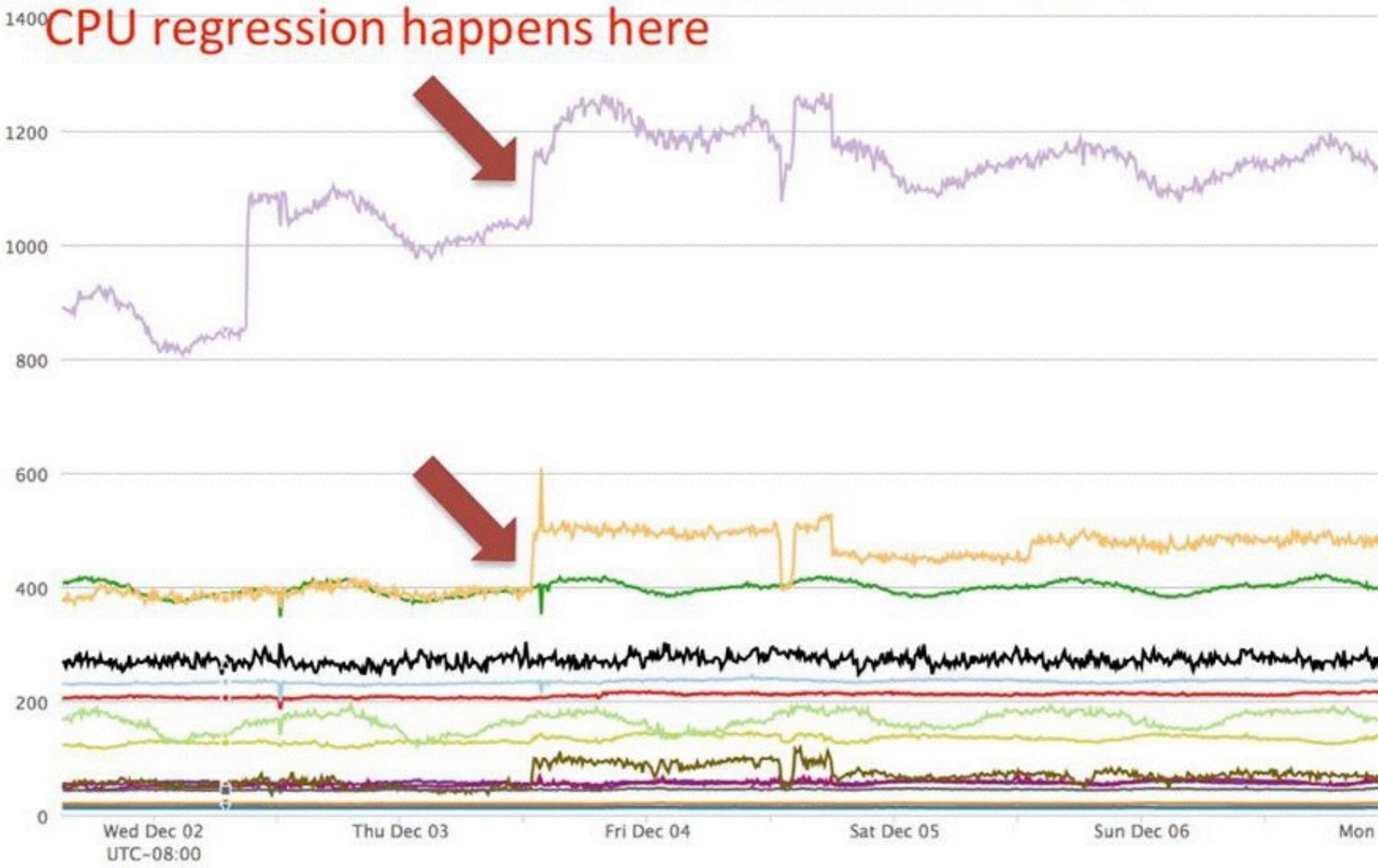
```
class DynostatsMiddleware(object):
    def process_request(self, req):
        req.dynostats_enabled = (
            1 == random.randint(1, settings.DYNO_SAMPLE_RATE))
        if req.dynostats_enabled:
            # uses Linux perf library
            req.dyno_start_cpu_instr = get_cpu_instructions()
            # use clock_gettime from librt
            req.dyno_start_wall_time = get_real_wall_time()
            req.dyno_start_cpu_time = get_process_cpu_time()
            # uses /proc/<pid>/statm
            req.dyno_start_rss_mem = get_process_rss_mem()

    def process_response(self, req, response):
        if req.dynostats_enabled:
            # get end values, send to scribe w/ req details
        return response
```




TimeSeries (10 minutes) ordered by Hits

CPU regression happens here







ALERT!



# CPROFILE

```
class ProfilerMiddleware(object):
    def process_request(self, req):
        req.cprofile_enabled = (
            1 == randint(1, settings.CPROFILE_SAMPLE_RATE))
        if req.cprofile_enabled:
            req.profiler = cProfile.Profile()
            req.profiler.enable()

    def process_response(self, req, response):
        if req.cprofile_enabled:
            req.profiler.disable()
            req.profiler.create_stats()
            send_to_scribe(msgpack.dumps(profiler.stats))
```



Raw Cumulative CPU Instructions (Sum/Minute) [?] ≡	(compare) ≡	(%) ≡	(delta) ≡
8,034,035,705	8,043,161,111	-0.1%	-9,125,406
7,878,265,891	7,897,286,292	-0.2%	-19,020,400
5,339,241,762	5,336,959,292	0.0%	2,282,470
2,175,683,992	2,193,166,866	-0.8%	-17,482,874
1,478,319,569	1,505,121,058	-1.8%	-26,801,489
637,941,053	375,612,446	<b>69.8%</b>	<b>262,328,607</b>
347,426,732	341,689,652	1.7%	5,737,080
290,604,317	245,609,794	<b>18.3%</b>	<b>44,994,524</b>
118,035,772	118,197,518	-0.1%	-161,745
1,930,530	1,919,097	0.6%	11,433

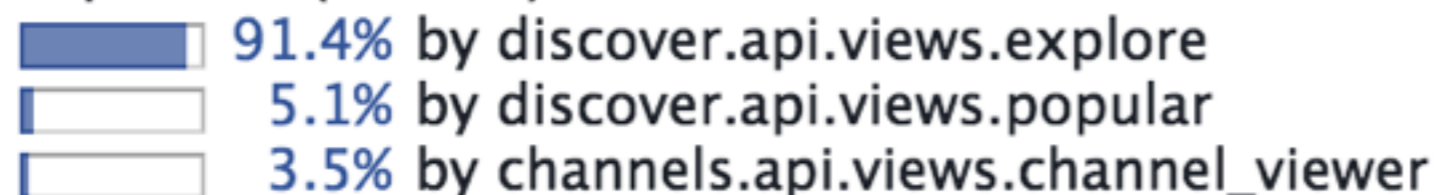


Global CPU consumption by this function: 0.103% inclusive and 0.015% exclusive .

We need ~ █████ IG servers for this function!

⚙️ Drill Down

Top Views ( [see all](#) ):



Top Callers ( [see all](#) ):



# on

```
@statsd.timer("discover._get_bundles_from_search_response")
def _get_bundles_from_search_response(self, search_response, has_connection_info=False):
    """
    :type search_response: fbsearch.media_search.MediaSearchResponse
```



# CUSTOM CPROFILE TIMERS

```
import cProfile
import resource

def get_cpu_instr():
    # use perf to get CPU instructions

cpu_profiler = cProfile.Profile(timer=get_cpu_instr)

def get_rss_mem():
    return resource.getrusage(
        resource.RUSAGE_SELF).ru_maxrss

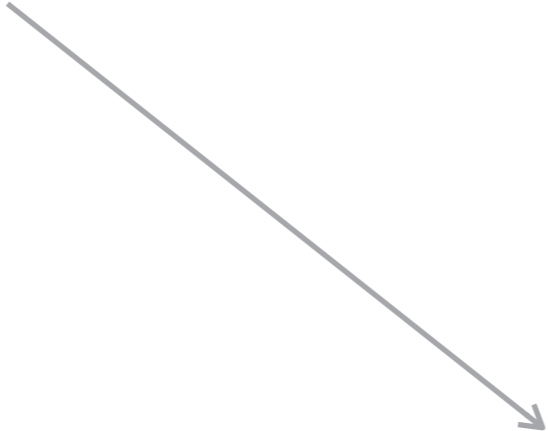
mem_profiler = cProfile.Profile(timer=get_rss_mem)
```

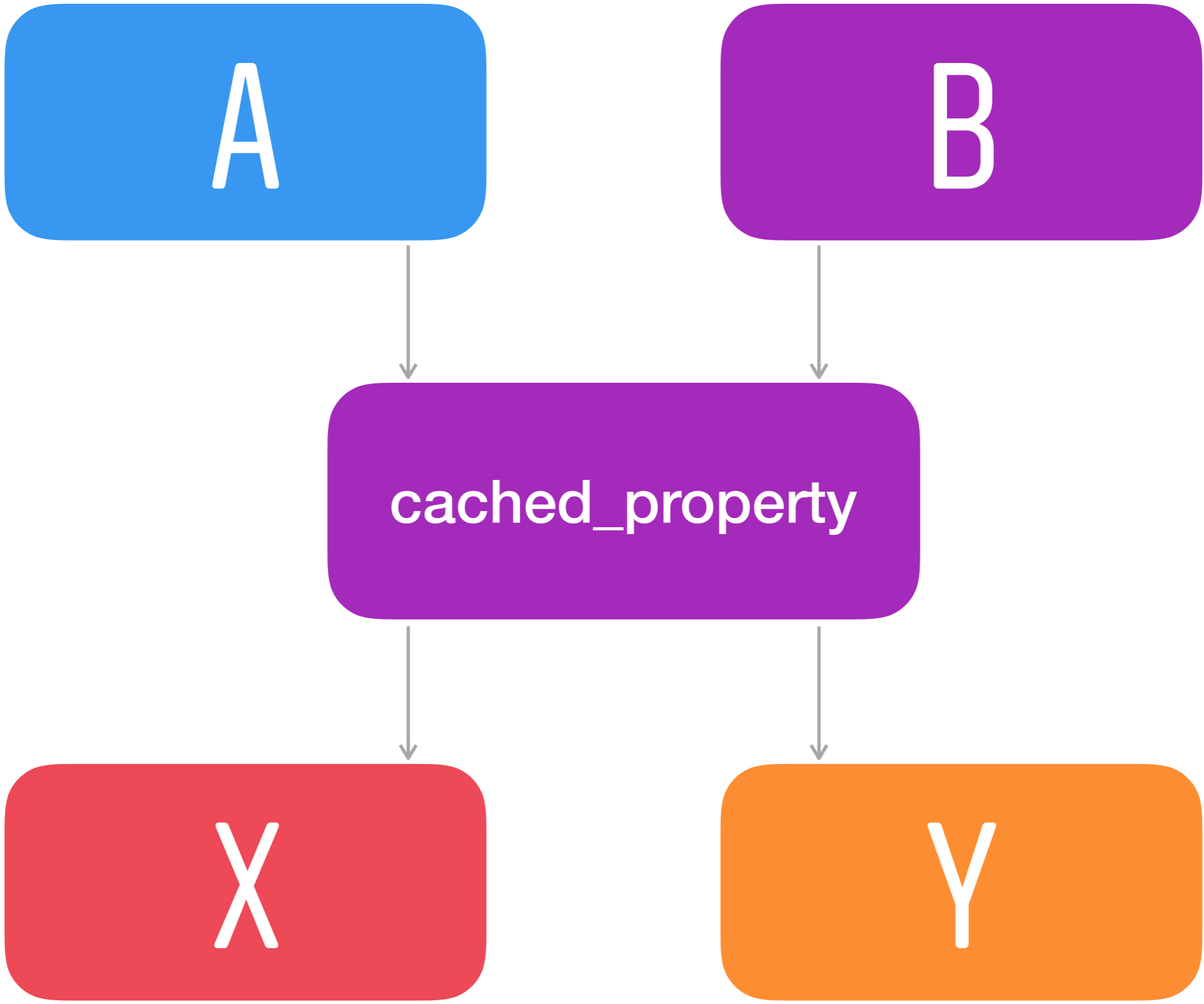
A

B

X

Y





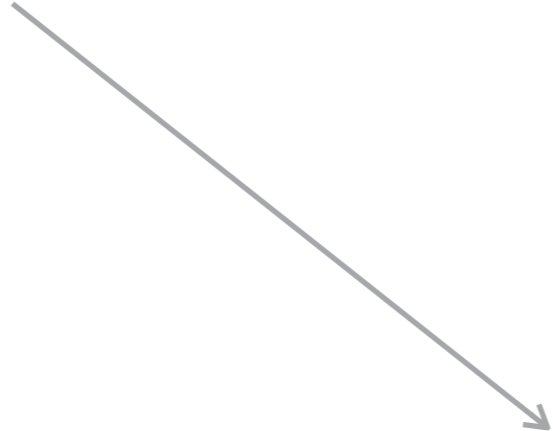


A

B

X

Y



# FIXING EFFICIENCY REGRESSIONS

- Fixing the obvious.
- Don't do useless work.
- Cache things that don't change.
- Change a .py to a .pyx: Cython.
- Rewrite in C.





tightly integrated

loosely coupled



make the easy things easy



and the hard things possible





"SUPER EASY SETUP."

— Mike Krieger

"THE PIECES WERE PLUGGABLE  
ENOUGH... EVEN WITH OUR OWN **ORM**  
WE COULD USE MOST  
OF THE REST OF DJANGO."

— Mike Krieger



# AN INCOMPLETE LIST OF THE DJANGO WE RELY ON

- HTTP stack
- requests and responses
- contrib.sessions
- contrib.auth
- middleware
- url routing
- settings
- forms
- i18n
- contrib.gis
- django.utils
- cache backends
- HTTP decorators
- CSRF
- signals
- management commands



**django**



python 3

async(io)

traffic replay

pypy?

CPython JIT?





**engineering.instagram.com**

**carljm@instagram.com**

**@carljm**





**T.Hanks**





# PHOTOS

database by Rocklcon, smiley by Vandana Agrawal, server by Alexander Skowalsky, from Noun Project

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