COMPARING JVM WEB FRAMEWORKS

Matt Raible

http://raibledesigns.com

Photos by **Trish** - **http://mcginityphoto.com**

Introductions

- Your experience with web development?
- Your experience with Java EE development?
- What do you want to get from this session?
- Experience with Grails, GWT, Rails, Spring MVC, Wicket, Tapestry or Play?

Who is **Matt Raible**?

Father, Skier, Cyclist

Web Framework Connoisseur

Founder of AppFuse

Blogger on raibledesigns.com

Session Agenda

- The Problem with Web Frameworks
- The Candidates
- Comparison Points
- The Matrix
- Conclusion
- Q and A

The Problem

Fx
GRAILS
Play!
Stripes
WICKET
tapestry
G
Struts 2
RAILS
Lift
WEBFRAMEWORK
vaadin }>
APACHE MyFaces
Spring 2.5

The Real Problem

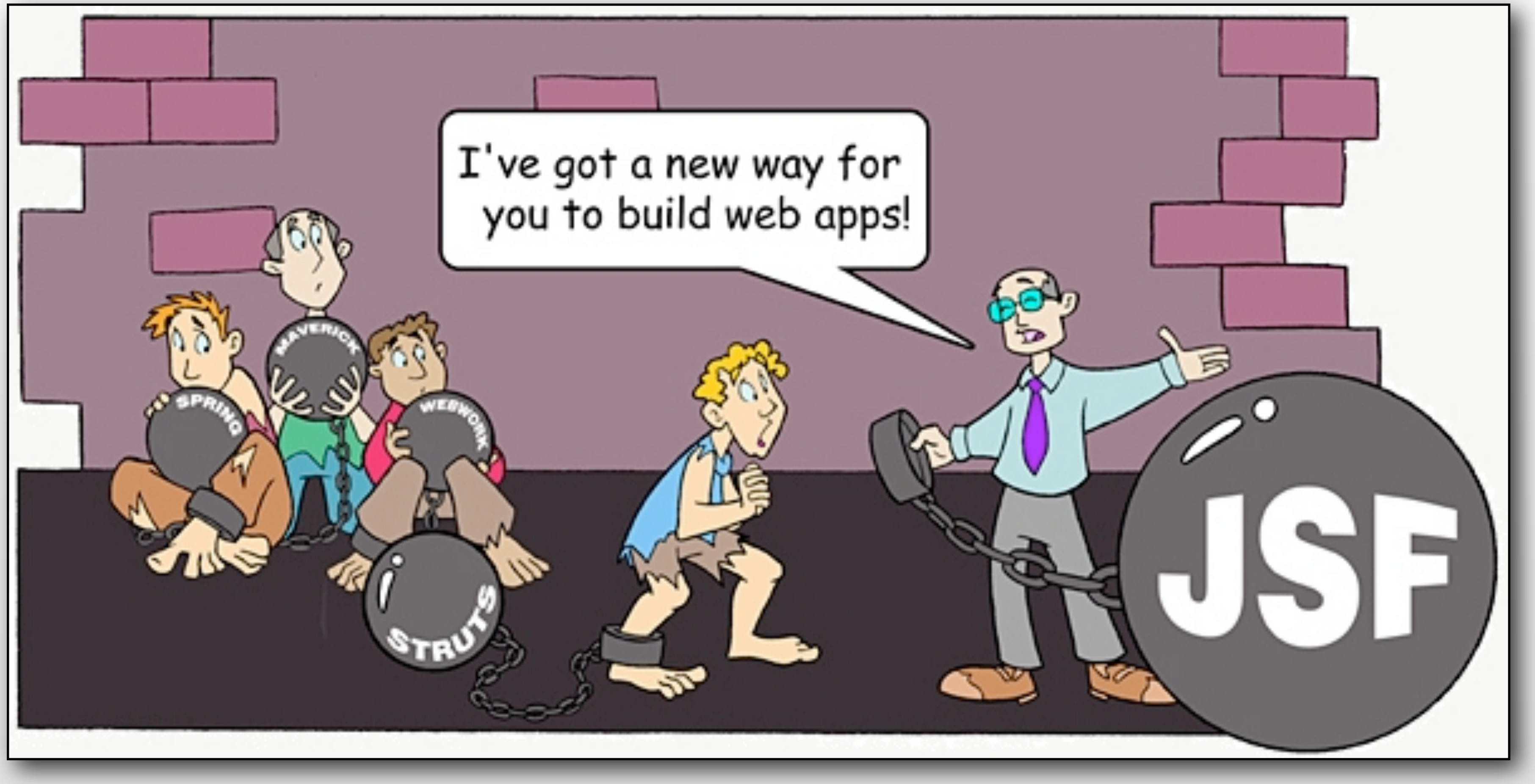
The Real Problem

The Real Problem

How do you choose?

Eliminate, Don’t Include

Struts


I've got a new way for you to build web apps!
SPRING
MAVERICK
WEBWORK
STRUTS
JSF

Craig McClanahan on Rails

... while I'd *love* to see life made simpler for Java web developers, and a lot of the things happening in Struts2 are going that way -- it won't be me doing it.

I've gone over to the dark side :-) and **much prefer to develop in Rails** -- for the conciseness mentioned above, but also **because I don't ever have to do a "build" or "deploy" step** during my development cycle any more. But you guys and gals need to be reminded that *this* is the kind of thing you are competing against if you expect to attract Rails developers ... or to avoid even more "previously Java web developer" defectors like me :-).

-- Craig McClanahan, 10/23/2007

http://markmail.org/thread/qfb5sekad33eobh2

James Gosling on JSF

James Gosling on Apple, Apache, Google, Oracle and the Future of Java

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ei-rbULWoA#t=47m

2010: Comparison Points

- Developer Productivity
- Developer Perception
- Learning Curve
- Project Health
- Developer Availability
- Job Trends

2010: Comparison Points

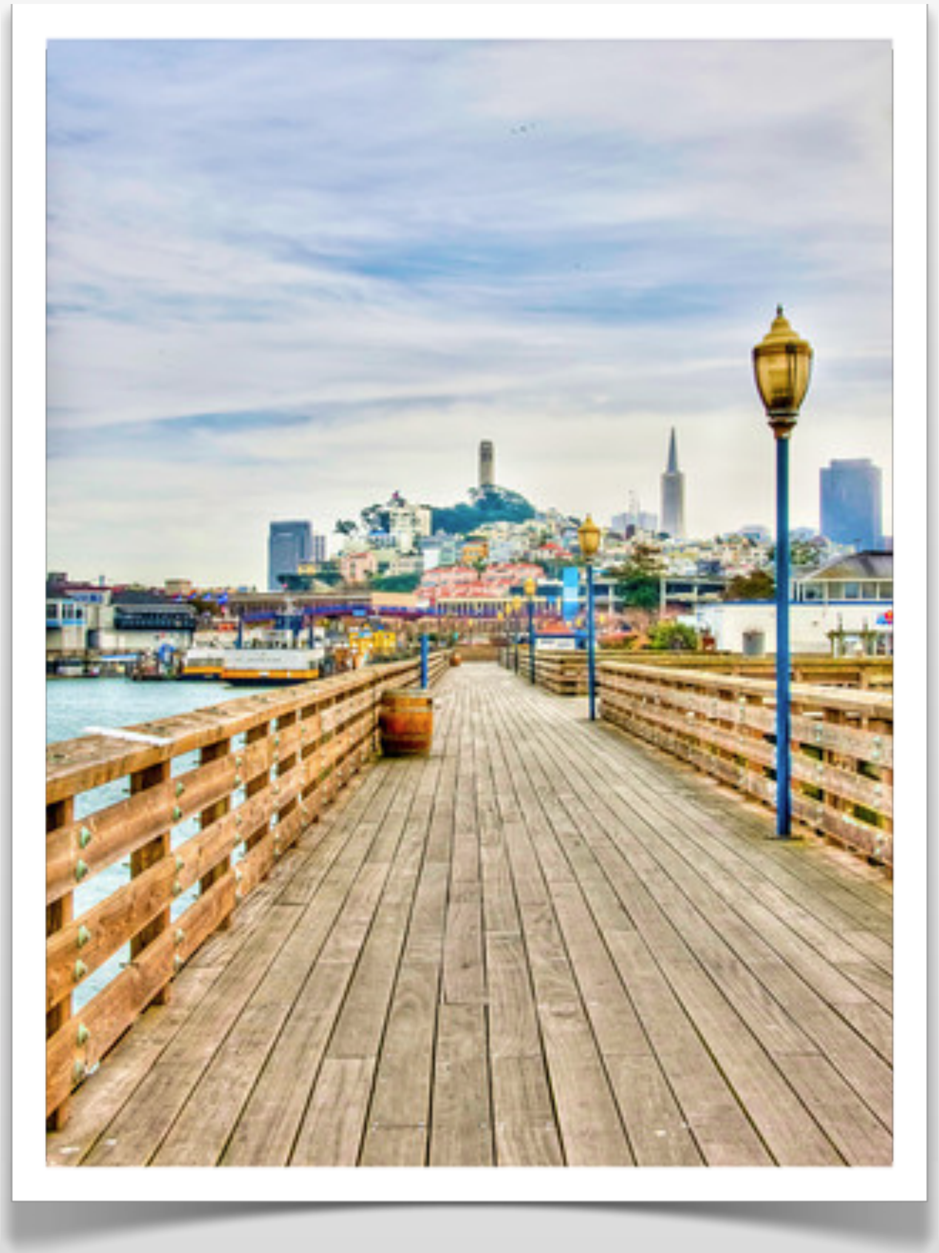
- Templating
- Components
- Ajax
- Plugins or Add-Ons
- Scalability
- Testing Support

2010: Comparison Points

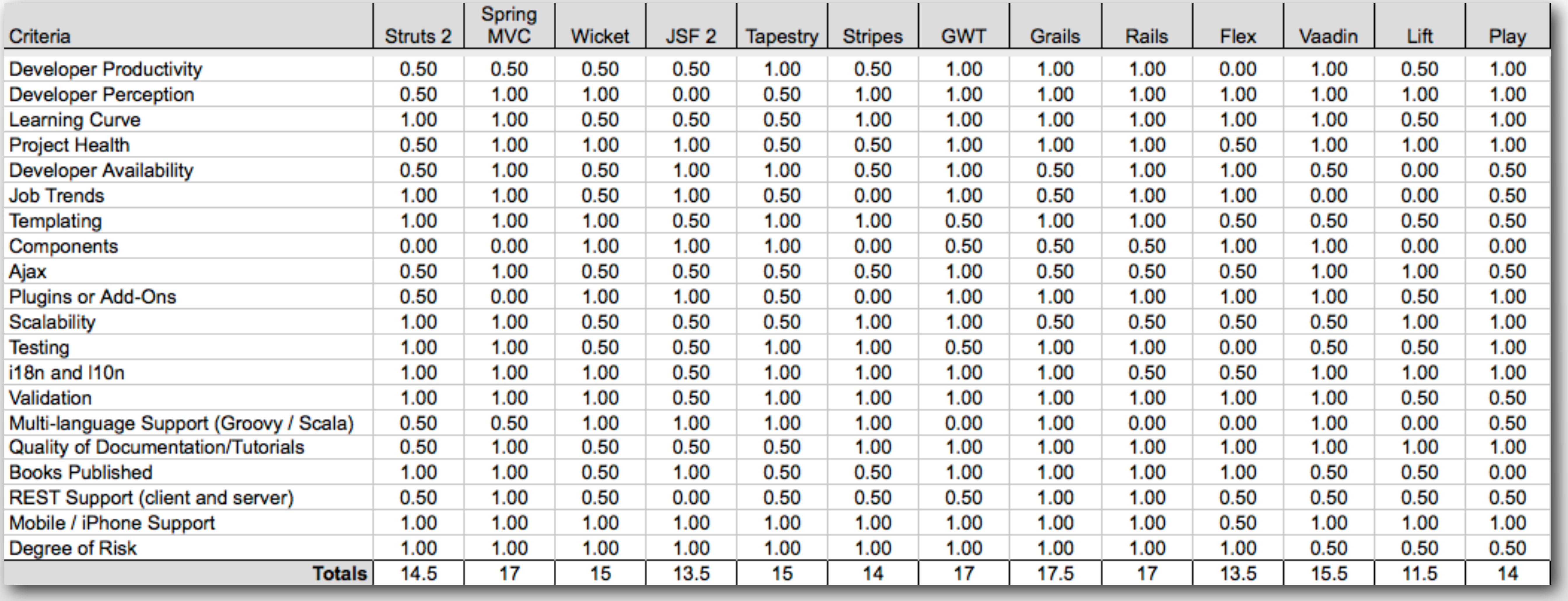
- i18n and l10n
- Validation
- Multi-language Support (Groovy / Scala)
- Quality of Documentation/Tutorials
- Books Published
- REST Support (client and server)

2010: Comparison Points

- Mobile / iPhone Support
- Degree of Risk



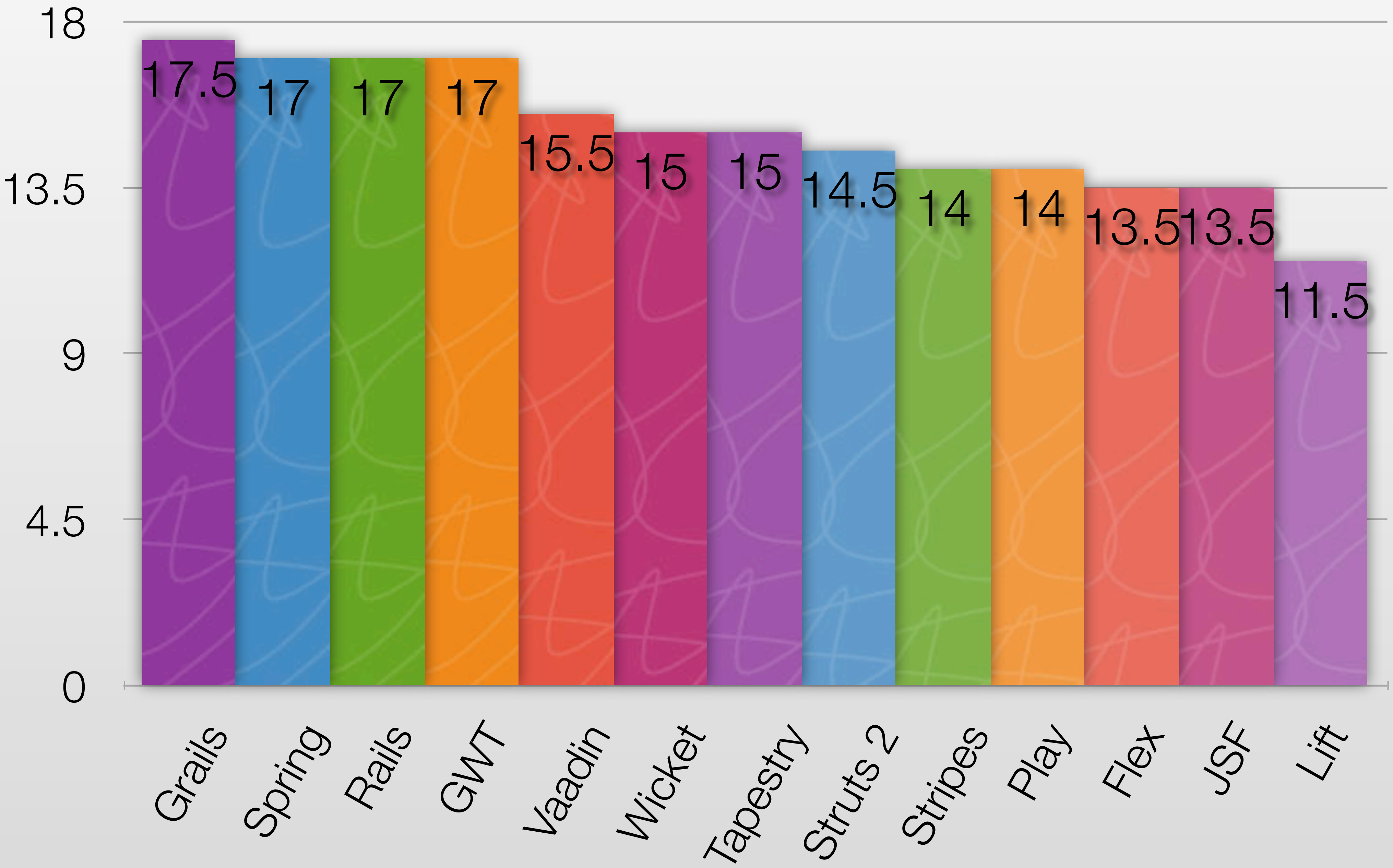
Comparison Matrix



Criteria	Struts 2	Spring MVC	Wicket	JSF 2	Tapestry	Stripes	GWT	Grails	Rails	Flex	Vaadin	Lift	Play
Developer Productivity	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1.00	0.50	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.50	1.00
Developer Perception	0.50	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.50	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Learning Curve	1.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.50	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.50	1.00
Project Health	0.50	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.50	1.00	1.00	1.00
Developer Availability	0.50	1.00	0.50	1.00	1.00	0.50	1.00	0.50	1.00	1.00	0.50	0.00	0.50
Job Trends	1.00	1.00	0.50	1.00	0.50	0.00	1.00	0.50	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.50
Templating	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.50	1.00	1.00	0.50	1.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
Components	0.00	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.50	0.50	0.50	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
Ajax	0.50	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.50	1.00	1.00	0.50
Plugins or Add-Ons	0.50	0.00	1.00	1.00	0.50	0.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.50	1.00
Scalability	1.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.50	1.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	1.00	1.00
Testing	1.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	1.00	1.00	0.50	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.50	0.50	1.00
i18n and l10n	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.50	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	1.00	1.00	1.00
Validation	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.50	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.50	0.50
Multi-language Support (Groovy / Scala)	0.50	0.50	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.50
Quality of Documentation/Tutorials	0.50	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.50	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Books Published	1.00	1.00	0.50	1.00	0.50	0.50	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.00
REST Support (client and server)	0.50	1.00	0.50	0.00	0.50	0.50	0.50	1.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50
Mobile / iPhone Support	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.50	1.00	1.00	1.00
Degree of Risk	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.50	0.50	0.50
Totals	14.5	17	15	13.5	15	14	17	17.5	17	13.5	15.5	11.5	14

http://bit.ly/jvm-frameworks-matrix

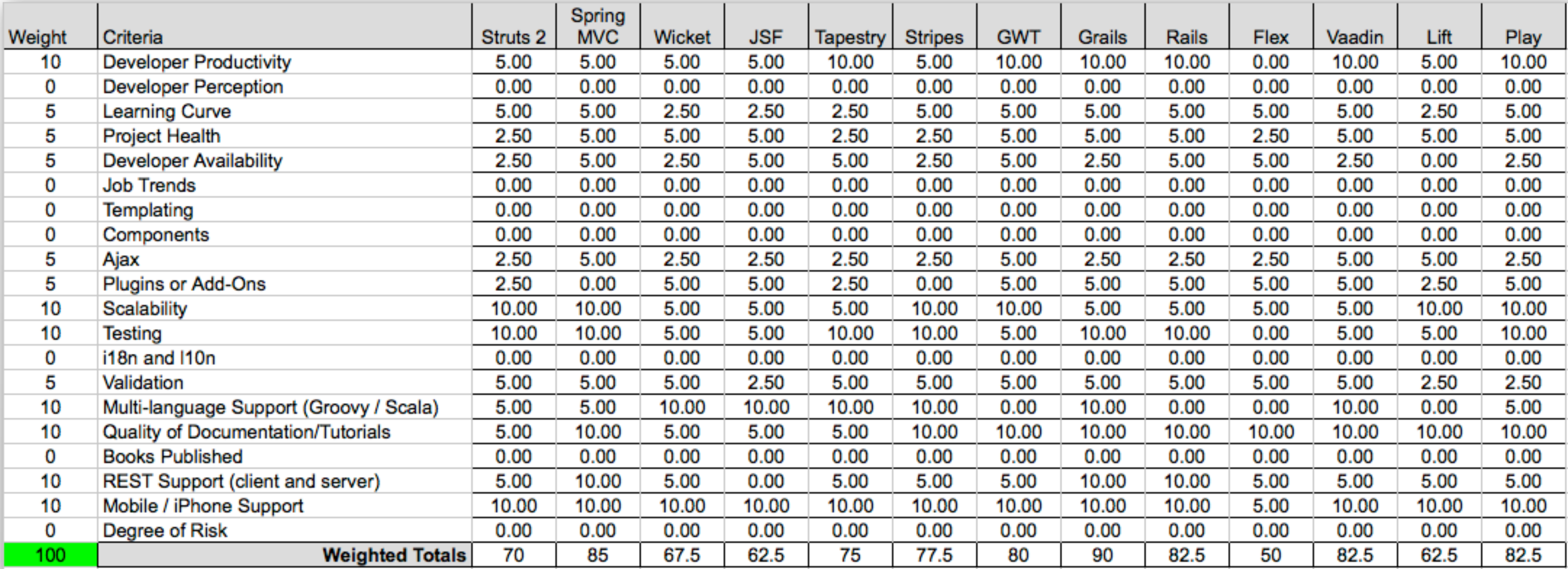
Matrix Results



Matrix Results

- Grails (17.5)
- GWT (17)
- Ruby on Rails (17)
- Spring MVC (17)
- Vaadin (15.5)
- Tapestry and Wicket (15)

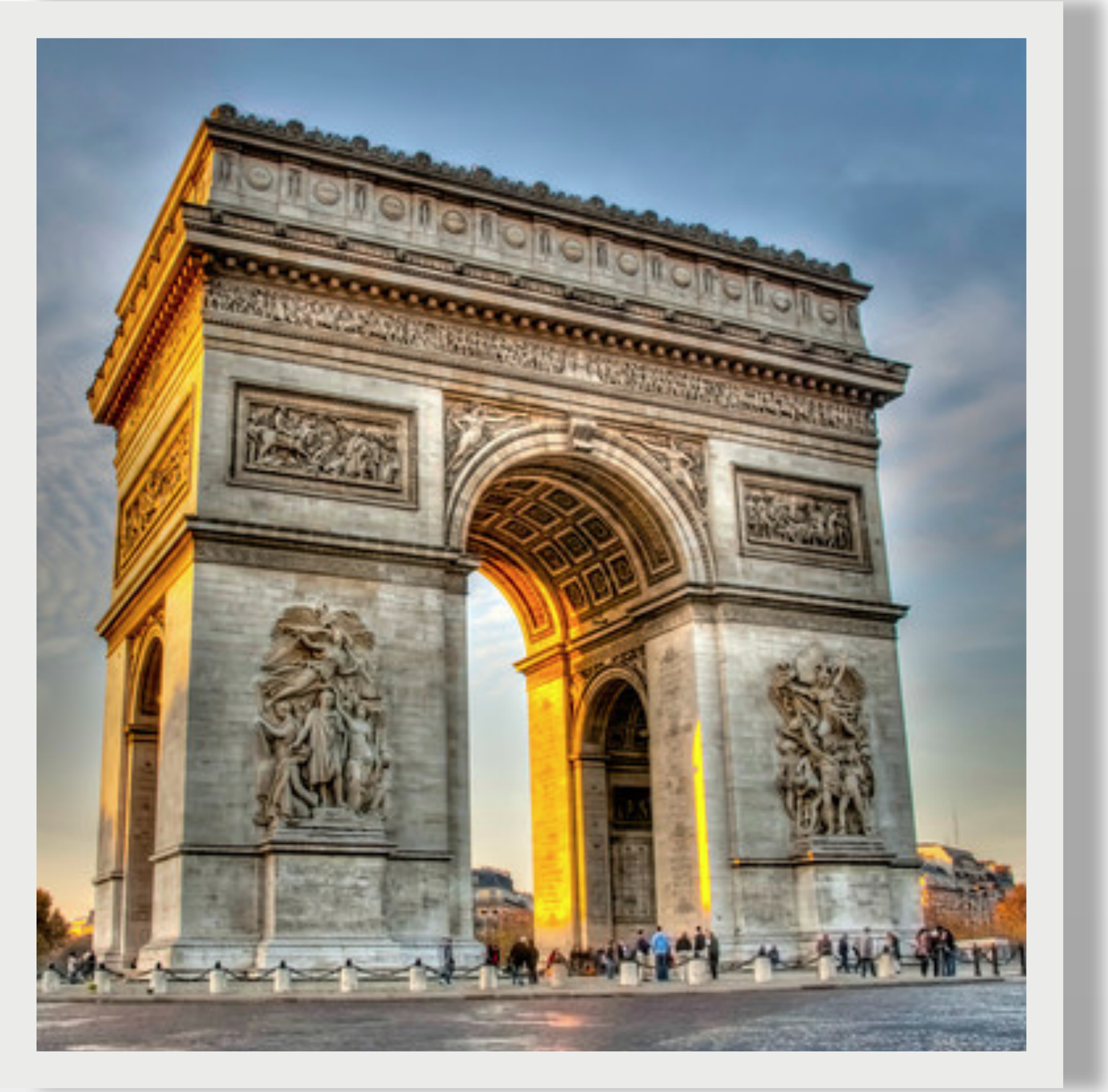
Weighted Matrix



			Spring											
Weight	Criteria	Struts 2	MVC	Wicket	JSF	Tapestry	Stripes	GWT	Grails	Rails	Flex	Vaadin	Lift	Play
10	Developer Productivity	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	10.00	5.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	10.00	5.00	10.00
0	Developer Perception	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Learning Curve	5.00	5.00	2.50	2.50	2.50	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	2.50	5.00
5	Project Health	2.50	5.00	5.00	5.00	2.50	2.50	5.00	5.00	5.00	2.50	5.00	5.00	5.00
5	Developer Availability	2.50	5.00	2.50	5.00	5.00	2.50	5.00	2.50	5.00	5.00	2.50	0.00	2.50
0	Job Trends	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0	Templating	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
0	Components	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Ajax	2.50	5.00	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.50	5.00	2.50	2.50	2.50	5.00	5.00	2.50
5	Plugins or Add-Ons	2.50	0.00	5.00	5.00	2.50	0.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	2.50	5.00
10	Scalability	10.00	10.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	10.00	10.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	10.00	10.00
10	Testing	10.00	10.00	5.00	5.00	10.00	10.00	5.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	5.00	5.00	10.00
0	i18n and l10n	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5	Validation	5.00	5.00	5.00	2.50	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	2.50	2.50
10	Multi-language Support (Groovy / Scala)	5.00	5.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	0.00	5.00
10	Quality of Documentation/Tutorials	5.00	10.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
0	Books Published	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10	REST Support (client and server)	5.00	10.00	5.00	0.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	10.00	10.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
10	Mobile / iPhone Support	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	5.00	10.00	10.00	10.00
0	Degree of Risk	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100	**Weighted Totals**	70	85	67.5	62.5	75	77.5	80	90	82.5	50	82.5	62.5	82.5

Weighted Results

- Grails (90)
- Spring MVC (85)
- Ruby on Rails (82.5)
- Vaadin (82.5)
- Play (82.5)
- GWT (80)



Fighting for 5th

- **Top at Devoxx 2010**
  - GWT
  - Rails
  - Spring MVC
  - Grails
  - Wicket / Struts 2

Fighting for 5th

- **Top at Rich Web Experience 2010**
  - Grails
  - GWT
  - Rails
  - Spring MVC
  - Tapestry / Vaadin

Fighting for 5th

- **Top at TheServerSide Java Symposium 2010**
  - Grails
  - GWT
  - Rails
  - Spring MVC
  - Vaadin

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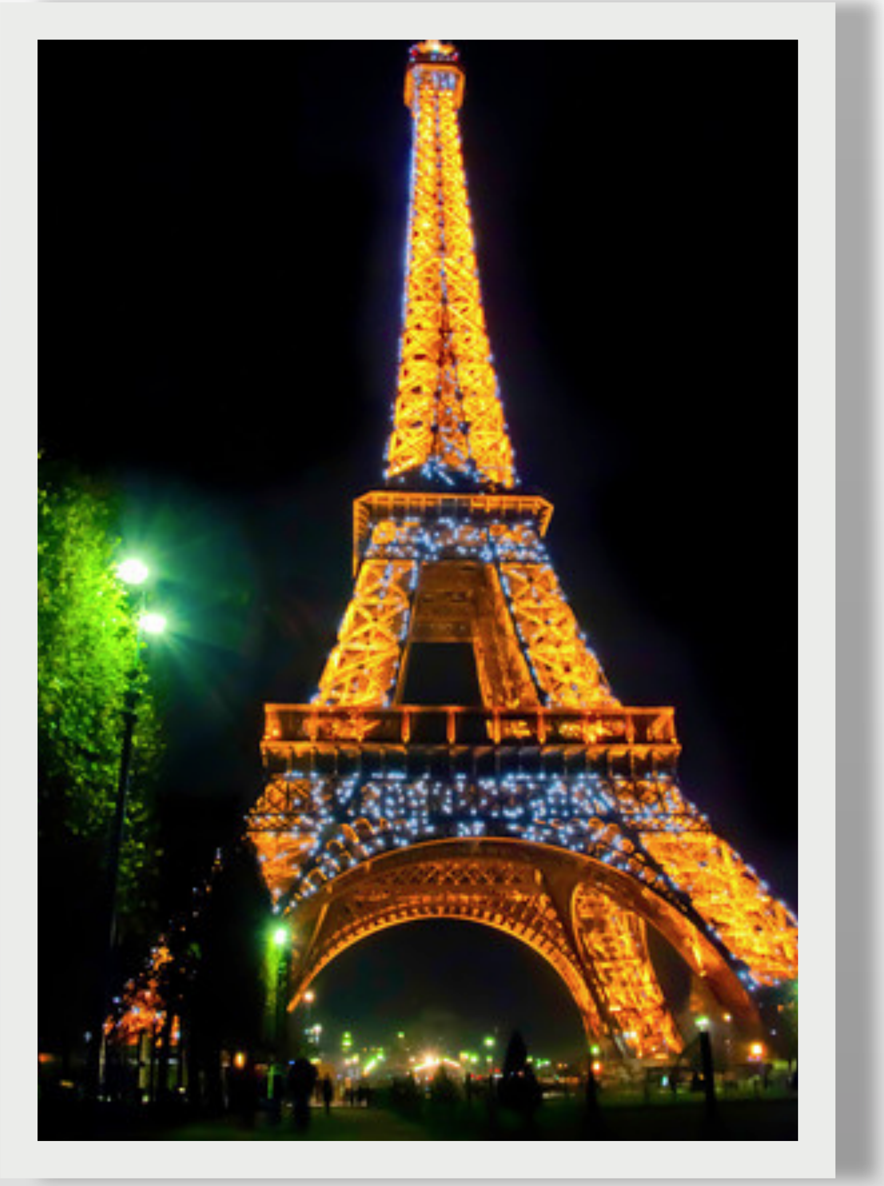
Ratings Logic

- Developer Productivity
- Developer Perception
- Learning Curve
- Project Health
- Developer Availability
- Job Trends

Ratings Logic

- Templating
- Components
- Ajax
- Plugins or Add-Ons
- Scalability
- Testing Support



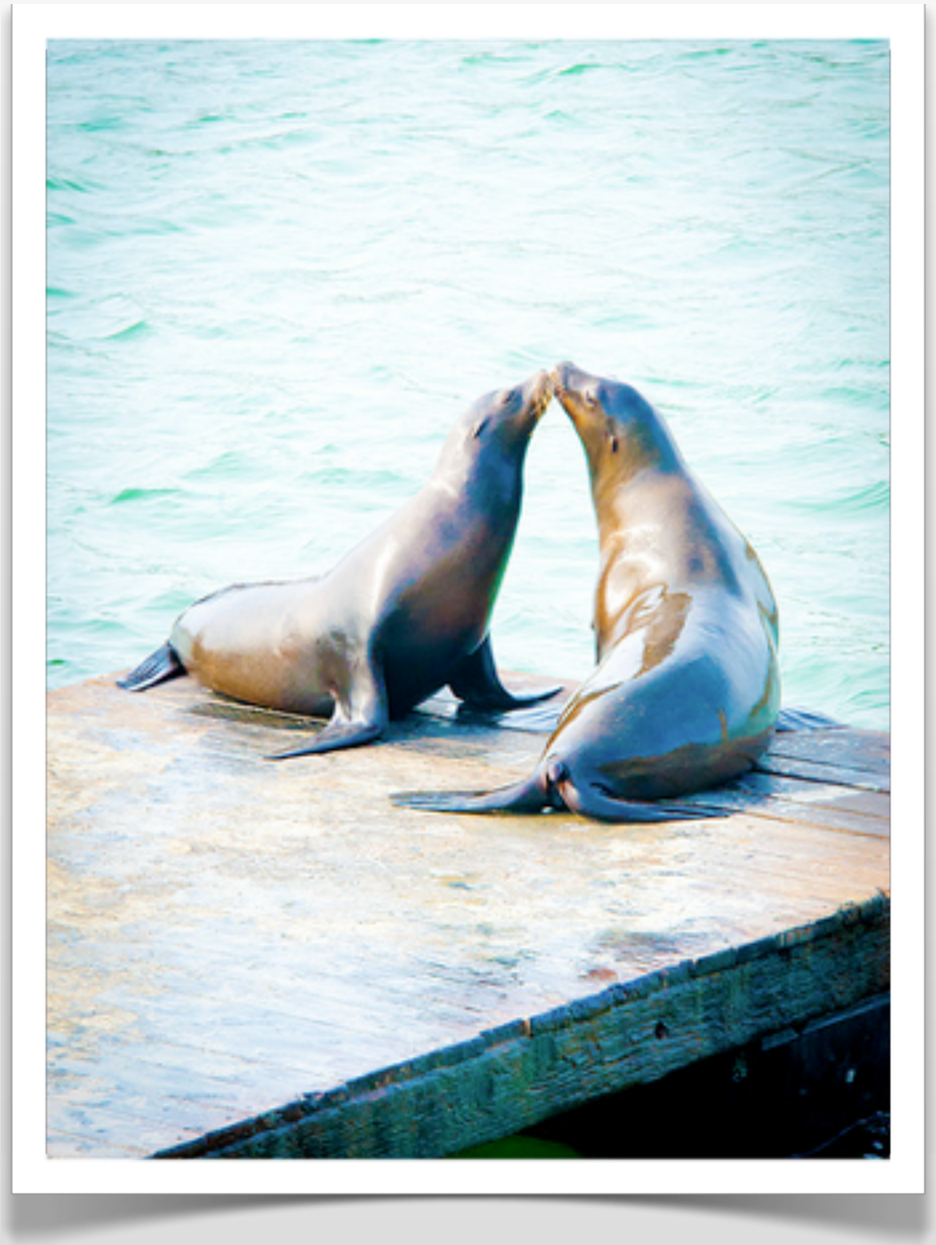
Ratings Logic

- i18n and l10n
- Validation
- Multi-language Support (Groovy / Scala)
- Quality of Documentation/Tutorials
- Books Published
- REST Support (client and server)

Ratings Logic

- Mobile / iPhone Support
- Degree of Risk

http://raibledesigns.com/rd/entry/how_i_calculated_ratings_for



David Pollack's Lift Ratings

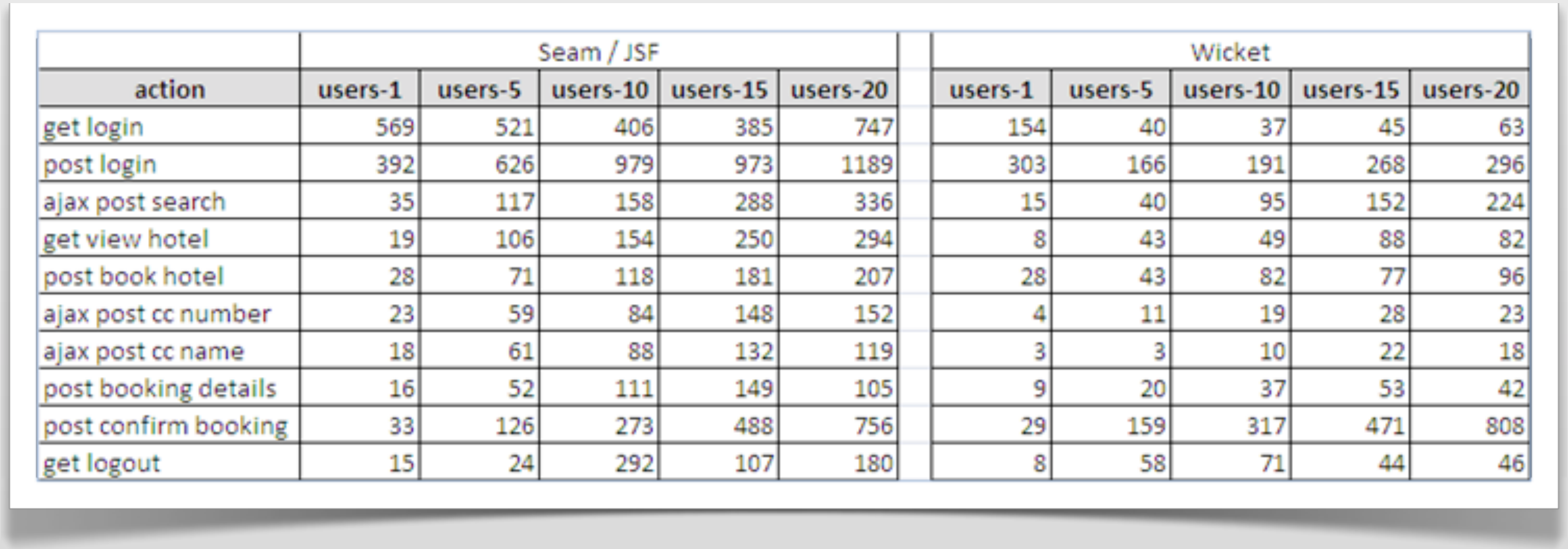
- Developer Productivity: Lift gets a 11, Rails gets a 5, most Java-based frameworks get a 1 or less.
- Developer Perception: Every web framework gets a 1.
- Learning Curve: Lift gets a 2.
- Job Trends, yep, it's zero.

* Matt's scale is 0-1 and my ratings are on Matt's scale, except mine goes to 11.

http://lift.la/my-take-on-matt-raibles-spreadsheet

Peter Thomas's Perfbench

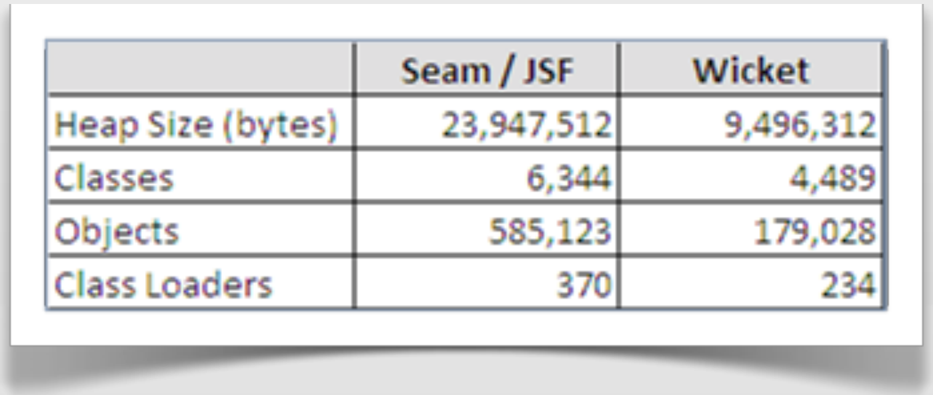
- Seam / JSF vs. Wicket Performance Comparison
  - January 2009: Seam 2.1.1 and Wicket 1.3.5
  - Average page response time in milliseconds



	Seam / JSF					Wicket				
action	users-1	users-5	users-10	users-15	users-20	users-1	users-5	users-10	users-15	users-20
get login	569	521	406	385	747	154	40	37	45	63
post login	392	626	979	973	1189	303	166	191	268	296
ajax post search	35	117	158	288	336	15	40	95	152	224
get view hotel	19	106	154	250	294	8	43	49	88	82
post book hotel	28	71	118	181	207	28	43	82	77	96
ajax post cc number	23	59	84	148	152	4	11	19	28	23
ajax post cc name	18	61	88	132	119	3	3	10	22	18
post booking details	16	52	111	149	105	9	20	37	53	42
post confirm booking	33	126	273	488	756	29	159	317	471	808
get logout	15	24	292	107	180	8	58	71	44	46

Peter Thomas's Perfbench

- On the Seam / JSF side, the 20 sessions each take up about 800 KB adding up to around 16 MB total. On the Wicket side the 20 sessions add up to around 1.5 MB.



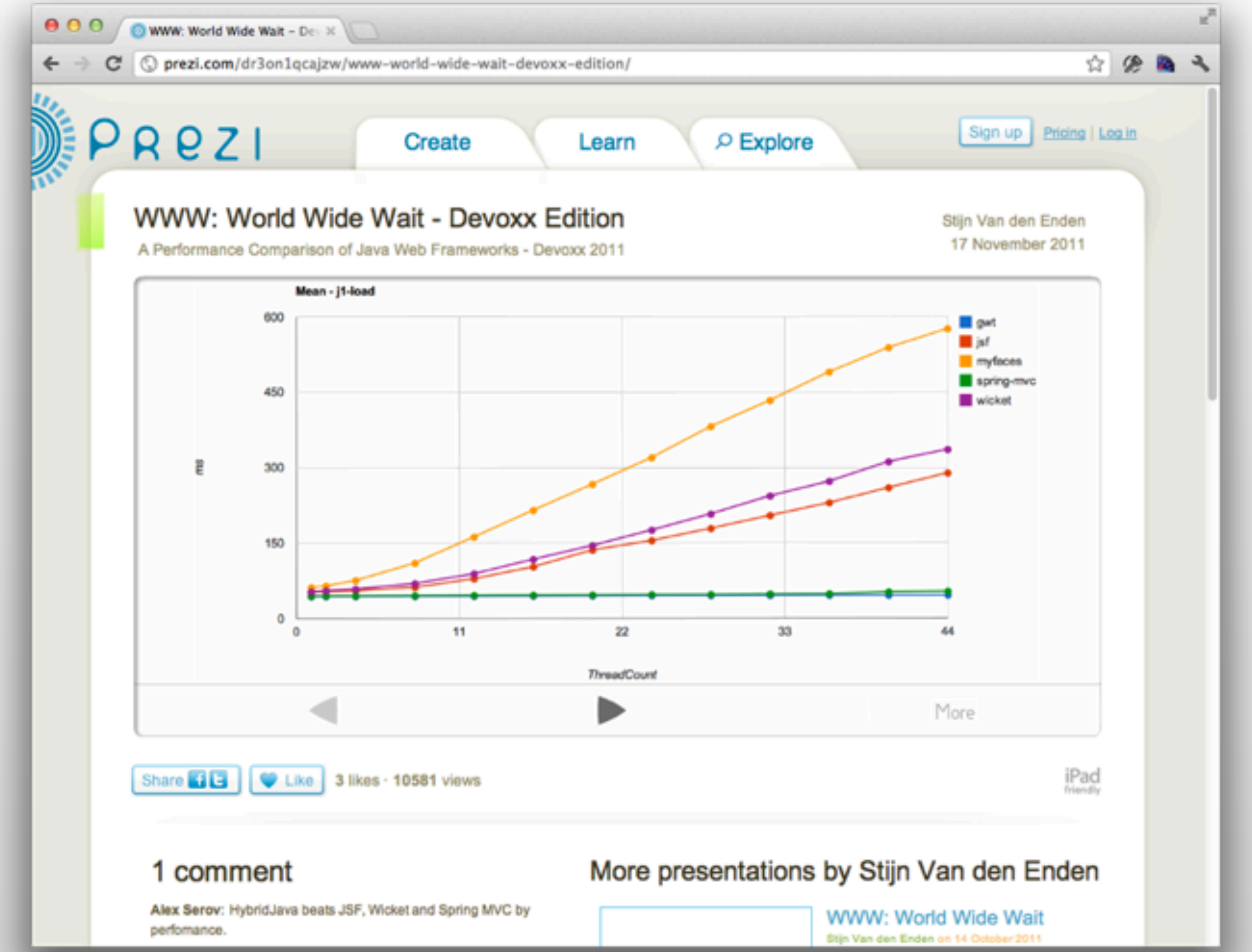
	Seam / JSF	Wicket
Heap Size (bytes)	23,947,512	9,496,312
Classes	6,344	4,489
Objects	585,123	179,028
Class Loaders	370	234

- + Lots of banter between Peter and Seam developers @ http://bit.ly/3X50Gc

Peter Thomas’s Perfbench

- Peter’s Observations:
  - Grails was far more productive than Tapestry 5.
  - Grails still has some ways to go in terms of performance.
  - Overall, Wicket is fastest, with Tapestry coming a close second.
  - Wicket takes up the least amount of heap.
  - Session usage of the Seam + JSF combination is significantly higher compared to the rest.

World Wide Wait - Devoxx



WWW: World Wide Wait - De ×
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WWW: World Wide Wait - Devoxx Edition

A Performance Comparison of Java Web Frameworks - Devoxx 2011

Stijn Van den Enden
17 November 2011

3 likes · 10581 views

1 comment

Alex Serov: HybridJava beats JSF, Wicket and Spring MVC by perfomance.

More presentations by Stijn Van den Enden

WWW: World Wide Wait

Stijn Van den Enden on 14 October 2011

http://www.parleys.com/d/2942

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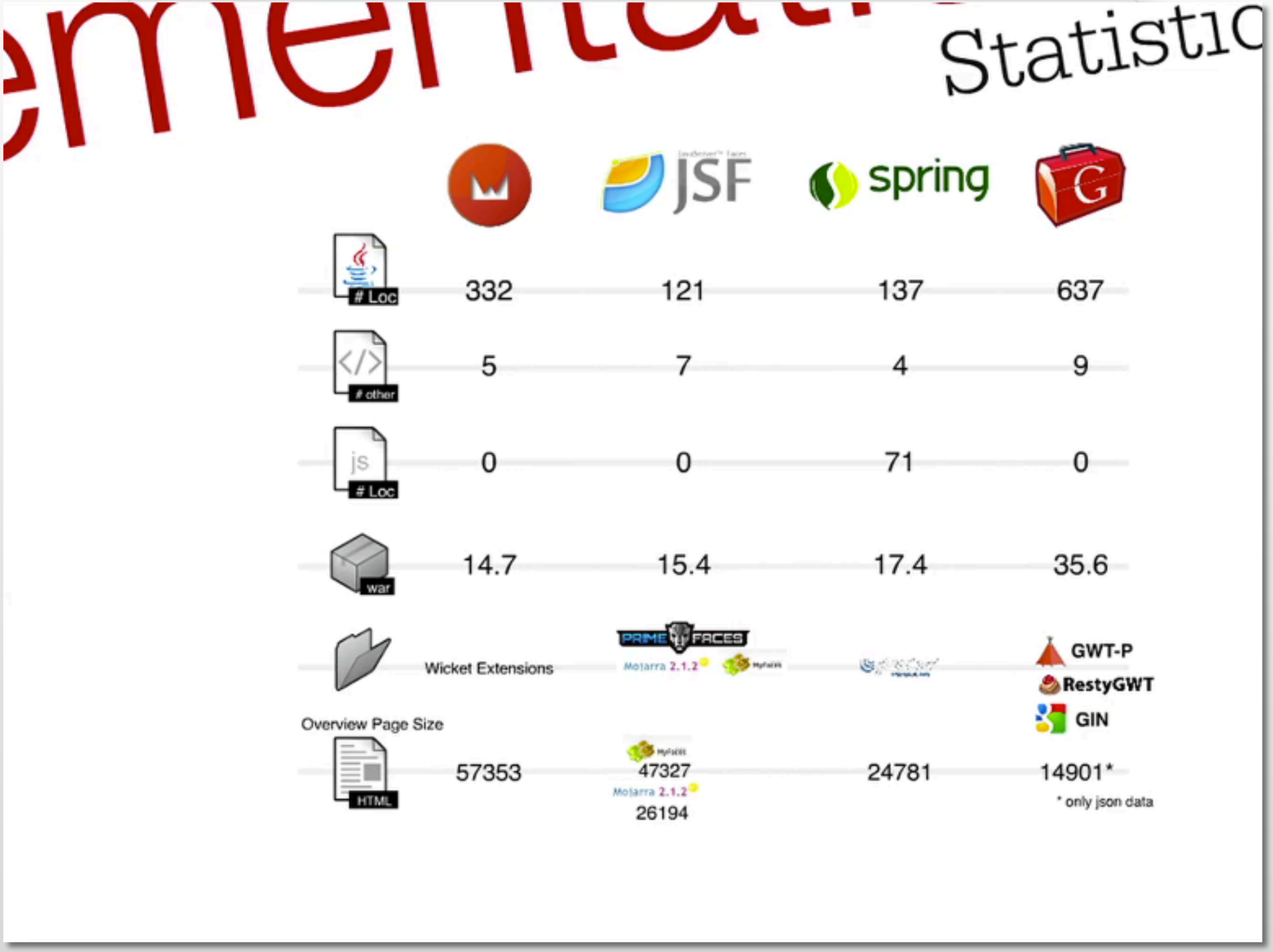
World Wide Wait - Devoxx



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Statistic

		JSF	spring	G
# Loc	332	121	137	637
# other	5	7	4	9
js # Loc	0	0	71	0
war	14.7	15.4	17.4	35.6
	Wicket Extensions	PRIME FACES Mojarra 2.1.2 MyFaces		GWT-P RestyGWT GIN
Overview Page Size HTML	57353	MyFaces 47327 Mojarra 2.1.2 26194	24781	14901*

* only json data

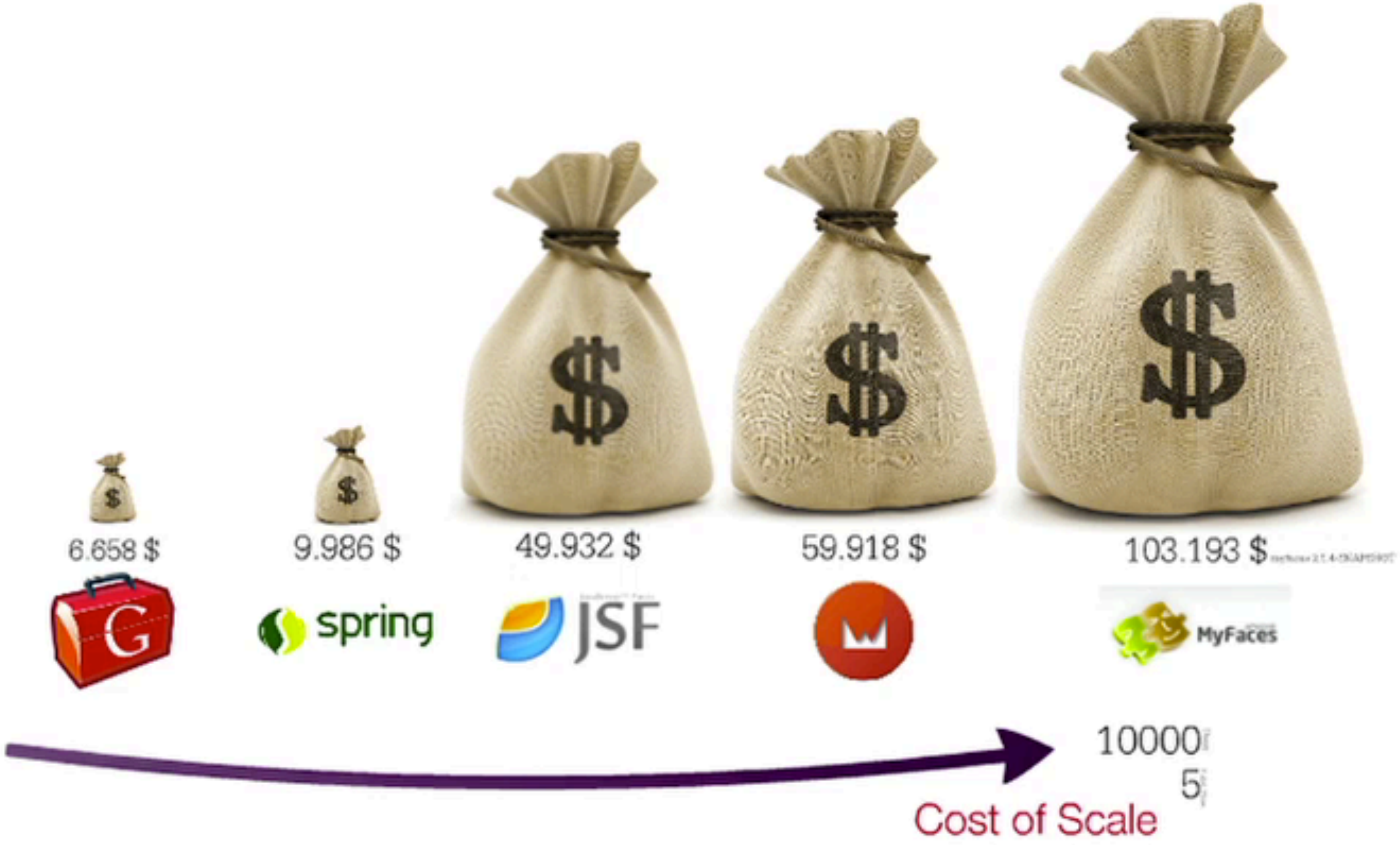
World Wide Wait - Devoxx

>16 GB of data

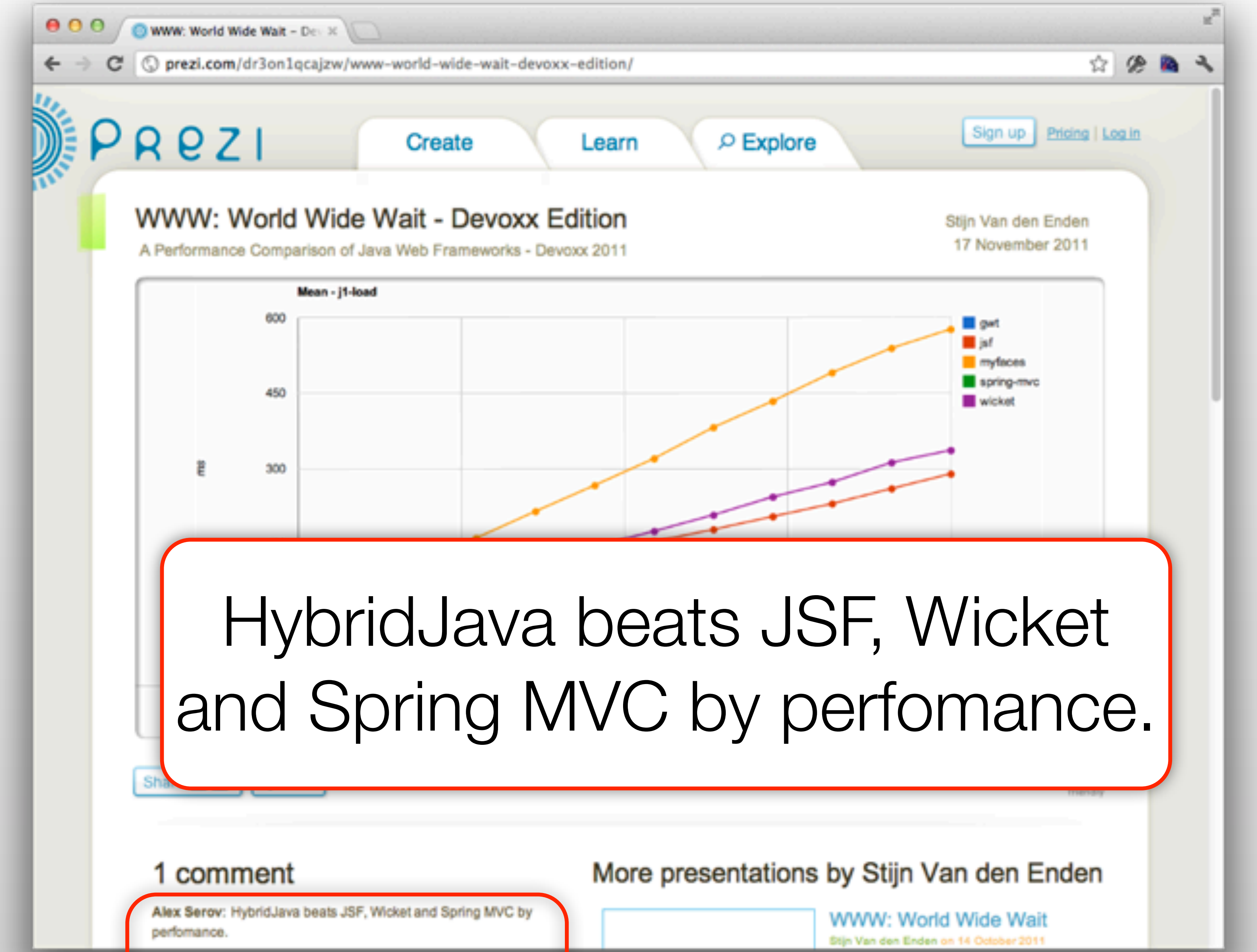
World Wide Wait - Devoxx

>700 hours of test runs

World Wide Wait - Devoxx



World Wide Wait - Devoxx



WWW: World Wide Wait - De

prezi.com/dr3on1qcajzw/www-world-wide-wait-devoxx-edition/

WWW: World Wide Wait - Devoxx Edition

A Performance Comparison of Java Web Frameworks - Devoxx 2011

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Alex Serov: HybridJava beats JSF, Wicket and Spring MVC by perfomance.

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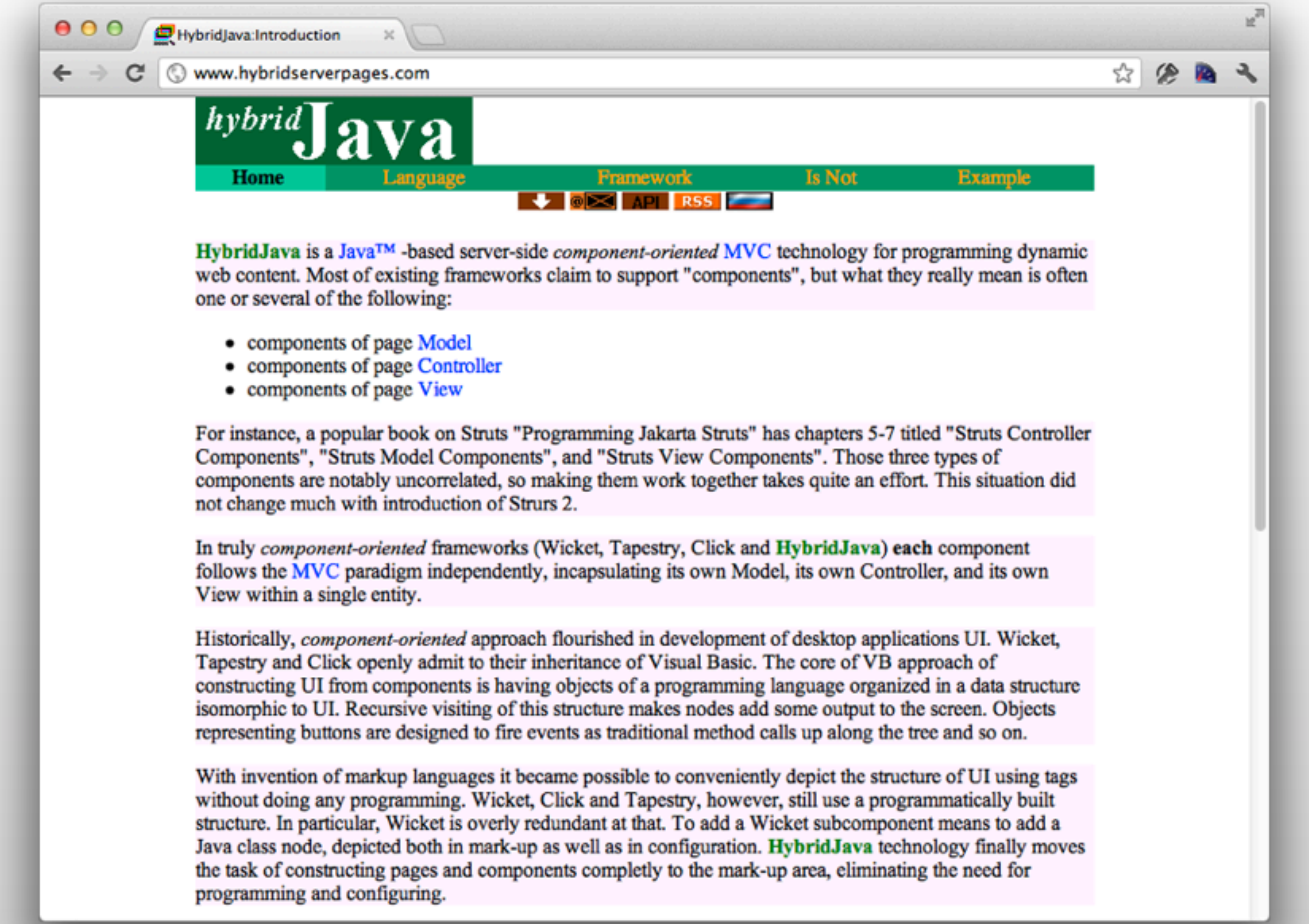
WWW: World Wide Wait

Stijn Van den Enden on 14 October 2011

HybridJava beats JSF, Wicket and Spring MVC by perfomance.

HybridJava - Really?



HybridJava is a Java™ -based server-side *component-oriented* MVC technology for programming dynamic web content. Most of existing frameworks claim to support "components", but what they really mean is often one or several of the following:

- components of page Model
- components of page Controller
- components of page View

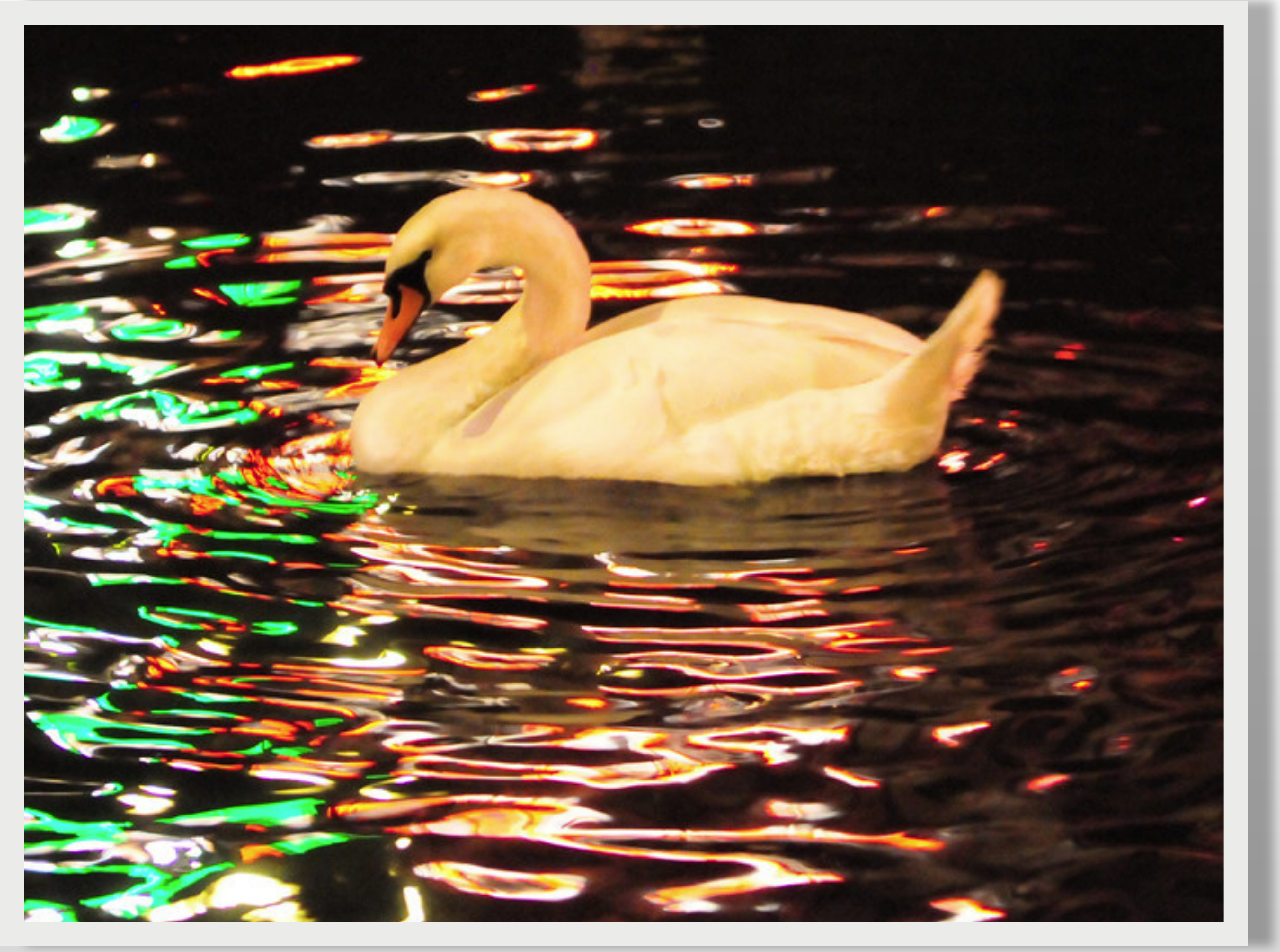
For instance, a popular book on Struts "Programming Jakarta Struts" has chapters 5-7 titled "Struts Controller Components", "Struts Model Components", and "Struts View Components". Those three types of components are notably uncorrelated, so making them work together takes quite an effort. This situation did not change much with introduction of Struts 2.

In truly *component-oriented* frameworks (Wicket, Tapestry, Click and **HybridJava**) **each** component follows the MVC paradigm independently, incapsulating its own Model, its own Controller, and its own View within a single entity.

Historically, *component-oriented* approach flourished in development of desktop applications UI. Wicket, Tapestry and Click openly admit to their inheritance of Visual Basic. The core of VB approach of constructing UI from components is having objects of a programming language organized in a data structure isomorphic to UI. Recursive visiting of this structure makes nodes add some output to the screen. Objects representing buttons are designed to fire events as traditional method calls up along the tree and so on.

With invention of markup languages it became possible to conveniently depict the structure of UI using tags without doing any programming. Wicket, Click and Tapestry, however, still use a programmatically built structure. In particular, Wicket is overly redundant at that. To add a Wicket subcomponent means to add a Java class node, depicted both in mark-up as well as in configuration. **HybridJava** technology finally moves the task of constructing pages and components complelty to the mark-up area, eliminating the need for programming and configuring.

Pros and Cons



Grails

- **Pros**
  - Easy dynamic language transition for Java Developers
  - Groovy
  - Plugins for all types of applications
- **Cons**
  - Groovy learning targets Java Developers
  - Stack traces are horrendous
  - Knowledge of underlying frameworks not required, but helpful

GWT

- **Pros**
  - Write Java => Produces Optimized JavaScript
  - Easy to learn and develop with standard Java Tools
  - Vibrant Community
- **Cons**
  - You have to know Java
  - Slow to compile, difficult to test
  - More like a JSP Tag Library than a web framework

Ruby on Rails

- **Pros**
  - Easy to learn and understand for Web Developers
  - Lots and lots of documentation
  - Passionate Community
- **Cons**
  - Slightly less performant by default
  - Dynamic language means more tests
  - Development Tools and Debugging

Spring MVC

- **Pros**
  - Easy Configuration with Annotations and Conventions
  - Integrates with many view options seamlessly: JSP/JSTL, Tiles, FreeMarker, Excel, PDF, JSON
  - Excellent REST Support
- **Cons**
  - Instant reload not built-in, need JRebel or Spring Roo
  - No open development process, need to be SpringSource
  - Ajax requires 3rd-party library (can be a good thing!)

Vaadin

- **Pros**
  - Uses GWT API for developing view
  - Vibrant Community and company backing
  - Excellent Themes and Layouts support
- **Cons**
  - Large memory footprint, state stored in session
  - Sketchy (?) because backed by a commercial organization
  - Joonas keeps telling me my cons are wrong

Wicket

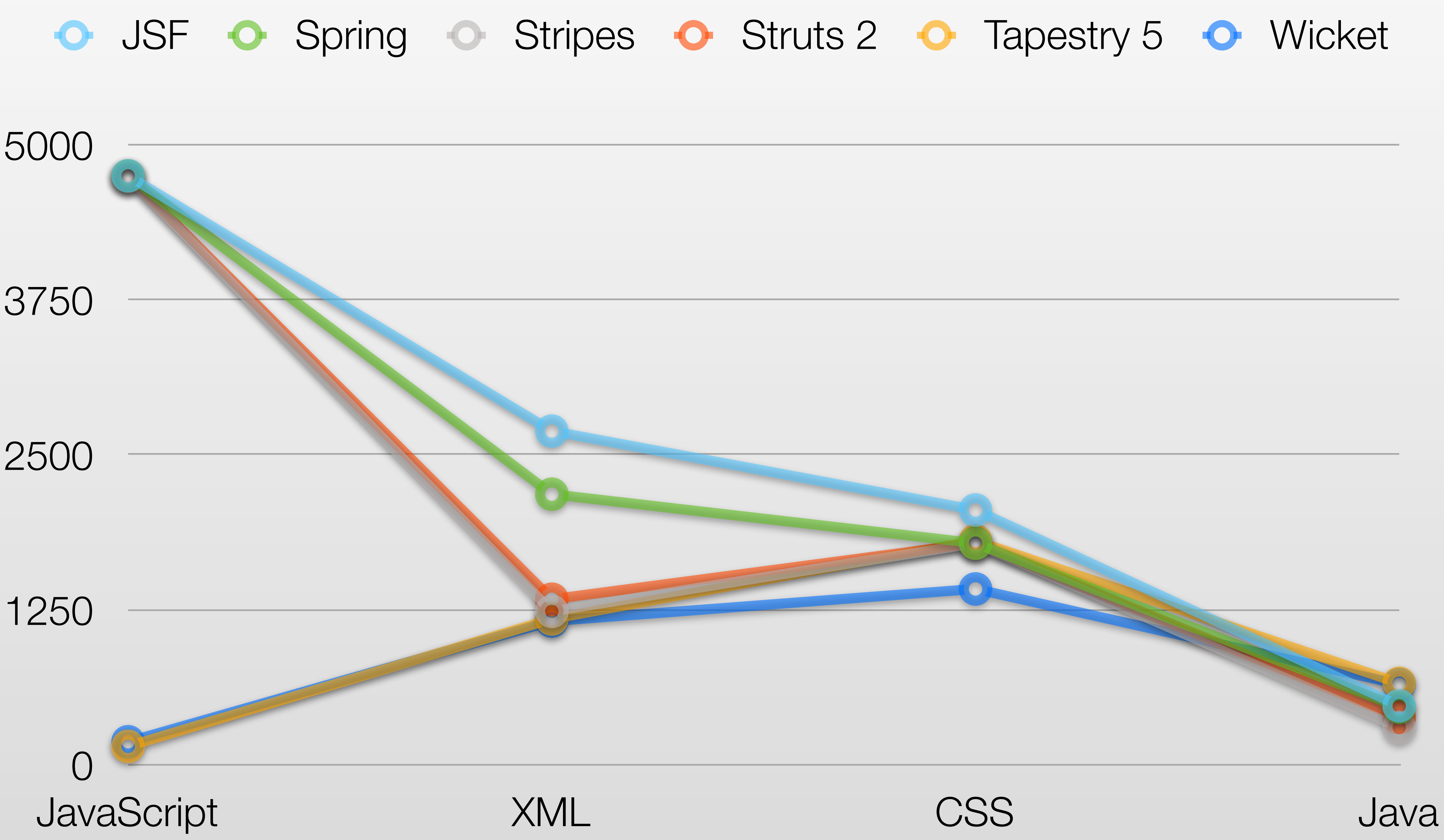
- **Pros**
  - Great for Java Developers
  - Tight binding between pages and views
  - Active community - support from creators
- **Cons**
  - No Jobs or Developers
  - Stateful by default
  - HTML Templates live next to Java code by default

Tapestry

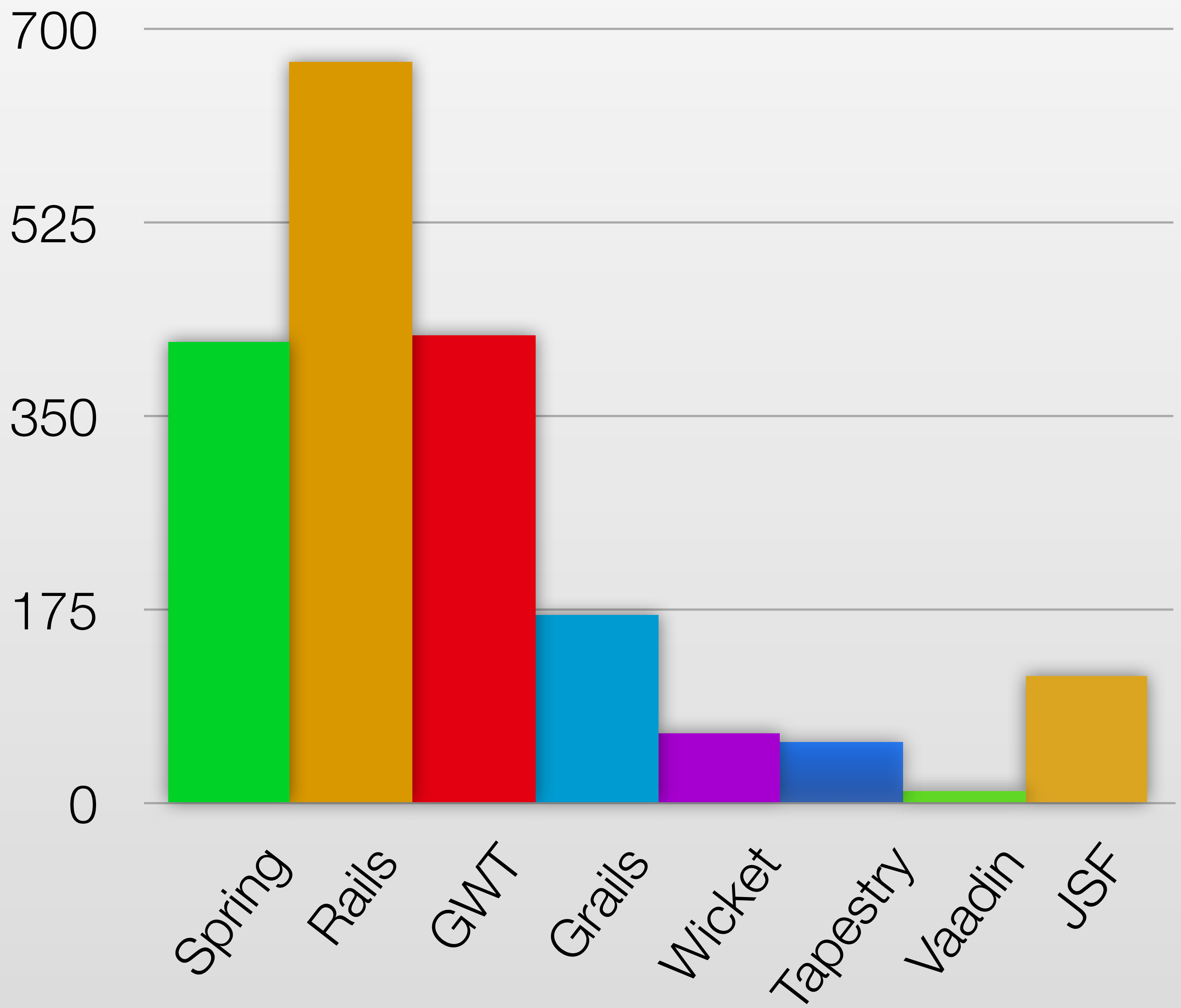
- **Pros**
  - Live Class Reloading
  - Development emphasis on performance and scalability
  - Excellent Exception Reporting
- **Cons**
  - No Jobs
  - Prototype baked in for JS Library
  - Annotations vs. Conventions

Pretty Graphs

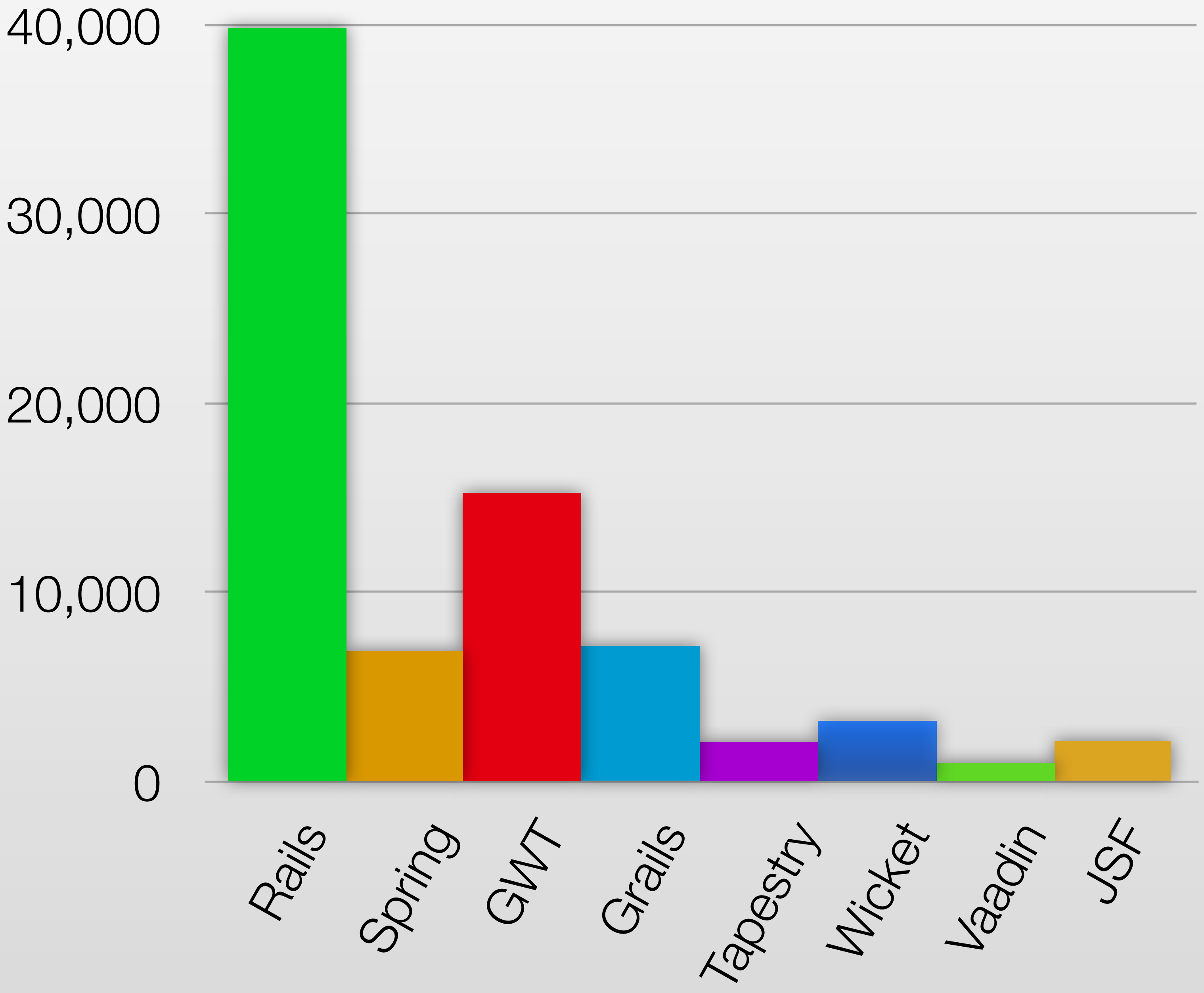
LOC in AppFuse Light



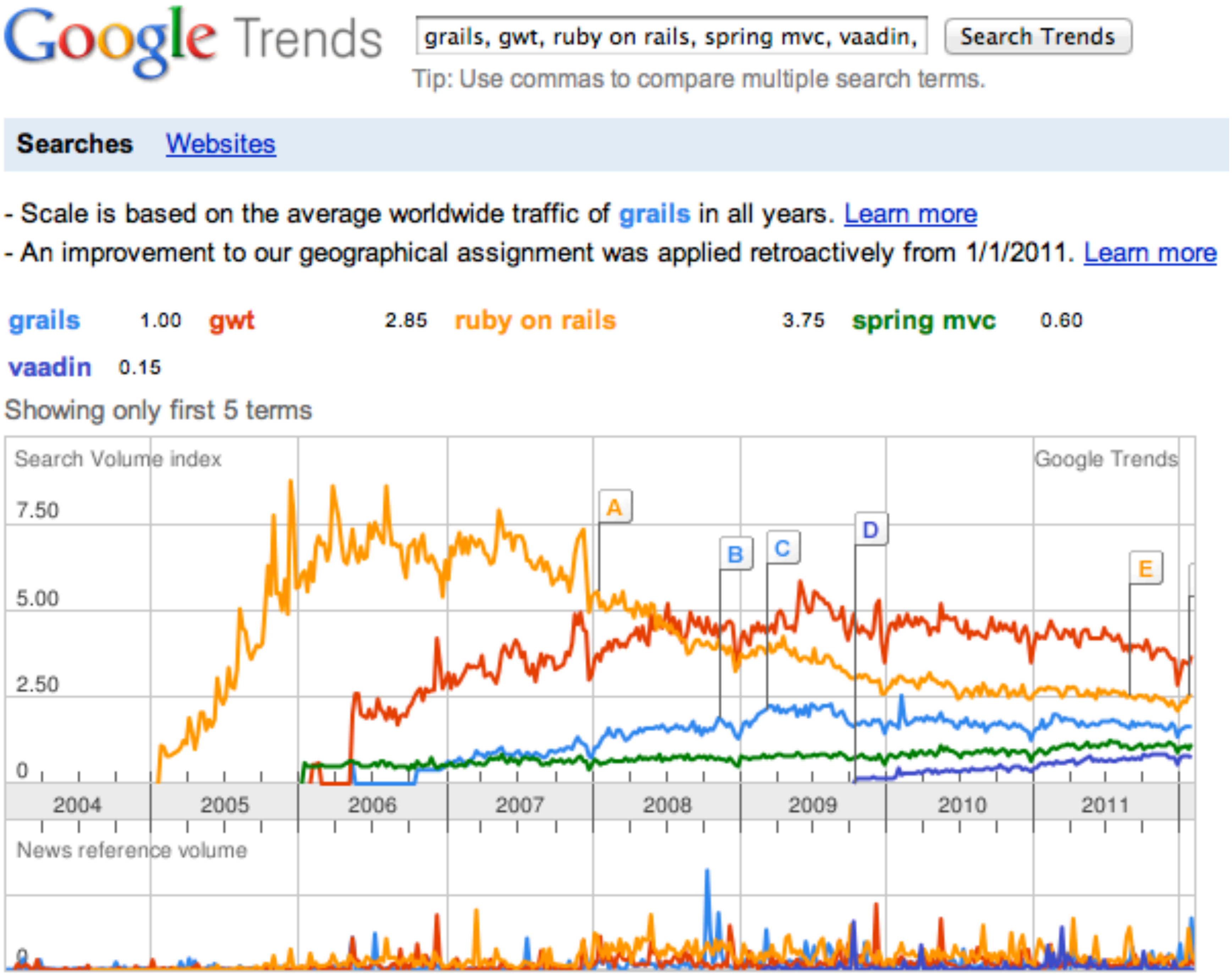
Jobs on Dice (World)



LinkedIn Skills (World)



Pretty Graphs



Google Trends

grails, gwt, ruby on rails, spring mvc, vaadin,

Search Trends

Tip: Use commas to compare multiple search terms.

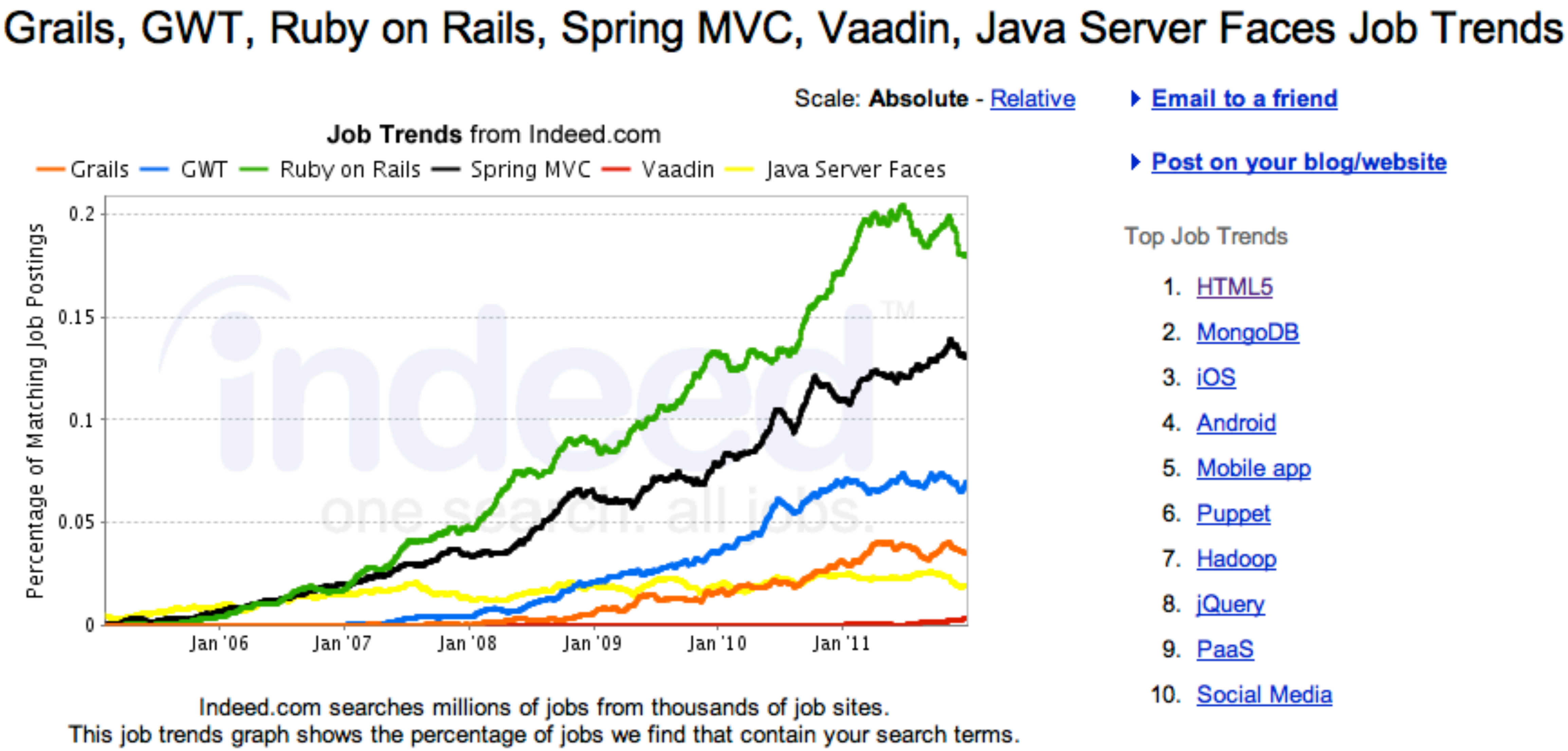
Searches Websites

- Scale is based on the average worldwide traffic of grails in all years. Learn more
- An improvement to our geographical assignment was applied retroactively from 1/1/2011. Learn more

grails	1.00
gwt	2.85
ruby on rails	3.75
spring mvc	0.60
vaadin	0.15

Showing only first 5 terms

Pretty Graphs



Grails, GWT, Ruby on Rails, Spring MVC, Vaadin, Java Server Faces Job Trends

Scale: **Absolute** - Relative

▸ **Email to a friend**

▸ **Post on your blog/website**

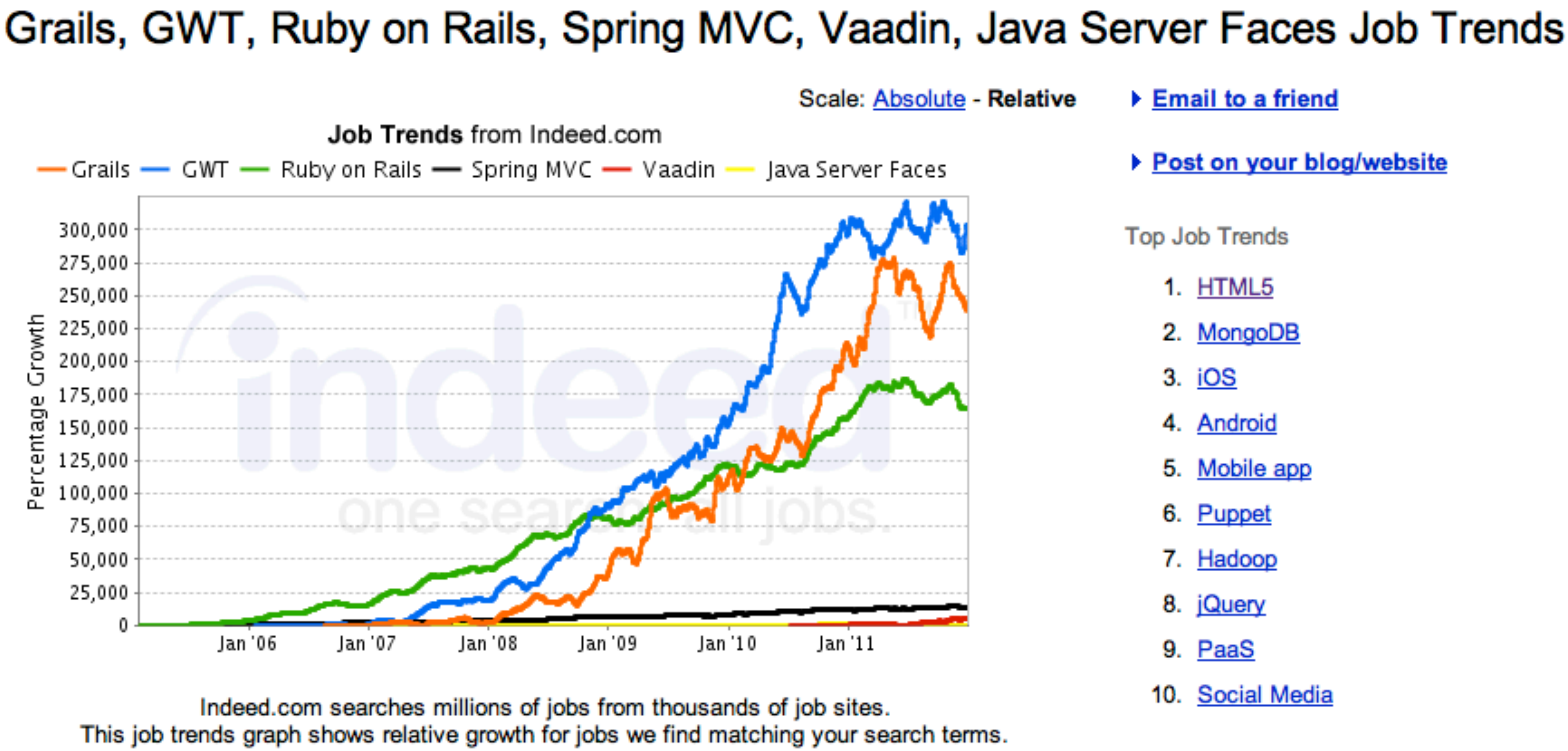
Job Trends from Indeed.com

Indeed.com searches millions of jobs from thousands of job sites.
This job trends graph shows the percentage of jobs we find that contain your search terms.

Top Job Trends

1. HTML5
2. MongoDB
3. iOS
4. Android
5. Mobile app
6. Puppet
7. Hadoop
8. jQuery
9. PaaS
10. Social Media

Pretty Graphs



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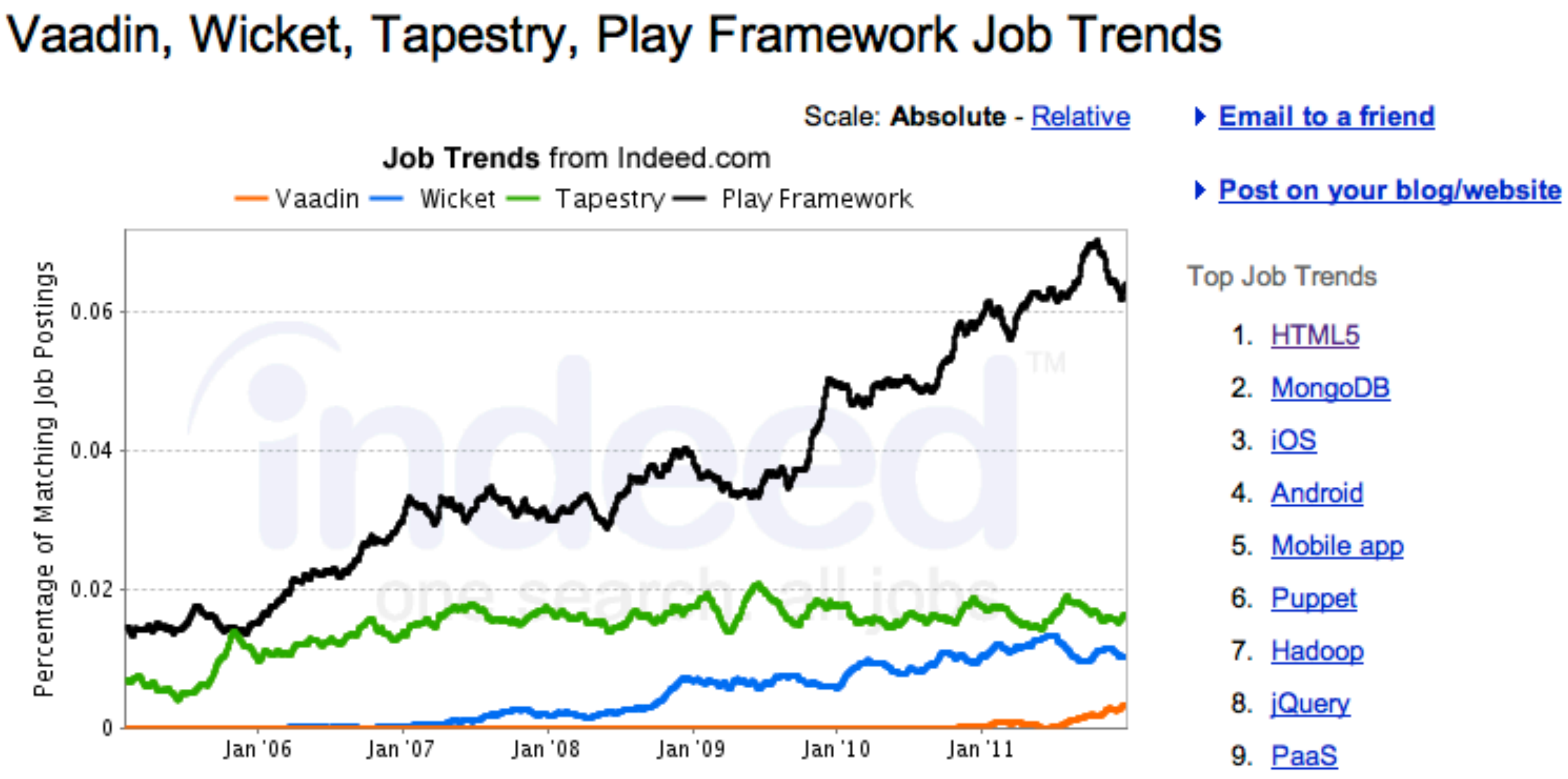

Vaadin, Wicket, Tapestry, Play Framework Job Trends

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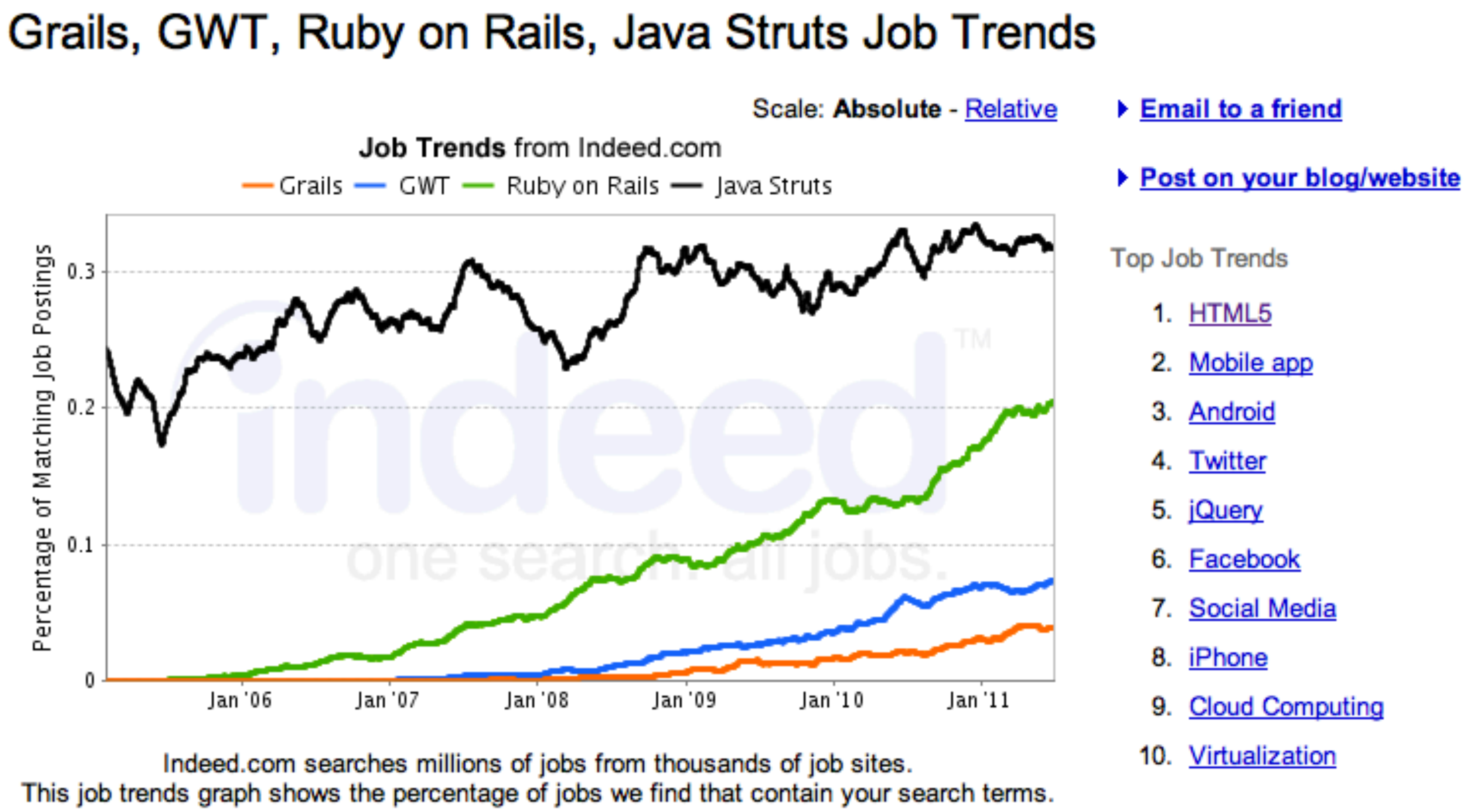

Grails, GWT, Ruby on Rails, Java Struts Job Trends

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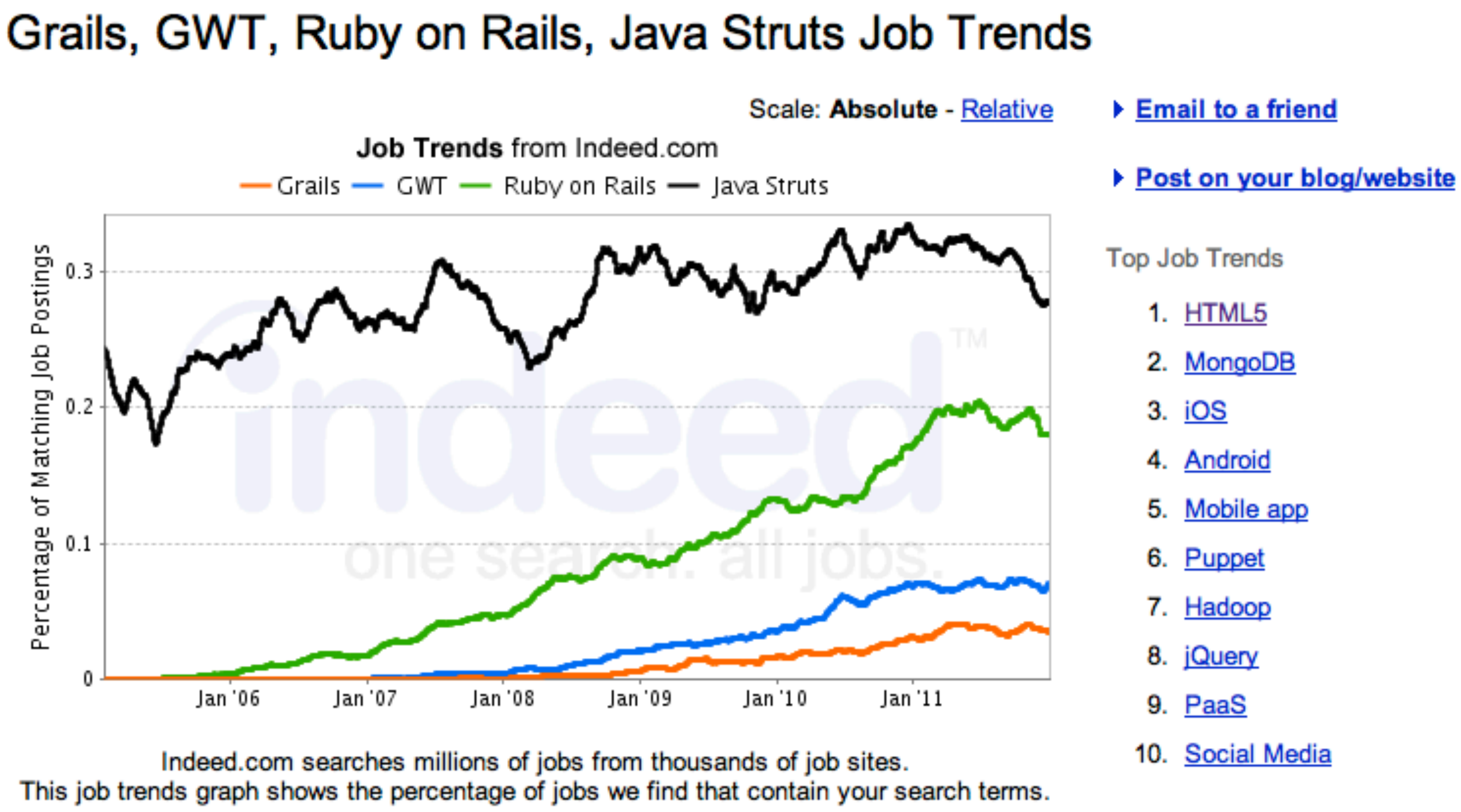
3. Android
4. Twitter
5. jQuery
6. Facebook
7. Social Media
8. iPhone
9. Cloud Computing
10. Virtualization

Pretty Graphs



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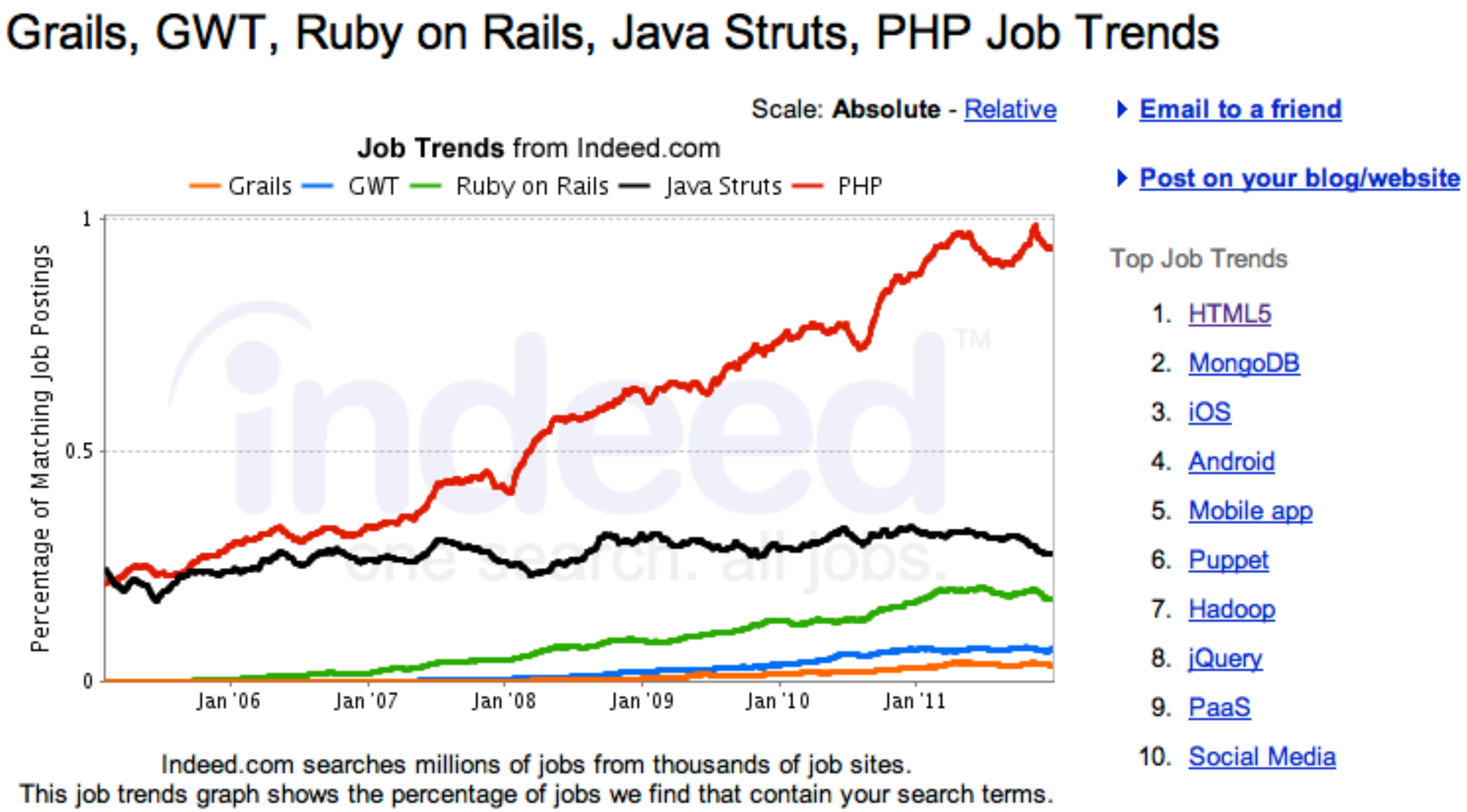

Grails, GWT, Ruby on Rails, Java Struts, PHP Job Trends

Scale: **Absolute** - Relative

Job Trends from Indeed.com
— Grails — GWT — Ruby on Rails — Java Struts — PHP
Percentage of Matching Job Postings
1
0.5
0
Jan '06
Jan '07
Jan '08
Jan '09
Jan '10
Jan '11
indeed
one search. all jobs.
TM

Indeed.com searches millions of jobs from thousands of job sites.
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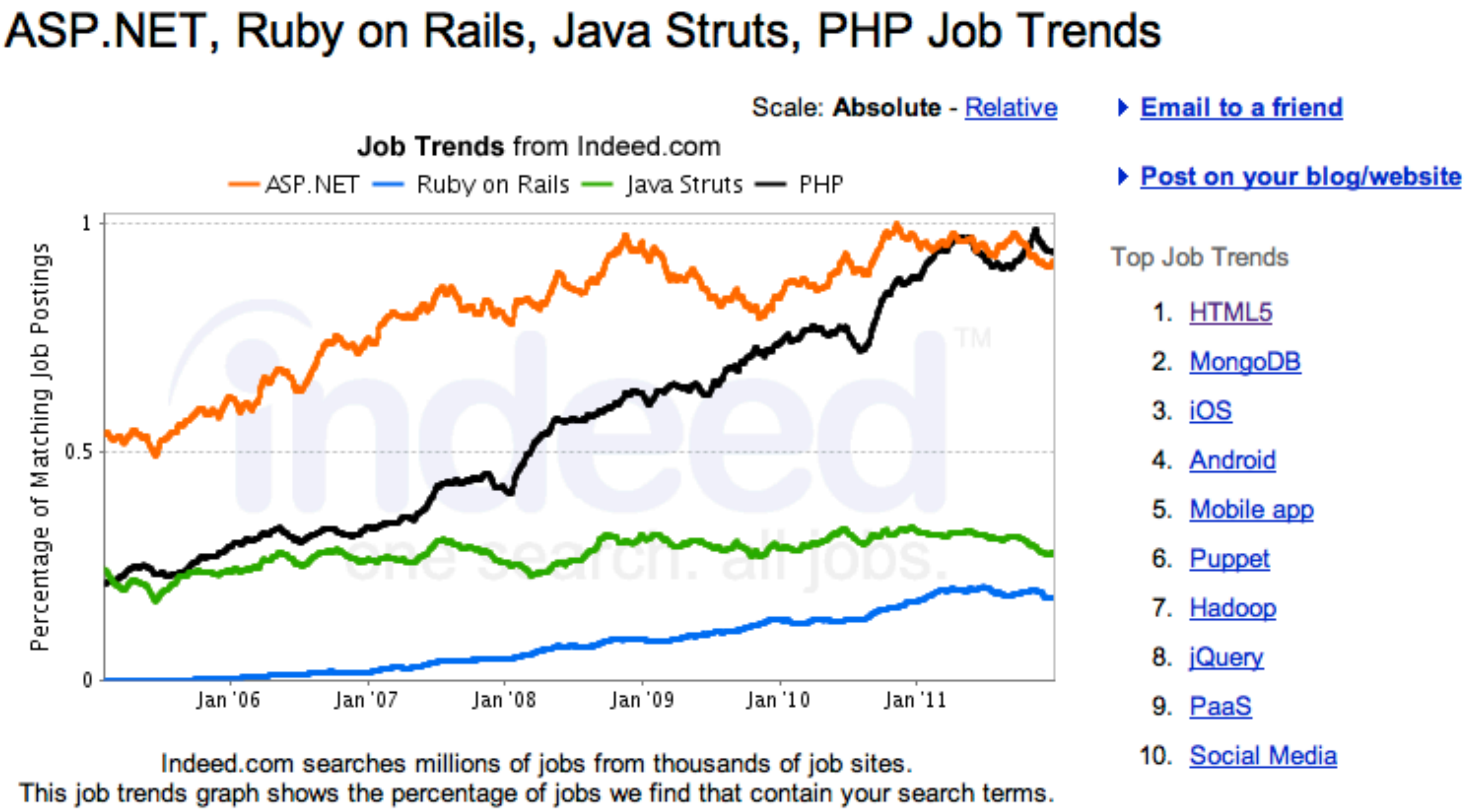

ASP.NET, Ruby on Rails, Java Struts, PHP Job Trends

Scale: **Absolute** - Relative

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▸ **Post on your blog/website**

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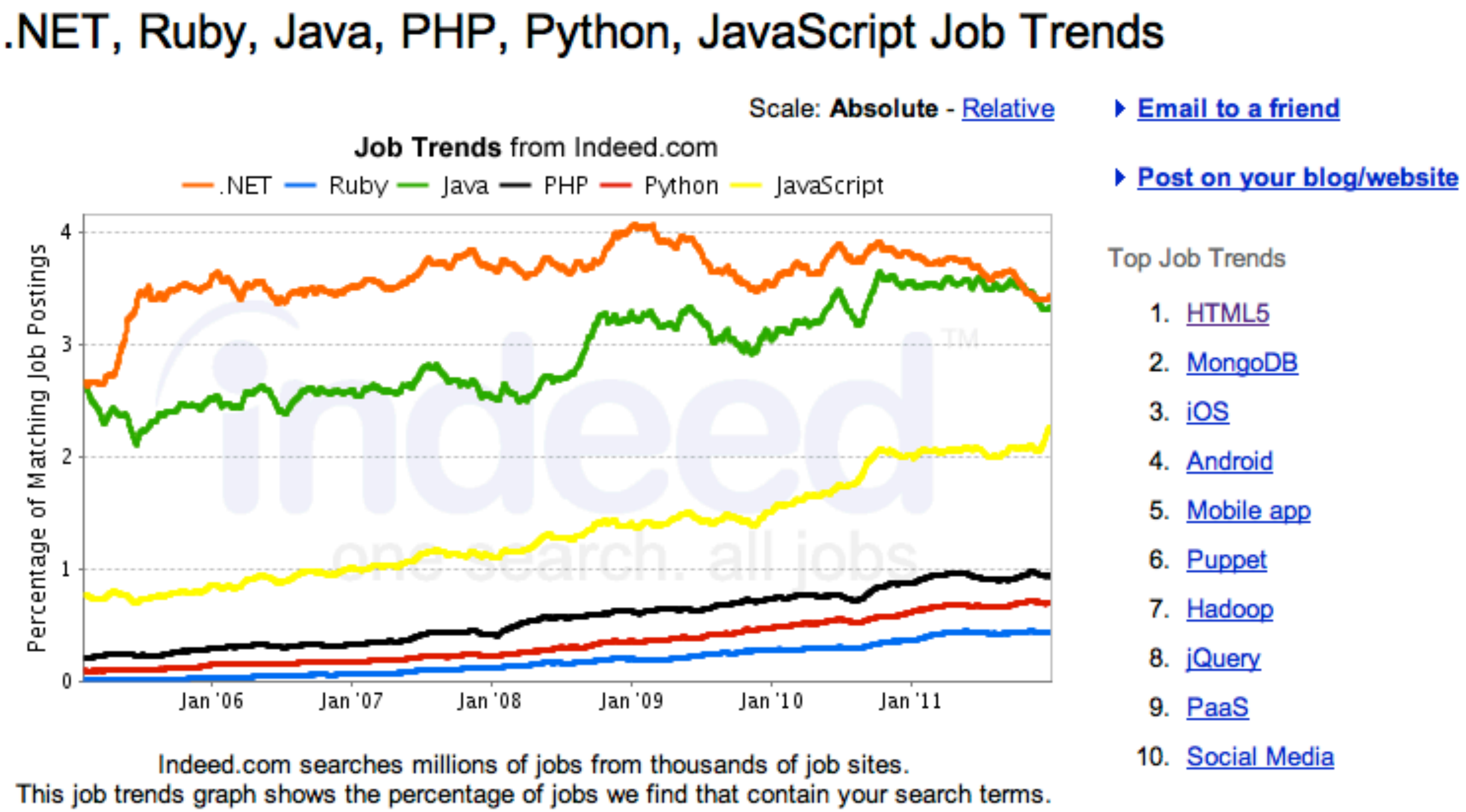

.NET, Ruby, Java, PHP, Python, JavaScript Job Trends

Scale: **Absolute** - Relative

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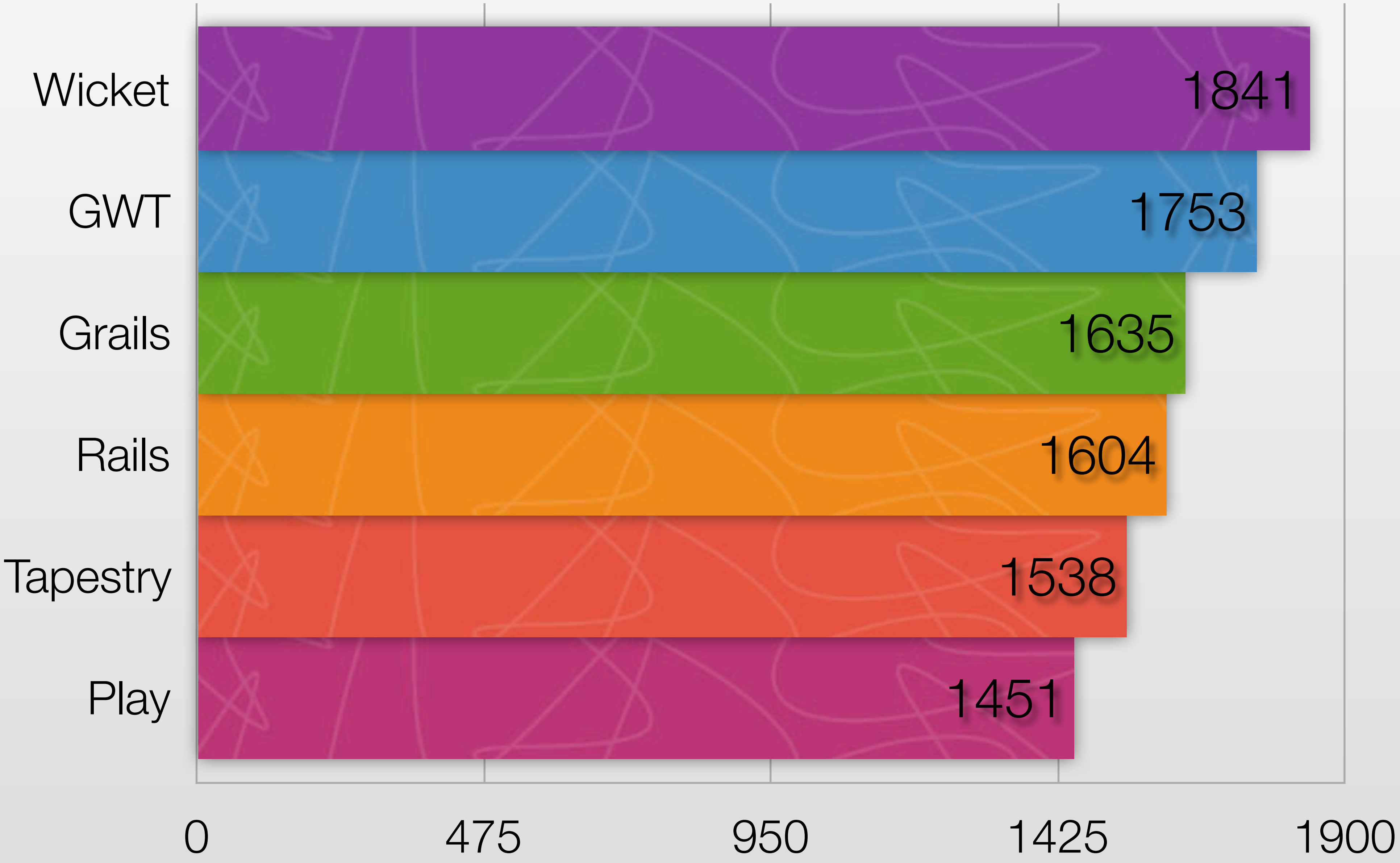
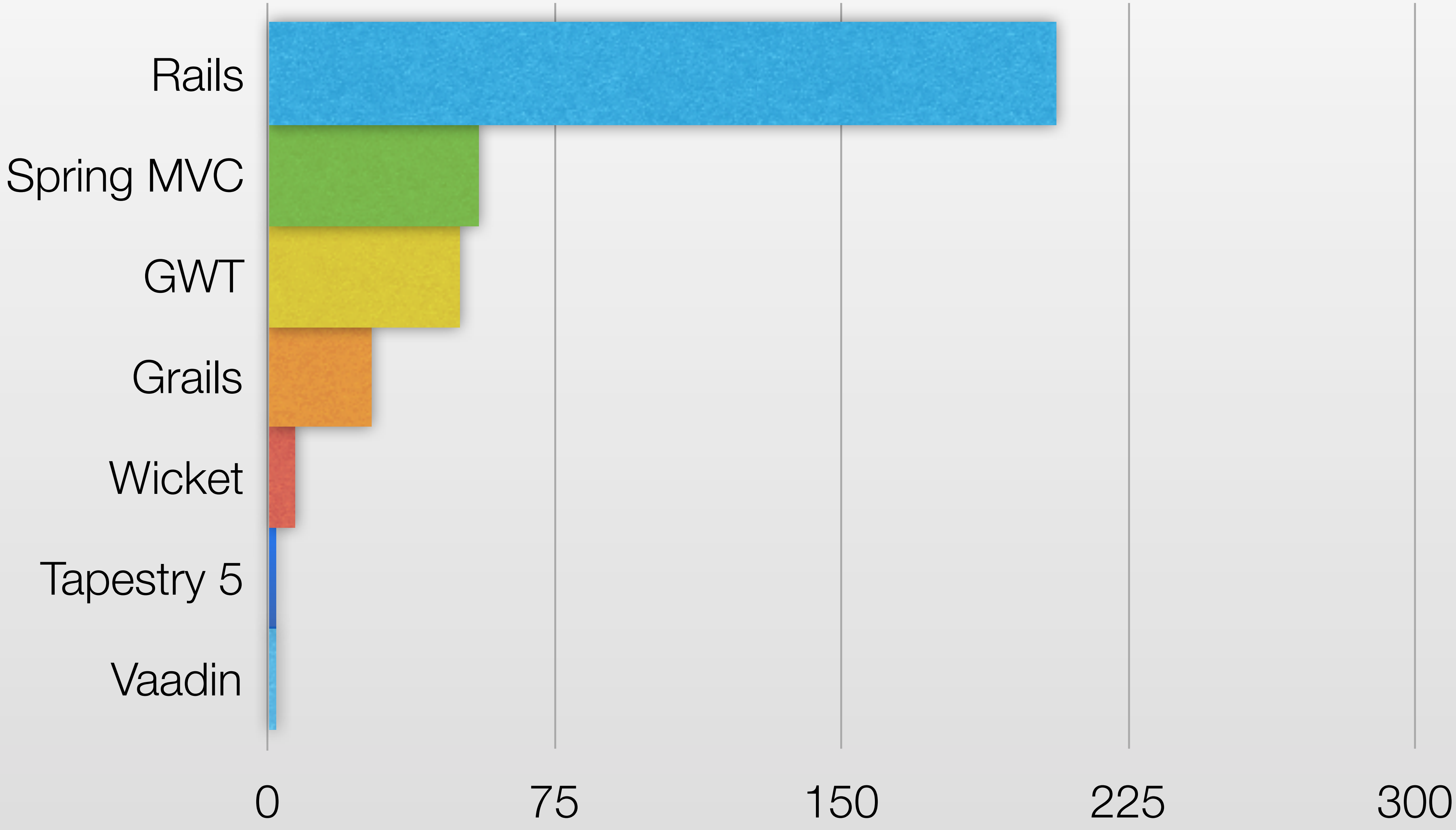
10. Social Media

Mailing List Traffic

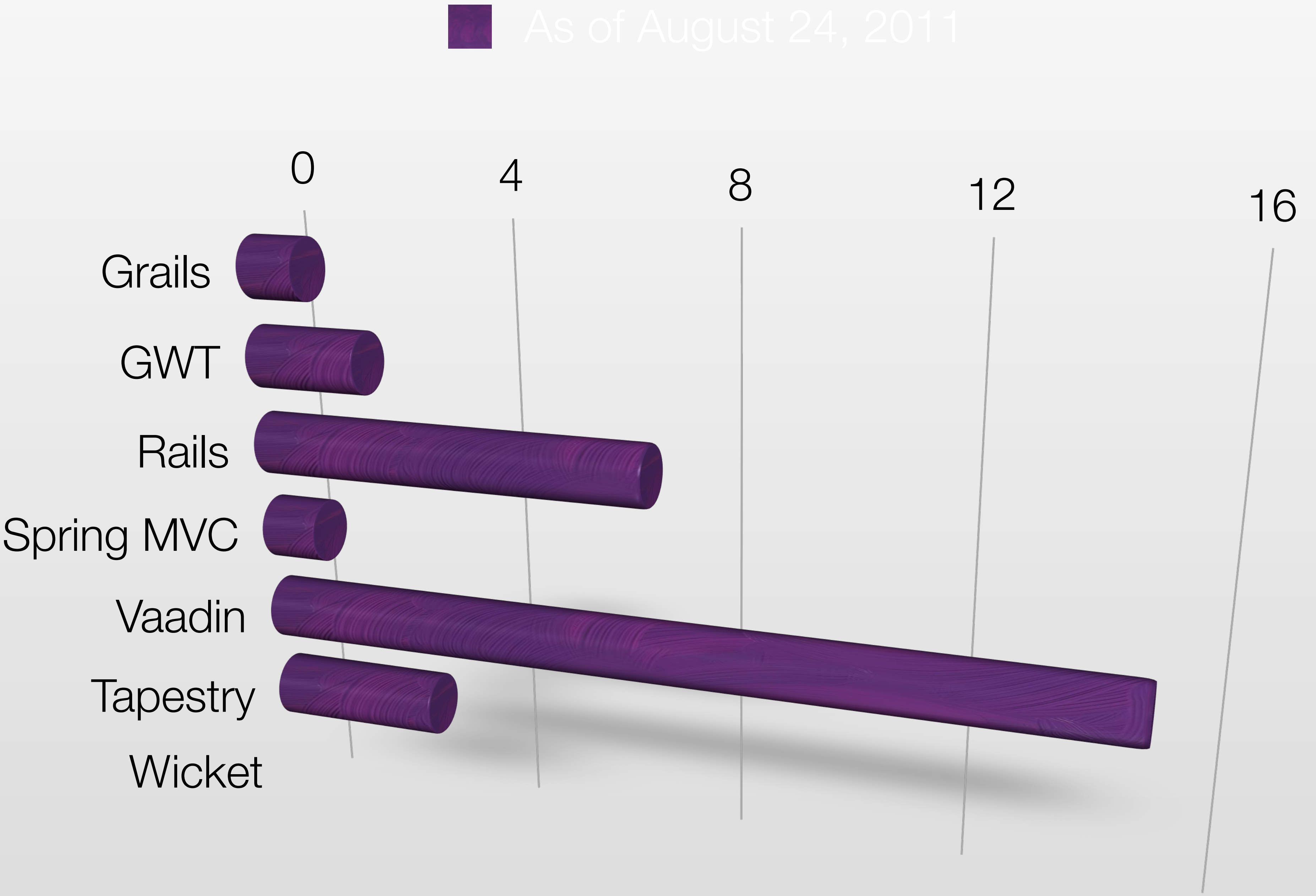


* Spring MVC and Vaadin use Forums, which don't provide this data.

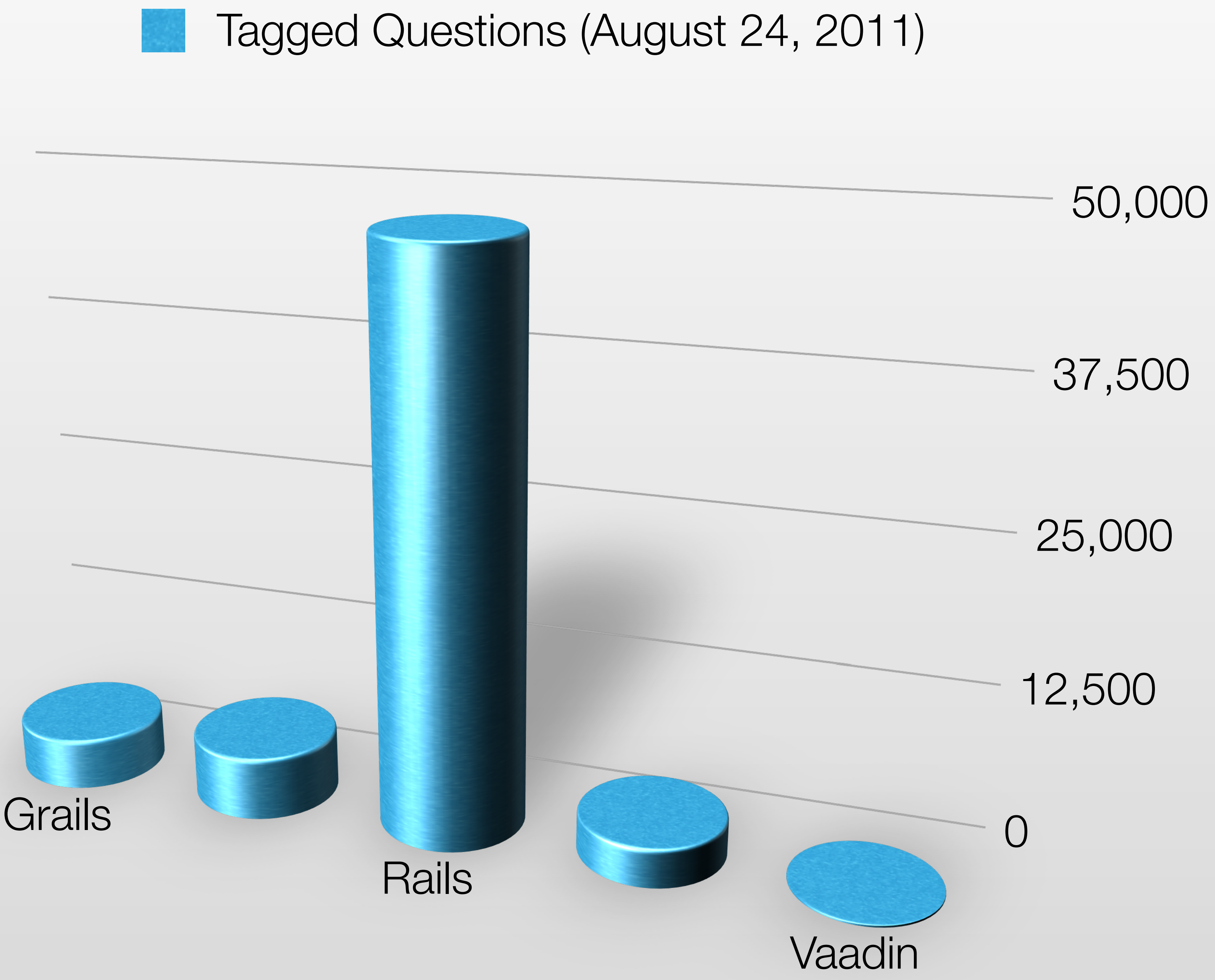
Books on Amazon



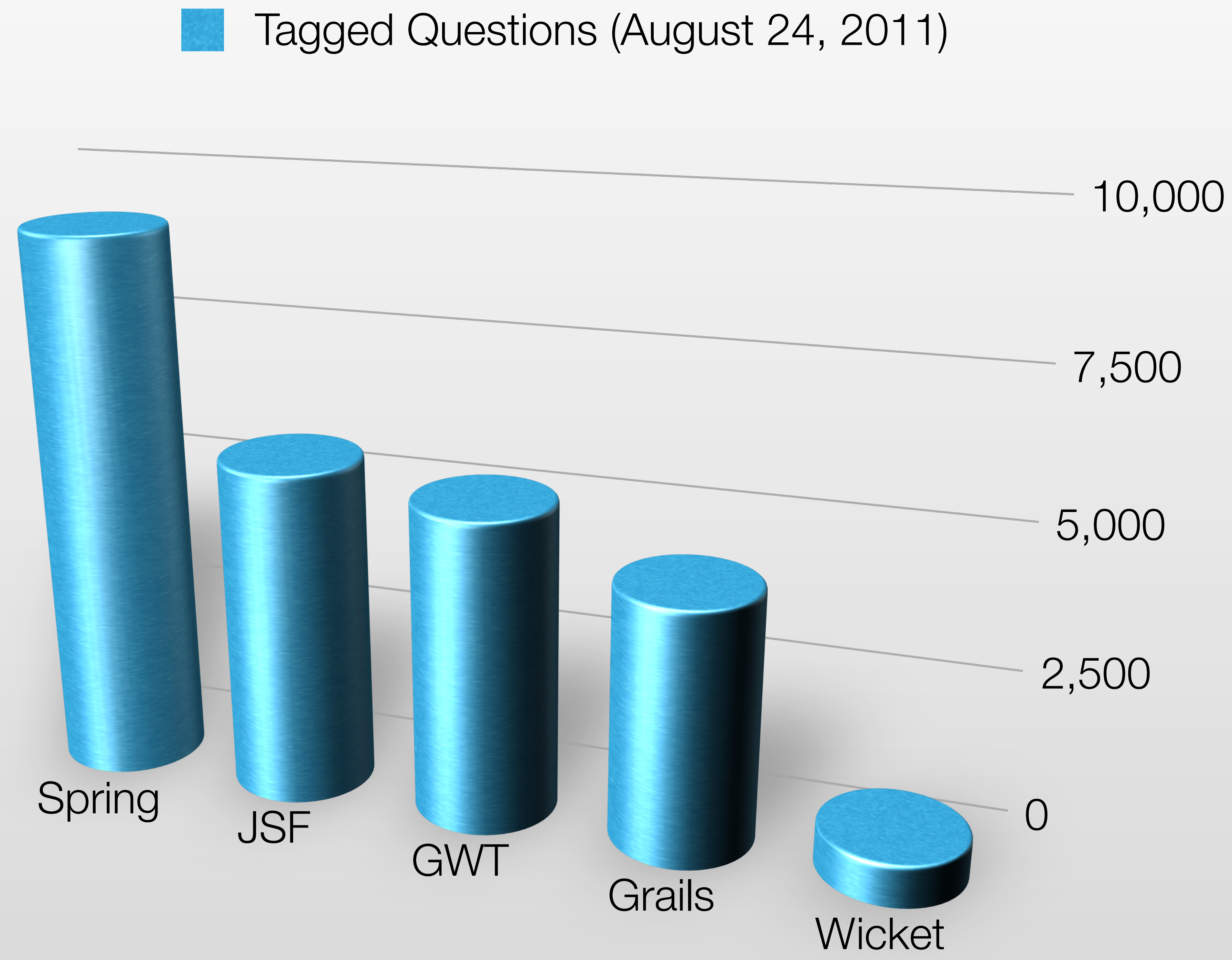
2011 Releases



StackOverflow



StackOverflow



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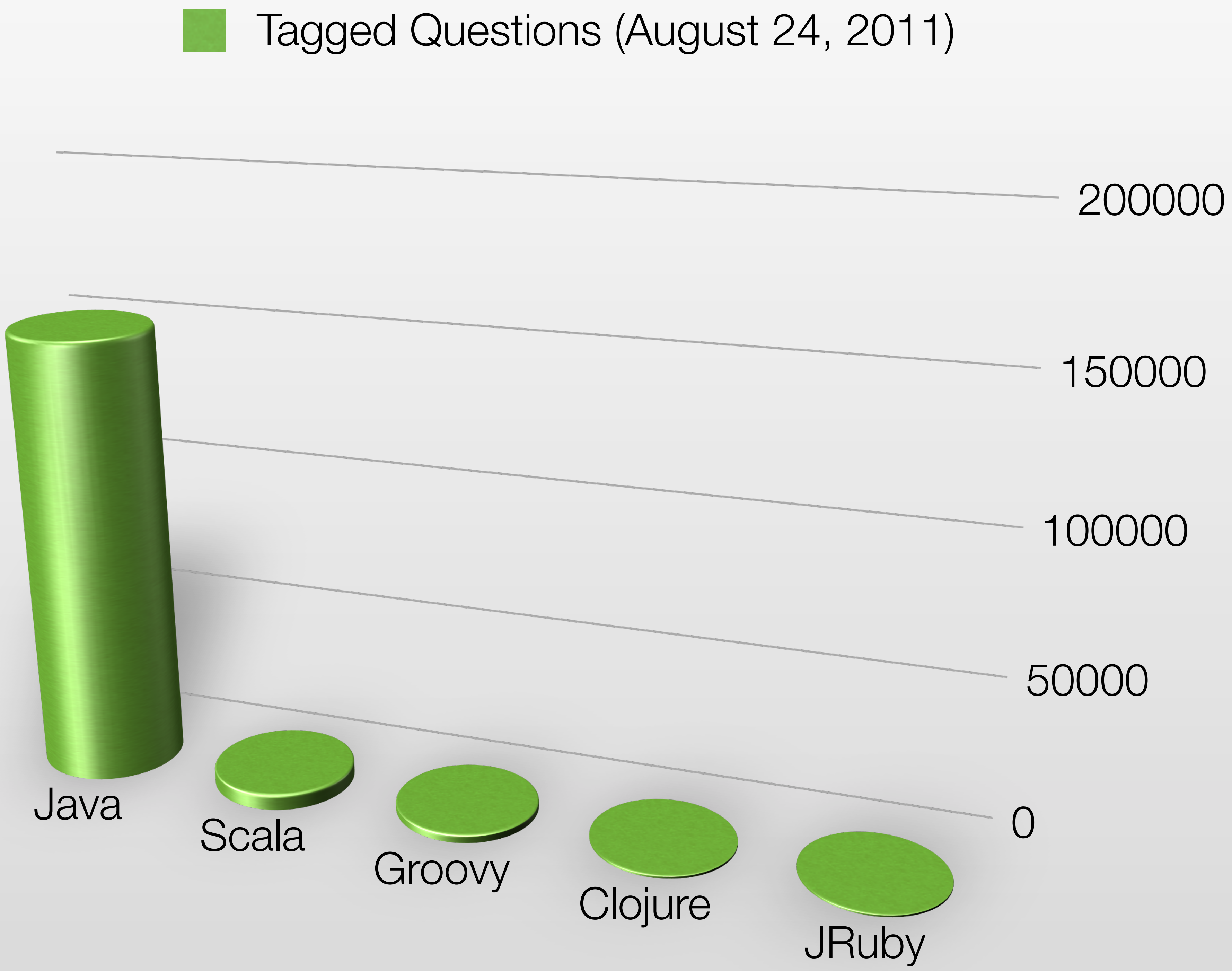
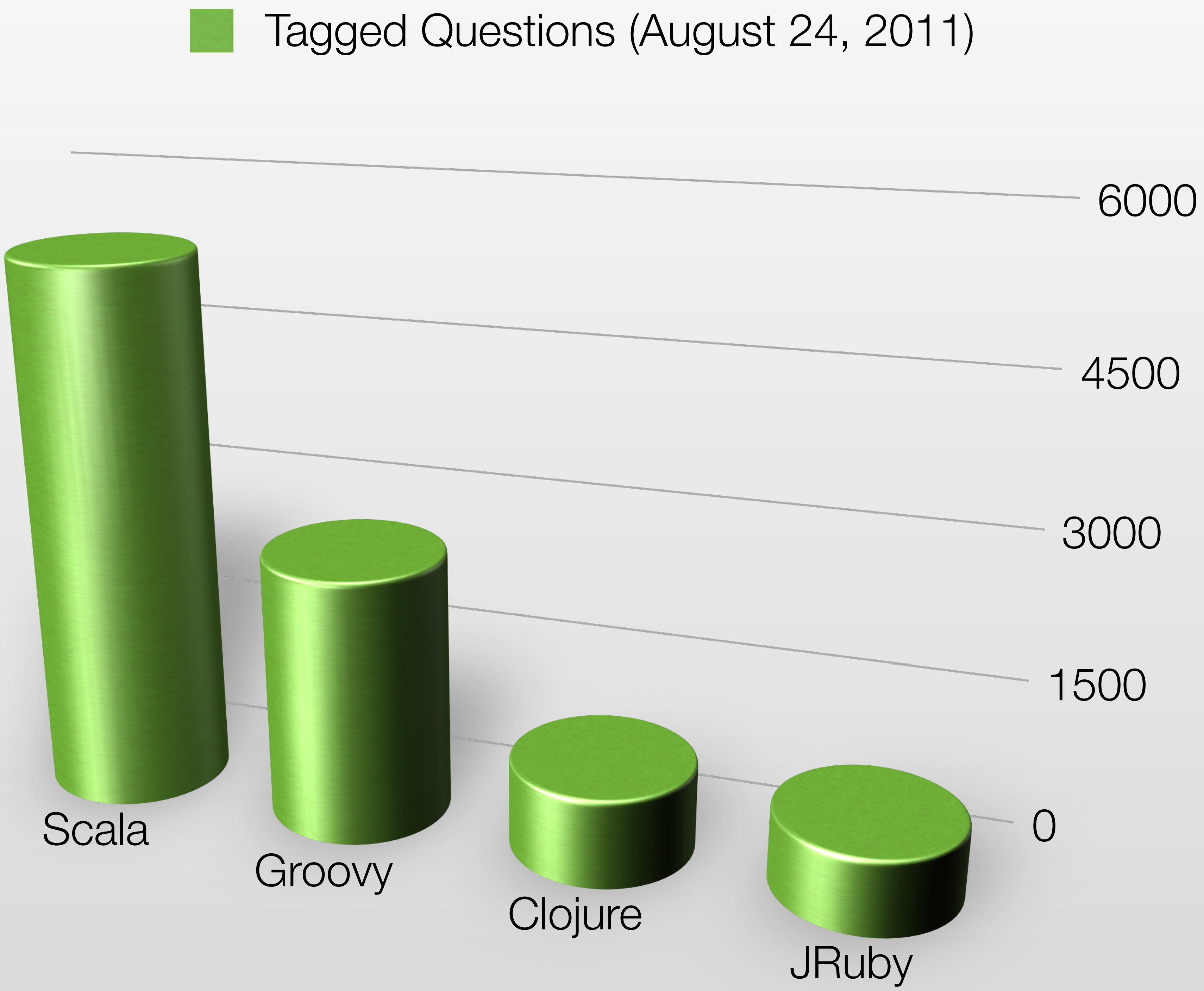
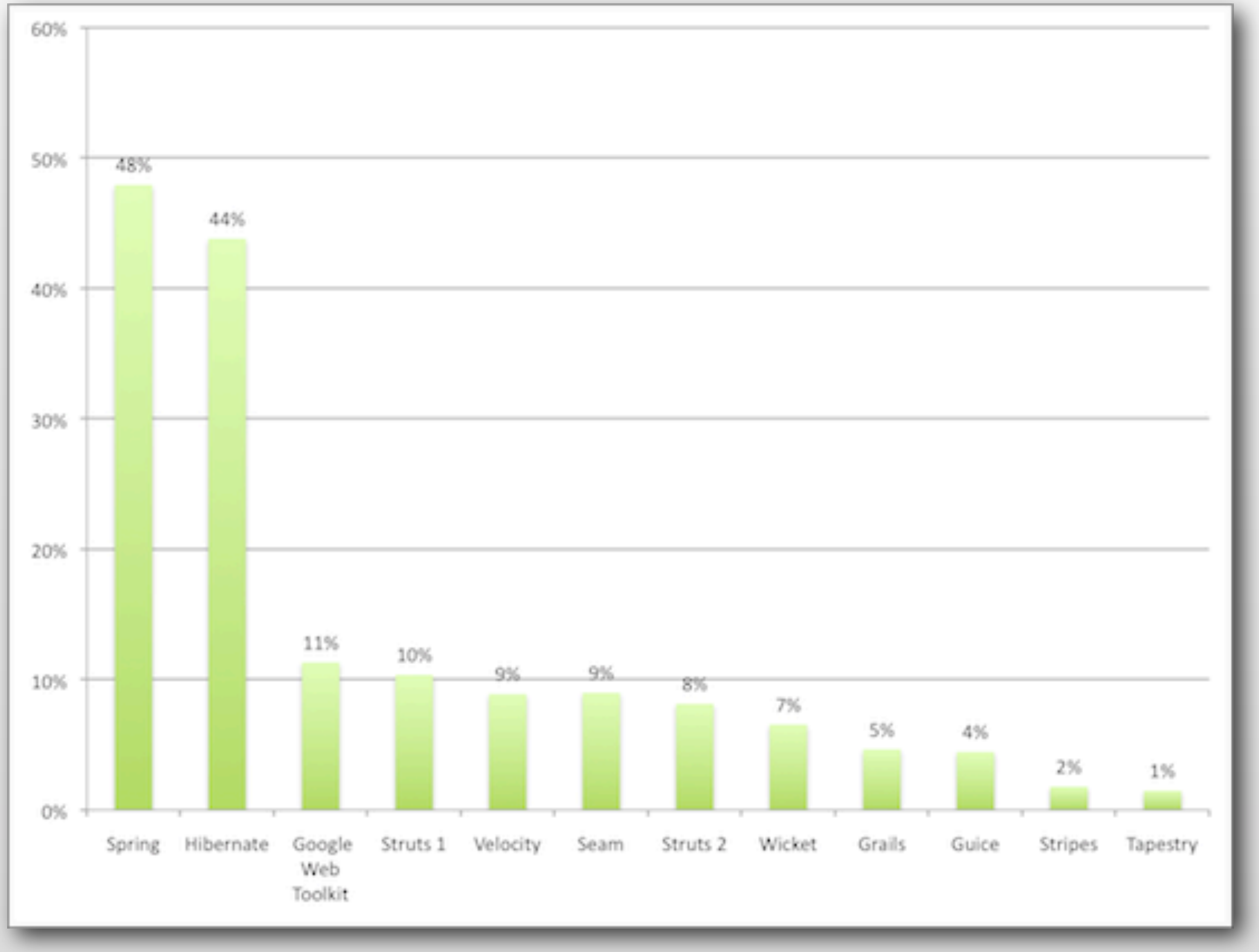


StackOverflow

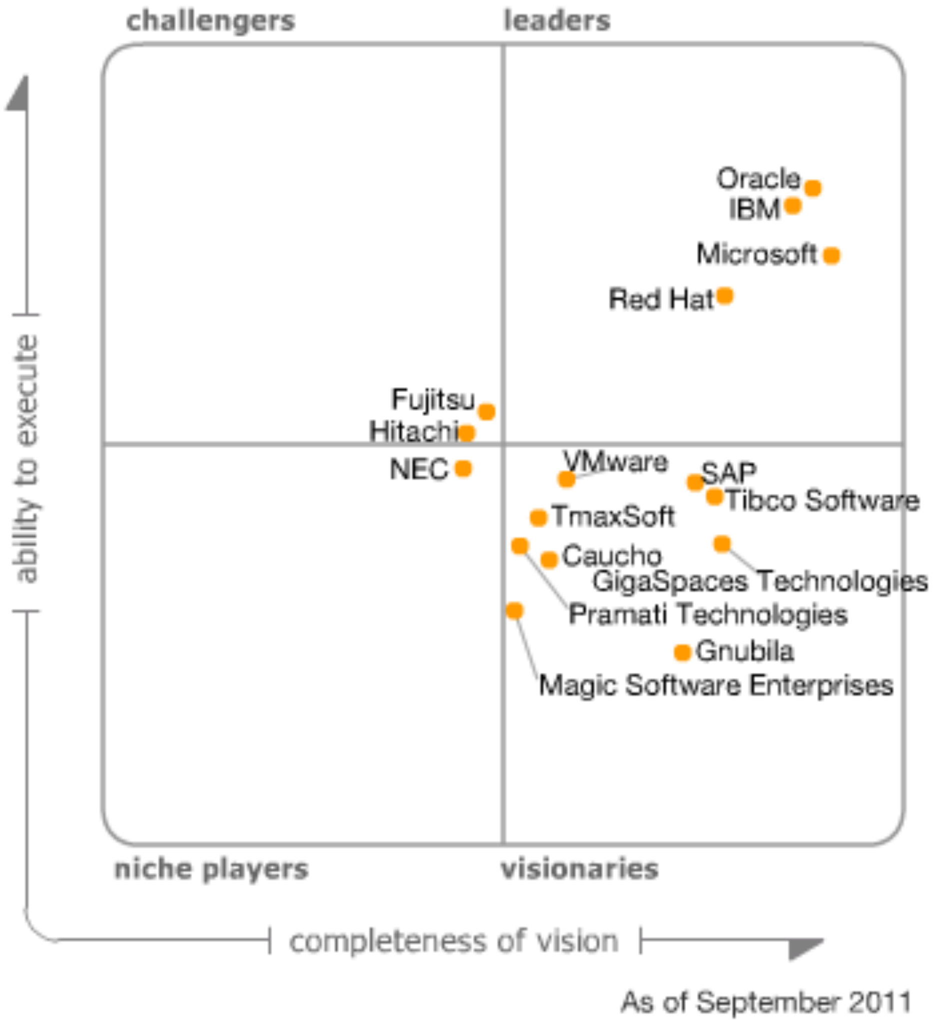


Framework Popularity



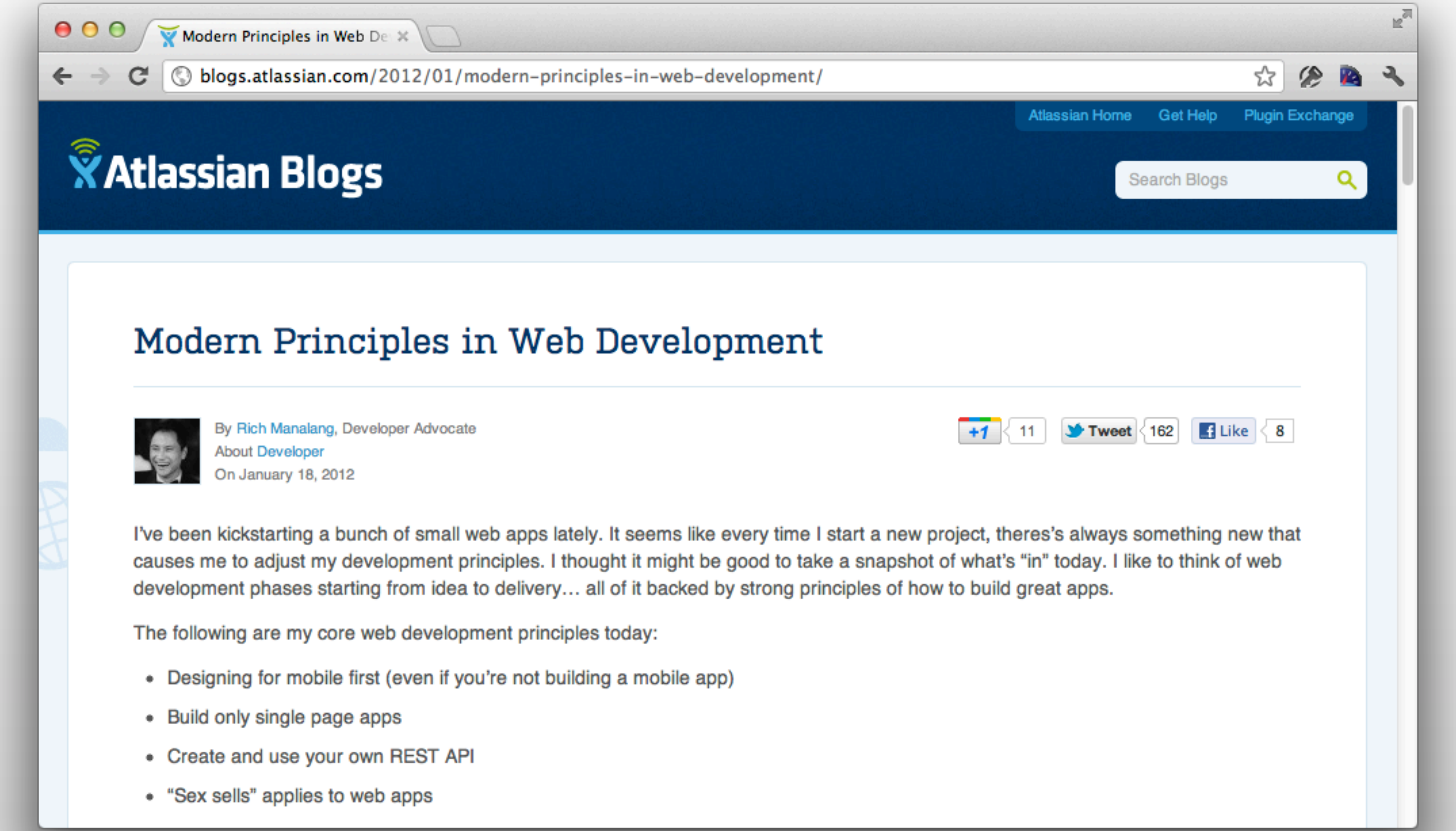
Source: ZeroTurnaround's Java EE Productivity Report 2010

What we need is...



Innovators

Modern Principles



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Modern Principles in Web Development

By Rich Manalang, Developer Advocate
About Developer
On January 18, 2012

I've been kickstarting a bunch of small web apps lately. It seems like every time I start a new project, theres's always something new that causes me to adjust my development principles. I thought it might be good to take a snapshot of what's "in" today. I like to think of web development phases starting from idea to delivery… all of it backed by strong principles of how to build great apps.

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- Build only single page apps
- Create and use your own REST API
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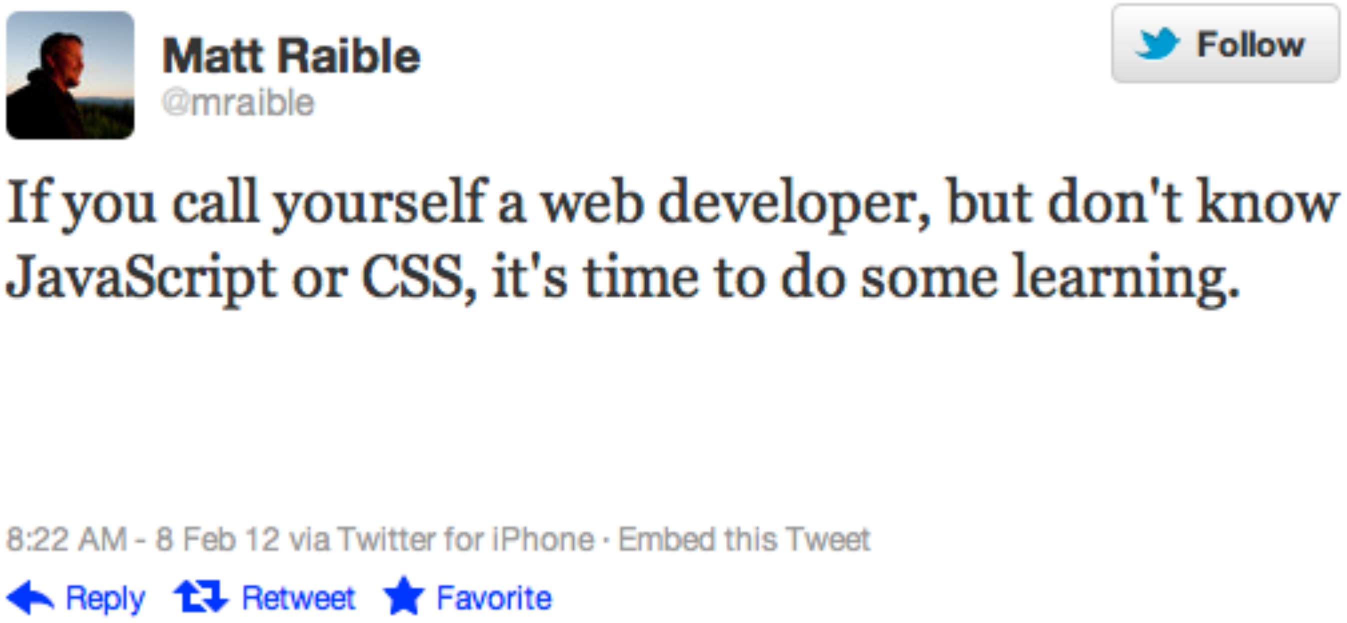
Web Developers



Matt Raible
@mraible

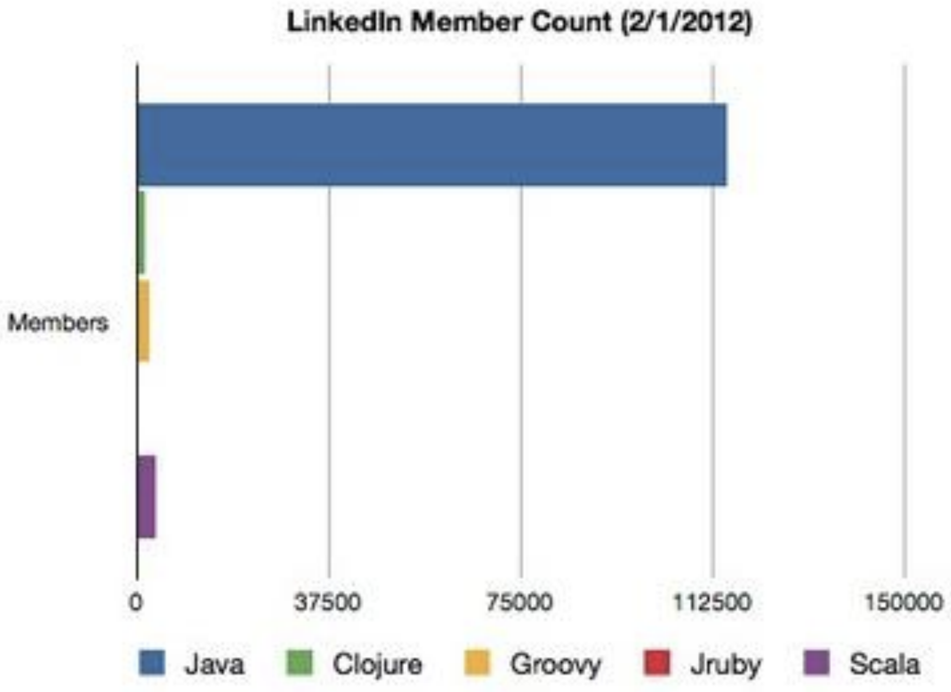
Follow

If you call yourself a web developer, but don't know JavaScript or CSS, it's time to do some learning.

8:22 AM - 8 Feb 12 via Twitter for iPhone · Embed this Tweet

Java Developers

"Java remains – in spite of the fragmented programming language landscape – a viable, growing language."



http://redmonk.com/sogrady/2012/02/08/language-rankings-2-2012/

The Modern Web Developer

- ... embraces JavaScript
- ... is learning mobile frameworks
  - jQuery Mobile, Sencha Touch, PhoneGap or Native
- ... is using HTML5 and CSS3
- ... is developing REST APIs with the stateless framework that best supports their language
- **IE6 is dead**, IE7 isn't far behind...

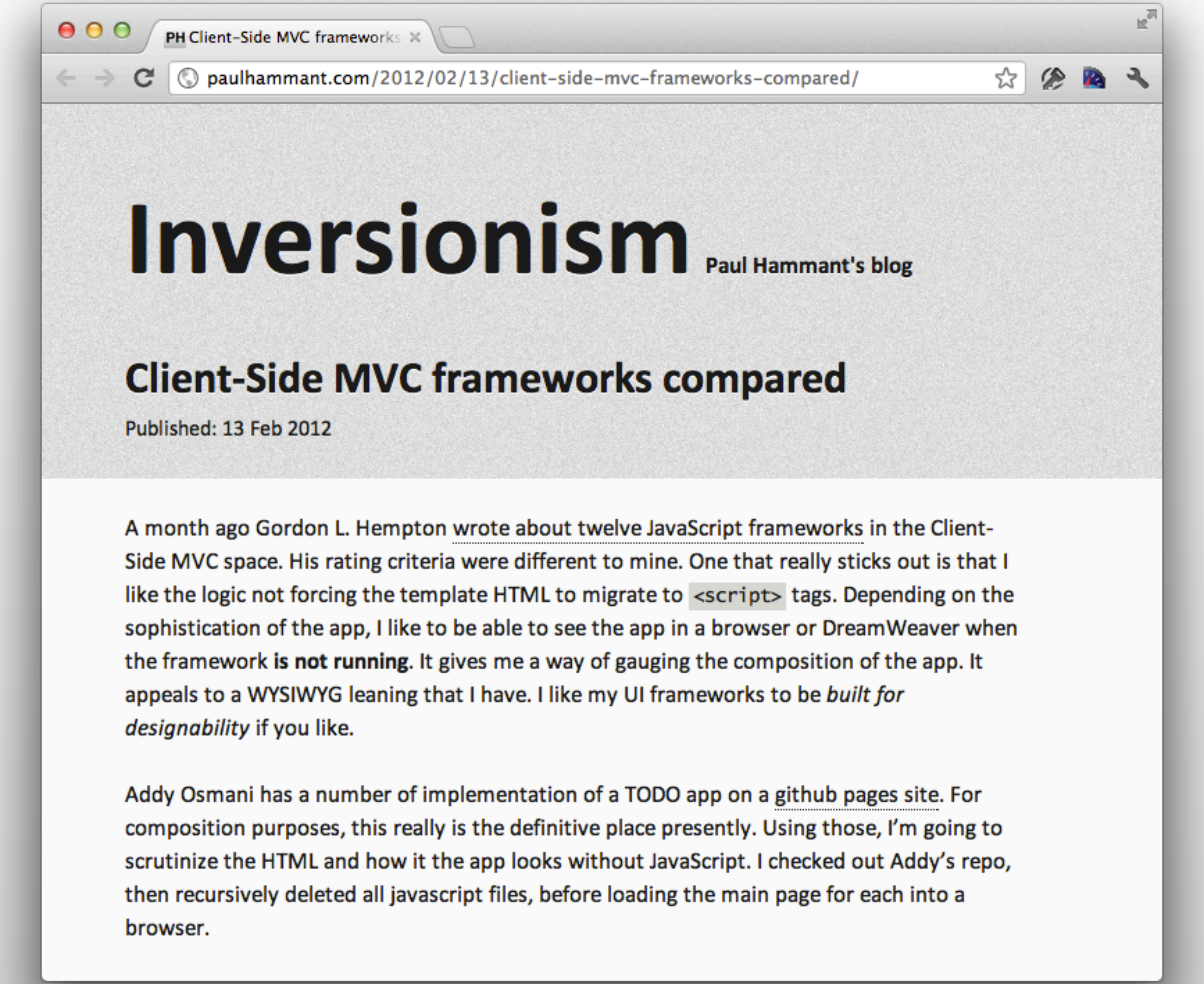
You have to decide...

Are you a web developer?

You have to decide...

Or are you a services developer?

Client-Side MVC



PH Client-Side MVC frameworks
paulhammant.com/2012/02/13/client-side-mvc-frameworks-compared/

Inversionism Paul Hammant's blog

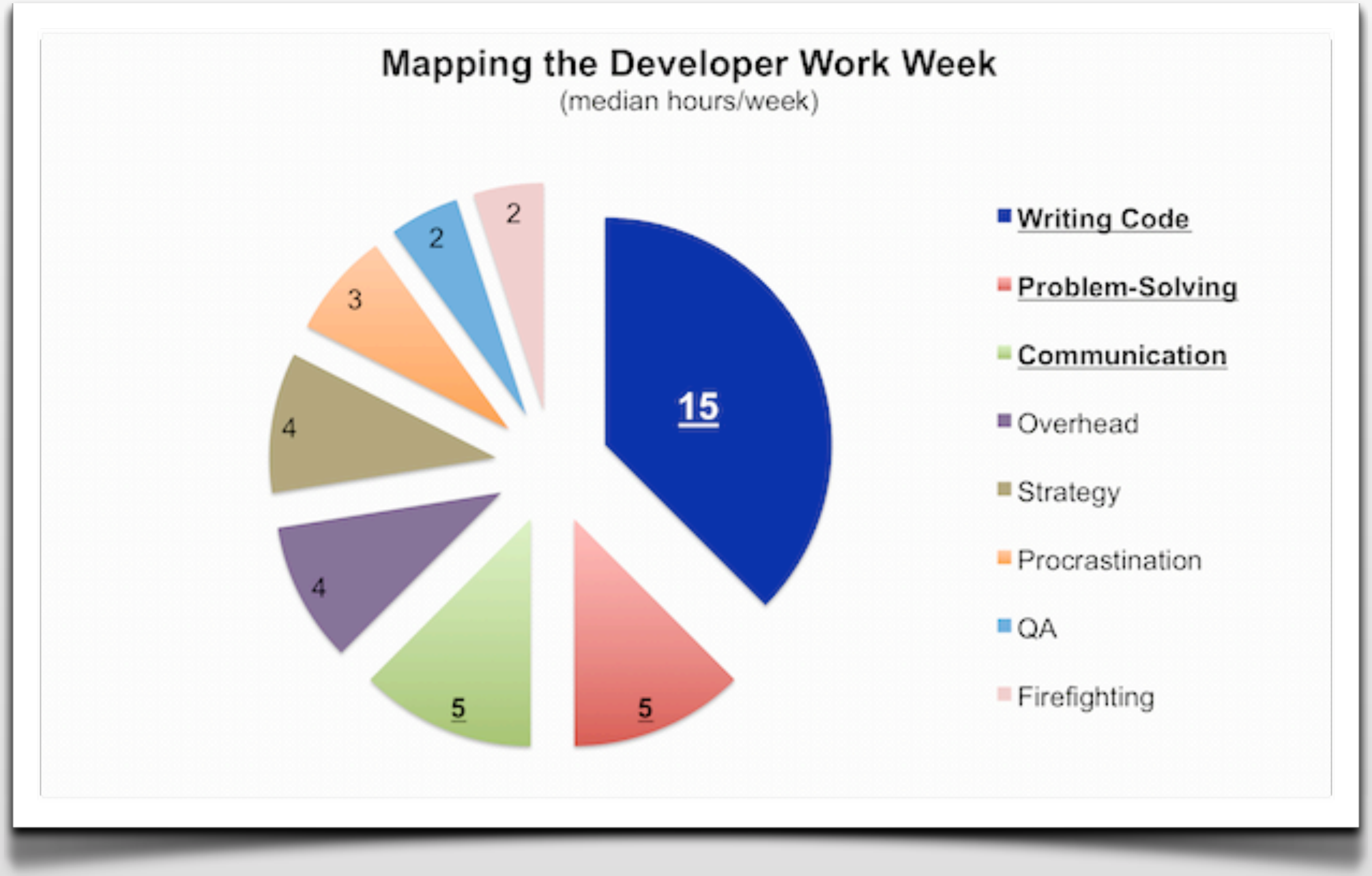
Client-Side MVC frameworks compared

Published: 13 Feb 2012

A month ago Gordon L. Hempton wrote about twelve JavaScript frameworks in the Client-Side MVC space. His rating criteria were different to mine. One that really sticks out is that I like the logic not forcing the template HTML to migrate to `<script>` tags. Depending on the sophistication of the app, I like to be able to see the app in a browser or DreamWeaver when the framework **is not running**. It gives me a way of gauging the composition of the app. It appeals to a WYSIWYG leaning that I have. I like my UI frameworks to be *built for designability* if you like.

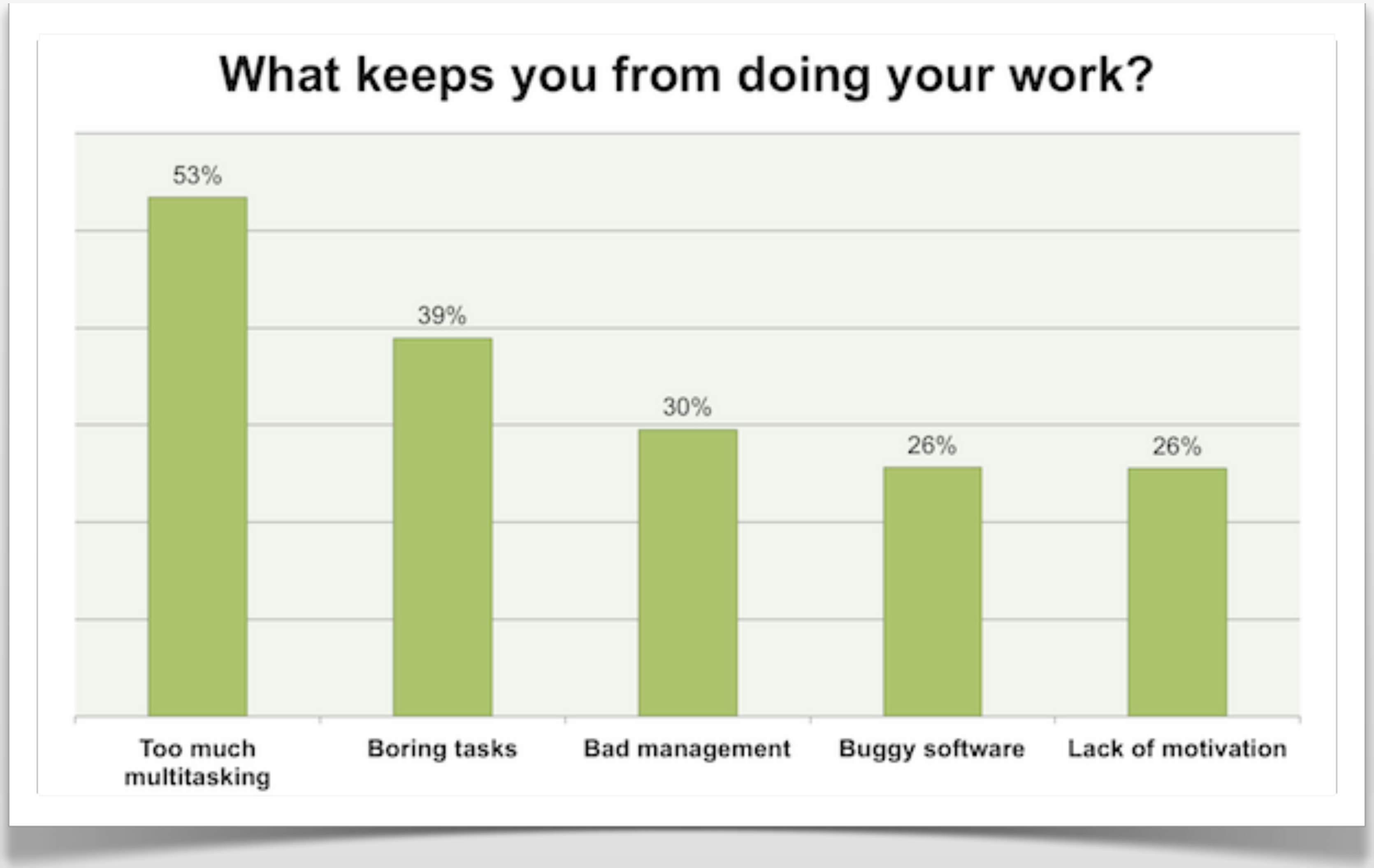
Addy Osmani has a number of implementation of a TODO app on a github pages site. For composition purposes, this really is the definitive place presently. Using those, I'm going to scrutinize the HTML and how it the app looks without JavaScript. I checked out Addy's repo, then recursively deleted all javascript files, before loading the main page for each into a browser.

Developer Productivity



http://zeroturnaround.com/blog/developer-productivity-report-part-1-developer-timesheet/

Developer Productivity



http://zeroturnaround.com/blog/developer-productivity-report-part-3-developer-efficiency/

There is no “best” framework

Just lots of awesome choices...

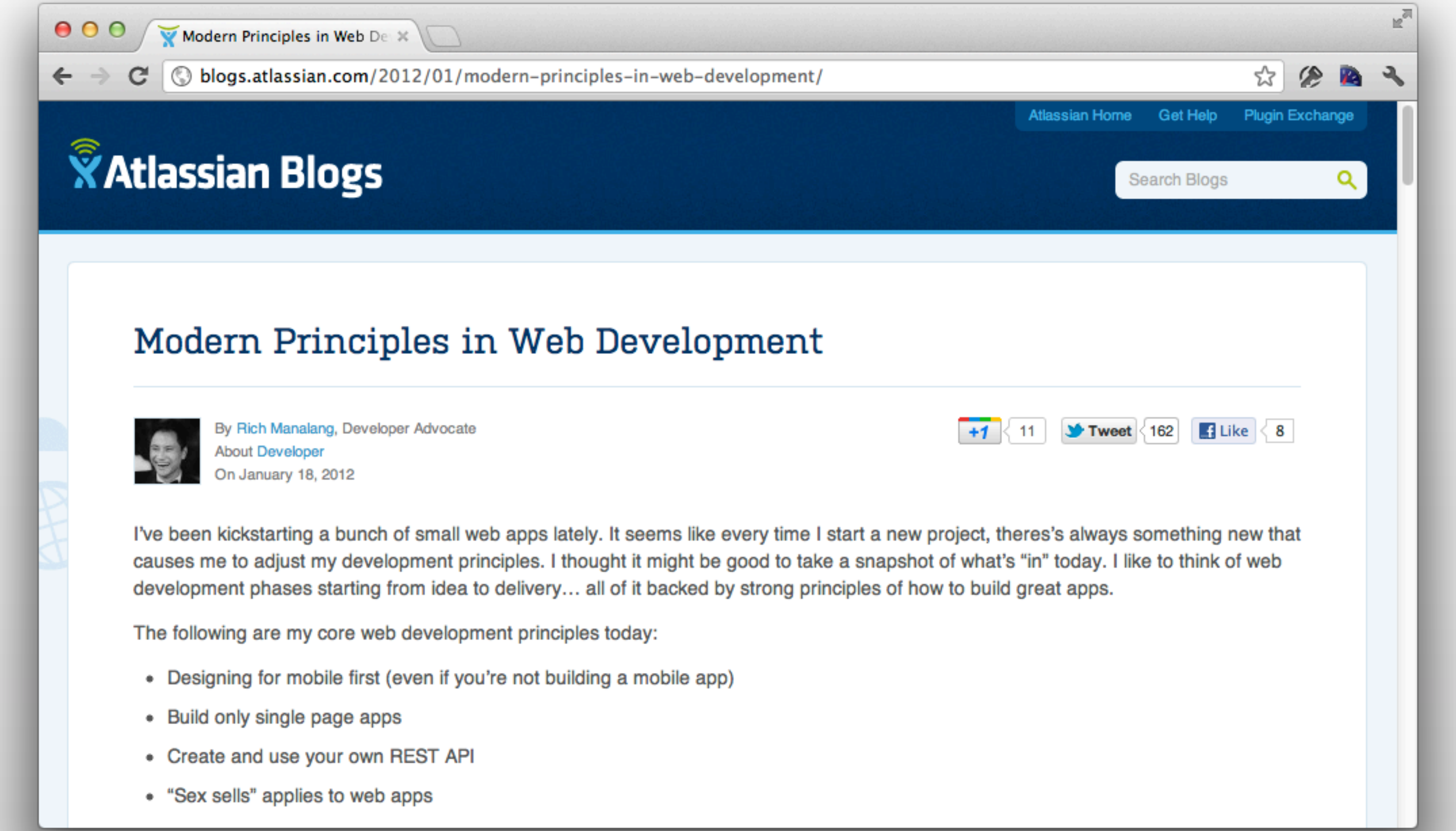
Don’t listen to me!

THINK FOR YOURSELF!
MAKE ME!
Balao

Choose your own!

- Prioritize a list of features that are important to your application.
- Pick 3-4 frameworks and do a 1-week spike with each, developing the same application.
- Document and rank each framework against your list of features.
- Calculate and choose!
- ... Or just pick one and get to work...

But don't forget...



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162
Like
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Questions?

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