

# PRAIRIE DEV CON

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## Refactor, Don't Rebuild



Eli White

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# Refactor, Don't Rebuild

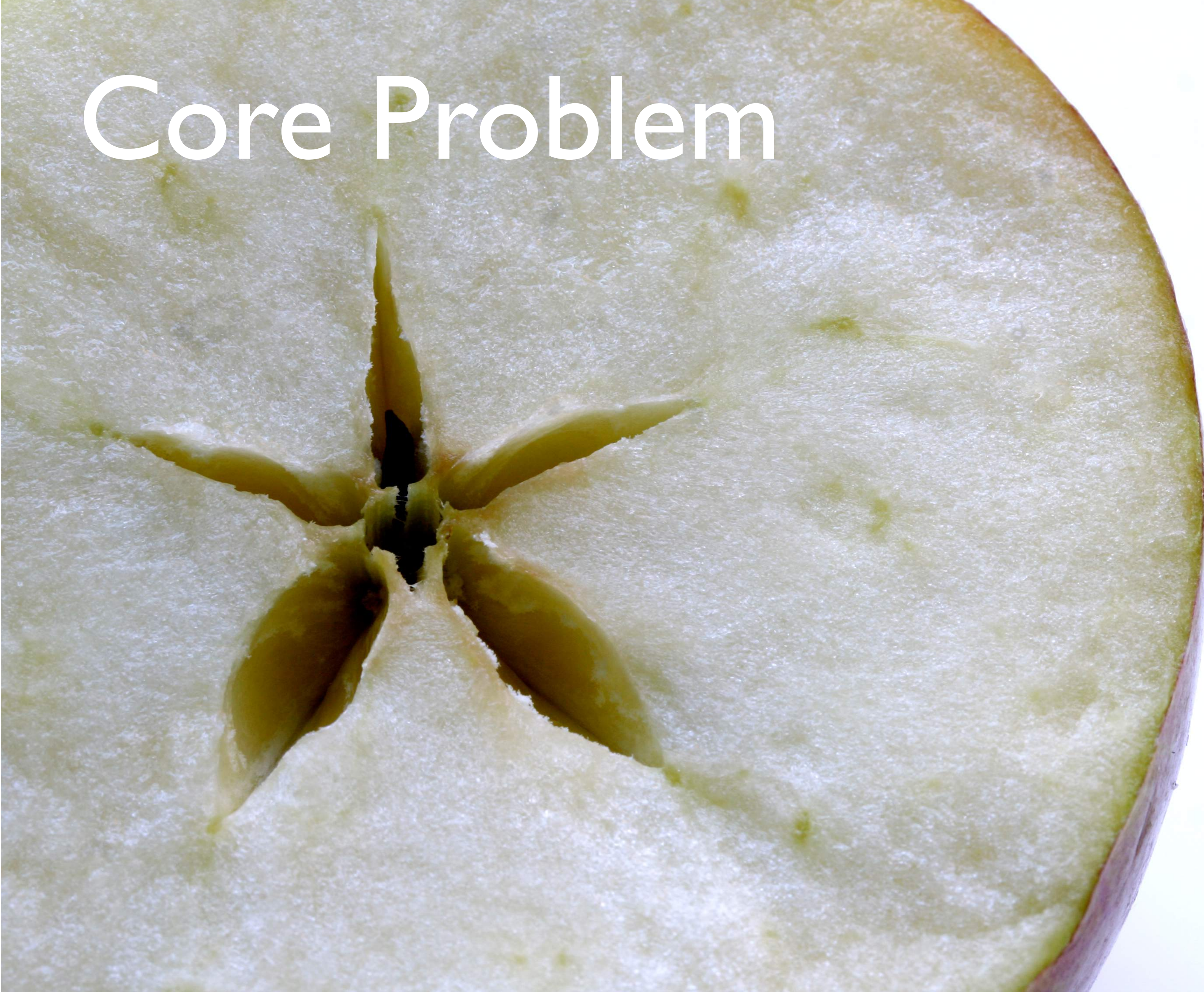
**Eli White**

*Vice President — One for All Events*

**@EliW**



# Core Problem



*an apple a day by Jack Tinney, on Flickr*



This codebase sucks!

*Thinking of you by Fabiana Zonca, on Flickr*

# Code Doesn't Rot



*Rotten Apples by Stephen Butler, on Flickr*

# Fundamental Problem



*Complicated Pile by Christophe / saturnino laichouchen, on Flickr*



It's harder to read  
code than to write it.

[www.joelonsoftware.com](http://www.joelonsoftware.com)

*Do you really think my eyes are bigger than my stomach? by Marin, on Flickr*

# Bugs



*Cotton Harlequin Bugs by Louise Docker, on Flickr*



# Dislike of Complication

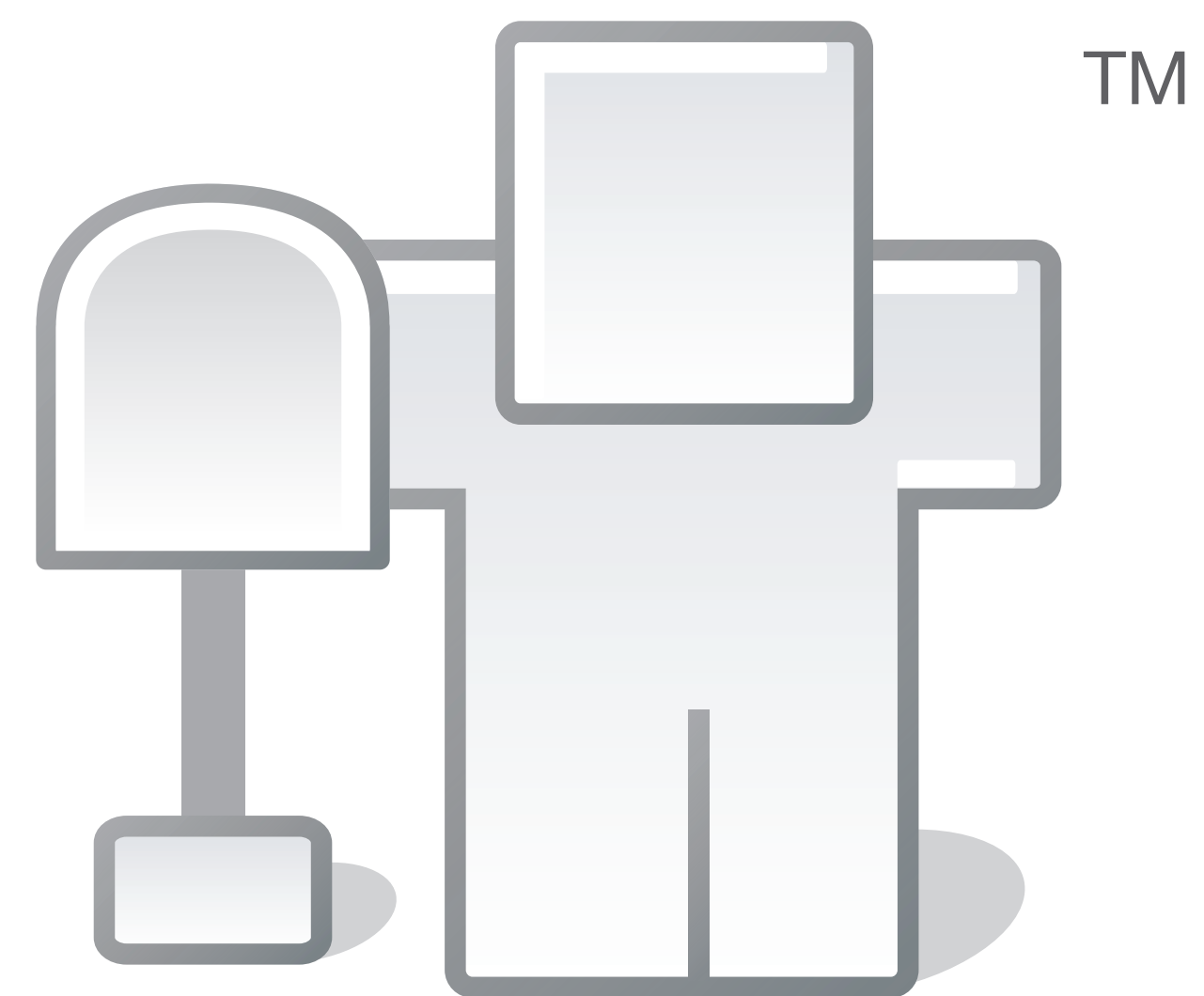
*Complicated by Rohit Mattoo, on Flickr*

# Complication is Good

```
385 #endif
386 fprintf(stderr, "red verify\n");
387
388 return 0;
389
390 #ifdef VERBOSE_RBT_VERIFY
391     if (left)
392         printf("| %ld%c%c\n", %ld, %c, %c);
393     if (right)
394         printf("| %ld%c%c\n", %ld, %c, %c);
395 #endif
396
397 height_l = rbt_verify_n(left, compare);
398 height_r = rbt_verify_n(right, compare);
399
400 // Verify BST property.
401 if (((left != NULL) && (compare->comp
402     ((right != NULL) && (compare->comp
403 #endif
404
405 #ifdef VERBOSE_RBT_VERIFY
406     FATAL
407 #endif
```

Code by Michael Himbeault, on Flickr

**diggy**™



# Lost Time

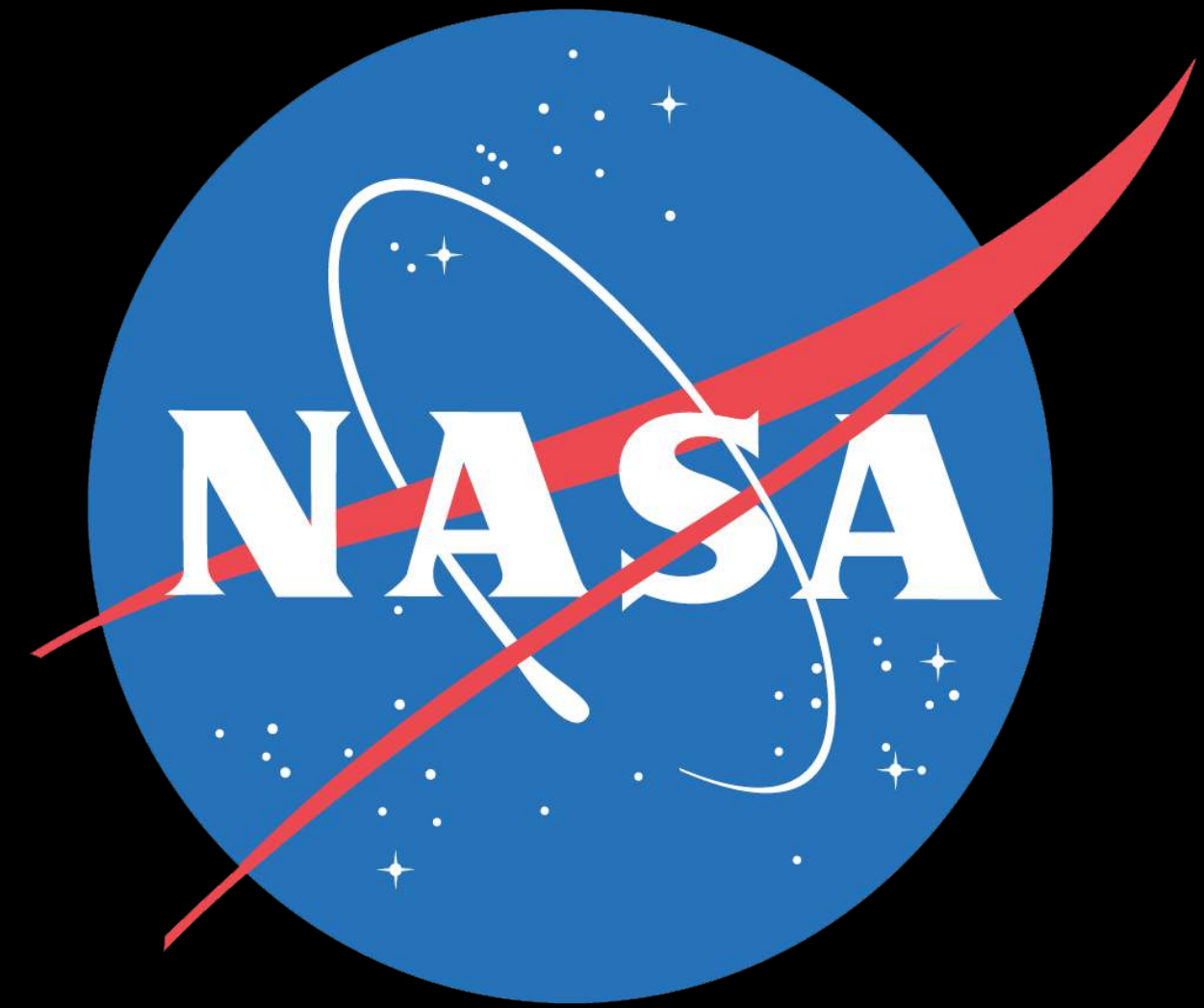
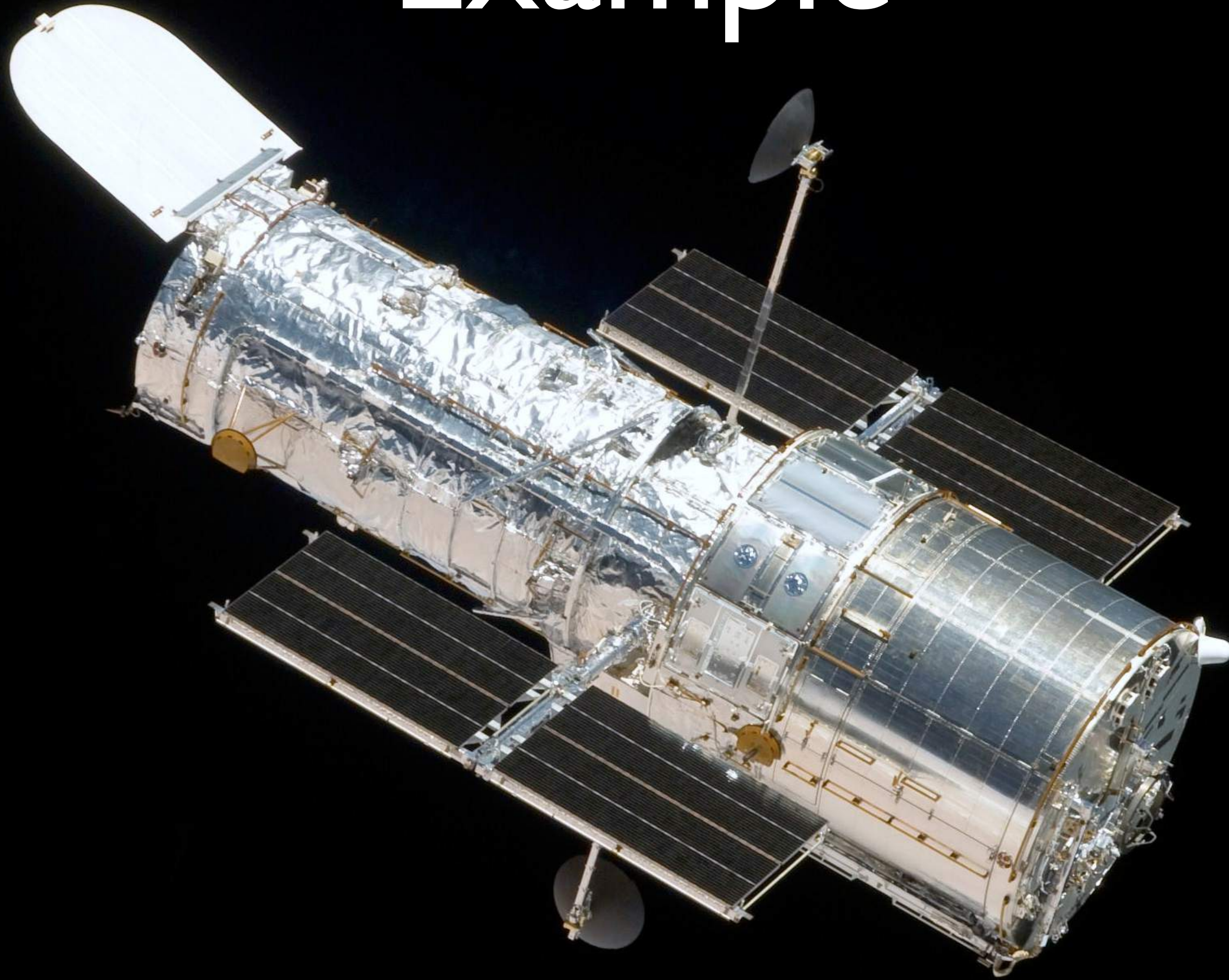


*The Passage of Time by Toni Verdú Carbó, on Flickr*



NETSCAPE®

# Example



# Products Never Ship



*Ship Portrait - "Elissa" by Louis Vest, on Flickr*

# Example: Microsoft



*Pyramids of Giza by Dietmar Temps, on Flickr*



# Loss of Functionality



*Skin Deep by David Blackwell, on Flickr*





# What to do?

*danger ranger by john curley, on Flickr*

# Refactor



# Break it Up



*break by Paul Goyette, on Flickr*



# Incremental Advantage

# Example: Digg & MVC



*Fancy Digg HQ Sign by Scott Beale, on Flickr*



# Example



**php[architect]**

# Example: Hubble Releases



The Sombrero Galaxy — NGC 4594 (M104)  HUBBLESITE.org



# Recap Rebuild Refactor

*RSS hats in China by Robert Scoble, on Flickr*

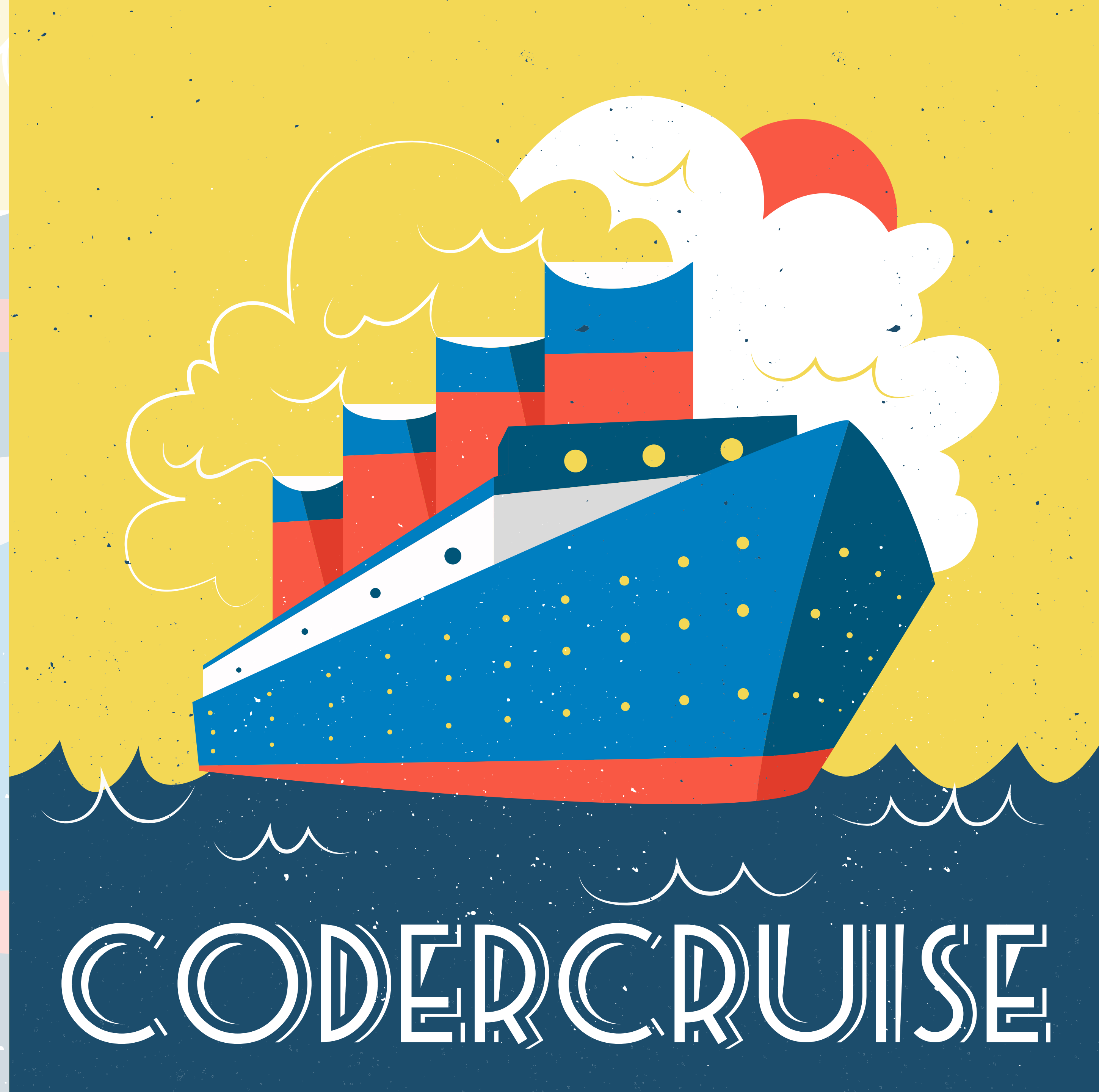
# Pardon a brief commercial interruption

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