Essential Tools
for Programmers

a tim|steve production

Q: How do I become a better programmer?

- Have the right tools
- Go make whatever
    - Find what motivates you
- Educate yourself
    - With resources that aren't lame

Q: How do I become a better programmer?

- Have the right tools << today we can help you here

High-Level Languages

- Java is not a good "weekend language"
- Dynamic languages are great for that
  - Python
  - Ruby
  - Perl
- C is important too

PROTIP: Just pick one.

Text Editors

- Classic Editors
  - vi
  - emacs
  - etc...
- Graphical Editors
  - Notepad++
  - jEdit
  - Kate
  - TextMate
  - etc...

PROTIP: Just pick one.

Version Control

- Like "Save Game" but for code
- Enables collaboration and sharing
- Safety net when making large changes (or small changes)

- Good stuff
  - Git
  - Mercurial [hg]

- Old stuff
  - Subversion
  - CVS
  - RCS

- You will see all of these at some point

Make

- Not just for source distributions of OSS!
- Any project of reasonable size
- Configuration requirements
- Lots of files

UNIX

- A different way to think about computing as an activity.
- Teaches composability
- A ubiquitous enviroment you will encounter
- Will get you a job

What did we miss?