

THE MYTH OF THE REAL JAVASCRIPT DEVELOPER

Brenna O'Brien / [@brnnbrn](#)

front-end engineer / **TED**

“REAL DEVELOPER”

“REAL DEVELOPER”

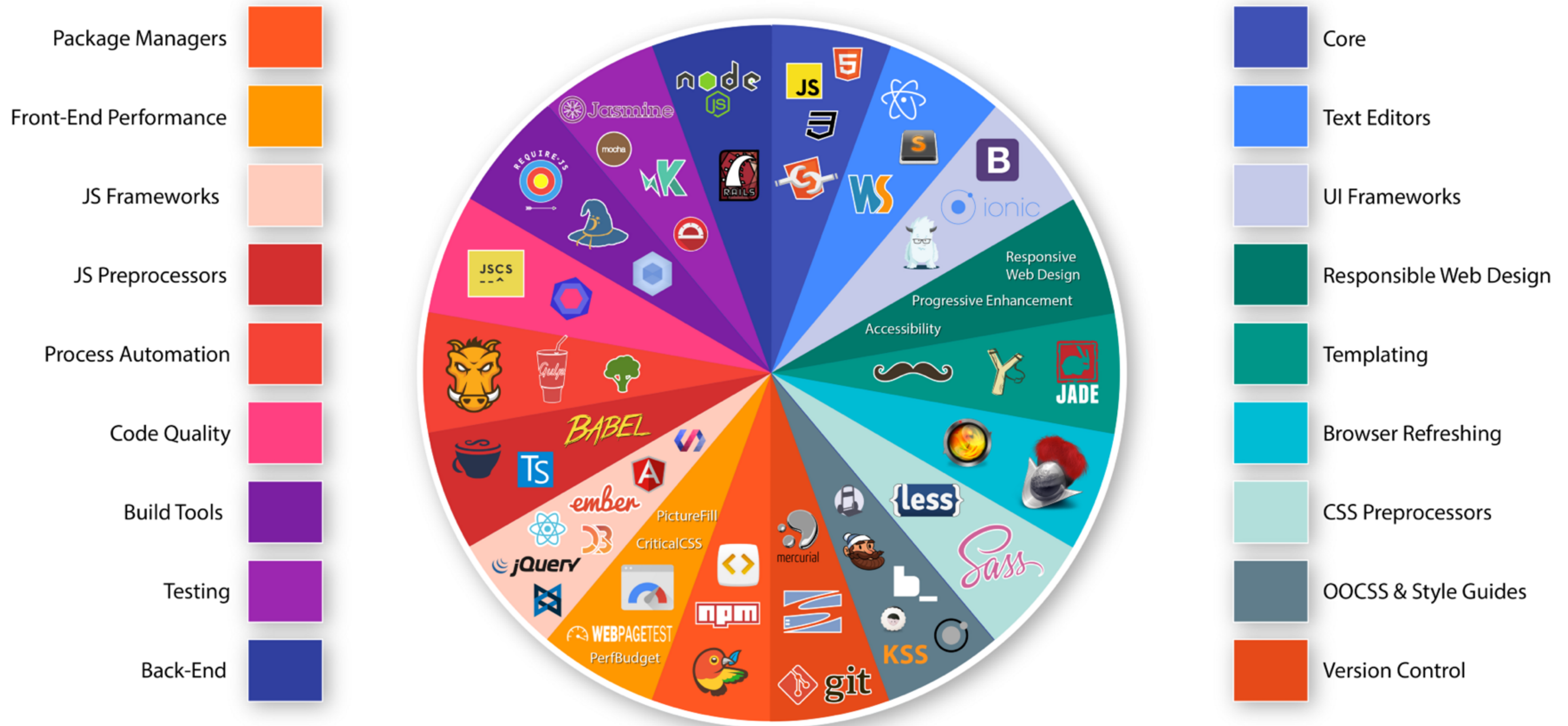


REAL DEVELOPER



“I NEED TO
KNOW
EVERYTHING”

THE FRONT-END SPECTRUM



MASTER OF
NONE



“You still use gulp?
You should be
using webpack!”



Ooh!

December 2013

webpack

August 2013

gulp

May 2013

broccoli

March 2012

grunt

Something shiny!

USE NEW AND
SHINY WHEN IT
SOLVES A
PROBLEM

“I NEED TO
~~KNOW~~
MEMORIZE
EVERYTHING”



Richard Feynman



“They had wasted their time memorizing stuff like that, when it could be looked up in fifteen minutes.”

Richard Feynman



THIS IS NOT
A TEST

REAL DEVELOPERS

USE

RESOURCES

WISELY

“If you want them
to RTFM, make a
better FM”

Kathy Sierra



YOUR PEERS ARE
A RESOURCE

“My biggest professional development was getting comfortable admitting what I don't know.”

Jessica Rose @jesslynnrose



YOUR EGO
ISN'T WORTH IT

You are here.

#JUNIORDEVFORLIFE

Dan Abramov @dan_abramov

Ryan Florence @ryanflorence

REAL DEVELOPERS

ACCEPT THE
UNKNOWN

“I MUST
WRITE
PERFECT
CODE”



1

BUT CUTTING IS
MORE FUN
THAN MEASURING



SOFTWARE
IS SOFT

CONTINUE?





“I have not failed.
I’ve just found
10,000 ways
that won’t work”

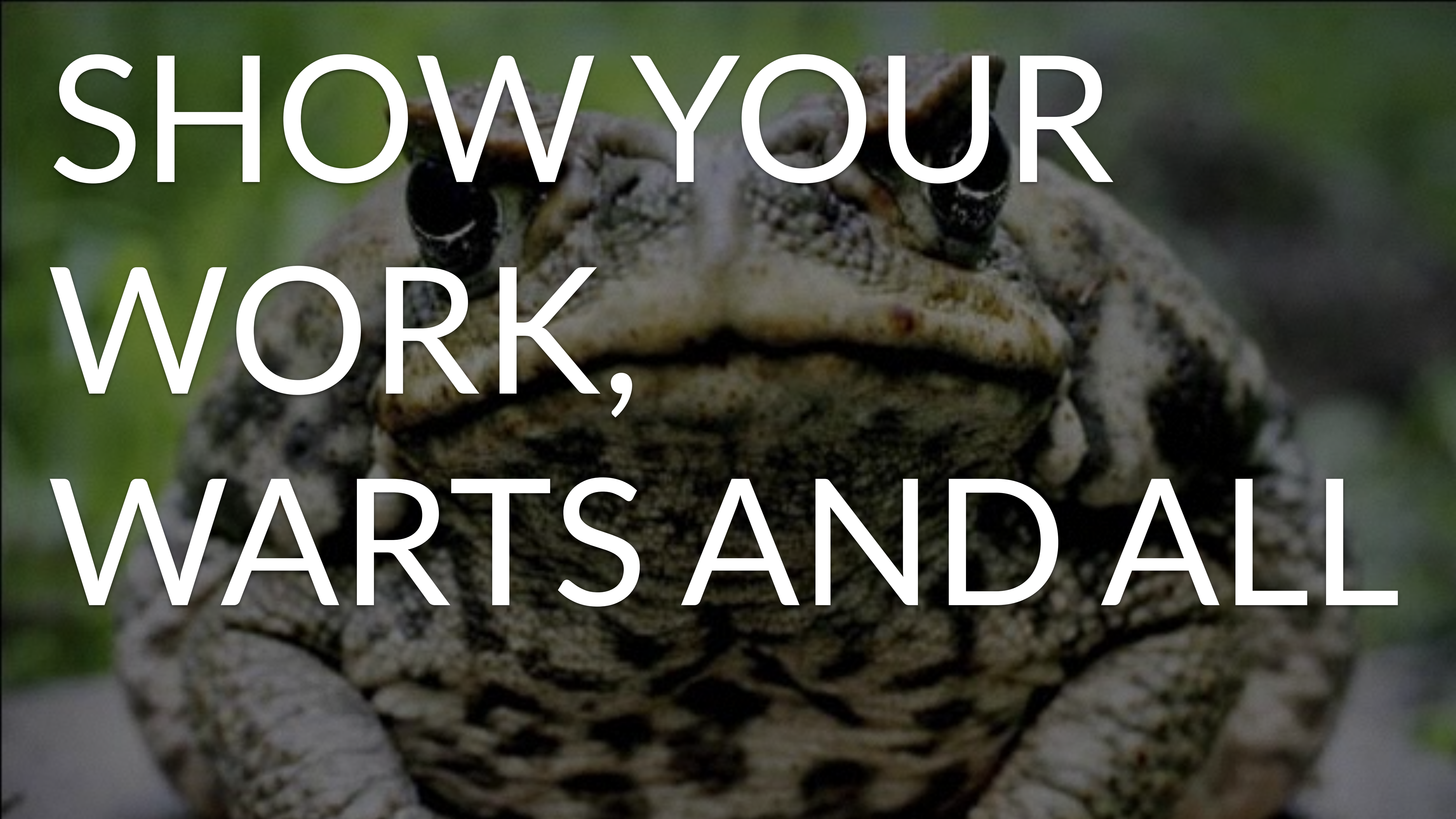
Thomas Edison

REAL DEVELOPERS

LEARN FROM
MISTAKES

REAL DEVELOPERS

KNOW HOW
TO DEBUG



SHOW YOUR
WORK,
WARTS AND ALL



“It’ll be pretty
when we get
there, but it
won’t be pretty
along the way.”

Ed Catmull *Creativity Inc.*

#WELLACTUALLY



CELEBRATE SUCCESS!



REAL DEVELOPERS

ENCOURAGE

EACH OTHER

“I HAVE TO
CODE ALL DAY
EVERYDAY”

CODE OR LIFE?





“They want to change the world, but they work all the time. So what exactly do they know about the world [outside] the cloisters of VCs and startup culture?”

Ellen Ullman



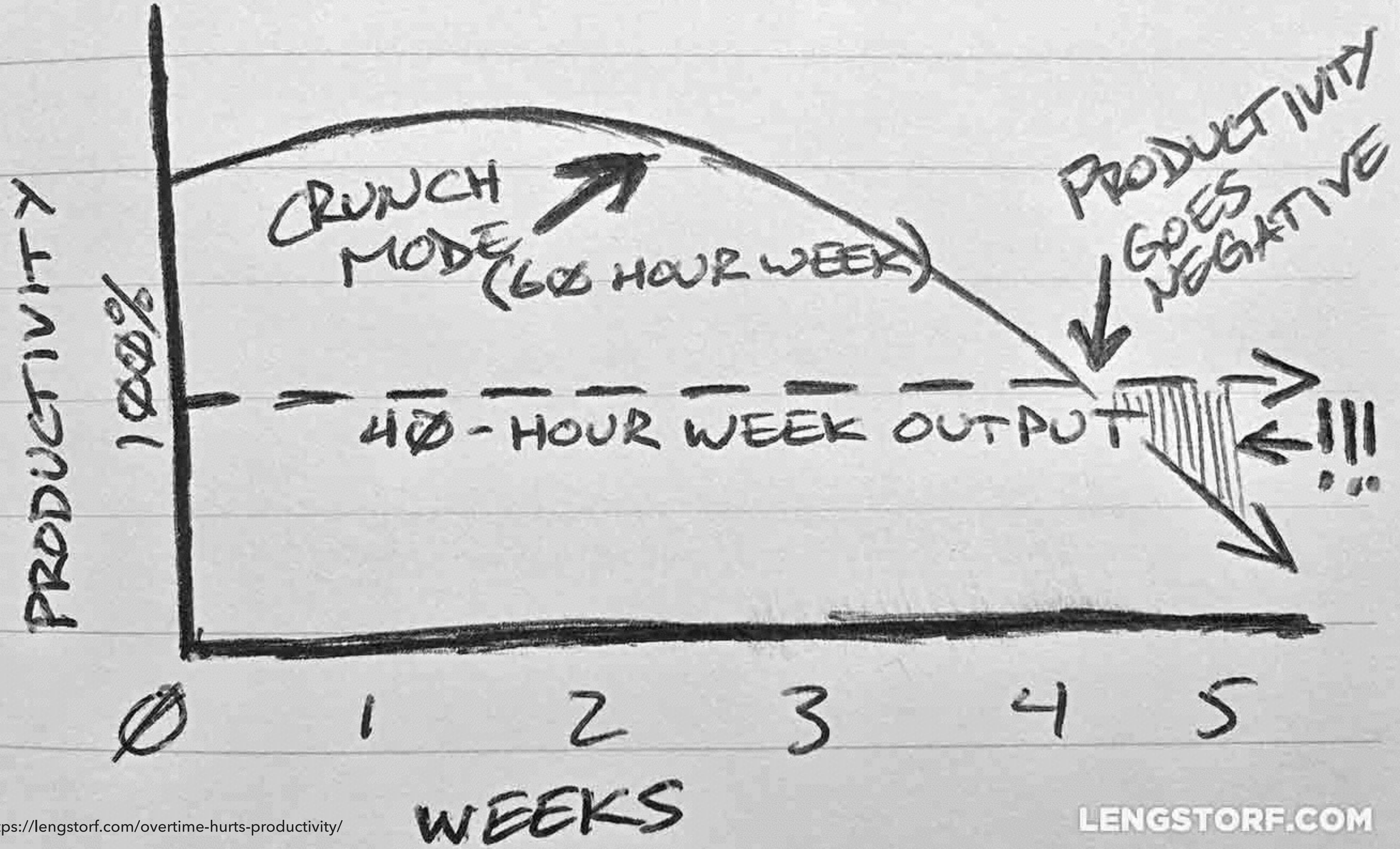
DEVELOPERS CAN BE CARPENTERS

Matt Marquis @wilto

DEVELOPERS CAN BE PARENTS

A close-up photograph of a baby sitting in a high chair. The baby has a surprised or messy expression, with green and yellow food smeared on their chin and mouth. They are wearing a grey t-shirt with a cartoon cat graphic. The background shows a wooden cabinet and a white wall.

Nicole Sullivan @stubornella



“Constraints are often advantages in disguise. Forget about venture capital, long release cycles, and quick hires. Instead, work with what you have.”

REAL DEVELOPERS

THINK

OUTSIDE THE

BROWSER



CODE CAN BE CREATIVE

Mariko Kosaka @kosamari



CODE CAN BE CREATIVE

Jenn Schiffer @jennschiffer

var.institute



“Technology-inspired technology gives us incremental improvements. Art-inspired technology gives us brand new ideas.”

Amy Wibow @sailorhg

YOU DO YOU



REAL DEVELOPERS

RESOURCEFUL

ACCEPTING

CREATIVE

BUST THE MYTH.
RESHAPE THE
NARRATIVE.

Thank you!

[@brnnbrn](#)

talks.brennaobrien.com/real-developer