

Wednesday, November 7, 12



# CouchDB Grows Up

Wednesday, November 7, 12

**Jan Lehnardt**

**jan@a.o**

**@janl**

**CouchDB PMC Chair**

**Committer #2**

Wednesday, November 7, 12

Thanks for the invite  
Glad to be here

JSConf EU / BBuzz / JSFAB

# Talk Template

- **Talking Point**
- **Anecdotes**
- **Lessons Learned**

**How do you build  
a database from  
scratch?**

# One Database

**1 x Genius programmer**

**1 x Effective Programming Environment**

**2 Years Time & Money**

Wednesday, November 7, 12

Savings & Expert Witness

# Lessons

Wednesday, November 7, 12

Need: Strong lead, productive code env, dedication.

Downsides: hard to recruit for Erlang.

# Shipping 1.0

Wednesday, November 7, 12

- 0.8 was recommended for production
- 0.6 was used in production
- 1.0 communicates “you can use this now”
- the glitch
- the magnificent fixup



# Lessons

Wednesday, November 7, 12

Shipping is hard  
BETTER CODE REVIEWS  
BETTER TESTS

# A Company Interlude

Wednesday, November 7, 12

- VCs chasing us
- basically no clue, but a bit of a plan
- bit optimistic
- paid for some great developments / people

# Lessons

Wednesday, November 7, 12

bit of a distraction  
careful with the goals

# The Inventor Leaves

Wednesday, November 7, 12

- first silently, stops contributing
- helps guiding a few improvements
- after two years proper, publicly announces departure of the project
- is a bit of a dick about it

# Lessons

Wednesday, November 7, 12

- be in charge of your message
- Even a [B][D][FL] can turn against you  
make sure he isn't your most public channel.

# The Users

Wednesday, November 7, 12

- two flagship users leave, blog about it
- nothing major, but creates the perception of:
  - “CouchDB is dead”
- While many people happily keep using it

# Lessons

Wednesday, November 7, 12

- Technical change happens
- Users move on
- Learn from failure
  - Failure helps to define project's technical boundaries

# Meanwhile ~~at the Legion of Doom~~ in the Database World

Wednesday, November 7, 12

- NoSQL Happens
- MongoDB “wins” NoSQL
- Everybody else jumps onto BigData
  - Some folks just keep innovating (Cassandra)
- Postgres ships JSON types
- The world keeps embracing JSON
- JS becomes a viable embedded scripting language
- ISO SQL starts to investigate NoSQL, SQL/JSON for SQL 2015



# Lessons

Wednesday, November 7, 12

- Good ideas stick
- It is worth getting things right

# CouchDB Grows Up

Wednesday, November 7, 12

- First Post-Inventor Release
- Ship 1.2
  - “CouchDB is alive”
  - New, modern website

# Lessons

Wednesday, November 7, 12

- We are a team, we can do this
- We need more dedicated individuals to push us through the hard parts

# IRC

Wednesday, November 7, 12

- quick with the team
- constant dev@ reminders
- plum, monty

# The People Behind the Project

Wednesday, November 7, 12

- Boston & Dublin Summit, CouchHack Vienna
- Large roadmap
- Changes to the project
  - faster, time-based releases
  - deeper integration with git & branching
  - integrate with GitHub
  - weekly IRC meetings
- Impact
  - unblocking releases waiting on features
  - more active feature development
  - uptake in contributions via GitHub PRs (workflows people are comfortable with)
- Erlang ML
  - beginners learn, help contribute to docs already
- The CouchDB Implementation 9:15 tomorrow

# Lessons (PMC Chair)

Wednesday, November 7, 12

- PMC Chair lessons
- (watch Isaacs)
- not too deeply technical
- get the right people to care about the right issues

# Lessons

Wednesday, November 7, 12

- Momentum helps
- The community will prevail
- ASF infrastructure is getting rusty

# The Ecosystem

Wednesday, November 7, 12

- BigCouch, CouchDB for BigData
- PouchDB, CouchDB in JS for browsers and Node.js  
(IndexedDB, Mikeal, No SQL in HTML)
- TouchDB, native iOS & Android implementations,
  
- GitHub Success story
  
- Couchbase (couchstore, V8 view-server)



# Lessons

Wednesday, November 7, 12

The Idea is bigger than the Apache Project  
That is a good thing

# The Future

Wednesday, November 7, 12

TBD

**The Future is TBD**

Wednesday, November 7, 12

TBD

**The CouchDB  
Implementation  
Thursday, 9:15  
(ugh, I know!)**

# Thanks!

Wednesday, November 7, 12

May the Couch be with you.

Wednesday, November 7, 12