Starting an Emacs Meetup

EmacsConf 2015, San Francisco

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thoughtbot

August 29, 2015

Look At Me

- I'm one of the two Emacs users at my company.

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- We developed a persecution complex.

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- I'm one of the two Emacs users at my company.
- We developed a persecution complex.
- EmacsNYC was born.

todo.org

- Find a cofounder

todo.org

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- Find a sponsor

todo.org

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- Arrange a regular meeting space

todo.org

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- Antipatterns

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- You need more hands

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- Emotional support <3

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- You need $$$ and space

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- Expenses

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- Expenses
  - Food
  - Web hosting
  - Meetup.com
  - Domains
  - Recording equipment
  - Video production
  - ...

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- Thank them!

Arrange a regular meeting space

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- Can people get in after hours? Is someone manning the door? Got signs outside? Is there a doorman? Does he need a list of names? Do you have that? Are there enough chairs? Are the bathrooms unlocked? Are there neighbors? Where will the food go? Will the neighbors try to eat it all?

Have a good food plan

- We're bad at this: pizza + beer

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- Have a variety of foods! Vegetarian/vegan/gluten-free options!

Technical groundwork

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- But it's the *least* important part

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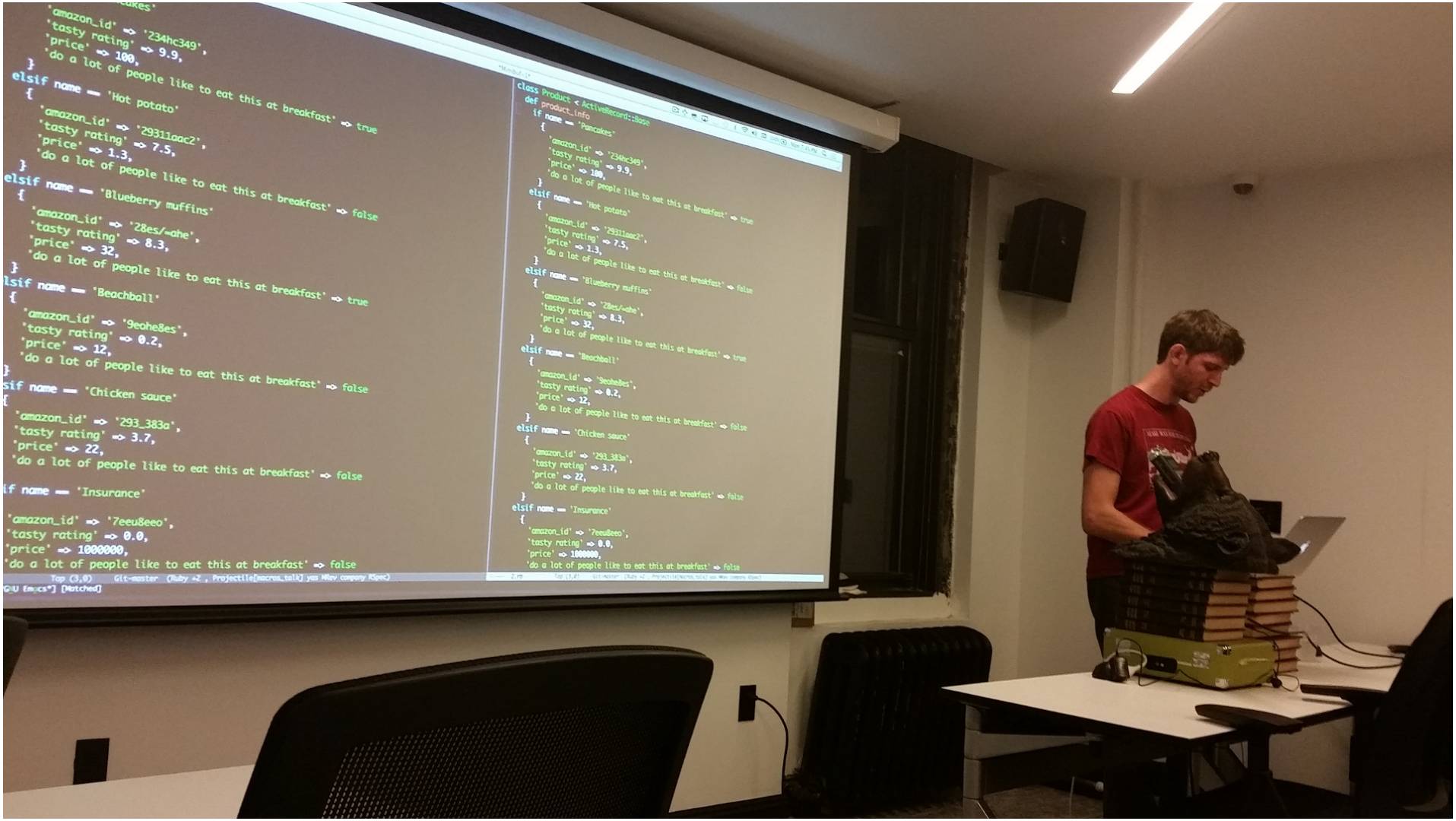
- Hosting video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'tasty rating' => 9.9,
'price' => 100,
'do a lot of people like to eat this at breakfast' => true
elsif name == 'Hot potato'
'amazon_id' => '29311aac2',
'tasty rating' => 7.5,
'price' => 1.3,
'do a lot of people like to eat this at breakfast' => false
elsif name == 'Blueberry muffins'
'amazon_id' => '28es/=ahe',
'tasty rating' => 8.3,
'price' => 32,
'do a lot of people like to eat this at breakfast' => true
elsif name == 'Beachball'
'amazon_id' => '9eohe8es',
'tasty rating' => 0.2,
'price' => 12,
'do a lot of people like to eat this at breakfast' => false
elsif name == 'Chicken sauce'
'amazon_id' => '293_383a',
'tasty rating' => 3.7,
'price' => 22,
'do a lot of people like to eat this at breakfast' => false
if name == 'Insurance'
'amazon_id' => '7eeu8eeo',
'tasty rating' => 0.0,
'price' => 1000000,
'do a lot of people like to eat this at breakfast' => false
class Product < ActiveRecord::Base
def product_info
if name == 'Pancakes'
'amazon_id' => '234hc349',
'tasty rating' => 9.9,
'price' => 100,
'do a lot of people like to eat this at breakfast' => true
elsif name == 'Hot potato'
'amazon_id' => '29311aac2',
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- Once you've got a lead, follow up!
  - Have a speaker's guide handy
  - Title and abstract
  - Make sure they're preparing
  - Offer to help rehearse! Positive feedback!
  - Screen recording software

Forming a community

- We're mostly beardly white guys

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  - No back-seat driving
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- Newbie-friendly events
- Evangelize at other meetups. Joint events?

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  - License your stuff!
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- Respect folks' ethical choices

Antipatterns

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- Trying to do it all yourself

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- Be *actively* inclusive
- Don't get bogged down in technical minutiae

Resources

- emacsnyc.org
- github.com/emacsnyc
- www.recurse.com/manual#sub-sec-social-rules
- goruco.com/speakers/2014/luke-melia/

Thanks!

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1B41 8F2C 23DE DD9C 807E
A74F 841B 3DAE 25AE 721B