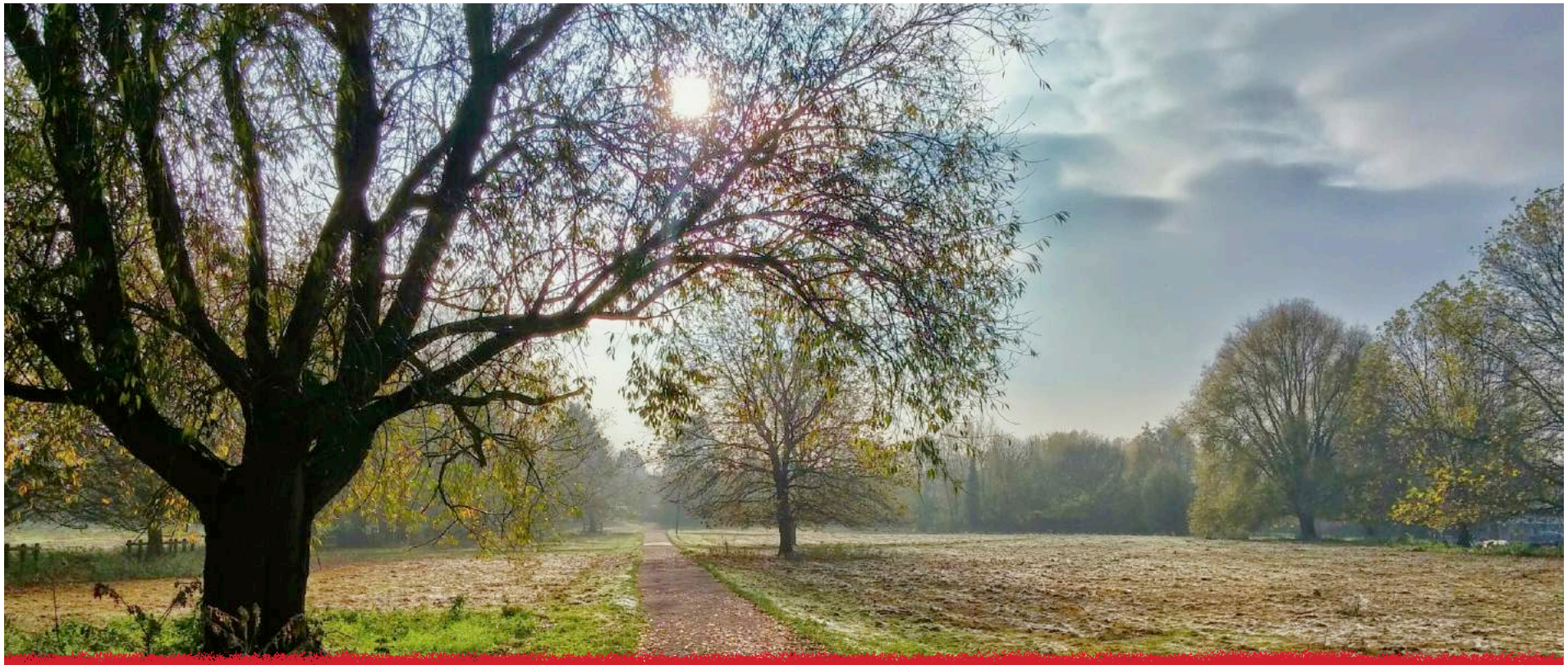
Getting your ideas into Upstream OpenStack

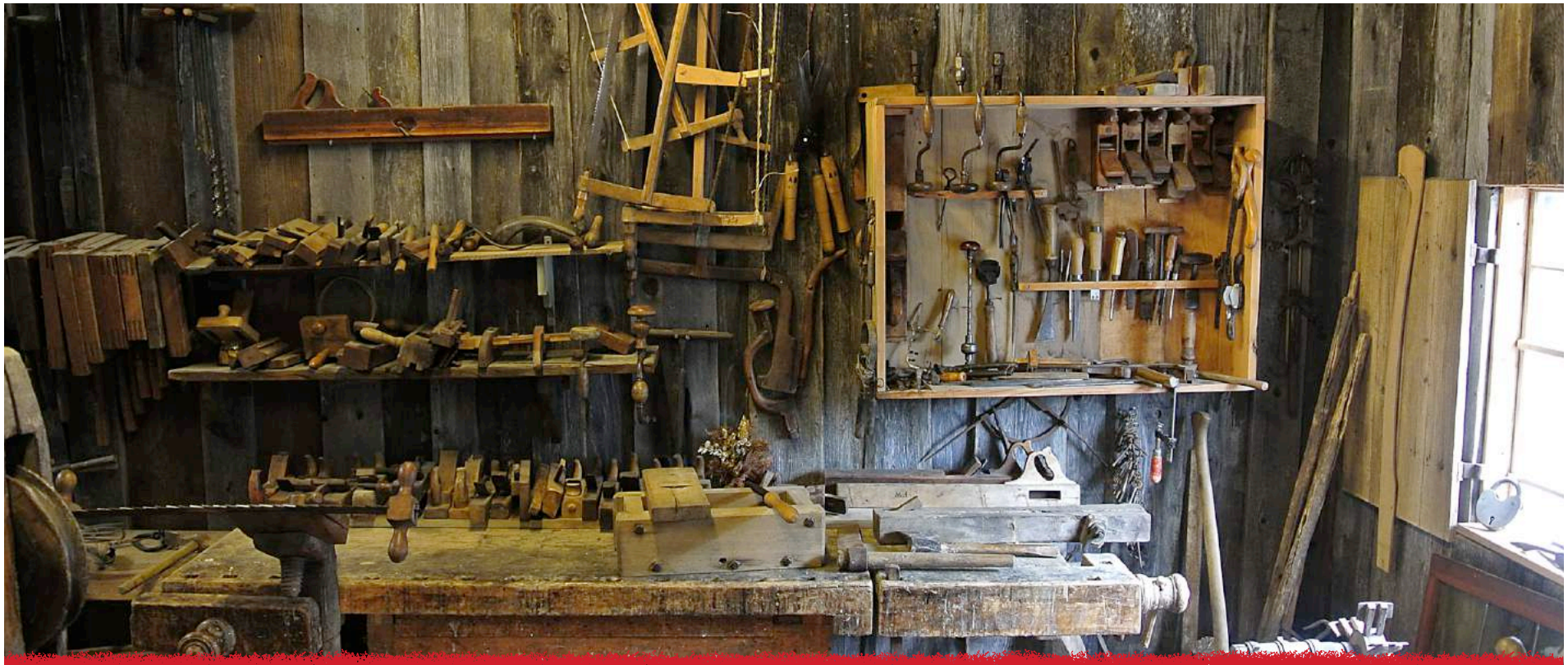
John Garbutt, Principal Engineer, Nova PTL
@johnthetubaguy
Fosdem 2016



Why is johnthetubaguy talking?

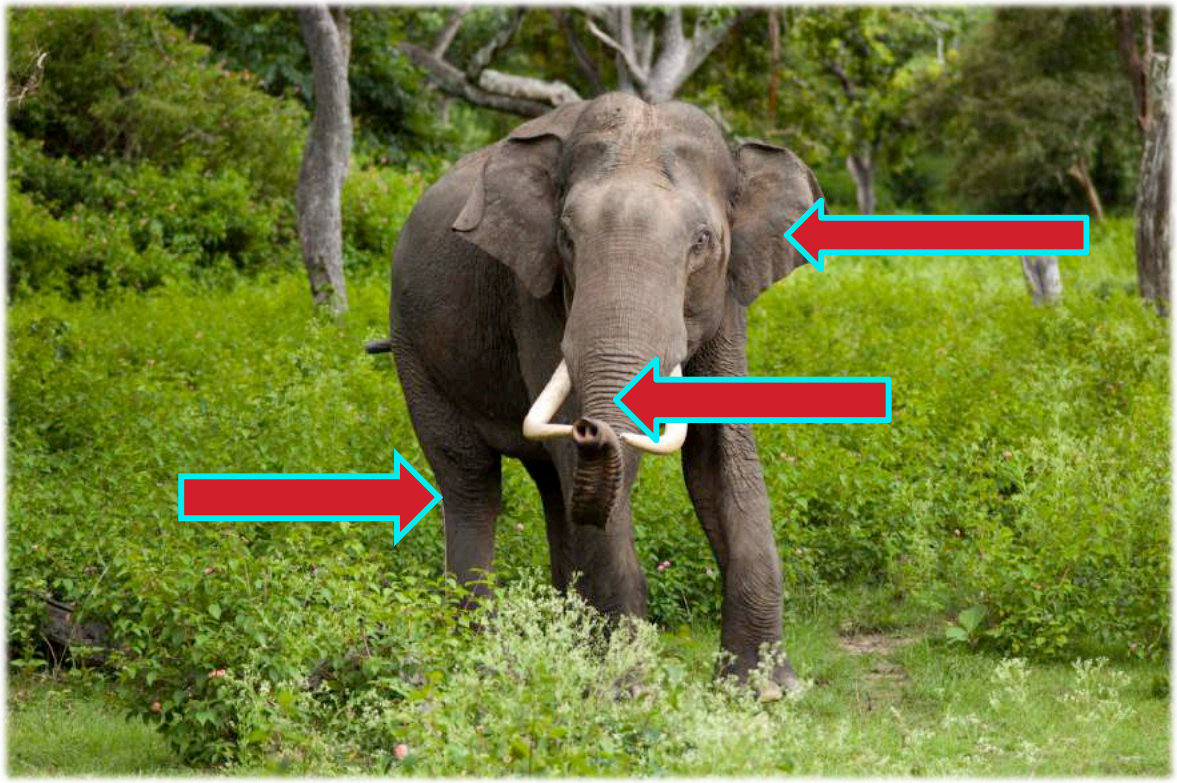
Do you really play the Tuba?

The Problem



How can I get my idea upstream?

Several Blind People meet an Elephant

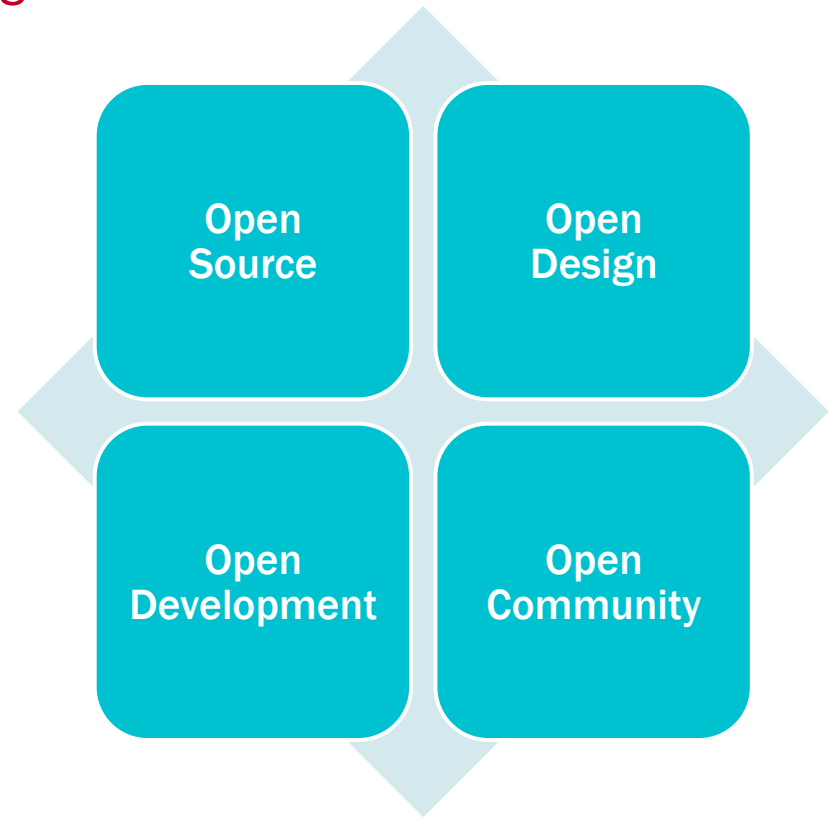


Simplified View of an OpenStack Project

Upstream Mission	Reality	Internal View of Mission

The Vision

The Four Opens



The Solution

What can we all learn from To Kill a Mockingbird?

“You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view … until you climb into his skin and walk around in it.”

To Kill a Mocking Bird
By Harper Lee

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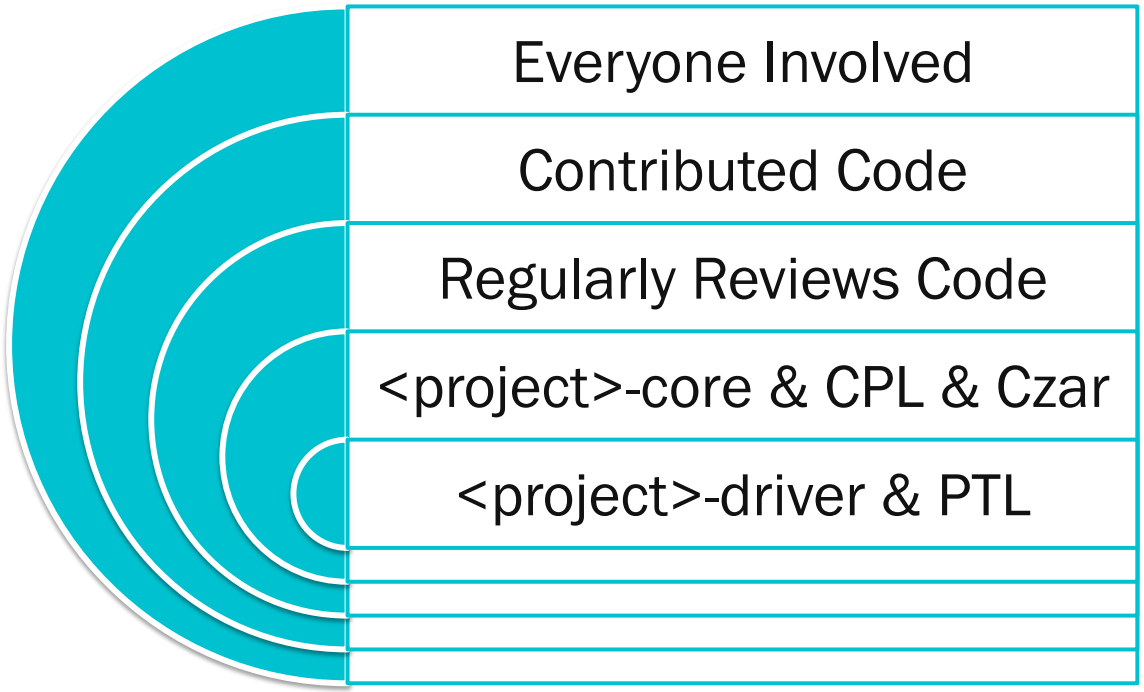
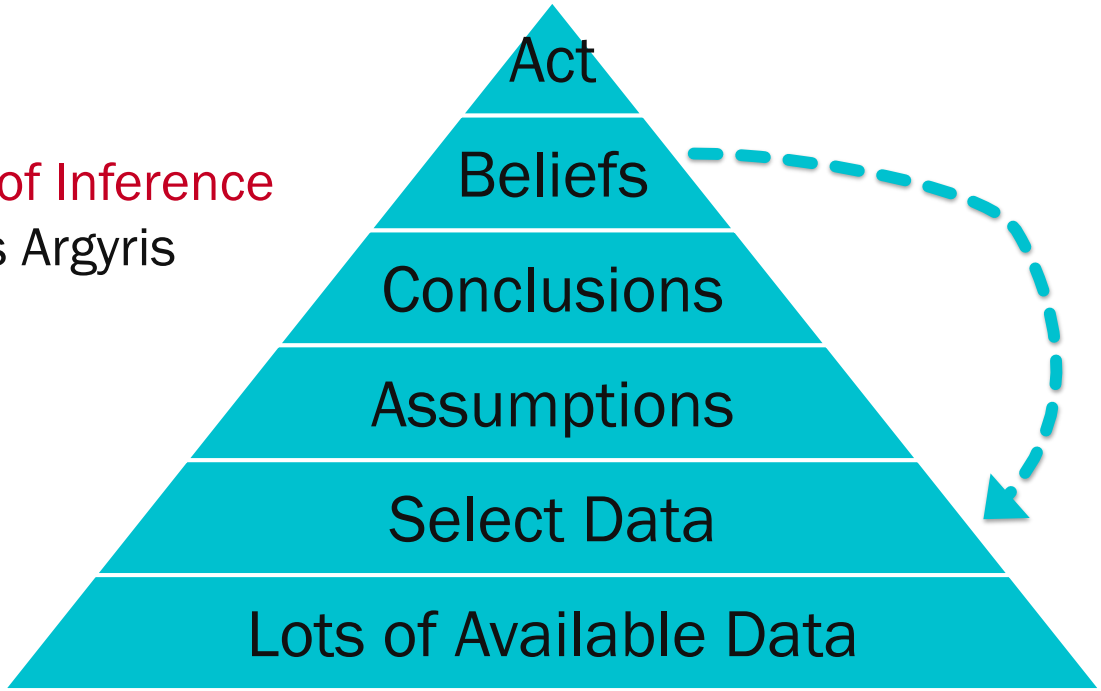
Groups with Shared Context

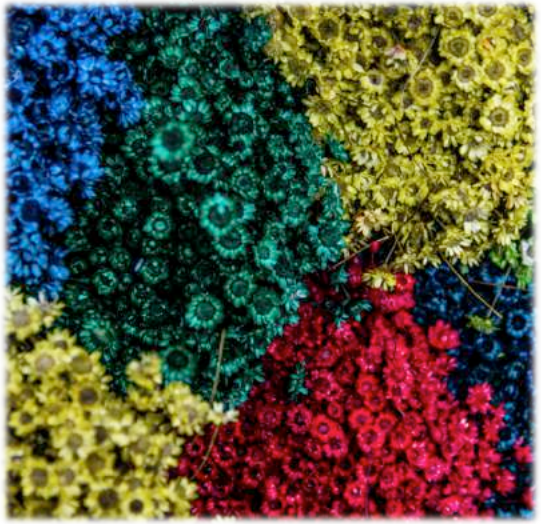


Deciding How to Act

Ladder of Inference
By Chris Argyris



Level of Involvement

One-off	Infrequent Contributions	Regular Contributors
		

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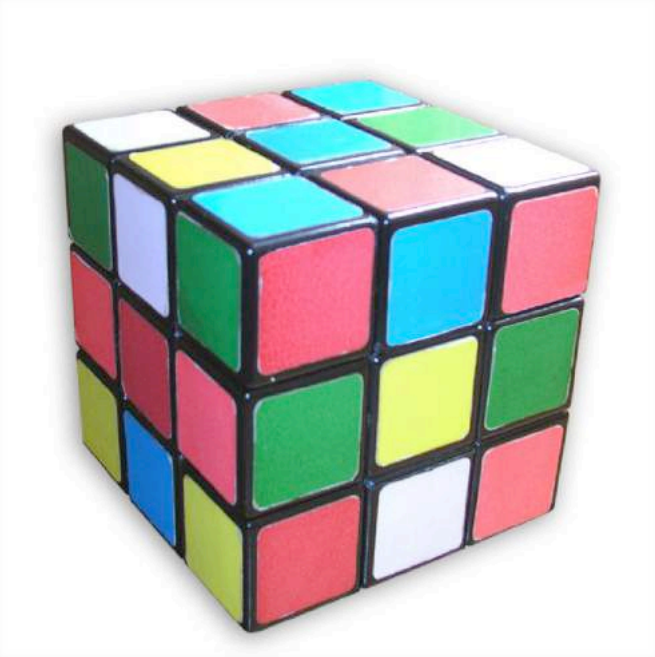

Problem First, Solution Second

Common Issues and Solutions

- Your Problem has already been solved
- Someone is already working on what I want
- Use something that's not ready
- Use something that is missing

- Your idea is only just out of scope
- Build on something upstream wants

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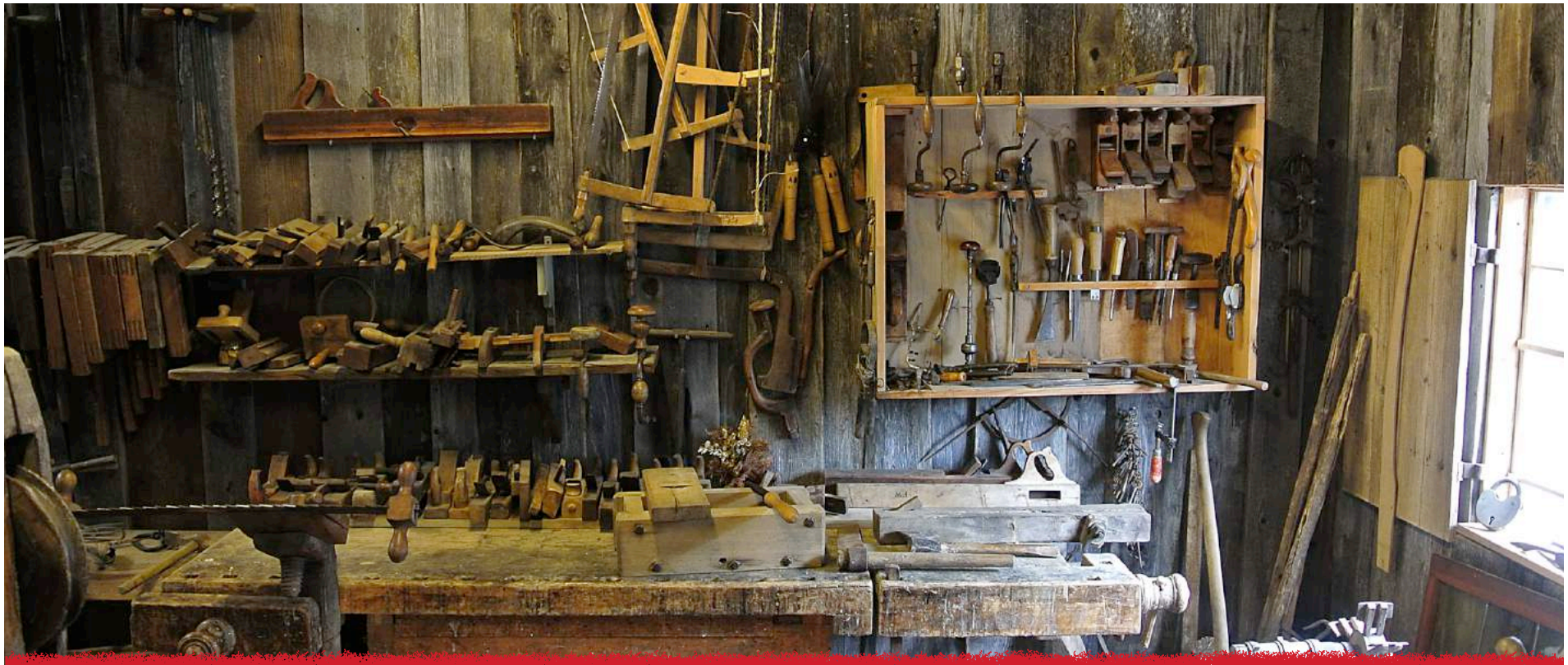
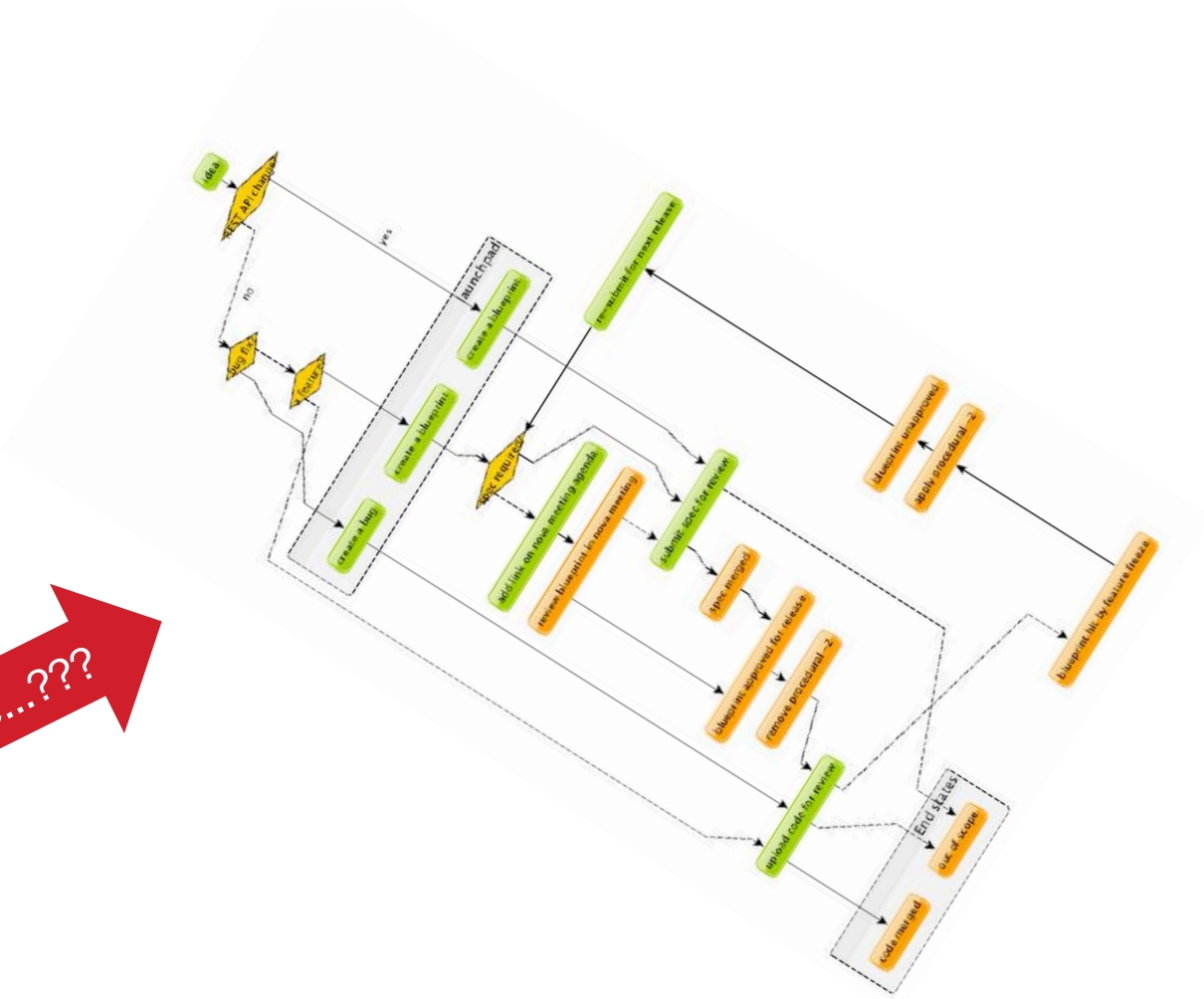
What if my idea is “Out of Scope”?

- First discuss your problem, then the solution
  - Build Empathy, Ask Questions
- Find or Create a Project where it is in Scope
  - Build a community with similar problems
- Add APIs to existing project to support your project
  - Example: Server HA

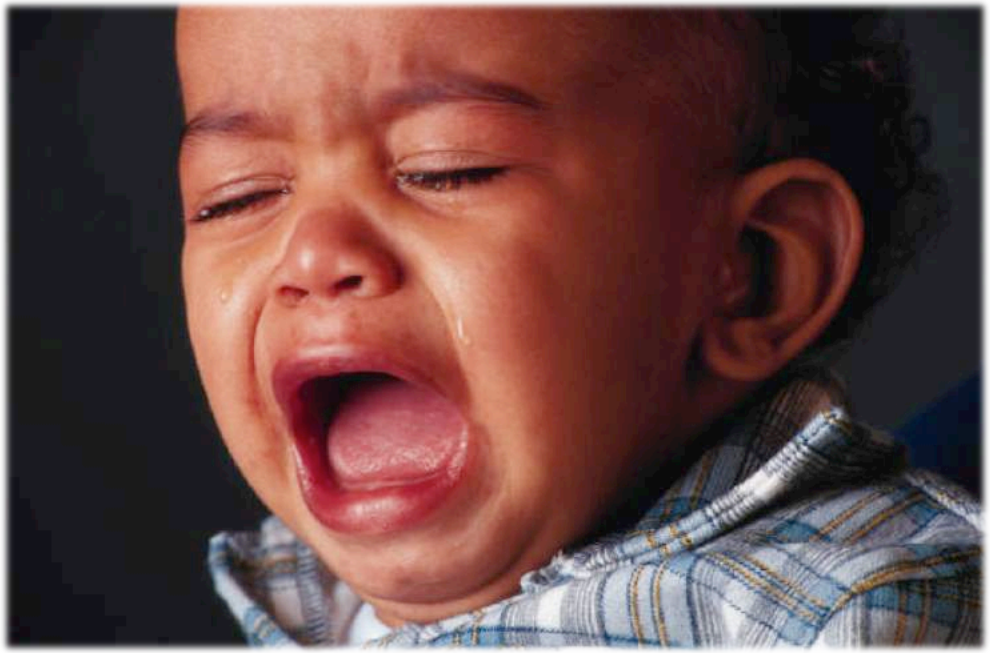


Where should I start?

Process

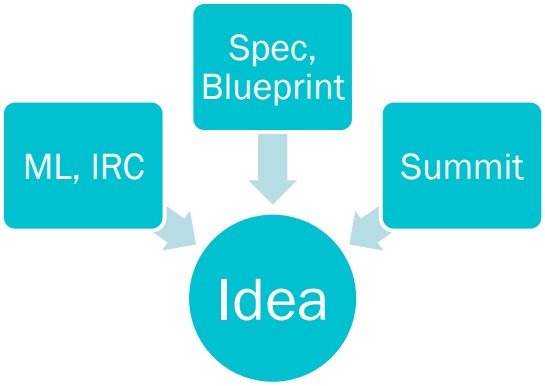


What the...???



OpenStack Process

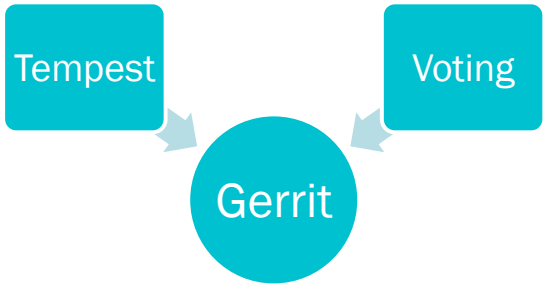
Idea Feedback



Commit Types

- Feature
  - Blueprint, Spec, Spec-less
- Bug Fix
- Other

Code and Spec Review



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To Kill a Mocking Bird
Harper Lee

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Problem First, Solution Second

Thank you

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