



hello world

i'm Ben

 blimmer

 l1m5

 hello@benlimmer.com



# cu life

- Grad '11
- Startups2Students
- CSUAC
- Internships (more to come...)

# ReadyTalk

- Varied tech stack
- Java thick-client
- ActionScript
- (old) web tech



# ibotta

- Earlier-Stage Startup
- Bleeding Edge Web Tech
- EmberJS
- NodeJS

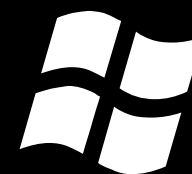
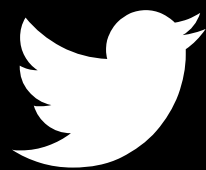


i write code.

i also hire people who  
write code.



so, you want a job  
after school?



or



FullContact

Ping  
Identity®



mapquest®



ReadyTalk 



iTRiAGE



TrackVia

PaySimple®

we all want the same  
thing.

people who are smart  
and get things done.

because we all need  
the same thing.

ship it!

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**U SHIPZ IT**



**NOW!**

# smart && !getThingsDone

- Impractical
- Prefer to think about solving, rather than solve
- Fast companies don't mix with this person

# getThingsDone && !smart

- Liability
- “WTF” code
- Who can clean up the mess?

how do I become  
smart && getThingsDone?

# how to be valuable in the market

- Master the Basics
- Get Experience
- Market Yourself

mastering the basics





# mastering the basics

- data structures
- algorithms
- databases
- scm
- testing (tdd/bdd/etc.)



# how to be valuable in the market

- ~~Master the Basics~~
- Get Experience
- Market Yourself

no, really. get experience.

remember what  
employers want?

people who are smart  
and get things done.

therefore...

**employers look for people who have already  
done things**

and...

**you can't get a job doing something you  
haven't done before**

“The best way [to be a programmer] is to write programs, and to study great programs that other people have written.”

– *Bill Gates*

so how do I do it?

# internships

- startups2students \*\*
- Jobs Mailing List
- Meetups



it's not too early

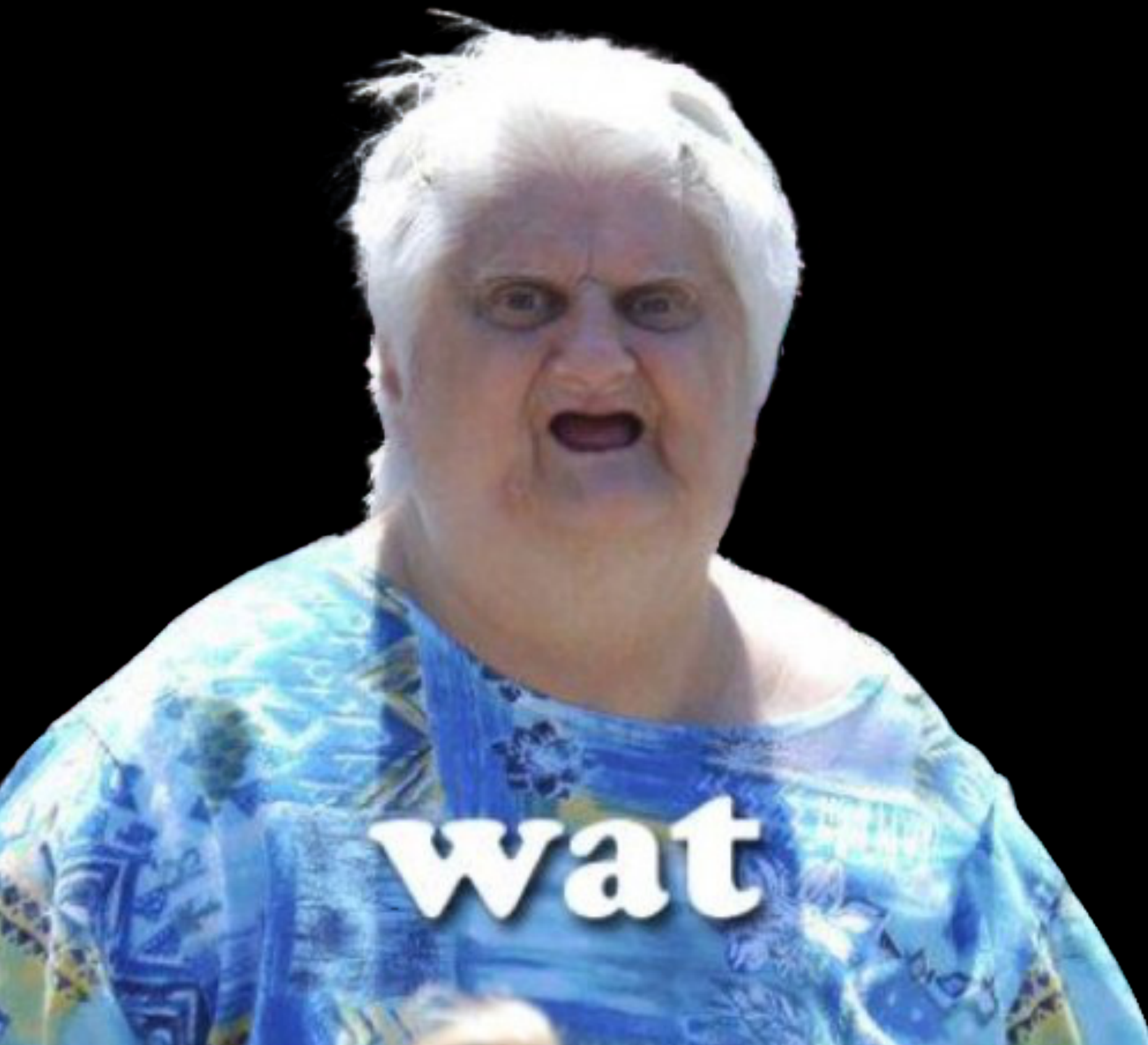
my first internship





“Just come in and start writing failing tests that conform to the Flash Player documentation.”

*–Rob Savoye*



**wat**

“...then start implementing those methods. I was thinking you could start with the Camera API. You could start with the FFMpeg or GStreamer implementation, whichever you’re more familiar with.”

*–Rob Savoye*



**65 WAT**





**DEEP END**



it was hard, but it all  
came together

# open source projects

- Find something interesting to you
- Look for “good for new contributor” labels
- Read lots of code
- Fix the Docs!

# network with professors

- A huge benefit of uni vs. bootcamp
- Alum connections
- Research projects

# how to be valuable in the market

- ~~Master the Basics~~
- ~~Get Experience~~
- Market Yourself

it's not too early

therefore...

**employers look for people who have already done things**

and...

**you can't get a job doing something you haven't done before**

so...

**employers Google your name to see what you've said and done**

# have an online presence

- Github
- LinkedIn
- Twitter



# your very own website

- Learn a new framework
- Rewrite
- Open Source
- Running portfolio/resume



# Benjamin Limmer

HOME ABOUT ME EDUCATION

COMPUTER SCIENCE CU BOULDER

## HCCPD Final Writeup

May 2, 2011 - 4:30 pm

It's finally here! Today I'm officially done with college. My last requirement is to post my portfolio page which describes the work I've done in my Human Centered Computing Professional Development (HCCPD) over the past semester. I honestly believe that this class is one of the most beneficially project classes you can take in the [read more »](#)

Edit | Comment (0)

CU BOULDER

## Distinguished Senior Awards Banquet

April 30, 2011 - 2:30 pm

Last night I was presented with the award for distinguished senior graduate in Computer Science. It was an awesome event where I got to network with other outstanding graduates from the CU College of Engineering and lots of alumni from the College of Engineering. Here's a picture of me with Xiao-Chuan Cai, the chair of [read more »](#)

Edit | Comment (1)

COMPUTER SCIENCE CU BOULDER

## Senior Project: DONE!

Let's get social!



Search

Search

SEARCH

# BEN LIMMER

*Keepin' It Real*

[HOME](#)[ABOUT ME](#)[EDUCATION](#)[PORTFOLIO](#)

31  
AUG

## Squash your Commits

Over the past few weeks, I've had a ton more keyboard time working in our large Java codebase. It has been great having more time to focus on software development, but it's quite a change heading back over to a non-greenfield project in a more "heavyweight" language like Java.

[Keep Reading...](#)

LET'S CONNECT!



## Recent Blog Posts

28 Oct 2014 » [Ember.computed.\\* is your friend!](#)

13 Sep 2014 » [Lock Down Your Bower Components, Folks](#)

13 Sep 2014 » [JSBin with Ember and CoffeeScript](#)

22 Aug 2014 » [Getting Started with EmberJS](#)

31 Mar 2014 » [Guard + Pry + Mac OS X = :-\(](#)

30 Mar 2014 » [ReadyTalk -> Ibotta](#)

05 Mar 2014 » [Mac Not Booting to Apple Hardware Test \(AHT\)? Try this.](#)

09 Feb 2014 » [Mocking SWT Image and Display with PowerMockito](#)

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have an IRL presence















FullContact

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TrackVia

PaySimple®

# have an IRL presence

- Meetups
- Startup Week (Denver/Boulder)
- Professors

that's how to be valuable in  
the market

what you can do now

# scm

- Setup a github or bitbucket private repo for schoolwork
- Use scm for all your schoolwork
- It's a skill you **need** to know to get a job

# get involved at cu

- prestige of cu vs. bootcamp programs
- get to know your CS professors
- start or join a CS club

# get involved outside cu

- meetups
- startup events
- open source projects

# start searching for an internship

- Find a company in Denver/Boulder/elsewhere that interests you
- Go to [startups2students](#)
- Beware imposter syndrome



# set a(n attainable) goal

make a goal to ... by the end of the 2014/15 year:

- have  $n$  public commits on Github
- go to a tech meetup in Denver/Boulder
- get to know one of your CS professors well
- make a personal website
- start or join a CS club
- get a summer internship

# Thanks!

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# resources (jobs)

- CS Jobs Mailing List (<http://www.colorado.edu/cs/job-opportunities/jobs-mailing-list>)
- Guerilla guide to interviewing (<http://www.joelonsoftware.com/articles/GuerrillaInterviewing3.html>)
- Cracking the Coding Interview (<http://www.amazon.com/Cracking-Coding-Interview-Programming-Questions/dp/098478280X>)

# resources (open source)

- Fix the Docs! (<http://www.docsdoctor.org/> , <http://www.codetriage.com/>)
- Explore Github (<https://github.com/explore>)
- Open Source Report Card (<https://osrc.dfm.io/>)

# resources (scm)

- Try git (<https://try.github.io/levels/1/challenges/1>)
- Learn bitbucket (<https://confluence.atlassian.com/display/BITBUCKET/Bitbucket+101>)

# resources (community)

- Denver Startup Week (<http://www.denverstartupweek.org/>)
- Boulder Startup Week (<http://boulderstartupweek.com/>)
- Meetups (<http://meetup.com>)
- Boulder Open Coffee Club (<https://www.facebook.com/BoulderOpenCoffeeClub>)

# resources (free stuff)

- Free Stuff for Students (<https://education.github.com/pack>)