

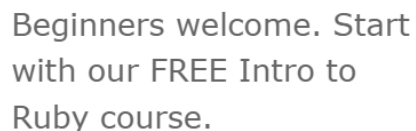
# CIVILIZED DISCOURSE .. BUT HOW?

Jeff Atwood

[discourse.org](https://discourse.org)

[stackoverflow.com](https://stackoverflow.com)

[codinghorror.com](https://codinghorror.com)



## DevOps Manager

**Rally Health, Inc.**

📍 *San Francisco, CA*

chef

amazon-web-services

## Senior Software Engineer, Switching & Appliance Firmware

## Cisco Meraki

📍 *San Francisco, CA*

C

C++

[ad] Enjoy the blog? Read

## Effective Programming: More

25 Mar 2016

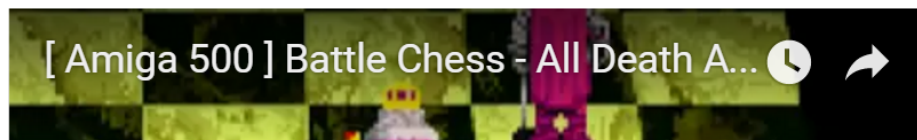
# Thanks For Ruining Another Game Forever, Computers

In 2006, after [visiting the Computer History Museum's exhibit on Chess](#), I opined:

We may have reached an inflection point. The problem space of chess is so astonishingly large that incremental increases in hardware speed and algorithms are unlikely to result in meaningful gains from here on out.

So. About that. Turns out I was kinda ... *totally completely wrong*. The number of possible moves, or "problem space", of Chess is indeed astonishingly large, estimated to be  $10^{50}$ :

100,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000



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Ask programming questions



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14

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1

answer

140

views

[What is the fastest ArangoDB friends-of-friends query \(with count\)](#)

[graph-databases](#)
[arangodb](#)
[aql](#)

modified 1 min ago [Irshad](#) 1,229

0

votes

0

answers

1

view

[How to use jQuery UI touch events on html web page.](#)

[jquery](#)
[html](#)
[jquery-ui](#)

asked 1 min ago [Joel Muriuki](#) 1

0

votes

0

answers

2

views

[Ignore single sent to my own process group](#)

[ruby](#)
[unix](#)
[signals](#)

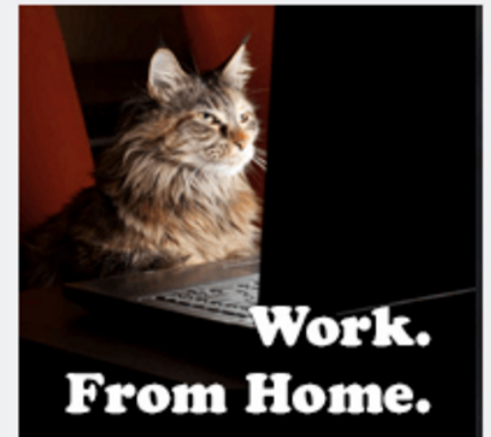
asked 1 min ago [Guss](#) 8,188

0

0

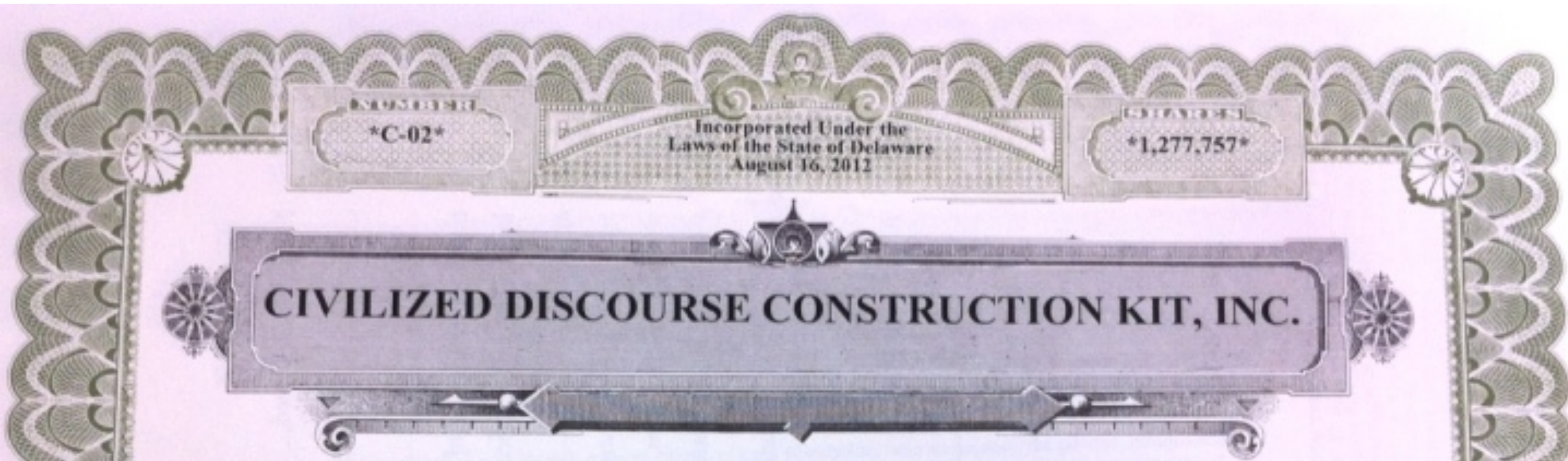
8

[Howto automate webview facebook login with appium](#)



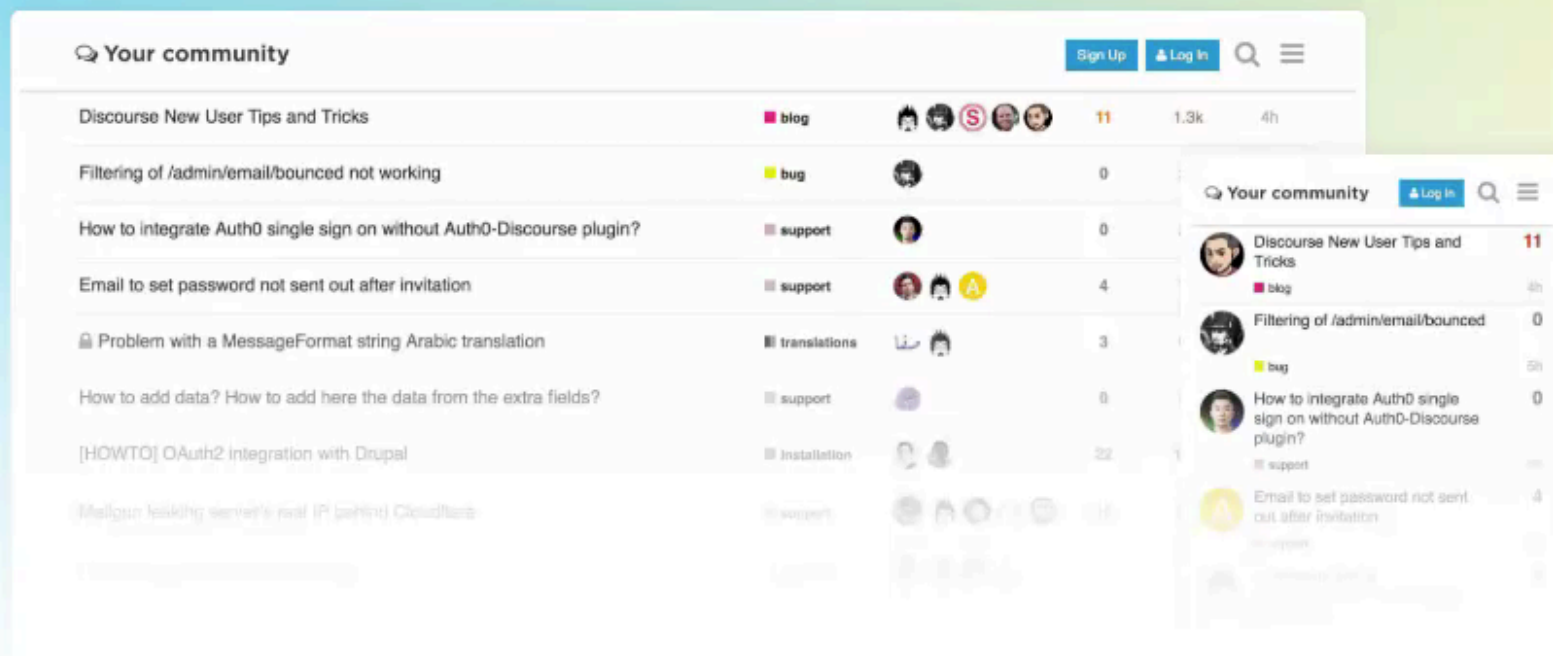
 **stackoverflow**  
CAREERS

Jobs near you



# Civilized discussion for your team

Try it FREE



The screenshot displays the Discourse web interface. The main section, titled "Your community", shows a list of discussion topics. Each topic includes a title, a category icon (e.g., blog, bug, support), a user profile picture, a count of replies, and a timestamp. A sidebar on the right shows a "Your community" section with a "Log In" button and a list of recent topics, including "Discourse New User Tips and Tricks" with 11 replies.

Topic	Category	Replies	Time
Discourse New User Tips and Tricks	blog	11	1.3k 4h
Filtering of /admin/email/bounced not working	bug	0	
How to integrate Auth0 single sign on without Auth0-Discourse plugin?	support	0	
Email to set password not sent out after invitation	support	4	
Problem with a MessageFormat string Arabic translation	translations	3	
How to add data? How to add here the data from the extra fields?	support	0	
[HOWTO] OAuth2 integration with Drupal	Installation	22	
Mailgun taking server's mail (P behind Cloudflare)	support	16	



WHAT DO WE WANT?!

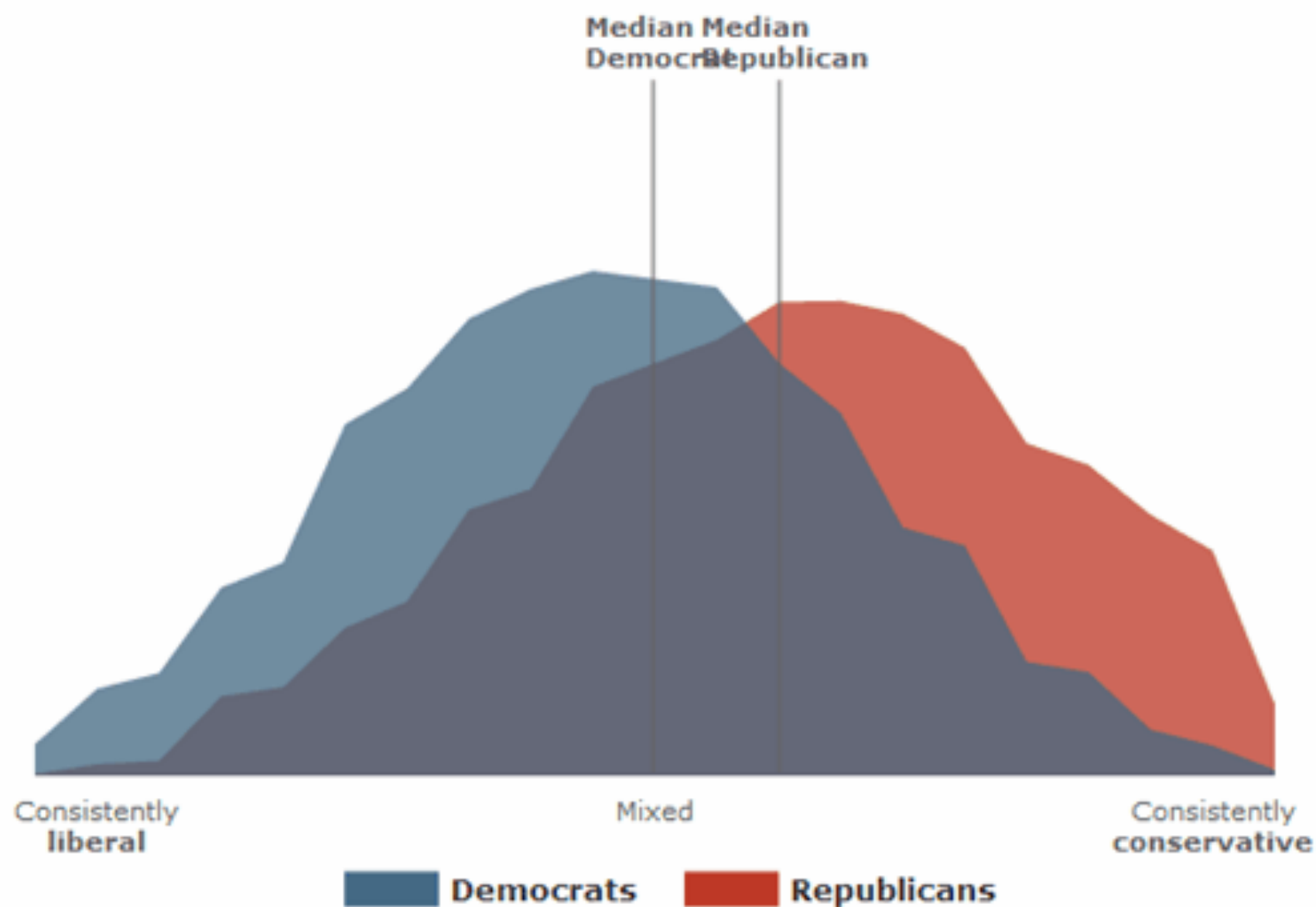
RESPECTFUL DISCOURSE.

WHEN DO WE WANT IT?!

NOW WOULD BE  
AGREEABLE TO ME,  
BUT I AM INTERESTED  
IN YOUR OPINION.



## Political Polarization of the American Public, 1994-2014



Surveys conducted 1994, 1999, 2004, 2011 and 2014.

© Pew Research Center



From "only nerds will use the Internet" to "everyone stares at their smartphones all day long!" in 20 years. Not bad, team :-).

— Marc Andreessen @pmarca January 16, 2015

The good news is that, at this moment, **every human being is far more connected to their fellow humans than any human has ever been in the entirety of recorded history.**

Spoiler alert: *that's also the bad news.*

Today's forum software has a default FAQ that tells you how to make **bold text**, but absolutely nothing about how to moderate your forum, deal with trolls, appoint moderators, or even how to get people to visit in the first place.

*Can software teach you to get along  
with other people?*



# Rules

## Dear McDonald's Customers:

1. We reserve the right to refuse service to any individual.
2. Limited condiments FREE with order. There will be an additional charge for extra condiments.
3. No refunds or replacement without a receipt.
4. When paying with a credit card, any orders over \$25.00 require an I.D. that must match the name on the credit card.
5. Offensive language and behavior will NOT be tolerated
6. For safety reasons, No walk up orders accepted.

Thank You



## **This is a Civilized Place for Public Discussion**

Please treat this discussion forum with the same respect you would a public park. We, too, are a shared community resource — a place to share skills, knowledge and interests through ongoing conversation.

These are not hard and fast rules, merely aids to the human judgment of our community. Use these guidelines to keep this a clean, well-lighted place for civilized public discourse.

## **Improve the Discussion**

Help us make this a great place for discussion by always working to improve the discussion in some way, however small. If you are not sure your post adds to the conversation, think over what you want to say and try again later.

The topics discussed here matter to us, and we want you to act as if they matter to you, too. Be respectful of the topics and the people discussing them, even if you disagree with some of what is being said.

One way to improve the discussion is by discovering ones that are already happening. Please spend some time browsing the topics here before replying or starting your own, and you'll have a better chance of meeting others who share your interests.



### First Quote

Quoted a post

1917



### First Reply By Email

Replied to a post via email

305



### First Share

Shared a post

1094



### New User of the Month

Outstanding contributions in their first month

5



### Read Guidelines

Read the [community guidelines](#)

1224



### Reader

Read every reply in a topic with more than 100 replies

467



FAQ new

ories

Latest

New

Unread

Top

Users

Badges

Users

Groups

Tags



# Before you continue

Whether it's your first time using Airbnb or you're one of our original travelers, please commit to respecting and including everyone in the Airbnb community.

[Learn more](#)

---

I agree to treat everyone in the Airbnb community—regardless of their race, religion, national origin, ethnicity, disability, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or age—with respect, and without judgment or bias.

**Accept**

**Decline**

Laboratory studies show that this kind of force-feeding can activate bias rather than stamp it out.

As social scientists have found, people often rebel against rules to assert their autonomy. Try to coerce me to do X, Y, or Z, and **I'll do the opposite just to prove that I'm my own person.**

In one study white subjects read a brochure critiquing prejudice toward blacks.

When people felt **pressure** to agree with it, the reading **strengthened their bias** against blacks.

When they felt the **choice** was theirs, the reading **reduced** bias.







# DAN ARIELY

*New York Times* bestselling author of  
*Predictably Irrational* and *The Upside of Irrationality*



## THE (HONEST) TRUTH ABOUT DISHONESTY

How We Lie to Everyone—Especially Ourselves

The incredible power of **Just In  
Time nudges**

ARE YOU COMING TO BED?

I CAN'T. THIS  
IS IMPORTANT.

WHAT?

SOMEONE IS WRONG  
ON THE INTERNET.





Welcome to Soylent Discourse — thanks for contributing!



- Does your reply improve the conversation in some way?
- Be kind to your fellow community members.
- Constructive criticism is welcome, but criticize *ideas*, not people.

For more, [see our community guidelines](#). This panel will only appear for your first 2 posts.

Replying

 **B** *I* |     |   **A** 

[quote="SoylentJesus, post:2, topic:15326"]  
why in the world would you assume soylent is the cause?  
[/quote]



## Consider replying to more people ✕

You've already replied 3 times to `@codinghorror` in this particular topic.

Have you considered replying to *other* people in the discussion, too? A great discussion involves many voices and perspectives.

If you'd like to continue your conversation with this particular user at length, [send them a personal message](#).

The power of a gentle nudge, delivered *at exactly the right time*.

A real problem on Facebook is knowing how to support somebody who shares sad news or describes a difficult situation. You have no words but you want to show support: a thumbs up feels wrong, a heart feels right.

7 Likes



Reply



liked this



Modernizing the antiquated boxing scoring system



**B**

*I*



Post must be at least 20 characters   
Have you tried the  button?

No way!

- Posting some, but no profile picture?
- Replying to the same person... a lot?
- Replying to the same topic... a lot?
- Posting a link someone else already posted?
- You're replying with a single word?

Home

Inbox

Neighbors

Map

Events Calendar

Recommendations **NEW**

LOCAL

Alta Hill

Local Agencies

CATEGORIES

Classifieds

Crime & Safety

Documents

Free items

General

Lost & Found

## Alta Hill + Nearby Neighborhoods

142 NEIGHBORS · 150 NEARBY NEIGHBORS



MESSAGE EVENT POLL URGENT ALERT

Choose neighbors

Crime & Safety

Add subject

What are you posting about?

A crime

Suspicious activity

Other

ADD PHOTO

Close

Post

## Help keep your neighborhood safe

---

- ✓ Your posts go to your neighbors, not to the police. Call 9-1-1 in an emergency.
- ✓ When posting about a crime or suspicious activity:
  - Focus on behavior. What was the person doing that made you suspicious?
  - Descriptions of hair, clothing, shoes, and identifying marks like tattoos are helpful. Identifying someone solely by race is not.
- ✓ Racial profiling is prohibited by Nextdoor's [Community Guidelines](#).

Got it, thanks

## Describe a person

### ASK YOURSELF

What details can I add that will help distinguish this person from other similar people?



Describe clothing from head to toe. Police say this is the most helpful to neighbors (and helps avoid suspecting innocent people).

When race is included, you must include at least 2 of the highlighted fields. [\(Why?\)](#)

**Hair:**

Hat, hair, color, style...

**Top:**

Shirt, jacket, color, style...

**Bottom:**

Pants, skirt, color, style...

**Shoes:**

Shoe, brand, color, style...

### Now give the other basics

**Age:**

17-19

**Build:**

**Race:**

Hispanic

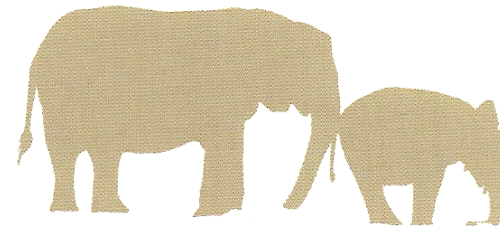
[Back](#)

[Add this person](#)



Richard H. Thaler  
Cass R. Sunstein

# Nudge



Improving Decisions  
About Health, Wealth,  
and Happiness



Make the **right** thing **easy** to do  
and the **wrong** thing **awkward** to  
do

While Airbnb isn't necessarily more racist than other corners of the internet, the study authors suggested that **the user-to-user design of the site allows for bias** in a way that a traditional hotel booking site does not.

# Remove friction from *reading*

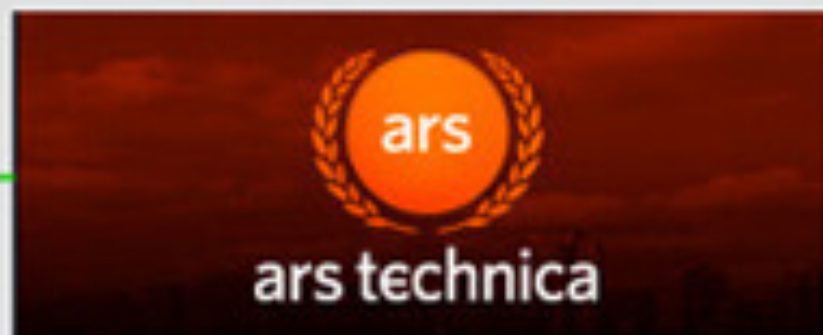
ip 2







# The anatomy of a serious discussion as performed by teh intertubes



## Guns at home more likely to be used stupidly than in self-defense

By John Timmer | Last updated about 15 hours ago

~~Defense gun use and whether it was successful may depend on who is telling the story.~~ → If you have read this far, please mention Bananas in your comment below. We're pretty sure 90% of the respondents to this story won't even read it first.

### Start of Comments Section.

Ars readers are cool. Someone sure will mention Bananas soon.

1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

2. Next, it is important to gather relevant information and data. This can be done through research, consultation with experts, or by analyzing existing data sets.

3. Once the information is gathered, the next step is to analyze it. This involves identifying patterns, trends, and relationships that can help in understanding the problem.

4. After analysis, the next step is to develop a plan or strategy to address the problem. This plan should be based on the information gathered and the analysis performed.

5. The final step is to implement the plan and evaluate the results. This involves putting the plan into action and monitoring the progress to ensure that the problem is being solved effectively.

1. **What is the purpose of the study?**  
The purpose of the study is to investigate the effect of the new curriculum on the learning outcomes of the students in the field of mathematics.
2. **What is the research design?**  
The research design is a quasi-experimental design, which involves comparing the learning outcomes of two groups of students, one of which is exposed to the new curriculum and the other to the old curriculum.
3. **What are the variables?**  
The independent variable is the curriculum (new vs. old), and the dependent variable is the learning outcomes (measured by test scores).
4. **What is the sample?**  
The sample consists of 100 students, who are randomly selected from two different schools.
5. **What are the data collection methods?**  
The data collection methods include pre-test and post-test scores, which are used to measure the learning outcomes of the students.
6. **What are the results?**  
The results show that the students who were exposed to the new curriculum achieved significantly higher learning outcomes than those who were exposed to the old curriculum.
7. **What are the conclusions?**  
The conclusion is that the new curriculum has a positive effect on the learning outcomes of the students in the field of mathematics.
8. **What are the implications?**  
The implications of the study are that the new curriculum should be implemented in all schools, and that further research should be conducted to investigate the effect of the new curriculum on other subjects.



**40 Comments later.**  
Let's go to Comments Page 2.

---

**(snip) Comments Page 2**  
40 more comments. Still no bananas.

---



**Comments Page 3 — I want to believe**  
For god's sake, please someone mention Bananas.

[illegible]

"bananas"

**At last. yak8998, you're my hero.**  
On the other hand ... IE? What the ..? Ahhhhhhhhrgh.



7 of 8 people (88%) found this review helpful  
1 person found this review funny



**Recommended**  
5.5 hrs on record

Posted: February 24

Love It They Out Did It Again Amazing..  
Game With Outstanding Graphics..  
Good Story Line An Fun Interactions In  
The Game!!!!!!  
I Would Say This Is The Best One Yet!!!!

## RATE COMMENT

*Thank you for your comment! Help us improve our community by rating the following three comments for quality and civility.*



**GeoffreyWood**

*26 seconds ago*

To raise new questions, new possibilities, to regard old problems from a new angle, requires creative imagination and marks real advance in science.

QUALITY



CIVILITY



**Reward the positive behaviors**  
you want

Ignore (or suppress / redirect)  
negative behaviors you don't want











**IMPORTANT CAVEAT:** be very,  
very careful that you are rewarding  
the actual behavior you want.

# Showing up is 90% of the job

## Trust Level

	<b>Basic</b> <b>Granted</b> all essential community functions	9301
	<b>Member</b> <b>Granted</b> invitations, group messaging, more likes	3451
	<b>Regular</b> <b>Granted</b> recategorize, rename, followed links, wiki, more likes	68
	<b>Leader</b> <b>Granted</b> global edit, pin, close, archive, split and merge, more likes	11

♥ great content

32876



### Nice Reply

Received 10 likes on a reply

166



### Nice Topic

Received 10 likes on a topic

22



### Crazy in Love

Used 50 likes in a day 20 times

18



### Great Share

Shared a post with 1000 unique visitors

# Numbers & sorting, used *very carefully*



**Gordon Linoff**

New York, United States

1,532

sql, sql-server, mysql

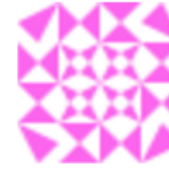


**sehe**

Netherlands

1,313

c++, boost, boost-spirit



**akrun**

1,160

r, rep, dplyr



**Quentin**

United Kingdom

1,103

javascript, html, jquery



**Jon Skeet**

Reading, United Kingdom

1,055

java, c#, .net



**T.J. Crowder**

United Kingdom

1,050

javascript, jquery, arrays



**dasblinkenlight**

United States

980

java, ios, c



**Eran**

Israel

980

java, java-8, hashtable








**lad2025**

978

sql, mysql, sql-server

# Reward collaboration; reciprocate ❤️

	❤️ Received ▼	❤️ Given	Topics	Replies	Entered	Read	Visits
 <b>japhroaig</b> Regular	1.2k	306	0	252	128	6.8k	8
 <b>slybevel</b> Regular	767	767	3	233	1.1k	30.4k	8
 <b>Mindysan33</b> Regular	745	838	2	209	250	4.3k	7
 <b>milliefink</b>	674	326	0	104	64	4.2k	8
 <b>crenquis</b>	648	608	0	117	124	2.2k	8

1. Build **aspirational guidelines**, and refer to them (but don't force it)
2. Use **Just In Time nudges**
3. Make the right thing easy to do and the wrong thing awkward to do
4. Reward positive behaviors



# THANKS!

Jeff Atwood

[discourse.org](https://discourse.org)

[stackoverflow.com](https://stackoverflow.com)

[codinghorror.com](https://codinghorror.com)