



The Cloud is Your Free Hobby Computer

by [Les Orchard](#) / [@lmorchard](#)

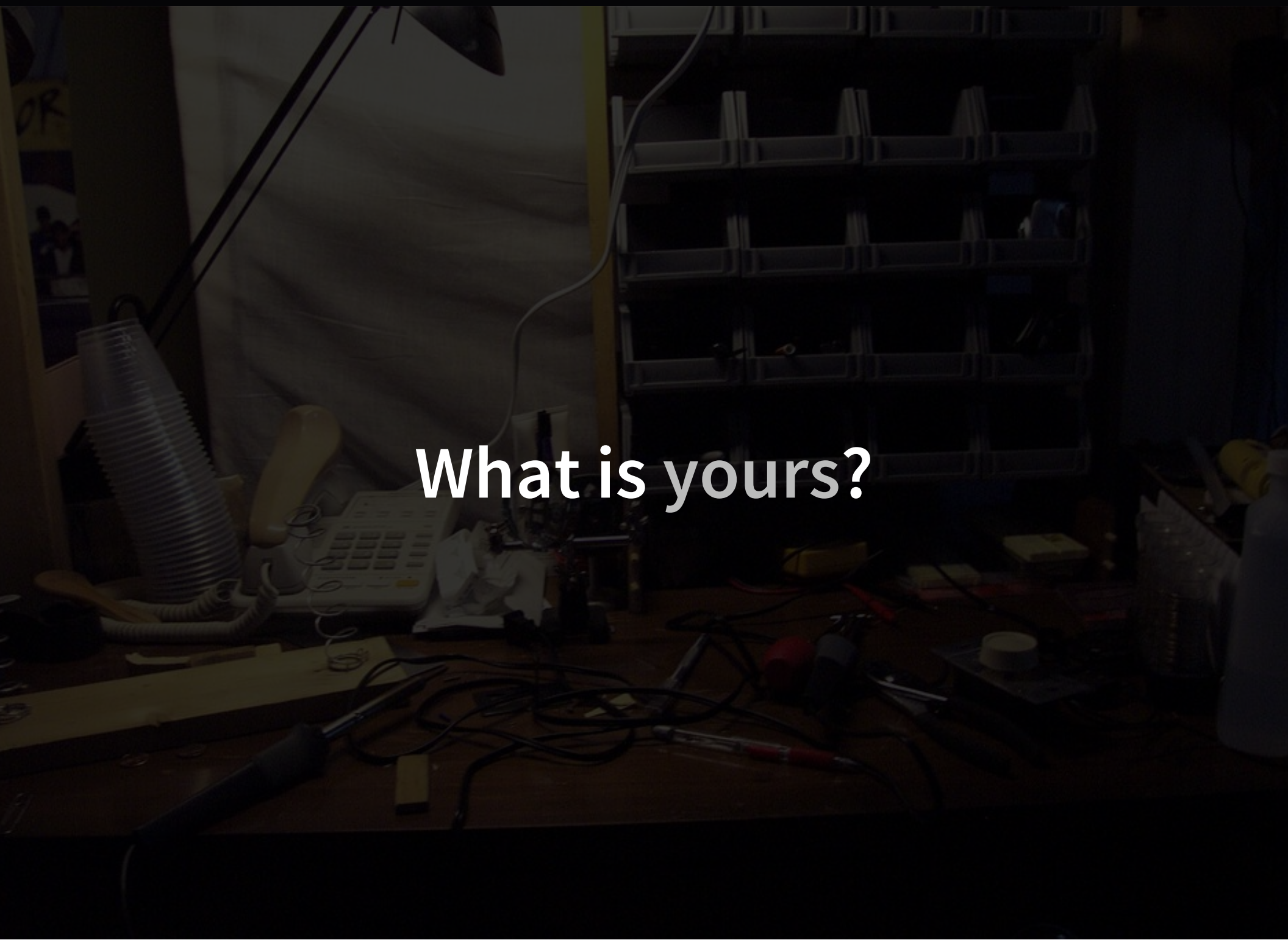


What is a hobby computer?

What is free?

free
beer*



A photograph of a cluttered desk in a dimly lit room. On the left, a desk lamp is partially visible. Next to it is a tall stack of white plastic cups. In the center, there is a white telephone and a keyboard. The desk is covered with various items, including cables, a soldering iron, and other tools. In the background, a white shelving unit with multiple compartments is visible. The text "What is yours?" is overlaid in the center of the image in a white, sans-serif font.

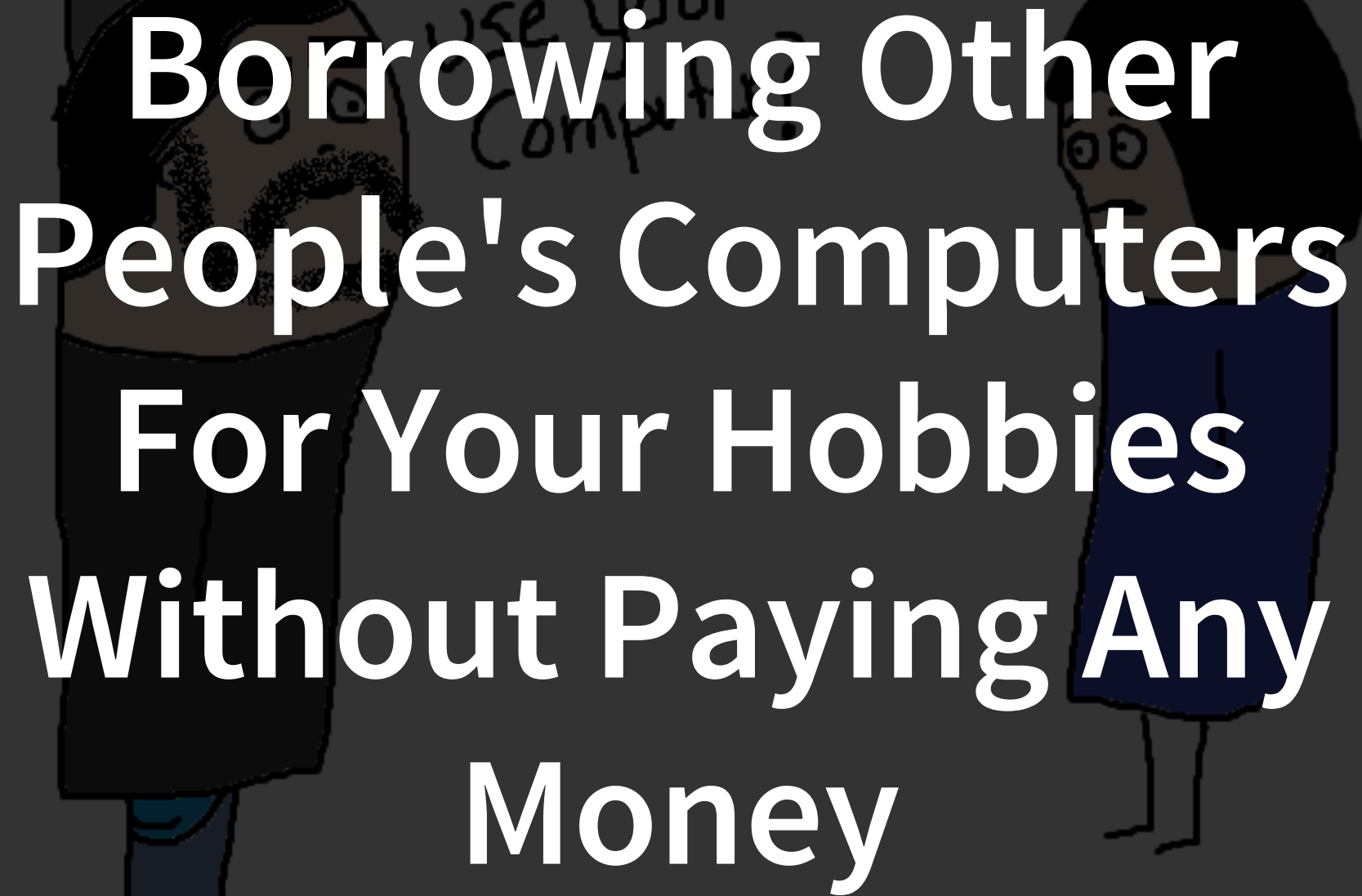
What is yours?

There is NO CLOUD, just



What is the cloud?


other people's computers




Borrowing Other People's Computers For Your Hobbies Without Paying Any Money


by [Les Orchard](#) / [@lmorchard](#)

GitHub








[Explore](#) [Gist](#) [Blog](#) [Help](#)

 **Imorchar** [+](#) [📧](#) [⚙️](#) [📄](#)




Les Orchard

Imorchar



 Mozilla Corporation
 Royal Oak, MI, USA
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 <http://imorchar.com/>
 Joined on Aug 23, 2008


212 Followers **513** Starred **128** Following



Organizations






[📄 Contributions](#) [📄 Repositories](#) [📄 Public activity](#) [✎ Edit profile](#)



 **Imorchar** created branch `master` at **Imorchar/cloud-hobby-computer-slides** 14 hours ago 




 **Imorchar** created repository **Imorchar/cloud-hobby-computer-slides** 14 hours ago

a day ago
 **Imorchar** pushed to `patch-1` at **Imorchar/reveal.js**
 [88325fd](#) markdown plugin should strip leading white space from all lines

 **Imorchar** forked **hakimel/reveal.js** to **Imorchar/reveal.js** a day ago

2 days ago
 **Imorchar** pushed to `master` at **Imorchar/blog.imorchar.com**
 [d543200](#) Okay, one more picture.

2 days ago
 **Imorchar** pushed to `master` at **Imorchar/blog.imorchar.com**
 [349a0af](#) New picture toward the bottom

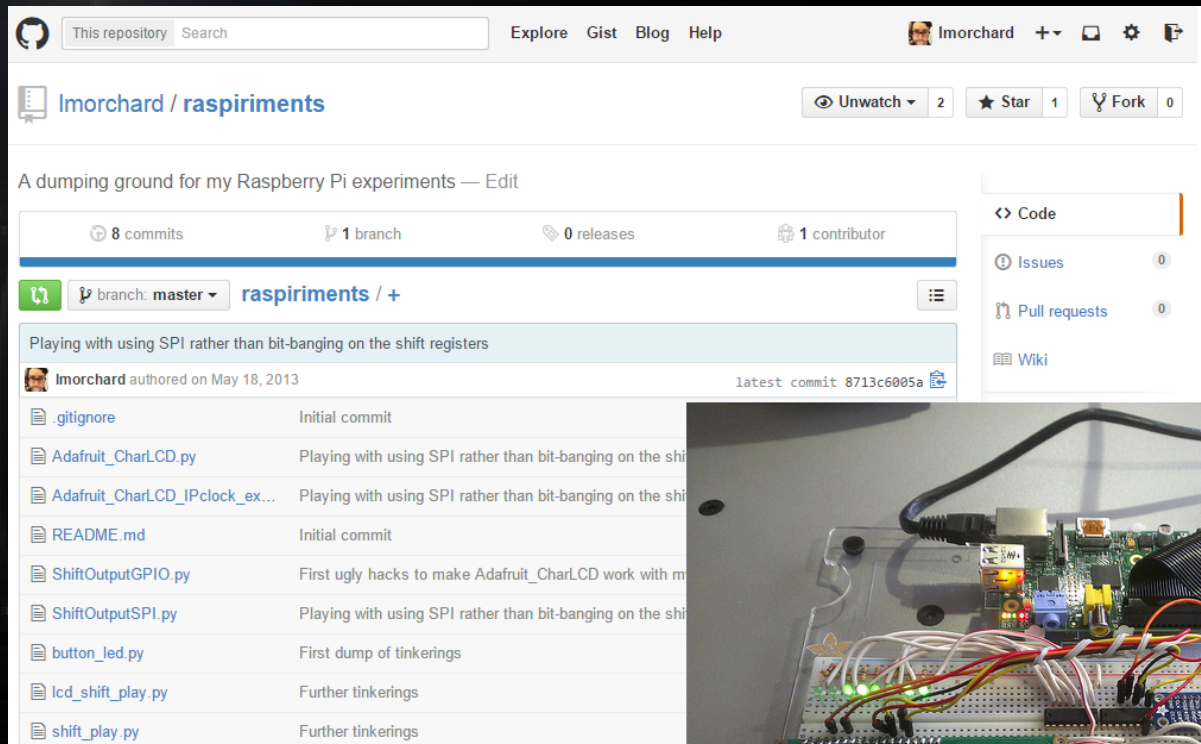
2 days ago
 **Imorchar** pushed to `master` at **Imorchar/blog.imorchar.com**
 [00d7c71](#) Copy thumbnail images locally
 [723ce71](#) Goodbye, Puck.
[View comparison for these 2 commits »](#)

★ **Imorchar** starred **db48x/emularity** 3 days ago

★ **Imorchar** starred **eeejay/espeak** 3 days ago

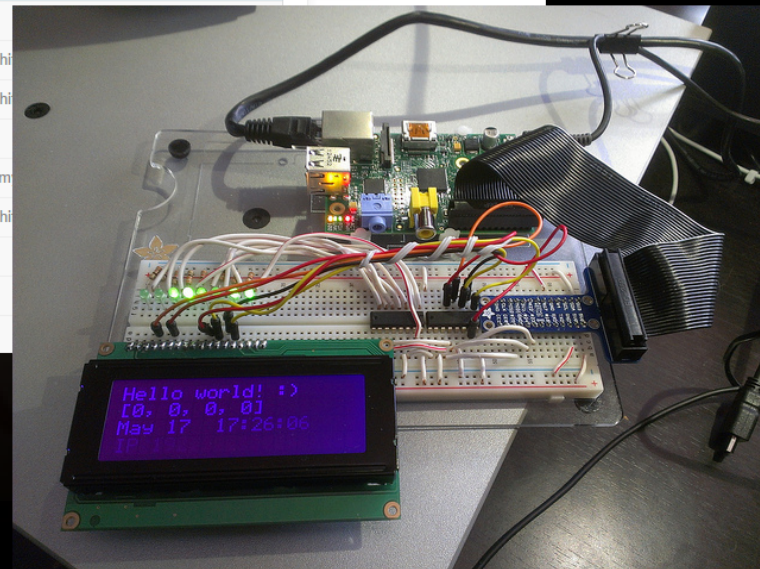


GitHub + Raspberry PI = <3



This screenshot shows a GitHub repository page for 'Imorchar / raspiriments'. The repository is described as 'A dumping ground for my Raspberry Pi experiments'. It features 8 commits, 1 branch, 0 releases, and 1 contributor. The current branch is 'master'. The repository contains several files, including a README.md and several Python scripts related to SPI and GPIO. The commit history shows a series of updates to the SPI-related files.

File	Description
.gitignore	Initial commit
Adafruit_CharLCD.py	Playing with using SPI rather than bit-banging on the shi
Adafruit_CharLCD_IPclock_ex...	Playing with using SPI rather than bit-banging on the shi
README.md	Initial commit
ShiftOutputGPIO.py	First ugly hacks to make Adafruit_CharLCD work with m
ShiftOutputSPI.py	Playing with using SPI rather than bit-banging on the shi
button_led.py	First dump of tinkering
lcd_shift_play.py	Further tinkering
shift_play.py	Further tinkering



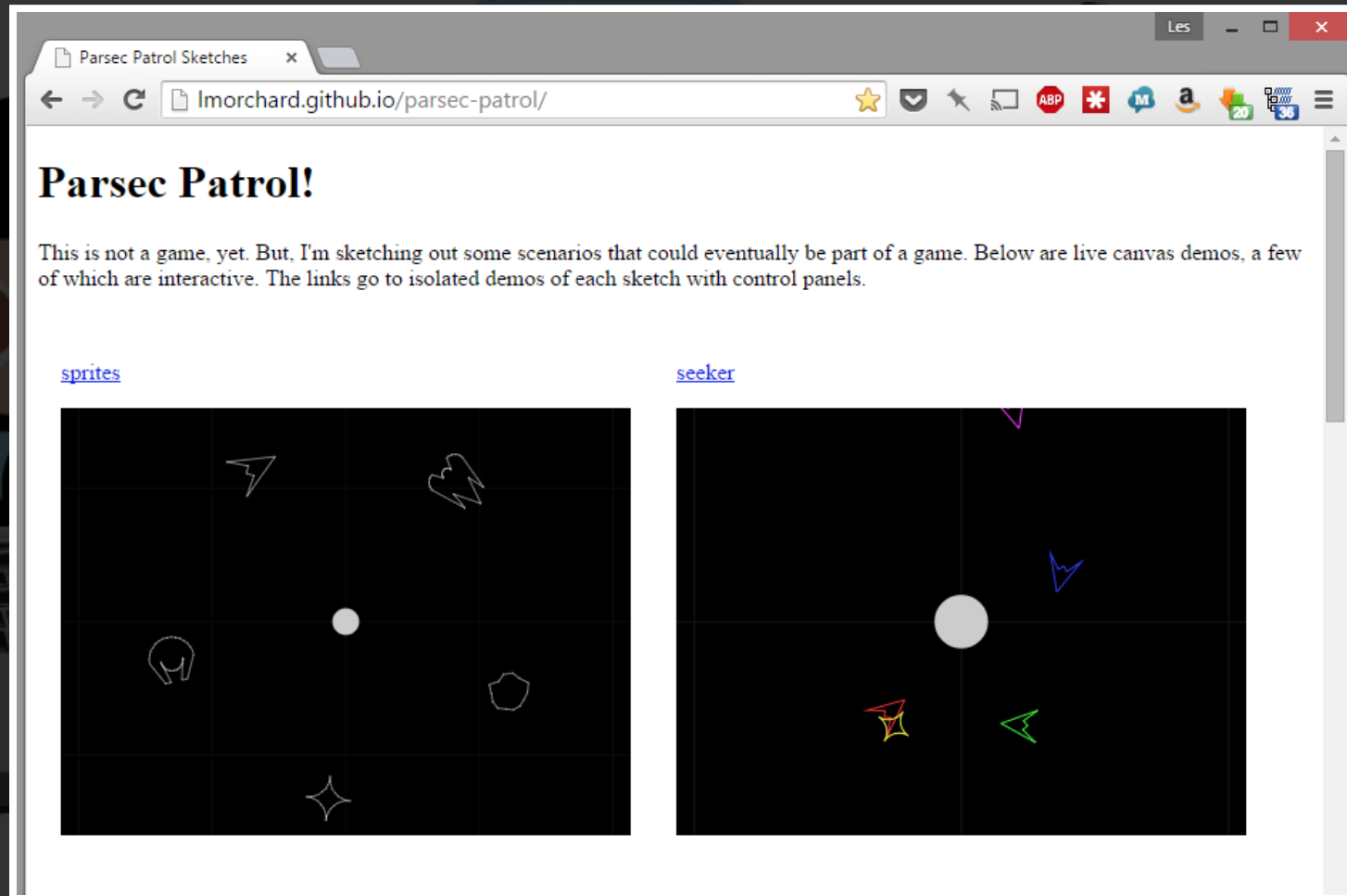
GitHub Pages

Websites for you and your projects.

Hosted directly from your [GitHub repository](#). Just edit, push, and your changes are live.



GitHub Pages



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying `Imorchard.github.io/parsec-patrol/`. The page title is "Parsec Patrol Sketches". The main heading is "Parsec Patrol!". Below the heading is a paragraph of text: "This is not a game, yet. But, I'm sketching out some scenarios that could eventually be part of a game. Below are live canvas demos, a few of which are interactive. The links go to isolated demos of each sketch with control panels." There are two links: [sprites](#) and [seeker](#). Below the links are two side-by-side canvas demos. The left demo, titled "sprites", shows a 5x5 grid with a white dot in the center and several white hand-drawn shapes: a lightning bolt, a jagged shape, a hand, a star, and a pentagon. The right demo, titled "seeker", shows a 5x5 grid with a white dot in the center and several colorful hand-drawn shapes: a yellow star, a red lightning bolt, a green lightning bolt, and a purple lightning bolt.

Parsec Patrol Sketches

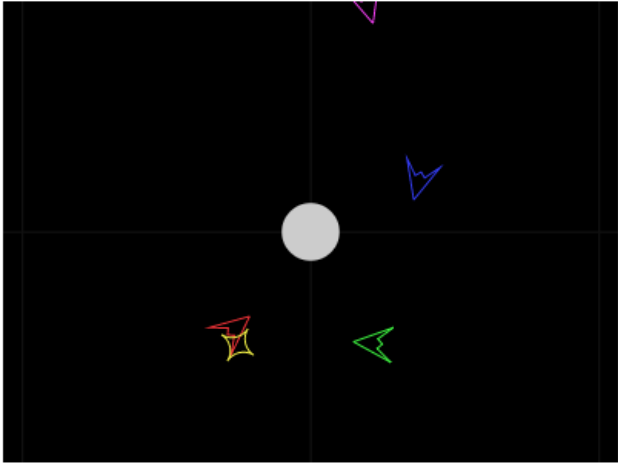
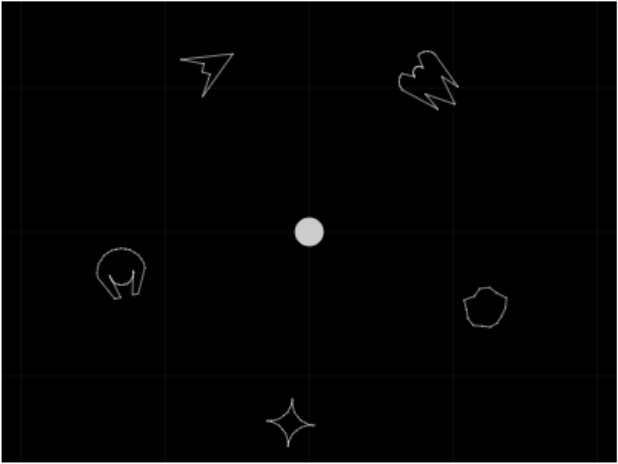
Imorchard.github.io/parsec-patrol/

Parsec Patrol!

This is not a game, yet. But, I'm sketching out some scenarios that could eventually be part of a game. Below are live canvas demos, a few of which are interactive. The links go to isolated demos of each sketch with control panels.

[sprites](#)

[seeker](#)



A cartoon character with a large speech bubble containing text. The character has a dark grey body and a blue face with two large, dark brown eyes. The speech bubble is a dark grey oval with a white border. The text inside the bubble is white. The background is black. The character's feet are visible at the bottom of the frame.

GitHub

Git is free as in speech

GitHub is free as in beer

Your stuff stays yours



GitHub is very hackable


Git is hard


Travis CI


lmorchard/parsec-patrol  build passing





[Current](#) [Branches](#) [Build History](#) [Pull Requests](#)

 Settings 

 **master** Play with hybrid raycasting and potential steering for collision avoidance



 Les Orchard authored and committed

150 passed
 Commit 0546d04
 Compare e07a8a2..0546d04
 ran for 1 min 36 sec
 about a month ago

 Remove Log  Download Log

```
1 Using worker: worker-linux-968a87ce-2.bb.travis-ci.org:travis-linux-13
2
3 Build system information system_info
67
68 $ git clone --depth=50 --branch=master git://github.com/lmorchard/parsec-patrol.git lmorchard/parsec-patrol git.checkout 0.89s
69 $ nvm install 0.10 1.25s
70 ##### 100.0%
71 Now using node v0.10.37
72 $ node --version
73 v0.10.37
74 $ npm --version
75 1.4.28
76 $ nvm --version
77 0.23.3
78
79 $ npm install install 65.88s
80 $ export DISPLAY=:99.0 before_script.1 0.01s
81 $ sh -e /etc/init.d/xvfb start before_script.2 0.01s
82 $ gulp build before_script.3 19.87s
83
84 $ ./node_modules/karma/bin/karma start karma.conf.js --single-run --browsers Firefox 6.29s
85
86 INFO [karma]: Karma v0.12.31 server started at http://localhost:9876/
87 INFO [launcher]: Starting browser Firefox
88 INFO [Firefox 31.0.0 (Linux)]: Connected on socket 6E52Q0bAnV_infBayQ with id 63921610
89
90 Components
91   getManager()
92     ✓ should fetch "TestCounterComponent" manager by name
93   TestCounterComponent
94     ✓ should be named "TestCounterComponent"
95     ✓ should support .create()
```

Travis CI + GitHub Pages = <3

31 lines (30 sloc) | 1.009 kb

Raw

Blame

History



```
1 language: node_js
2 env:
3   global:
4     - secure: "iiAWfVJ90ogzcg146acbQYzVth25a0++8701XbV0/fr6gkRU535FcLb8jIoFpOdDMAwyXlw/q1ZkxJKknrXW7vPRrYmQo31jsAbV23piv71e0tOXzd9S1
5     - GH_OWNER: lmorchard
6     - GH_PROJECT_NAME: parsec-patrol
7   node_js:
8     - 0.8
9   branches:
10    only:
11      - master
12  before_script:
13    - npm install -g grunt-cli bower
14  after_success:
15    - git submodule add -b gh-pages https://${GH_OAUTH_TOKEN}@github.com/${GH_OWNER}/${GH_PROJECT_NAME} site > /dev/null 2>&1
16    - cd site
17    - node ../app/scripts/util/cleanup.js ../dist/index.html
18    - if git checkout gh-pages; then git checkout -b gh-pages; fi
19    - git rm -r .
20    - cp -R ../dist/* .
21    - cp ../dist/* .
22    - git add -f .
23    - git config user.email "me@lmorchard.com"
24    - git config user.name "Les Orchard"
25    - git commit -am "adding the yeoman build files to gh-pages"
26    - git push https://${GH_OAUTH_TOKEN}@github.com/${GH_OWNER}/${GH_PROJECT_NAME} HEAD:gh-pages > /dev/null 2>&1
27  script:
28    - npm install
29    - bower install
30    - grunt
```

Travis CI

Free as in beer

Works with GitHub

Runs your tests (& other code) on demand

Slow during peak usage hours

Heroku

Heroku + GitHub = <3



Deploy to Heroku

Heroku + GitHub = <3

The screenshot shows the Heroku dashboard interface for creating a new application. The browser's address bar shows the URL: `https://dashboard.heroku.com/new?template=https%3A%2F%2Fgithub.com%2Fdelements%2Flets-chat&button-url=https%3A%2F%2Fgithub.com`. The page title is "New App".

App Name (optional)
Leave blank and we'll choose one for you. chatty-chat is available

Region
 United States Europe

Add-ons Edit

	MongoLab	Sandbox	Free
--	----------	---------	------

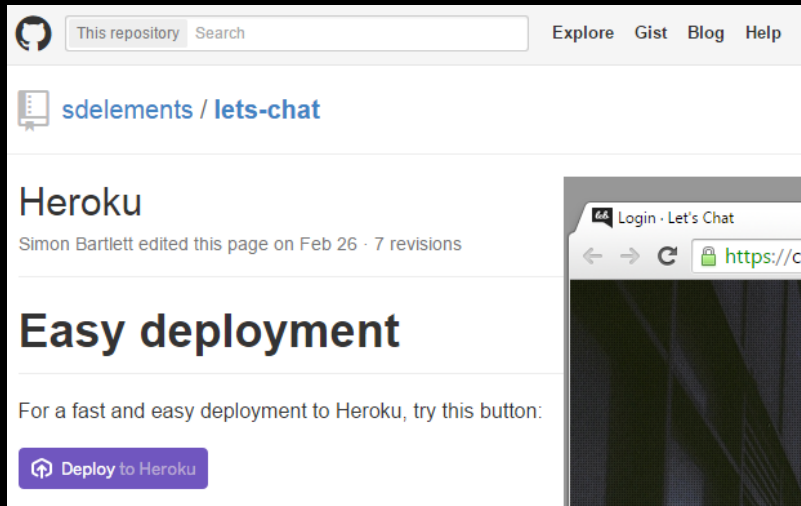
Config Variables
Keys marked with * require a value.

* NODE_ENV
Configures Express for production

Left Sidebar:
Dashboard
me@lmorchard.com
FAVORITES
* Favorite any app to pin it here in the sidebar
Personal Apps

Bottom Left:
LATEST FROM THE BLOG
[Announcing Heroku Elements - The Marketplace for the Builders of the App Economy](#)

Heroku + GitHub = <3



This repository Search Explore Gist Blog Help

sdelements / lets-chat

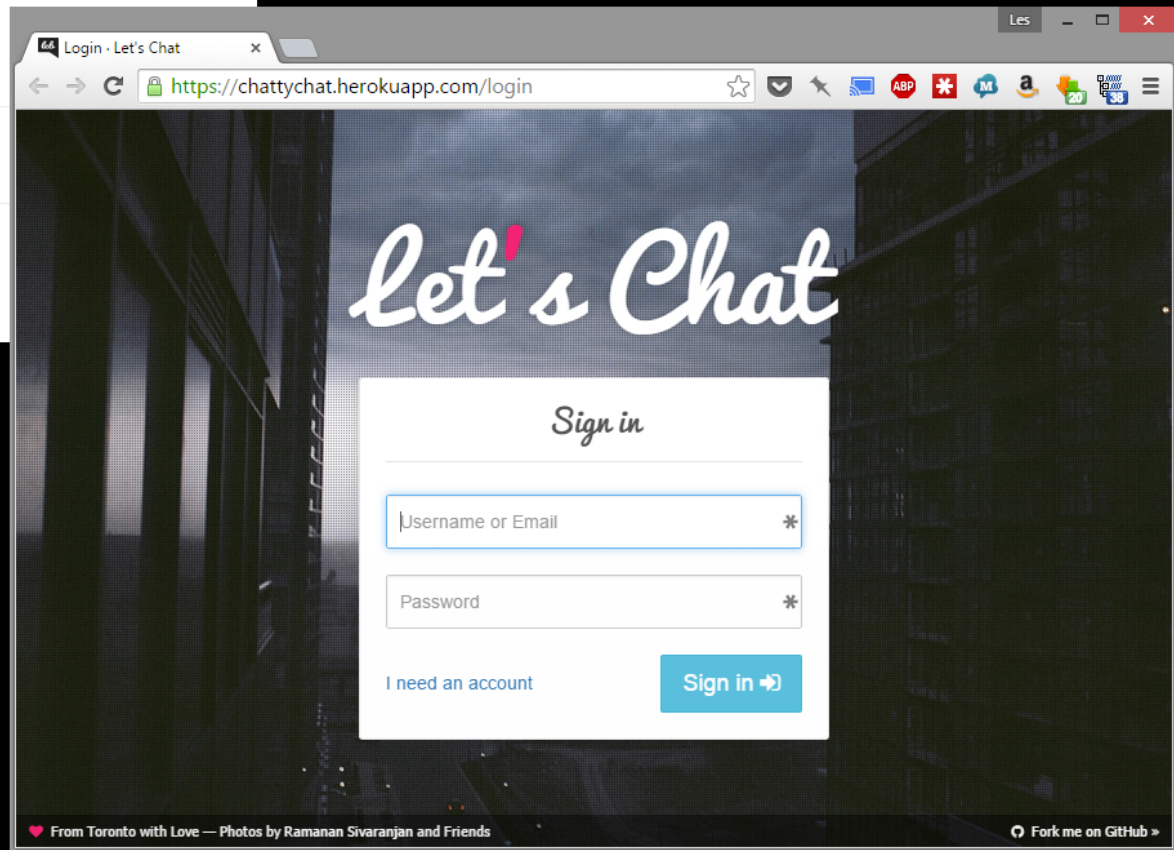
Heroku

Simon Bartlett edited this page on Feb 26 · 7 revisions

Easy deployment

For a fast and easy deployment to Heroku, try this button:

[Deploy to Heroku](#)



Login - Let's Chat

https://chattychat.herokuapp.com/login

let's Chat

Sign in

Username or Email *

Password *

[I need an account](#) [Sign in ↗](#)

From Toronto with Love — Photos by Ramanan Sivaranjan and Friends

Fork me on GitHub »

Heroku + GitHub + Travis CI = <3<3<3

Travis CI

Blog

Documentation

Heroku Deployment

Travis CI can automatically deploy your [Heroku](#) application after a successful build.

For a minimal configuration, all you need to do is add the following to your

`.travis.yml`:

```
deploy:
  provider: heroku
  api_key: "YOUR API KEY"
```

Heroku

Free as in beer

Works with GitHub & Travis CI

Your code works elsewhere

Free apps shut down after inactivity

Cloud9

The screenshot displays the Cloud9 IDE interface. The top navigation bar includes 'Cloud9', 'File', 'Edit', 'Find', 'View', 'Goto', 'Run', 'Tools', 'Window', and 'Help'. The main workspace is divided into three panes:

- Workspace:** A file explorer on the left showing the project structure for 'eve-crest-fun', including folders like 'bin', 'data', 'lib', 'app', 'di', 'models', 'test', and 'views', and files like 'eveData.js', 'emdr.js', 'test.js', and 'package.json'.
- Code Editor:** The central pane shows the source code for 'emdr.js'. It features a try-catch block for handling errors, a 'list' function, and a 'cmd' function for command-line interaction. The code is written in JavaScript and includes comments and variable declarations.
- Test Runner:** The right pane shows the 'test.js' file with Jest test cases. The tests are using 'it' and 'it.skip' to verify the application's behavior. The test runner shows a summary of results: '1 passing (30ms)' and '2 pending'.

At the bottom, a terminal window is open, displaying the output of a test run. The output shows a JSON object representing a console log entry, including fields like 'count', '_id', 'regionID', 'typeID', 'typeName', 'volume', 'buy', 'sell', and 'count'. The terminal prompt is 'lmorchard@eve-crest-fun:~/workspace (master) \$'.

Cloud9

Free as in beer

Works with GitHub & Travis CI & Heroku

Your code works elsewhere

Free Linux machine is very tiny

The story so far...

Free as in beer

You can pay for better support

Works well with others

Your can take your stuff with you

Google App Engine

admin-console

39

[Show All Applications](#)

Main

- [Dashboard](#)
- [Quota Details](#)
- [Logs](#)
- [Cron Jobs](#)
- [Task Queues](#)
- [Blacklist](#)

Data

- [Datastore Indexes](#)
- [Datastore Viewer](#)
- [Datastore Statistics](#)
- [Blob Viewer](#)

Administration

- [Application Settings](#)
- [Developers](#)
- [Versions](#)
- [Admin Logs](#)

Billing

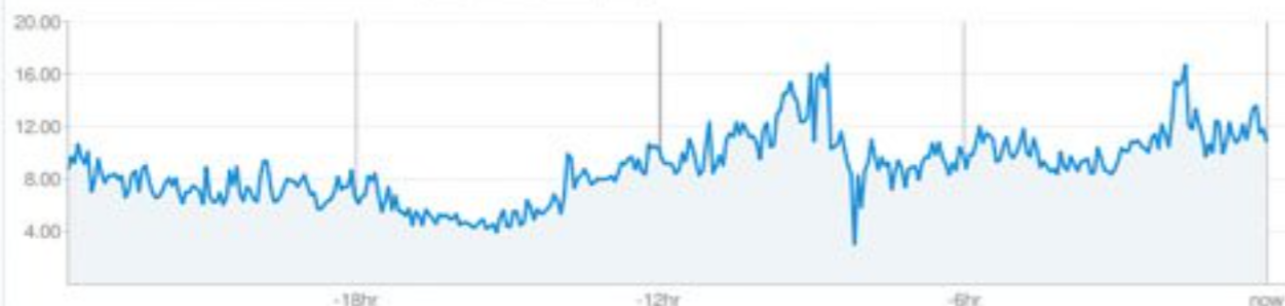
- [Billing Settings](#)
- [Billing History](#)

Resources

- [Documentation](#)
- [FAQ](#)
- [Developer Forum](#)

Charts

Requests/Second



Billing Status: Free - [Settings](#)

Quotas reset every 24 hours. Next reset: 16 hrs

Resource	Usage	Usage	Usage
CPU Time	<div style="width: 0%;"></div>	0%	17.53 of 2135039823346.01 CPU hours
Outgoing Bandwidth	<div style="width: 0%;"></div>	0%	1.42 of 8589934592.00 GBytes
Incoming Bandwidth	<div style="width: 0%;"></div>	0%	3.18 of 8589934592.00 GBytes
Total Stored Data	<div style="width: 80%;"></div>	80%	1277.67 of 1600.00 GBytes
Recipients Emailed	<div style="width: 0%;"></div>	0%	114 of 2000000000

Current Load

URI	Req/Sec current	Requests last 8 hrs	Avg CPU (API) last hr	% CPU last 8 hrs
/api/appversion/ready	1.4	25.58K	122 (29)	5%
/dashboard	0.9	19.14K	665 (48)	21%
/api/appversion/addfile	0.7	15.91K	337 (55)	8%
/api/updatecheck	0.6	10.55K	9 (0)	0%
/	0.4	9.80K	78 (32)	1%

Errors

URI	Count	% Errors last 8 hrs
/api/appversion/cr	3364	100%
/robots.txt	268	
/api/request_logs	232	7.1%
/api/appversion/ro	155	
/api/datastore/inds	129	9.4%

Google App Engine

Free as in beer

Self-contained silo of services

Your code only works on GAE

There are a few open source alternatives

There are only a few open source alternatives

Google Docs

```
=ImportXML("http://api.eve-marketdata.com/api/price_type_solarsystem_buy_max.xml?  
type_id="&JOIN(",", $B5:$B30)&"&solarsystem_id=30002187", "/emd/val")
```

Trade! ☆

File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Add-ons Help Last edit was 14 days ago

fx | Collateral

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Collateral	Freight (vol)	Freight (col)	ISK/M3	Profit	Profit %
2	\$2,751,937,658.08	\$122,201,953.13	\$144,476,727.05	\$7,389.24	-\$117,664,773.95	-5.13%
3						
4	Name	TypeID	Volume	Amarr - Buy	GE-8JV - Sell	Spread
5	Dominix	645	50000	\$194,000,002.00	\$225,000,000.00	\$30,999,998.00
6	Eagle	12011	10000	\$160,321,123.01	\$150,000,000.00	-\$10,321,123.01
7	Moa	623	10000	\$12,000,000.07	\$7,500,000.00	-\$4,500,000.07
8	Scythe	631	10000	\$8,350,025.65	\$8,000,000.00	-\$350,025.65
9	Tengu	29984	10000	\$137,413,002.27	\$185,000,000.00	\$47,586,997.73
10	Sabre	22456	5000	\$37,000,022.58	\$40,000,000.00	\$2,999,977.42
11	Adaptive Invulnerability Field II	2281	5	\$1,561,058.01	\$1,000,000.00	-\$561,058.01
12	Inertia Stabilizers II	1405	5	\$385,005.42		-\$385,005.42
13	Damage Control II	2048	5	\$339,105.33	\$420,420.42	\$81,315.09
14	Magnetic Field Stabilizer II	10190	5	\$736,001.19	\$399,999.97	-\$336,001.22
15	Nanofiber Internal Structure II	2605	5	\$185,100.06	\$449,999.11	\$264,899.05
16	Overdrive Injector System II	1236	5	\$333,000.05	\$1,439,999.70	\$1,106,999.65
17	Medium Capacitor Control Circui	31372	10	\$1,087,166.89		-\$1,087,166.89
18	Nanite Repair Paste	28668	0.01	\$18,502.86	\$24,000.00	\$5,497.14
19	Warp Disruption Field Generator	28654	50	\$4,999,133.80	\$5,999,999.99	\$1,000,866.19
20	Medium Azeotropic Ward Salubr	8433	10	\$872,161.00	\$1,200,000.00	\$327,839.00
21	Medium Shield Extender II	3831	10	\$469,012.00	\$597,999.00	\$128,987.00
22	Medium S95a Remote Shield Bo	8585	10	\$461,002.15	\$600,000.00	\$138,997.85
23	Medium Capacitor Battery II	3496	10	\$794,000.07	\$1,949,999.00	\$1,155,998.93
24	Warp Disruptor II	3244	5	\$1,066,010.13	\$1,996,999.87	\$930,989.74
25	Warrior II	2488	5	\$271,116.00	\$150,000.00	-\$121,116.00
26	200mm AutoCannon II	2889	5	\$426,113.35		-\$426,113.35
27						

Google Docs

Free as in beer

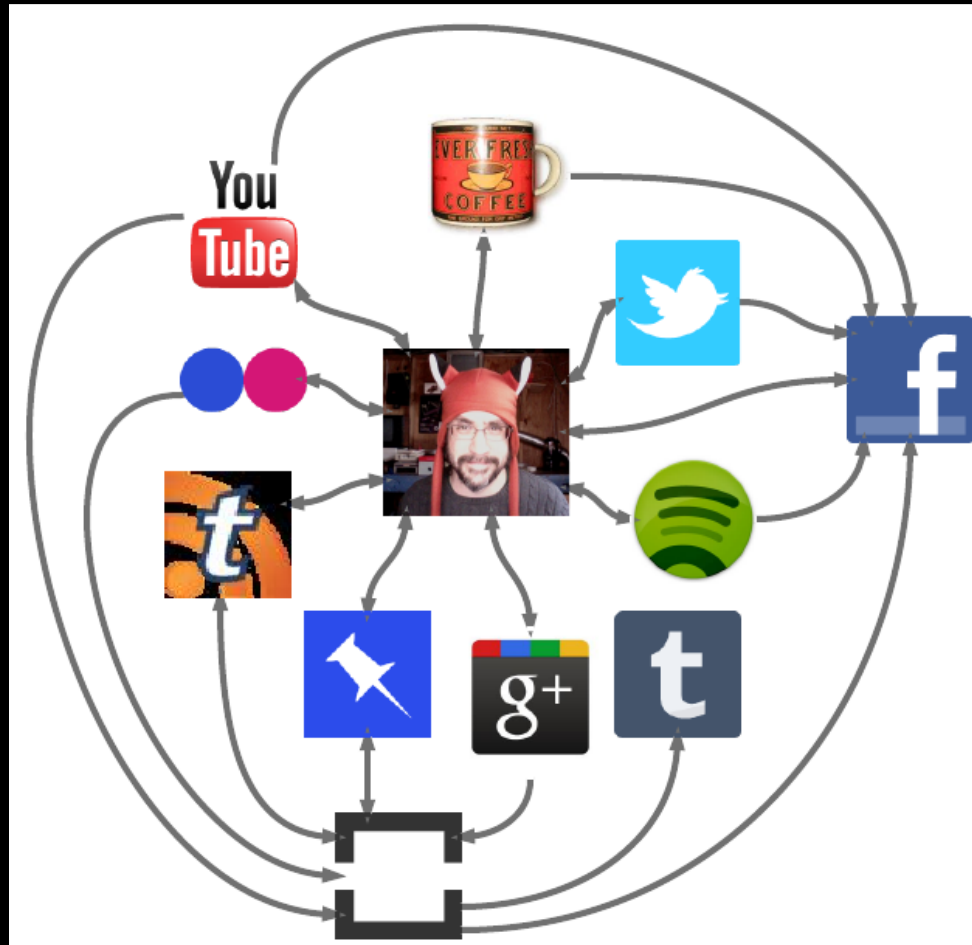
Works with almost any web service

My spreadsheets are locked-in

Ad supported

Paid "Apps for Work" option available

IFTTT



IFTTT

My Recipes

[IF](#)[Do](#)[Published](#)[Favorites](#)

IF Recipes run automatically in the background.

[Create a Recipe](#)[Filter ▾](#)

created February 10, 2015
last run April 09, 2015
run 5 times

If new feed item from <https://medium.com/feed/@Imorchar/has-recommended>, then add a public bookmark to deusx



created April 03, 2014
last run October 18, 2014
run 51 times

tt-rss starred to pocket read later

IFTTT

Free as in beer

Works with 150+ services

My recipes are locked-in

No paid support option

Yahoo! Pipes

The screenshot displays the Yahoo! Pipes web interface. At the top, the title is "Daring Fireball without the Apples or the Googles". Below the title are buttons for "Layout", "Expand All", and "Collapse All".

Sources Panel:

- Fetch CSV +
- Feed Auto-Discover +
- Item Builder +
- XPath Fetch Page +
- Fetch Data +
- RSS Item Builder +
- YQL +
- Flickr +
- Fetch Feed +
- Find First Site Feed +

User inputs, Operators, Url, String, Date, Location, Number, Favorites, My pipes, Deprecated

Fetch Feed Step:

- URL
- http://daringfireball.net/index.xml

Filter Step:

Block items that match any of the following

Rules:

- item.title Contains google
- item.description Contains google
- item.title Contains apple
- item.description Contains apple
- item.title Contains android
- item.description Contains android
- item.title Contains chrome
- item.description Contains chrome
- item.title Contains iphone
- item.description Contains iphone

Pipe Output

Yahoo! Pipes

The screenshot displays the Yahoo! Pipes interface for a pipe named "Five RSS Feed Merge". The interface includes a sidebar with various tool categories, a main workspace with a grid of pipe components, and a top navigation bar.

Sources:

- Fetch CSV
- Feed Auto-Discover
- Item Builder
- XPath Fetch Page
- Fetch Data
- RSS Item Builder
- YQL
- Flickr
- Fetch Feed
- Find First Site Feed

Operators:

- Uri
- String
- Date
- Location
- Number
- Favorites
- My pipes
- Deprecated

Workflow Components:

- FeedLabel1 (text)** through **FeedLabel5 (text)**: Each has a Name, Prompt, Position, Default, and Debug field.
- FeedURL1 (text)** through **FeedURL5 (text)**: Each has a Name, Prompt, Position, Default, and Debug field.
- [open] AddFeedLabeltoEachItemTitle**: Five instances, each taking Feed Label [text] and Feed URL [uri] as input.
- Union**: A central operator that combines the outputs of the five "AddFeedLabeltoEachItemTitle" pipes.
- Loop**: Two instances, each with a "For each" loop and a "String Builder" sub-component. The left loop processes "item.contentencoded" and "item.description". The right loop processes "item.title".
- Regex**: Two instances. The top one replaces `(.*)&t;div class="te"` with `$1`. The bottom one replaces `["\n", "\n", "\n"]` with `text`.
- Date Formatter**: A component for formatting dates.

The workflow is connected by blue lines, showing the flow of data from the feeds through the processing steps to the final output.

Yahoo! Pipes



Les Orchard
@lmorchard

How is Yahoo! Pipes still in operation? I mean, I'm still using it, but how is it still there?



RETWEETS
5

FAVORITES
3



8:33 PM - 21 Apr 2015



Reply to @lmorchard



Daniel Raffel @danielraffel · 2h
@lmorchard shhhhh



sungo @sungo · 2h
@lmorchard Quiet! They'll notice that VM is still online.



Dave Townsend @EnglishMossop · 2h
@lmorchard they built them pipes to last back then



Yahoo! Pipes

Free as in beer

Works with RSS feeds everywhere

Pipes are locked-in

No paid support option

Does Yahoo! even know it still exists?

Amazon Web Services

The screenshot displays the AWS console interface with a dark header containing the AWS logo and navigation menus for 'AWS', 'Services', and 'Edit'. The main content area is titled 'Amazon Web Services' and is organized into a grid of service categories. Each category is represented by a sub-header and a list of services, each with its own icon and a brief description.

Compute

- EC2**: Virtual Servers in the Cloud
- Lambda**: Run Code in Response to Events
- EC2 Container Service**: Run and Manage Docker Containers

Storage & Content Delivery

- S3**: Scalable Storage in the Cloud
- Storage Gateway**: Integrates On-Premises IT Environments with Cloud Storage
- Glacier**: Archive Storage in the Cloud
- CloudFront**: Global Content Delivery Network

Database

- RDS**: MySQL, Postgres, Oracle, SQL Server, and Amazon Aurora
- DynamoDB**: Predictable and Scalable NoSQL Data Store
- ElastiCache**: In-Memory Cache
- Redshift**: Managed Petabyte-Scale Data Warehouse Service

Networking

- VPC**: Isolated Cloud Resources
- Direct Connect**: Dedicated Network Connection to AWS
- Route 53**: Scalable DNS and Domain Name Registration

Administration & Security

- Directory Service**: Managed Directories in the Cloud
- Identity & Access Management**: Access Control and Key Management
- Trusted Advisor**: AWS Cloud Optimization Expert
- CloudTrail**: User Activity and Change Tracking
- Config**: Resource Configurations and Inventory
- CloudWatch**: Resource and Application Monitoring

Deployment & Management

- Elastic Beanstalk**: AWS Application Container
- OpsWorks**: DevOps Application Management Service
- CloudFormation**: Templated AWS Resource Creation
- CodeDeploy**: Automated Deployments

Analytics

- EMR**: Managed Hadoop Framework
- Kinesis**: Real-time Processing of Streaming Big Data
- Data Pipeline**: Orchestration for Data-Driven Workflows
- Machine Learning**: Build Smart Applications Quickly and Easily

Application Services

- SQS**: Message Queue Service
- SWF**: Workflow Service for Coordinating Application Components
- AppStream**: Low Latency Application Streaming
- Elastic Transcoder**: Easy-to-use Scalable Media Transcoding
- SES**: Email Sending Service
- CloudSearch**: Managed Search Service

Mobile Services

- Cognito**: User Identity and App Data Synchronization
- Mobile Analytics**: Understand App Usage Data at Scale
- SNS**: Push Notification Service

Enterprise Applications

- WorkSpaces**: Desktops in the Cloud
- WorkDocs**: Secure Enterprise Storage and Sharing Service
- WorkMail** **PREVIEW**: Secure Email and Calendaring Service

Amazon Web Services

```
0x0ECAF8AD
02:47 am 04/22/15 0x0ECAF8AD
Last On: 04/22/15 Node 1 Up 13 days
FirstOn: 11/19/14 Calls2359 of 117
.....110111011001010111101110101101
  Read/Post Messages      Message Area Selection    Electronic Mail
N New message scan       J Jump to new msg area   E Read/Send E-mail
R Read message prompt    * List sub-boards
Z Continuous new scan    /* List groups
B Browse new scan        { } # Select sub-board
Q QWK packet transfer    | | /# Select group
P Post a message
A Post auto-message      Go to
                          T File Transfer section
                          G Text file section
                          C Chat section
                          X External programs
  Message Search
F Find text in messages
S Scan for msgs to you
                          D Default user config
                          & Message scan config
                          U User lists
                          I Information
                          M Minute Bank
                          /L Node activity
                          ^K Ctrl-key Menu
                          O Logoff BBS (or /O)
                              †=Sysop Menu
Anytime | Ctrl-U Who's online Ctrl-P Send private msg Ctrl-C Abort cmd/text
Main 0:00:02 [1] Local [1] Notices: _
```

Amazon Web Services

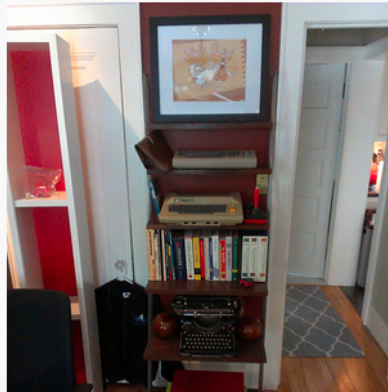
blog.lmorchard.com It's all spinning wheels and self-doubt until the first pot of coffee.

» 2013 » November » 19 »

Parsec Patrol Diaries: Why a Game?

» [html5](#), [parsecpatrol](#), [webdev](#)

I decided to start writing a [retro space game for the web](#), because I thought it might be a good way to exercise a lot of interesting technologies and have fun to boot. You know, like how [sending rockets into space yields astronaut ice cream & anti-shock trousers back down on Earth](#). But, I've also wanted to make games all the way back to my Atari 2600, Commodore 64, and Apple][days – because [Warren Robinett](#) is my hero.



About me



Hi there! My name is Les Orchard. I'm a {web,mad,computer} scientist; home{brew,roast}er; and {tech,scifi} writer with a habit of [serial enthusiasm](#) working for the [Mozilla Corporation](#) living near Detroit, Michigan, USA.

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A dark-colored gift box is shown from a top-down perspective. On the left side, there is a circular cutout revealing a red, wrapped gift. On the right side, there is a rectangular label with the words "WRAP IT UP" printed in a bold, serif font, stacked vertically. The background is a dark, textured surface.

Wrapping up