# Building the Future of Open Mapping Running a Business Like You Would Run an

Running a Business Like You Would R Open Source Project



Justin Miller • Mapbox • @incanus77

# Introduction

- I'm the mobile lead at Mapbox
- I'm mostly a software developer
- Been involved in open source since the late 90s ullet
  - Sysadmin  $\rightarrow$  web dev  $\rightarrow$  mobile dev  $\rightarrow$ entrepreneur → Mapbox
- These are just my personal views & experiences

# Mapbox

- We make tools for custom maps for apps & websites
- Software: open source (BSD)
- Stack: for-pay cloud services





# Mapbox

- Privately held
- Bootstrapped for 3 years to ~25 employees ullet
- Took \$10M in VC in October '13
- Now >50 employees



# Business Model

- Cloud-based services like:
  - Map hosting
  - Geocoding  $\bullet$
  - Directions
- Monthly plan tiers and enterprise contracts

# Open Source

- Our GitHub:
  - 264 public repositories
  - ...but also 227 private repositories
  - *Everything* we write, if generally reusable, is open sourced

# producing open source software Karl Fogel

HOW TO RUN A SUCCESSFUL FREE SOFTWARE PROJECT

**O'REILLY\*** 



## http://producingoss.com



## Overview

- Things we do and are working on
- How we work
  - With lots of examples



## Pinterest

# GitHub









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## FINANCIAL TIMES



## The Washington Post







\* Map reflects projected winner as determined by the AP based on actual returns and exit polls.

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Mapbox just launched Smart Directions. Developers can now program routing profiles with the same level of customization that we bring to our map designs. This means full control over a key building block for location-based applications. Mapbox Smart Directions allows for custom routing profiles that work like a set of rules saying how users can get from Point A to Point B. It's no longer just about the shortest or fastest route — now you can have the most energy efficient route for your electric car, or a route with the steepest hills for training, or you can set your skill level to see only the mountain bike trails with which you're comfortable.





## A beautiful new map designed for outdoor adventures.

Mapbox Outdoors is ready for anything: it includes thousands of biking, hiking, and skiing trails on top of detailed terrain with elevation data. Off the beaten path, find marked creeks, mountain peaks, and other geological features. What would your activity tracker or travel













# How We Work

# 7 Concepts

# #1: Public By Default

- Consider if something really needs to be private
- Transparency around new projects & timelines
- Hire based on open source projects
### What Needs to Be Private?

- HR & personal info (email or private chat)
- Internal strategy
  - Where we are trying to move space
  - "Avoid Private Discussions" S

### #2: Decisions Make Leaders

- Credit for phrase: @JessieChar
- Managers need to be briefed, sure
- But everyone manages at various points in time
- "Benevolent Dictators" -
- "Consensus-based Democracy" S

### Benevolent Dictators 🖘

- "The benevolent dictator model is exactly what it sounds like: final decision-making authority rests with one person, who, by virtue of personality and experience, is expected to use it wisely."
- "...benevolent dictators commonly do not dictate much. Instead, they let things work themselves out through discussion and experimentation whenever possible."



### Consensus-based Democracy -

- "Most conversation in a project is on technical topics [...] Consensus-based governance works well because it blends seamlessly with the technical discussion itself. By the end of a discussion, there is often general agreement on what course to take."
- "Version Control Means You Can Relax"



### #3: Live in Your Tools

- Choose great tools
- Dogfood the things that you build
- Keep a consistent interface



Today we're announcing two changes to the TypeScript project.

### Introducing the New Compiler

The first change we're making to TypeScript is that we've been taking a good, hard look at the compiler performance we had with 1.0. We knew we could leverage the experience from building the original compiler over the last two years. This lead to experimenting with a new, lighter-weight compiler core. The early results with this new compiler core were so positive that we're now focused on growing this core into the new TypeScript compiler and language service.

The first stage of this effort is to build a complete standalone compiler based on this new core architecture. The new compiler follows the same TypeScript 1.0 language spec, has the same compiler flags and compiler functionality, and outputs nearly identical code to the currently shipping TypeScript compiler. Once complete, the new compiler should be drop-in compatible with the existing one. The goal here isn't new compiler features, but rather a cleaner compiler architecture that has better performance and allows us to add new features with greater ease in releases to come.

Our work to date on the new compiler has been very promising. At its current level of completeness, the new compiler is able to compile existing real-world TypeScript code 5x faster than the currently shipping compiler. These results are still early. Once the compiler has reached parity, we'll be able to report out a more complete picture of the performance improvements.

We have a good start, but there's a lot of work to do. For the experiment to mature into a full-featured compiler, in addition to making sure the code is robust and correct, we still need to flesh out the following features:

- **Parser** Strict mode, incremental parsing for the language service (if necessary).
- **Type checking** Get type checker to parity with 1.0 in terms of error coverage. This is nearing completion.



Menu

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### **Translate this**

Spanish

Microsoft® Translator

### **Recent Posts**

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### Wins With GitHub

- Code & commentary inline
- Pull requests
  - We even use these for blog posts
- Fast search
- Teams & notifications

# Things We Do On GitHub

- Technical projects & code (naturally)
- Intranet & team announcements
- Communications ulletstrategy
- Recruiting ullet
- Business strategy

- Sales leads
- Outreach  $\bullet$
- All websites
- Core API
- Office (travel, ulletequipment, office spaces, events, vacation)



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It's been a few weeks since we publicly released Mapbox GL and we wanted to give you a quick behind-the-	Embed (

**Chézery-Forens** 

scenes on what we've pushed since then.

After we saw many of you at the launch event, we spent the next day open sourcing the code so that you can immediately get a feel for where we're going.

We've since published some posts on the technical implementations that went into making Mapbox GL work:

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This is how I brew coffee in an AeroPress.

aeropress.md	Raw
<ul> <li>For one regular mug / two shots, use one cup of water (bottom line) and two scoops of beans.</li> </ul>	
• For my Peregrine mug / three shots, use 1.5 cups of water (between the two lines) and three scoop	s of
beans.	
<ul> <li>For a Klean Kanteen / four shots, use two cups of water (top line) and four scoops of beans.</li> </ul>	
Make sure all the equipment is dry, or else keep the grounds in the grinder lid until right before brewing.	
Setup a mug or glass with the press and filter. Put the funnel in the top.	
Microwave the water on full power.	
• 8oz: 2:45	
• 12oz: 3:00	
• 16oz: 3:15	
Once that's started, grind the beans in the electric grinder for 8 seconds (easiest to watch the microwave	e for
timer).	
Have the grounds ready to go in the grinder lid or the press (if dry).	
Watch the water. I usually stop it when it just starts to bubble and move.	
When the water's ready, take the funnel out and slowly pour the water to cover the grounds. It should take	ke 5-
10 seconds to pour it. Pour to the top of the circle marker for 2, 3 or 4 shots.	

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# #4: Lose the Repetition

- "Don't Post Without a Purpose" Impose
  - Do you know what you want to accomplish?
  - Will it not get accomplished unless you say something?
- "Collab repos"



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# #5: R&D at the Fringe

- "We don't have dedicated R&D it's integrated with the people who can push to master." - CEO
- Repos & branches are cheap
- Keeps ideas concrete, not abstract
- Remove *all* rough edges
- Know when to punt

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### **MB Design**

Enter a MapBox map ID or connect to a TileMill or TM2 instance running on the same network as your iPhone and preview your map live, as you edit it, in a native iOS interface.

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### Project Lifecycle

- Get an idea ightarrow
- Search & see what other relevant bits are already in the works
- Hack up a prototype
- Post a "devlog" about it
- Iterate with teammates



### #6: Assembly Required

- Self-assemble based on interests & availability
- Justify your use of time to your team
- Excite your coworkers

### Commander's Intent

- Defines end goal of the task or project
- Leaves it up to the team how to get there
- D-Day: scattered individuals with common goals



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### #7: Use the Comms

- Blog like mad
- "Devlogs" → blog posts
- Use appropriate social media

# We Blog a Lot



### June 2014



Importing data into the Mapbox editor now ... Jun 30 by Tristen Brown



30 Million Open Addresses Mapped Jun 23 by Aaron Lidman



Tracking Orders Live with Instacart Jun 28 by Lindsay Young



New York City taxi tripsJun 23 by Eric Fischer

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$ for month in `ls 2014-* | \
    awk -F '-' '{ print $2 }' | \
    uniq`; \
  do
    echo -n "$month: "; \
    ls 2014-$month-* | \
    wc -1; \
  done
01:
          28
02:
          16
03:
          24
04:
          26
05:
          13
06:
          24
07:
          10
```

```
$ for year in `ls * | \
   awk -F '-' '{ print $1 }' | \
   uniq`; \
   do \
     echo -n "$year: "; \
     ls $year-* | \
     wc -1; \
   done
         59
2011:
2012: 156
2013: 258
2014: 141
```



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	May 29 2014 by 🧕 An	nit Kapadia					

In 2003 machinery on Landsat 7 broke. This malfunction now causes stark black diagonals across all images. Despite the malfunction, NASA kept the satellite in operation; it's still collecting imagery, but at 80% of its intended throughput.

This imagery is incredibly valuable. It is the primary source used by the Satellite team for the next release of our Cloudless Atlas. Part of our job is to remove artifacts stemming from the Landsat 7 hardware malfunction.



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# 7 Concepts Review

- Public By Default
- Decisions Make Leaders
- Live in Your Tools

- Lose the Repetition
- R&D at the Fringe
- Assembly Required
- Use the Comms



### Thank You

- @incanus77 & @Mapbox
- justin@mapbox.com
- <u>http://mapbox.com/blog</u>
- Producing Open Source Software
  - Copyright © 2005-2013 Karl Fogel
  - <u>http://producingoss.com</u>

