State of the

ecosystem

Pierre Chapuis, Lua Workshop 2013

Moodstocks

winch

Lua-the-language is successful...

- games

- extension language

- embedded

- web

- ...

… but the *community* is small.

Lua grows in popularity, slowly and steadily...

all on the power of a couple of good books,

a mailing list and a simple design.

Andrew Starks, lua-l

No one starts projects in Smalltalk anymore. And this is not because Smalltalk isn't wonderful to work with - it is.

But... try just posting a question about Smalltalk to Stack Overflow and see how long it takes just to get answered. Try hiring a senior Smalltalk developer - good luck.

[One of them] told me that he comes to a couple of Ruby conferences every year, and I said "why don't you go to Smalltalk conferences?" and he said "because there aren't any."

Sarah Mei, Why hasn't Ruby won?
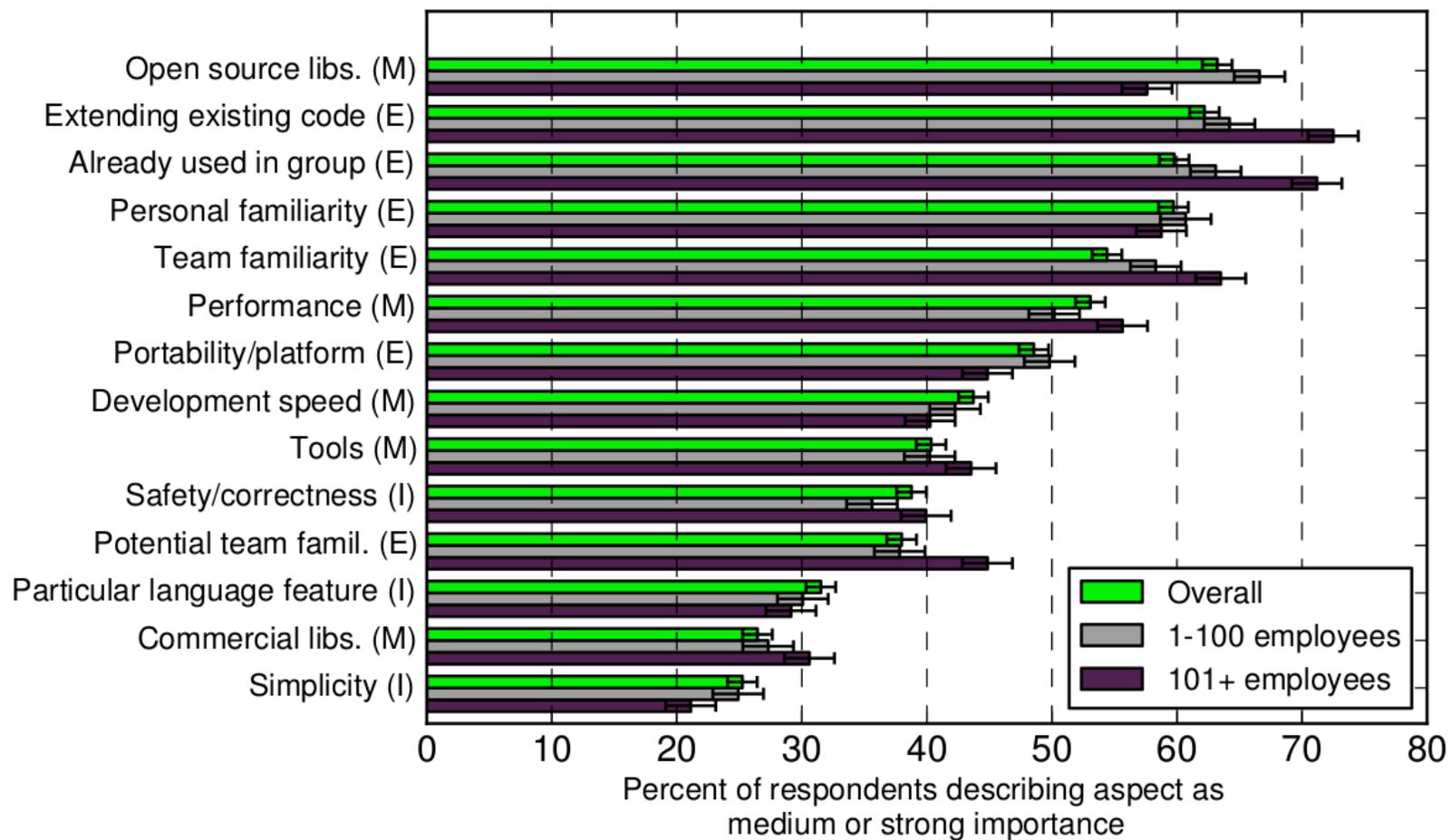
Meyerovich & Rabkin, OOPSLA 2013

Why has Lua adoption been so slow outside the game world?

No libraries.

Standard libraries

Five years ago, I always assumed

the Python library contained

the "best of breed" for all packages.

These days, I tend to think the opposite.

Dusty Phillips, Dead Batteries Included

The standard library is where modules go to die.

Kenneth Reitz, Djangocong 2012

Brian
@brixen

If you thought Ruby standard library doesn't have a problem, try fetching some bits from the internet stackoverflow.com/questions /9296...

← Reply ⇄ Retweet ★ Favorite ••• More

≡ Stack Exchange

equivalent of curl for Ruby?

Is there a curl library for Ruby?

View on stackoverflow.com

Miles Sabin @milessabin · 1m

@nuttycom "there is no stdlib" is another solution to the "you can only use it if it's in the stdlib" problem. /cc @djspiewak @seanparsons

Retweeted by Clément Delafargue

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1
RETWEET

7:16 PM - 24 Sep 13 · Details

Reply to @milessabin @clementd @nuttycom @djspiewak @seanparso...

Eiríkr Åsheim @d6 · 1m

@milessabin @nuttycom @djspiewak @seanparsons We saved the standard library by burning it down.

Expand

Penlight

Contributed modules

Wanted

- quantity: *There is no module to solve my problem.*

- quality: *New dependency, new bugs :(Where is the maintainer?*

- ease of use: *How do I install this without breaking my system?*

- consistency: *Why does my application depend on 25 object libraries?*

- discoverability: *I cannot find what module solves that problem.*

Quantity

There is no module to solve my problem.

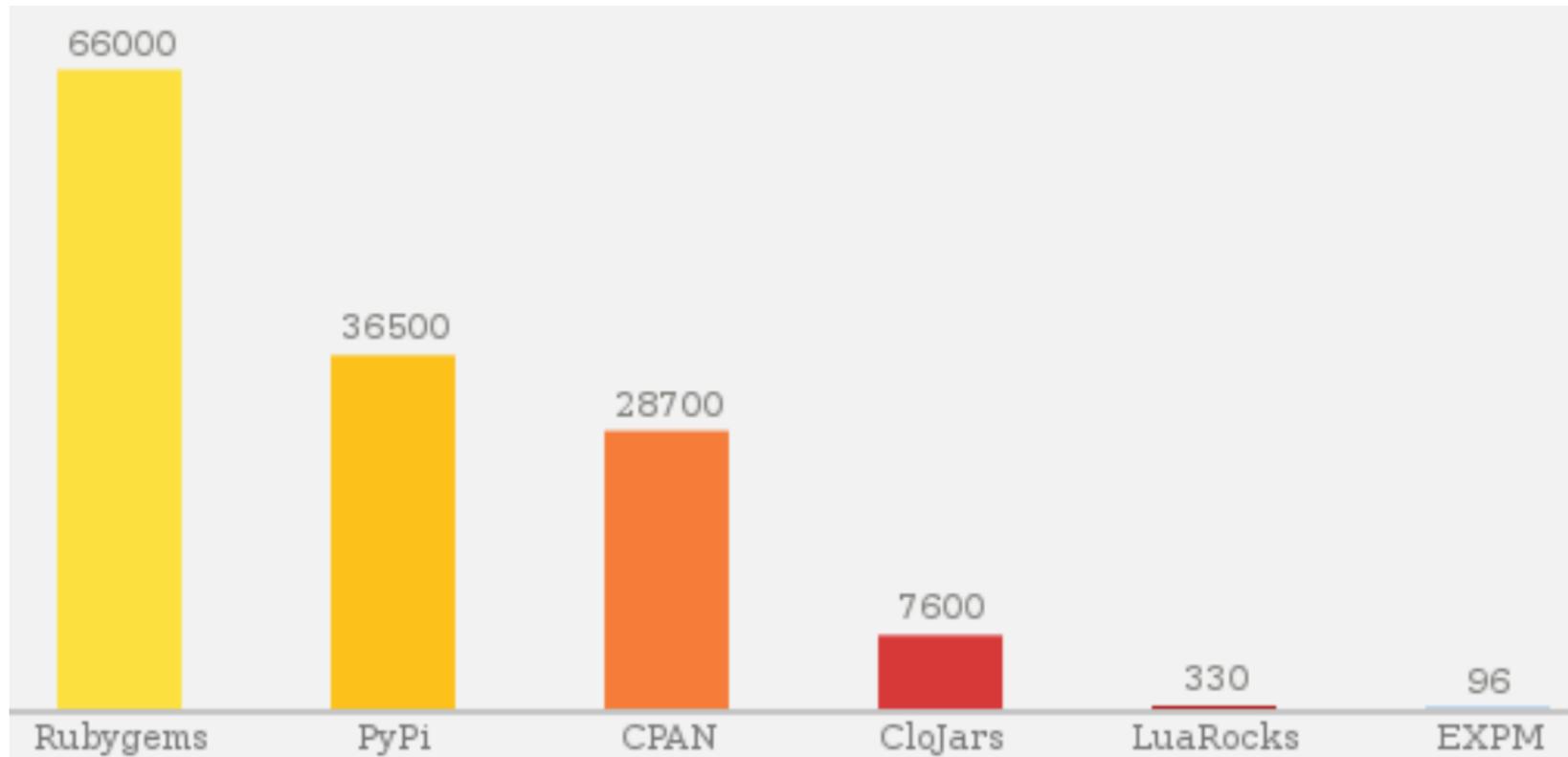# Is there Lua-based barcode reading? (self.lua)

submitted 10 hours ago by Jack9

This is a shortlist of barcode ocr libs with lua bindings:

```
http://www.exactcode.com/site/open_source/exactimage/

http://luatesser.luaforge.net/

http://www.tcs.eng.br/freesoftware/luabarcode/index.html.en
```

I don't see any lua implemented barcode image readers. Has anyone seen it or just attempted?

Number of modules in the package managers for some dynamic languages.

Quality (1)

*New dependency,
new bugs :(*

```lua
local redis = require "redis"
local client = redis.connect("unix:///tmp/redis.sock")
require "socket"
print(socket.tcp)
-- result: nil, why?
```

The root of all Evil

- Avoid globals in modules.

- local foo = require "foo"

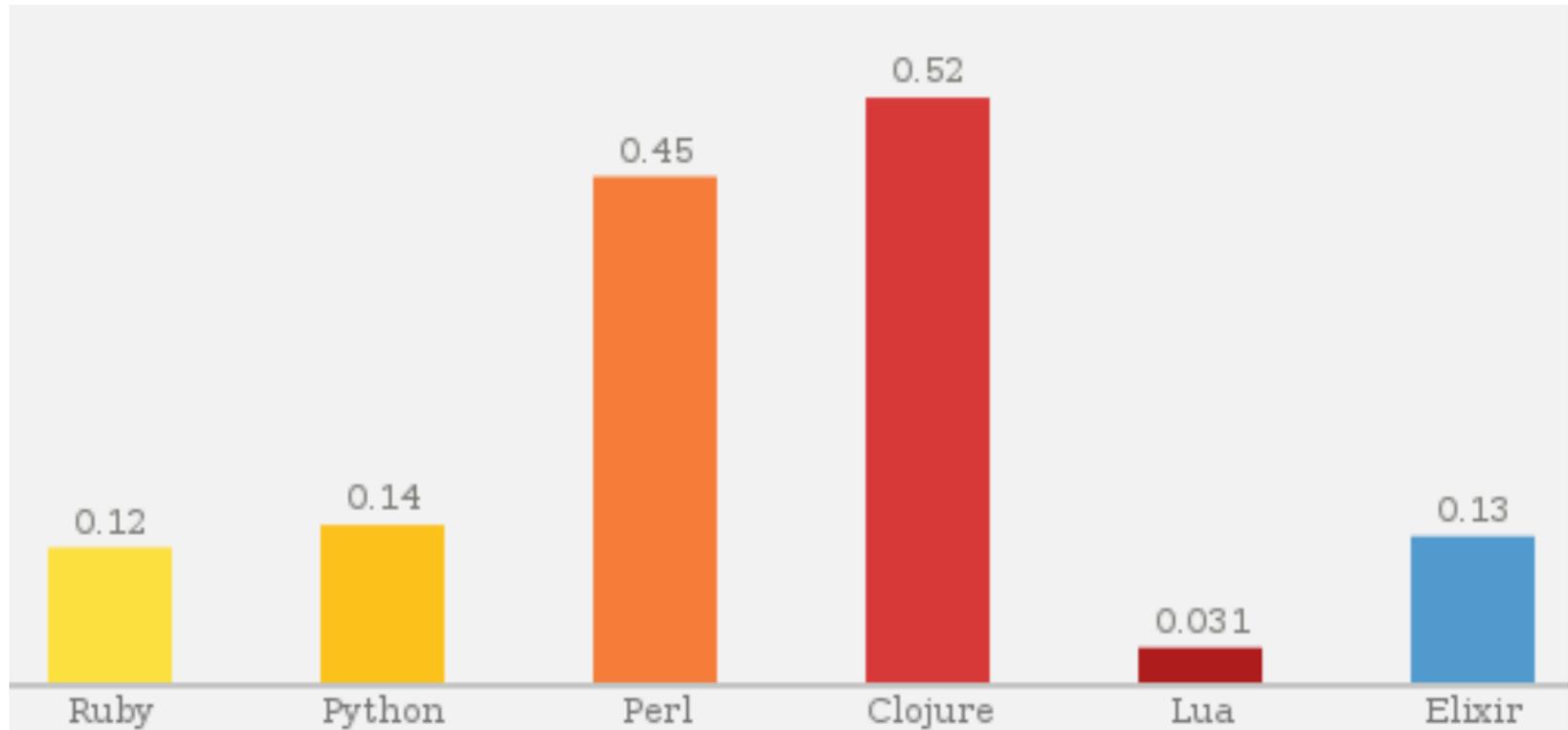- Use pl.strict in your test suite (please).

- You have tests, don't you?!

```lua
-- a special syntax sugar to export all functions
-- to the global table
setmetatable(exports, {
    __call = function(t)
        for k, v in pairs(t) do _G[k] = v end
    end,
})
```
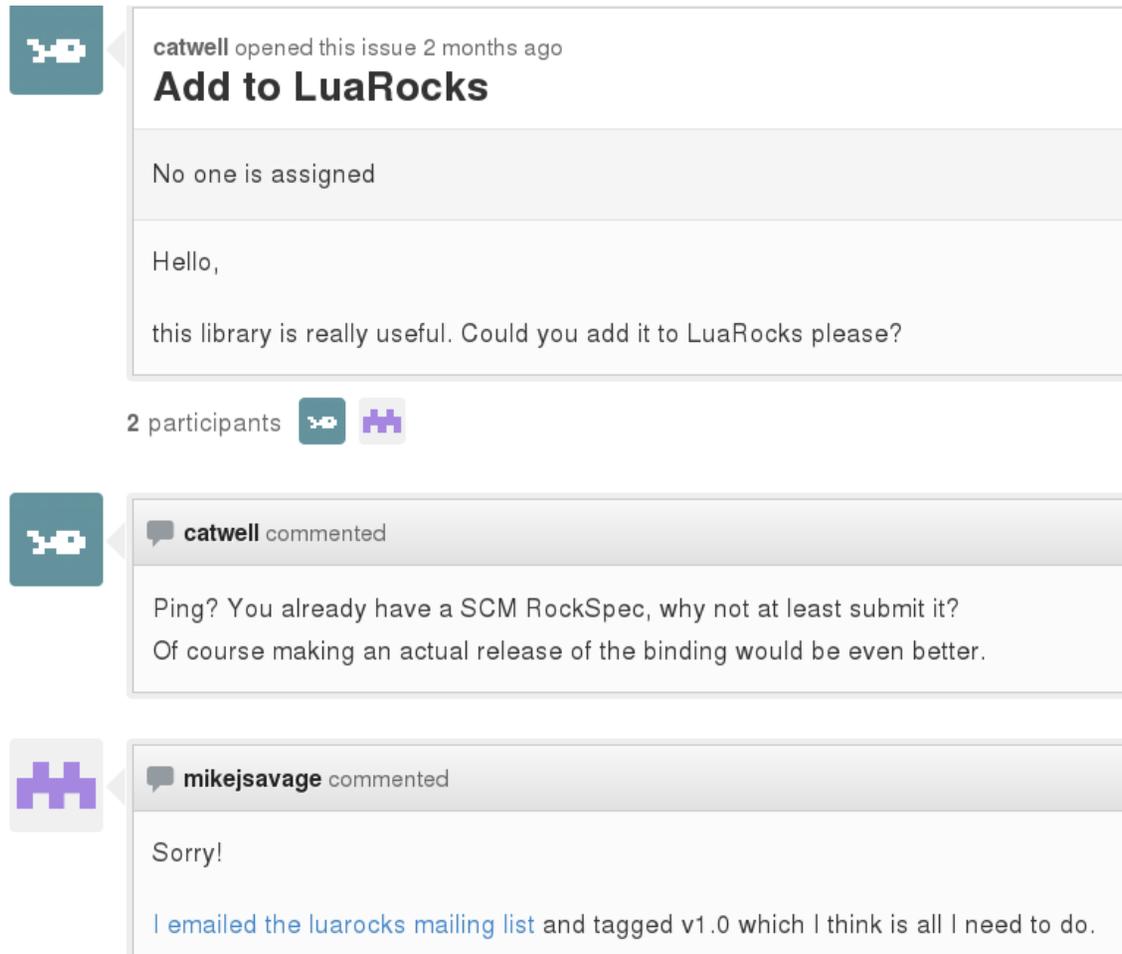
luafun

Quality (2)

Where is the maintainer?

Ease of use

How do I install this without breaking my system?

Number of modules divided by number of GitHub repositories created from Jan 2012 to Aug 2013.

People still do not
use LuaRocks enough

Pester maintainers, it works!

catwell opened this issue 2 months ago

Add to LuaRocks

No one is assigned

Hello,

this library is really useful. Could you add it to LuaRocks please?

2 participants

💬 **catwell** commented

Ping? You already have a SCM RockSpec, why not at least submit it?
Of course making an actual release of the binding would be even better.

💬 **mikejsavage** commented

Sorry!

I emailed the luarocks mailing list and tagged v1.0 which I think is all I need to do.

Consistency

*Why does
my application depend
on 25 object libraries?*

A comparison of JSON modules

Since some modules were only called "json" initials were added to create unique names:

- **cmj-JSON4Lua** (version 0.9.5):
  - http://json.luaforge.net/
  - Pure Lua.
  - MIT/X11 license (since version 0.9.3, GNU GPL before that).
- **dkjson** (version 2.1):
  - http://dkolf.de/src/dkjson-lua.fsl/
  - Pure Lua, optional LuaPeg support (used LPeg 0.10 at the time of testing).
  - MIT/X11 license.
- **Fleece** (version 0.3.1):
  - http://www.eonblast.com/fleece/
  - Encoding only.
  - C-module.
  - Public license with non-commercial restriction.
- **jf-JSON** (version 4)
  - http://regex.info/blog/lua/json
  - Pure Lua.
  - Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Unported License.
- **Lua-Yajl** (version 2.0):
  - http://github.com/brimworks/lua-yajl
  - C-module, requires [Yajl] (used version 2.0.1 at the time of testing).
  - Can be used for streaming by writing handlers that deal with JSON on the fly.
  - Lua-Yail uses the MIT/X11 license, Yajl itself uses the ISC license.
- **mp-CJSON / Lua CJSON** (version 1.0.2):
  - http://www.kyne.com.au/~mark/software/lua-cjson.php
  - C-module.
  - MIT/X11 license.
- **nm-luajsonlib / LuaJSON C Library** (version 1.2):
  - http://luaforge.net/projects/luajsonlib/
  - C-module.
  - Public domain.
- **sb-Json** (2007 version):
  - http://www.chipmunkav.com/downloads/Json.lua
  - Pure Lua.
  - MIT/X11 license with the added sentence "If you find this software useful please give www.chipmunkav.com a mention."
- **th-LuaJSON** (version 1.2.1):
  - http://luaforge.net/projects/luajson/
  - Implemented in Lua, depends on the C-module LuaPeg (used LPeg 0.10 at the time

Contribute
instead of reinventing

catwell opened this issue 8 months ago

Edit

Merge with luajit-nanomsg

No one is assigned ⚙▾   No milestone ⚙▾

Hello,

you wrote a FFI binding, I wrote a FFI binding...

I don't think we need too many projects for this. What do you think if I stop working on mine and start contributing to this one instead?

I would probably add stuff like a Makefile, tests (we have to decide on a framework, I have written a small one which I used in luajit-nanomsg but maybe you prefer something like busted?), a rockspec...

2 participants

💬 **neomantra** commented   8 months ago ✏ ⊗

Hello, this all sounds good to me, especially since we have the same goals (simple LuaJIT-specific binding) . I looked at your binding but wanted to have some higher-level objects.

I just gave you commit access.

As long as the test framework is easy to install (luarocks, or even a just Lua file in the repo), I'm fine with that.

Also, perhaps the name of your repo is better? I intentionally made a different name to prevent confusion.

At least share an API

Incompatible ecosystems

- 5.2

- LuaJIT

- Luvit

- OpenResty

- probably others

I have no answer to that.

Discoverability

*I cannot find
what module
solves that problem.*

Finding a module

- LuaRocks

- Lua Wiki

- Google

- Github

- Mailing List

- Stack Overflow

Finding *the best* module

LUA TOOLBOX

PIERRE CHAPUIS | LOGOUT

YOUR ENDORSEMENTS

luasocket

Network support for the Lua language

Endorsed by: Pierre Chapuis.

Labels: `network`

ENDORSED

luafilesystem

File System Library for the Lua Programming Language

Endorsed by: Pierre Chapuis.

Labels: `filesystem`

ENDORSED

luaposix

Lua bindings for POSIX (including curses)

Endorsed by: Pierre Chapuis.

Labels: `commandline`

ENDORSED

copas

Coroutine Oriented Portable Asynchronous Services

ENDORSED

Suggestions
Let's open discussions.

Programmatic releases for LuaRocks

Multiple maintainers
for "Core" libraries

- LuaSocket

- LuaFileSystem

- LuaSec / LuaCrypto

- LuaExpat

style guide

Yes, I know that Lua module naming in the wild is a total train wreck. This is one of the biggest failures of the Lua ecosystem.

Language ecosystems with user-contributed modules demand curation. Or at least some officially sanctioned conventions. Remember that next time you create your own language.

Anything that attempts to retain the illusion that a flat namespace is somehow a workable solution is NOT helpful.

Mike Pall, LuaJIT ML

Most important: contribute!

Thanks for listening. Questions?