

Opening the Object

A Bombastic Manifesto About Code

Jim Rosenberg

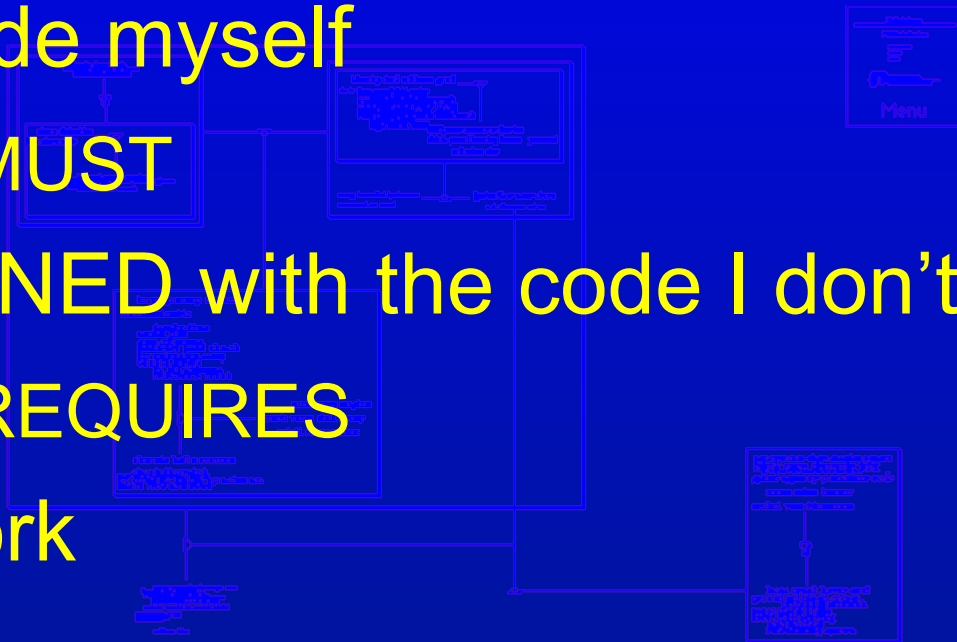
jr@amanue.com

<http://www.well.com/user/jer/>



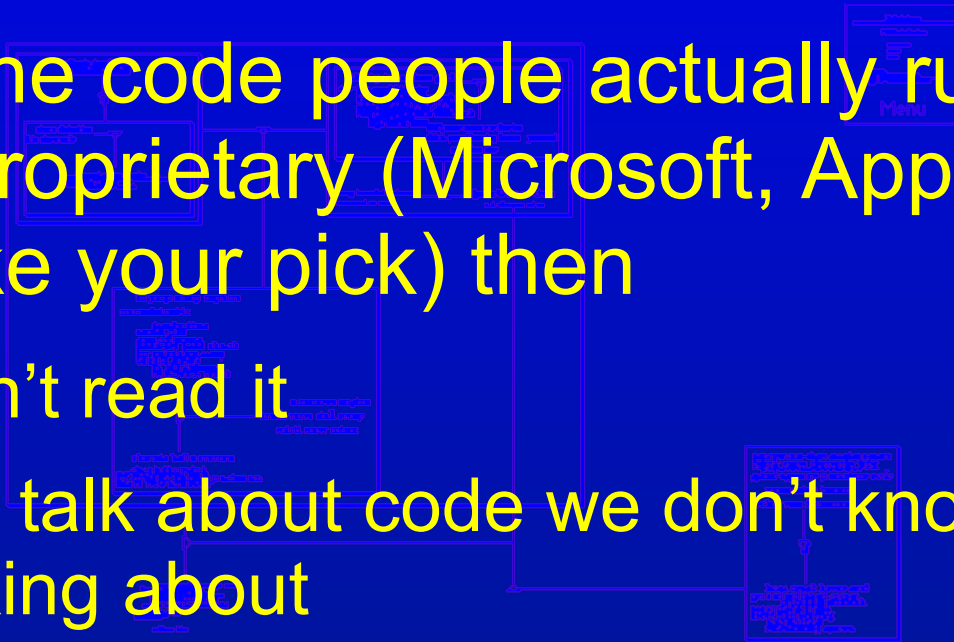
Empowerment

- Empowerment means I still have to / am able to write code myself
 - WHICH MUST
- be COMBINED with the code I don't write
 - WHICH REQUIRES
- A framework



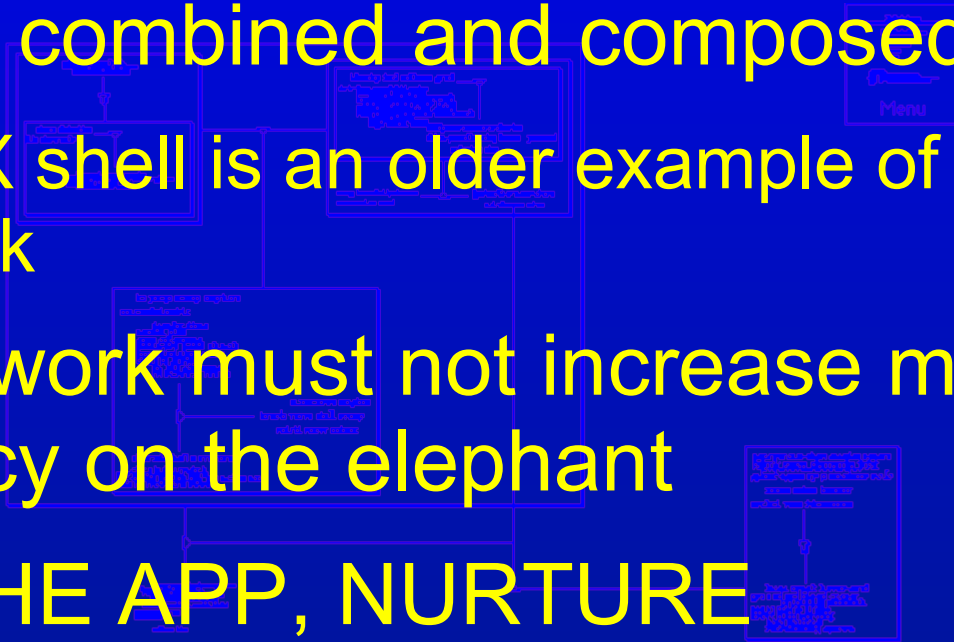
The Elephant

- There is an elephant in the room
- If 98% of the code people actually run is closed & proprietary (Microsoft, Apple, Adobe, take your pick) then
 - We haven't read it
 - When we talk about code we don't know what we're talking about
- We are here gathered to speak about 2% of our subject



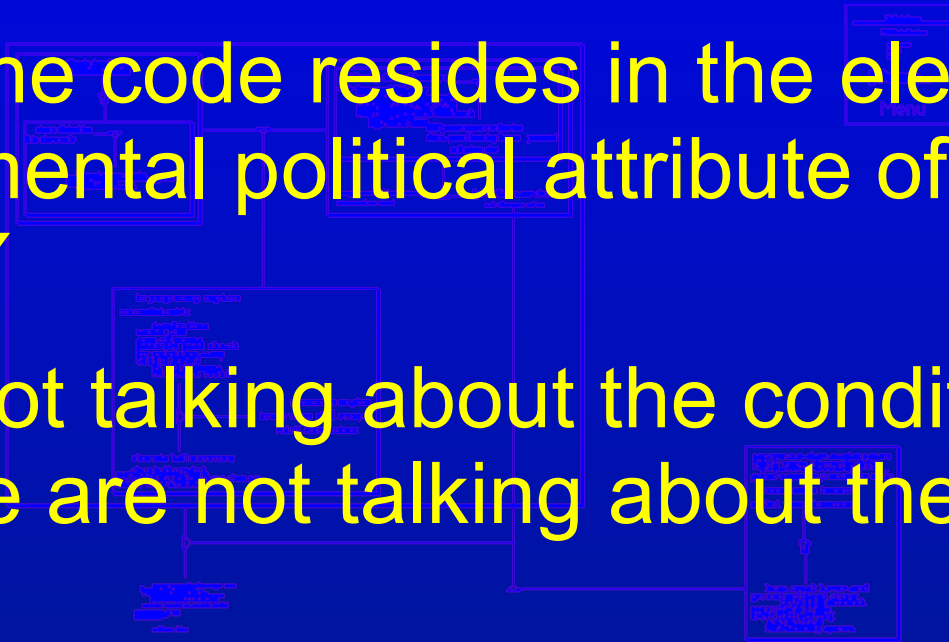
The Framework

- The framework must allow SMALL pieces of code to be combined and composed
 - The UNIX shell is an older example of such a framework
- The framework must not increase my dependency on the elephant
- SMASH THE APP, NURTURE SMITHEREENS
 - The Framework must be focused at the **object**, not the app



The Politics

- Code is political
- If 98% of the code resides in the elephant, the fundamental political attribute of code is: **SLAVERY**
- If we are not talking about the conditions of slavery, we are not talking about the politics of code
- The viewpoint for discussion of the politics of code must be based on: **EMPOWERMENT**

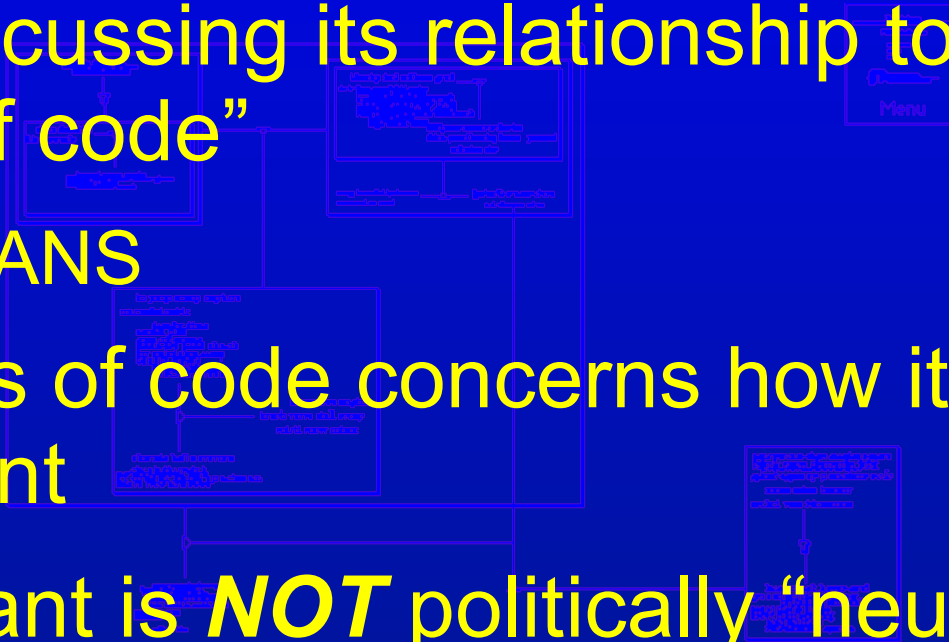


The Politics (cont.)

- You cannot talk about the politics of code without discussing its relationship to “the universe of code”

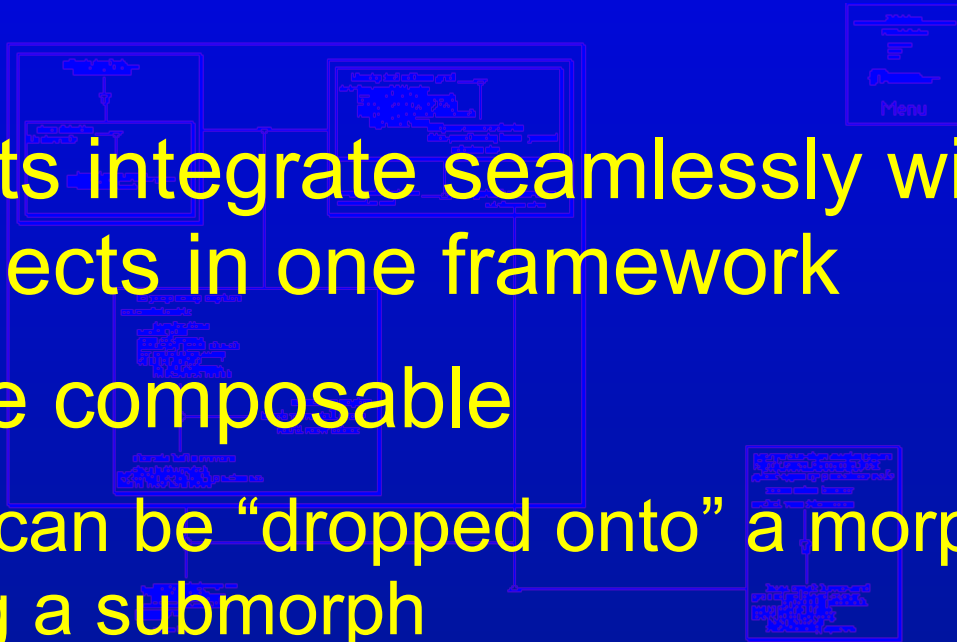
– THIS MEANS

- The politics of code concerns how it sits on the elephant
- The elephant is **NOT** politically “neutral”



An Example of Openness

- *Morphic* is an example of an open object framework
- “My” objects integrate seamlessly with system objects in one framework
- Morphs are composable
 - A morph can be “dropped onto” a morph, becoming a submorph
 - A morph can be “made from” an existing kind of morph (inheritance)



The Politics of Code Openness

- The politics of openness is the politics of *the framework*
- If the framework is proprietary (e.g. Flash) it is part of the elephant
- If there is no framework, the politics is about living as a slave

