

Making a great user interface

by @boredzo

Users are broken.

“A person is not a machine,
and should not be forced
to think like one.”

— Bret Victor

It's our fault.

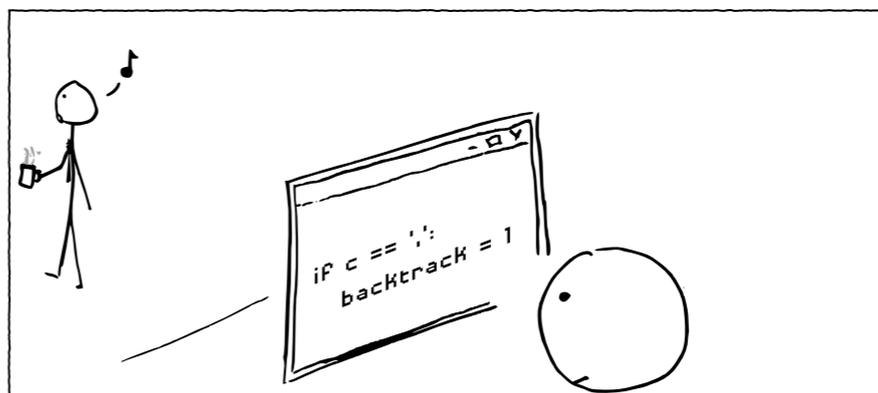
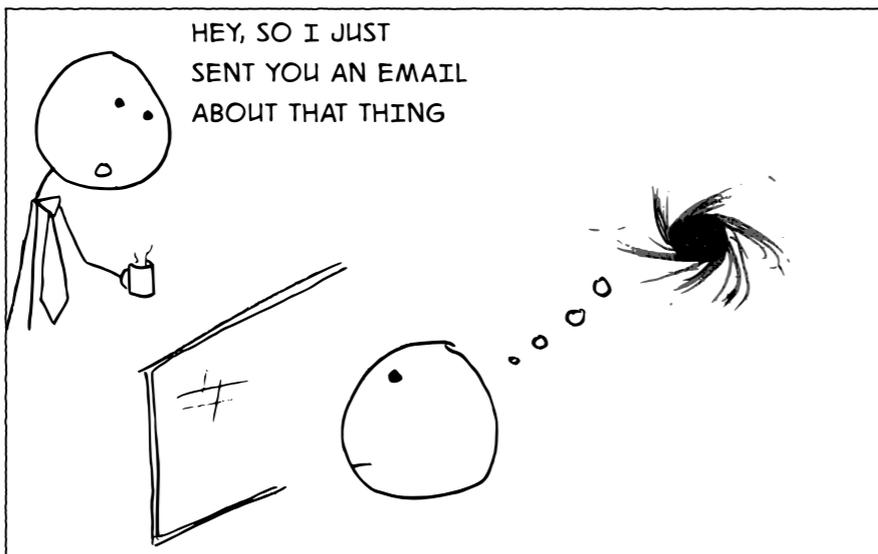
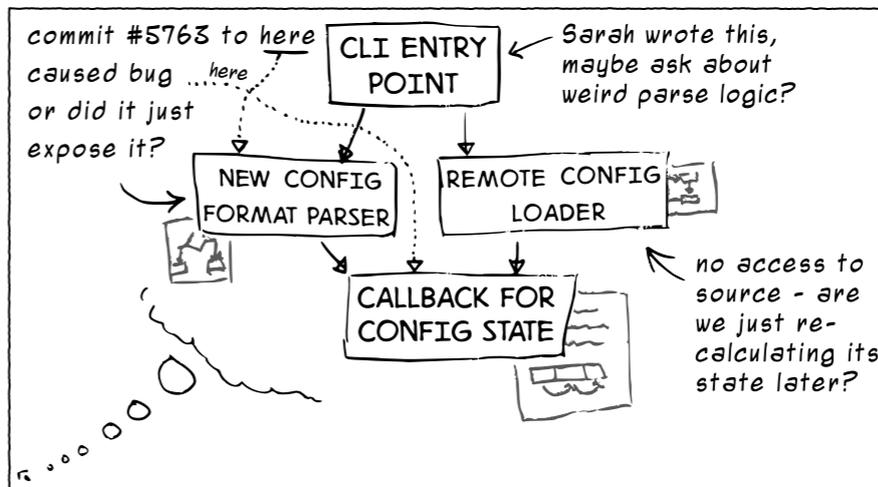
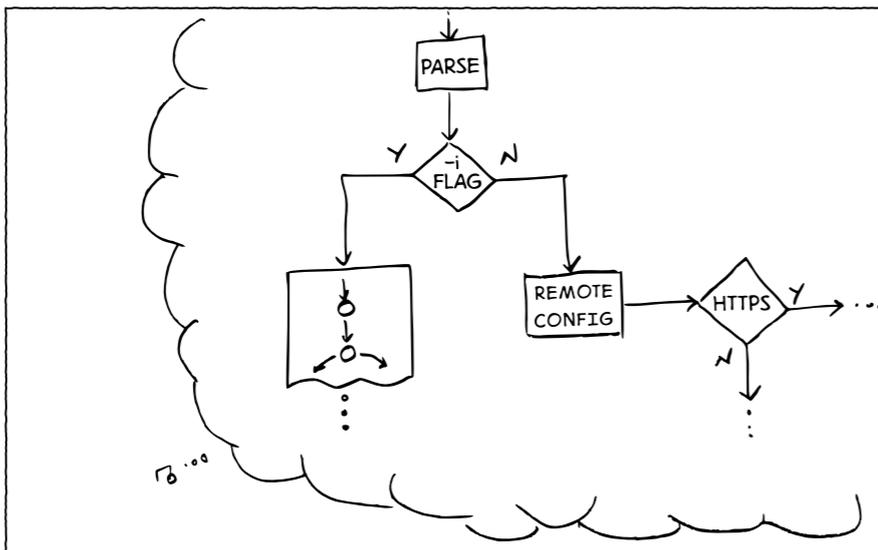
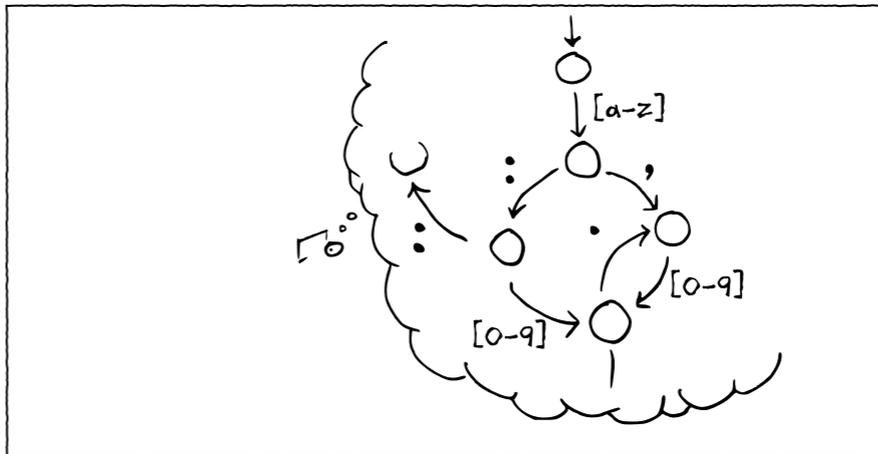
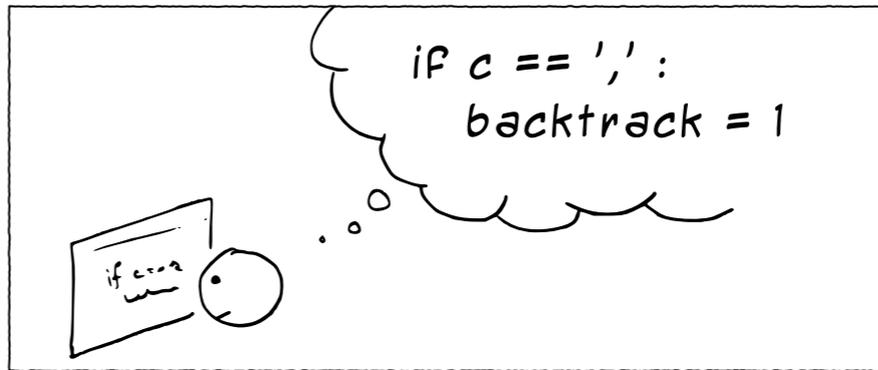
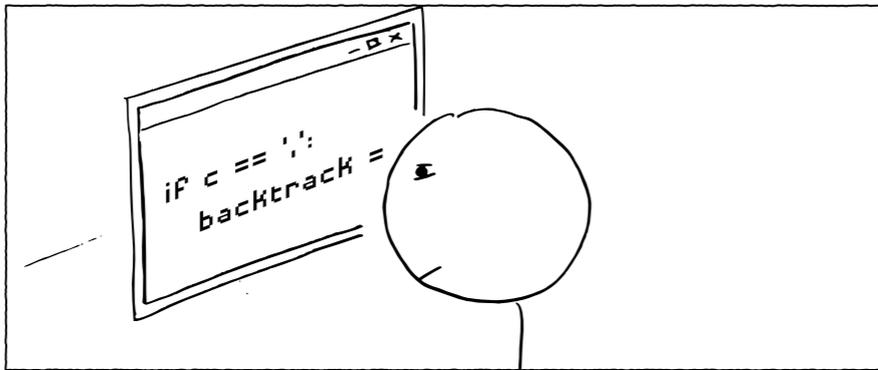
Mindset

Respect

Assume the user is
competent.

Assume the user has
things to do.

THIS IS WHY YOU SHOULDN'T INTERRUPT A PROGRAMMER



It is

never the user's fault.

A great interface
in four easy steps.

1. Start with a good interface.
2. Make it accessible to all.
3. Make it easy to learn.
4. Make it fluid to use.

Requirements of a good interface

Steve Krug



**DON'T
MAKE
ME
THINK**

Revisited

and Mobile
A Common Sense Approach to Web Usability



If you have to explain it,
then it sucks.

Tell the user
what they can do about it.

Respond immediately.



Making it great

Kill verbs.



File Edit View Special



New Folder ⌘N

Open ⌘O

Print

Close ⌘W

Get Info ⌘I

Duplicate ⌘D

Put Away

Page Setup...

Print Directory...

Eject ⌘E



Main



Trash

Edit

Documents



Here's to the crazy ones.
The misfits.
The troublemakers.
The dreamers.
The ones who see things differently.

They're not fond of rules, and they have no respect for the

Ad copy



New Document





Rick Astley - Never Gonna Give You Up-360p.mp4

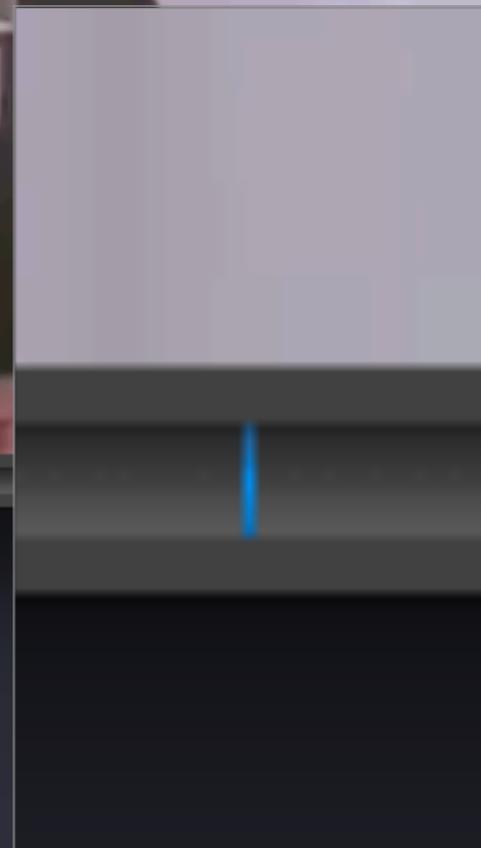


GO BACK

01:30

The image shows a video player window with a title bar containing the text "Rick Astley - Never Gonna Give You Up-360p.mp4". The video content shows Rick Astley singing into a vintage microphone. A blue button labeled "GO BACK" is overlaid on the video, with a blue arrow pointing from the button to the video progress bar. The progress bar at the bottom right shows a time of 01:30.





Kill gestures.

Kill dialog boxes.

Kill documentation.

General

[iOS 7 UI Transition Guide](#)

Guides

[iOS App Programming Guide](#)

Advanced App Tricks
App-Related Resources

[Bundle Programming Guide](#)

Bundle Structures
Accessing a Bundle's Contents

[Core Bluetooth Programming Guide](#)

Core Bluetooth Background Proce...

[Framework Programming Guide](#)

Anatomy of Framework Bundles

[Cocoa Core Competencies](#)

Information property list
Bundle

[Receipt Validation Programming Guide](#)

Validating Receipts Locally
Receipt Fields

[Location and Maps Programming Guide](#)

Providing Directions
Getting the Users Location

Reference

[QA1649: WARNING: The Copy Bundle Resources build phase contains this target's Info.plist file 'Info.plist'.](#)

[QA1524: 'Info.plist does not contain a CFBundleResourceSpecification' errors when uploading to iTunes Connect](#)

[Information Property List Key Reference](#)

[QA1640: Why does iTunes tell me my Ad Hoc-signed application 'is not a valid application'?](#)

[QA1686: App Icons on iPad and iPhone](#)

[QA1623: Why am I getting device support errors when uploading my app?](#)

[Xcode Build Setting Reference](#)

Sample Code

[EADemo](#)

[ViewTransitions](#)

[LaunchMe](#)

[UICatalog](#)
AppDelegate.m

[oalTouch](#)

[GLTextureAtlas](#)

[GLImageProcessing](#)

	Reference	Sample Code
Programming Guide Ad App Tricks Related Resources	QA1649: WARNING: The Copy Bundle Resources build phase contains this target's Info.plist file 'Info.plist'.	EADemo ViewTransitions
Programming Guide Structures Getting a Bundle's Contents	QA1524: 'Info.plist does not contain a CFBundleResourceSpecification' errors when uploading to iTunes Connect	LaunchMe UICatalog AppDelegate.m
Bluetooth Programming Bluetooth Background Proce...	Information Property List Key Reference	GoalTouch GLTextureAtlas
Cookbook Programming Guide Usage of Framework Bundles	QA1640: Why does iTunes tell me my Ad Hoc-signed application 'is not a valid application'?	GLImageProcessing
Core Competencies Information property list	QA1686: App Icons on iPad and iPhone	
Validation Programming Getting Receipts Locally Fields	QA1623: Why am I getting device support errors when uploading my app?	
Accessory Programming		

Care about
the little things.

Carrier

2:37 PM



Email address:

Password:



Carrier

2:37 PM



Email address:

Password:

Q W E R T Y U I O P

A S D F G H J K L

↵ Z X C V B N M ⌫

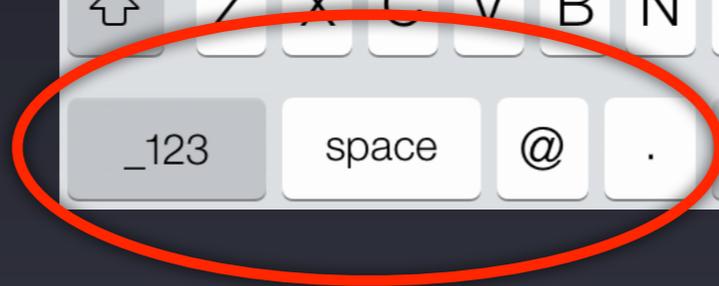
_123

space

@

.

Next



Carrier

2:37 PM



Email address:

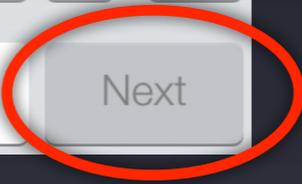
Password:

Q W E R T Y U I O P

A S D F G H J K L

⬆ Z X C V B N M ⬇

_123 space @ . Next





**Are you sure you want to permanently
erase the items in the Trash?**

You can't undo this action.

Cancel

Empty Trash

Calculating Time Remaining...

Power Source: Battery

No Apps Using Significant Energy

✓ Show Percentage

Open Energy Saver Preferences...

Test on the oldest
devices you support.

Test on mortal humans.

- Users are broken—
but they are competent people.
- Respect the user,
and your app will be better for it.
- Help the user,
and their work will be better for it.
- Problems are your fault, not the user's.
Take responsibility.

