

Adventures in QA

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Prelude

About me

- For the longest time:
Developer in C, C++
- Surprise career move
to QA
- Amateur in QA



Company Profile

- Document conversion
- Large scale
- Highly portable C
- Some Java



Important Features

- Performance
- Resources
- Quality
- Usability (in progress)
- not so much: Security



Motivation

"Das ging doch
schon mal?!"

"But this used
to work?!"

My First Regression Test Suite



Career



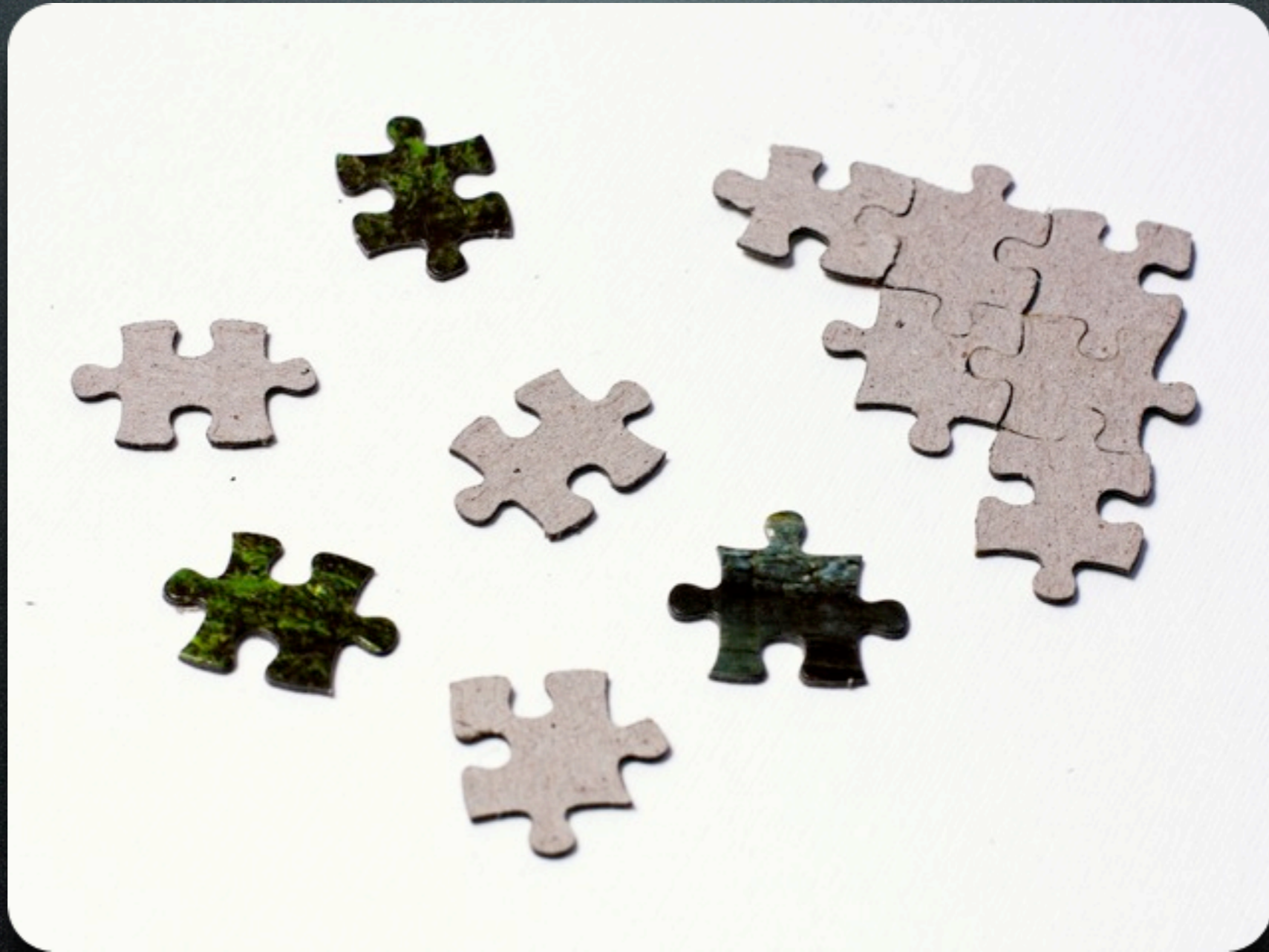
Career Path



Corporate Siberia



The Job

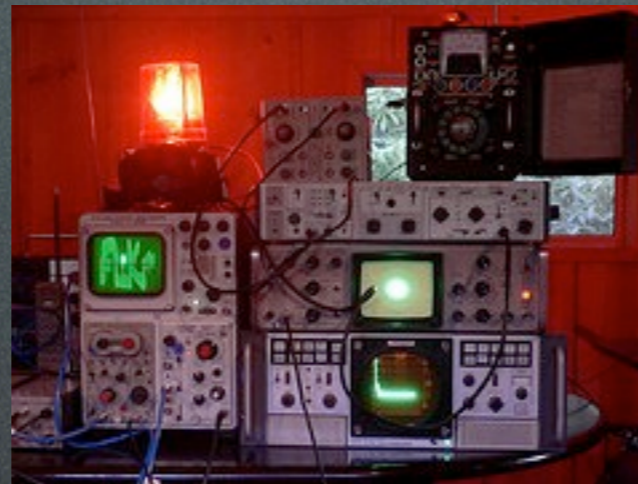


"Make it work"

Develop



Test



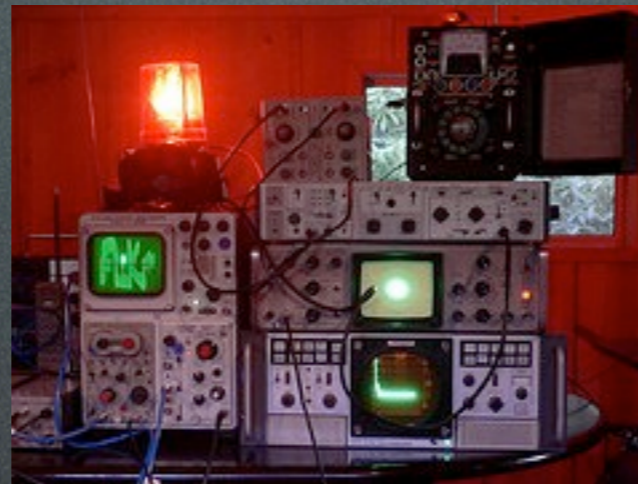
Ship



Develop



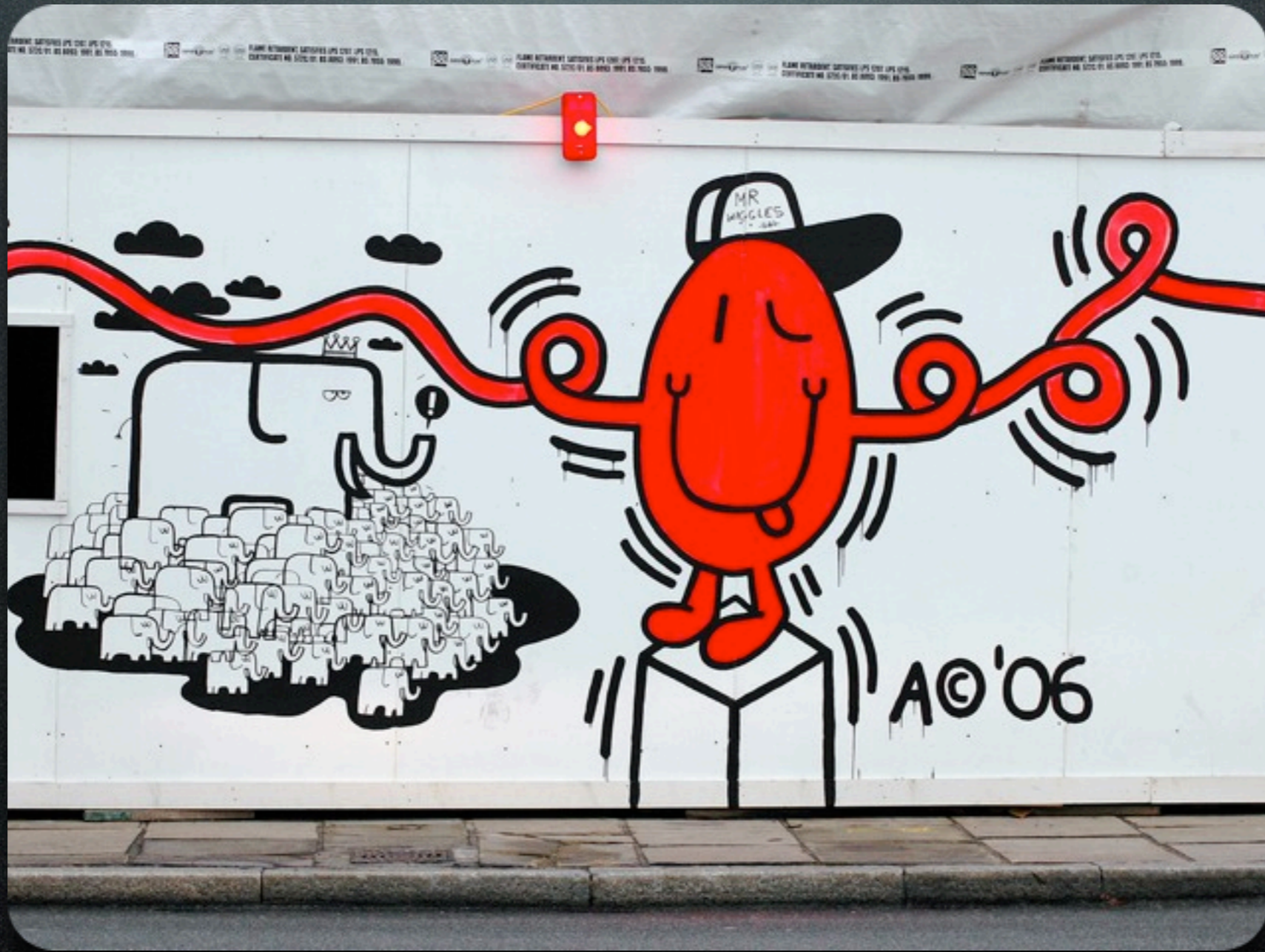
Test



Ship



improve here



Wiggle Room only



3 Departments in 1



C vs. Java



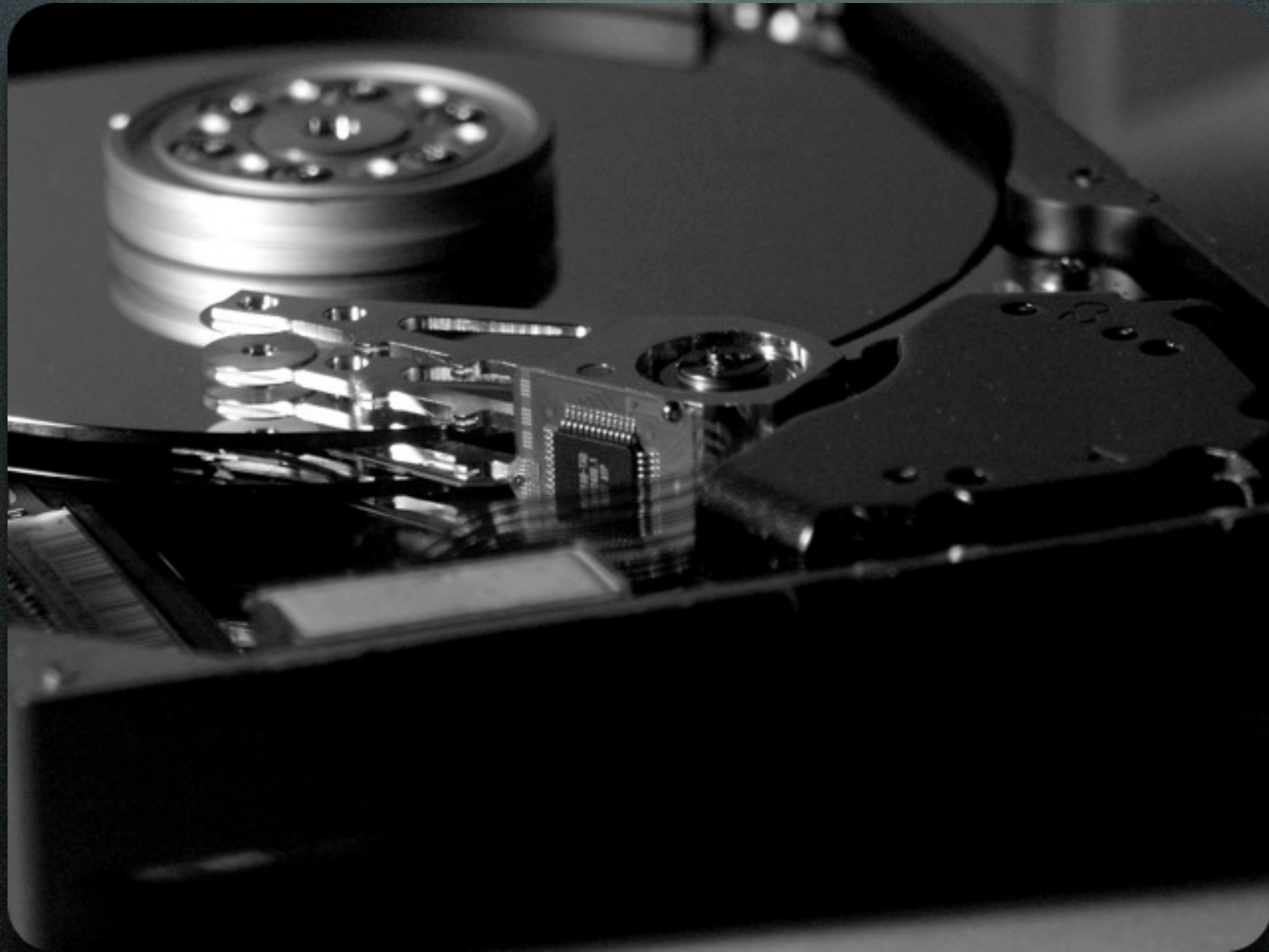
Infrastructure



Old Hardware



Time to run tests



Storage



Intermission

Some feedback from my helpful audience

Ideas from the Audience

- Partitioning - find the essential tests
- Reduce release frequency for some of the platforms
- Try differential pricing per platform

Ideas from the Audience

- Don't just set up rules (guidelines, directives), but explain **why**
- How do new people learn the rules?
Try storytelling or mentoring
- Test the rules

Ideas from the Audience

- Get stakeholders involved, e.g. customers
- Get an outsider's view, e.g. from a consultant



Changes



Quality as #3 problem

A photograph of a window with a sign. The sign is white with black text and is centered on the window. The window is framed by a dark border. The background behind the window is dark and blurry, suggesting an interior space.

**Exciting
Changes
Happening
Soon**

New Boss



Communication



New Rules



Theory vs. Practice

"Every new feature
should have a test"

"This feature
has to be
in the next version"



Continuous Integration

Breaking the Build

- acting on failed tests
- figuring out who broke the build
 - time-consuming
 - whose responsibility is it?
- running the unit tests before committing





Test Ownership

New tests

- Providing test data
- Adding the tests





Outlook



New Projects



Does everybody "get" it yet?



What about me?



(Some)

Lessons learned

Test Communities
do exist

Change takes time
- a lot of time

QA needs a
"holistic" approach

Test automation
- The Holy Grail?



The End?

Credits

- Photos via flickr.com, thanks to:
Hopkinsii, lotyloty, seier+seier,
Alex Polezhaev, Horia Varlan,
Caterina Fake, Steve Jurvetson,
Stig Nygaard, Steve Punter,
Peter Dutton, paul posadas, Erik
Pitti, Nick J Webb, Bill Gantz,
Jukka Zitting, Kevin Dooley,
Jean-Pierre Dalbéra, Matti
Mattila, Rebecca Krebs,
mollybob, Matt Brown, Bob
Bobster, James Bowe, Bhumika
Guglani, manuki
- Photos and names are links -
click them!

