

WHAT SCIENCE FICTION CAN TEACH US ABOUT BUILDING COMMUNITIES

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Presentation (with notes) available at fastwonderblog.com

WHOAMI

- Geek, traveler, reader
- Past 12 years doing community & open source
- Read 73 books last year, mostly sci-fi / fantasy
- I keep a list:
<http://fastwonderblog.com/about/reading/>



Photos by Josh Bancroft, Don Park

BIGGER ON THE INSIDE

Communities look very different
from the inside than
when viewing them as an outsider



ALL ABOUT THE PEOPLE

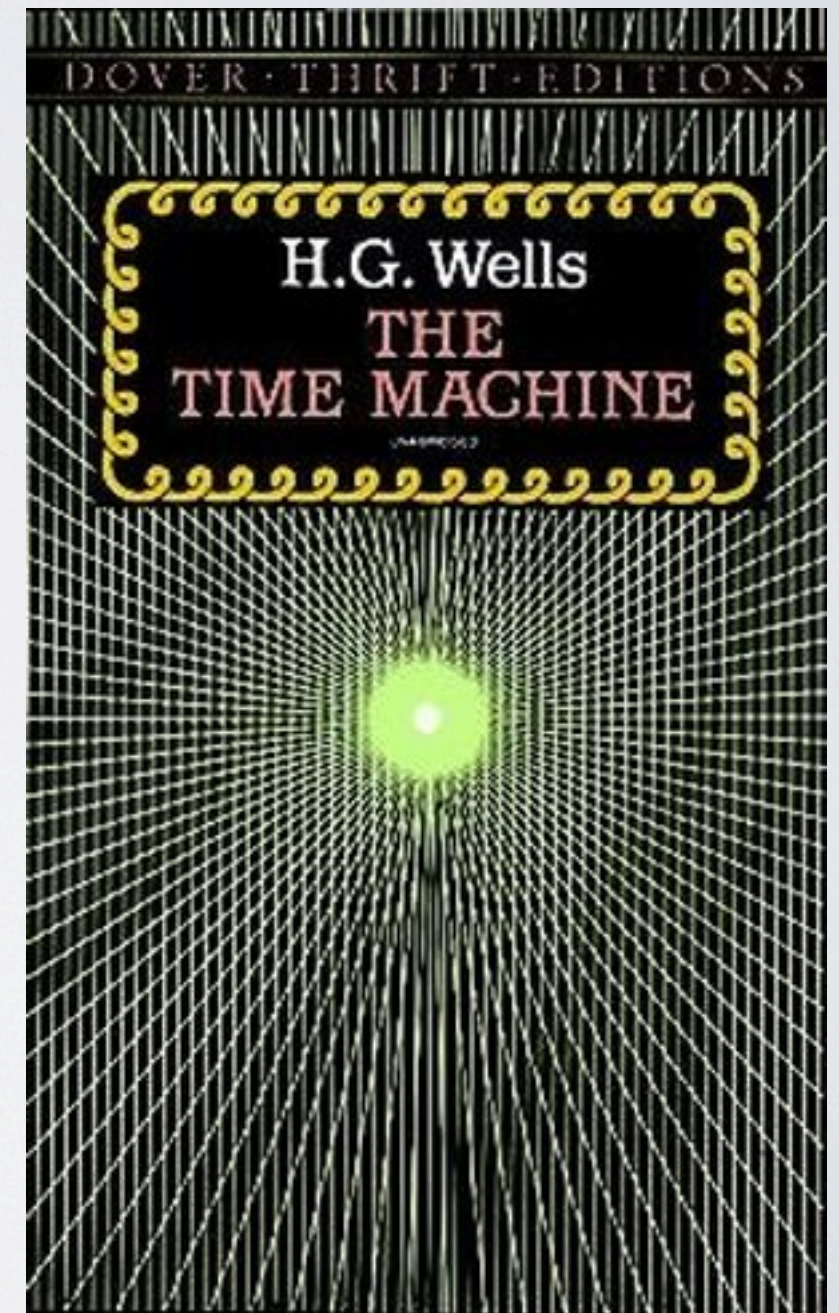
Communities are about the
people who participate,
not about the leaders



Not about the leaders, it's about everyone who participates

DON'T GO TOO FAR

Take time to understand the community
and participate gently to start
without doing too much at once



DON'T BE A REDSHIRT

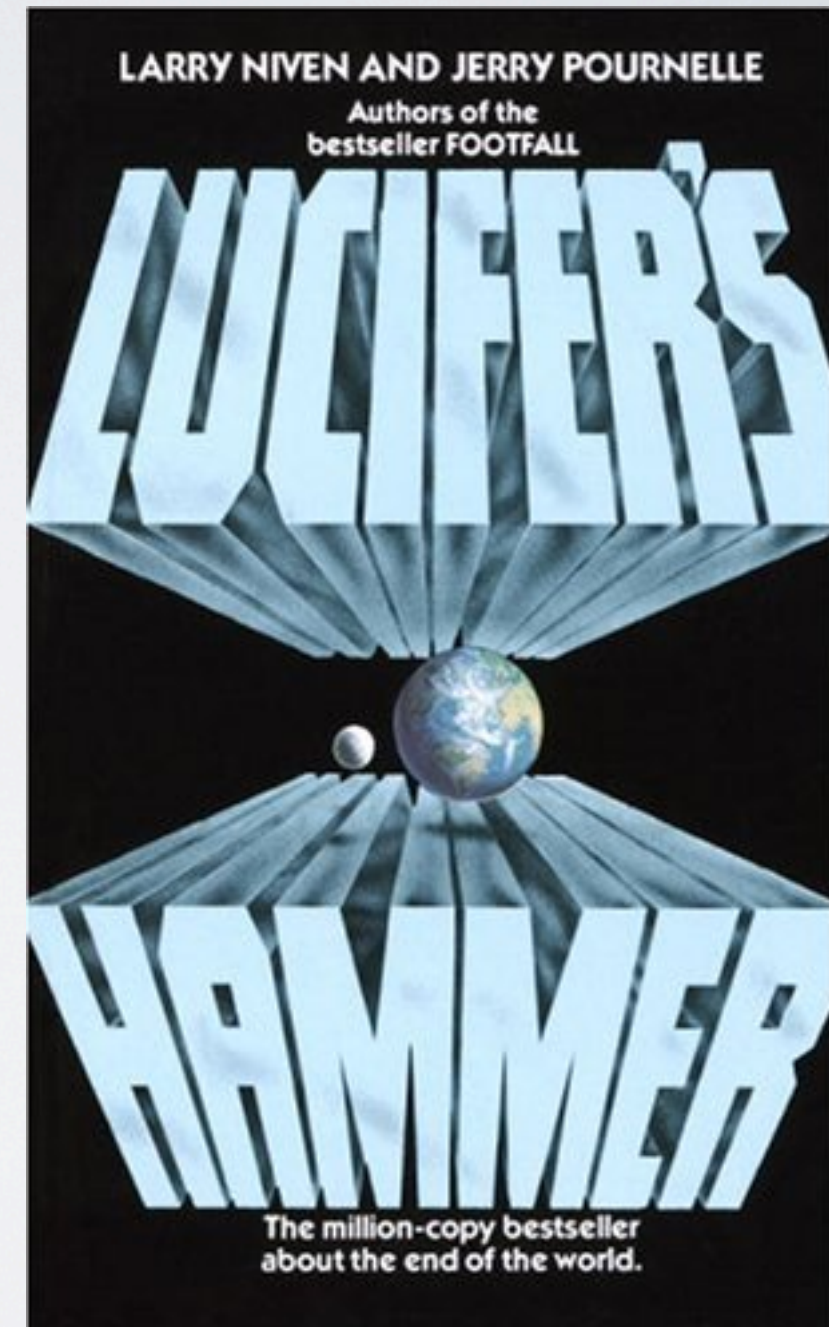
Participate and contribute
in a way that people will
notice and value your work



Read John Scalzi's 'Redshirts'

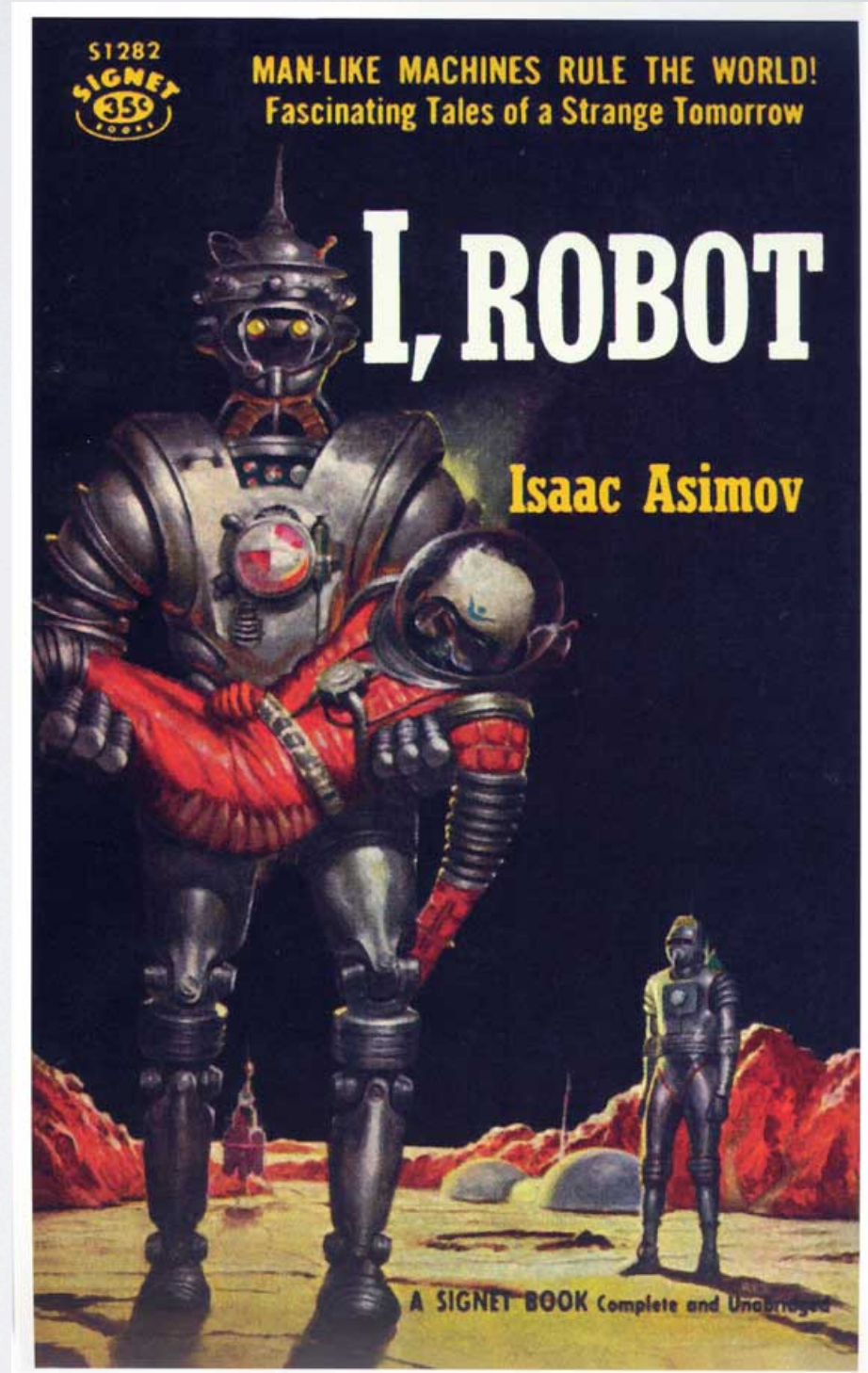
USEFUL SKILLS

Learn and share new ideas
with the rest of the team



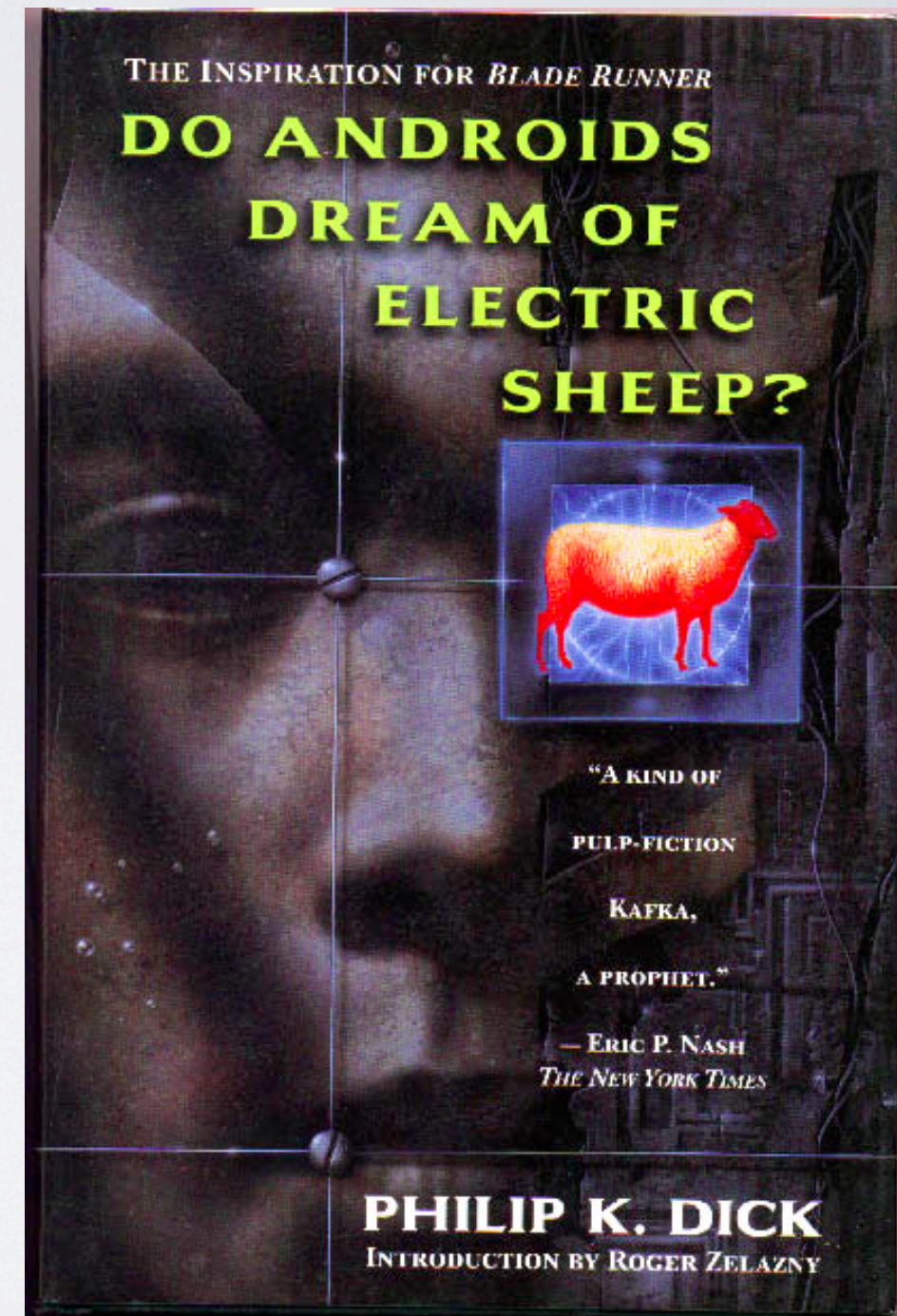
3 LAWS AND GUIDELINES

Guidelines / code of conduct
that change and evolve as needed



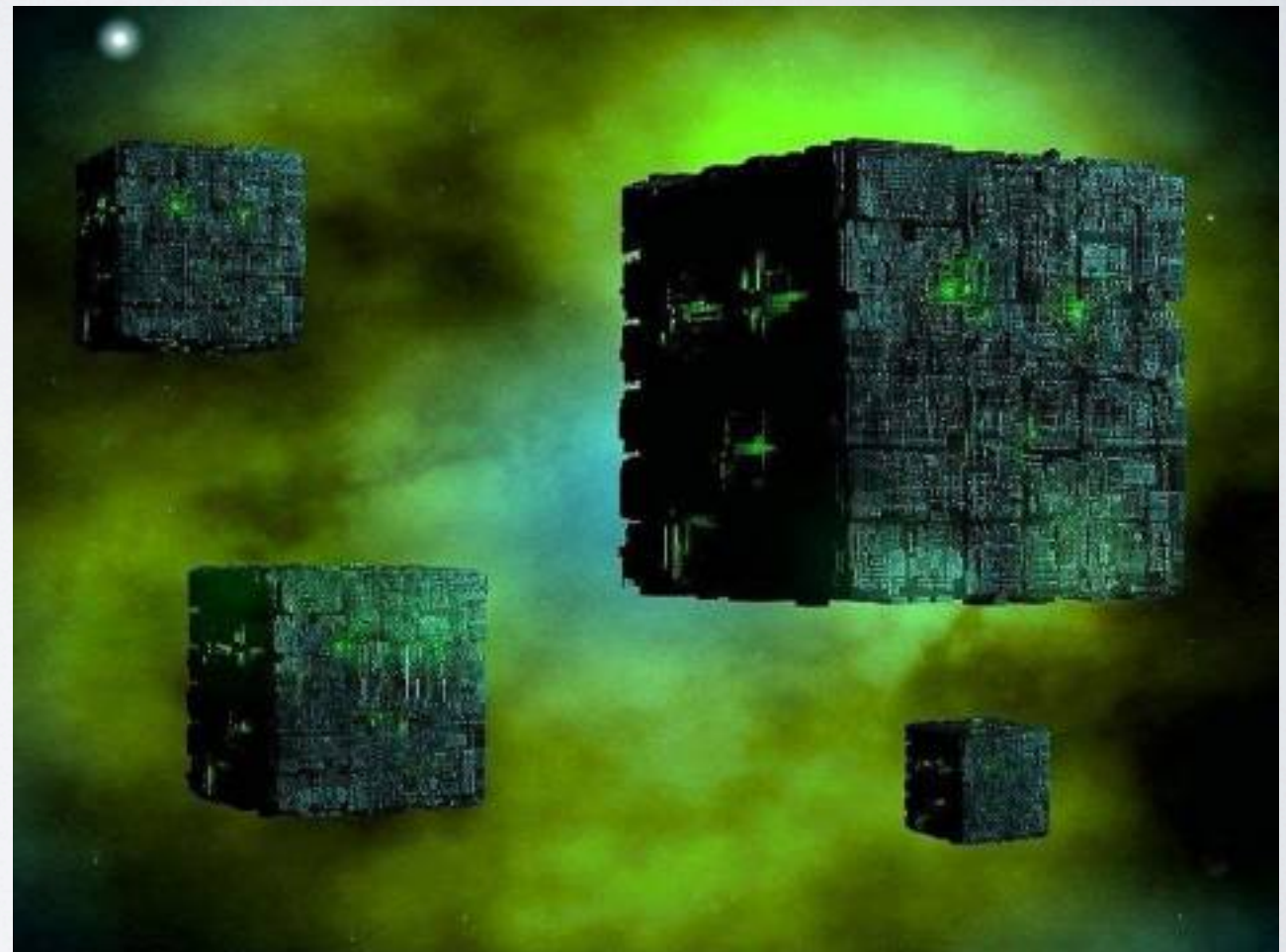
ANDROIDS AND EMPATHY

Don't act like an android,
show empathy and
consider the impact of your actions



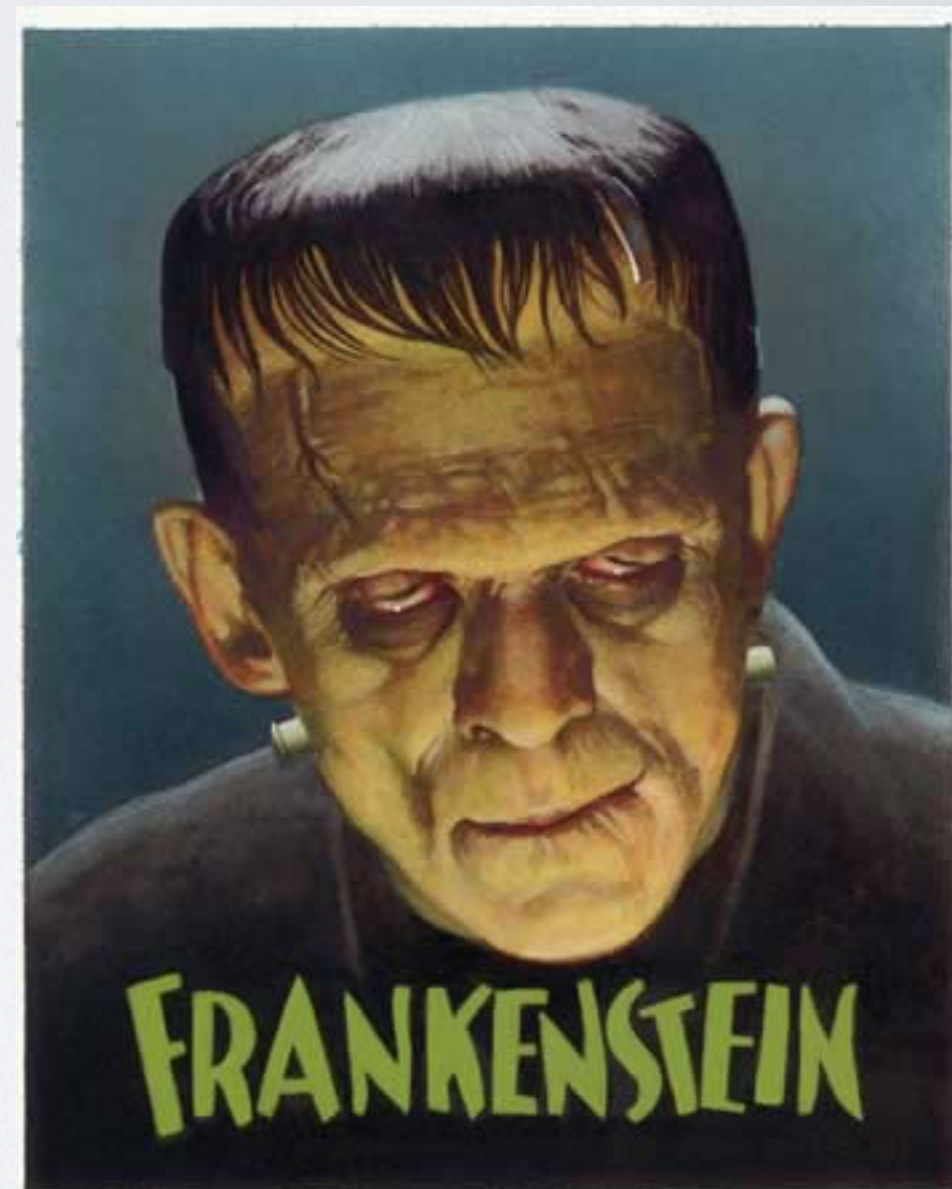
YOU WILL BE ASSIMILATED

Bring new community
members into your
collective for new ideas



NO MONSTERS

Different isn't bad,
disagree with ideas,
not the person



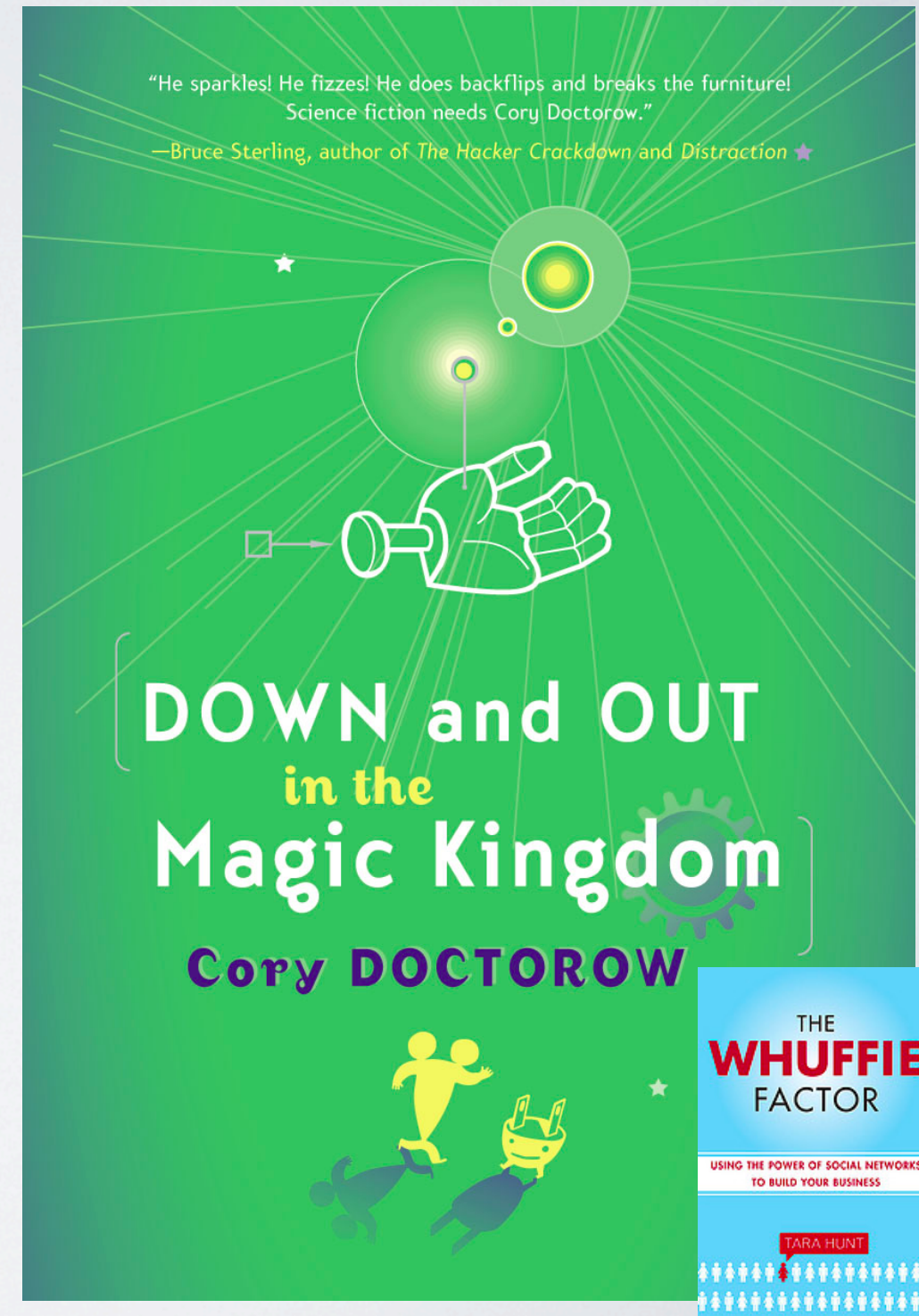
FERENGI != ROLE MODELS

- #37: You can always buy back a lost reputation
- #268: When in doubt, lie
- #115: Greed is eternal



WHUFFIE

Reputation is currency,
do good and
recognize others



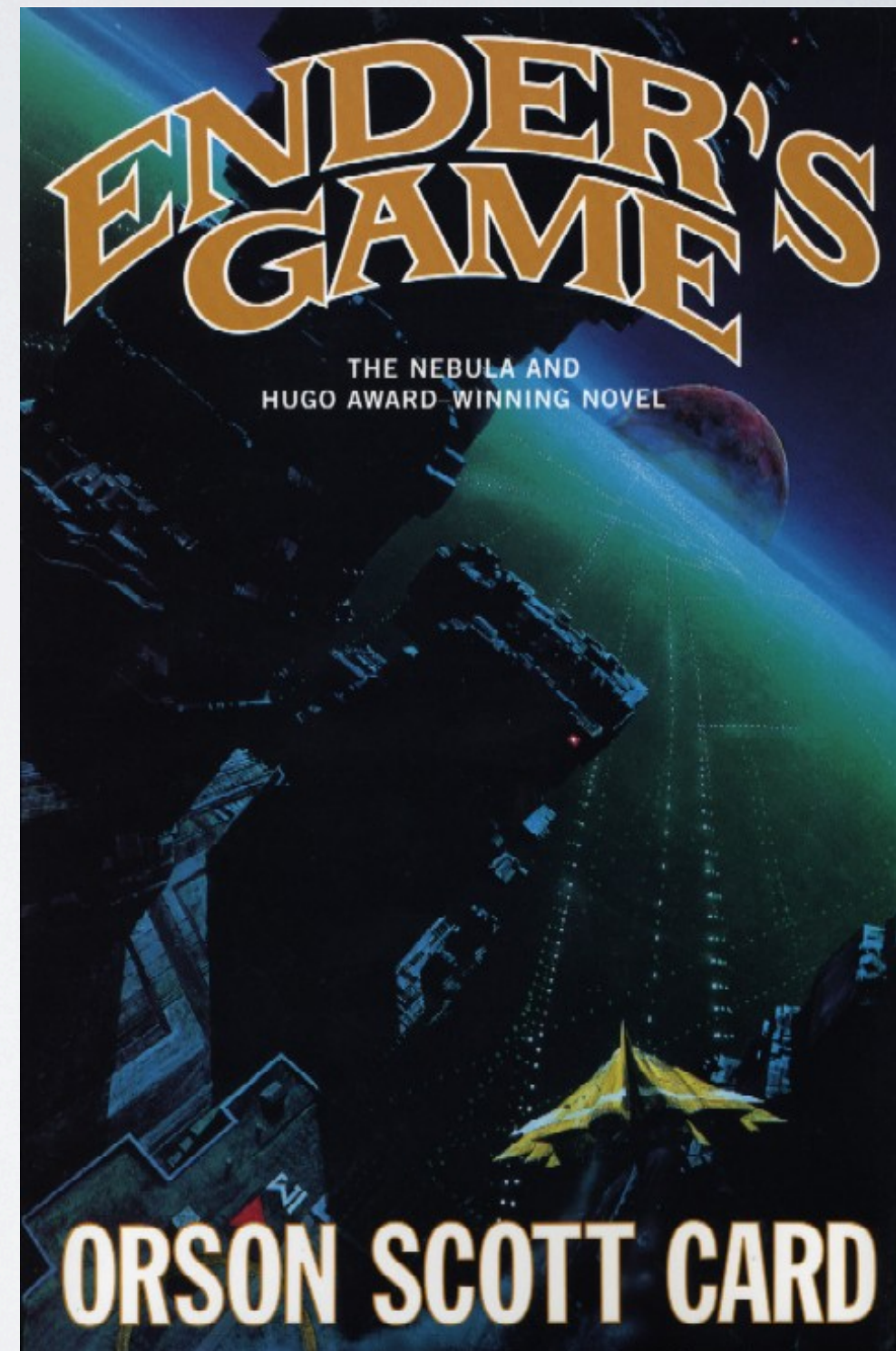
MENTORING

Train the next generation
and help others succeed



THE YOUNG CAN CONTRIBUTE

Age is often unknown,
encourage young people
to contribute



STRONG WOMEN

Encourage women in our field
and get more women
speaking at our events



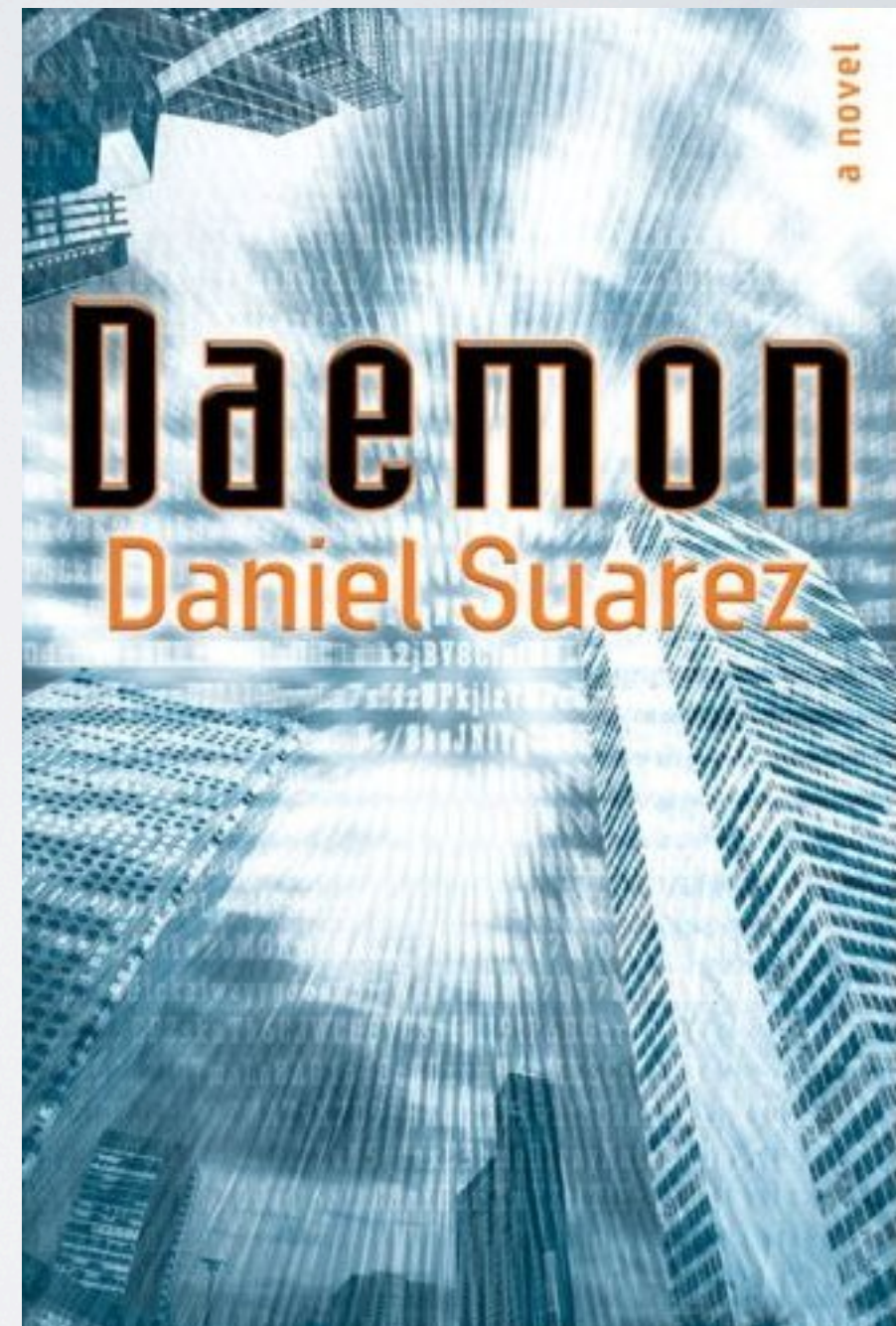
CONTROL ISSUES

Maintain balance
to keep things productive
while not being too controlling



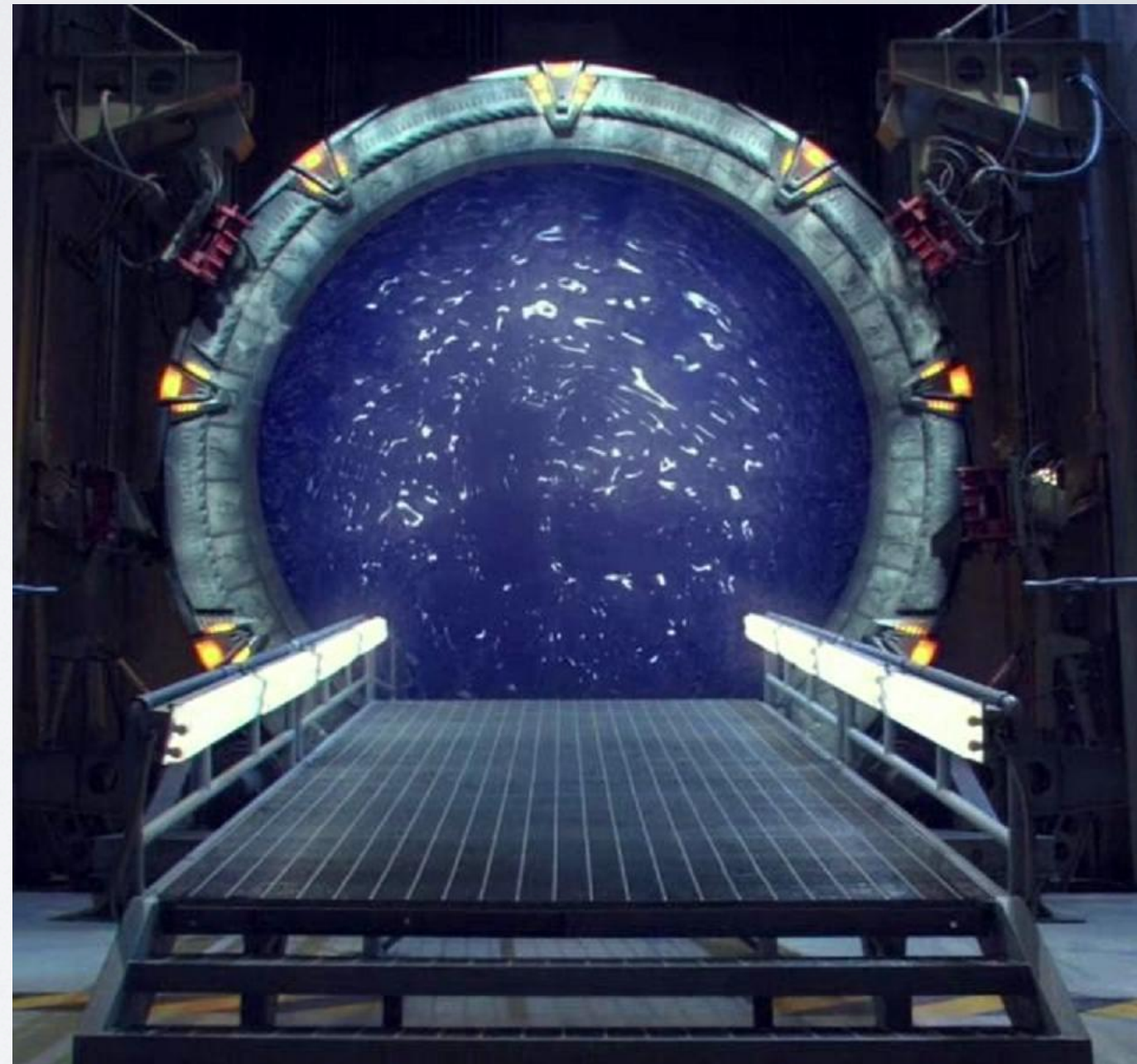
DISTRIBUTE RESPONSIBILITIES

Avoid single points of failure
and manage access
to community resources



PEOPLE EVERYWHERE

Travel and
meet interesting people
working on global projects



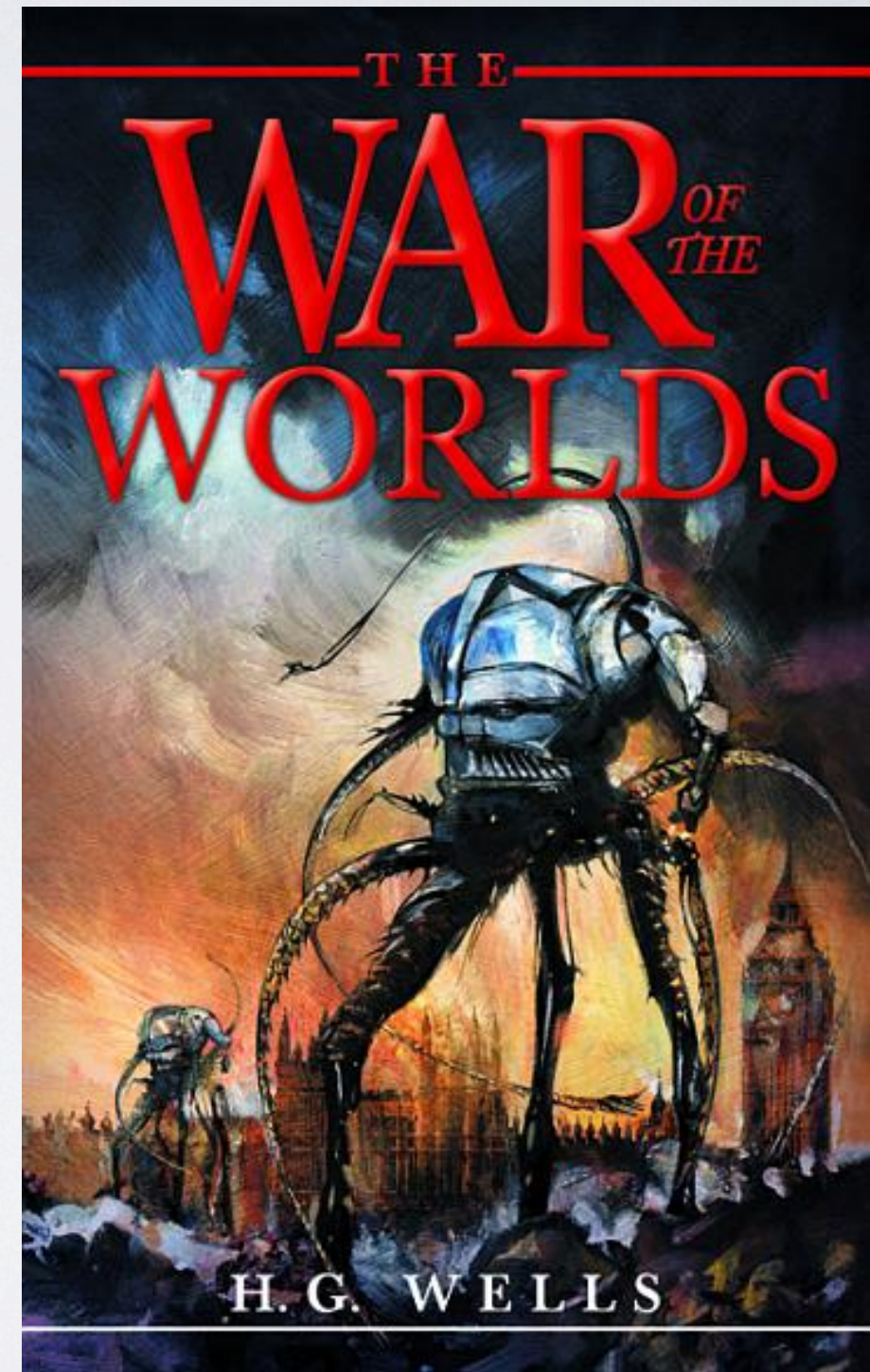
MANAGE GROWTH

Gradual growth
to keep with new contributions
and maintain your culture



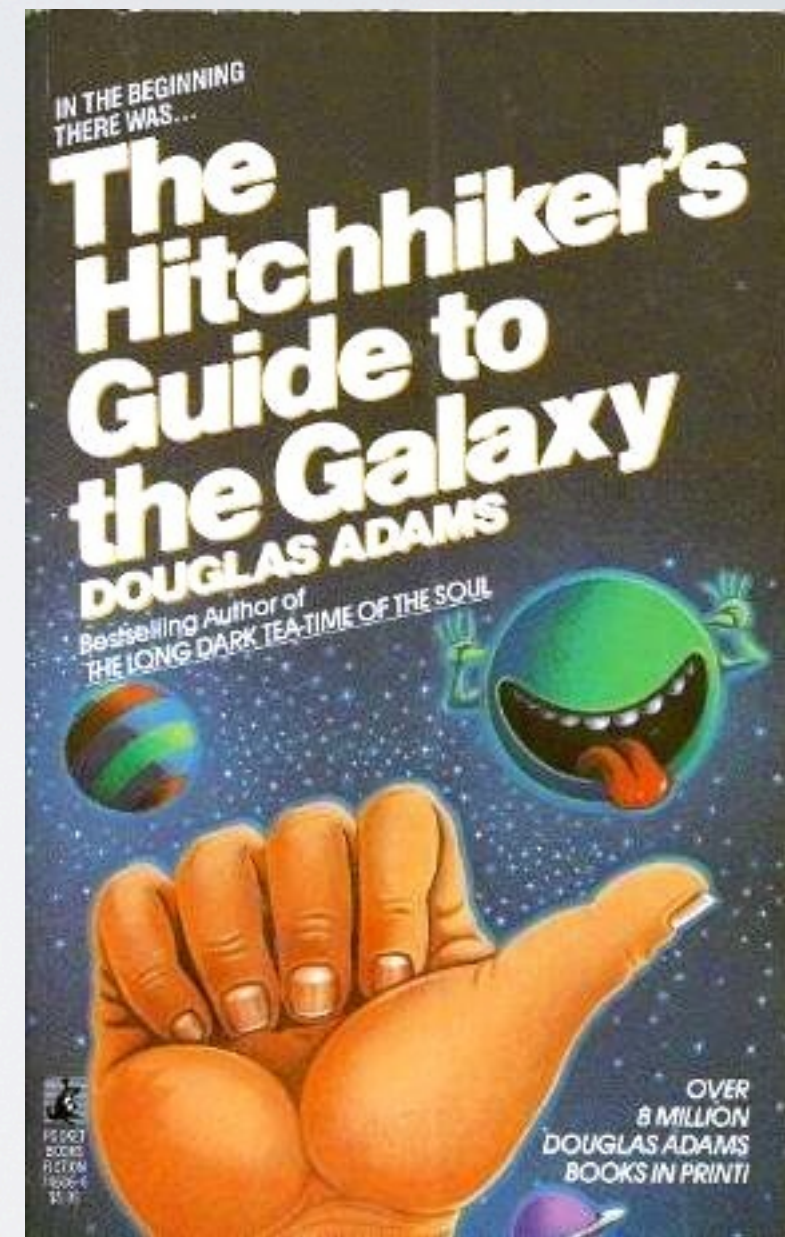
OUTLAST THEM

Be patient and
allow others to participate



DON'T PANIC

Things will go wrong
keep things in perspective
calmly recover



THANK YOU

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Some of my favorite modern sci-fi / fantasy authors:

Hugh Howey

Lois McMaster Bujold

Brandon Sanderson

Connie Willis