

E Rebolus Unum

**A cohesive free software community built
on the newly open-sourced Rebol code**

PREFACE

Who is this "Hostile Fork"?

Brian F. Dickens

- Cornell EE and long-time software engineer, early work @ *DOD Mapping Agency, MITRE*
- Later work on *Microsoft SQL Server* and *Access* products, and in *MS Research* on domain-specific-language technologies
- Much later: film school, coffee barista, art framer, graphic designer (& freelance C/C++ consultant)

What is hostilefork.com?

- A domain name that I bought in Jan 2006
- Wanted it to be a site providing open source's *"missing management"* by triaging forks and mediating agendas (like I try to do here)
- While procrastinating on that mission, I used it to try setting up WordPress... and it accidentally became my *"blogger identity"*

How did I find Rebol?

- Introduced by way of trying to configure a test instance of the Qtask server in 2008
- Found an install bug, essentially caused by absence of an enumerated type in Rebol
- I approached the community to hear the "*Rebol way*" of shaping the language to have enum... and was impressed when I could!

I support Rebol + Red... [1]

because they're language construction sets

I've loved domain-specific code since forever!



I support Red + Rebol... [2]

because they read like a written language

- Without many delimiters, you can see the parse structure of the code in your head
- Few general purpose languages are like this
- I think it somewhat ties into "*The Language Instinct*" and Noam Chomsky's X-bar theory

I support Rebol + Red... [3]

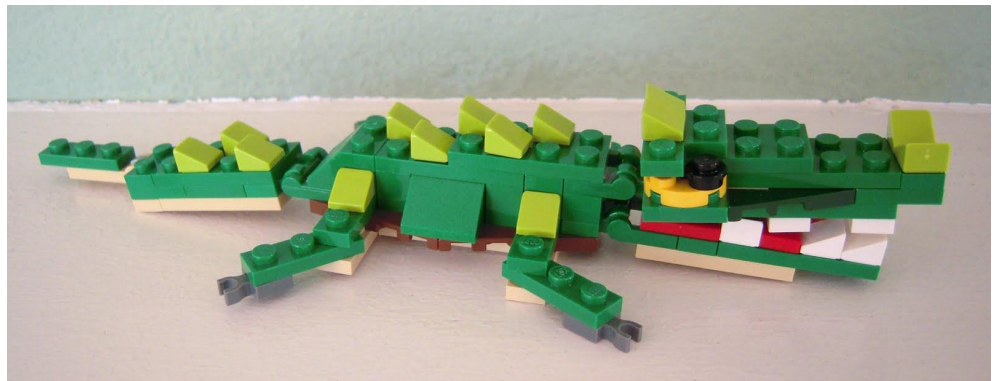
because the design has Quality (capital Q)

Composes like the good kind of LEGO alligator



BAD ↑

GOOD



I support Red + Rebol... [4]

because unnecessary complexity Must End

"We (as humans) exist within a narrow band of comprehension and intuition. Once our systems grow too complex, we as humans no longer possess our essential 'gut intuition' nor any idea at all how our monster system will react to unforeseen situations."

-- Carl Sassenrath

My Rebol + Red work

- Designed new iconography for both
- StackOverflow liaison (and started SO chat)
- Ported Red to Rebol3*, fixing Rebol bugs & triggering review of several design issues

and REBmu, Rubol, Red talk remastering, Interactive Tutorial Script, USCII, other advocacy + teaching tools

I'll speak boldly, but...

don't doubt my sincerity, I drove 2000 miles



Really, I've invested... lots!

I have good intentions, so hear it as such!



TABLE OF CONTENTS

*"Tell them what you're
going to tell them"*

Findings since December

- I'll go over accomplishments and critiques since the open-sourcing on 12-Dec-2012
- I'll give a general temperature reading on the community, who has been active, and their motivations *(to the extent I understand them)*
- I'll list some bad habits that have been broken, and some more we need to break

The websites must cohere

- Carl has the DNS for **rebol [.com .org .net]**
- Rebol resources are scattered, but we can rally centralization around these domains
- Yet for stakeholder "buy-in", *there needs to be a trust* holding at least **.org** and **.net**
- **red-lang [.com .org .net]** may (?) follow suit

Red's method is the future

- A "full stack" Rebol *needs compilation*, and should be built on a foundation more like Red/System than ANSI-C
- Rebol3 is thus about **stability & standards**
- Red is still new, so I don't claim to know the balance of design by committee vs. edict, or who is equipped to be a "benevolent dictator"

To quote Hans and Franz

"Hear me now... and believe me later."



Let us not leave Montréal...

- ...without a satisfying DNS agreement (e.g. *binaries at **downloads.rebol.org** or similar*)
- ...unless we unblock integration of commits to mainline GitHub sources by having multiple qualified people who can do it
- ...until any of us can correct a typo on **rebol.org** and see it fixed by the next day

ACT I (A)

Findings Since December
accomplishments

Questionable news first :-)

- Public master repository **rebol/r3** on GitHub has only 110 commits from 11 contributors (*from 12-Dec-2012 to 21-Jun-2013*)
- **rebolsource/r3** has only 168 over the same period, while the highly... er... "accepting" **angerangel/r3bazaar** fork has only 162
- Repositories like Ruby get ~20 per day

Better news second :-|

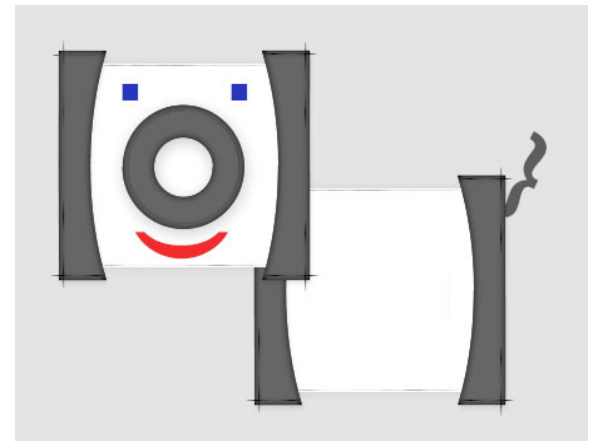
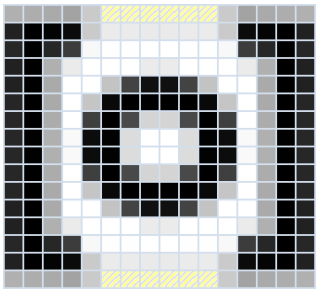
- Android port with GUI on ARM, updated PPC builds, and rough 64-bit Linux and Mac builds. Let's keep going! (Solaris, WebOS, BSD?)
- *Lots* of "behind-the-scenes" coding going on at Saphirion internally: HTTPS, TLS, etc, which ostensibly will be released as source
- I built it for HaikuOS, they appreciate small!

Great news third :-)

- Automated build farm at **rebolsource.net**
- The **Rebol and Red** SO chat room *is almost always on the front page for activity*
- RebolBot™ has become a truly impressive example of multiple Reboler collaboration
- Creators of both Rebol and Red are here

Versatile new Rebol logo!

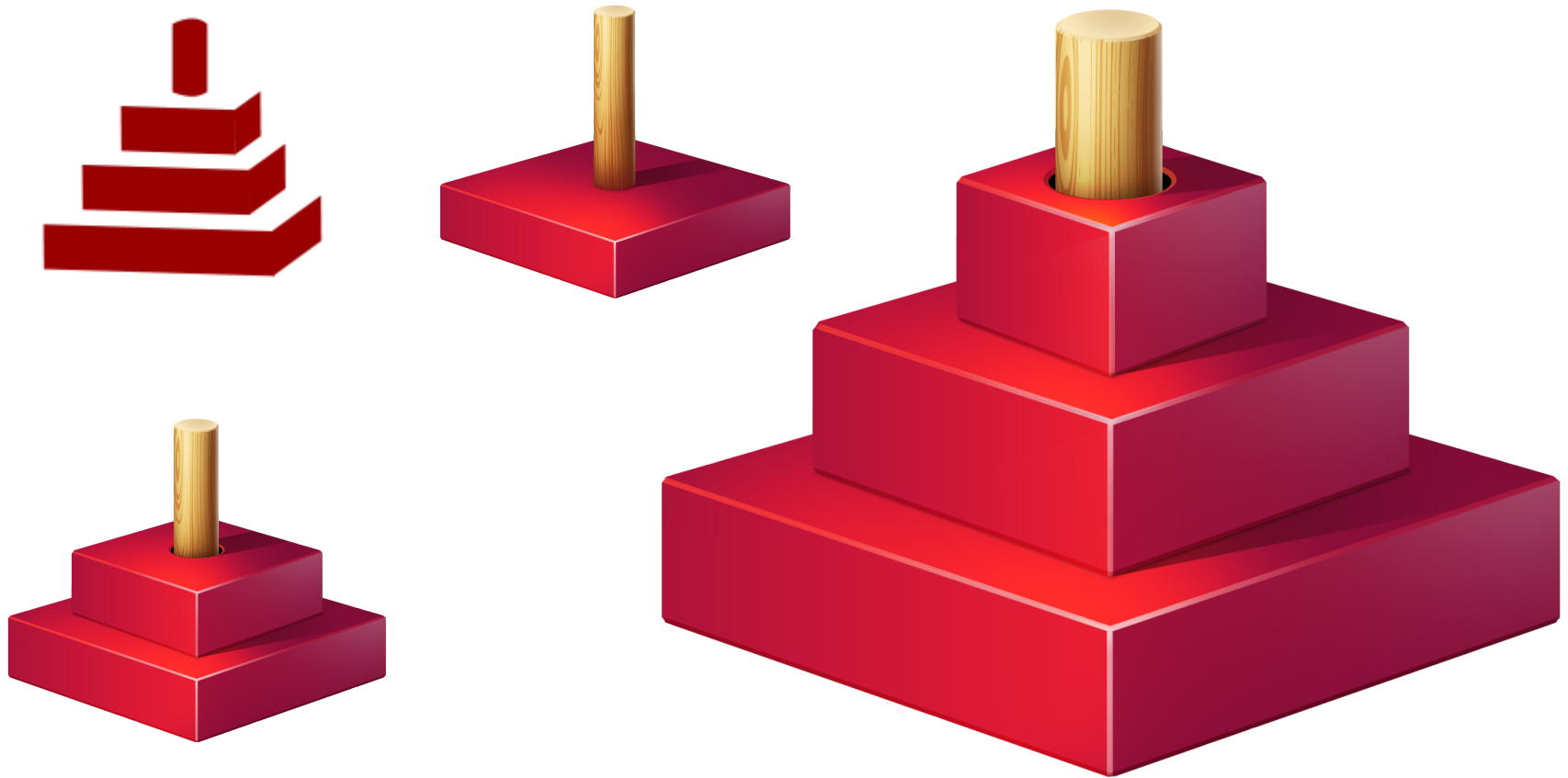
[o]



Best news fourth >:-}

- Since 12-Dec-2012, there were 497 commits to Red's GitHub (*as of 21-Jun-2013*)
- Has an interactive console/REPL now, and supports shared library [cross-]compilation
- Interpreter for what compiler can't do
- Turnkey builds Android .APK with only JDK

Versatile new Red logo!



Thanks to Petr Stefek!

- Rendered the Red logo from a sketch I made
- He did this pro-bono for our good cause, but usually gets paid for this kind of thing! So we gladly advertise him here :-)

petr.phob at gmail dot com

<http://www.humanart.cz/moje/dila/>

ACT I (B)

Findings Since December
community status

Politics are sorting out

- Some criticize the lack of public hacking on the GitHub C repository, but remember that Rebol3 was a mature codebase already
- We've been focusing on the long term: structuring the community for expansion (*and there is plenty of Rebol coding going on*)
- Recode shows we're serious about talking

We need Saphir source

- When LGPL/Classpath was suggested:

Robert M. Münch
5-Oct-2012 3:04:29

"Think of the source license in terms of being a fair trade." - That's the core what you intend. Now, there are two ways to achieve it.

1. Try to regulate this as much as possible. Write a license, define the scope, clarify it over time etc. As you started in your posting.

When we (Saphirion) improve R3, I would be a total idiot not to return it.

So, they way to go is option 2. And IMO, Rebol has the best situation to make it happen. The self-regulating thing here is the community. We know each other, no one has the ressources to fork R3 to create an own technology stack and maintain it, everyone needs the others here. Especially if you want to use R3 as a foundationo for a business.

I see it the other way: When we (Saphirion) improve R3, I would be a total idiot not to return it. Because R3 gets better, others begin to use it. And now

- But where is this source? Code for Android?
- Assume Goodwill, but keep community firm!

Transparency is critical

- I understand that priorities may hold up timing on polishing source for a release
- BUT if people count on a promised product, it may prevent them from starting their own; meaning it may materialize slowly (or never)
- *"Release early, release often"* is the way to properly collaborate on open source code

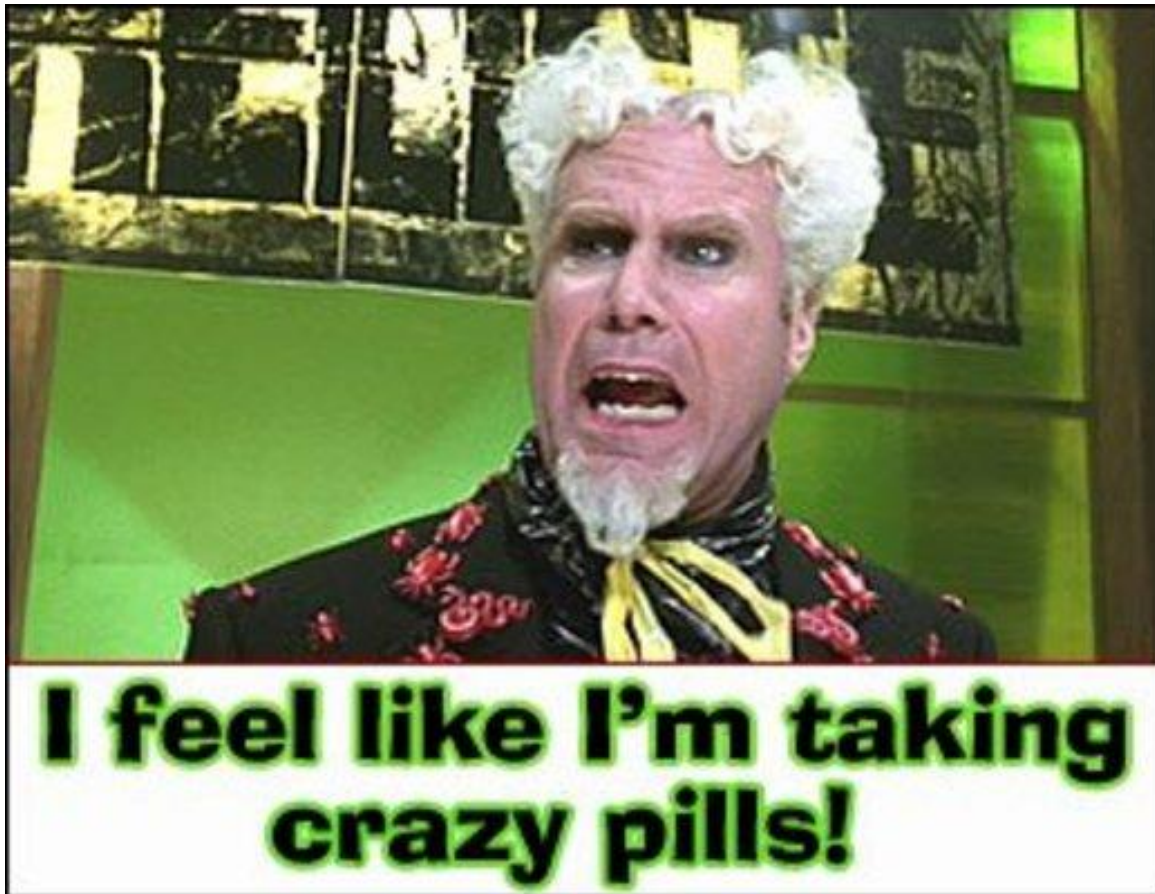
My personal victories

- Logos accepted...right? (*Please say yes!*)
- Finally looks like FUNCT behavior will take FUNCTION's name, I've said it since forever!
- No one writes R.E.B.O.L. anymore!
- Isolated AltMe is *almost* off the radar as being the place for daily community news!

...but /ONLY still exists!!!

You all ***knew*** there was going to be a slide on the worst refinement ever! We don't tell someone to take out the garbage and then they shoot the cat if you don't say "*Oh... wait... I meant ONLY take out the garbage*"! The name ONLY makes no semantic sense; if it *did* make sense, then it's what should be done by the operation without any refinements! **I'm right about this and you know it!**

Am I the /ONLY one, here?




ACT I (C)

Findings Since December


old and new habits

Join StackOverflow chat

Our water cooler, making Rebol and Red look good and sociable (usually). *Not on it? Get on!*


rebol 

tested it, good to know (delete)


Adrian 

you can shift+enter to get a new line without sending

May 28 3:01 AM

Graham Chiu 


the ability to edit messages is sorely missed in Altme

HostileFork 


@rebol You only have two minutes to edit or delete your last message. A shorthand for editing the last thing you said is the up arrow. Each message has a permalink, and you can quote it via that permalink.

54 secs ago, by rebol

..... tested it, good to know (delete)

Adrian 

and when you paste a multi-line clip, you have to option to send using fixed font

rebol 

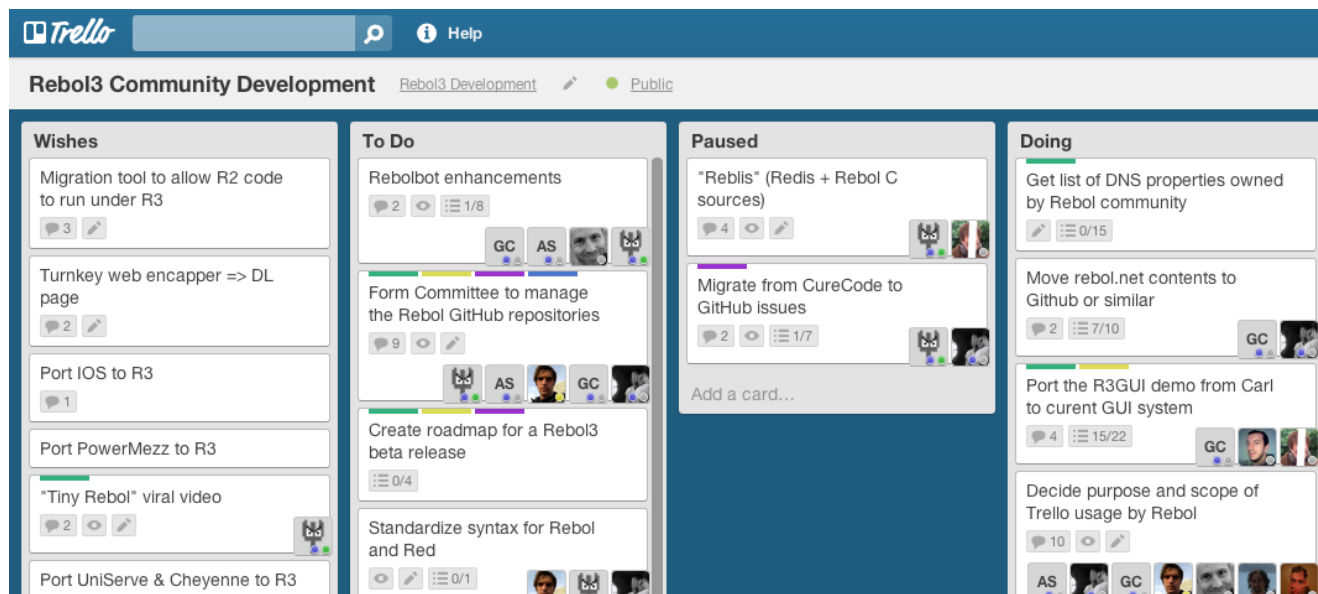
Lots of nice features - quite usable.

Phase out AltMe

- Someday a pure Rebol/Red open-source communications system will be viable, but right now we shouldn't dilute efforts
- Saying StackOverflow doesn't have private chat is a straw man. Install Skype and you'll get chat, voice, video, and screen sharing!
- No new user will like AltMe; let nostalgia go

Let's keep trying Trello

Think SO chat isn't structured enough? Get a Trello account! It's neat for non-Rebol things too



No more new R2 users

- There are some features the community misses from R2, so there are those who will send new people we find to download it
- This isn't forward-looking. *It's okay R3 isn't finished*, people can cope! But plugging a closed-source Rebol defocuses our message
- Keep R2 in your own toolbox for legacy only

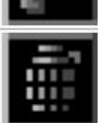



Try to stop saying "R2/R3"

- "Red is written in R2" sounds like "Red is written in the R language, as well" Think Perl5, etc. We have enough trouble getting mixed up with R language already
- ARRR-THREE is two syllables and vague
REB-OL-THREE is only three, and coherent
- Since Rebol defaults to Rebol3, brevity wins

replace/all oldlogo newlogo

The old ones still lurk, and it has a strong effect. Consider fixing them important; I'll help as much as I can with this effort.



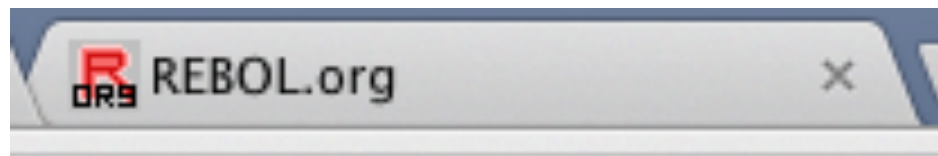
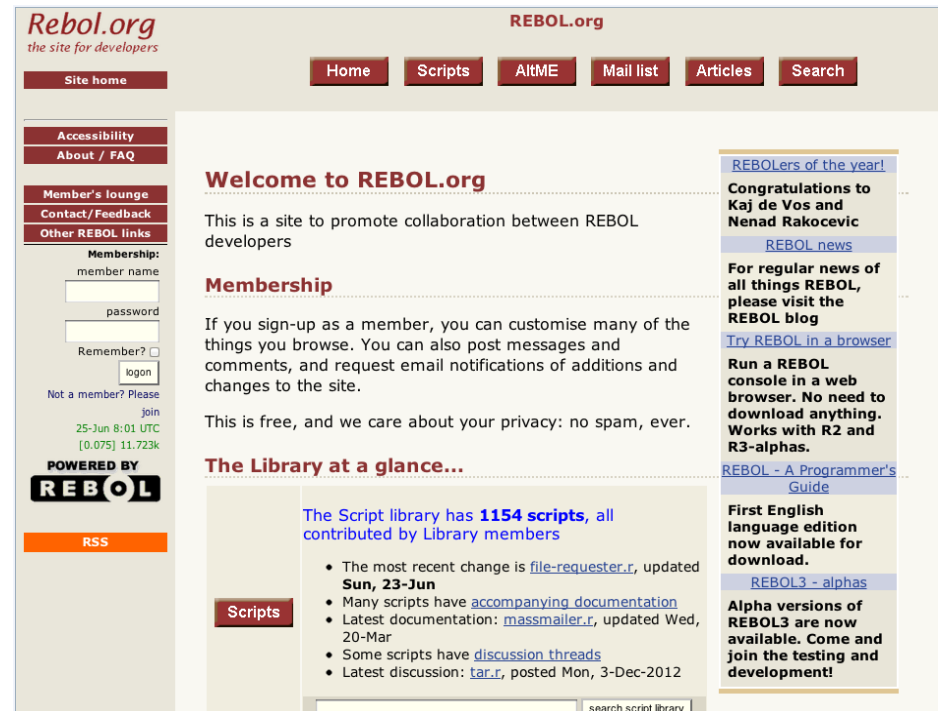
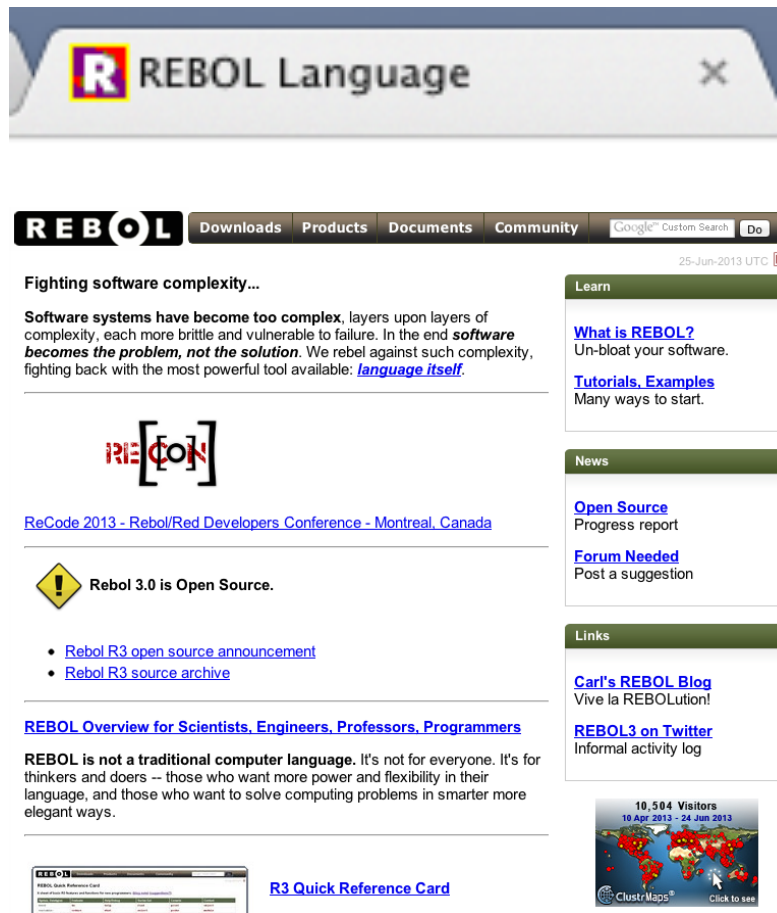
	Grenade	Red Soldiers Enemy Bases	This item resuppli
	Gasoline	Red Soldiers Bases and Tanks	The gasoline can NES version).
	Speed up	Red Soldiers	If you collect this,
	Long range	Red Soldiers	This increases ea
	Fire power	Red Soldiers	With this, the play
	Blast	Red Soldiers	If you get this, you



ACT II

The websites must cohere

Rebol go-to sites are dated



The spammers run amok

...and don't buy DPW (it gives you cancer)

Ray 8-Jun-2013 19:23:53	Wonderful post. I enjoyed the discussion here too. Will be back soon. http://hireplantsauckland.co.nz
Pauli 9-Jun-2013 17:05:03	Re: Robert and Ray Regarding the "Benefits of Plants". Which plant do you think Dr. Oz or Oprah recommends mostly? Philodendrons, golden pothos or spider plants? I am fearful of spiders lol. So which of the other two do you recommend?
Robert 10-Jun-2013 12:24:47	My thoughts Golden Pothos very beautiful. I also recommend use DPW. DPW offers nutrient value plus billions of beneficial micronutrients that improve the uptake of nutrients and your soil texture. http://hireplantswellington.com
Pauli 13-Jun-2013 2:23:36	What is this miracle DPW? How do I find? Please tell more info ASAP!
Robert 13-Jun-2013 12:50:10	For you my friend I give you my POWERFUL secrets! http://hubcap.clemson.edu/~blpprt/Aub-244.html But be WARNED my friend. Use only sparingly the DRIED formulas of PW!!!

Some peers are nailing it

good design + good documentation = win



The screenshot shows the Ruby website homepage. At the top left is the Ruby logo, a red gem, followed by the word "Ruby" and the tagline "A Programmer's Best Friend". To the right is a Google Custom Search bar. Below the header is a red navigation bar with links: Downloads, Documentation, Libraries, Community, News, Security, and About Ruby. The main content area is divided into three columns. The left column, titled "Ruby is...", describes Ruby as a dynamic, open source programming language with a focus on simplicity and productivity. The middle column contains three code snippets demonstrating Ruby's string interpolation and iteration capabilities. The right column features a "Download Ruby" button, a "Get Started, it's easy!" section with links to "Try Ruby! (in your browser)", "Ruby in Twenty Minutes", and "Ruby from Other Languages", and an "Explore a new world..." section with a link to "Documentation".

 **Ruby**
A Programmer's Best Friend

Google™ Custom Search

[Downloads](#) [Documentation](#) [Libraries](#) [Community](#) [News](#) [Security](#) [About Ruby](#)

Ruby is...

A dynamic, open source programming language with a focus on simplicity and productivity. It has an elegant syntax that is natural to read and easy to write.

[Read More...](#)

```
# Output "I love Ruby"
say = "I love Ruby"
puts say

# Output "I *LOVE* RUBY"
say["love"] = "*love*"
puts say.upcase

# Output "I *love* Ruby"
# five times
5.times { puts say }
```

 **Download Ruby**

Get Started, it's easy!




- [Try Ruby! \(in your browser\)](#)
- [Ruby in Twenty Minutes](#)
- [Ruby from Other Languages](#)

Explore a new world...

- [Documentation](#)

Our crew could compete...

...but many of our designers/writers are not empowered to contribute (compare to Ruby)

 index.html	a month ago	Improve redirection script [stomar]
 redirect.conf_	7 days ago	Fix order of rewrite rules [stomar]
 security.asc	2 years ago	Added the PGP key used by Ruby Security. [postmodern]

📖 README.md

www.ruby-lang.org

This is the [Jekyll](#) source of the [www.ruby-lang.org](#) website.

How to Contribute?

You can contribute by reporting errors or suggesting improvements. Just open an issue or pull request.

This is a big project with many translations involved. Please help us stay on top of things by following our [guidelines for contributors](#).

Another key is **CONTROL**

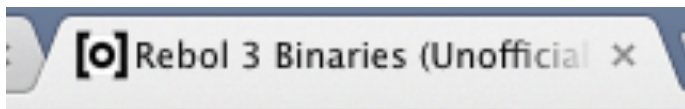
- Who can pull the plug on **rebol.org**, or retarget its DNS? Who has "final say"?
- ...or when **Rebol for Android** is in the *Google Play Store*, who writes the descriptive text? Who decides what's in the binary?
- *Without an active Rebol Technologies to shepherd the brand...these are problems*

Proposal for rebol.org

- Make it the go-to official site for Rebol
 - Function documentation
 - Project roadmaps
 - Vetted module libraries
- "Neutral Point of View" - think Wikipedia
- Borrow ruby-lang.org's strategy:
 - Source code for *entire* site on GitHub, with turnkey process for simulating the *entire* site for testing

Enforce visual uniformity



Leverage the good work already done on the downloads at rebolsource.net



Rebol 3 Binaries (Unofficial)

Mainline Builds

We are happy to provide unofficial R3 binaries¹, which are automatically built from the [mainline R3 sources on GitHub](#). Downloads are stand-alone executables, which are not compressed and do not require installation².


Platform	Download	Build Date (UTC)	Commit	Size
Linux x86	 r3-gfc51038	2013-02-26 18:14	fc51038	0.44 MiB
OSX x86	 r3-gfc51038	2013-02-26 18:15	fc51038	0.41 MiB
Win32 x86	 r3-gfc51038.exe	2013-02-26 20:40	fc51038	0.52 MiB

¹The mainline R3 sources currently don't contain GUI functionality, so these are "core" builds.

²Of course, you will have to `chmod +x` the non-Windows binaries in all likelihood.

Experimental Builds

These are one-off binaries created to test specific build combinations or platforms. Experimental builds are not automatically updated from the latest sources, and might be unstable.

Platform	Download	Build Date (UTC)	Commit	Note
Haiku x86	 r3-haiku-x86-gfc51038	2013-03-15 01:07	fc51038	Preliminary Haiku build

Proposal for rebol.net

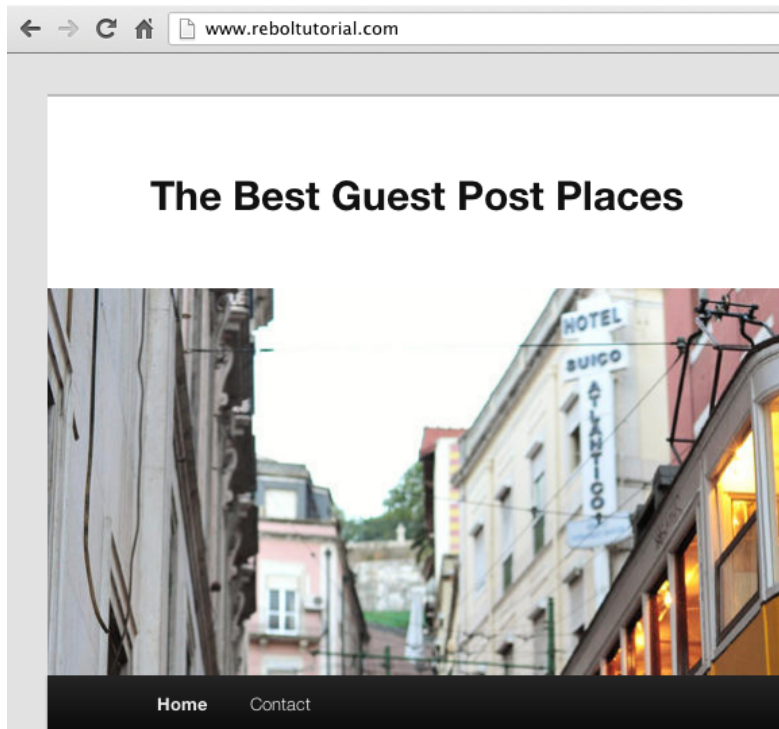
- "Rebol Developer Network": individuals or groups host subdomains under rebol.net
- More agile than rebol.org, run experiments on your server even if source isn't ready
- Keeps Rebol community from wasting money on the domain name mafia, and leverages sunk cost of rebol.net and SEO ranking

Agile, but still have rules

- rebol.net subdomains would be granted when an individual or group is trusted to act in the best interest of a topic in the project
- Rules about advertising and popups would exist, and ultimate decisions on "taking back" the subdomain fall to the governance model
- But most likely coup is a server *disappearing*

Remember Reboltutorial?

Could've repaired this as tutorial.rebol.net!



Happy guest posting!

LIST 1

[nike-shoes-blog.com](#)
[angezenn.com](#)
[dentalclinicbloggers.com](#)
[hotelreviewsdhg.com](#)
[stockexchangeblog.net](#)
[livingwarmandcosy.net](#)

LIST 4

[alyntkawebhosts.com](#)
[businesssoftwareeducation.com](#)
[northcarolinaweddingphotography.net](#)
[artbybradgreek.com](#)
[littlemmoo.com](#)
[relationshipforyouandme.com](#)

LIST 7

[kendokorner.com](#)
[abacus-america.com](#)
[playstationvitareviews.org](#)
[education-and-certification.com](#)
[medicalbloggers.org](#)
[criminalattorneyscorp.com](#)

LIST 2

[personalcaretips.net](#)
[helpwithlegalclaims.org](#)
[gekosatellitv.net](#)
[canonpowershots95reviews.org](#)
[HPTouchPadReviews.net](#)
[internetbusinessgowild.com](#)

LIST 5

[nicollesgardenideas.com](#)
[myownweightlossips.com](#)
[chrissealeart.com](#)
[the2020vision.co.uk](#)
[micronexsa.com](#)
[metungaccommodation.org](#)

LIST 8

[financialguidelines.net](#)
[probusinessaffiliates.com](#)
[contentrewriteengine.com](#)
[primeplusinc.com](#)
[weddingphotographercharlestonnc.com](#)
[theweddingmaker.org](#)

LIST 3

[donzign.com](#)
[yourpetsplace.org](#)
[romance-resource-guide.com](#)
[pissedpoetpics.com](#)
[gregirvine.com](#)
[outdoorindoorgames.com/](#)

LIST 6

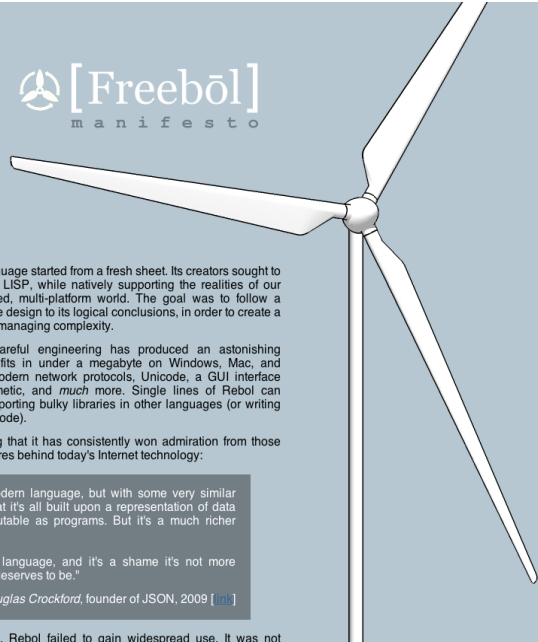
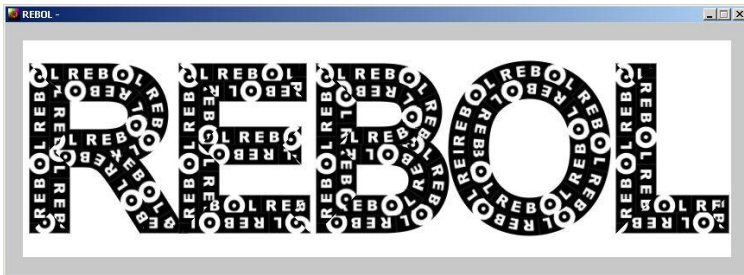
[pharmacyquestionsanswered.net](#)
[magnoliaz.com](#)
[attorneyneeded.org](#)
[watchonlinetvnow.org](#)
[lithiumionbatterycharging.com](#)
[hptabletreview.net](#)


LIST 9

[homeexpertisetipsforyou.com](#)
[creativehomeideas.net](#)
[dietdynamitecircle.com](#)
[parramattaaccommodation.net](#)
[personalloanquotes.org](#)
[blogaboutbusinessnow.com](#)

Diversity at rebol.net

Visual variety, but ... encourage good style?



 [Freeböl]
manifesto

Why Rebol?

The Rebol programming language started from a fresh sheet. Its creators sought to capture the holistic purity of LISP, while natively supporting the realities of our always-on, network-connected, multi-platform world. The goal was to follow a certain philosophy of software design to its logical conclusions, in order to create a uniquely sustainable tool for managing complexity.

More than a decade of careful engineering has produced an astonishing technology. The interpreter fits in under a megabyte on Windows, Mac, and Linux... despite including modern network protocols, Unicode, a GUI interface builder, date/currency arithmetic, and much more. Single lines of Rebol can perform feats that require importing bulky libraries in other languages (or writing hundreds of lines of custom code).

The system is so compelling that it has consistently won admiration from those who use it, including key figures behind today's Internet technology:

"Rebol's a more modern language, but with some very similar ideas to LISP, in that it's all built upon a representation of data which is then executable as programs. But it's a much richer thing syntactically.

Rebol is a brilliant language, and it's a shame it's not more popular, because it deserves to be."

— Douglas Crockford, founder of JSON, 2009 [\[1\]](#)

Yet despite such accolades, Rebol failed to gain widespread use. It was not tracked or listed in even the Top 100 of the [TIOBE language popularity index](#) (2).

Proposal for rebol.com

- Reduce content reachable from main page; quickly point people out to rebol.org and .net
- Function reference pages redirect to new equivalent information built into rebol.org, user guides to sassentrath.rebol.net or similar
- Question: Keep old page with disclaimer (*and new link in top banner*) or just redirect?

[REB[O]L] TECHNOLOGIES]

Rebol Technologies, Inc. ("RT") created the Rebol programming language. As of 12-Dec-2012, Rebol version 3 is open source under the Apache 2 open-source license, and is developed and maintained by the community.

For binary downloads, reference information, and official module libraries:

<http://rebol.org>

For projects, visit the Rebol developer network:

<http://rebol.net>

RT remains as an intellectual property holdings company for some Rebol-based products, and protects the Rebol trademark. [See the RT blog.](#)

Cool URIs don't change

- There are lots of inbound links to **[rebol . com .org .net]** indexed by Google, and we shouldn't break those links, redirect!!!
- Just put a little infobox at the top saying *"This information is archival, but you probably want to go look at this other link."*
- Hence **rebol.com** should be mostly redirects

Rebol needs a foundation

- Despite goodwill and good intentions, people want the URLs they choose to trust to not get hijacked by ill will (or languish from neglect)
- We **Don't** need the heft of Python Foundation
- We **Do** need to make sure everyone feels safe by pulling under the foundation's domains than by branching off independently

It's centrally about trust

- There is a parallel between the politics of language decisions and deciding the websites... it's kind of an open-source duality
- So language code and the website code are intertwined, despite different maintainers
- Don't have "web masters" vs "core masters": trust is the key and delegation is implied

What about red-lang?

- DocKimbel owns **red-lang** [.org .com .net]
- As Red is in its early stages, he doesn't want to distract development with web strategy; and feels contributions are rare enough he can integrate them by hand if they are useful
- But let's see if this plan works for Rebol, and if so maybe Red will adopt a parallel structure

ACT III

Red's method is the future

Note this is *RECODE*

- It isn't **REbolcon**, it isn't **REdcon**, it isn't even **REcon** (well that'd be okay, but it was taken)
- I began a kickstarter with \$400 to get Red's creator to Montréal, and others threw in too, thus the creators of both languages are here
- So it should be clear that *it's not just me* who wants us to map out the common territory

I was a Red skeptic

- When I joined 8 guys on IRC in #red-lang and heard the pitch, I said *"so 8 guys are going to make a system better than Rebol?"*
- Doc said *"you could join us, we'd be 9 guys"*
- Ha, ha. *"Too ambitious,"* I thought. It seemed lobbying Carl to open source Rebol would save those man-hours, why rewrite it?

Rebol.exe isn't the magic

- When Rebol's source was released, I was puzzled, because it was... comprehensible?
- I imagined crazy engineering, but realized Rebol comes from "***guru meditation.***" It's not magic alien code, it's magic alien design
- `u-parse.c` is 1300 lines, with comments and whitespace. Guru meditate on *that*.

I read Red and "got it"

- If I worked at RebolTech and was hearing a pitch for "Rebol4", Doc's plan is pretty solid
- Rebol believers should want to build on a dialect like Red/System, not ANSI C
- Bootstrap is Rebol2 but I ported it to Rebol3 *(that raised issues, drawing attention to changes in Rebol3 that we had to revisit)*

Red vs Rebol version 3

- Some of us see high value to leveraging commonalities, and using the still-formative status of both projects to unify them more
 - **"All of us is smarter than one of us."**
- Others want to share ideas verbally, but think design-by-committee for creating standards would spell delays (especially for Red)
 - **"It's evolution, baby. May the best system win."**

Red inherits Rebol issues

- Language design issues (*like @BrianH agonizes over*) may not seem top priority
- But Red's nifty methodology doesn't make hard issues "disappear". Still there!
- Rebolers must embrace Red as "Rebol4" but language design is hard, and small mistakes compound: so everyone should be involved

C interpreter is useful

- Red bootstrapped on Rebol2 and is part of why it can develop so rapidly
- Some will want a C variant because they can read it or must use an approved toolchain
- I don't think *"Red bootstrap is the ultimate test"*... it's a non-user-facing technical step that should be taken prudently. My opinion!

No micro-optimizing Rebol

- Rebol has made decisions like how refinements are either TRUE or NONE (*instead of TRUE or FALSE*)
- It isn't because this is better, but to keep unused refinements from allocating values
- Better to cohere with Red on such decisions based on *usability*, not limits of interpretation

But I'm not pressuring Red

- DocKimbel is working hard, so I don't want to frustrate him (as I frequently do) by trying and look ahead and make him derail to write a summary of what his "community plan" is
- Hoping this conference lets us see eye to eye
- Let's start with the community taking care of Rebol and prove Red has something to gain

Rebol's name = blank slate

- Few today know the name "Rebol", and it has lots of cool history despite insiders being mad that it *hasn't* made a name for itself yet
- **ruby.com** is Kay Jewelers. **python.com** is some affiliate program
- In some contexts Red is a hard word to SEO, so I suggest we use our brands where they fit

FINALE:

"Tell them what you told
them"

Take away these mantras

- R3 is Rebol3, R2 is Rebol2 but don't mention
- Rebol3 is Rebol (*or RebolX...think OS/X*)
- Rebol4/Red/whatever should be implemented via the techniques of what we now call Red
- ***If we don't get rid of /ONLY I swear to God someone is going to get a Fork in the eye***

Carl...! Please...!

Give **rebol [.org .net]** and **github.com/rebol**
to the community to maintain collectively

We need to make a pact on dispute resolution
and governance before leaving Montreal
(There may be arm wrestling if necessary)

RT's investors keep **rebol.com**
let's make it valuable so believers are
rewarded!