The State of OPENedX

October 12, 2015
Open edX Conference
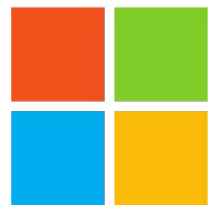
http://open.edx.org

Thanks,
Mitch Resnick!

Thanks to our sponsors!

ExtensionEngine

Microsoft

edcast **appsembler**

eduStack **arbisoft** **OpenCraft**

RACCOON GANG **PERPETUAL LEARNING**

firstly

An Introduction

OPENedX

What is it?

edX

What is it?

What is edX?

- A non-profit venture
- A web site (edx.org)
- A platform (Open edX)

edX, the non-profit venture

- Founded by Harvard and MIT
- > 80 Members

edX, the non-profit venture

Goal #1

Expand access to quality education for all

We want: 1 billion students!

edX, the non-profit venture

Goal #2

Improve on-campus education

We have: 80 partners thus far

edX, the non-profit venture

Goal #3

Advance research in online learning

We ask: "How can we make online learning better?"

edx.org, the learning destination website

Quick history

November 2011

Development started

March 2012

The First MOOC

January 2013

20 MOOCs

500k students

June 2013

Open source

March 2014

160 MOOCs

2.3M students

September 2015

500 MOOCs

5M students

What is Open edX?

- Platform
- Project
- Community

- ~~non-profit organization~~
- ~~website~~

A <u>Project</u> to build a <u>Platform</u> with a <u>Community</u>!

Open edX sites, by countries
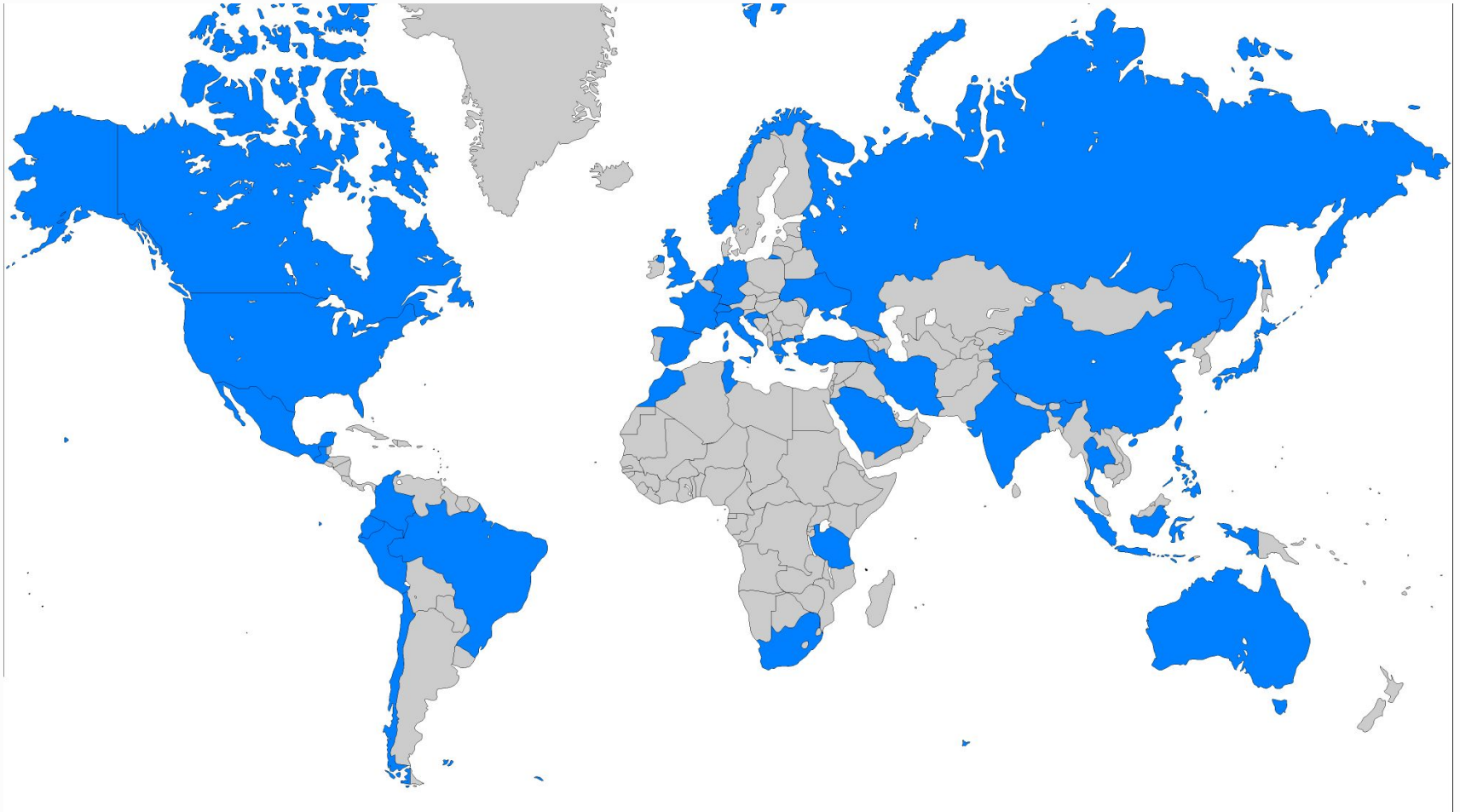
Open edX courses, by primary language

Courses by primary language on Open edX instances

Portuguese
1.2%
Catalan
1.8%
Japanese
3.4%
Russian
4.8%
Arabic
5.5%
Spanish
9.9%
Chinese
17%

60
85
98
175
301

590
English
33.4%

307
French
17.4%
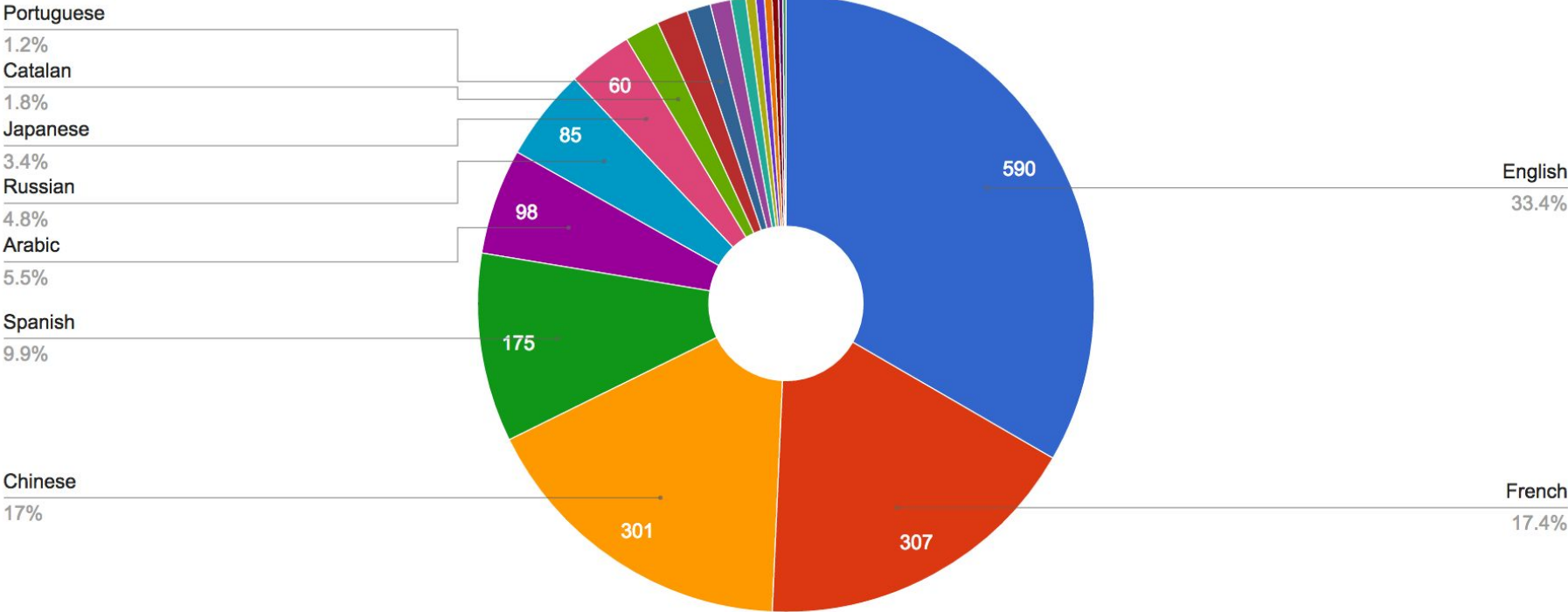
The impact of Open edX

- >150 sites
  running Open edX

- >1500 courses
- 18 languages
- 40 countries

a look back

We had a good year

Community growth
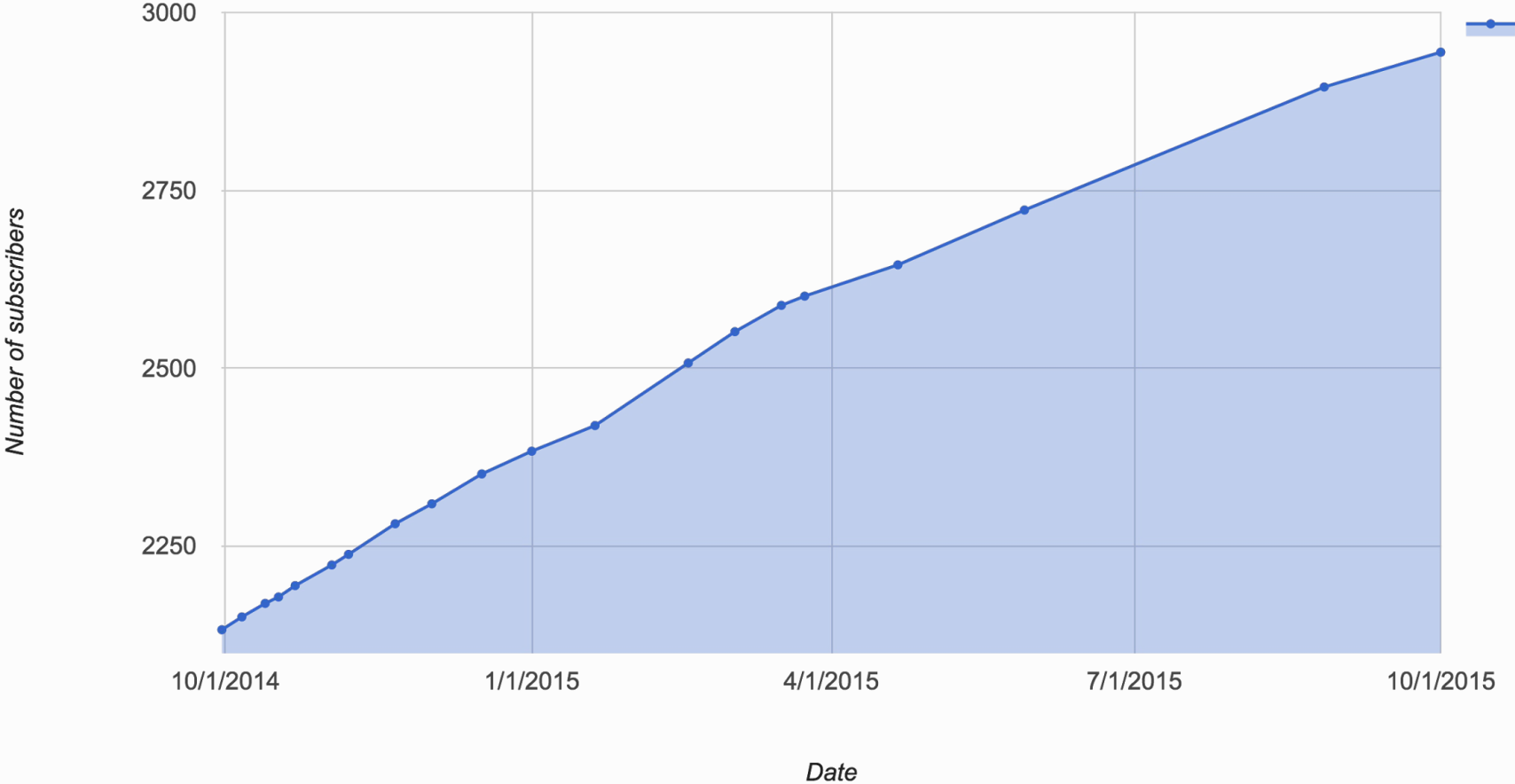
edx-code mailing list subscribers

Key contributions

- LTI (Harvard +)
- SSO (OpenCraft +)
- OLI Hinting (OLI/Stanford)
- Staff graded assignments (MIT)
- Polling XBlock (McKinsey Academy)
- And many more, with more on the way...

edx-platform Open Source Pull Requests

edX as an LTI tool provider (Harvard, UBC, +)

Third party auth using SAML & Shibboleth (OpenCraft +)

Hinting & Feedback (OLI/Stanford)

MULTIPLE CHOICE WITH HINTS AND FEEDBACK (1 point possible)

Which of the following is a vegetable?

- ○ apple
- ○ pumpkin
- ○ potato
- ● tomato ✖

Incorrect:
Many people mistakingly think a tomato is a vegetable. However, because a tomato is the fertilized ovary of a tomato plant and contains seeds, it is a fruit.

[Check] [Hint] [Show Answer]

We had a good year

let's meet
The Engineering Team

Who is this guy?

- Mark Haseltine, CTO of edX, Joined March 2015

- Leading the overall technology strategy and engineering efforts for Open edX and edX.org

- Prior to edX...
  - CTO, GoDaddy domain aftermarket products
  - CTO, NameMedia which GoDaddy partially acquired
  - Tech leadership at Oracle, AltaVista and Gerson Lehrman Group

- Big proponent of free online education for all and our Open edX initiative

mark@edx.org
@MarkHaseltine

Open edX Engineering team

- **Joel Barciauskas** - Manager, joel@edx.org
  - Joined from Blue State Digital in July, worked with Obama 2012
  - Can't wait to meet all of you!

- **Ned Batchelder** - Architect, ned@edx.org
  - Our in-house Pythonista
  - Currently working on Django 1.8 upgrade

- **Sarina Canelake** - Engineer, sarina@edx.org
  - Your OSPR sherpa
  - Passionate about accessibility and internationalization

- **David (DB) Baumgold** - Engineer, db@edx.org
  - Developer and developer advocate
  - Your Open edX release master!

- **Molly de Blanc** - Community Mgr, molly@edx.org
  - Fierce advocate for all things free and open
  - Building a bigger and better community
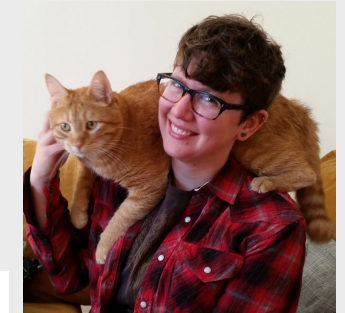
edX Engineering

- Currently close to 80 full time employees

- Growing by 20% this year
  - 20 new hires in the past year

- Working on various aspects of the platform grouped by focus areas
  - T&L, Mobile, Analytics, eComm/edX.org, Solutions, Platform/Test, DevOps

- Everyone on the engineering team contributes to Open edX in some way
  - OSPR Review, Q&A/Mailing List Responses, Design discussions, Documentation, etc.
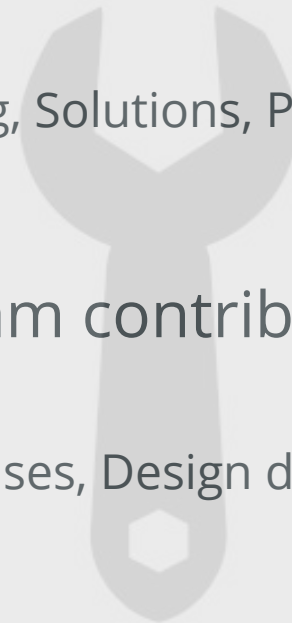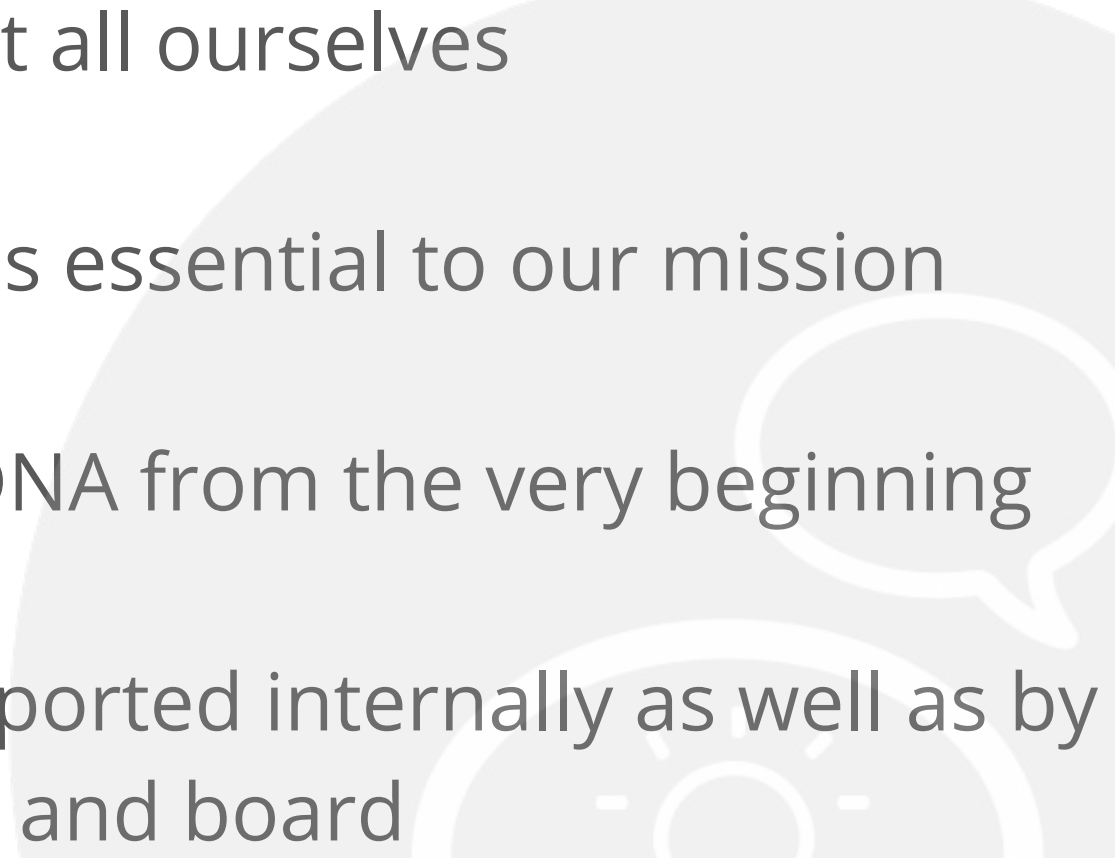
growing together

Commitment to community

edX's Commitment to Open Source

Why?

- We can't do it all ourselves

- Community is essential to our mission

- Part of our DNA from the very beginning

- Strongly supported internally as well as by our partners and board

Our Community Goals

- Growing the community
- Empowering the community
- Connecting the community

Growing the community

- Create a vibrant ecosystem
- Lower barrier to entry
- Balance complexity & scalability
- Get the word out

Empowering the community

- Enable contribution at all levels
- Simplify development environment with clear extension points
- Dedicate resources to merging!
- Grow community committers and architects

Connecting the community

- Launched the Open edX Portal
- Encourage self-organization & collaboration
- Connect over similar needs & interests
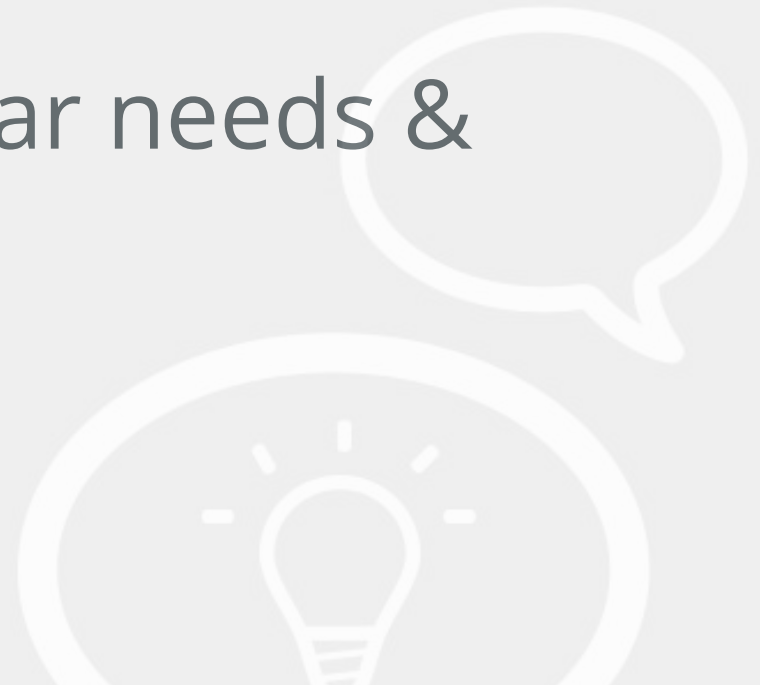
#winning

Good Things Are Happening

We've been listening...

Time spent in edX queues
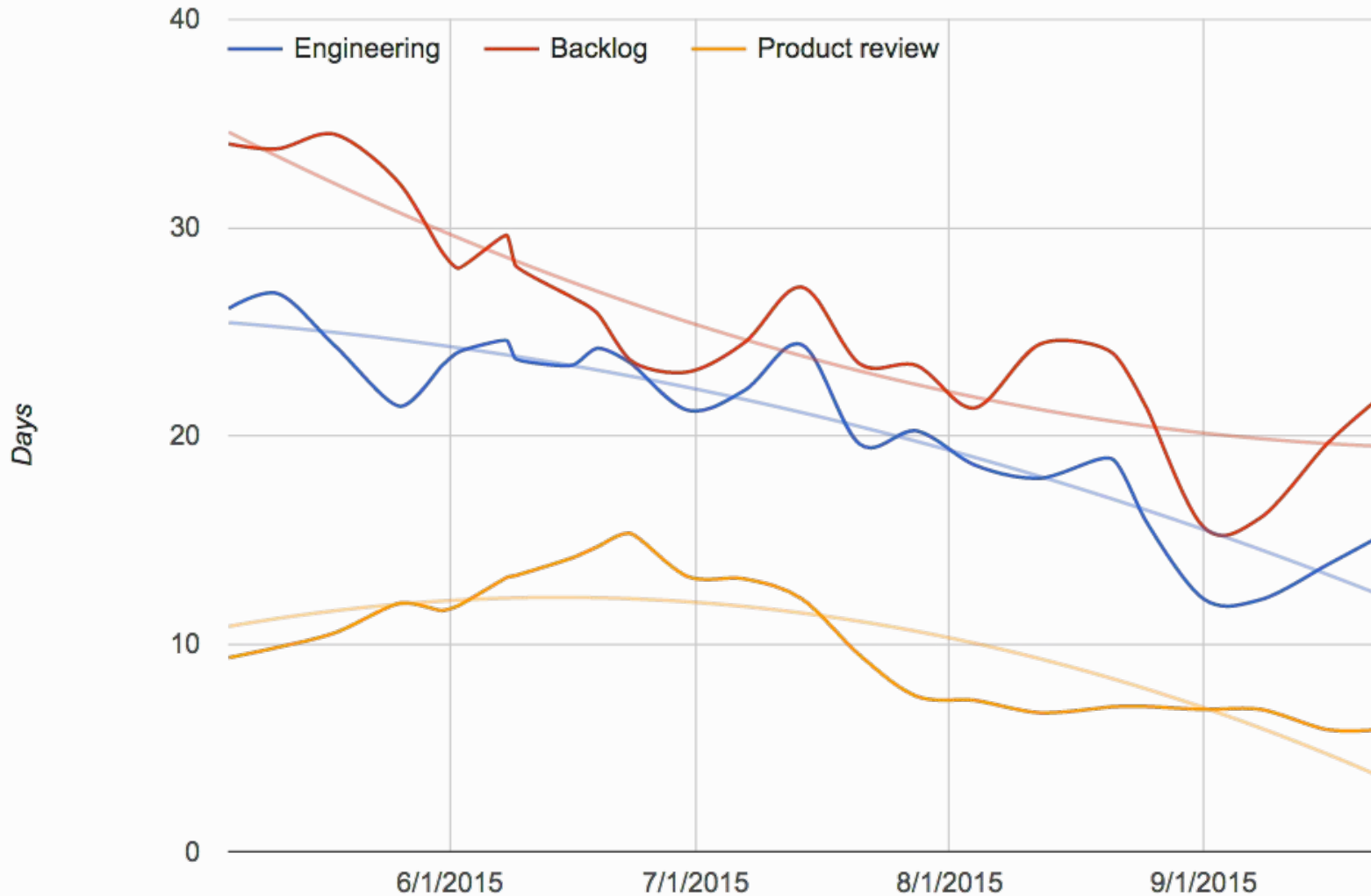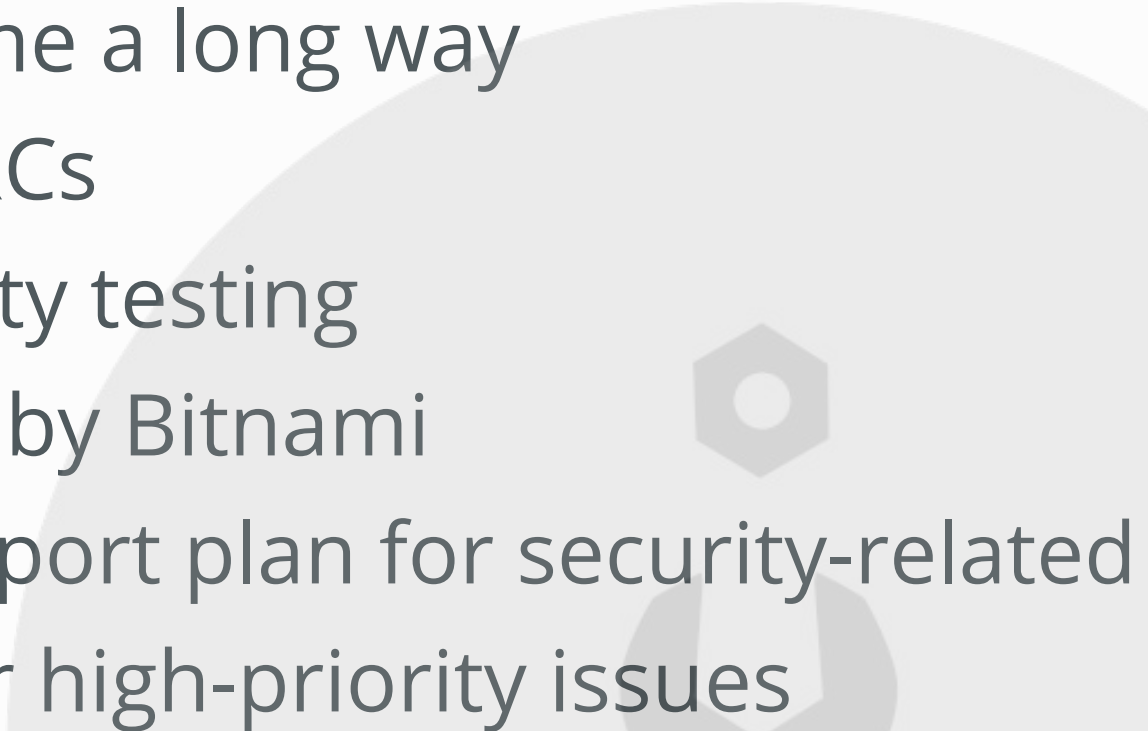
Open edX releases

Aspen & Birch

- MVP, little support
- Just a collection of tags from a single point in time

Cypress

- We've come a long way
- Multiple RCs
- Community testing
- Packaged by Bitnami
- Has a support plan for security-related and other high-priority issues

More to come

- Dogwood (~Dec '15)
- Eucalyptus (~Mar '16)
- Cypress.1, cypress.2, …

How are they working? Let us know!
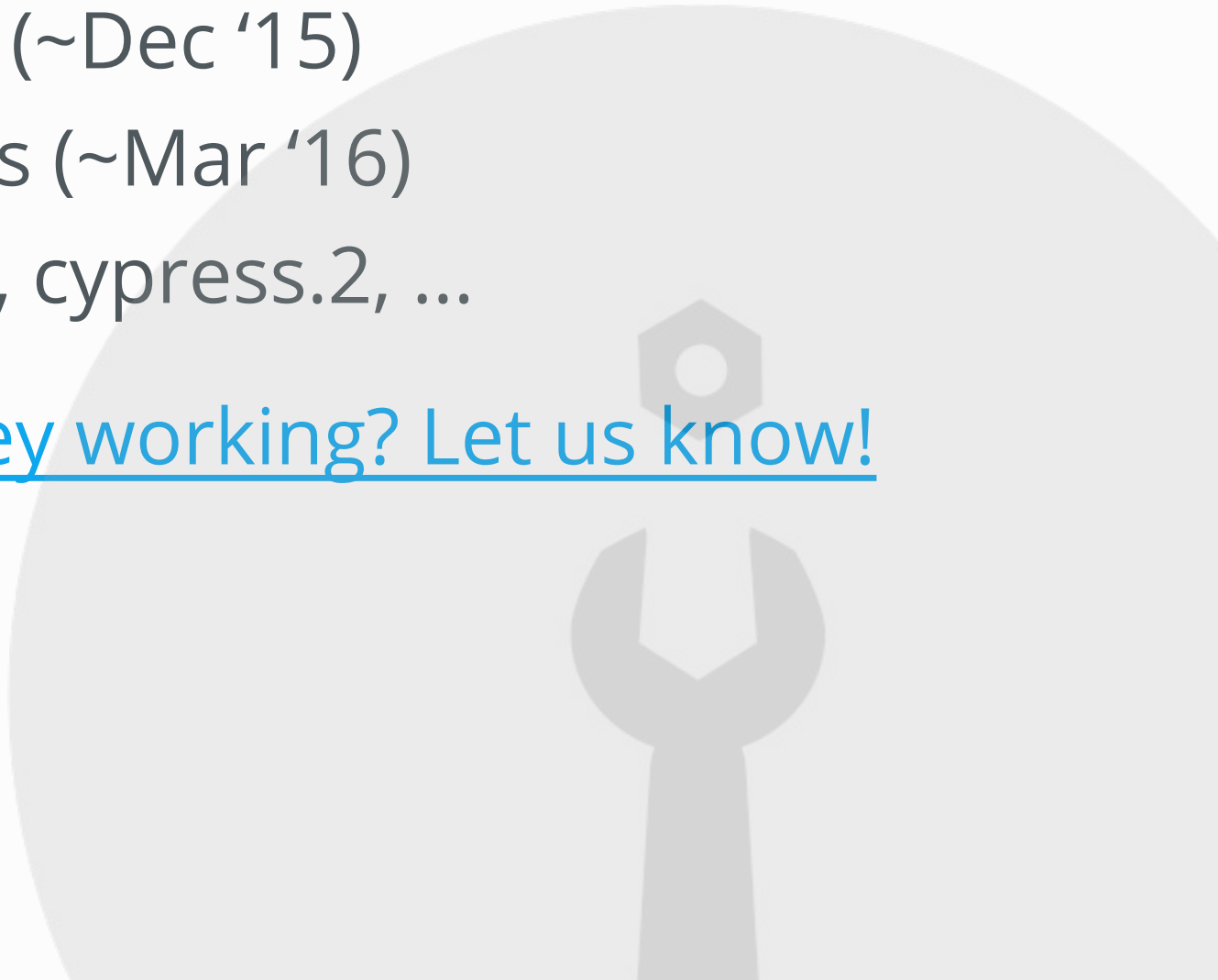
parsing the open tea leaves
What's Next?

Providing space to organize

- Conferences
- Meetups
- Hackathons
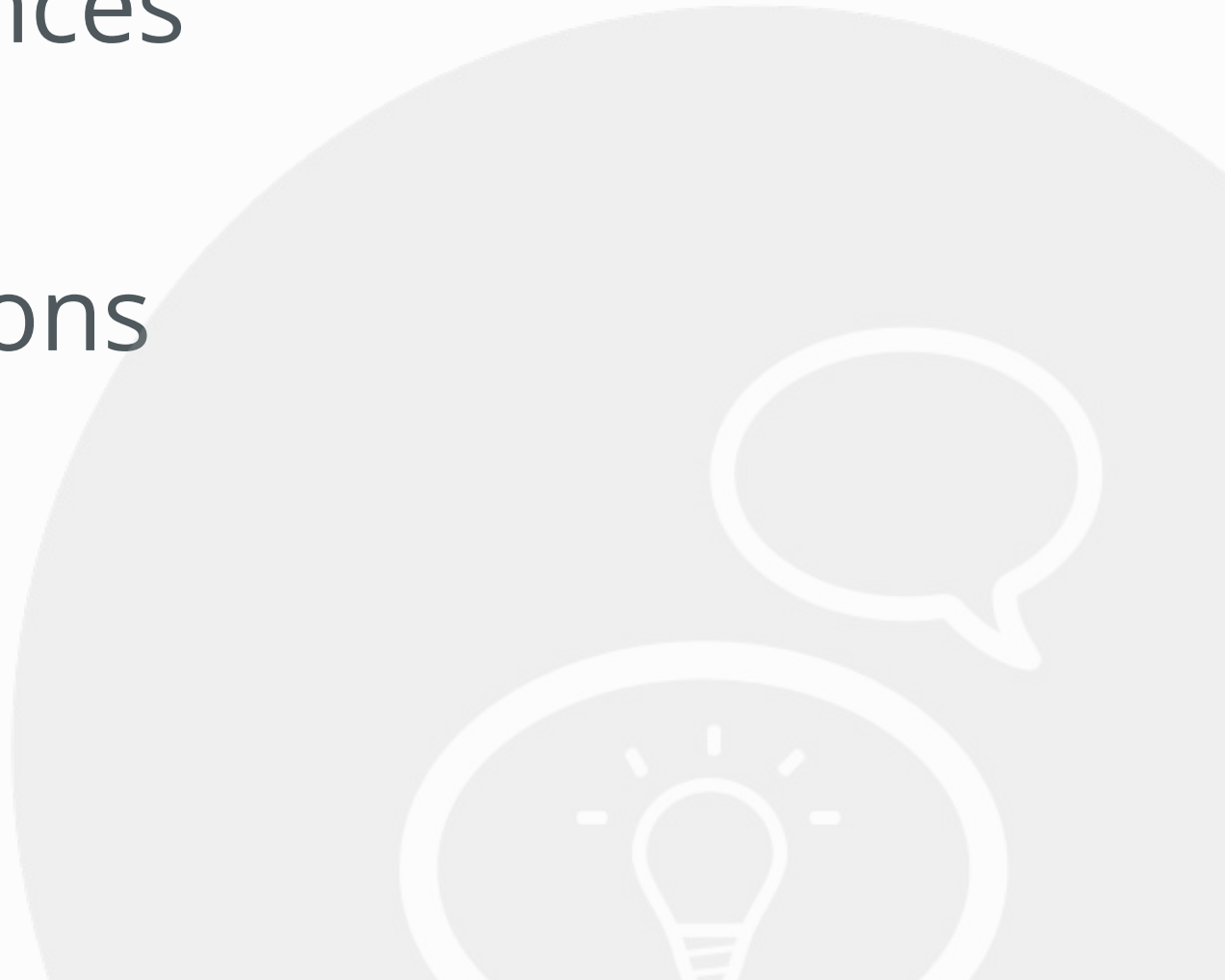
Improving & increasing ways to contribute

- Features / Fixes
- Extensions
- Improving the PR process
- Contribution beyond coding
  - Docs, translation, organizing

Give us your feedback!
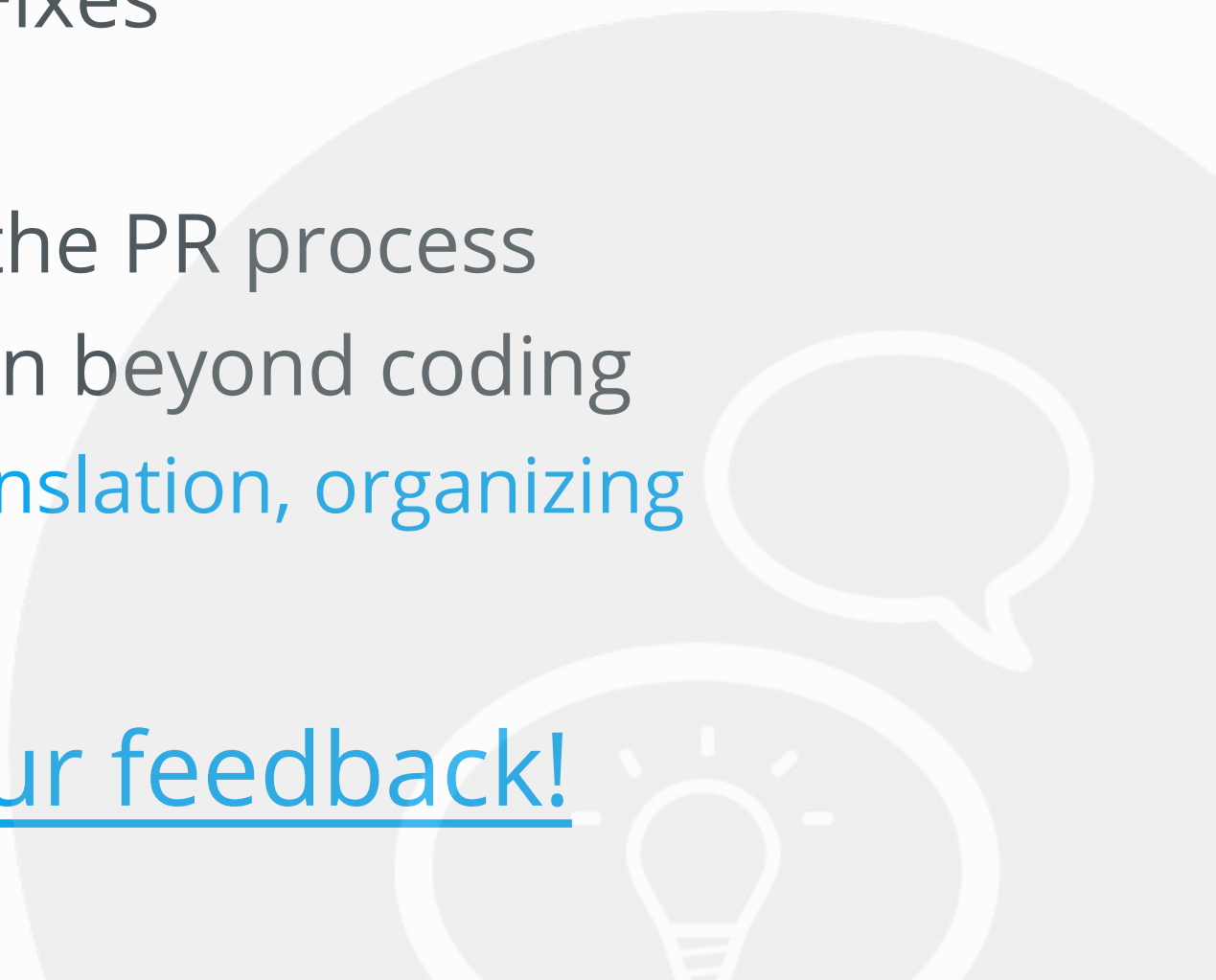
Architectural improvements

- A more modular system
  - Small, focused applications that work together, e.g. LMS/CMS split
- Pick and choose what you need
- Extension points - APIs, XBlocks
  - Mobile needs APIs, you benefit

Community / product roadmap

- We publish our roadmap!
  - https://open.edx.org/features-roadmap/all
- Dogwood
  - Theming, Otto (eComm), Django 1.8
- Eucalyptus
- Others - iterations on LTI; content reuse/conversion
- Adaptive Working Group
  - Co-chaired by Beth and Furqan
- Accessibility
- Watch the portal!

How can you help?

- Talk to us

  Tell us what you are trying to achieve

- Get involved

  Contribute documentation, translations (and of course code)

  Answer questions on the mailing lists or on IRC

  Share your ideas for new features or tools

- Tell your friends

  Anyone doing education at scale should consider using Open edX

  Larger, diverse community = Healthy community

  Keep our adoption rates high

[We need your suggestions! Keep them coming.](#)

from all of us at edX

Thanks!

Conference Housekeeping

- Unconference
- Birds of a feather - sign up!
- Lots of meeting space
- Conference experts

Have Fun!