Automation

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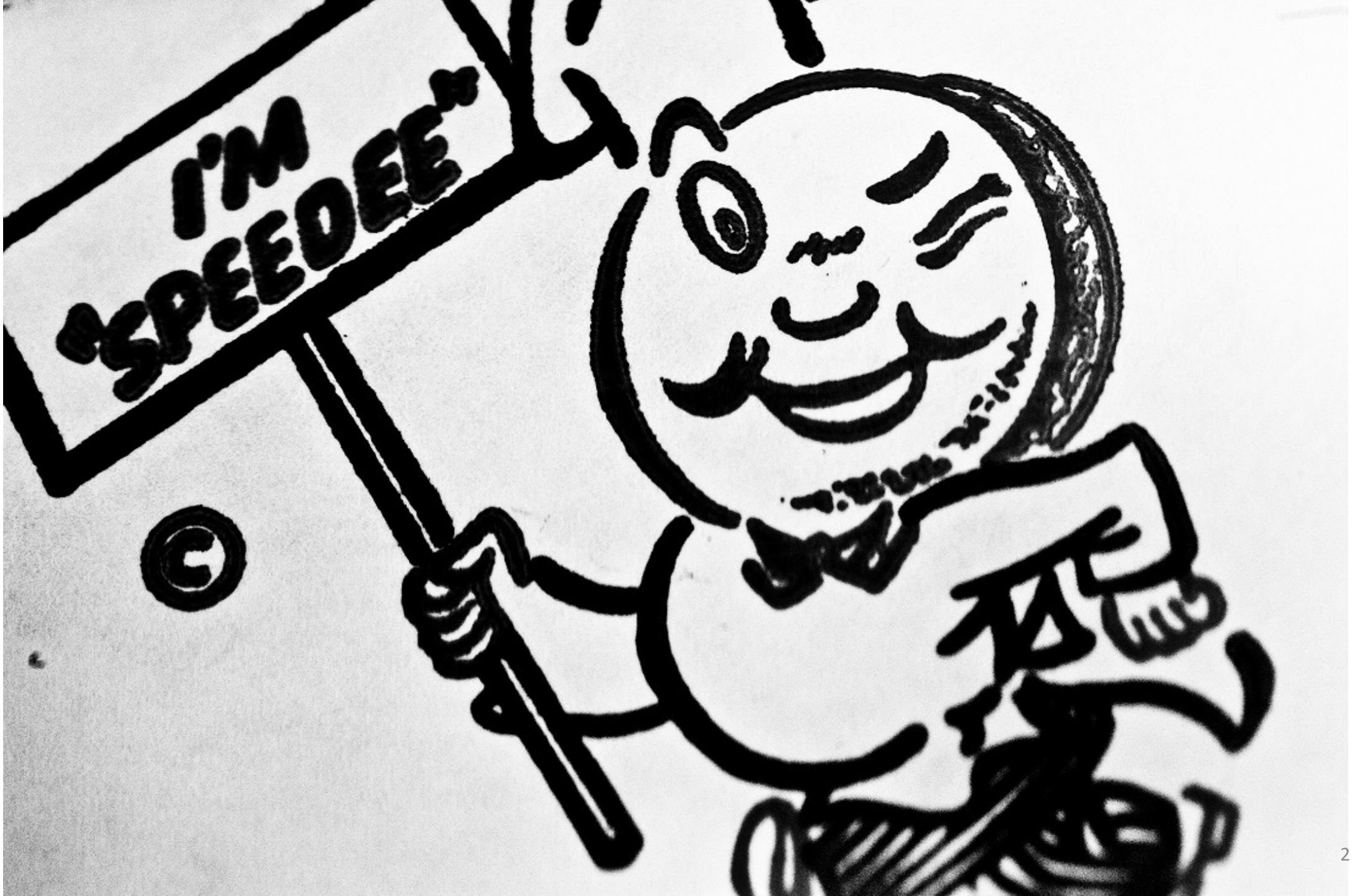
CS 4000: Harnessing AI
12 July 2021


I'M
"SPEEDEE"
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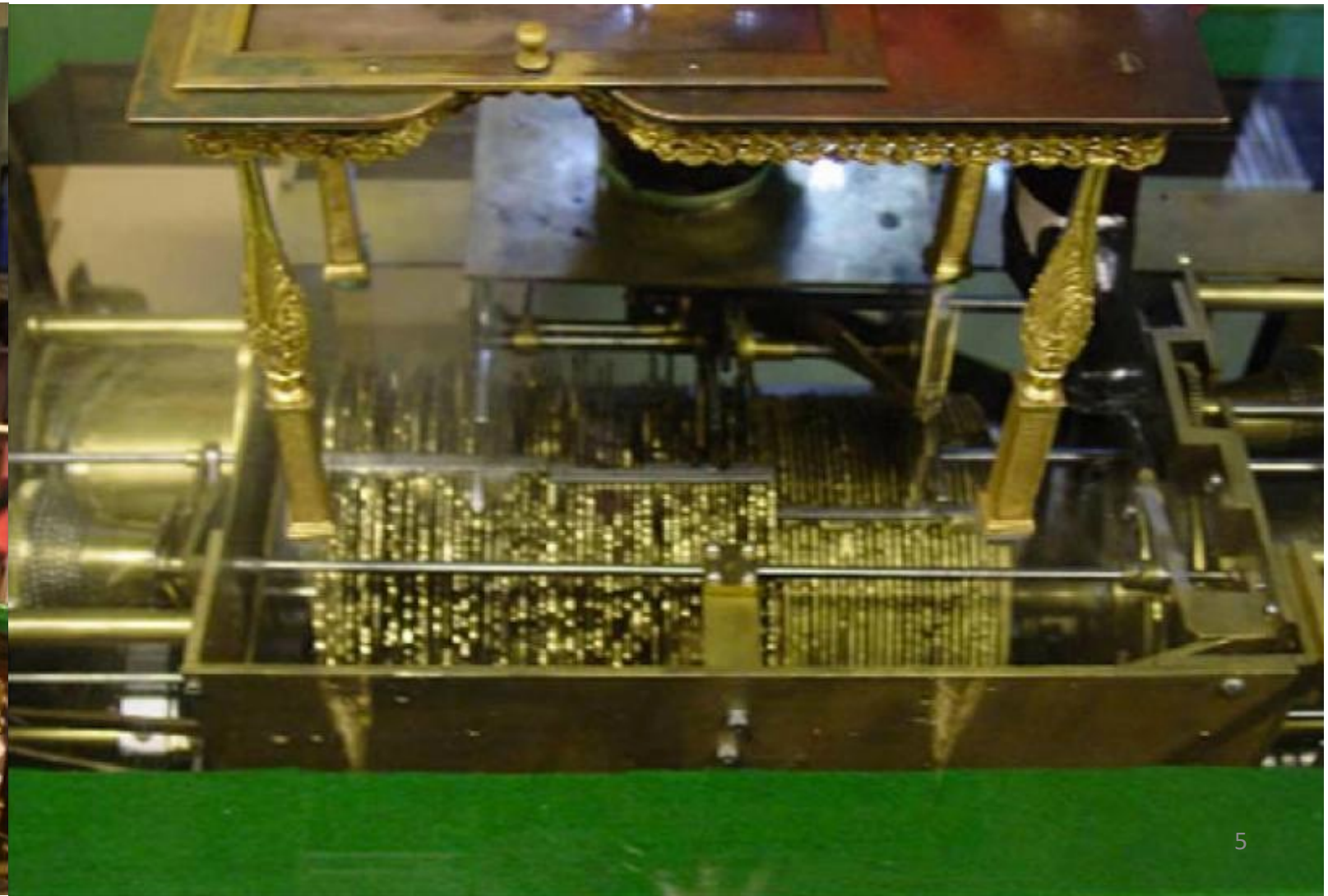
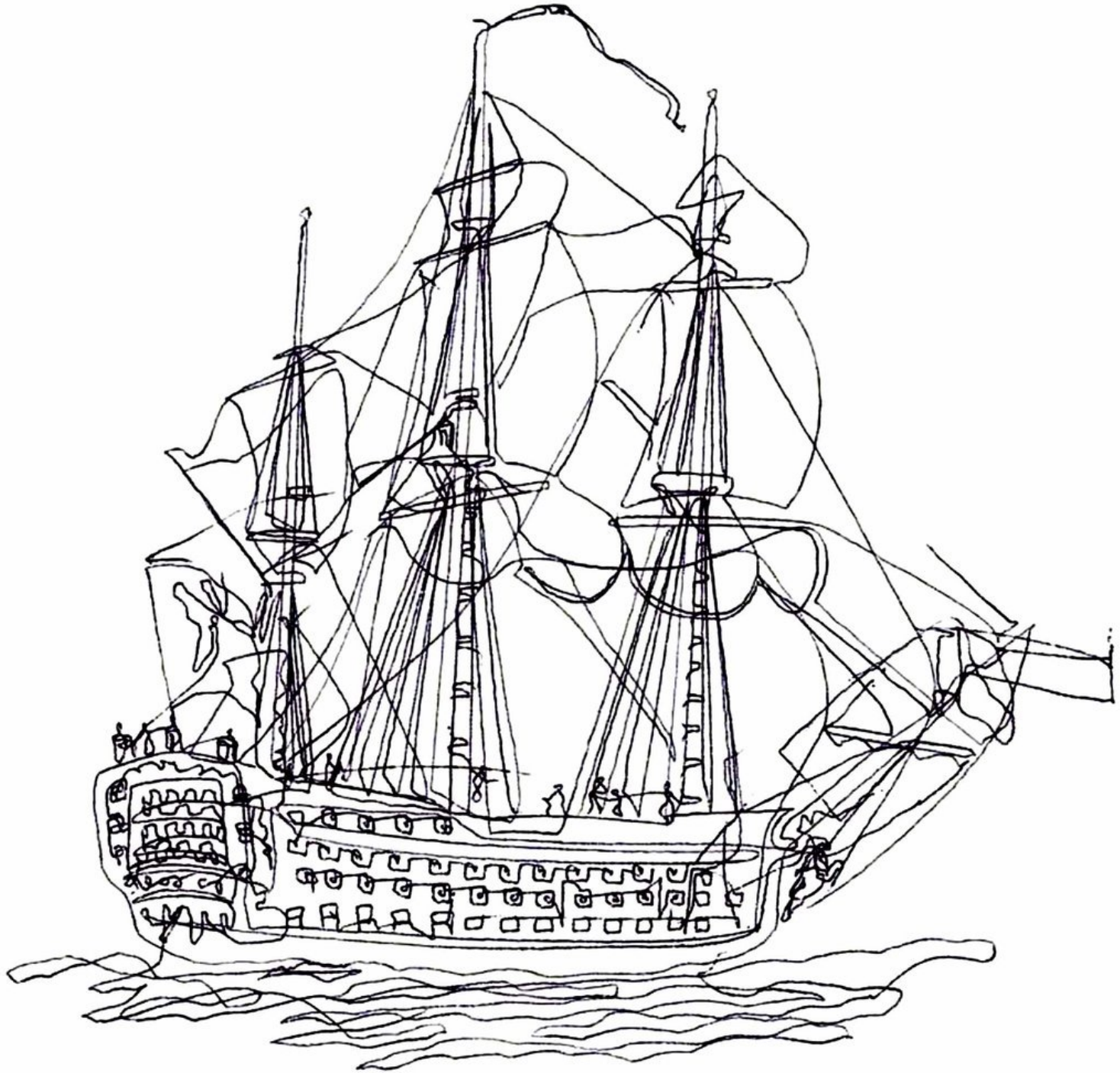
What is automation?

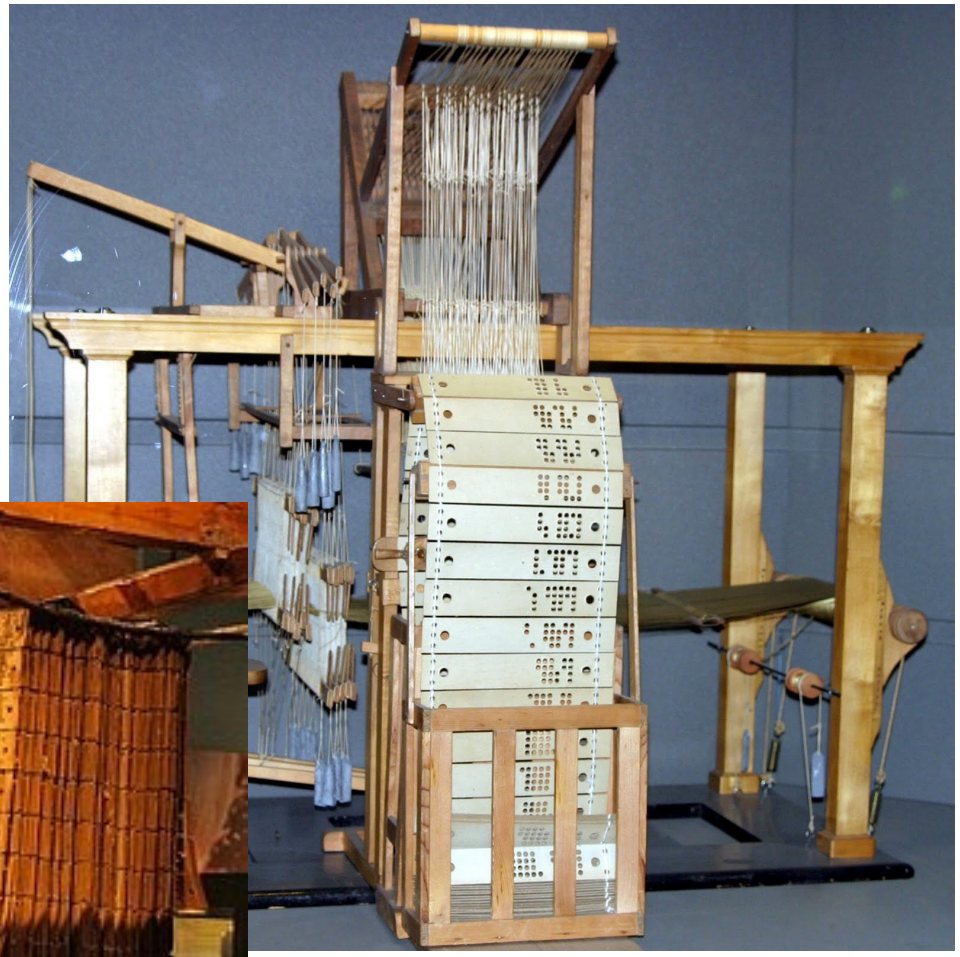
- Automation is the shifting of tasks once done by humans into machines
- Machines operate processes according to a ***set of established rules***
  - Generally, the rules are referred to as a **specification**
  - Can be implemented in a variety of ways, both human and machine
- Automation works in tandem with humans
  - No scenarios are “fully automated”
- Today, we’re going to explore what it means to automate something

Examples of Automation: Automata





Examples of Automation: Jacquard Looms



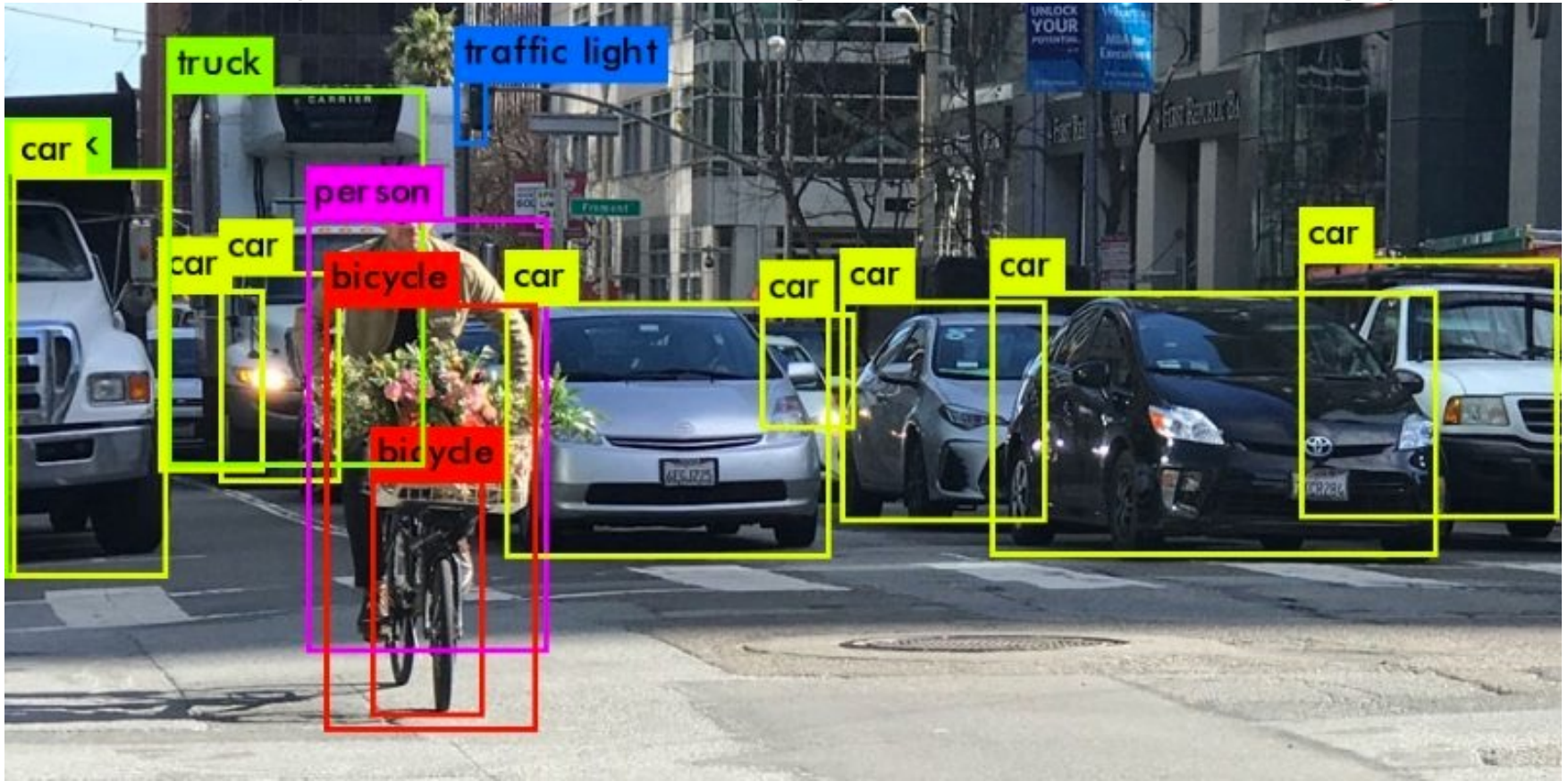
Examples of automation: Autopilot

Examples of automation: Autopilot

Examples of Automation: Computers

Automation and (Artificial) Intelligence

- The complexity or utility of automation doesn't mean we necessarily ascribe intelligence to the system.
- Tasks which "require human intelligence" are increasingly automated



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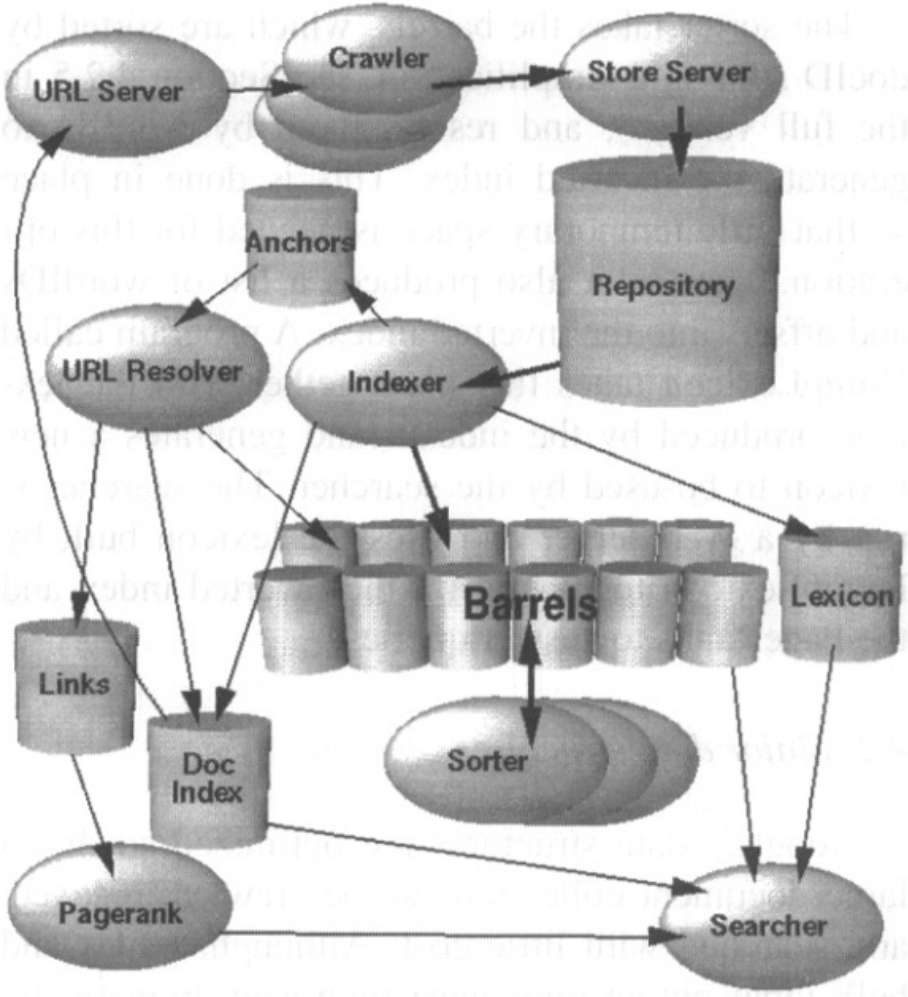
Secretary of the Navy - Navy.mil

The Honorable Thomas W. Harker serves as Acting **Secretary of the Navy** effective Jan.

Is a search engine “Artificial Intelligence”?



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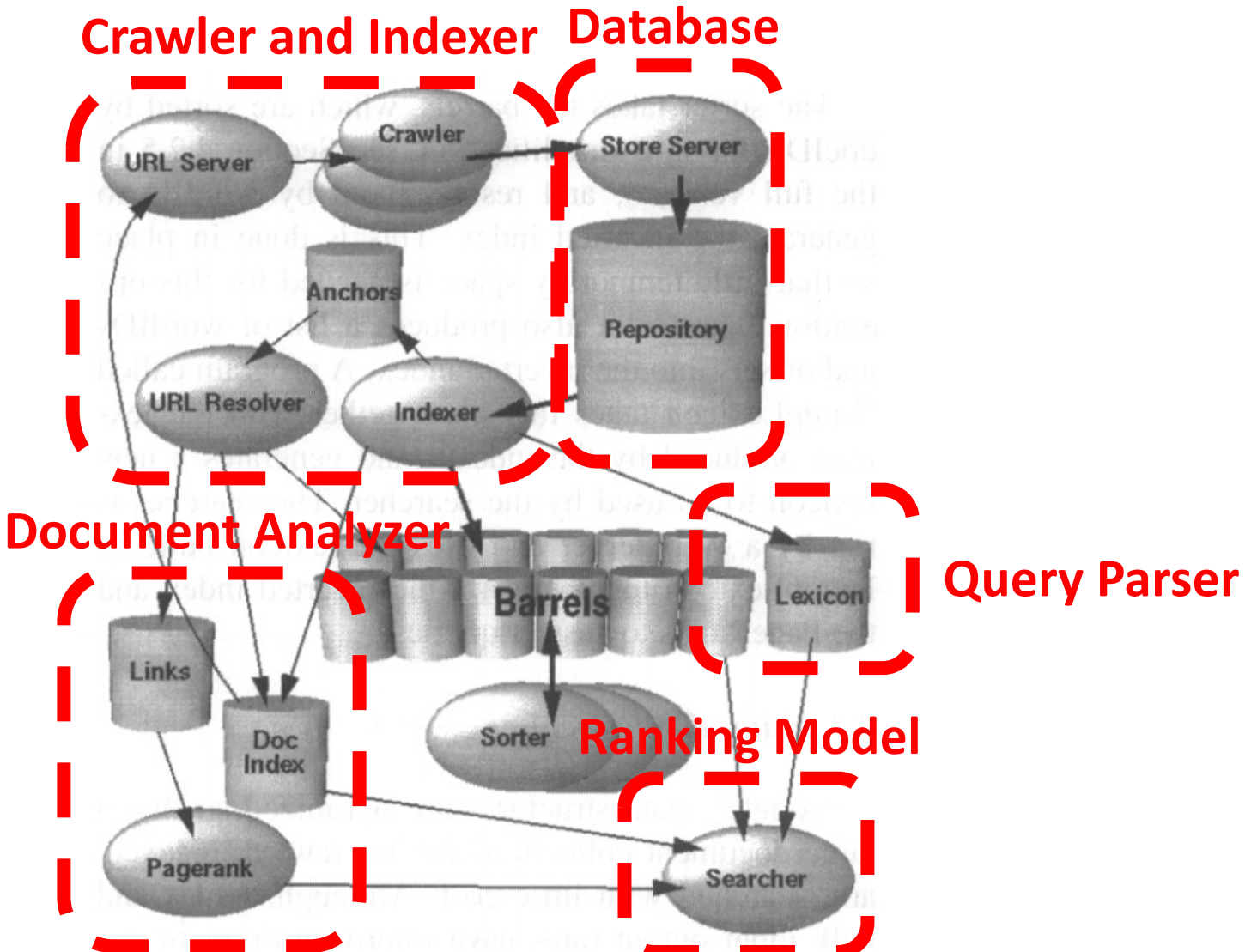

Example of Automation and Intelligence

Examples of Automation: Warehouses

Examples of Automation: Warehouses


LANE
26
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FEDEX-NEXT
CPT 1500
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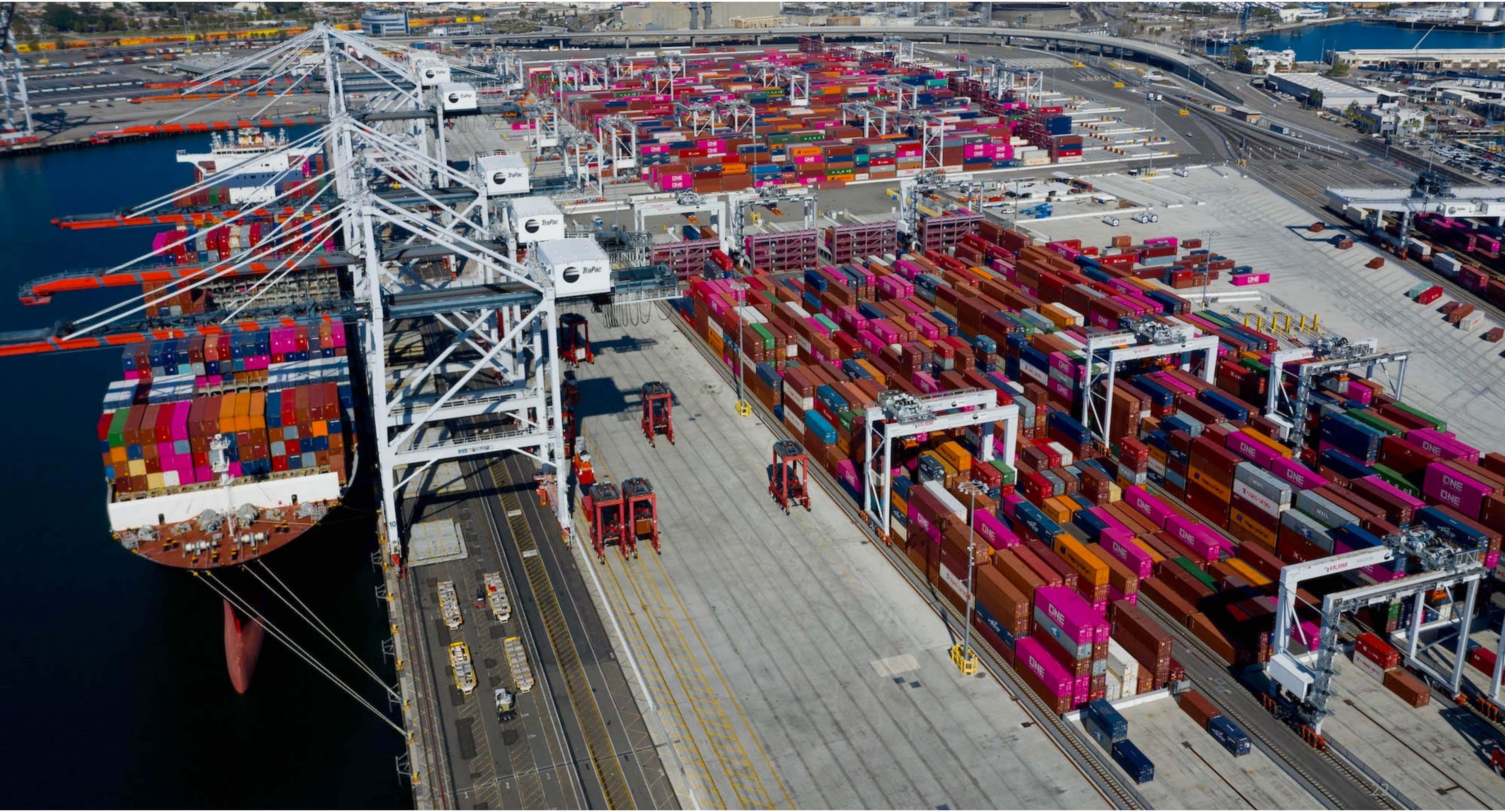
Problem Concepts and Automation


TraPac
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CHINA SHIPPING
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Problem Concepts and Automation

→


EXPRESS SERVICES
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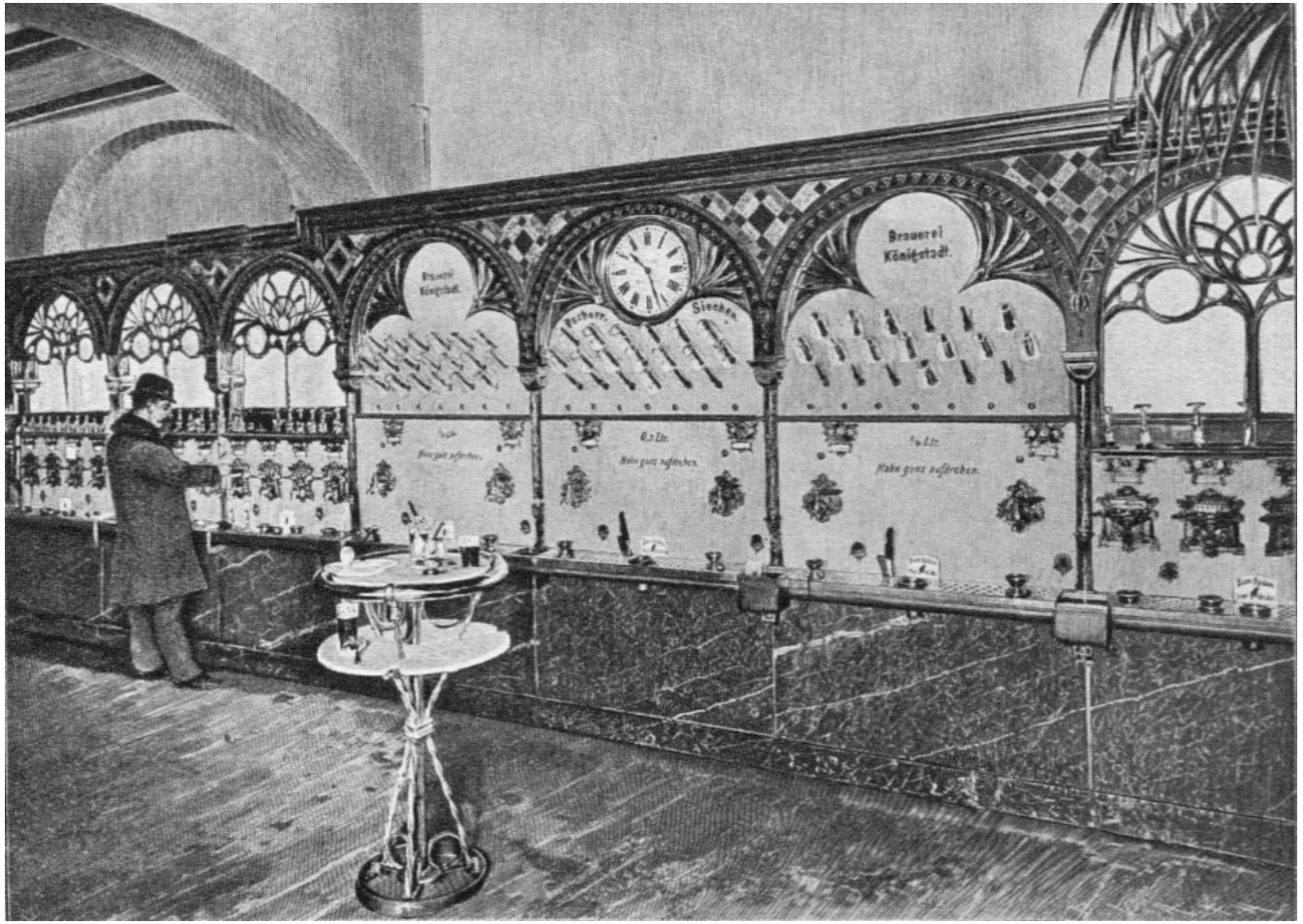
Brauerei
Königstadt.
Siechen.

eatsa


26
Order up!
22
27
Don't be shy.
Give that bowl
a shake.
25
23
Welcome to
eatsa

Automation acts on Tasks not Jobs

Jobs

- Truck driver
- Restaurant worker
- Longshoreman/stevedore
- Warehouse worker

Tasks

- Highway driving, loading/unloading, navigation
- Food preparation, serving, collecting payment
- Loading cargo, tying ships on/off, counting/weighing shipments
- Picking, packing, operating warehouse machinery

Automation acts on Tasks not Jobs

Jobs	Tasks
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“Replacement” by machine is a myth!

Rules vs. Standards

- **Rules** require no interpretation, so can be objectively applied both quickly and in a large number of cases
- **Standards** are more flexible, allowing for some discretion in application
- **Principles** are open-ended but mandatory considerations


ATSO
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How does Automation Fail?

- **Specification Error**: When the system's rules are somehow substantively incorrect or incomplete.
- **Implementation Error**: When the rules are correct, but the system doesn't implement them properly.

Automation vs. Autonomy

- **Autonomy** describes how directly the outcomes of a system depend on human decisions.
  - “Full Autonomy” is a myth – humans are always involved

Teaming Failures: Automation Dependency, Mode Confusion, & Automation Ironies

- **Automation Dependency**: By taking tasks away from humans, we deny them the ability to practice performing those tasks, *deskilling* the humans. Also: *passive vigilance*.
- **Mode Confusion**: Humans can be confused about how the system will react to their interactions and do things that would be correct under some circumstances but are not correct in the moment.
- **"Automation Ironies"**: Fewer humans are responsible for more output, but have less control

Automation Accidents

Tradeoffs: When and what should we automate?

Benefits of Automation

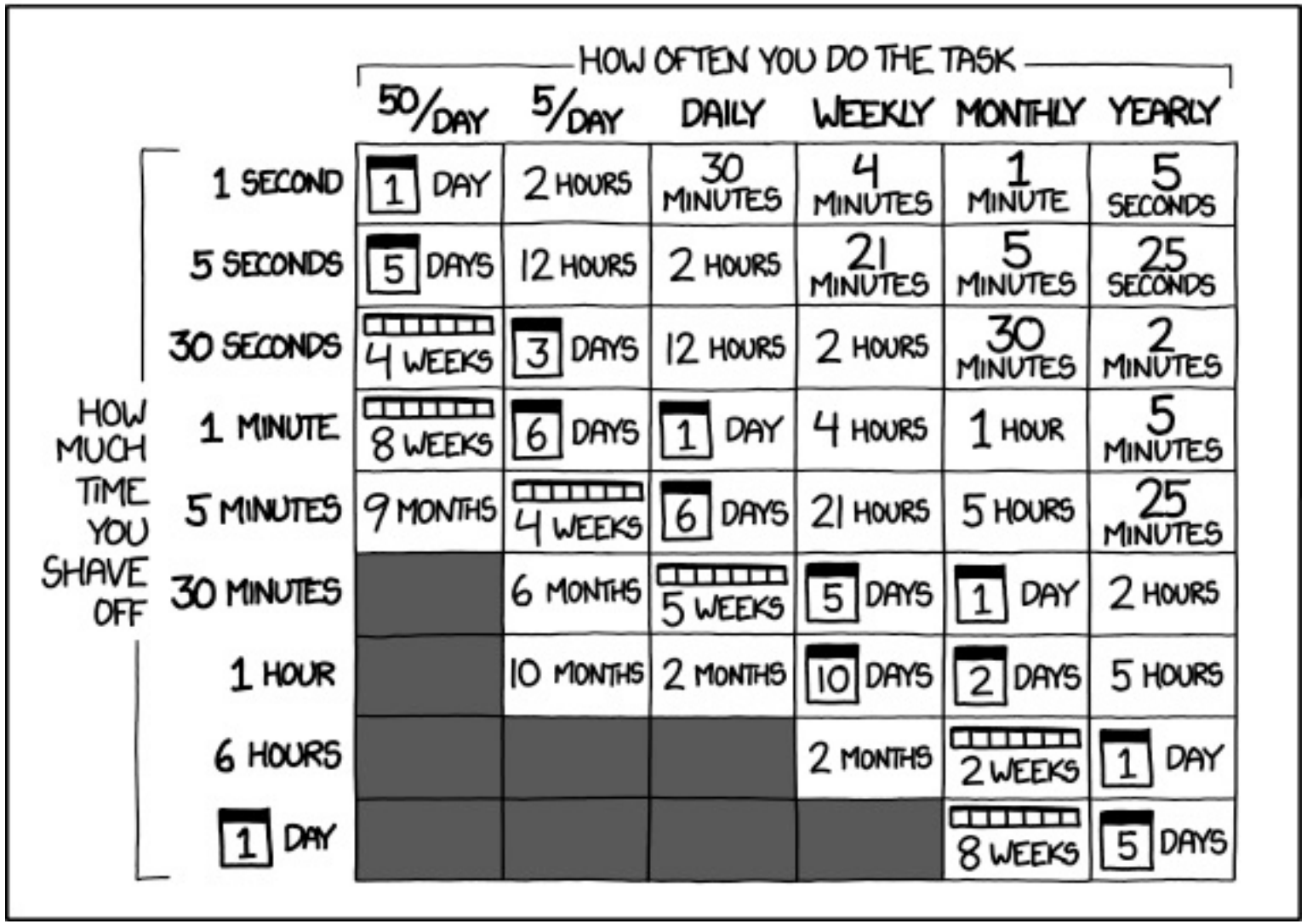
- Speed/scale
- Consistent, reliable, predictable
- Remove tedious human work
- Structure a process

Risks of Automation

- Failures can propagate
- Models are not truth
- Deskilling humans
- Loss of human autonomy/dignity

What do we gain by automation?

- Automation is often faster than humans
- Automation avoids human foibles
- Automation reframes problems, leaving different work for humans
- Automated systems fail differently to human-operated systems
- Need to understand what to automate, how to automate it, and why


HOW LONG CAN YOU WORK ON MAKING A ROUTINE TASK MORE EFFICIENT BEFORE YOU'RE SPENDING MORE TIME THAN YOU SAVE?
(ACROSS FIVE YEARS)
HOW OFTEN YOU DO THE TASK
50/DAY
5/DAY
DAILY
WEEKLY
MONTHLY
YEARLY
HOW MUCH TIME YOU SHAVE OFF
1 SECOND
1 DAY
2 HOURS
30 MINUTES
4 MINUTES
1 MINUTE
5 SECONDS
5 SECONDS
5 DAYS
12 HOURS
2 HOURS
21 MINUTES
5 MINUTES
25 SECONDS
30 SECONDS
4 WEEKS
3 DAYS
12 HOURS
2 HOURS
30 MINUTES
2 MINUTES
1 MINUTE
8 WEEKS
6 DAYS
1 DAY
4 HOURS
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5 MINUTES
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1 DAY
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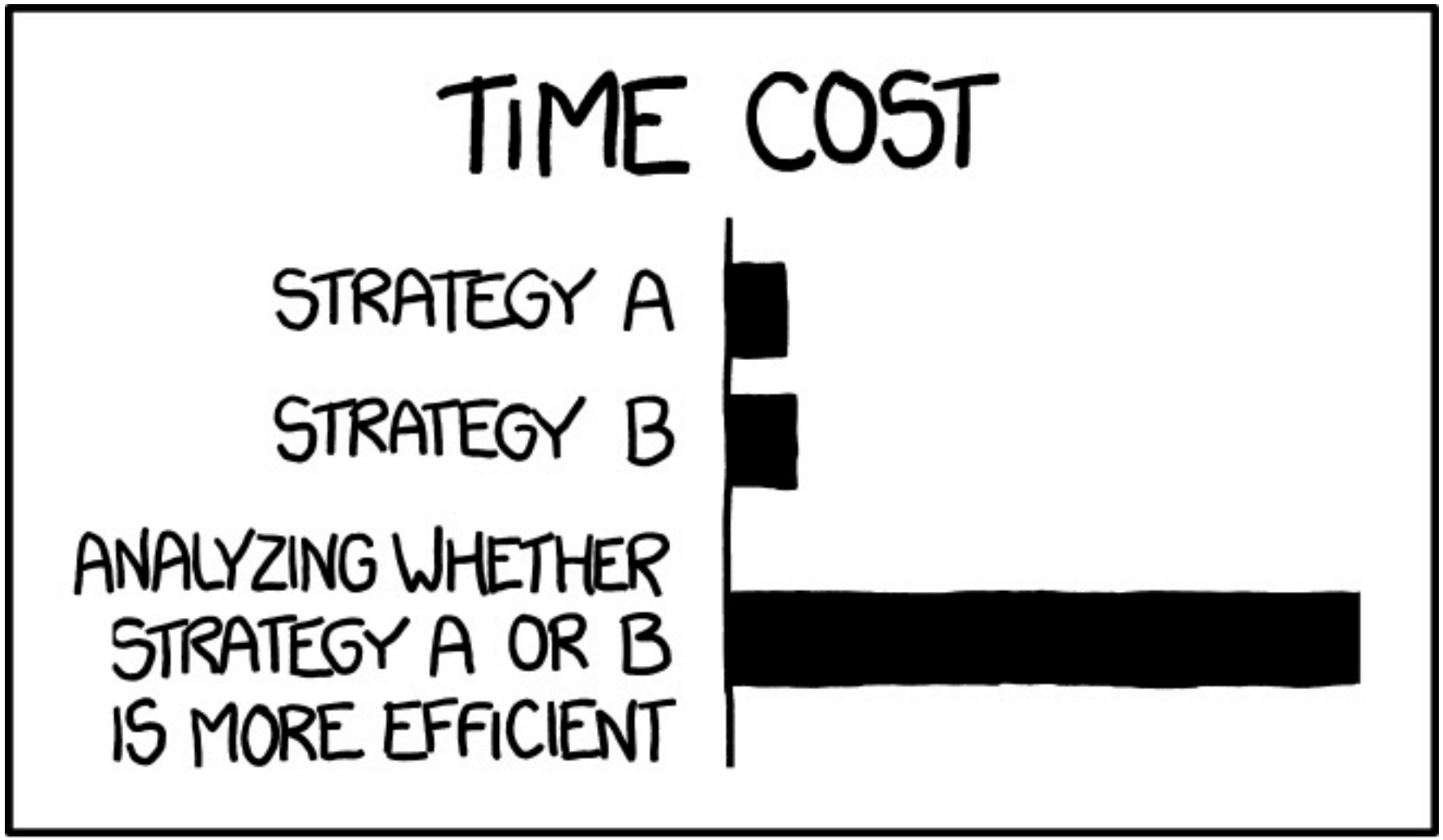
8 WEEKS
5 DAYS


TIME COST
STRATEGY A
STRATEGY B
ANALYZING WHETHER STRATEGY A OR B IS MORE EFFICIENT
THE REASON I AM SO INEFFICIENT