DRIES NOTE



Dries Buytaert | Founder, Project Lead, Drupal

DRUPALCON ROTTERDAM

“NIET LULLEN MAAR POETSEN



NO BLABBING, BUT SCRUBBING”

“TALK IS SILVER



CODE IS GOLD”

“TALK IS SILVER



CONTRIBUTION IS GOLD”



ROTTERDAM **1847**



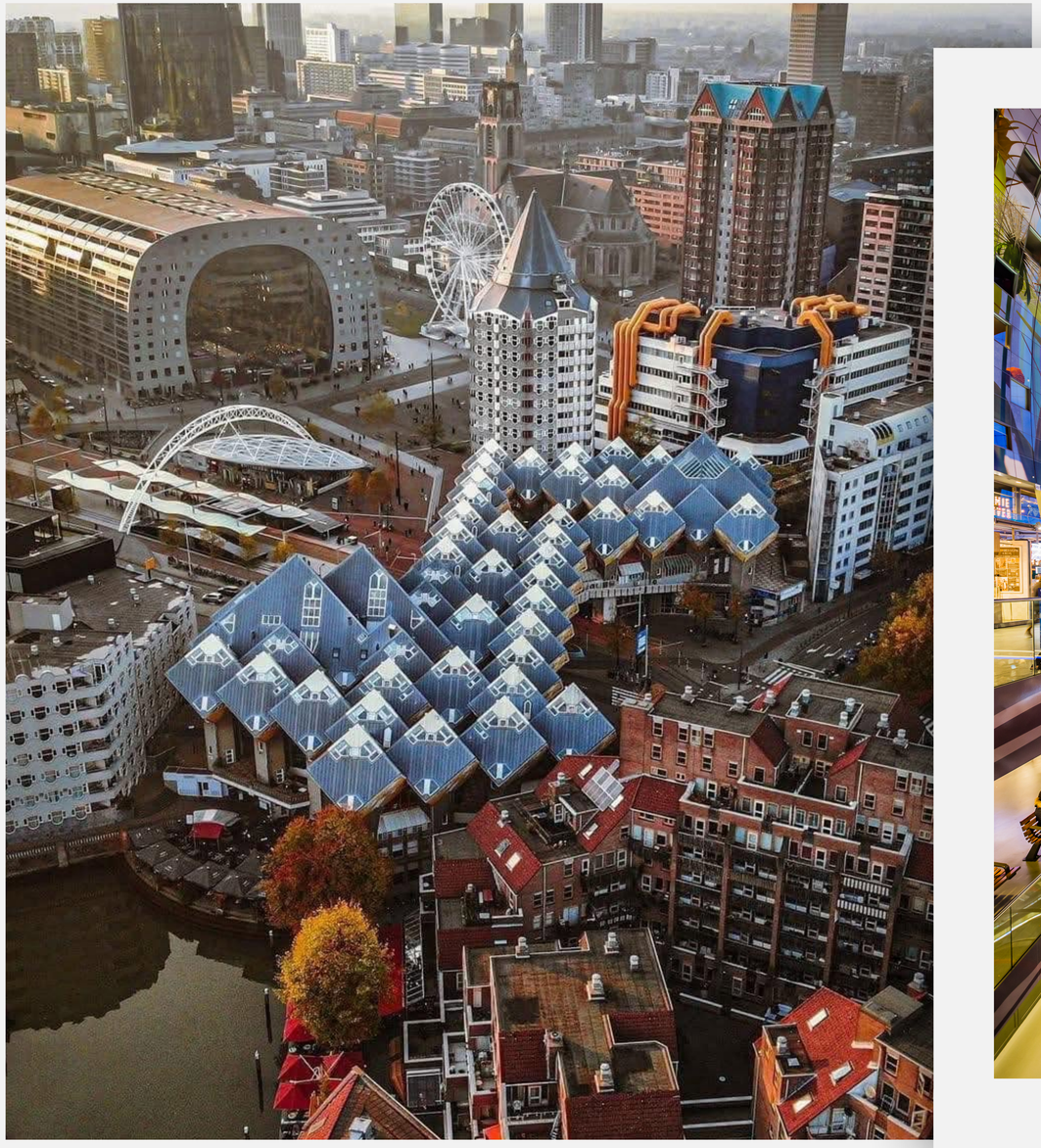
ROTTERDAM

1847

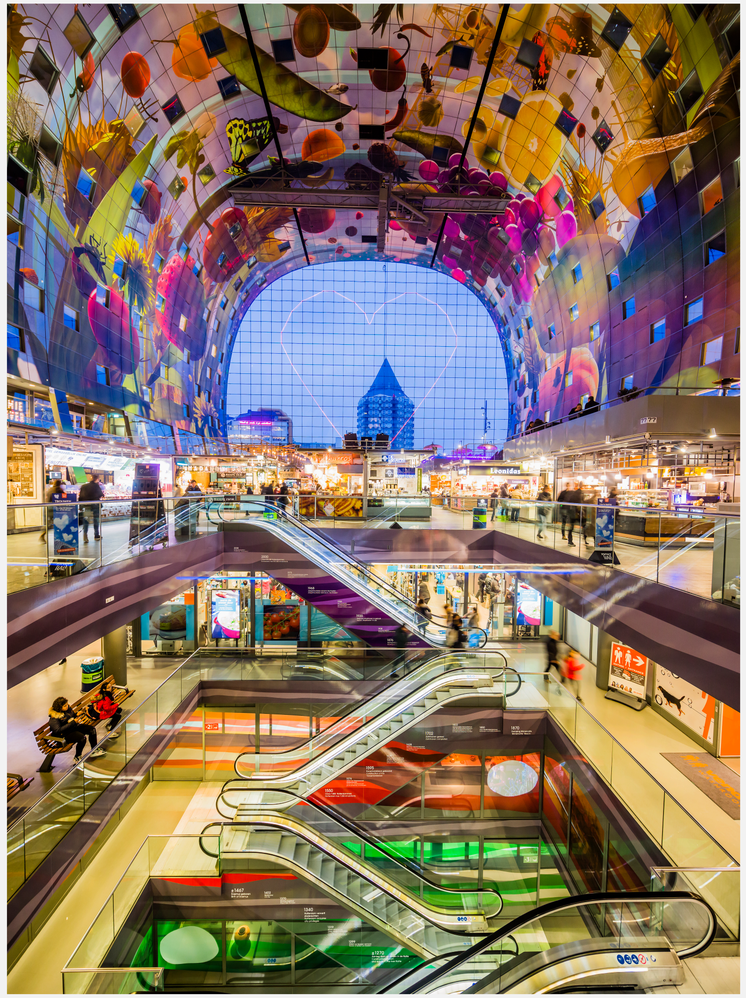


The same view

MAY 1940



MODERN DAY ROTTERDAM



Markthal food hall



First port in Europe to accept containers **1966**



Largest port in Europe **2023**

ROTTERDAM

saw
the
future

moved
towards
it

came
out
first



Me, age 4



As kids, we have no idea how much hard work it takes to look after us.


MAGICAL THINKING



“Someone else will do it.”

The somebody else
turned out to be me.




“Someone else will take care of it.”

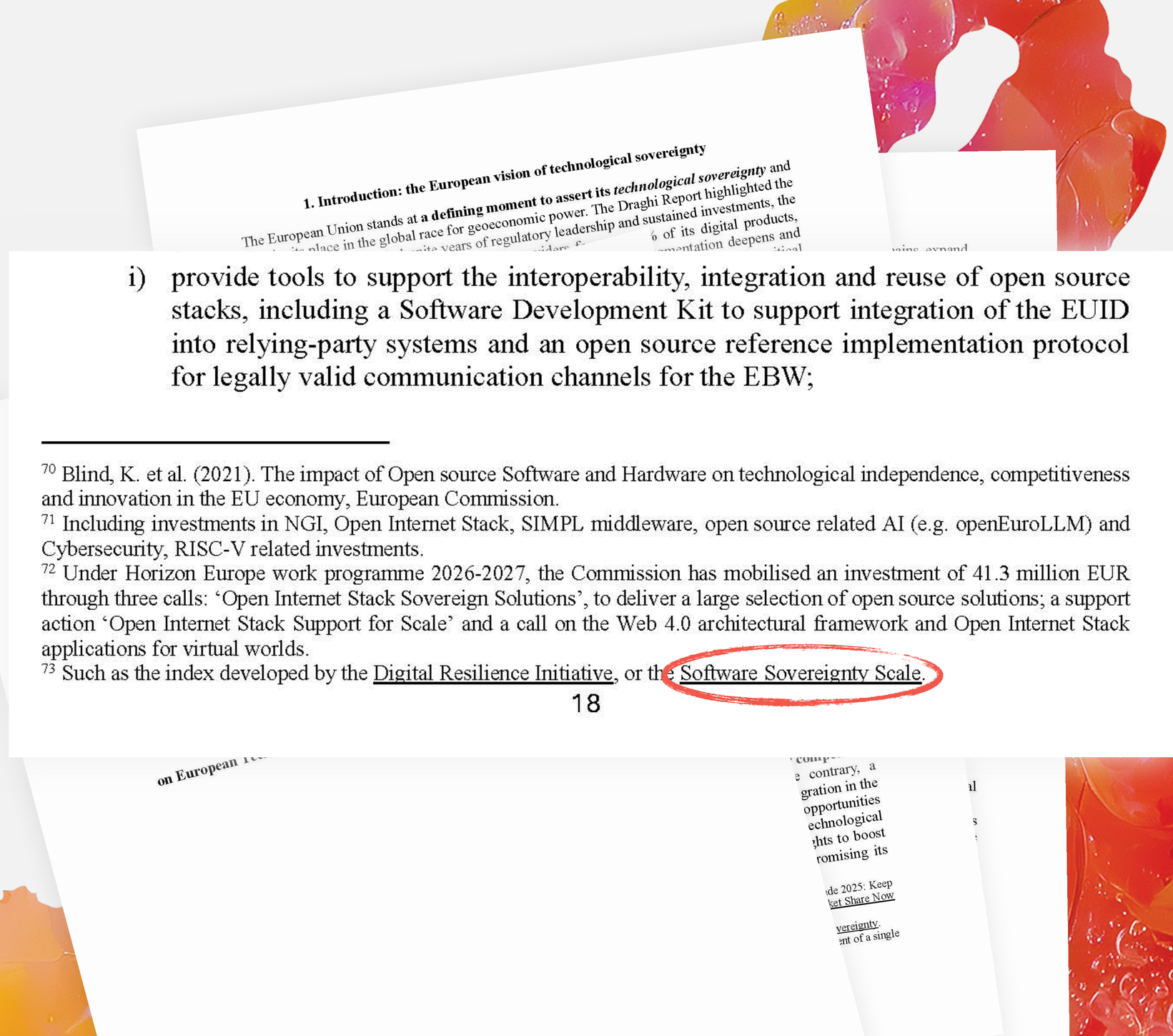
Europe needs
digital sovereignty.

EUROPE NEEDS DRUPAL.



Europe needs
digital sovereignty.

EUROPE NEEDS DRUPAL.





Stewarded Open Source


INVISIBLE
POWER



“OH DRUPAL.
WOW THAT'S SO COOL!

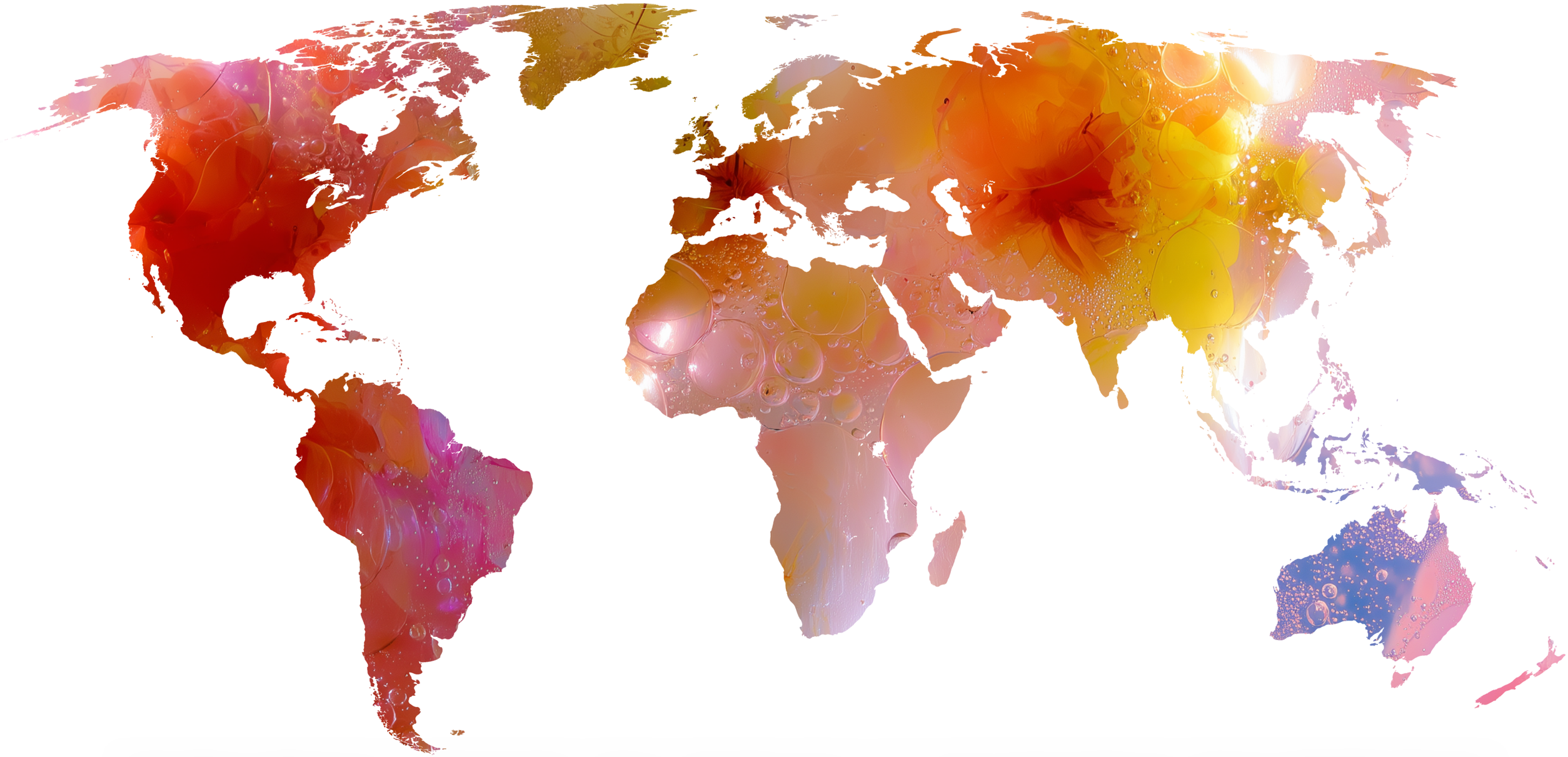


“OH DRUPAL.
IS THAT STILL A THING?’


OUR REPUTATION
GAP IS OUR
#1 CHALLENGE



DRUPAL CMS REIGNITED OUR INNOVATION



DRUPAL CMS GLOBAL LAUNCH PARTIES



DRUPAL CMS GLOBAL LAUNCH PARTIES


BRING DRUPAL
TO MORE PEOPLE


PORT OF
ROTTERDAM
N
2 km


PORT OF DRUPAL
DRUPAL AI
CANVAS
SITE TEMPLATES
RECIPES
N
2 km

N
2 km


N
2 km

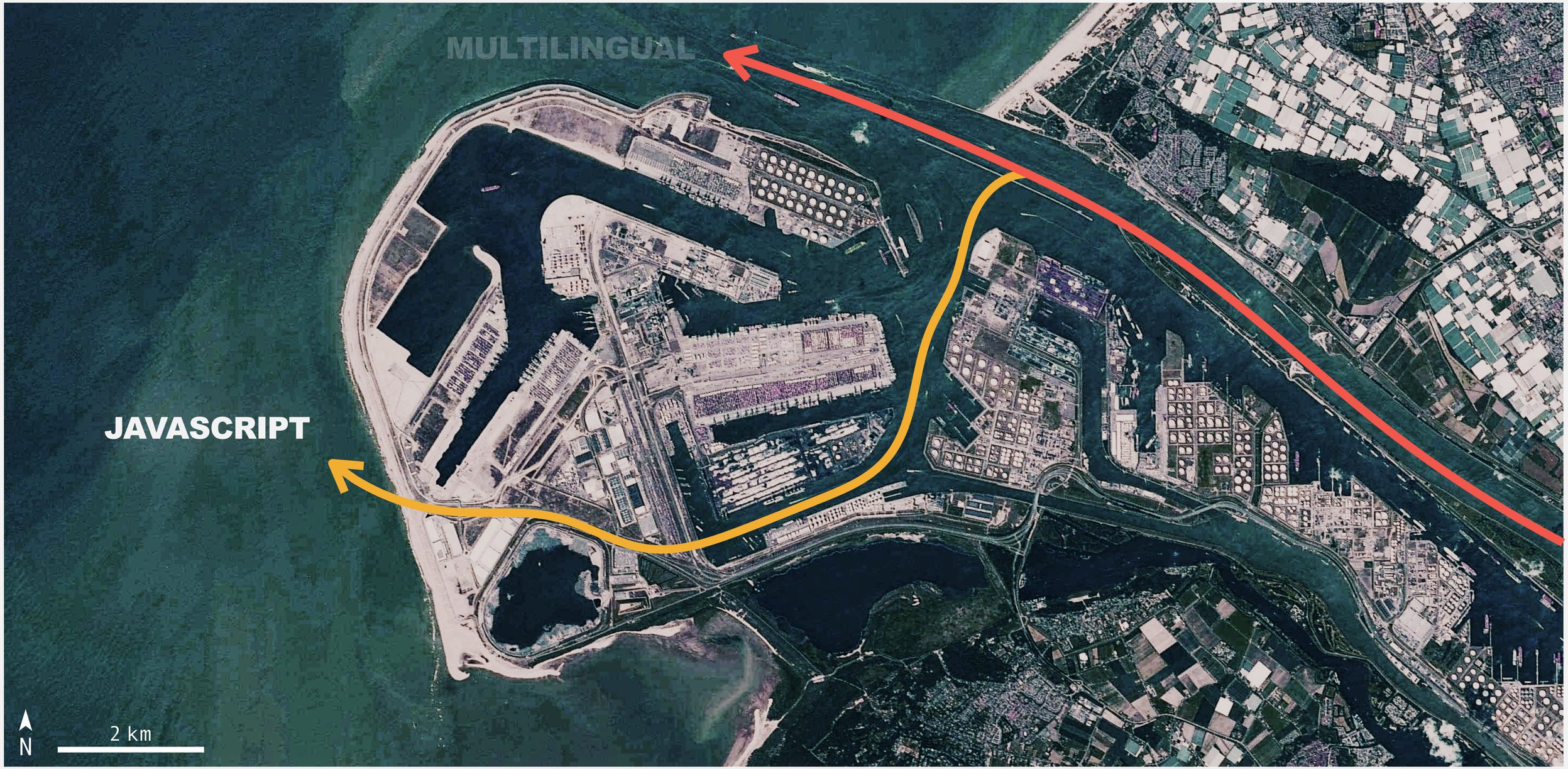


BRING DRUPAL TO MORE PEOPLE

DEMO: MULTILINGUAL SITES, EASIER TO BUILD.

Simpler setup.
Multilingual support in Canvas.

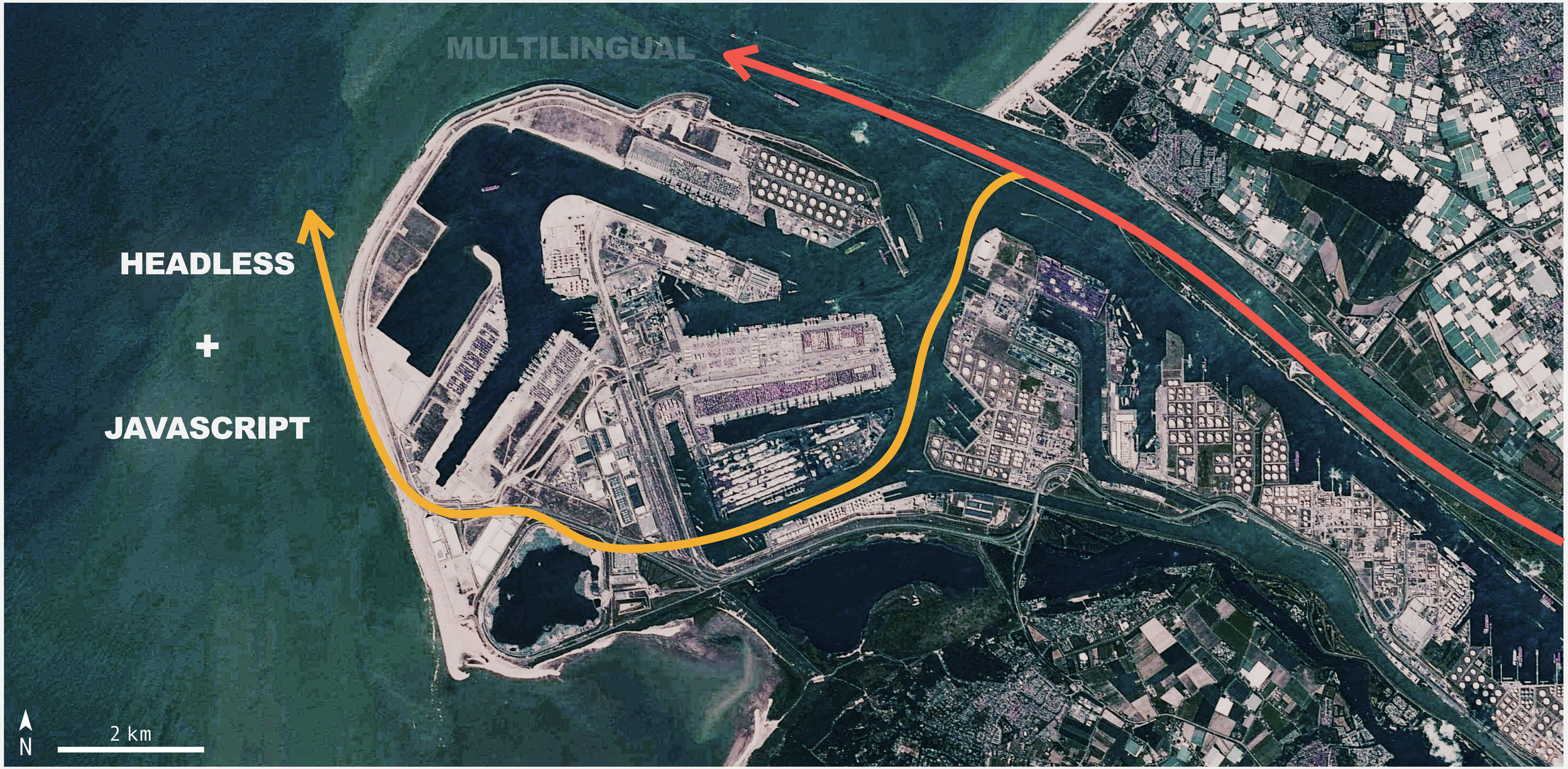




BRING DRUPAL TO MORE PEOPLE

DEMO:
JAVASCRIPT AS FIRST CLASS CITIZEN

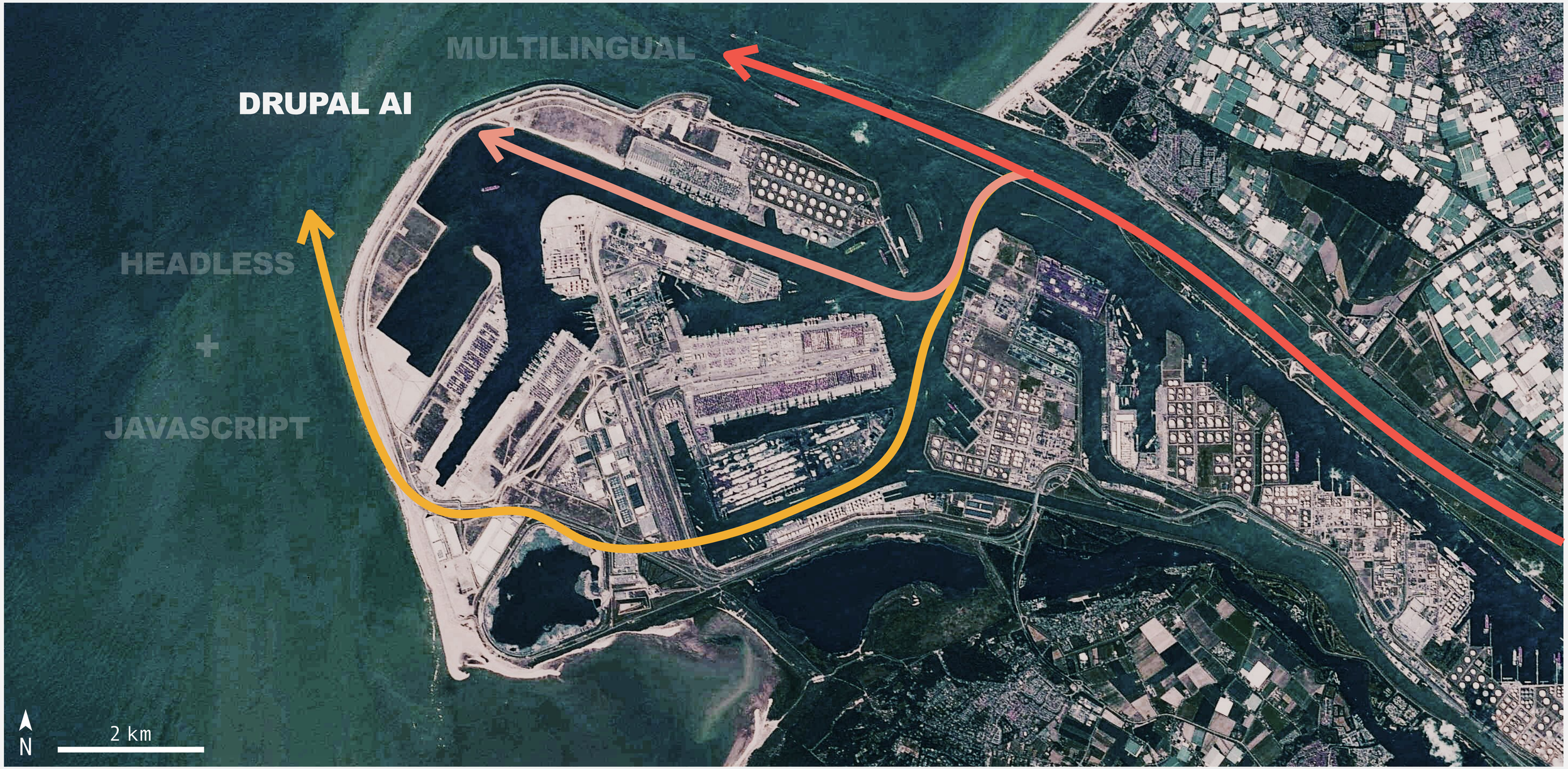
Drupal Canvas code components, written in React.



BRING DRUPAL TO MORE PEOPLE

DEMO: HEADLESS

Drupal content.
Your choice of frontend.



BRING DRUPAL TO MORE PEOPLE

DEMO:
TRY DRUPAL AI FOR YOURSELF

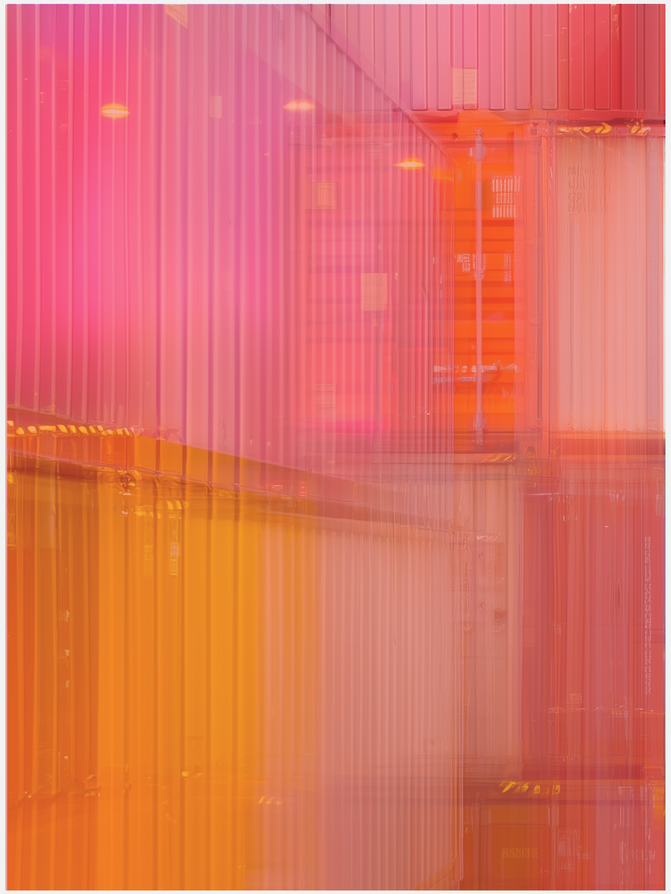
A demo site for exploring Drupal AI.

THANK YOU DRUPAL AI PARTNERS

1x INTERNET
FreelyGive.io
dropsolid
Foster Interactive
QED42
SALSA DIGITAL
Acquia
ZOOCHA
DRUPAL FORGE
amazee.io
Kalamuna
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS & ASSESSMENT
CivicActions
MEARRA
esinergia
CINDER SYSTEMS CORP
PANTHEON
OpenSense Labs
reading room
vardot
Enterprise Drupal Solutions
drunomics
seed
TAG1
BRAINSUM
calibrate
specbee
imagex
oomph
elevated third
COOL FIRE INC EST'D 2005

drupal.org/ai/become-a-partner

BRING DRUPAL'S STRENGTHS TO MORE PEOPLE



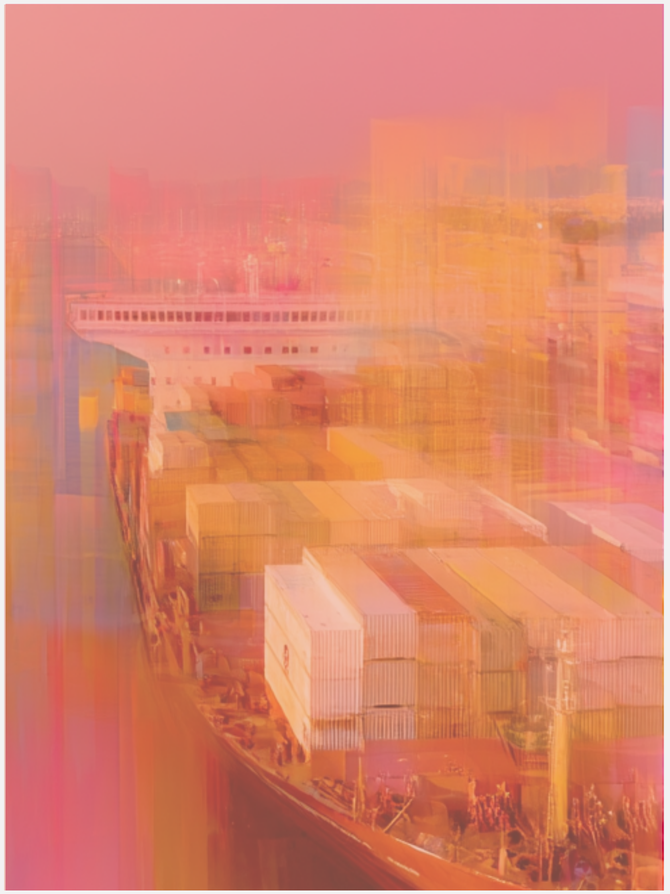
MULTILINGUAL

Reach people in
more languages.



JAVASCRIPT + HEADLESS

Bring more developers and
applications to Drupal.



AI

Give people new ways
to work with Drupal.

BRING DRUPAL'S STRENGTHS TO MORE PEOPLE



MULTILINGUAL

Reach people in more languages.



JAVASCRIPT + HEADLESS

Bring more developers and applications to Drupal.



AI

Give people new ways to work with Drupal.


MEET PEOPLE
WHERE THEY ARE

What should we work on?

Western Lakes

GPT-5.6 Sol Light

Membership

By Maya, 17 September 2026

Annual membership: €120. Includes the new visitor guide.

Get Drupal's power without the learning curve.

REVISIONS. MODERATION. PERMISSIONS.

DRUPAL SITE



AI ASSISTANT

YOU CAN CONNECT AN ASSISTANT TO DRUPAL TODAY

Recipe: drupal.org/project/agent_access

DRUPAL SITE

\+

Simple OAuth

MCP Server

Tool

\+

AI ASSISTANT

Once users get a taste of using AI assistants with Drupal



EXPOSING MODULE CAPABILITIES AS TOOLS TAKES CODE

DRUPAL SITE

\+

Simple OAuth
MCP Server
Tool

\+

AI ASSISTANT

EXPOSING MODULE CAPABILITIES AS TOOLS TAKES CODE

DRUPAL SITE

\+

Simple OAuth
MCP Server
Tool

Code that
exposes module
capabilities
as "Tools"

+

AI ASSISTANT

"TRANSLATE THE REMAINING ENGLISH ON THIS PAGE TO DUTCH"



CONTENT BLOCK FIELD
Content Translation

VIEW TITLE
Configuration Translation

UI STRING
Interface Translation

AGENTS ARE ANOTHER INTERFACE TO DRUPAL.

WHO MAINTAINS A DRUPAL MODULE?





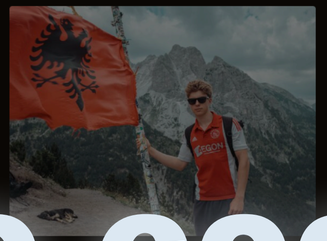
CAN AN AI ASSISTANT USE YOUR MODULE WITH MCP?

Photos

My life in photos: the people I love and the places we go.

Stream **Albums** Archive 10,603 photos

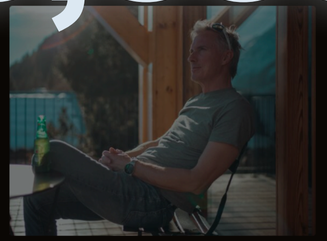
2026







10,603 PHOTOS



Chamonix



East Coast



Miscellaneous



Presidential Traverse



Saint-Gervais

“DO YOU HAVE THAT PHOTO OF OMA WEARING HER SUN-GLASSES?”

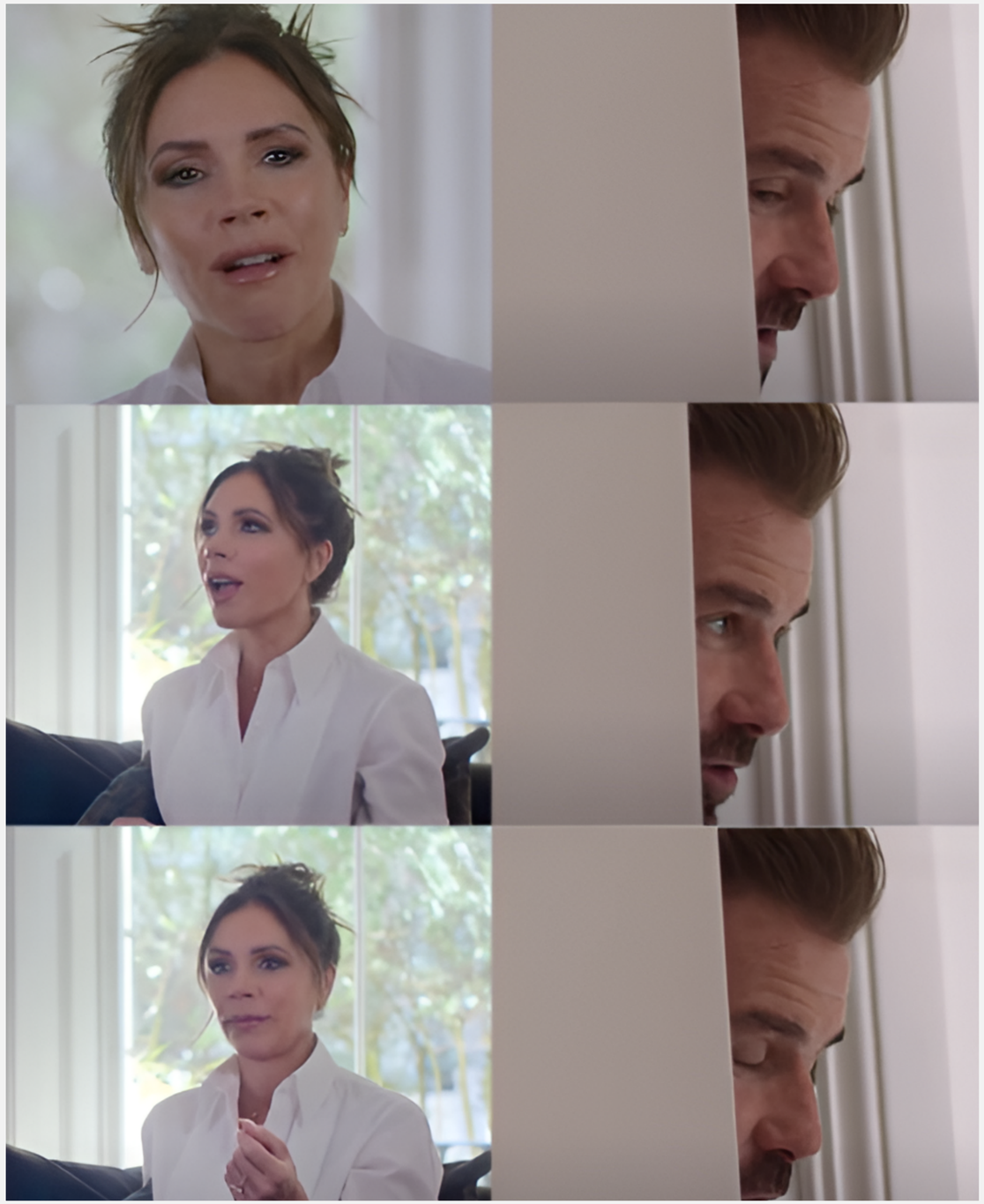

“DO YOU HAVE THAT PHOTO OF OMA WEARING HER SUN-GLASSES?”

“HOW HARD CAN IT BE?”

It was quick to adapt my module!

I am being honest!!

It took ~1,000 lines of code.



Be honest.

How many lines did it take?

Thank you.

THOUSANDS OF MODULES NEED A SIMPLE WAY TO EXPOSE THEIR CAPABILITIES.

MY EXISTING ALBUM MODULE FUNCTION

```
public function findImage(string $query): array
```

TOOL MODULE RESEARCH PROTOTYPE

WHAT IT DOES

```
#[ToolDescription('Finds photos by their name, alt-text or caption.')]
public function findImage(string $word): array
```

WHAT IT DOES → WHAT GOES IN

```
#[ToolDescription('Finds photos by their name, alt-text or caption.')]
public function findImages(
  #[ToolInput('One word or phrase.', example: 'Oma sunglasses')]
  string $query,
): array
```

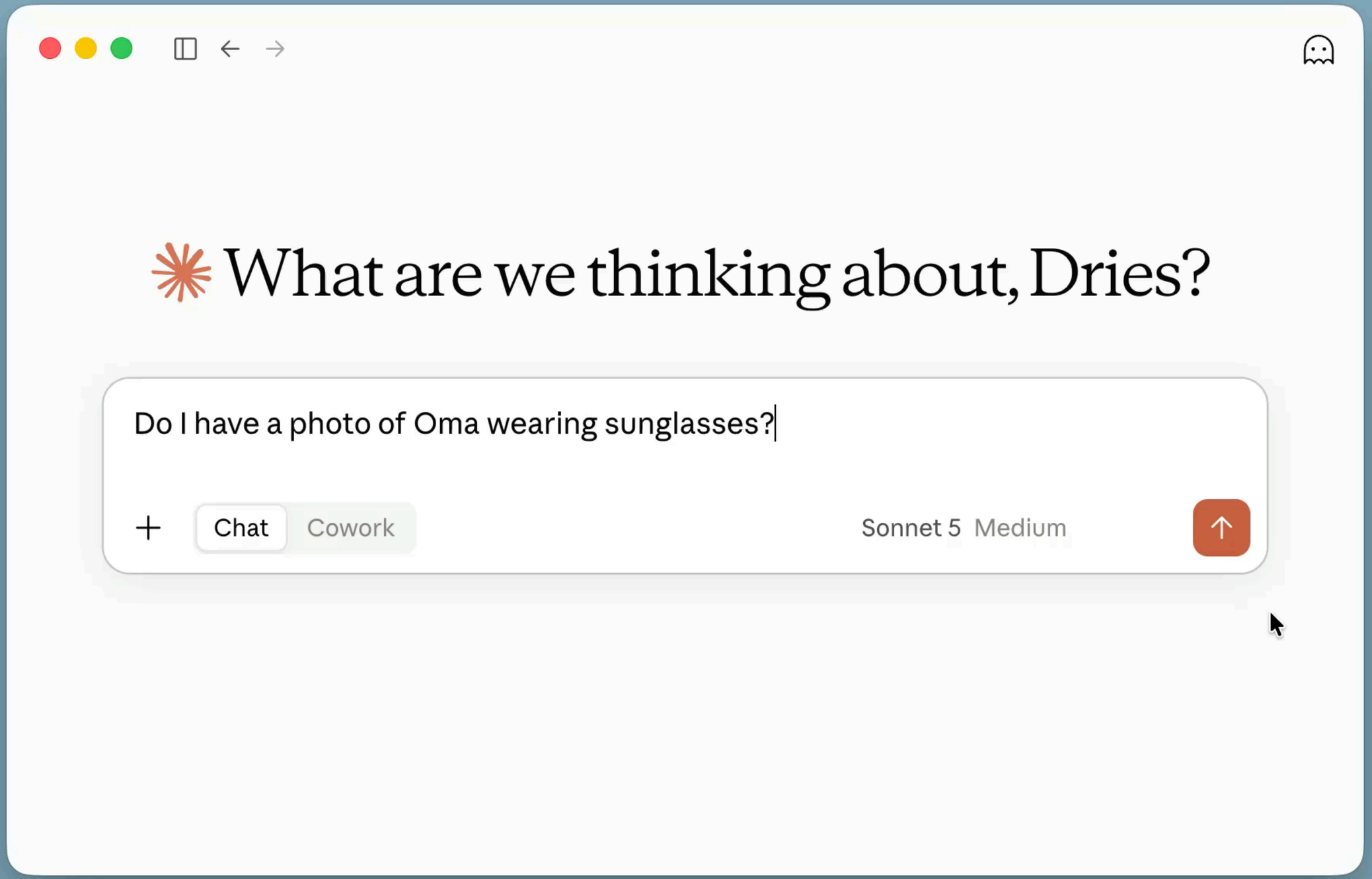
WHAT IT DOES → WHAT GOES IN → WHAT COMES BACK

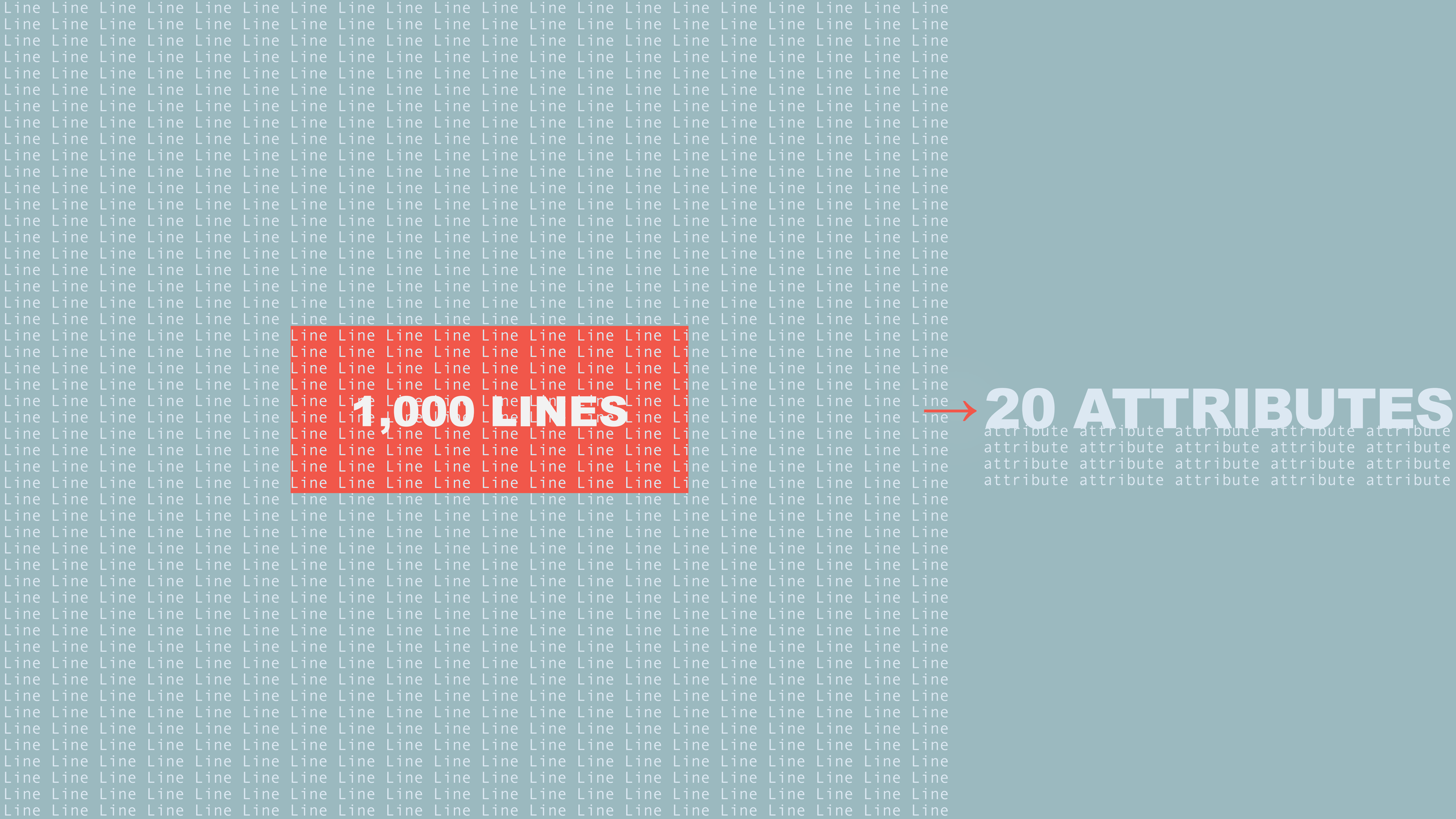
```
/**
 * @return \Drupal\album\Image[]
 */
#[ToolDescription('Finds photos by their name, alt-text or caption.')]
public function findImages(
  #[ToolInput('One word or phrase.', example: 'Oma sunglasses')]
  string $query,
): array
```

THREE STRINGS CAN MEAN THREE DIFFERENT THINGS

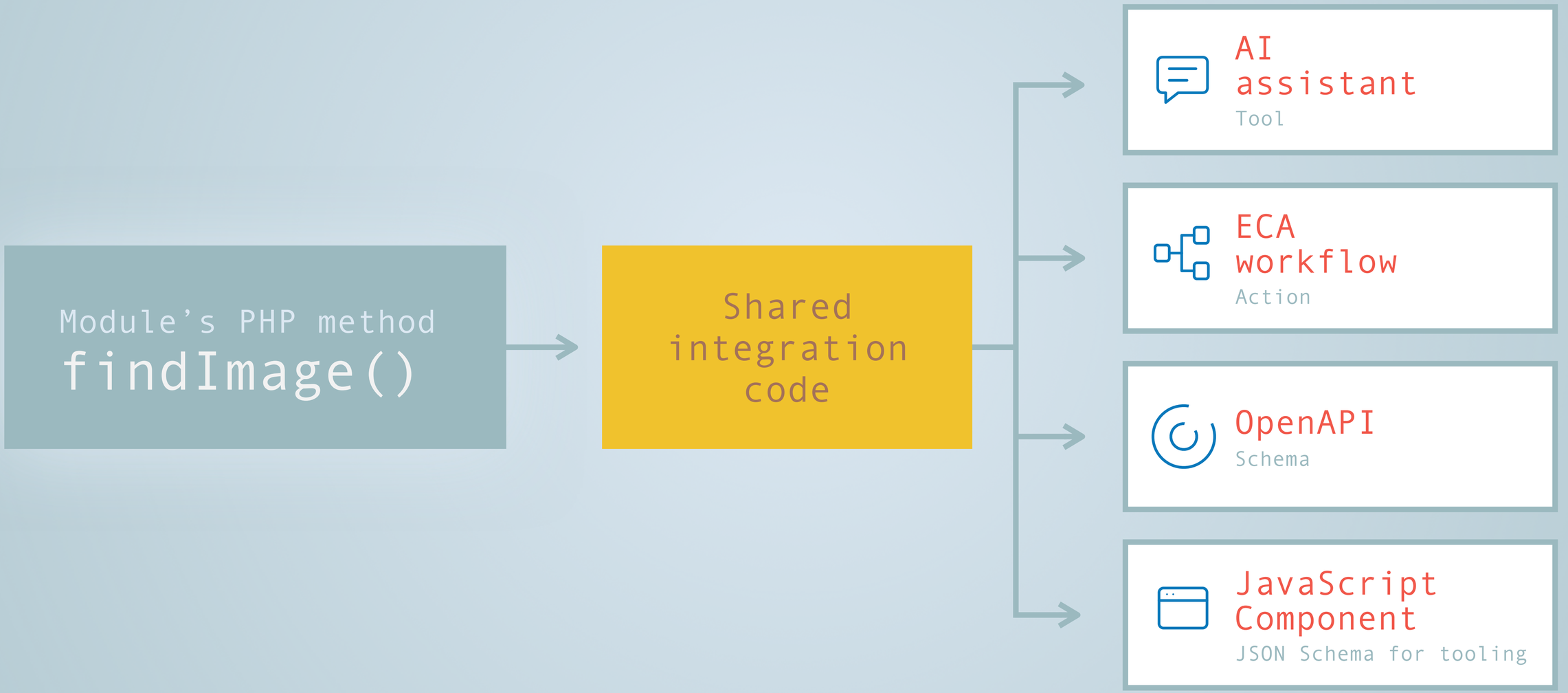
```
class Image {
  public function __construct(
    #[ToolProperty(description: '…', media_type: 'text/plain')]
    public readonly string $title,

    #[ToolProperty(description: '…', media_type: 'text/html')]
    public readonly string $caption,
  ) {}

  #[ToolProperty(name: 'url', description: '…', data_type: 'uri')]
  public function getUrl(): string {
    …
  }
}
```

TITLE → PLAIN TEXT
CAPTION → HTML
URL → LINK

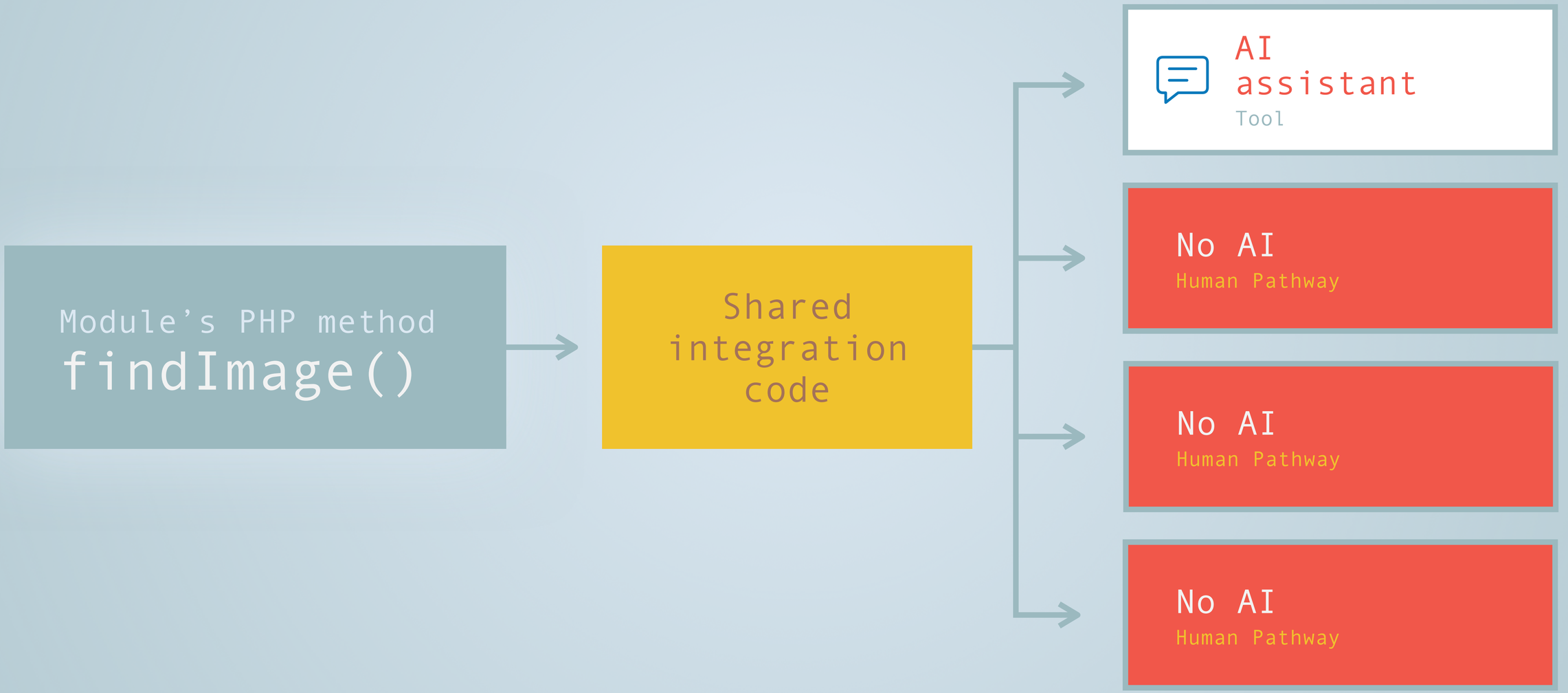

What are we thinking about, Dries?
Do I have a photo of Oma wearing sunglasses?
Chat
Cowork
Sonnet 5 Medium


1,000 LINES
20 ATTRIBUTES

DESCRIBE ONCE, USE IN MULTIPLE PLACES



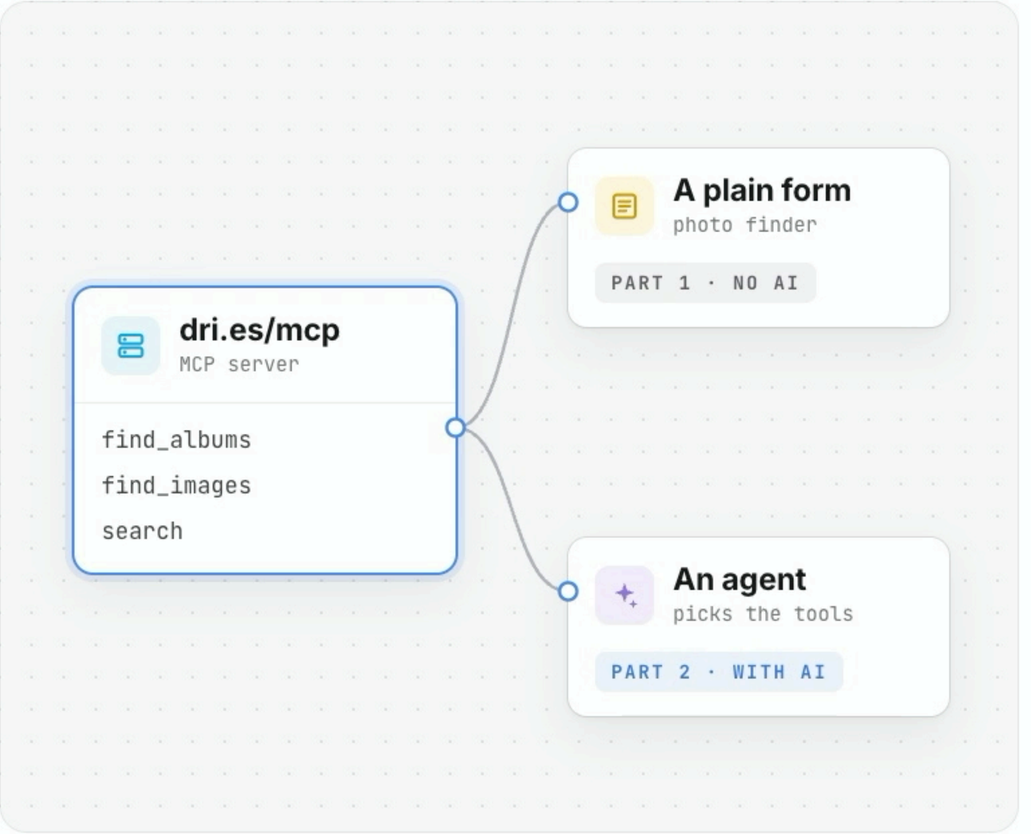
DESCRIBE ONCE, USE IN MULTIPLE PLACES



DRI.ES/MCP → FLOWDROP

dri.es has an MCP server.

We put it in a Drupal workflow.
First as a plain form, then with an agent.



Shibin Das
CREATOR OF FLOWDROP

FlowDrop | Factorial.io

Workflow,
revisions,
translations,
access control,
typed data,
configuration management,
MCP support,
and more.

An AI agent,
orchestration tool
or front-end developer
can't easily reach it.





CONFIGURATION API



MCP SERVER

CANVAS TOOLS

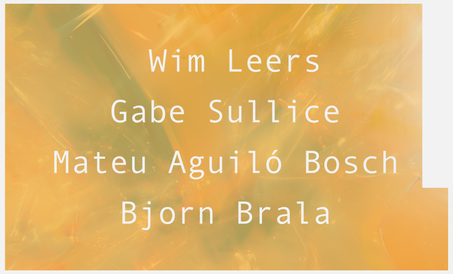


TOOL



GRAPHQL





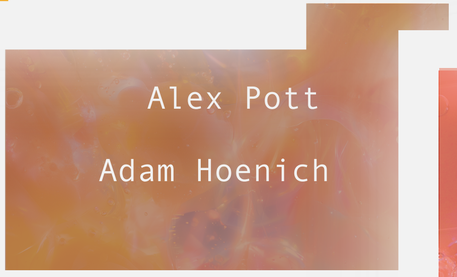
JSON:API IN CORE



FORM API



SINGLE DIRECTORY COMPONENTS



RECIPE SUBSYSTEM



TYPED DATA



SERIALIZATION



Randy Kolenko

MAESTRO

mglaman

CANVAS TOOLS

Brad Jones

SERIALIZATION

Mateu Aguiló Bosch

Pierre Dureau

Jean Valverde

SINGLE DIRECTORY COMPONENTS

marcus_johansson

and 20+ contributors

THE AI MODULE

robertoperuzzo
marcus_johansson
jibla
michaellander
yautja_cetanu
robloach

MCP CLIENT

Shibin Das

FLOW DROP

Jürgen Haas

ECA

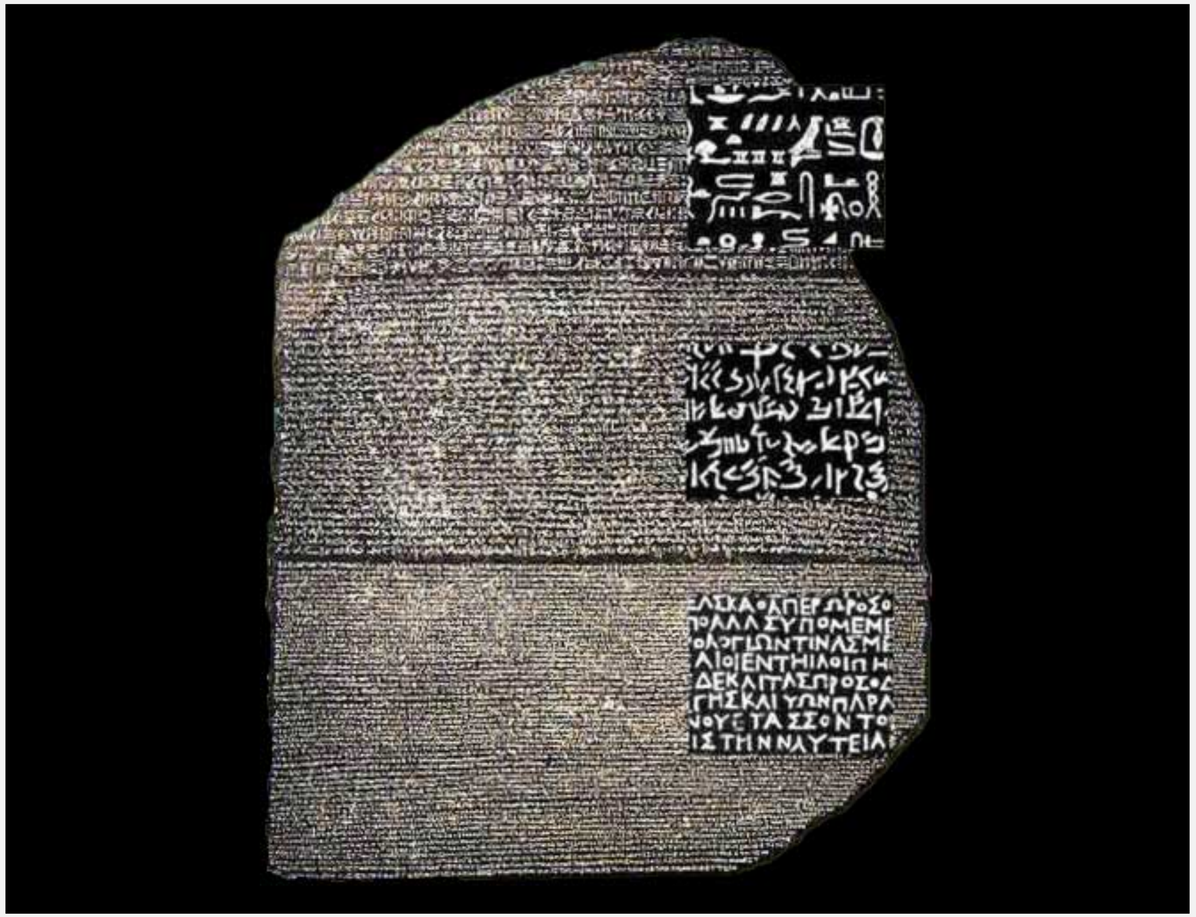
Wolfgang Ziegler

fago

TYPED DATA

Lee Rowlands

FORM API



THE ROSETTA STONE

Drupal needs to be read by AI agents, systems, and humans alike.

ROSETTA SPRINT

4 days together to
plan and collaborate.

Date and location TBD

MATT GLAMAN
MICHAEL LANDER
WOLFGANG ZIEGLER
SCOTT FALCONER
ANGIE BYRON
MATEU AGUILO BOSCH
PIERRE DUREAU
LAURI TIMMANEE
WIM LEERS
JURGEN HAAS
SHIBIN DAS
RANDY KOLENKO
MARCUS JOHANSSON
ALEX POTT
AND...YOU?



ROSETTA



Make Drupal's data and capabilities easier to expose to

- Agents
- Orchestration tools
- Frontends
- and more


TRY IT
ON YOUR
MODULE
It’s fun!


INNOVATION +
REPUTATION

GREAT WORK WON’T EXPLAIN ITSELF.

Our own magical thinking

Google

is

- is **google a search engine**
- is **yahoo a search engine**
- is **bing a search engine**
- is **google**
- is **semrush free**
- is **it going to rain today**
- is **priya in eastenders pregnant in real life**
- is **england still in the world cup**
- is **tip toe a true story**
- is **messi playing in the world cup 2026**

Report inappropriate predictions

AI Mode All

AI Overview

sear

/səːtʃ/

A search is the specific perso

Definition

- **General act**
- **Digital/Computing:** To query a database, file, or the Google Search engine to retrieve specific data.
- **Synonyms:** Hunt, look, seek, probe, and exploration. Collins Dictionary +1

AI AMPLIFIES AN OUTDATED REPUTATION

LET'S GIVE IT A BETTER STORY TO DRAW ON



Hynek Načeradský

Senior Drupal Developer & Architect | EU institutions & regulated public-sector platforms + EWPP exp...

3mo

I'm pissed.

Not at Drupal. At the people confidently hating on it without ever having understood what it actually does.

"Drupal is outdated." "Drupal is too complex." "Nobody uses Drupal anymore."

Tell that to the EU institutions, governments, universities, and enterprises quietly running mission-critical platforms on it.

Here's what actually gets me though: the Drupal community lets this narrative win.

I am guilty of this too.

We literally have thousands of contributed modules, maintained for free, by people who owe you absolutely nothing. The security team responds faster than most paid vendors. The community has been showing up for 20+ years.

And yet we're somehow losing the PR war to frameworks that can't handle a proper content workflow

Tell that to the EU institutions, governments, universities, and enterprises quietly running mission-critical platforms on it.

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We literally have thousands of contributed modules, maintained for free, by people who owe you absolutely nothing. The security team responds faster than most paid vendors. The community has been showing up for 20+ years.

And yet we're somehow losing the PR war to frameworks that can't handle a proper content workflow without three paid plugins and a prayer.

Drupal people: talk louder. Write the posts. Go to the meetups. Tell the stories, fight for Drupal.

Because the Drupal community is honestly the best thing in open source — and both it and Drupal deserve way better than silence.

#Drupal #OpenSource #CMS #DrupalCommunity #WebDevelopment

DRUPAL DOESN'T NEED HYPE.





Contribution credit for advocacy work
Led by the Drupal Association


CONTRIBUTE
CONTRIBUTION CREDITS
MARKETPLACE VISIBILITY
BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
DRUPAL CREDIT SYSTEM
Help people discover Drupal.
Help them discover your business.

We need to get better
at recognizing advocacy.







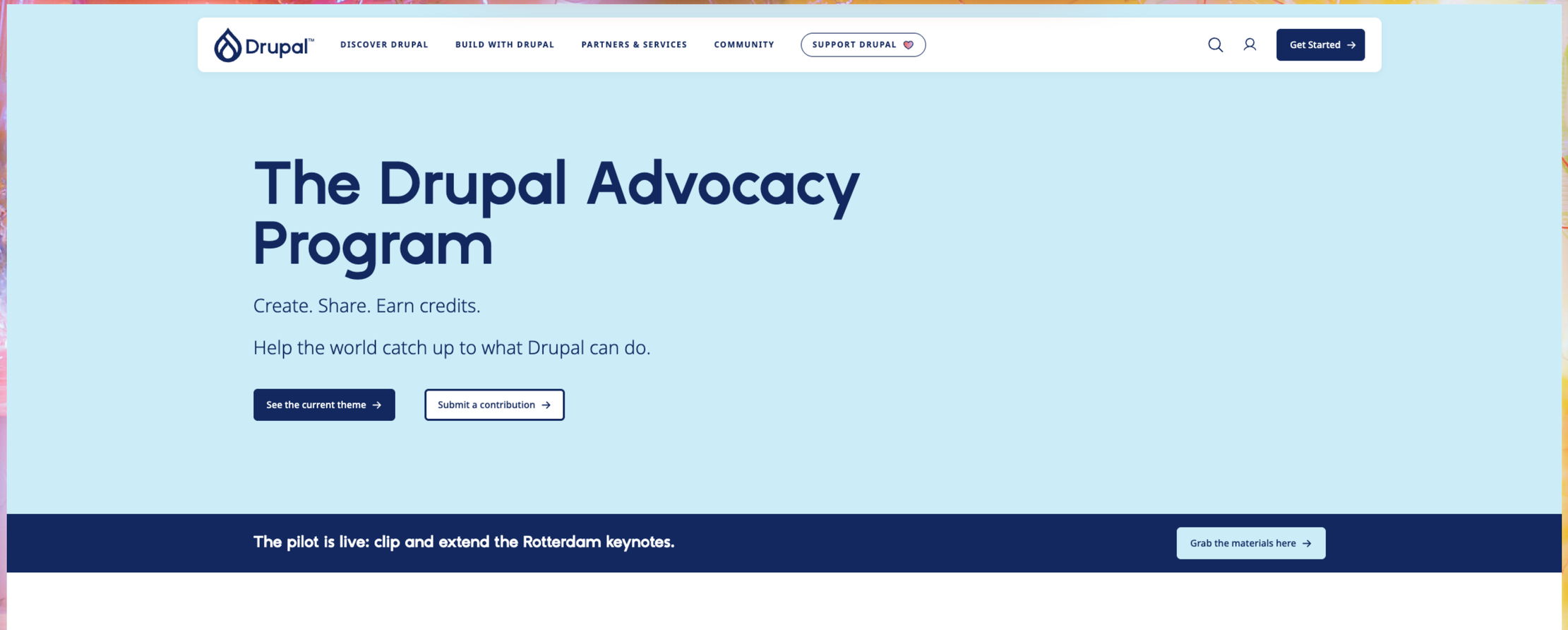
Easier to submit.
Better tracked.
Strategic credit.







drupal.org/advocacy



brand guidelines.

Proof vs. claim

A claim without proof doesn't travel. Good proof points are things a skeptical reader can verify: a deployed case study in the real world, an article in an external publication, a working demo, a recorded conference session. Build your piece around at least one.

And say true things. If a claim in the source kit doesn't match your experience, tell us — the source material only works if the community can stand behind it.

Where to share?

Your personal or company blog, LinkedIn, YouTube, Reddit, Mastodon / X / Bluesky, podcasts, dev community platforms (dev.to, Hashnode, Medium), regional and industry publications, conference and meetup stages, and local-language community sites and forums.

drupal.org/advocacy

How credit works

Advocacy earns contribution credits through the same system that recognizes code.

Submit your work

Fill in a short form, available via Drupal Slack and Drupal.org:

- Your name and Drupal.org username
- A link to your content
- Confirmation you've read the guidelines
- **One or two sentences: who is this for, and what did you add?**

How it's evaluated

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO BE AN ADVOCATE

CREATE SOMETHING NEW



Write a tutorial
or customer story.

Record a demo
or screencast.

Host a podcast or
teach a workshop.

HELP AMPLIFY SOMEONE ELSE'S WORK

Translate an article
for your community.

Turn someone's talk
into a guide.

Share useful work
with a new audience.

Why Drupal CMS matters

№ 1,419 · MAY 19, 2026

Last week at Drupal South, Pamela Barone delivered a keynote on Drupal CMS. Her talk is one of the clearest articulations I've seen of what Drupal CMS is, why it exists, and where it's headed. That shouldn't come as a surprise because Pam is the Product Lead for Drupal CMS.



Pam quoted a familiar Drupal saying: *"Drupal makes hard things possible, but it also makes easy things hard."*. The room laughed because it's true.



Pamela Barone (pameeela)

TURN AN INSPIRING TALK INTO SOMETHING MORE PEOPLE CAN USE

Pass it on.
Name the speaker.
Link to the original.


TALK
LOUDER
Start today.

TURN TO YOUR NEIGHBOR

What should we amplify from this DriesNote?



drupal.org/advocacy

The Rotterdam Pilot

At DrupalCon Rotterdam, Dries asked the community to clip and extend the keynotes — take the stories, share them, localize them, and build on them. Not sure where to start? Here are a few ideas.

- share your takeaways from the DriesNote on social media
- a YouTube Short showing one Drupal AI capability in action
- a blog post retelling the Mars or World Cancer Day story for your industry
- a lightning talk at a local non-Drupal event

Grab the materials here

The Driesnote - video, photos, social cards, quotes →

Mars (Drupal Canvas) case study →

World Cancer Day (Drupal AI) case study →

Fact sheet: Drupal's AI capabilities →

TURN THE BUZZ HERE INTO A BUZZ OUT THERE



TURN THE BUZZ HERE INTO A BUZZ OUT THERE



World Cancer Day
4 February

MARS


DRUPAL IS NOW
LIGHT-YEARS AHEAD
OF ITS REPUTATION

~~STOP~~
~~TALKING,~~
~~START~~
~~WORKING.~~

START
TALKING
LOUDER
ABOUT
WHAT IS
WORKING.

START
TALKING
LOUDER
ABOUT
WHAT IS
WORKING.

Innovation



Reputation


TALK
LOUDER

DRIESNOTE

DRUPALCON
ROTTERDAM

TALK LOUDER ABOUT DRUPAL

Slides to be posted at dri.es

