

# Post-relational databases

**What's wrong with web  
development?**

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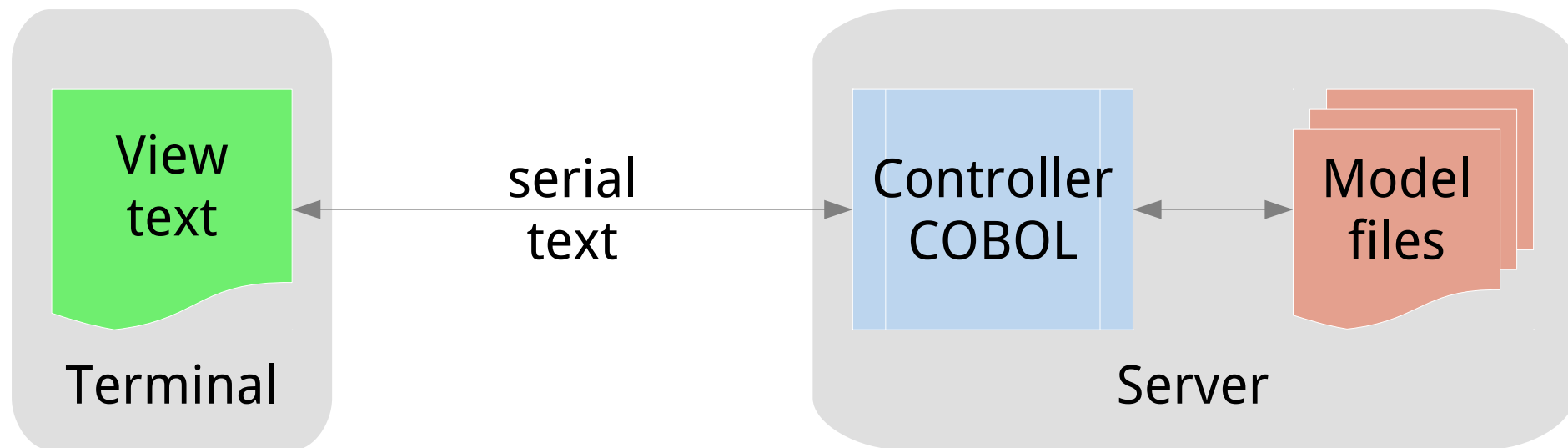
**<http://blog.rot13.org>**

**DORS/CLUC, 2011-05-17**

# Who am I?

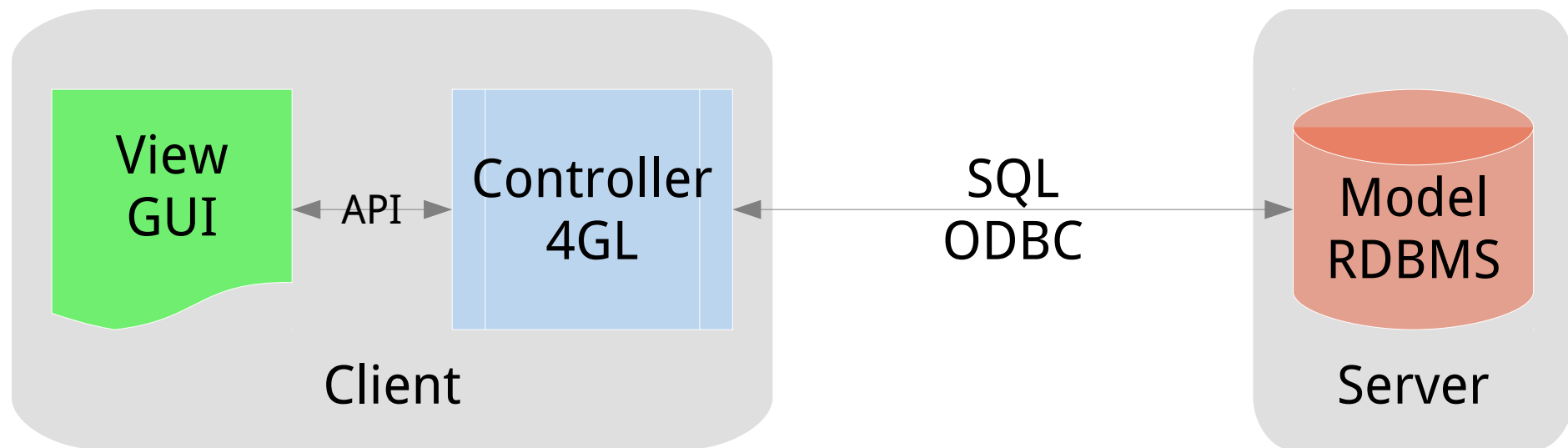
- Web programming since 1995 using FLOSS
- Languages: ~~php~~, perl, JavaScript
- Databases: PostgreSQL, ~~MySQL~~, CouchDB
- 5+ years of experience as system architect on large intranet content portal
- <http://blog.rot13.org>
- Big question: **are we solving same problems over and over again?**
- Model-View-Controller pattern

# Back in mainframe days...



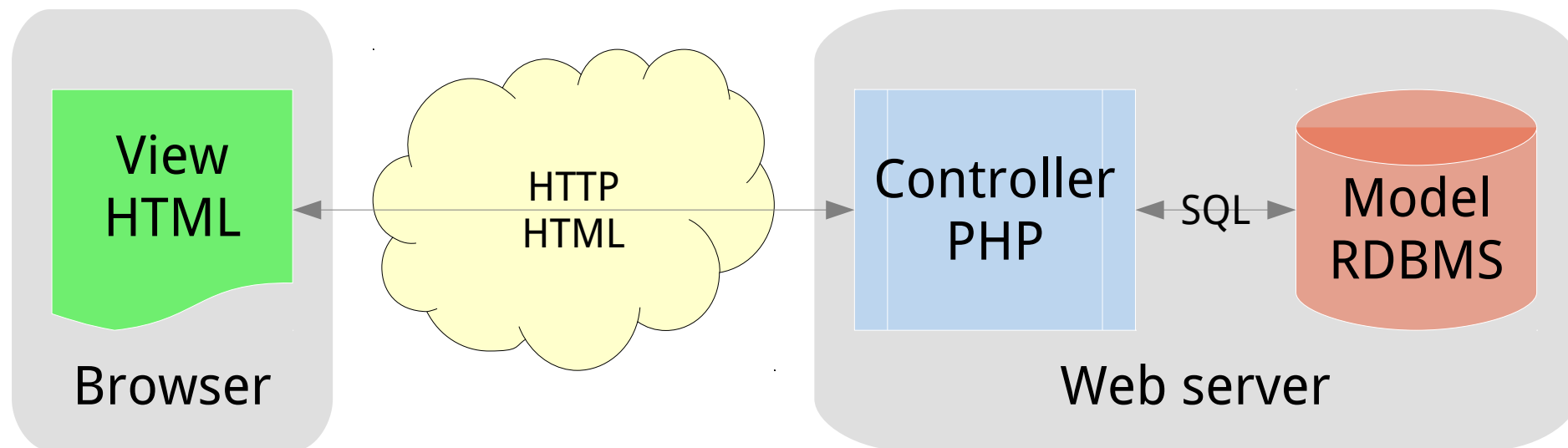
- All logic in COBOL application
- Similar to Clipper in DOS
- Payroll-type applications

# GUI Client/Server RDBMS



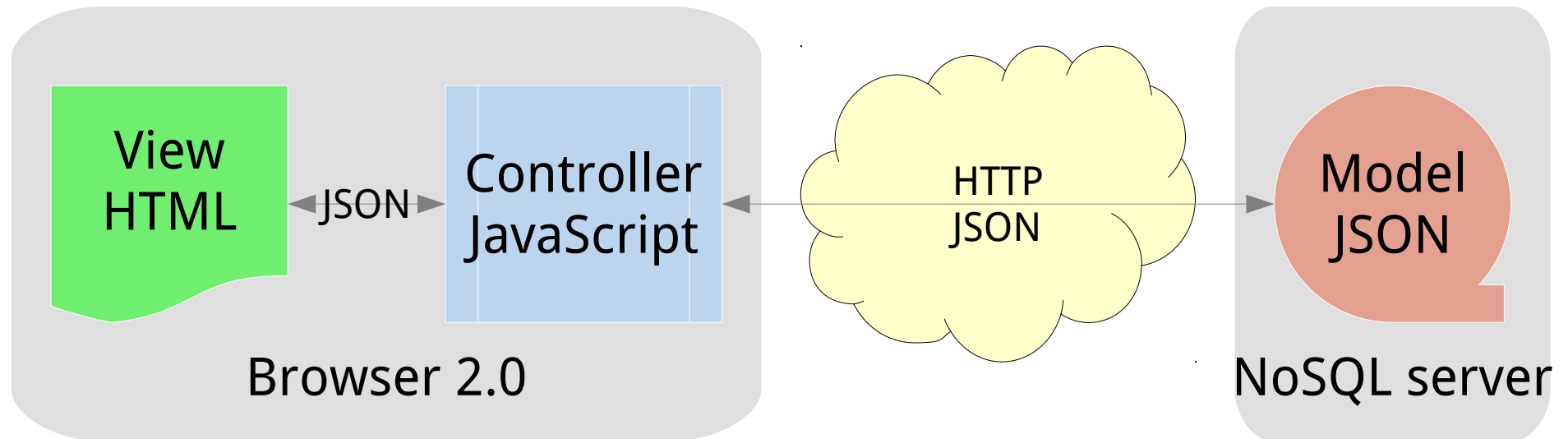
- **tabular** normalized data (3NF)
- SQL to query and modify data (static schema)
- logic in controller and RDBMS (validation)

# Internet! Web 1.0



- "network is computer" – browser thin client
- Logic in controller, RDBMS & view (JavaScript)
- Trees (XML)? Self-referencing data?

# AJAX JSON REST Web2.0



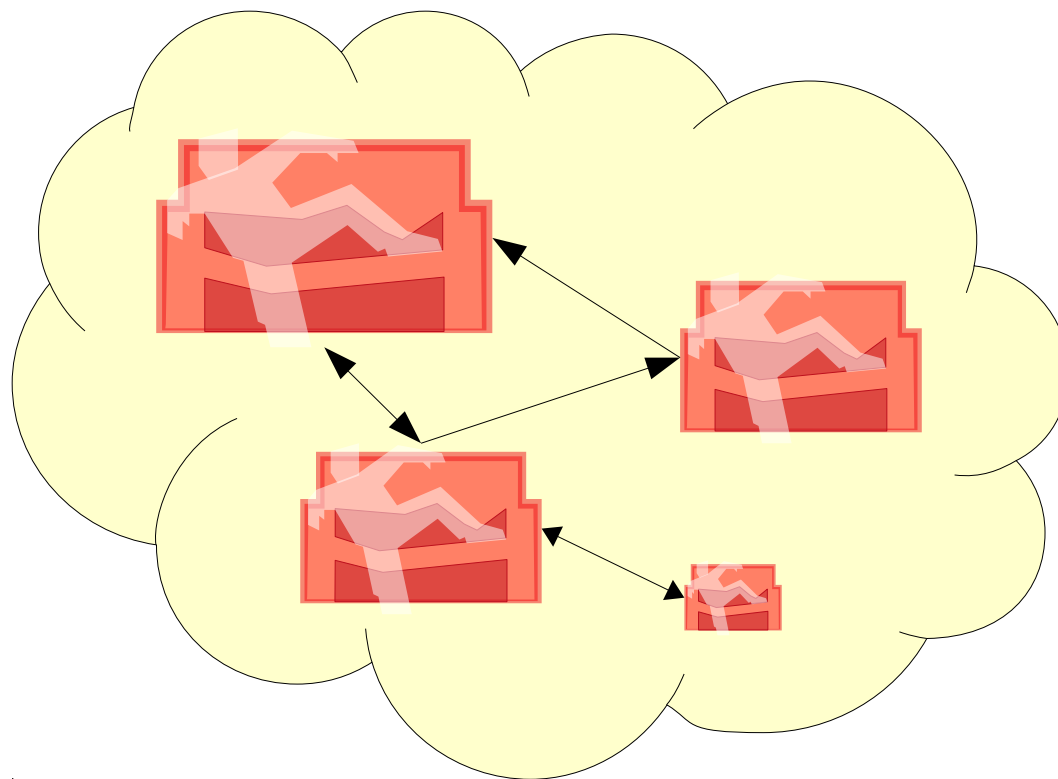
- JSON without schema (or verification!)
- Logic in JavaScript on client **and** server
- Turtles all the way down reduces complexity

# Perfect web stack

- HTTP REST API with JSON
  - GET, PUT/POST, DELETE
- JavaScript queries using map/reduce
  - Real-world dirty data from views
- Serve application from HTTP database (content-type support)
- Two-way data binding forms  $\leftrightarrow$  JSON
  - HTML is only template we need!
- Single language: JavaScript (+jquery)
- "simple app in single afternoon" benchmark

# CouchDB

- Designed for replication over HTTP
  - applications replicated with data (off-line)
- Custom views, requests and `_changes` feed





# <angular/>

- What if web browsers where written for web applications today?
  - html compiler inside browser
  - ng:repeat and friends to template objects
  - Objects persisted using REST to server
- <http://docs.angularjs.org/>
- Demos
  - <http://angularjs.org/slides/intro/#/8>
  - printer overview
  - conference submission app

# angular-mojolicious

- Mojolicious – web in the box (perl)
  - <http://mojolicious.org/>
- Mojo::Client – chunked HTTP client
  - Perfect for CouchDB integration
- <https://github.com/dpavlin/angular-mojolicious>
- REST API for Angular's \$resource
  - CouchDB proxy or static JSON files
- Replication with getangular.com service
  - not API compliant, uses newer version
- Helpers to quickly prototype with angular

# Server-side templates

- Generate slips server-side using angular
  - PhantomJS – headless WebKit browser
  - <http://www.phantomjs.org/>
  - <https://github.com/dpavlin/angular-uplatnica>

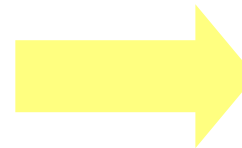
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```
$ ./bin/phantomjs examples/rasterize.js \
'http://localhost:3000/app/index.html#/uplatnica' \
uplatnica.pdf
```

# Pixel-exact PDF templates?

- Generate conference name tags
  - <http://blog.rot13.org/2011/04/print-conference-name-tags-using-inkscape.html>
  - Inkscape (SVG template)
  - pdfnup for to A4 page



# CouchDB triggers

- Finite-state machine inside document
- Multiple workers - FSM for lock and status
- filter, trigger, commit on `_changes` feed
- Perfect for async tasks
  - executing shell
  - sending e-mail

# CouchDB full-text search

- Implemented as filter-only trigger
- KinoSearch – full-text search, base for Apache lucy (Lucene in C)
- trigger which delete/add documents
  - Unroll structures into.flat.schema
- CouchDB external server to perform queries

# CouchDB related projects

- BigCouch
  - <https://github.com/cloudant/bigcouch>
  - Consistent hashing, sharding
- ElasticSearch
  - <http://www.elasticsearch.com/>
  - CouchDB river
- GeoCouch
  - <https://github.com/vmx/couchdb>
  - Spatial index

# Riak (search)



- **cluster** of machines!
- Amazon's dynamo model
  - r,w – eventual consistency
- Multiple map/reduce phases in single query
  - Ad-hoc, not cached, in parallel over cluster
- post-commit hooks (search)
- Links (REST traversal)
- HTTP and ProcolBuffers interfaces
- <http://www.basho.com/riaksearch.html>



# Overview

- Avoid complexity
  - Model: JSON
  - View: HTML
  - Controller: angular
- Solve offline problem: CouchDB
  - Attach async processes in the cloud!
- Generate pdfs server side
- Attack interesting problems
  - Tree-data, (social) networks