A tale of two packages
beamer and biblatex

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People move on . . .

beamer  Till Tantau is focussed on TikZ
biblatex  Philipp Lehman has vanished
beamer: starts with one bug

- beamer was using an internal macro from geometry
- This got changed in geometry ...
beamer: starts with one bug

- beamer was using an internal macro from geometry
- This got changed in geometry ...
- ... but beamer was unmaintained
Two volunteers

- I offered to handle that one bug
- So did Vedran Miletić
- He was keen to sort various things so . . .
Two volunteers

- I offered to handle that one bug
- So did Vedran Miletić
- He was keen to sort various things so . . .
- . . . I let him get on with it
Mainly bug fixes

- Vedran decided beamer is ‘good enough’
- I’m still fixing bugs when I can
- Altering behaviour is risky
- No tests available: caution needed!
Philipp was always very responsive to messages
Vanished very suddenly
Clearly a concern well beyond the LaTeX angle
A team assembles

- Philip Kime (biber, extending biblatex)
- Audrey Boruvka (style files)
- Me (low-level TeX)
License woes

‘Author-maintained’ status means new code is formally a fork: complicated!
LaTeX3 gets recruited

- biblatex uses etoolbox (also by Philipp Lehman)
- To add new features, we needed expandable option parsing
- I offered some code for this, but it meant re-writing a lot of what is in xparse
- Philip Kime decided just to go with LaTeX3 for it!
Summary

- There is lots of work out there
- Not so much LaTeX code has unit tests
- Change for a new maintainer is tricky