



THE LINUX FOUNDATION



NORTH AMERICA

Katie Kodes

Tiny Repos, Big Impact:

Level up through open-source teaching





Katie Kodes

kkgthb

<https://katiekodes.com>

 Overview

 Repositories 105

 Star

0

Lines of code, my 105 repositories

Avg: **186**

Min: **16**

Max: **3287**

- vs. Linux Foundation, recent:
35,109 · 2,954 · 261,480
- vs. Microsoft, recent:
149,157 · 1,133 · 780,544

codetabs.com/count-loc/count-loc-online.html

Count LOC

Browse... src.zip

UPLOAD

GitHub ▾ rb/web-site-nodejs-01-tiny main

ADD

README.md

Files	Lines	Blanks	Comments	Lines of Code
2	32	3	0	29

Teaching repos look a little different



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Embedded Linux
Conference



“Curse of Expertise”-breaking homework

1. Start a tech diary. (Paper or weblog.)
2. Write up your conference highlights.
3. 1x/mo-wk, add a new “I just learned”

#OSSHomework

Your perspective is fresh



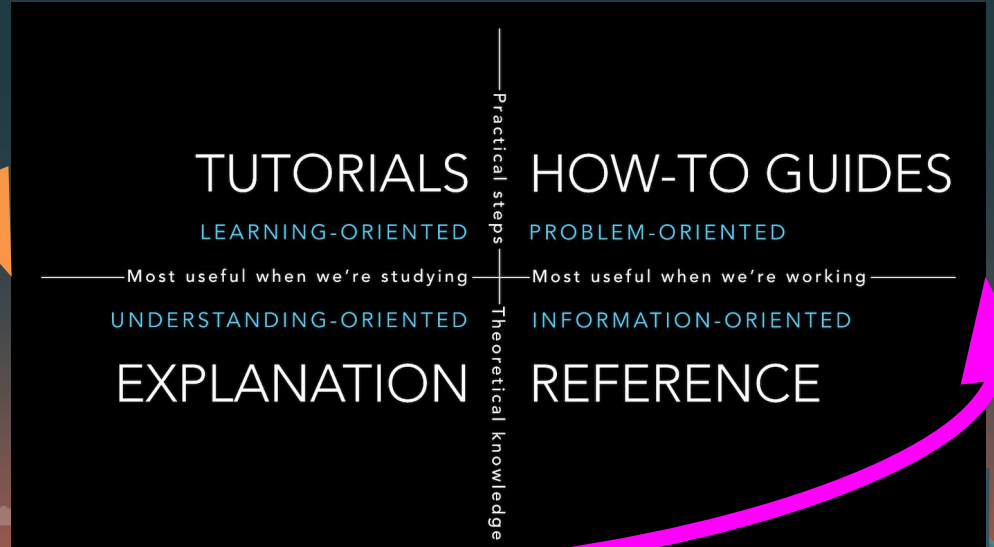
“Curse of Expertise”-breaking homework

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Teaching vs. Doing

Katie Kodes (teaching)	186	▼	16	▲	3,287
Linux Foundation (doing ; apps)	35,109	▼	2,954	▲	261,480
Microsoft (doing ; libraries)	149,157	▼	1,133	▲	780,544



Beginners learn BETTER from intermediates

Jessica:

- As a senior person, I might hear somebody say a sentence about joins in PostgreSQL.
 - I might hear **1-2** terms that I don't know. Those I **can ask** about.
 - It's **different when** I hear **8** terms I don't know.

Julia:

- I think this is something that happens really often to junior people, is:
 - “I don't know what any of those **30** words mean.”
 - “It feels like **too much to ask about** all of them.”

[-Ep. 16. "Blogging is Shipping." with Julia Evans. Greater Than Code podcast](#)

Minimizing distractions



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Fewer / Less

- Lines of code
- Statefulness
- Business purpose
 - (get LLM help)
- File count
 - dependencies
 - tool config

More / Longer

- Repo count
- Repo name length
- README / blog
 - (get LLM help)
- Folder count

Tip: trim down a starter kit's output

GitHub main

Files	Lines	Blanks	Comments	Lines of Code
9	191	35	31	125

GitHub main

Files	Lines	Blanks	Comments	Lines of Code
2	32	3	0	29

- README.md
- app.js
- bin
- www
- package.json
- public/stylesheets
- style.css
- routes
- index.js
- users.js
- src/web
- server.js
- views
- error.jade
- index.jade
- layout.jade

Tip: spinoff repos

- README.md
- package.json
- src/_tests_
 - my-first-test.js

GitHub ▾ nb/web-site-nodejs-01-tiny main ADD

README.md

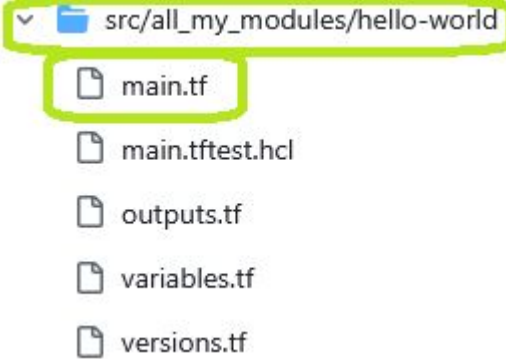
Files	Lines	Blanks	Comments	Lines of Code
2	32	3	0	29

GitHub ▾ b/web-site-nodejs-02-tests main ADD

README.md

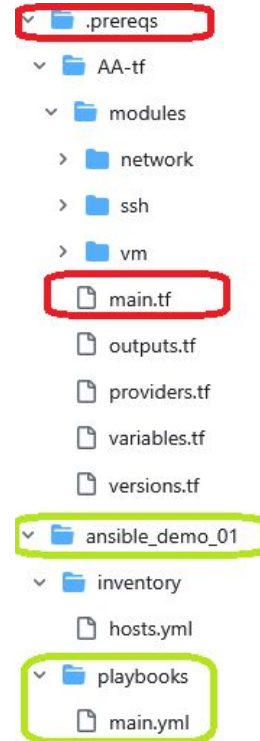
Files	Lines	Blanks	Comments	Lines of Code
3	63	5	2	56

Tip: hide side quests in folders




Left: “hcl-module-01-tiny”
(So a “.tf” file is prominent)

Right: “ansible-01”
(So an incidental “.tf” file for spinning up a VM to manage with Ansible is merely a dot-prefixed “.prereqs”)



Tip: overexplain acronyms and jargon

ado-mdop-cruft-validator / README.md 

ADO Pipelines agent cross-contamination test helpers

Problem

Because Azure DevOps ("ADO") Managed DevOps Pool ("MDOP") agent VMs are not fully ephemeral, sequential workloads on the same VM may be exposed to residual state from prior runs. Contamination vectors may include:

Tip: tropes and themes

Header placeholder

I did it!

✓ *eat well*

X *sleep soundly*

✓ *jump high*

✓ *write*

✓ *hydrate regularly*

Hello world

Footer placeholder

Simon Willison's Weblog

The last six months in LLMs, illustrated by pelicans on bicycles

WorldCat®

It... 🔍

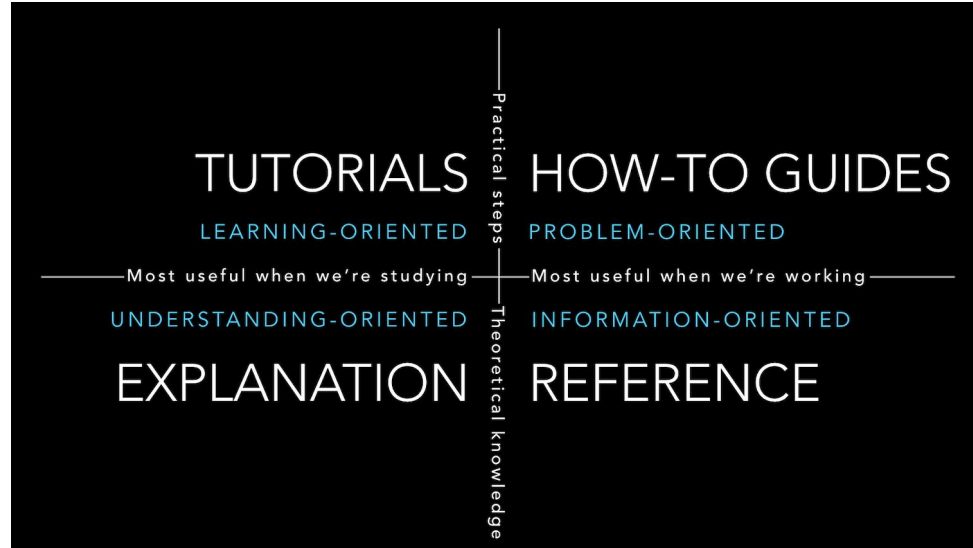
Quality is a distraction



What's missing: everything that matters 🤔

- **consistency:** reasonable file/folder/method names
- **integrations:** env vars, databases, etc.
- **dependency infosec:** package-lock.json
- **CI/CD:** .github/workflows/build-deploy.yml
- **team compiler config:** tsconfig.json
- **auto-documentation:** Javadoc-style comments
- **quality:** meaningful tests
- **linting, security, performance:** static code analysis

Divio says: different code for different goals



LLMs plagiarize us. Why bother writing?



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Why bother publishing, post-LLM?

For ourselves:

- Reinforce learning
- Searchable diary
- Professional reputation

For others:

- Fix LLM slop?
- Share “aha!”s
- Facilitate discussions
(e.g. **package.json** vs. **package-lock.json** vs. [\(github...\)/dependency-graph/sbom](#))

Thank you!

<https://KatieKodes.com/oss-2026>

#OSSHomework reminder:

1. Tech diary
2. Conference highlights this week
3. “I just learned” weekly/monthly

