Hardware-assisted debugging

Philippe Casgrain

~~NSSpain~~ Cocoaheads 2015

Hello! I'm Phil

I used to port video games to Mac and Linux, and I worked on a painting program. Now I'm lead developer for a Mac-based Point-of-sale system.

I'm also a community organizer.

The issue

Lightspeed is a Point-of-sale system for retailers who want to use a Mac as their cash register and inventory manager.

A keyboard conundrum

- People using Lightspeed were having keyboard issues

- After one to six hours, they were unable to type anymore

  - Quit and re-launch the app

- Our QA never found it

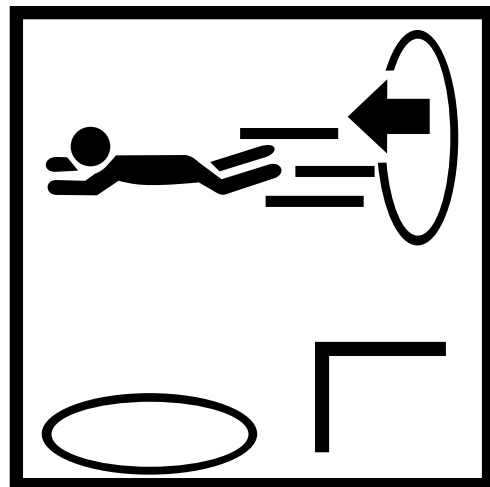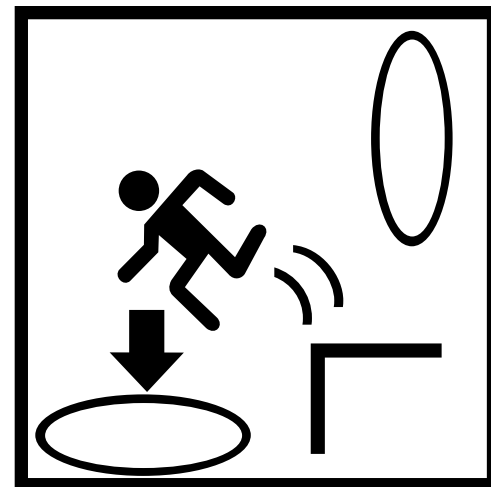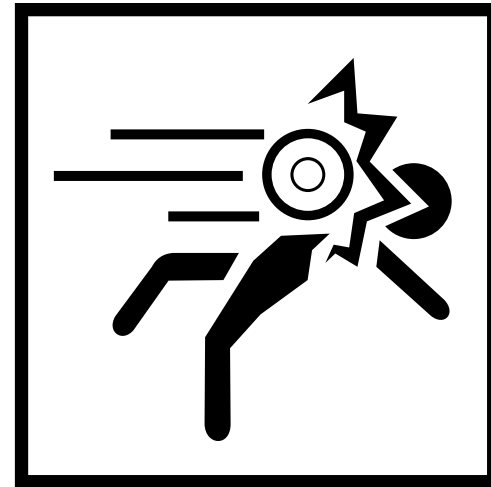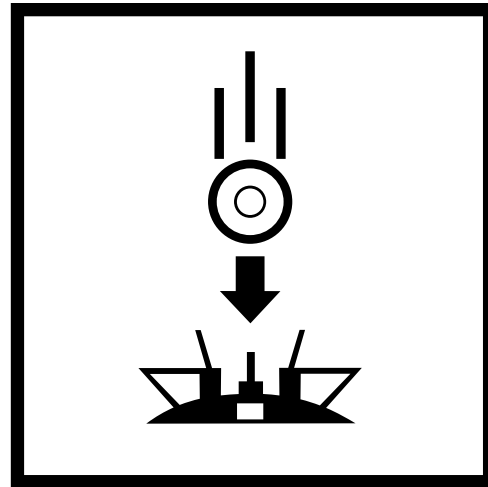- One dev reproduced it after a day of typing

« *Keyboardgate* »
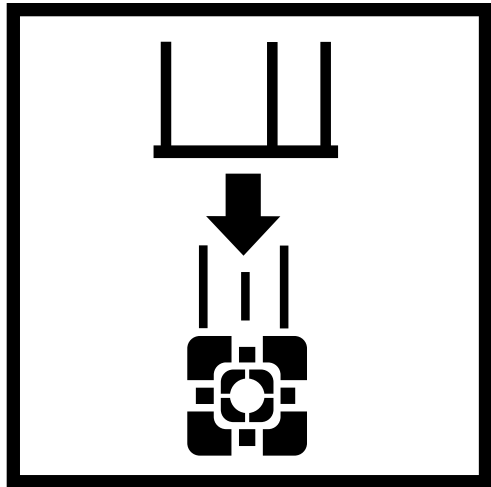
This is a job for Automator!

See also lots of scripting solutions like Eggplant, etc.

Perhaps not…

Think outside the box

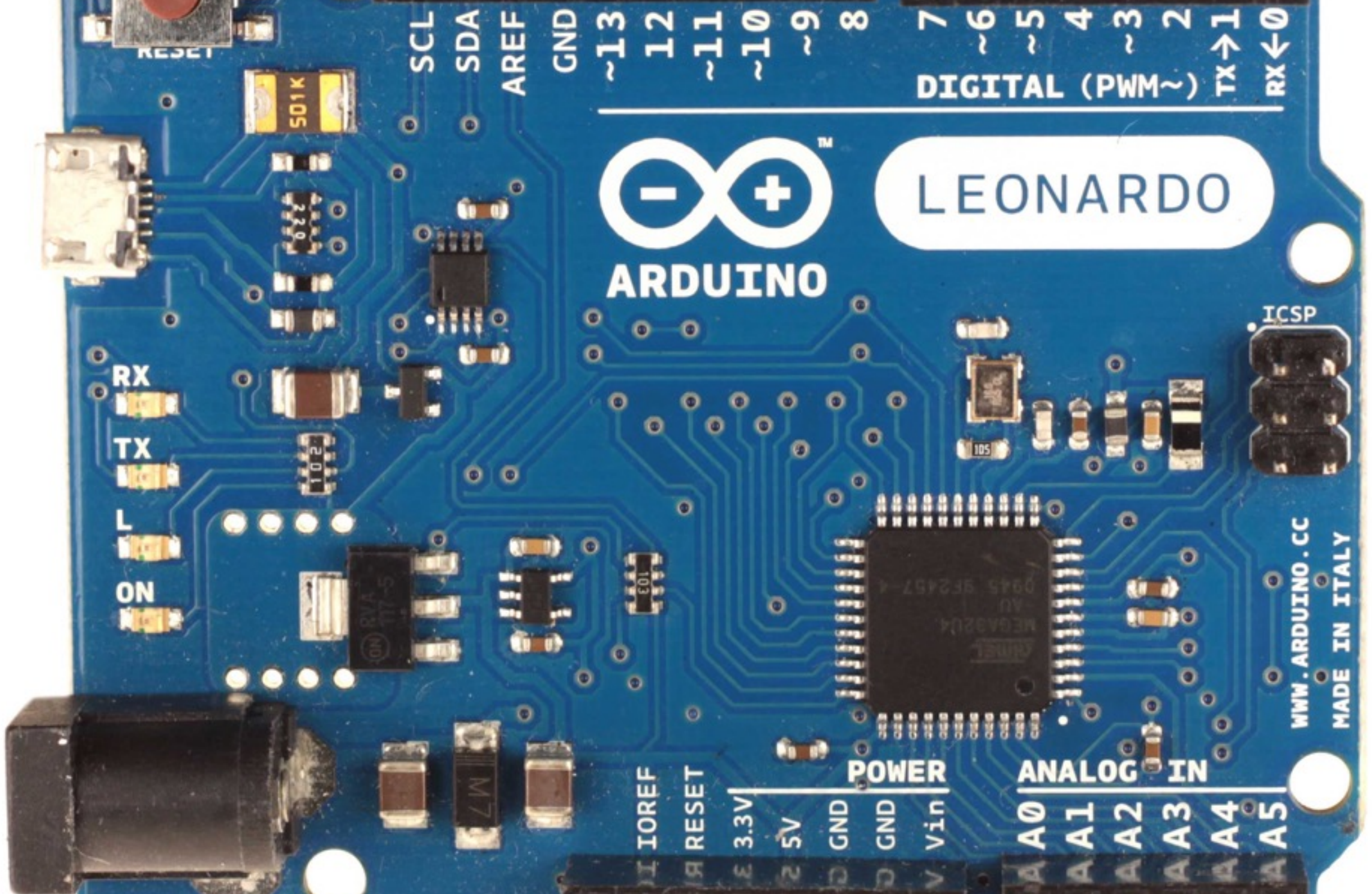Because typing sucks.

Also, programming is efficient laziness.

Arduino

What is Arduino?

- Small, low-power micro-computer

- Easily programmable

- Open-source specs and software

- Wearable computers

- Multiple models for ease of embedding

   - Multiple interfaces: BT, USB, serial, etc…

Arduino Leonardo | *USB mouse and keyboard*

Demo

In conclusion…

- It helps to get your nose out of software from time to time

- Robotics are a great way to geek out

- Sometimes, the journey is more fun than the solution

- You should totally get an Arduino board

Thank you!

Special thanks to Adrian Frutiger 1928- 2015