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# VISIONEN



## Girlboss - Very Important Sis

Magazin des Vereins der Informatikstudierenden an der ETH Zürich (VIS)



# Editorial

Kedves Visionen-olvasók,

Willkommen zu der ersten Ausgabe des neuen VIS-Semesters! Hoffentlich hat die Fanfic der vorherigen Ausgabe bei euch das innere Fangirl aktiviert, denn es gibt keinen Tumblr Blog der die slayness dieser Visionen Edition übertreffen kann.

Denn heute dreht es sich komplett um das Thema Girlbossing (als auch Policy Based Access Control..). In einigen seriösen und einigen weniger seriösen Artikeln geht es um die Themen Frauen in Informatik, Selbstwertgefühl, Häkeln, Yappen, Anti-Deutsche Gefühle und mehr!

Gleichsam lernt ihr auch den neuen Vorstand kennen. Initial war dies im Format "Teenage Girl Diary" geplant, aber ein paar haben das sehr kurzfristig versenkt, also gibt es einen Fragebogen anstelle. Wir sind total nicht hässig darüber :)



Das Visionen-Team entschuldigt sich **NICHT** im Voraus für die cringy Momente in dieser Edition und verlorene Gehirnzellen. Schickt gerne eure Hatemail an diese Adresse: CAB E37, Universitätstrasse 6, 8092 Zürich, Schweiz

## For our English Readers:

Welcome to the first edition of the new VIS-semester! As is seemingly now tradition this autumn, we have decided to overdo it once again with unhinged content, just this time we're appealing to all those whose inner fangirl was awoken by the fanfic article from the previous edition. In the name of slay, I wish you all great fun in reading this edition, which once again is almost entirely in the same language as the worst electoral debates ever.

By the way, to blame for any cringe-related deaths is a certain non-CS-but-part-of-VIS person, who convinced us all at the previous editorial meeting to once again disappoint the board and scare off even more readers. Please send any hatemail to her address: 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20500, United States of America.

Ich wünsche allen, ausser denen zwei, die an einer Party, die ich besucht, hatte alleine vor der Toilette am Rummachen waren und als ich schauen wollte, ob es besetzt war mich anmutzen, dass es eine Schlange hat und dann wenn es frei wurde zusammen reingingen, viel Spass beim Lesen dieser Ausgabe :)

xoxo visionen girl

*Als Erinnerung: Abgesehen wenn die Artikel eindeutig seriös geschrieben sind handelt es sich bei unserem Inhalt um Satire und sollte also nicht zu ernst genommen werden :)*

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# Präsikolumne

## JONAS - RECOVERING FROM CHRONIC EVENT PLANNING

Dear VIS Members,

Usually, I start with events, but this time I'm switching things up and diving into the student politics side first. After the general assembly, I had several meetings with the department to discuss a range of topics: the Bachelor Graduation, financial support for next year, PAKETH, tuition fees, ethics in computer science, and much more. This year's Bachelor Graduation will be twice the size of last year's, hopefully with the same costs. Planning for PAKETH is in full swing, and we want to involve VIS more in the process—so keep an eye out for a survey soon. We're also pushing back against the tuition fee increase, with a special focus on students already enrolled in the Bachelor's program.



Now, on to some of the more fun stuff: We organized the graduation (and the party) and, right the day after, the Halloween Gala Dinner. Since I was involved in both, I'm pretty exhausted now—but I hope it was worth it! On November 6th, I teamed up with Nadine to organize the second Midweek Mexican Madness. It was a blast, and I hope you got to enjoy some tasty tacos! And since I apparently can't rest, I might also be planning a Presidential Fried Chicken (PFC) event in December—so keep an eye out for that. ;)



As always, I hope your semesters are going well! Feel free to say hi if you see me around!

Best,  
Jonas



# Hopokolumne

Hello, fellow students,

With the start of the new semester, I am honoured to have been elected as the new HoPo (Hochschulpolitik) president at the recent MV. While many of you may already know about university politics, I'd like to go over our responsibilities once again: As the university politics committee, we represent students' interests and address issues related to studies, professors, lectures, and exams.

At this point, I'd like to open a parenthesis for the Ersties. Although university politics may seem distant and overly bureaucratic, don't let the formality intimidate you. Always feel free to contact us about any matters related to your studies.

So far, the picture I've painted of HoPo might still seem theoretical—just talk without much to show for it. But that couldn't be further from the truth.

Did you know that Basisjahr exams used to be taken as a single block until 2015? Yes, all eight subjects (+Physics course that was once part of the Basisjahr curriculum) at once! Thanks to HoPo, the first-year courses are now offered in split blocks.



Did you know that there was once no graduation ceremony for Bachelor's students, only for Master's students? Thanks to HoPo, we now have a task force dedicated to organize a graduation ceremony for Bachelor's students.

Did you know that back in the day, students didn't have a summer holiday or a week off in the autumn semester? Well... okay, we still don't, but hang tight—we're working on it!

As you can see, the theoretical concerns of students back then inspired and motivated the committee, generating practical successes. This semester, we're committed to maintaining this momentum and continuing to address concerns through our task forces.

Speaking of task forces, let's go over them and their latest updates:

The VIS Teaching Awards task force wrapped up last semester with great success. This semester, just like last, we'll be presenting the teaching awards exclusively for TAs. The task force has already started fetching the name of the TAs.

The Bachelor Graduation task force is in full swing preparing for the upcoming ceremony.

The Ethics in CS task force just had its first meeting, where we discussed the direction for the semester and brainstormed ways to connect with students. Expect more events soon!

This semester, we've also reactivated the Diversity task force, and by the time you read this, we'll have had our first meeting.

I also want to emphasize that the HoPo committee is actively engaged in discussions

regarding the proposed increase in tuition fees. We maintain regular communication with the department and present our viewpoint. We are particularly attentive to the concerns related to linking fees to inflation and students who are currently enrolled in Bachelor's programs and are soon transitioning to Master's programs.

As you can see, the committee is moving full steam ahead. However, we still need the help and input of fellow students like you. Don't forget—you're not alone on this academic journey. HoPo is here for you.

Whether you have ideas, concerns, or just want to be part of the action, feel free to reach out to us at [hopo@vis.ethz.ch](mailto:hopo@vis.ethz.ch)!

Best regards,  
Efe



# Vorstandsvorstellung

GET TO MEET OUR NEW BOARD!

## Can you do a short introduction of yourself?

I'm Jonas, I like to program Minecraft related stuff in my free time and I like to cook! (the food, not the thoughts)

## What do you do at VIS?

I'm the president, former Kommu, unofficially the third Partyperson and always overworked

## What do you enjoy the most at VIS?

As most people might know, I mostly enjoy organizing small, medium-sized, big or even huge events. Some might even call it megalomania, but I think it's fiiiiinee.

## What was your favourite lecture and why?

Clearly NumCSE (yes I'm that old that it was called NumCSE, not NumCS)

In actuality, my favorite course was FMFP.

## If you could only choose one between beer, mate, coffee and tea to consume for the rest of your life, which one would you pick?

I would mix them all together for the ultimate drink, because this amalgamation of drugs will sureeeely wake you up in the morning



*Jonas Blank,  
Präsidium*

## If you could have dinner with any person, dead or alive, who would it be?

Anthony Bourdain, because he really knows his stuff when it comes to good restaurants, so I'm sure he can make a good recommendation.

## Which female person inspires you the most?

Probably my mom, she has a lot of qualities that I admire and strive for in myself. HI MOM <3!



**Can you do a short introduction of yourself?**

Heyo, I'm Simon. I like climbing, sweet foods and parties.

**What do you do at VIS?**

Together with Jannis we manage FKK so we see to it that lots of fun events are happening.

Once in a while I also do all the things that Jonas ~~does not want to do~~ doesn't have the time for.

**What do you enjoy the most at VIS?**

Sounds very cliché, but all the people I met here



**What was your favourite lecture and why?**

I don't visit enough lectures to be qualified to give a serious answer here, so I'll say any that I can postpone to study in lernphase.

**If you could only choose one between beer, mate, coffee and tea to consume for the rest of your life, which one would you pick?**

Contrary to popular belief, I could live without beer in my life. But my caffeine addiction leads me to choosing coffee (better than mate for the early mornings).



*Simon Ebner,  
Festminister/Vize*

**If you could have dinner with any person, dead or alive, who would it be?**

RuPaul from the 90s before he became the brandsafe commercialized icon he is today. Back in his club kid era when he was breaking norms and challenged society to change.

**Which female person inspires you the most?**

Janja Garnbret, two time Olympic Gold Medallist and winner of 46 World Cup Events in Bouldering and Climbing (the highest number of IFSC Gold medals of all time). In 2019 she won all 6 bouldering events of a season and won gold at both times that climbing was an olympic sport. Watching her climb always makes me want to go climb as well and with her being the same age as me reminds me that anything is possible with enough effort put in. →

**Can you do a short introduction of yourself?**

My Name is Jannis, I'm the new one in the party people dream duo :). I've been passionate about organizing events for all of my life, that's why I'm made for this.

**What do you do at VIS?**

I'm responsible for helping people organize lots of cool events, so if you got any ideas, feel free to reach out.

**What do you enjoy the most at VIS?**

I really enjoy all the nice people in VIS, everyone being helpful and wanting to improve the CS Students lives.

I'm really glad to be able to be a part of VIS :)

**What was your favorite lecture and why?**

Gotta love DDCA & SPCA, I'm just fascinated by how we build abstractions on electrons up to the high-level programming languages.

**If you could only choose one between beer, mate, coffee and tea to consume for the rest of your life, which one would you pick?**

This is a hard question for me, since I'm quite active in GECO and Irrational Coffee.

I really love mate, but I think I'll have to go for Coffee on this one, just because it is more versatile.



*Jannis Piekarek,  
Festminister*

**If you could have dinner with any person, dead or alive, who would it be?**

Linus Torvalds, the creator of Linux and git, two pieces of software I could not live without

**Which female person inspires you the most?**

Julia Bogdan, the person who sold me on VIS from day 0.

She made VIS seem very welcoming, human, and like something really cool that one wants to be a part of.

And Julia, I want to thank you for that.

**Can you do a short introduction of yourself?**

I'm Michelle and I'm currently in my 5th Semester at ETH.

**What do you do at VIS?**

I'm the treasurer of VIS. That means I'm handling the money of VIS.

**What do you enjoy the most at VIS?**

I enjoy all the fun events of VIS especially when I get to play rage cage. I also like the Prüfungssammlung because it saves me when studying for exams.

**What was your favourite lecture and why?**

My favourite lecture was Algorithms and Probability because I liked the profs, the subject was interesting and I learned many useful algorithms.

**If you could only choose one between beer, mate, coffee and tea to consume for the rest of your life, which one would you pick?**

I'd probably choose tea because I wouldn't want to be drunk ALL THE TIME and I also enjoy sleeping at some point.



*Michelle Honegger,  
Quästur*

**If you could have dinner with any person, dead or alive, who would it be?**

I would have dinner with Leonardo da Vinci because I'd love to hear his thoughts on how modern technology evolved from his early inventions and ideas.

**Which female person inspires you the most?**

I don't know who exactly inspires me the most, but I find Simone Biles inspiring. Her incredible talent and dedication to gymnastics are amazing and she shows that it's okay to prioritise your well-being and encourages others to be strong. →

**Can you do a short introduction of yourself?**

Hiya! I'm Sophia, a CS bachelor student with a crippling caffeine addiction. I like playing video games and snowboarding.

**What do you do at VIS?**

I'm in charge of maintaining the computer infrastructure for VIS, which essentially means that I am tech support for our Vorstand. I also get to play God and handle permission management, and occasionally I am emotional support for our CAT president.

**What do you enjoy the most at VIS?**

I love the stuffed animals (and their names!!!) and the people are really really cool (have you met our Infra??). Also I really like our autonomy.

**What was your favourite lecture and why?**

Sysprog. ofc.

**If you could only choose one between beer, mate, coffee and tea to consume for the rest of your life, which one would you pick?**

Why not energy drinks T^T. They are artificial tasting, sugary and full of caffeine, what's not to love. (but otherwise coffee bc its classy)



*Sophia Herrmann,  
Systemadministrator*

**If you could have dinner with any person, dead or alive, who would it be?**

MatPat from GameTheory because I'm a huge fan and I feel like you could have a cool convo with him.

**Which female person inspires you the most?**

My grandma, because despite being raised in a very different time and place, she still pushed and supported me getting an education above all else.

**Can you do a short introduction of yourself?**

Hey, my name is Efe and am a second year Bachelor's student in Computer Science. I love trains and planes and am a city planning enthusiast.

**What do you do at VIS?**

This semester, I am the head of the university politics (HoPo) committee of VIS as well as a part of the board.

**What do you enjoy the most at VIS?**

There are tons of things to enjoy at VIS - but we all know, nothing is like the variety of events and of course free food.

**What was your favourite lecture and why?**

I truly enjoyed the Algorithms and Probability course. On the one hand, the teaching team was very effective in making difficult topics understandable (yes, I'm talking about runtime analysis of probabilistic algorithms), and the course materials were extensive. On the other hand, I really liked how introducing probability could make an algorithm work, which initially seemed very counterintuitive.

**If you could only choose one between beer, mate, coffee and tea to consume for the rest of your life, which one would you pick?**

Definitely coffee. I actually enjoy its taste more but also it is significantly more versatile than the other options. Need to wake up for the school? Go for black coffee. Need a refreshing drink? Go for an iced latte. Need a side sip while reading or studying? I wouldn't say no to a cappuccino.



*Efe Alici,  
Hochschulpolitik*

**If you could have dinner with any person, dead or alive, who would it be?**

It's not specifically a person, but it would be very interesting to have dinner with a group of members of the constituent parliament during the early years of the modern Republic of Turkey. I would have the chance to see what the power dynamics were like during that time and what kind of problems they faced in the infancy of the republic. I feel like there may be a lot of information or knowledge to get from them that hasn't made it to today.

**Which female person inspires you the most?**

There are many highly successful women in politics, social and natural sciences, and various other fields. Nevertheless, perhaps because we share the same field, Margaret Hamilton resonates with me the most. She is best known as the woman behind the software that powered NASA's Apollo mission. She also introduced the term "software engineering," which was initially not taken seriously. Her success is incredibly inspiring on its own, but I particularly admire how she overcame challenges despite the criticism and male dominance in the field. →

**Can you do a short introduction of yourself?**

Whatup I'm Laura, I'm 19 and I never fucking learned how to read (I'm 22 and I have dyslexia).

**What do you do at VIS?**

I am responsible for the infrastructure, that means I am legally allowed to yell at people to clean up and get to decide what snacks we order.

**What do you enjoy the most at VIS?**

The people and their willingness to spend so much of their free time helping others out.

**What was your favourite lecture and why?**

AnD because I like drawing circles (graph theory go brrrr).

**If you could only choose one between beer, mate, coffee and tea to consume for the rest of your life, which one would you pick?**

100% coffee, because I need the caffeine and you can drink coffee it in so many different ways.



*Laura Weschke,  
Infrastruktur*

**If you could have dinner with any person, dead or alive, who would it be?**

Sophia (this is me shooting my shot).

**Which female person inspires you the most?**

My sister, because she is the most empathetic person I know, and I think the world could use more of that.

### Can you do a short introduction of yourself?

Hi, I'm Kwok Wai (pronounced as Kowai) and doing my MSc in Cysec in the second year.

### What do you do at VIS?

I'm responsible for collecting exams, organizing some preparatory workshops (PVWs) for the first- and second-year students, and I organized the mentoring events with my committee member from LUK.

### What do you enjoy the most at VIS?

It has many aspects that I enjoy most at VIS, not just because of its environment of helping each other when needed, but also because of the supportive committee and the people who choose to sacrifice their free time to buy coffee, organize events, collaborate with companies, and more.

### What was your favourite lecture and why?

So far, I would say the Big Data lecture and the Information Retrieval lecture are really high quality, and I really like them all (not because the lecturer was also on the board of "Lernunterstützung"). There are many lectures I can count on, and I cannot decide on everything. The most memorable lecture is perhaps TI, because I already knew some stuff when I was in Gymi lol.

### If you could only choose one between beer, mate, coffee and tea to consume for the rest of your life, which one would you pick?

Mate. There is no doubt that Mate will win because I'm in a coffee fatigue phase right now. When you've had enough coffee, you may start looking for alternatives. Mate is an excellent op-



**Kwok Wai Lui,  
Lernunterstützung**

tion because it doesn't give you the bitterness of coffee while still keeping you awake. Additionally, you don't get nosebleeds even if you drink a lot of Mate, which can happen when you consume too much Ginseng.

### If you could have dinner with any person, dead or alive, who would it be?

Laplace. I want to ask him his thoughts on Laplace's demon and his opinion on Quantum Mechanics and Chaos theory in general. This is the one case where I truly cannot imagine how he would react. It would also be very interesting to ask if he thinks  $NP = P$  or  $NP \neq P$ , even if you'd need to explain to him what a computer is...

### Which female person inspires you the most?

My mom. Because she supports me even when I mess up sometimes.



**Can you do a short introduction of yourself?**

Hi, my name is Nadine Arendt and I am in my 5th and hopefully last semester of Master. I'm currently working on my Masterthesis, but always happy to find a reason to procrastinate in oVIS.

**What do you do at VIS?**

I'm in charge of communication, which means that most Insta posts are made by me. I also make sure that we keep our good relations with the department and a lot of other small things.

**What do you enjoy the most at VIS?**

That you can walk into oVIS at any time and find people there to talk about life and / or take shots.

**What was your favourite lecture and why?**

The Game Programming Lab was really cool, we made our very own chaotic party game in just one semester and had a lot of fun playtesting it (instead of coding). \*Not sponsored\* Download Tic Tac Dough on itch.io!

**If you could only choose one between beer, mate, coffee and tea to consume for the rest of your life, which one would you pick?**

Mate, but just El Tony. You can hunt me with all the other brands.



*Nadine Frischknecht,  
Kommunikation*

**If you could have dinner with any person, dead or alive, who would it be?**

Gwen Stacy. Spiderverse is the greatest movie of all time (I will die on this hill).

**Which female person inspires you the most?**

Taylor Swift. Her confidence is inspiring and her influence impressive. And obviously the music.



**Can you do a short introduction of yourself?**

Hi! I am Gamal Al-Deen Nasir Hassan (please address me with my full name). I spend my time fretting about uni projects I haven't started yet while I procrastinate with perfecting my tmux setup.

**What do you do at VIS?**

I am the software development responsible at VIS. This means I spend 90% of my time debugging environment variables (yes, they are hard to use) and the other 10% of the time I get to actually write some code.

**What do you enjoy the most at VIS?**

I would tell you, but I have to gatekeep. Sorry!

**What was your favourite lecture and why?**

My favourite lecture is Systems Programming and Computer Architecture. Why? It's systems, duh.

**If you could only choose one between beer, mate, coffee and tea to consume for the rest of your life, which one would you pick?**

Coffee. I need the caffeine to somewhat function properly.



**Gamal Hassan,**  
*Softwareentwicklungsverantwortlicher*

**If you could have dinner with any person, dead or alive, who would it be?**

Alexander the Great. He lived a very impressive life and achieved historical victories at a very young age.

**Which female person inspires you the most?**

That's an easy one: Definitely my mom because she is an amazing person and the best!



**Can you do a short introduction of yourself?**

Jacques. Mind the spelling please.

**What do you do at VIS?**

Typewriter, Spamclicker. I write a few mails, protocols and click myself through websites.

**What do you enjoy the most at VIS?**

Hung up plants, was nice I guess. Oh, and last general assembly was relatively short.

**What was your favourite lecture and why?**

SPCA? Computer Systems? The *computer* part of "Computer Science".

**If you could only choose one between beer, mate, coffee and tea to consume for the rest of your life, which one would you pick?**

Coffee. Beer attracts random dudes, the Mate hype is just confusing, and I am not British enough for tea all year round.



*Jacques Hoffmann,  
Aktuar*

**If you could have dinner with any person, dead or alive, who would it be?**

Any person that is not immediately annoying will do. Preferably alive.

**Which female person inspires you the most?**

\*\*\*, obviously. (Mail your guesses to [aktuar@vis.ethz.ch](mailto:aktuar@vis.ethz.ch) until end of November 2024.)

**Can you do a short introduction of yourself?**

Hello, my name is Elias. I'm a first-semester master student with a knack for cooking.

**What do you do at VIS?**

I'm the head of External Relation. In this role, I organize industry talks and office visits during the semester and assist other committees with getting sponsors for their endeavours.

**What do you enjoy the most at VIS?**

The camaraderie. VIS brings together different people who all aim to do something meaningful for their peers. We're all juggling assignments inside and outside VIS, but in the end, it's rewarding, and we have a great time.

**What was your favourite lecture and why?**

Information Retrieval. It was well-structured, easy to follow, with thoughtful exercises. The lecturer, Professor Fourny, is also just a genuinely nice person, making it a refreshing experience overall.

**If you could only choose one between beer, mate, coffee and tea to consume for the rest of your life, which one would you pick?**

I'm definitely a tea person. Mate is interesting but lacks versatility. Coffee is useful, but I don't enjoy it as much, and beer is just one tool for getting drunk.



*Elias Ruff,  
External Relations*

**If you could have dinner with any person, dead or alive, who would it be?**

I think Kafka would be a fascinating choice. No matter how the dinner goes, it would be an unforgettable experience.

**Which female person inspires you the most?**

I don't think I have a definitive answer for that, but I recently watched a talk by Molly White at XOXO fest, in which she spoke about how users can reclaim the web from the enshittified platforms we're all overusing, and I found her perspective inspiring.



# Nice weather, huh?

DR. AKEMI NARINDAL-AOKI, SENIOR CONTENT MANAGER, METEOMATICS AG

*We're Meteomatics and we love ETH. In fact, there's at least one ETH alumnus or alumna on each team (well, ~~except for marketing, HR, finance, and sales, but all the other teams are covered, I swear~~). Are you our next hire?*

What comes to mind when you think about weather forecasting? Most people picture meteorologists on TV or the apps they check before heading out. But behind those forecasts lies an overwhelming amount of data and some seriously complex software engineering challenges. Predicting nature's wild mood swings? Not exactly easy.

Ground weather stations, weather balloons, radar, and satellites have been doing a fantastic job gathering data for decades, but we need more than what they can give. In 2012, Dr. Martin Fengler had a breakthrough: drones could fill this data gap.

And that's how Meteomatics—and the first Meteodrones—were born.



Twelve years later, every time a Meteodrone flies (up to 6 km high!), it collects data that improve forecast accuracy for businesses and organizations around the world. Meteodrones weren't just another idea—they were a great idea. So great that, next year, Norway will launch the world's first nationwide Meteodrone network to improve their national weather forecasts.



But Meteomatics isn't just about the hardware—it's about the software too. It doesn't matter how much data you collect if you don't have a system that can process it. That's where our API comes in. It crunches humongous (!!!) amounts of data from just about every available source in real-time, delivering the most accurate, actionable forecasts to our clients.

We've also developed weather models with an impressive 1 km spatial resolution. What does that mean? It means we wrote **over a million lines of code** to pinpoint weather patterns with an unmatched level of detail.

Meteomatics isn't your typical weather company. We're a mix of engineers, meteorologists, and innovators who love solving tough problems. Hopefully, it's clear by now that we thrive on bringing new ideas into the world, doing things no one else can. Whether it's developing the software that controls our Meteodrones or building algorithms that turn raw data into precise forecasts, we're always working on exciting projects.

But don't just take my word for it. Hear directly from Christian Schluchter, our CTO and an ETH alumnus, who has been part of the Meteomatics journey from the start:

"At ETH, I had the unique opportunity to work on a team building a drone autopilot from scratch. The Pixhawk autopilot succeeded in international competitions and later evolved into a commercial project, now controlling UAVs all around the globe. When I first read about Meteomatics, I couldn't believe that a company in Switzerland was simultaneously building drones and making weather forecasts, two things that seemed so unrelated. But it quickly became clear to me that weather forecasting involves an immense amount of

observational data, and that drones were the next frontier in atmospheric data gathering. On top of that, weather modeling requires huge computational power and presents some of the most challenging software engineering problems. I had no choice but to apply! Now, almost 10 years later at Meteomatics, we are commercially using the very same technology I helped build as a student at ETH. What began as a seemingly insignificant student project developed into critical software that enables our Meteodrones to fly higher than I ever thought possible, providing essential data to improve weather forecasts globally, through what has evolved into an unprecedented weather intelligence platform. I could not have imagined a better career path."



Whether you're passionate about drones, software engineering, or data science, there's a place for you here. Take a look at our open job positions and reach out:

[careers.meteomatics.com](https://careers.meteomatics.com)



# Policy Based Access Control

JOHAN STETTLER - GOT COMPLAINS THAT I ONLY DO STUPID RANKINGS AND NEVER CS RELEVANT ARTICLES

A very important topic in security, and in computer science in general, is access control. I work now for 2 years in the industry as a professional software engineer, and access control is one of my daily topics I have to deal with. Most people are familiar with the concept of role based access control. This concept is also taught in most courses, but beyond this, there is hardly any talk about the other 2 paradigms (or at least I never had a course covering this, there might be one).

In my own interpretation, access control is a systematic way to ensure that only certain people with certain rights or responsibilities can access or do certain things in a system. The simplest example I can think of is a database hosted on a server.

Specific users should only access the data necessary for their roles. Additionally, only authorized personnel should be allowed to modify tables, particularly for tasks like writing joins. It's also important to restrict data deletion privileges to prevent accidental or unauthorized data loss. This is not only a security concern, such that an attacker cannot do shit without the right access, but also prevent the ml-engineer writing horrible and not performant joins. Hence, we require access control. It also enables us to blame the right person, as the set of suspects is also smaller.

The simplest way to implement this is with Role-Based Access Control (RBAC). For the server, I propose the following roles:

- Admins: These users can update and maintain the server and assign roles to others.
- Contributors: These users can write joins and make other modifications.
- Readers: These users can only read data and perform SELECT queries.



If I need access to a specific table, I can request the necessary permissions. Upon approval, I can perform the tasks required for my role. This approach is straightforward but does have some limitations.

One limitation of Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) is scheduling restrictions. For instance, server updates should occur between 22:00 and 04:00 to avoid disruptions and align with my student sleeping hours. Trusting admins to follow this schedule is risky, so we need an "admin by night" role. However, constantly assigning and revoking this role is cumbersome, as again, you have the right to do things or not, because there is no attribute check for time in RBAC.



Attribute-Based Access Control (ABAC) offers a solution by adding rules to roles. With ABAC, admins can automatically gain server-update-privileges during specified hours without the need of an extra role. Using your geolocation data also allows us now to only grant you access to sensible data, if the country you are in has the right data-protection-laws (kinda ironic, I know).



Policy-based access control (PBAC) and attribute-based access control (ABAC) are same same, but different. They share the goal of reducing the number of roles to a few flexible ones, but they differ in policy definition and use of attributes. PBAC bases policies on user roles, job functions, and organizational requirements, while ABAC uses a wide range of attributes like user identity, resource attributes, and context.

Although both approaches add complexity, RBAC remains more common due to its simplicity. You either have the rights or not is just easier to grasp, opposed to wait until the planets align for you to be able to push your code.

But still, PBAC and ABAC are used. Netflix [1] and AWS [2] are a few examples using these paradigms. Now you know about PBAC and are ready to shine at your next nerd gathering to talk shit about peasants only knowing role based access control.

[1] <https://authzed.com/blog/abac-on-spicedb-enabling-netflix-complex-identity-types>

[2] <https://docs.aws.amazon.com/singlesignon/latest/userguide/abac.html>



# The Golden Whore of Babylon

Hello Upper Visiders, do you know the definition of insanity? As one famous definition goes, the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results each time. So why am I asking this and then answering the question myself? It's because insanity is the best way to describe the experience of following Serena van der Woodsen, the quasi-main character of *Gossip Girl*, FOR SIX GODDAMN SEASONS. This article was written with the sole purpose of demonstrating the sheer agony of watching Van der Floozy fumble through the same conflict (à la: You can copy my homework, but just change it up a bit so it isn't so obvious-) for six seasons straight, repeatedly making the same mistake and being shocked by the outcome every single time. Enough stalling, let's get this over with.

Serena Celia van der Woodsen, was born on July 14, 1991, not only making her a cancer in star sign, but also a cancer to every person in her orbit. The Upper East Sides' It Girl is not only the daughter of William van der Woodsen, a wealthy and successful doctor, but also Lily van der Woodsen a former groupie turned full-time socialite MILF. Her family background reeks of unlimited privilege, stemming from being part of an Old Money family that is deeply entrenched in New York's elite society. You might think growing up in one of New York's wealthiest families would be the easiest thing ever, but no, she had the (hold on to your seats) complete and utter misfortune of growing up FATHERLESS, due to her parents divorcing.

This is not so subtle foreshadowing to the sheer amount of fatherless behavior she displays throughout the entire series.

Serena van der Woodsen, the Upper East Side's golden girl, is basically the poster child for "effortless beauty" with zero effort in anything else. She gets everything handed to her on a silver platter, like going to YALE of all places, all to spite her best friend Blair. (Oh, by the way, she missed more classes than actually attended in her final year of high school) Speaking of best friends, Serena has a PhD in being a terrible one, which is the only PhD she'll probably ever get. Blair might be Queen Bee, but Serena is the girl who swoops in and steals the crown, the spotlight, and, oh yeah, Blair's boyfriend—more than once. Yes, SHE ACTUALLY DID THE HANKY PANKY WITH HER BEST FRIENDS AT THE TIME BOYFRIEND, LIKE BROTHER EUGH. If there is one thing you never EVER do as a girl bestie, it is to fuck your bestie's boyfriend. If you somehow develop feelings for them, you either talk about it like adults or you put it away in the deepest darkest corner of your brain, where it will never resurface, just like the knowledge to actually solve Analysis 1 exercises. Her friendship with Blair is built on a shaky foundation of rivalry, jealousy, and Serena's constant need to be the center of attention, whether she admits it or not.

For someone who seemingly has it all, such as looks, money, and a closet bigger than the Ovis, she sure has a knack for making a mess out of her life. Her biggest flaw?



A near-supernatural ability to self-sabotage. A perfect example is the time when she got together with Nate, Blair's ex, and planned a surprise party for him. She pretended to forget about his birthday in the nastiest way possible, which only allowed for Jenny, who has had a crush on Nate, to swoop in and kiss his man-whorish ass. She then, instead of clearing up this misunderstanding, proceeded to drive off with another one of her exes (who was arguably just helping her find her Dad), without clearing up any misunderstandings.

Additionally, Serena is chronically indecisive. Whether it's about relationships, career choices, or her current moral standings, she can't stick to anything for longer than a TikTok. If you gave Serena a map and a GPS, she'd still find a way to get lost. For six seasons straight, she jumps from I have feelings for Dan to actually-no-never-mind. Her mind is somehow only ever made up when Dan is with another girl. Then there's her victim complex. Serena is forever shocked when her poor choices blow up in her face, which she is very familiar with (in another sense as well). Instead of taking responsibility for her messes (which includes getting her mom into jail and accidentally sabotaging her friends on multiple occasions), usually created by never telling anyone what her plans are. She's instead busy giving the: "I'm just trying to be a better person" speech... for the hundredth time. Truly the peak of spoiled brat behavior, expecting everything to be resolved for her and if it's not, she'll just pull out her iconic: "I gotta go." line and just runs away and lets her family name protect her from actual consequences.

What hurts me the most, even more than discrete mathematics, is that the writers are seemingly aware of this. There were moments of lucidity where Serena mentions her repeatedly terrible-romantic choices that include a married politician, a CEO of a vitamin company with a stepdaughter ONLY A FEW YEARS YOUNGER THAN HER, her stepbrother Dan (yes, yes... insert all the Pornhub memes you can think of) and many MANY more. Another good moment was when after chasing her dad's trail for an entire summer and finding his locations, she leaves him a message where she says that she was hoping that he would like to get to know her one day, but now she is the one who doesn't want to get to know him. The writers then proceed to give the viewer the biggest middle finger ever with what happens later.

Ah, Serena and her eternal Daddy Issues saga, a plot line that never fails to deliver a rollercoaster of melodrama, worse than any Turkish soap opera. Sure, most dads miss the occasional dance recital, but Serena's dad? He took "I'm going out for milk" to a whole new level, like, several international flights and a couple of decades later. When he finally waltzes back into the Upper East Side, he claims that he's back to make amends, but surprise! He's really using his own daughter as a pawn in some convoluted scheme to win back Lily, Serena's mother.

And Serena? Oh, she falls for it, hook, line, and daddy-sized sinker. Because who wouldn't want to believe that the guy who ghosted your entire childhood is suddenly going to be the father you always dreamed of? Never mind that his interest in Serena seems to peak when he needs something—whether it's medical favors, secrets, or to flex his world-saving-doctor persona.

Daddy dearest never sticks around long enough to actually, you know, parent. Serena's blind loyalty to her father not only sabotages her trust with her family, but also bleeds into her other relationships, making her susceptible to other toxic people. Every time she thinks he'll change, she sets herself up for yet another glamorous, Upper East Side heartbreak – all while maintaining that

Serena glow, of course.

In the end, Serena's biggest flaw might just be her inability to learn from her mistakes. She's stuck in a never-ending cycle of bad decisions, glittery drama, and the belief that saying "sorry" is the ultimate fix. But hey, at least she looks good while doing it.

-xoxo Govis Girl

## Celebrating Quiet Leadership

PASCAL STREBEL - MAY NOT BE THE BEST AT LISTENING MORE THAN SPEAKING, BUT IS LEARNING

In a world that often celebrates loud and extroverted forms of leadership, it is easy to forget that quiet leaders are just as powerful, impactful, and necessary. The "girlboss" culture tends to glorify women who are bold, outspoken, and commanding, but leadership is not one-size-fits-all. Some of the most impactful leaders are those who lead quietly, with patience, empathy, and humility.

Quiet leaders often lead by example rather than through grand gestures. They may not dominate conversations or command attention in the same way their extroverted counterparts do, but their influence is felt through their actions, consistency, and strong moral compass.

Their strength lies in patience and reflection, qualities that enable them to make thoughtful decisions. Instead of seeking personal recognition, quiet leaders often prioritize the success and well-being of their team, understanding that authentic leadership is about lifting others up.

Consider Björn, the beloved quiet leader plushy of VIS. Björn embodies a calm, constant presence, quietly observing everything that goes on in the oVIS. He never hijacks meetings with irrelevant questions or feels the need to shout his opinions in every discussion. Instead, he is just there — available for a cuddle when things get stressful, offering silent support.

Björn's style of leadership reflects the kind of steady, dependable leadership that can go unnoticed but is critical in creating a balanced, harmonious environment. Sometimes, we could all use a little more of Björn's approach.

Quiet leadership is about more than just staying calm. It is about listening more than you speak, supporting others, and knowing when to step back and let others shine. It is also about embracing vulnerability. Our generation, for all its complexities, is often more comfortable admitting mistakes than our parents were, and that is an important part of leadership. Owning up to mistakes, rather than pretending to have it all figured out, creates a culture of trust and openness. In today's fast-paced, hyper-connected world, it is refreshing to see leaders — whether in the workplace, at university, or in personal circles — who can say *"I was wrong"* without losing credibility. Quiet leaders do not just celebrate the wins; they acknowledge the lessons that come from setbacks, making them even more effective in the long run.

This principle applies to everyone, not just women. At times, quiet confidence can be more powerful than succumbing to the urge to manifest power actively. By stepping back, listening, and providing thoughtful contributions rather than forcing your opinion on others, you allow for better collaboration and more considered decision-making. Do not underestimate the power of self-regulation. If you are the type to send an all-caps email demanding attention, sometimes all it takes is a moment to pause and reflect before diving in.

Maybe even sip that coffee spiked with booze from your drawer before letting yourself derail the conversation.

And, by the way, quiet leadership also means you do not need to humble-brag every small win on LinkedIn. Sure, it is nice to share your achievements with the world, but you do not have to shout about every small success to feel validated. True leaders let their work speak for itself, focusing on meaningful connections and contributions instead of the performative side of success. After all, leadership is less about who notices you online and more about the real impact you are making offline.

As we celebrate the girlboss in all her forms, it is crucial to remember that there is no single way to lead. In a world where noise often drowns out quieter voices, it is time we recognize and uplift those whose leadership may be less visible but no less transformative, infused with a bit of quiet cuddly Björn energy.



# girlboss level yap

GIGI YURP - \*ABSOLUTELY NO AFFILIATION WITH BIG YAP™ WHATSOEVER

**Have you ever wondered, what goes on inside the head of a professional girlboss? How do they get their hair so shiny? Why don't they drink enough water? Is this really worth my five-minute read? In this article, we explore a range of topics abstractly associated with the aforementioned concepts and investigate a basis of reasoning hypothesized to entail the secret to it all.**

It was a dark and stormy night; on a whim, some wretched crumb of serotonin must have docked the wrong synapse of this poor author's brain to hit them with inspiration, the force of a thousand suns. Yapping. What glorious purpose in an age of apathy towards anything and everything, only consuming superficial garbage sold to you by doomscroll inc.

Urban Dictionary defines yapping as "The act of speaking without discretion at length to an uninterested audience, resulting in discomfort, annoyance, and/or discontent." Personally, I define it as many things. Yapping, in essence, is talking for talking's sake. It is, addressing everyone whilst speaking to nobody.

There is a plethora of examples that could be given, for instance boilerplate code gives yapping. Or the proof that  $1+1=2$  (like, come on). What we would really like to get to the bottom of, however, is the (arguably somewhat contrived) subject of girlboss level yap.

Girlboss can mean many things. In the context of this definition, we will consider it as the state of mind often associated with terms like "slay" and "queen". Note that, although this interpretation is present in popular media, for our purposes we connote no derogatory insinuation.

The reader might ask themselves what exactly is it that you're reading right now? And the answer is, it's not clear. In fact, one might say that this article won't make a significant contribution to the expansion of anyone's horizon. But that would be wrong. Yapping, or as it's regularly falsely reduced to "bullshitting", is an integral part of the daily life of someone with the exaggerated swagger of a person that can get the old family printer to work. Thus, understanding its intricate details proves to be an extraordinary and rewarding feat to accomplish.

When we say that something “is girlboss”, we mean that it is of the energy that is associated with this way of being, self-love as the utmost importance and yassification as the driving force of mind, body and soul. It must be said that sometimes, yapping can actually take on quite an oxymoronic form, whereas the yapper eventually raps, i.e. speaks with such succinctness, such poignancy and precision, that all those involuntary listeners are simply taken aback. It’s what comes closest to witnessing magic in terms of surprise factor. A term more familiar to the older generation, being somewhat equivalent, might be speaking in tongue.

Then, we can draw the conclusion that girlboss level yap is simply what this article strove after. Not really influential, but some good stuff. Not at all worth its meaning in swath of words, but not a complete waste either. We all have some friends that are mighty yappers and in awe of their talents to produce nonsense that ends up better than thought, this is in dedication to them. Maybe someone you know that suffers from this cursed blessing appreciates the acknowledgement that what they do matters. Talking for talking’s sake.



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# How to Girlboss in CS 101

SASHA FESILE

**DISCLAIMER: This article was written by a guy. This is just his opinion, and by no means does he know what it means to be a woman in CS. Therefore, view this as a piece of text that tries to be of any help.**

Computer science is a field of science that is dominated by men. It is hard for a woman to make a name for herself in it. However, this was not the case in the early days of the discipline: Ada Lovelace designed the first algorithm that was intended to be executed by an algorithm, Grace Hopper was the first to design a compiler for a programming language, and many more women contributed greatly in the early days of computer science. Additionally, during WW2, programming was considered a woman's job. This changed when the importance of the discipline grew in the 60s. Men started to push the women aside and took over computer science. Now, it is time for the current women in computer science to rise again. In this article, I will try to give you some tips on how to be a girl boss in CS. So, sit back, relax, grab a glass of wine and some snacks, and enjoy.

The most important trait of a girlboss is **confidence**.

Starting today, you will have to believe in yourself. Let me tell you why confidence is so important. First off, when you are confident in yourself, you start getting the credit **you** deserve. Why, you ask? Because **you** will have done tasks that make you feel special. When you are confident, you also start being more open-minded, more ready to pivot and change, because **you** know that you are an amazing person, and nothing can bring you down.

Girl, if you are wondering how you get more confident, I got you. If you are not happy about your appearance, do whatever makes **you** feel sexy, and let no one take this feeling away from you. If you feel like your code is not good, or you do not know how to code, remember that at least 70% of the people around you feel the same. Just start coding on simple exercises, ask around you if you are stuck, and only compare your results with previous projects you did. You will soon realize that you are progressing. Additionally, confidence comes from within yourself. Be it working on your character or

setting boundaries, take the steps that make you feel like the person you always wanted to be. This will require a lot of thinking: Sit down, take 30 minutes of your time, and start thinking about yourself. Write down everything that is in your mind and would help you achieve to be the woman you ever wanted to be.

I would like to end this point by saying that working on confidence is a long process. It's not a "tomorrow I'll wake up and be confident" thing, but one that requires lots of time and effort on your part. I highly suggest you start working on your confidence starting today, because girl bosses are confident wherever they are.

If you ever felt overwhelmed by the amount of stuff you had to do, or you are just in a lazy slump at the moment, you should apply this trait to yourself. A girl boss is **never** stressed, overwhelmed, or lazy. She has everything scheduled up in a calendar, be it online or in an agenda. She does this because she knows how **valuable** her own time is.

Girlbosses strictly follow their routine: they do not just meet friends at any time, but they

schedule it, all while respecting their schedule. If it does not fit, they just gently tell her friends that it does not work and schedule it for a later day. They also schedule **time for themselves**, which is their most holy time. No one can interrupt their peace during this moment, and they make this very clear to their entire entourage.

I will give you an example: Imagine a girl boss is taking her daily off hour at home, making herself comfortable. Suddenly, she gets a call from her workplace, saying that she should fix a bug immediately. Girlboss politely refuses and says that she will work on it later on, which will be on her next scheduled work hour.

For you, this means you need to start being on top of your stuff. All your coding assignments need to be planned and started early enough. Only working on the deadline of your Eprog bonus exercise. That exercise should better be done the day before the deadline. I also know that no routine and schedule can be strictly followed. However, you need to figure out which parts can be moved around, and which cannot. As a rule of thumb, time for yourself as well as one to two

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meetings with friends per week should be fixed, as well as the work time on assignments with a due date.

If you have ever seen a girl boss in real life, you know they look stunning and proper. The girlboss is not the girl who puts a huge importance on her looks. The girlboss just looks **effortlessly** beautiful. This is all a result of her hygiene routine, for which she does not spend hours every day.

Now, I know that computer scientists have a bad reputation for not taking showers and caring less about their hygiene. However, it does not mean that all computer scientists are like that. Now, let me give you an example of a hygienic routine: First, doing face care twice a day, like in the morning and the evening, will do wonders for you. Suddenly, all the wrinkles and pores are gone, and you look fresh. Then, daily showers are also a must. Why? Even if you sit down all day, you sweat. A small tip from my part, start wearing your signature perfume. This will make it so that people will start to recognize you just from the smell alone, and whenever they smell something similar, they will think of you. This creates a lasting impression on everyone that you meet.

Lastly, on this topic, do not, at any point in time, forget to sleep **at least** 8 hours. All the dark circles under your eyes will vanish, and you will feel like you have more energy to use during the day. The last and one of the most important traits of a girlboss is their **energy management**. Do not put your **time** or energy in the wrong places. Be it your friends, your relationship, your work, or anything that you do.

Girlbosses value their time and energy, as those are the most precious resources they have.

They do not waste their time on all the gossip, the tea, the drama, and whatnot. Why? It is to protect their mental health and wellbeing. They just **do not care** about all the external things, because these things should not affect their lives. If someone has an opinion about a girl boss that she does not agree with, she says “I don’t care” and just moves on. If there is gossip about them, girl bosses just ignore it. The reason is **they** know what they did, and they know that if they start caring about the gossip, they will lose themselves.

Now, if you do not know how you should do this, here are some steps that might help you. First, remove all the friends in your life that drain your energy away, and do not push you up. Do not just abruptly cut off contact. Give them the reason you do not want them in your life any more. Why, because you are very demure, and all of your actions have clear reasons. After that, surround yourself with friends that are empowering and of high value to you. Make also sure that they practice discretion, meaning everything that is discussed in the friend group stays in the friend group. You will realize that life is not that hard when you have people always by your side who cheer you on and pick you up when you fall.

So, those were my tips for you on how to girlboss in CS. It should help you build a solid foundation for your future career. I hope your journey in this discipline will be a good one. Stay true to who you are, and enjoy your studies to the fullest. ■



# My Germany Trauma

HOW I STARTED TO HATE GERMANY IN A SINGLE DAY

I have always been happy with our little neighbour country. Sure, they have historically been horrible neighbours to others, but in recent times they have stood out to me with their McDonald's. Whenever I go to Bad Zurzach with my friend to cleanse our minds of non-physical filth, we fill our bellies with physical filth, as the prices there are so cheap, and you don't have to pay extra for sauce [1]. This has not a single time ended with me not having a stomach ache for the next 48 hours, but the 30 minutes of engulfing myself in unhealthy pastries without regret make it worth the price (being congested). Not to consider the dehydration of being in the sauna for way too long, which surely helps the situation.

Anyway, this is what I would call a great experience. The bar is low. And yet Germany has managed to use that bar to play a game of limbo in roughly eight hours. So, to recap: I went to Denmark with a few friends. Sadly, Switzerland and Denmark are only indirectly connected with each other via Germany, forcing us to trespass that unholy biome. Entering Germany was not difficult, but as soon as we hit the road, a warning light lit up at our steering wheel[2]. It took us a while to fix the tire pressure issue, which we blame is due to faulty sensors and

stupid software. Our journey continued for not so long until we saw a foretelling sign on the Autobahn: "Achtung Strassenschäden". Followed by some Strassenschäden. And with no Baustelle in Sicht who could fix them Strassenschäden.

I mean, I'm Italian, so I get the idea of seeing a problem and then ignoring it. But seeing the →



issue, posting a sign and then leaving it to rot forever just seems a bit aggressive. Why would you do that? At least this explains why Germans have so well-built cars: we would too if our streets just sucked.

Moving on, we went farther north. The middle part of this country was rather uneventful (aside from one Burger King we entered), and the landscape was lovely. However, even before we saw the northern borders, we went astray: While my friend was sleeping, I had to take an important Y-thing decision [3] and ended up driving us into Hannover. Aside from seeing German cities wayyyy closer than necessary (I'm sorry, but I too would be angry if I lived there), there was also a large event during our visit: Some kind of techno-demo. This of course had no good impact on traffic in the city, but we got to sightsee some pyros and some mysterious smoke (from a distance, tho). Of course, while we were in the most congested Stau ever, there was an emergency vehicle which had to go through all this, requiring me to make some painful maneuvers, completely removing my nerves I had left in that city.

Luckily, after Hannover we were able to leave Germany for the better (Denmark), which was indeed beautiful and pleasant to be in. Lots of roadkill there for some reason thou :/. The ride back was rather uneventful but equally unpleasant as the first one. I thank my friends for letting me survive this experience.

[1] ARGH HOW CAN IT BE THAT I HAVE TO PAY FOR SOME SAUCE? DRY FRIES SHOULD BE ILLEGAL

[2] Granted, this had nothing to do with Germany, but we already have a Sündenbock here so why not blame it on her?

[3] Whatever you call these Kreuzungen on the Autobahn

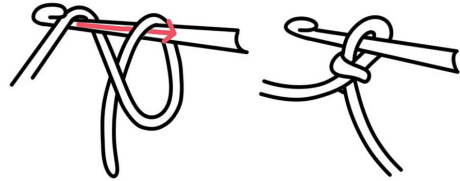


Fig.1: slip stitch example

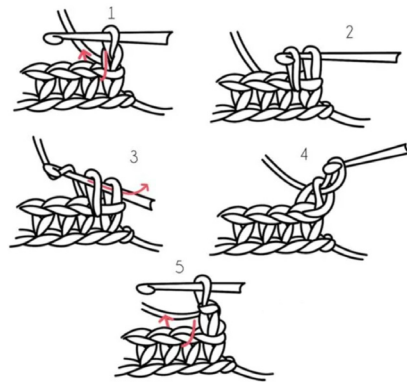


Fig.2: single crochet

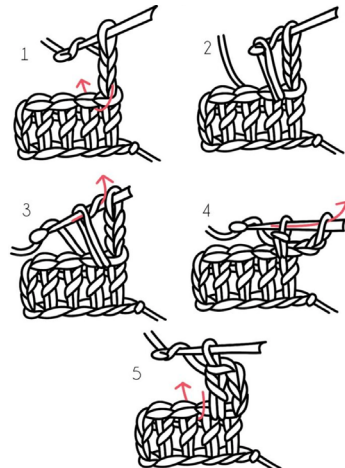


Fig.3: double crochet

# Crochet Your Own Björn Hand Warmers – Beginner Friendly

SELO – LOVES WHITE YARN

It's that time of year again: the first frosts, shorter daylight hours, and bare branches as most trees shed their leaves. We spend more time indoors, enjoying activities like reading by the fire, sipping warm beverages, and embracing a cosy atmosphere.

The transition from autumn to winter has always been one of my favourite times of the year, with one exception: my hands are always freezing while sitting in front of the computer for hours. While it's easy to wear thicker clothes, keeping my hands warm with gloves is trickier, especially since I don't like many fingerless gloves that constrict the fingers. Recently, I stumbled upon a video where someone crocheted her own hand warmers, which looked much more appealing than the fingerless gloves available on eBay. As a craft lover, I decided to try it out myself with a personalized Björn design and this is how I did it.

## You Need:

- White and black yarn (I recommend the “medium” type)
- A crochet hook (4.5 – 5.5 mm)
- A needle for sewing Björn's face
- Safety pins

## Bottom Ribbing

This part of the glove creates a snug fit around the wrist, preventing cold air from entering. It also adds stretch and flexibility for easier movement.

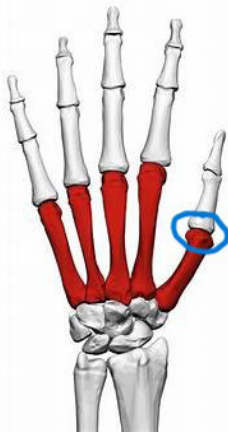
We'll start with our white yarn. The first step in crocheting is to create a slip knot, which forms the initial loop on your crochet hook. (*see Fig. 1*) Once your slip knot is ready, begin chaining stitches to start your project. Make as many chain stitches as you want the length of your bottom ribbing to be; for example, I did 10. From now on, every time you finish a row, you must crochet one extra chain. This means I crocheted a total of 11 chain stitches.

Now, the actual crochet part begins. For the entire bottom ribbing, we will use the single crochet stitch (*see Fig.2*).

→

Leave out the 11th chain stitch you just made and do your first single crochet in the 10th chain stitch. Crochet back to the first chain stitch. In every row, you should always do the same number of stitches; in my case, that's 10. Before starting your second row, remember to chain one more stitch and leave that stitch out when you start the second row. We always add extra stitches when not crocheting in a cycle.

Continue crocheting until you achieve the desired width for your wrist. I completed 35 rows. When finished, crochet the endings together using the same yarn without cutting it, simply stitching between the corresponding two stitches from the start and endpoint, pulling the loop through both. You don't need to cut the yarn just yet.



**Fig.4: metacarpal bone**  
(in blue: head of metacarpal bone)

### Main Body

For the main part, we will use the double crochet pattern (see Fig.3). Take your bottom ribbing, which has a cylindrical form, and continue to crochet on top of it with the new pattern. Treat each row made in the bottom ribbing as a new stitch. In my project, I did 35 stitches. When you finish the first row, connect the last stitch of this row with the first stitch by pulling a loop through both. Since we are doing double crochets, we now need to chain two extra stitches. In this part, we don't leave out any stitches at the beginning of the row. Crochet as many rounds as needed until you reach the head of the metacarpal bone of your thumb. (see Fig.4)

To allow for thumb movement, we need a hole in our gloves. Put on your gloves to determine where this hole should be and how large it needs to be.



**Fig.5: legend**



**Fig.6: end product**

You'll notice a line that stands out, marking where you finish one row and start another. Ensure this line is in the palm of your hand. Wrap your project around your thumb and decide the size of the hole; for me, it was 8 stitches, which I marked with safety pins.

Now, crochet your next row, leaving out the 8 marked stitches, using the two marked stitches as the start and endpoint of your row. We will crochet two rows without closing the round, so don't forget to chain two extra stitches at the end of each row and leave those two chains out when starting a new row.

After these two special rows, remove the safety pins and continue crocheting as before. In the first row after the second special row, when you reach the hole, simply crochet 8 extra chain stitches to maintain the same stitch count as before. Continue this process until you reach the desired height of the gloves.

### Stitching Björn's Face onto the Wrist

#### Warmer

For the final part, we need the black yarn.

For Björn's eyes, chain 1 (+1 extra) and make 5 single crochets into the first stitch. After finishing, knot well and cut the yarn. We need 4 pieces from this pattern.

For his mouth and nose, use the same pattern: chain 4 (+1 extra) and complete one row of single crochets. Again, we need 4 pieces from this pattern.

To finish off the project, sew the pieces onto the desired places on the gloves. Pin them with safety pins, then turn your gloves inside out to sew.

#### Important Sidenotes:

Always count your stitches! Especially for beginners, it can be tricky to maintain the same stitch count in every row.

For the entire project, use yarn of the same thickness to ensure a consistent pattern.

You'll probably want to crochet two gloves. Keep in mind that the second one should mirror the first.

Don't get frustrated if you reach the end of a row and realize you've done one stitch more or less than you should have. As long as it's only one or two stitches, you don't need to unravel the whole row. You can easily make a stitch appear or disappear at the end. I had to do that too once!

#### Conclusion:

**Difficulty Level:** This project is super easy and perfect for beginners, but it can also be a lot of fun for advanced crocheters.

**Time Expenditure:** As an advanced crocheter, it took me about 2 hours to make both gloves. As a complete beginner, expect approximately 4-5 hours.

**Common Use:** The gloves turned out to be much more useful than I expected! I wear them most of the time while studying because they keep my hands warm and are comfortable at the same time.

**Cost:** Crocheting can be therapeutic, so you may save money that you might otherwise spend on therapy. Plus, yarn and a crochet hook cost no more than a meal at the Polyterrasse.



# Girl Boss Movies

COWRITTEN BY JOHAN STETTLER - NEITHER A GIRL, NOR A BOSS  
CHATGPT DID DO THE REST.

I'm a passionate movie lover and could spend hours discussing films in great detail. The artistry behind crafting cinematic masterpieces is truly remarkable. From the intricate writing and compelling performances to the manual construction of practical effects that bring stunning visuals to life, every element plays a vital role. Over the past 15 years, I've immersed myself in these art forms as a devoted fan, and in that time, I've watched 1,057 films. I've seen a lot of extraordinary work and continue to be amazed by the creativity and craftsmanship that go into making great films. And now, as a member of VISIONEN, I am obliged to contribute this issue themed "Girl Boss." One common complaint I often hear is that there aren't many strong movies with female leads. While I don't have much else to write at the moment, I'm compiling a list of films that not only feature powerful female protagonists, but are also genuinely excellent movies in their own right.

## **The Iron Lady (2011)**

This biographical drama focuses on Margaret Thatcher, portrayed by Meryl Streep, the first female British Prime Minister. The film shows her journey from humble beginnings to her rise to power, with a strong emphasis on her leadership, decisions during her time in office, and personal reflections in her later years. Streep embodies Thatcher as a fiercely determined and tough leader who must also deal with the challenges of ageing and loss, blending Thatcher's iconic political persona with her private vulnerabilities.



### **Atomic Blonde (2017)**

Set during the Cold War, this action-packed thriller follows MI6 agent Lorraine Broughton, played by Charlize Theron, as she is sent to Berlin to investigate the murder of a colleague and recover a list of double agents. The film is filled with espionage, stylish fight scenes, and intrigue. Theron delivers a dynamic portrayal of Broughton, a highly skilled, ruthless, and resourceful spy who balances cold detachment with moments of vulnerability, making her a complex and powerful action heroine.



### **Molly's Game (2017)**

This biographical drama tells the story of Molly Bloom, portrayed by Jessica Chastain, a former Olympic-class skier who runs an exclusive, high-stakes poker game for celebrities and mobsters. The film follows her rise and eventual legal troubles as her underground empire is exposed. Chastain's performance is sharp and commanding, portraying Molly as a highly intelligent, resilient, and morally complex woman navigating the dangerous world of illegal gambling.



### **Mean Girls (2004)**

This teen comedy centres on Cady Heron, played by Lindsay Lohan, who transitions from being homeschooled in Africa to the social hierarchies of an American high school. As she befriends the "Plastics," a clique of popular girls, she finds herself caught in the drama of teenage social politics. Lohan brings warmth and humour to Cady, who starts as an innocent outsider but gradually loses herself in the manipulative world of high school cliques, only to rediscover her true self by the end.

### **Joy (2015)**

"Joy" is the story of Joy Mangano, played by Jennifer Lawrence, a single mother who invents the Miracle Mop and becomes a successful entrepreneur despite numerous obstacles. The film chronicles her struggles with financial difficulties and family conflicts while she strives to build her business. Lawrence delivers a performance full of determination and warmth, showing Joy's tenacity and inventiveness as she overcomes personal and professional challenges to achieve her dream. →



### **The Devil Wears Prada (2006)**

In this comedy-drama, aspiring journalist Andy Sachs, played by Anne Hathaway, becomes the assistant to Miranda Priestly, the powerful and demanding editor of a top fashion magazine. The film explores the trials of working under such a difficult boss and the personal sacrifices Andy makes for her career. Meryl Streep's portrayal of Miranda Priestly is icy and intimidating, capturing her as a ruthless and powerful figure in the fashion industry, while Hathaway's Andy transforms from a naïve newcomer to someone who learns the value of self-respect.

### **Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri (2017)**

This dark comedy-drama tells the story of Mildred Hayes, played again by Frances McDormand, a mother seeking justice for her daughter's unsolved murder by putting up provocative billboards targeting the local police. McDormand plays Mildred as a raw, determined, and deeply angry woman who refuses to back down, portraying her with both ferocity and a sense of deep sorrow as she confronts both the town and her own grief.

### **Alien (1979)**

In this sci-fi horror classic, the crew of a spaceship is hunted by a terrifying alien creature. Ellen Ripley, played by Sigourney Weaver, emerges as the film's protagonist and sole survivor. Weaver's portrayal of Ripley redefined the female action hero—Ripley is resourceful, intelligent, and resilient, standing out as a strong leader in a deadly situation, which solidified her place as one of the most iconic characters in sci-fi history.

### **Fargo (1996)**

This dark comedy-crime film follows Marge Gunderson, a pregnant police chief played by Frances McDormand, who investigates a series of murders in a small Minnesota town. The film combines grim crime with dry humor. McDormand's portrayal of Marge is iconic—she's smart, calm, and caring, a grounded and empathetic character who contrasts sharply with the chaos of the criminal world she investigates.



### **The Terminator (1984)**

This sci-fi action film centres on Sarah Connor, portrayed by Linda Hamilton, an ordinary waitress who becomes the target of a deadly cyborg assassin sent from the future. As she fights to survive, she learns that her unborn son is destined to lead a future human resistance against the machines. Hamilton plays Sarah as initially vulnerable, but transforms into a determined survivor, laying the groundwork for her evolution into one of the most iconic action heroines in later films.





# Unleash Your Inner Girl Boss

A LOVE LETTER TO EVERY FIERCE QUEEN OUT THERE - BY YULIA AVILOVA

Hey, babe! Sit tight because we're about to embark on a little journey, okay? I need you to grab a mirror, look straight into it, and realize that you're staring at absolute greatness. Yes, I'm talking to you. Don't act surprised — I know exactly what you're capable of, even when you doubt it for a second. You see, the world has this funny way of underestimating people like us. But here's the secret: you're not like the others. You're destined to break glass ceilings, shatter expectations, and slay your goals like the ultimate girl boss you are.

Now, I know life can sometimes feel like it's playing a never-ending game of Jenga with your spirit. You're out here, hustling, juggling, trying to hold it all together, and maybe — just maybe — someone's been whispering that you're not enough. Well, honey, let me tell you right now: that voice is cancelled. We're not even giving it a minute of airtime because we've got bigger, more fabulous things to focus on — like you and your unstoppable future.

## **Own Your Power, Darling!**

First thing's first: you've got power, and don't let anyone tell you otherwise. And I'm not talking about some cutesy, half-hearted, "maybe I can get by" kind of power.

No, I'm talking about that divine, undeniable, bossed-up energy that's simmering beneath your skin. You have the power to create, the power to say no, and, most importantly, the power to demand your seat at any table.

And if they don't have a seat for you? Sis, bring your own throne.

Here's the tea: the world might not always be ready for your fabulousness. But guess what? That's not your problem. You were born to shine, not to dim your light to make other people comfortable. Stop playing small for anyone's sake. Stop saying "yes" to things that don't serve your ultimate girl boss vision. You didn't come this far to settle, to shrink, to say, "Oh, this is good enough." No, queen. Good enough is not in your vocabulary anymore. →

### **The Hustle is Real, But So Are You**

Let's talk about the hustle for a minute because, girl, I know you're out here working. Late nights, early mornings, the grind — it's all part of the game. But there's a difference between grinding and burning out. You're not a robot, darling. You're a whole goddess, and even goddesses need to recharge.

So, yes, boss it up. But remember that rest isn't weakness. It's strategy. Beyoncé doesn't take a nap because she's lazy; she takes one because she knows she's about to drop the next world-shattering album. And that's you. You're gearing up for your next big moment. So, when you need to pause, pause with purpose. Use that time to reflect, refocus, and come back ready to conquer like the icon you are.

### **Failure? Never Heard of Her**

Oh, honey, let me tell you something. We do not fear failure in this house. Why? Because failure is nothing but a plot twist in the story of your success. Every single setback is setting you up for a major comeback. You don't fail; you learn, you pivot, and you elevate. That's just the nature of a girl boss.

If you've ever stumbled (and who hasn't?), know that it's not a reflection of your worth. It's a reminder that you're pushing limits, breaking molds, and daring to step outside the lines. In fact, if you're not failing sometimes, then, sis, you're not aiming high enough!

I want you out there doing the bold, scary, wild things because that's how we level up in this game. You've got resilience flowing through your veins, and no setback can stop a girl boss who's decided she's going to win. Period.

### **Confidence, Not Cockiness, Honey**

Let's talk about that confidence. I want you walking into every room as if you own it because, low-key? You do. Confidence is not arrogance — it's the quiet understanding that you're worth every opportunity you seek. It's knowing your value without needing anyone else's validation. The world has enough shrinking violets, and you, my love, were meant to stand tall, proud, and unbothered.

Confidence isn't just about how you look (although, yes, you look fire). It's about believing in your own capabilities, even when the rest of the world is sleeping on you.

Confidence says, "I'm here, and I'm ready to take up space," while knowing you've got the talent, the work ethic, and the vibes to back it all up.

So, when you walk into that classroom, that meeting, that life, I want you to straighten that crown and show them exactly who you are.

Don't wait for someone to give you permission to be great. Don't hold your breath hoping someone's going to recognize your worth. YOU recognize it, and you make sure everyone else gets the memo.

### **You Are Not an Option, You Are the Blueprint**

Sis, you are not someone's backup plan. You're not a last resort or a fallback. You are the blueprint, the standard, the main event. When people get to be in your orbit, they're blessed, okay? So don't you dare let anyone treat you like you're optional. In relationships, in friendships, in work — if they don't see your value, then that's on them. You were never meant to be tolerated; you were meant to be celebrated.

The day you stop waiting for others to validate you is the day you become unstoppable. Don't wait for them to clap. You can clap for your damn self. Don't wait for them to tell you you're doing great. You know you're doing great. And if someone doesn't appreciate your shine? Babe, hit them with a graceful exit because your energy is too precious to waste on anyone who can't handle it.

### **Surround Yourself with Queens**

Listen, sis, your circle matters. You need people around you who lift you up, not drag you down. You deserve friends who hype you up louder than your own thoughts when doubt starts creeping in. This life is not a solo mission — it's a girl gang, a sisterhood, a movement.

So, let go of anyone who isn't on the same vibe. You don't need negative energy in your orbit. You need queens. People who aren't intimidated by your glow but are inspired by it.

Trust me, the right people will never be threatened by your success; they'll be right there, rooting for you to win. And you deserve that — all day, every day.

### **The Future is Yours, Babes**

Let's make one thing crystal clear: there's no cap on what you can achieve. The future is as limitless as your dreams. If you can imagine it, you can build it. If you want it, go out and take it. I want you to stop thinking in terms of limitations and start thinking in terms of abundance. Everything you need to be great is already within you. It's just waiting for you to tap in.

So what's next? Where are you headed? I know wherever it is, it's going to be big. Like, "shut down the internet" big. You've got that main character energy, and the world is ready for you. But first, you need to believe it yourself. You need to claim it. Start speaking it into existence: "I am worthy of all the success coming my way. I am powerful. I am unstoppable. I am that girl."

Because, babe, you are. You're the CEO of your life, and there is nothing — I repeat, nothing — you can't achieve.

So go ahead, queen. Wear that crown. Walk in your power. Take what's yours. And don't you ever apologize for being this fabulous.

**Yassified and bossed up, forever and always.**



# Tram EM 2024

## NORA - OFFBOARDING THEMSELVES FROM VIS, BOARDING TRAMS

The weekend right before the semester starts may have given some the ultimate Sunday scaries, but I was blissfully unaware of ETH and in a tram induced haze. From 14-15th September 2024 the European Tram Driver Championship took place in Frankfurt am Main, more precisely at Willy-Brandt-Platz.

On an unassuming, less than 100m long stretch of tram track, the organizers positioned two trams, driving in opposite directions. Around the track, there were various booths selling merch, sparkling wine or offering entertainment for families. Behind the “arena” looms the giant euro sign of the European Central Bank and Frankfurt’s (more or less) impressive skyline.

While some of you may be sad that this is a competition of tram drivers and not trams themselves, the rest are asking: So what do tram drivers get competitive about?

Ringing their bell at cars? Locking the doors while you sprint to your connection? Waving at their colleagues from across an intersection?

In actuality, they competed in the following disciplines:

- Starting and stopping 3 times, spilling as little water as possible from a tank mounted to the front of their tram
- Setting the brakes once without adjusting in order to stop in a precise spot
- Tram-Billiards [1]
- Accelerating to 25 km/h without seeing the speedometer and executing an emergency stop in a precise spot
- Lining up the second door with markings on the sidewalk without a side mirror
- Memorizing 5 symbols placed around the track (in order!)



And of course this was all timed (most took around 3 to 5 minutes).

The competition format worked as follows:

Each discipline (+ time) can give up to 500 points. Cities compete with two drivers (usually a mixed gender team), one driver completes the course in the morning, the other in the afternoon, where the teams compete in order of increasing points. The drivers have had only minimal time to prepare and get used to the unfamiliar Frankfurt trams [2]. In view of this, I expected the Frankfurt team to crush it. Turns out, Luxembourg (having only one tram line which was established in 2017 [3]) placed above both Frankfurt (16th) and Zürich (18th). The winner of this year was Budapest.

As a sidenote: I found out that Frankfurt has a local celebrity going by “Bahnbabo” and took this amazing picture with him. He often drives on the route that goes to the football stadium [4] and even ran for mayor in 2023.

The weather was nice, leading to great attendance. I thought it would be mostly local families, but it turned out that there are other idiots that would travel to a city only to look at Tram-Billiards. Overall, the event attracted rail fans of all ages [5] and had a great community vibe.

For those of you who are sad they missed out, here’s a link to the archived livestream:



Next year’s competition will take place in Vienna (13.09.2025) and teams from all over the world will participate, leading to the rebranding “Tram WM”. Hit me up if you’ll be there!



[1] Yes, it’s exactly what you think it is: they slowly drive into a pool queue, carefully balanced on a stand and lined up with a ball

[2] Maybe I should have specified: they do not bring their own trams (in some cases like Zürich this would even be impossible as Zürich has meter gauge and Frankfurt has standard gauge tracks)

[3] They ripped out the original tram network in the 60s in favor of cars

[4] Most football-brained city I’ve been to... damn

[5] It was advertised as all ages, though I did spot someone in a “rail me daddy” shirt and the announcer accidentally swore a few times



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