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A cartoon illustration of a man with a large, prominent nose, dark hair, and a green V-neck shirt. He is making an 'OK' hand gesture with both hands. The background is a solid dark red color.

VISIONEN

Neat

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

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Editorial

Dobur den na vsi4ki 4itateli,

Das Jahr ist fertig, ein neues beginnt! Ich wünsche allen einen guten Rutsch, auch wenn ich damit drei Monate spät bin (immer noch schneller als der Bau des Zimmerberg II oder der zweiten Lötschbergbasistunnelröhre, weil der Bundesrat mal wieder die absolut falschen Prioritäten hat)

Weiter turbulent rutschen wir in den Frühling, wo Sonne und Wärme unseren Alltag wieder schöner machen.



Mit dieser Ausgabe haben wir uns von dem alten Konzept «Jeder kriegt Visionen» verabschiedet! Jetzt einfach unter abonnenten.vis.ethz.ch den Knopf drücken und schon hat man die beste Zeitschrift des Grossraums Zürich abonniert. Übrigens: Wir implementieren jetzt auch einen neuen Arbeitsprozess, also könnte ihr noch qualitativ hochwertigeren Journalismus in der Zukunft erwarten, mit weniger Fehlern (etwas was die 20 Minuten nicht erreichen kann) und noch besser recherchierten Artikeln (etwas die 20 Minuten nicht mal probieren).

For our English readers:

I'll simply translate what I wrote above: In order to make a neat ordering of your kitchen items, I recommend keeping all of your items thematically fitting in the different cupboards. As such, for example, I'd say that all of your various rice and flour items can take one big spot, while your pasta dishes fill one for themselves. As such, you can select the correct size storage spaces according to your dietary preferences, but try not to overcrowd anything.

Especially, you should always be extremely careful about the temperature in your cupboards, as well as the quality of the material. E.g., right above my fridge, the first layer of the cupboard is warmer than the others but is directly supported by the fridge rather than only the walls. As such, I put less sensitive, heavier items there. Most items are sensitive to light, so closing cupboards are needed there. By the way, if you additional sort by usage (so most used or heaviest at optimal height or below and the lighter and less used higher), a natural order for your kitchen should manifest.

Ich wünsche allen, ausser den VMP und AMIV Leuten, die die ganze Zeit das VMP Büro in eine Müll-Folterkammer verwandeln, viel Spass beim Lesen dieser Ausgabe :)

Do sledva6tiq put,

Benjamin Gruzman

Präsikolumne

JONAS - RECOVERING FROM CHRONIC EVENT PLANNING

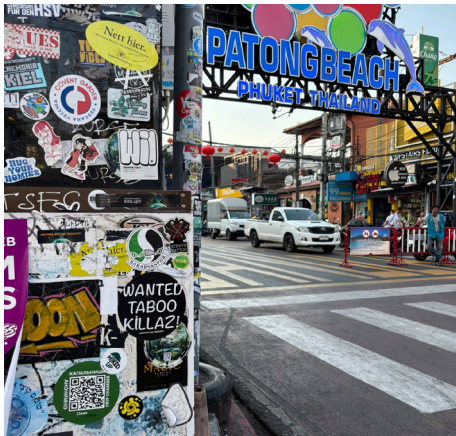
Dear VIS Members,

Another semester has begun, and VIS has awoken from its winter sleep. As I'm writing this, I am busy planning the General Assembly, and thus this Präsikolumne is being written way after the deadline - sorry Benji.

In the final weeks of the semester, we also held our VIS ESF. Even though we had awesome decorations and a great DJ, sadly not many people showed up. This is likely because everyone is usually stressed in the final weeks.

We had a calm semester break, without many incidents. Hopo invested itself in supporting students who contacted us regarding exams, and LUK organized the PVWs.

I fled the grey cold of Zürich and spent my time off on the beaches of Thailand. The food was amazing, maybe we can make a Thai-themed food event for VIS members at some point. I also left a trace of VIS in Thailand, I'm looking forward to seeing if somebody can find this location again :)



My plans for the semester are to remain VIS President, which you will already know when you're reading this. I am organizing VISTA again, this time on the 23rd of May. We're planning a few minor changes, but other than that we are keeping it like last year. I'm also planning two smaller food events during the semester, a Swedish Night in collaboration with VeBiS and the PFC (Presidential Fried Chicken) event.

Since the department's leadership has changed (Prof. Thomas Hofmann is now the Head of Department). I'm looking forward to working with him and ensuring that VIS keeps its close ties to the department.

Anyway, that's it from me for now. If you see me, say hi!

Best,
Jonas



Hopokolumne

Dear fellow students,

With the new semester underway, I hope your first weeks went well and you're settling back into the university routine. Between the last column and this one, there have quite a few developments in our committee. So, let's catch up on the details, shall we?

As the VIS Teaching Awards task force, we have successfully conducted and reviewed the surveys. Last time I was writing here, the survey was still open. And, meanwhile, we have gathered some hundred of votes, and selected last semester's teaching awards recipients. On the December 16th, during the department conference, we presented the recipients their awards. Thank you to all that voted and distinguished the assistants for their extra efforts and support.

In the last weeks of last semester, we also organised HoPo Apéro, a new event where people could enjoy some snacks and communicate their concerns and ideas about university politics. In this first edition, we welcomed many people - especially those pursuing their Master's - and were able to introduce our committee and inform them about what we do. I hope this event keeps gaining momentum and becomes a regular tradition - just like our other event, HoPo Stamm.



In addition to our new event, we prepared small motivational letters for first-year students ahead of their first exam at ETH - hoping to ease their stress, even if just a little, and to remind them that our committee is here for them should they need support.

While these were happening in our committee, our UK delegation further made sure that the concerns and inquiries we received were forwarded to the department and actively participated in the discussions. This is actually the last time I'm reaching out to you from here, and I just want to thank you for taking the time to read these updates. I would like to sincerely thank everyone who made this semester what it was and wish my successor all the best. I hope you will continue to see HoPo as your go-to place for concerns and issues. Don't forget, we are just an email away! (hopo@vis.ethz.ch)

All the best,
Efe



super computing systems

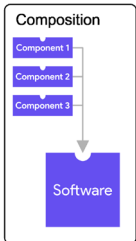
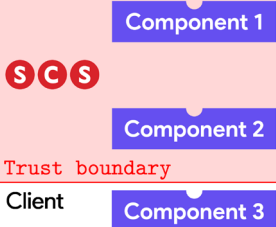
Vertrauen in die Software Supply Chain bringen

TITUS ABLE, HES-SO MASTERSTUDENT BEI SUPERCOMPUTING SYSTEMS AG,
INFO@SCS.CH

Mit der zunehmenden Komplexität moderner Software-Dienste steigt die Abhängigkeit von Fremdsoftware, beispielsweise externe Bibliotheken. Mangelnde Transparenz und unklare Verantwortlichkeiten in der Software Supply Chain führen zu versteckten Risiken.

Moderne Software ist immer ein Verbund von verschiedenen Komponenten. Eine einzige verwundbare Abhängigkeit kann zu Sicherheitsproblemen im gesamten System führen. Sicherheitslücken wie SolarWinds im Jahr 2024 oder Log4j im Jahr 2021 zeigen die potenziell verheerenden Auswirkungen. Um diesen Risiken zu begegnen, hat das World Economic Forum (WEF) im Januar 2025

Service provider



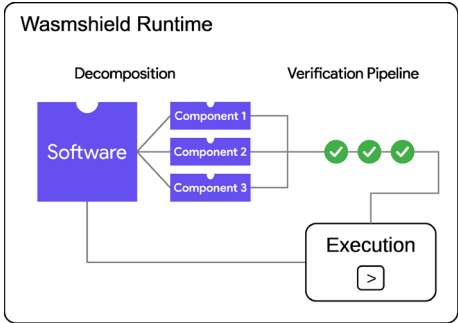
Richtlinien zur Sicherheit der Software Supply Chain (SSC) veröffentlicht. Die SSC beschreibt das Konglomerat an Fremdsoftware, die zur Ausführung eines Programms benötigt wird. Dazu gehören Compiler, Linker und Runtimes, aber auch Betriebssysteme, Hypervisoren und Host-Hardware.

Open Source Komponenten

Laut WEF nutzen Unternehmen zunehmend extern entwickelte Open-Source-Komponenten. Dies wird durch eine Studie der Linux Foundation bestätigt: Open-Source-Software mache heute 70-90% eines Softwarepakets aus. Dies führt zu Bedenken hinsichtlich der Cybersicherheit. Nur die Spitze des Eisbergs, nur der vom Unternehmen selbst geschriebene Code wird tatsächlich verifiziert und validiert. Insbesondere indirekte Abhängigkeiten werden kaum validiert und getestet. Eine komplexe SSC ist deshalb mit einem hohen Risiko verbunden.

WebAssembly

Die virtuelle Befehlssatzarchitektur WebAssembly (Wasm) bietet einen neuen, sichereren Ansatz für die Komponenten einer Softwareanwendung.



Bei der Entwicklung von Wasm standen Sicherheitsfunktionen wie eine isolierte und speichersichere Ausführungsumgebung im Vordergrund. Wasm wurde ursprünglich entwickelt, um die Leistung von Webanwendungen zu verbessern, wird aber zunehmend auch für die Erstellung eigenständiger Anwendungen genutzt. Das WebAssembly-Komponentenmodell definiert eine sprachunabhängige Infrastruktur für Komponenten. Dieses Modell erweitert die Interoperabilität über das hinaus, was der ursprüngliche Wasm-Standard erlaubte, und ermöglicht die strukturierte und effiziente Interaktion von Komponenten, die in verschiedenen Sprachen geschrieben wurden.

Sichere Softwareentwicklung

Wasmshield ist das Ergebnis einer Studienarbeit bei SCS. Es wurde in die Wasm-Laufzeitumgebung Wasmtime integriert. Wasmshield prüft und verifiziert Wasm-Komponenten.

Dadurch wird die Integrität und Sicherheit der ausgeführten Komponenten gewährleistet. Veröffentlichte Komponenten müssen signiert sein und mit prüfbaren Metadaten ausgeliefert werden, darunter Integritätsnachweise und eine vollständige Software Bill of Materials (SBOM). Dies ermöglicht eine umfassende Schwachstellenprüfung sowohl vor der Ausführung als auch während der Laufzeit. Um die Anzahl nicht vertrauenswürdiger Komponenten in Container-Registries zu reduzieren, wurde ein Sicherheitskonzept entwickelt. Dieser Protostandard sieht vor, dass nur verifizierbare Komponenten veröffentlicht werden dürfen, wodurch die Sicherheit der gesamten Lieferkette verbessert wird. Mit Wasmshield lässt sich somit mehr Transparenz und Verantwortlichkeit in die Software-Lieferkette bringen.



Supercomputing Systems AG bietet laufend Praktika und Studienarbeiten an. Wenn Du Dich für SCS interessierst, melde Dich bei Elke Curschmann (hrm@scs.ch) oder schau in unsere Website www.scs.ch/arbeiten-bei-scs/.

Lie-ability: A Silent Poison

SHASWAT GUPTA - "FRIDAY SOUL IN A MONDAY MAZE"

We all lie. A white lie to spare someone's feelings. A convenient excuse to avoid an awkward situation. A small deception to smooth over a rough moment. These seemingly harmless untruths feel like social lubricants, making our daily interactions gentler and more manageable. But in our personal relationships, these "minor" deceptions exact a toll far greater than we imagine. Dr. House was right all along. "Everybody Lies."



[4]

Given the scope and complexity of lying, we focus on *everyday lies we tell in our closest relationships*—the **casual lies** we scatter through conversations with friends, family, and partners. *What if the momentary discomfort of truth-telling is actually less painful than the long-term damage of casual lies?*

The Anatomy of Everyday Lies

Consider three scenes from the everyday theater of casual lies:

1. The Gifted Deception:

Neha receives a box of dry fruits from her office and decides to rewrap it as a Diwali gift for her friend Shruti. "Wow, thank you. Where did you buy these?" Shruti asks. "I bought them from a store on my way here." Later, Shruti spots an identical box with Neha's office colleague. The realization dawns. A momentary convenience reveals a deeper, distasteful character flaw—**Neha will lie when it suits her.**



[5]

While author Sam Harris (Lying [1]) argues against lies in all its forms, the ethical landscape of lying is much more in the **gray**. *Our society often rewards skilled deception*—in boardrooms, on social media, and in daily interactions. The ability to craft convenient fiction can smooth our path and open doors. Yet this social premium on pleasant deceptions makes the choice for honesty not just ethical but **radical**—a deliberate step away from easy convenience toward something more meaningful.



[6]

3. The Mirror's Lie:

We've been "about to start" a fitness routine for months now. "I'll begin next week," we tell ourselves while adding gym clothes to our online cart. "I'm just especially busy right now," we reason, even as we spend hours scrolling through social media. The *lies we tell ourselves are perhaps the most dangerous—they bypass our usual defenses, accumulating until we barely recognize our own reflection*. Each "tomorrow" becomes another brick in the wall between who we are and who we pretend to be.

The Stories We Tell Ourselves

To lie is to **intentionally mislead** others when honest communication is expected. We lie so others will form beliefs that are not true, either to gain a benefit or to prevent discomfort, often in the moment. We lie to protect our reputations—exaggerate our accomplishments, minimize our flaws, disguise or justify our wrongdoings, or simply spare people's feelings.

2. The Casual Cancellation:

Rohan overhears Sameer's well-rehearsed excuse—"I am going to the movies with some friends, so I cannot join you for a workout." While it may seem subtle at first, a question takes root in Rohan: *Has Sameer lied to me like this before?* The thought spirals, sowing seeds of doubt about every past cancellation and future excuse. **Sameer will lie when it's convenient for him.**



[7]

Lies manifest in spectrums—from elaborate frauds to subtle **clever rephrasing, strategic silences, intentionally leaving out 'details.'** The liar often believes no harm is done as long as their lies remain undiscovered. Yet, when viewed through the recipient's perspective, the illusion of harmlessness quickly dissolves. Faults in integrity, once revealed, are seldom forgotten. **Trust takes years to build, seconds to destroy, and forever to repair.**

The Hidden Costs of "Compassionate" Lies

A friend asks, "Is my resume formatted nicely for this role?"

The truth is difficult to confront: The issue isn't formatting; the resume lacks relevant experience and skills. He has struggled to secure a job for six months, and one might believe they would benefit from more exposure or internships.

Faced with this truth, the temptation arises: **why not offer a small reassurance?**

A tiny lie—"Tweak this point, and you'll be fine!"—to boost their confidence. No matter how well-intentioned, it denies them honest guidance in their moment of need and is a clear failure of friendship.

False encouragement is a thief—it steals not just truth but **opportunity**. Every comforting lie redirects our friend's precious time and energy away from genuine growth, leading them down paths that end in disappointment. True friendship sometimes requires the courage to speak difficult truths, always tempered with humility about our own limitations, assessments, and uncertainties.

Feel free to share this :) [2]
Check out the author's Substack page – Inkspire with Shazz [3]



[8]

The Freedom of Truth

To speak truthfully is to represent your beliefs accurately.

Lies, meanwhile, demand the mental gymnastics of a circus performer—keeping track of what was said, to whom, and why. This exhausting performance usually ends with a missed step and a spectacular fall.

Honesty, though initially bitter medicine, ultimately liberates. There's no need for the mental choreography of keeping stories straight—we can simply be. When we refuse to lie, we're forced to face the dragons we've been dancing around:

"How did you get that bruise?"—A refusal to lie exposes an abusive relationship.

"Why are your weekends a blur?"—An honest answer reveals an alcohol addiction.

As James A. Garfield observed: *"The truth will set you free, but first it will make you miserable."*



[10]



[9]

Conclusion: The Liberation of Truth

This article examined the cost of **casual lies** in our relationships - with friends, family, and partners.

Every lie, no matter how small, leaves imperceptible fractures in the foundation of trust. Over time, these invisible cracks grow, silently weakening our closest bonds until the entire structure becomes fragile. Yet choosing honesty—even when it stings—offers a different path. It strips away the exhausting facades we maintain and replaces them with something far more valuable: **the freedom to be authentically ourselves**. The initial discomfort of truth-telling gives way to deeper connections, clearer perspectives, and a simpler way of being.

The question isn't whether honesty is difficult—it is. The real question is: **Who might we become when we no longer need to lie?**

[1] <https://www.samharris.org/books/lying>
[2] <https://shazzgo.substack.com/p/the-quiet-poison-of-little-lies>
[3] <https://shazzgo.substack.com/>
[4] Self-Portrait with Death Playing the Fiddle (1872) by Arnold Böcklin
[5] Little White Lies by Kebba Sanneh - <https://kebba.fr/>
[6] Lost Connection by Hossam Salah
[7] Attribution: <https://creativemarket.com/>
[8] Art by Oil Painter Ron Hicks - <https://www.ronhicks.com/>
[9] Image via Pinterest - Original Artist Unknown
[10] Artwork by Chloe Morris: <https://w4w.ca/author/chloe-morris/>

WSL - A Neat Alternative

JOHAN STETTLER - CS STUDENT WANNABE

The department has a wide variety of students in terms of coding skills. Some newcomers are already writing their first compilers, while others have only interacted with computers casually—browsing the web, posting on Instagram, or resetting the Wi-Fi router for their parents. I fall into the former category myself, here to talk to anyone unfamiliar with Linux.

This might not concern first-year students just yet, as you'll mostly be coding in web-based environments like Code Expert or similar platforms.

However, I've taken many courses where you're f***** when using Windows. But fear not— If you really don't want to switch, I have a solution: the **Windows Subsystem for Linux (WSL)**. The name might sound confusing, but think of it as a program on your Windows computer running Linux.

There are many reasons to consider using Linux over Windows:

- It's free
- You have full control over your machine
- It's more secure
- It's highly customizable
- It's generally better for programming

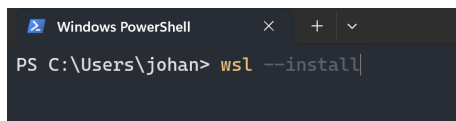
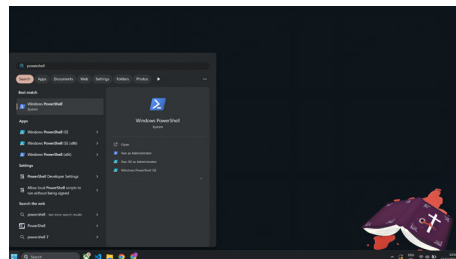
But the #1 reason for any CS student at ETH to use Linux is some courses require programs or frameworks that almost never work on Windows.

The course manuals often provide instructions for setting up everything needed to solve exercises or work on graded projects—but these manuals are usually for Linux or macOS. If you're on Windows, you're out of luck... unless you use WSL.

Installation is simple. Just ask ChatGPT or follow my quirky instructions:

Open PowerShell and run the command:

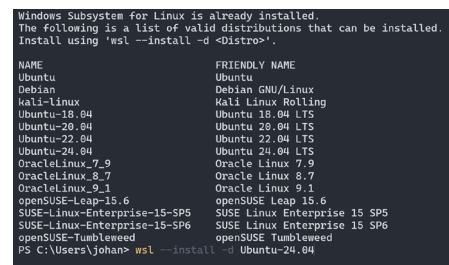
wsl --install.



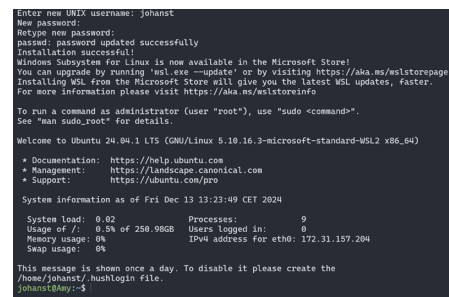
Once installed, you'll get a list of Linux distributions to choose from. I recommend the latest version of Ubuntu. It has many simple installation guides online, a large community working with it, and is Debian-based, so it supports everything needed for any course.

You can install it with:

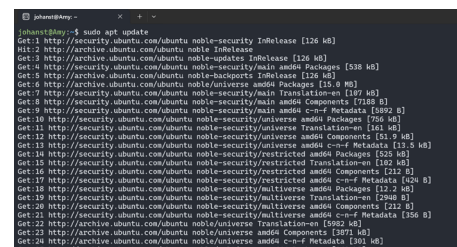
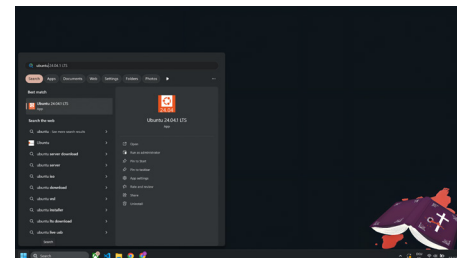
wsl --install -d Ubuntu-24.04.



This might take some time. A new terminal will open. Wait a bit more until you're prompted to enter credentials.

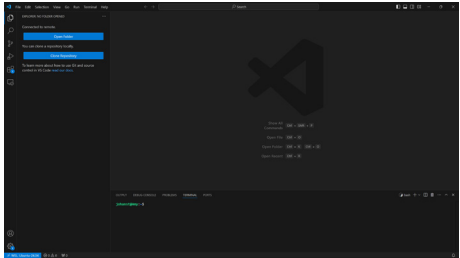
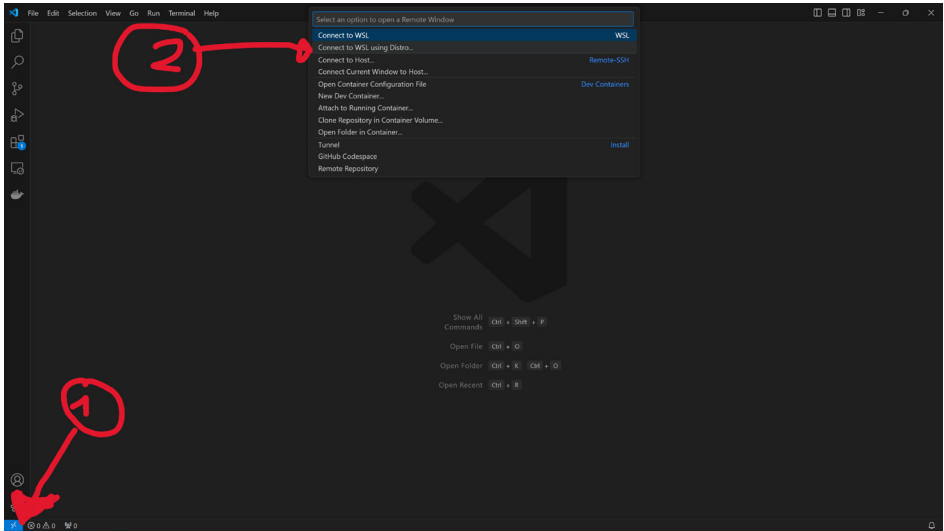


Voilà! Now you have Linux running as an app on your Windows machine. Simply open the app. It will launch a terminal window running Ubuntu, allowing you to type commands just like any other Linux user.

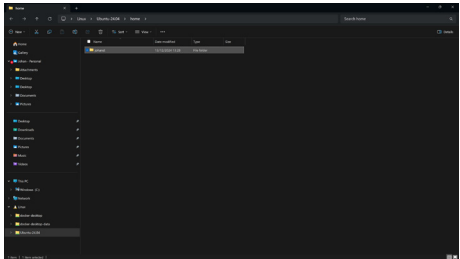


Even better, you can install Visual Studio Code on Windows and connect it to your WSL instance. To do this, click on the bottom left to connect, then select 'Connect to WSL using Distro...' and choose your distribution. This allows you to use the terminal directly within Visual Studio Code. On top of that, if you are enrolled in Big Data as an example, you can install Docker on Windows in just two clicks and connect it to WSL in another two.





You can even drag and drop files between your Windows directories and your Ubuntu directories, as your Ubuntu folder will show up in your Windows file system.



Once you've completed your course, you can easily uninstall WSL. You can also have multiple distributions installed if you want. It's the perfect solution for running Linux on Windows, letting you participate in any course you want. If you still want to try out Linux or have any other questions regarding it, I suggest checking out "The Alternative" [1]. This committee helps people install Linux—the real thing. They host events to learn to use Linux, offer support, and are generally very friendly... but not towards proud Windows users.



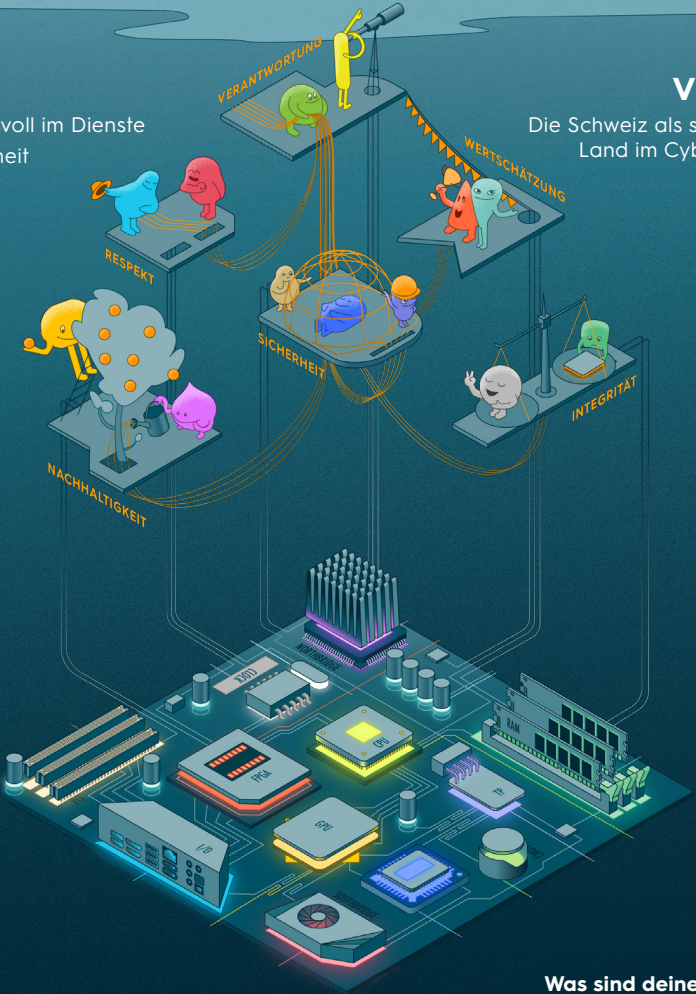
[1] <https://thealternative.ch/en>

WERTE

Vertrauensvoll im Dienste der Sicherheit

VISION

Die Schweiz als sicherstes Land im Cyberspace



Was sind deine Visionen?



Information Security ist deine Leidenschaft und du möchtest mit Gleichgesinnten als Entwickler:in an innovativen Sicherheitslösungen arbeiten. Bei uns kannst du einen Beitrag leisten, die Schweiz zum sichersten Land im Cyberspace zu machen. Erfahre mehr!

1	2	3		4	5	6	
7			8		9		10
11							
12							
				13		14	
15	16						
17				18			
	19				20		

There are three themed entries. Can you get them all?

Across

- 1 Publisher's home.
- 4 A trio of letters overseeing flights; with one note appearing twice.
- 7 A German's Joseph.
- 9 Dog from the far east, rhymes with Kirsch-Banane?
- 11 The weight of words?
- 12 Themed evolution?
- 13 Subtract one to get perfect harmony.
- 15 Extra charge on recurring exchanges.
- 17 Sends some bolts through your brain (the good kind).
- 18 Leading partner to Juliet's?
- 19 Partner in crime, then dropping the lead, suddenly they can't be beat.
- 20 Academic Crypto.

Down

- 1 Tri-bes of kingdoms, rivers, and teachings?
- 2 Jarvis, to Tony.
- 3 May happen if you bleach too often.
- 5 Breezy blaster.
- 6 The better abbreviation for a complex subject.
- 8 Energy-saving shopping bag?
- 10 ...I guess...
- 13 Elite taskforce of anti-terrorist commandos.
- 14 Helmeted DJs without the spikes, misspelt.
- 16 Spun to search, snare or save

Tidy Up for a New Start

WANGLEI SHEN (WASHEN) - "LET'S LEVEL UP WITH THESE UNDERRATED GEMS."

It's a new start of the semester—new courses, different schedule, ambitious plans, and... maybe still a little bit of a messy workflow waiting to trip you up. Sound familiar? Between forgotten passwords, lecture scripts that look like hieroglyphics with completely unfamiliar terms, and mistyped commands, staying organized can feel like an uphill battle. But hey, don't sweat it! With the right tools, you can turn that chaos into a smoother ride than ever. Let's tidy up and kick off strong!

KeePass

"Remember different passwords? Better use for lecture."

First, I would like to let you know that storing you password on browser is not safe at all (almost every case), you can easily get the password by using HackBrowserData(from GitHub: moonD4rk). And it is hard to remember all the passwords for various internet platforms. KeePass(not from GitHub but opensource) is your answer to all of the problems you might deal with passwords. It keeps your data safe in an encrypted local database. Think you might need to copy the password every time? Just by one shortcut your password will be autofilled. You can also use plugins to extend the functionalities, e.g. sync with cloud drive, autotype your OTP, login the data base with fingerprint etc. But there are way more potential use cases waiting you to explore.

PdfMathTranslate (Repo: Byaidu/PDFMathTranslate 16.5k ★)

"Ever wished PDFs in your language?"

I think I am not the only one who would like to have a translated version of the pdf as reference. By using pdf translation from google or other service provider, the crucial structure or math equations might not be kept. Here comes our saver, PdfMathTranslate extracts and translates math-heavy PDFs into your preferred language

```
belown-laptop@LAPTOP-F0J1VCI9:~$ apt install vim
E: Could not open lock file /var/lib/dpkg/lock-frontent - open (13: Permission denied)
E: Unable to acquire the dpkg frontend lock (/var/lib/dpkg/lock-frontent), are you root?
belown-laptop@LAPTOP-F0J1VCI9:~$ fuck
sudo apt install vim [enter]/!/[ctrl+c]
```

thefuck showcase



```
PS C:\Users\Belown> tldr gcc

gcc

Preprocess and compile C and C++ source files, then assemble and link them together.
Part of GCC (GNU Compiler Collection).
More information: https://gcc.gnu.org.

- Compile multiple source files into an executable:
gcc path/to/source1.c path/to/source2.c ... -o|--output path/to/output_executable

- Activate output of all errors and warnings:
gcc path/to/source.c -Wall -o|--output output_executable

- Show common warnings, debug symbols in output, and optimize without affecting debugging:
gcc path/to/source.c -Wall -g|--debug -Og -o|--output path/to/output_executable

- Include libraries from a different path:
gcc path/to/source.c -o|--output path/to/output_executable -Ipath/to/header -Lpath/to/library -llibrary_name

- Compile source code into Assembler instructions:
gcc -S|--assemble path/to/source.c

- Compile source code into an object file without linking:
gcc -c|--compile path/to/source.c

- Optimize the compiled program for performance:
gcc path/to/source.c -O1|2|3|fast -o|--output path/to/output_executable

- Display version:
```

tldr showcase

while retaining those intricate equations. Whether it's LaTeX-heavy formulas or dense scientific papers, it makes them approachable. This Application use AI to provide a bilingual translation while preserving the layout at the same time. For translation you can use different APIs: such as Google, DeepL, OpenAI or Ollama. It can be used both in terminals and with a GUI.

thefuck (Repo: nvbn/thefuck 89.9k ★)

“Mistyped git push origin main? Just yell ‘fuck’ (literally).”

We’ve all been there: You fat-finger a command, the terminal screams command not found, and you mutter... ahem... colorful words. thefuck (GitHub: nvbn/thefuck | 89.9k ★) turns rage into productivity. Type fuck after a typo, and watch it autocorrect sudo apt-get install to install, or git commit to commit. It’s like having a snarky TA in your terminal, minus the judgment. Pro tip: Use it in the lab and watch your peers’ jaws drop.

tldr (Repo: tldr-pages/tldr 53.4k ★)

"Man do not help? Meet their cool younger sibling." man pages are exhaustive—but who has time to scroll through 10,000 lines for grep syntax? tldr delivers bite-sized, crowd-sourced command examples. Need to untar a file? Just tldr tar. Forgotten how to curl? tldr curl gives you the essentials in seconds. Think of it as CliffsNotes for terminal commands—perfect for cramming before a demo.

Closing Thoughts:

GitHub isn’t just for hosting code—it’s a goldmine of tools that solve niche headaches. Whether you’re drowning in passwords, lost in translation, or battling typos, these gems turn chaos into clarity. So, next time your workflow feels like a dumpster fire, remember: A few git clones might just save your semester. 🚀 *Now go forth, code wizard—your organized future awaits.*

Coup - A card game review

JOHAN STETTLER - PUTTING FRIENDSHIPS THIRD WHILE PLAYING MARIO KART

Do you like short card games you can learn in 5 minutes and play within 20 minutes? Do you enjoy games where you forge alliances with other players only to backstab them, because friendship and love are completely meaningless in this Machiavellian world? Are you good at lying, gambling, and deceiving your loved ones? Oh boy, do I have a game recommendation for you.



Coup is a social deduction game where you attempt to eliminate other players until you are the last monarch standing in power. Each player starts with 2 hidden role cards and some cash. Each role comes with its own unique powers. During the game, you try to collect money from the treasury. With 7 coins, you can eliminate one card from another player. If a player has no cards left, they are out of the game.



The game's depth comes from the unique cards and their interactions with each other. A Duke can claim 3 coins per turn and block other players from gaining money, while the Assassin lets you eliminate a fellow player for just 3 coins. But the real twist of the game is that you can pretend to be any role and use any power, whether you have the matching card or not, leaving it up to your playmates to figure out if you're bluffing. The game features only 6 roles, but they are finely balanced. Each combination of roles, no matter how powerful they seem, has counterplays. The game reaches its climax when only 2 players remain, as the winner is 100% determined at this state. You must deduce which cards your opponents possess and manipulate the game like a high-stakes rock-paper-scissors match to ensure your victory in the final showdown. Convincing others to do your dirty work is key in this game.



Pros:

- Easy to learn, hard to master
- Ideal for groups of 4 to 6
- Very well-balanced gameplay
- Inexpensive (around 15 bucks) and available at nearly any store in Switzerland
- You can even print the game; it's just 18 cards, and rules and files are available on-line. You can also find themed versions, such as Game of Thrones.
- The Duke puns in this game: "Duke-it out"

Scan the QR Code for the wikiHow for the rules (if you can trust me).



Cons:

- Friendship destroyer (or is this a pro?)
- Requires a dry round to get players acquainted with the mechanics
- Not suitable for players who struggle with bluffing or betraying friends
- Not recommended for 2 or 3 players



1	C	2	A	3	B		4	F	5	A	6	A	
7	H	I	R	8	T			9	I	N	10	U	
11	I	D	E	O	G	R	A	M					
12	N	E	A	T			R		M				
	E		K		13	T	I	14	D	Y			
15	S	16	W	A	P	S	F	E	E				
17	E	E	G		18	A	L	F	A				
		19	B	E	T		20	E	T	H			

There are three themed entries. Can you get them all?

Across

- 1 Publisher's home.
- 4 A trio of letters overseeing flights; with one note appearing twice.
- 7 A German's Joseph.
- 9 Dog from the far east, rhymes with Kirsch-Banane?
- 11 The weight of words?
- 12 Themed evolution?
- 13 Subtract one to get perfect harmony.
- 15 Extra charge on recurring exchanges.
- 17 Sends some bolts through your brain (the good kind).
- 18 Leading partner to Juliet's?
- 19 Partner in crime, then dropping the lead, suddenly they can't be beat.
- 20 Academic Crypto.

Down

- 1 Tri-bes of kingdoms, rivers, and teachings?
- 2 Jarvis, to Tony.
- 3 May happen if you bleach too often.
- 5 Breezy blaster.
- 6 The better abbreviation for a complex subject.
- 8 Energy-saving shopping bag?
- 10 ...I guess...
- 13 Elite taskforce of anti-terrorist commandos.
- 14 Helmeted DJs without the spikes, misspelt.
- 16 Spun to search, snare or save



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