Quora

The best answer to any question
To Grow And Share World’s Knowledge
“Quora is a place where a normal teenager from a remote Asian country can get direct advice from world’s top astronauts, programmers, novelists and many others.”

Rajeeb Banstola
High School Student, Nepal
How much does eating ham and bacon increase your odds of getting cancer?

6 Answers

David Chan, MD from UCLA, Stanford Oncology Fellowship

It very difficult to separate out specific food items from confounding variables. There is pretty good evidence that obesity puts people at risk for cancer. In fact, obesity is overtaking tobacco products as the leading cause of cancer in North America.

What are the things that obese people have in common. They eat a lot of calories. They don't exercise. They eat more meat (processed and others) and typically less fruit and vegetables than people who are thin.
Would a rejection of the Iran nuclear deal by the US Congress be a vote for war?

Source: Rejecting Iran nuclear deal is a vote for war, Obama says - BBC News

39 Answers

Barack Obama, President of the United States

400.8k Views • Upvoted by Marc Bodnick, Former Stanford PhD student in Politics • Sina Taghva, Born and living in Tehran • David Waddell, BBC journalist, international specialist • Holly Gressley • Neeraj Agrawal • 68 others you follow

Answer featured in NBC News and 5 more.

The congressional vote on the Iran nuclear agreement is the most consequential foreign policy debate our country has had since the invasion of Iraq in 2003. So thank you for asking this question, it's an important one.

As Commander-in-Chief, I have no greater responsibility than keeping our country safe, and that's precisely why I urge you to carefully consider the consequences of a vote to terminate the Iran nuclear deal. The consequences could be far-reaching and long-lasting. It's crucial that our leaders understand the implications of their decisions.
Most Viewed Writers in Software Engineering

The 10 writers with the most answer views in the last 30 days.

499,920 Views
Valentin Popescu, Software Architect
View 15 Answers • Endorse • Suggest Bio

469,393 Views
Quincy Larson, teacher at FreeCodeCamp.com
View 68 Answers • Endorse • Suggest Bio

330,294 Views
Drew Eckhardt, 20 years as a systems software engineer for business critical applications wi...
View 280 Answers • Endorse • Suggest Bio
@Quora {

  Founded in 2010
  65 Engineers
  Python, JS, C++

}
1. Moving Fast

2. Moving Fast Recklessly

3. Ten Lessons For Sustainability
1. Moving Fast

2. Moving Fast Recklessly

3. Ten Lessons For Sustainability
Maximizing Innovation

BUILD

LEARN

MEASURE

http://blog.makingwaves.com/design/why-lean-facilitates-exceptional-user-experiences/
Design
Develop
Test
Release
1. Moving Fast

2. Moving Fast Recklessly

3. Ten Lessons For Sustainability
Code Becomes Messy

Developers Become Unhappy
Development Can Just Halt
...So Must Move Fast, Sustainably
1. Moving Fast

2. Moving Fast Recklessly

3. Ten Lessons For Sustainability
1. Move Fast, On Average
2. Define Your Long-Enough Term
3. Do The Math. There IS Free Lunch
Building a Linter takes 4 weeks (160 hours)

Saves 1 hour per developer per week

At 50 developers, saves 50 hours per week

Saves 400 hours in 8 more weeks
Qlint: Quora’s Python Linter
for tid, has_good_bio in zip(tids, has_good_bio_list):
    if has_good_bio:
        bio = yield get_best_bio_for_uid_tid.async(uid, tid)
        _BestBioForUserAnswer(uid, aid).set(bio)
    return

# if none of the bios are expert, return the user's profile bio.
profile_sig = a.model.sig.Sig(uid)
_BestBioForUserAnswer(uid, aid).set(profile_sig)
has_good_bio_list = yield tuple(
    user_has_expert_or_world_expert_bio_for_topic.async(uid, tid) for tid in tids)

for tid, has_good_bio in zip(tids, has_good_bio_list):
    if has_good_bio:
        bio = yield get_best_bio_for_uid_tid.async(uid, tid)
        _BestBioForUserAnswer(uid, aid).set(bio)
        return

# if none of the bios are expert, return the user's profile bio.
profile_sig = a.model.sig.Sig(uid)
for row in rows:
    comment = cls.from_row(row)
    # TODO(veni): this is temporary during comments cleanup
    comment._prime_row()

    yield
Soon Going to Open Source Qlint :)

https://www.flickr.com/photos/opensourceway/6554314981
4. Commit Publicly
Define your long-enough term

Publicly commit to it

Empower developers to order free-lunch

Enjoy higher increased average speed
5. Cut Corners In Scope
Not like this....

Like this!
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6. Optimize Productivity Bottlenecks
Testing At Quora
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author / Rev</th>
<th>Enqueue time</th>
<th>Unit tests</th>
<th>Packages</th>
<th>Integration</th>
<th>Deploy status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albert Sheu</td>
<td>Apr 26, 2013, 01:29:17 PM</td>
<td>in progress (37%, 2:11)</td>
<td>us-east-1 in progress (2.24) us-west-1 in progress (1:54)</td>
<td>not started</td>
<td>unreleased (block)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nikhil Garg</td>
<td>Apr 26, 2013, 01:19:12 PM</td>
<td>passed (6:33)</td>
<td>us-east-1 ok (1:35) us-west-1 ok (3:17)</td>
<td>passed (4:03)</td>
<td>Apr 26, 2013, 01:27:12 PM (97%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kah Seng Tay</td>
<td>Apr 26, 2013, 01:13:43 PM</td>
<td>passed (5:42)</td>
<td>us-east-1 ok (1:59) us-west-1 ok (2:57)</td>
<td>passed (3:45)</td>
<td>Apr 26, 2013, 01:20:51 PM (3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rebekah Cox</td>
<td>Apr 26, 2013, 12:56:47 PM</td>
<td>passed (5:47)</td>
<td>us-east-1 ok (2.29) us-west-1 ok (3:21)</td>
<td>passed (3:20)</td>
<td>Apr 26, 2013, 01:04:03 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kah Hong Tay</td>
<td>Apr 26, 2013, 12:30:21 PM</td>
<td>passed (5:55)</td>
<td>us-east-1 ok (1:50) us-west-1 ok (2:57)</td>
<td>passed (3:32)</td>
<td>Apr 26, 2013, 12:37:11 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alex Yakunin</td>
<td>Apr 26, 2013, 12:21:39 PM</td>
<td>passed (6:06)</td>
<td>us-east-1 ok (1:44) us-west-1 ok (2:57)</td>
<td>passed (3:16)</td>
<td>Apr 26, 2013, 12:28:20 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
$ test-local

Checking for all stray .pyc files... DONE
Finding suitable test files for testing changes made between 1b622e5 and 0e35246 (including uncommitted changes)...
Found 2 Python test files containing 15 tests. Running nosetests on following:

* model/question/test_user.py
* model/topic/test_merge.py

a.model.question.test_user.TestAllTopicQuestionsByUserByTime.test_simple ... ok
a.model.question.test_user.TestQuestionsOfUserByTime.test_add ... ok
a.model.question.test_user.TestQuestionsOfUserByTime.test_delete ... ok
a.model.question.test_user.TestQuestionsOfUserInTimeRange.test_bound ... ok
a.model.question.test_user.TestQuestionsOfUserInTimeRange.test_no_end ... ok
a.model.question.test_user.TestQuestionsOfUserInTimeRange.test_no_range ... ok
a.model.question.test_user.TestQuestionsOfUserInTimeRange.test_no_start ... ok
a.model.question.test_user.test_all_questions_of_user.test_all_questions_of_user ... ok
a.model.question.test_user.test_initial_anon.test_initial_anon ... ok
a.model.question.test_user.test_privacy.test_privacy ... ok
a.model.question.test_user.test_questions_of_user_in_year.test_questions_of_user_in_year ... ok
a.model.topic.test_merge.test_follow_merge.test_follow_merge ... ok
a.model.topic.test_merge.test_is_merged.test_is_merged ... ok
a.model.topic.test_merge.test_iter_network_merges.test_iter_network_merges ... ok
a.model.topic.test_merge.test_merge_exception.test_merge_exception ... ok

Ran 15 tests in 10.941s

OK

$
7. Reward Acceleration
Automation
8. Prevent Deceleration
Slow Creep Of Complexity
Batched Code Cleanup At Quora

- Velocity
  - Keep Crap
  - Clean Up
- Time
Codebase Is A Tree
9. Optimize Processes
Continuous Deployment

‘Git Push’ To Production In 10 Minutes
10. Be Practical, Not Ideological
maybe add comment on why this is needed?

```python
# only 1 answer (self.aid), return dictionary of value 1
assert_eq(
    {self.topic1.tid: 1, self.topic2.tid: 1},
    num_answers_by_topic_for_answer_uid(self.uid, self.aid))

# 20 answers in tid1, 15 in tid2
@async()
def mock_fn(uid, tid, include_collapsed=True):
```

ideally we should use `include_collapsed=False` here, since `num_public_answers_of_user_by_topic` has this default value this way or is it b/c it's causing extra complexity?
Style / Design

Education / Collaboration

Correctness [?]
But Pre-Commit Reviews Are Costly
Taking continuous deployment to the next level

Post Commit Code Reviews

(Code is reviewed after it goes to production)
Style / Design

Education / Collaboration

Correctness [?] → Testing

[?] http://research.microsoft.com/pubs/180283/ICSE%202013-codereview.pdf
Fall Back To Pre-Commit Reviews
Codebase Is A Tree
Easier to ask for forgiveness than permission!
Avoid truly terrible outcomes

Maximize expected speed

Minimize bad outcomes
Summary
<table>
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<th>Optimize Productivity Bottlenecks</th>
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● Empower developers to move fast on average over long enough term by getting free lunch.

● Profile productivity like code, measure, optimize, make practical trade-offs.

● Post commit code reviews work, codebase is a tree.
Thank you!

Quora Is Hiring

Nikhil Garg

@nikhilgarg28 { Gmail, Github, Twitter, LinkedIn }