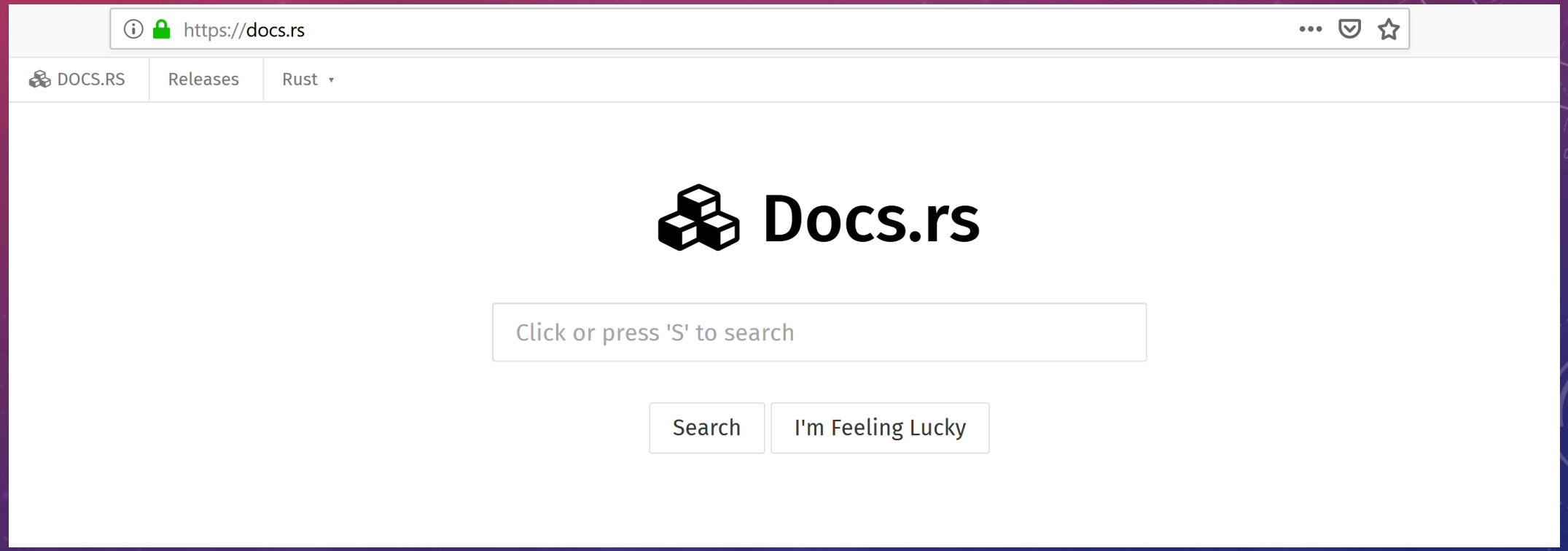
THE DEATH AND REBIRTH OF DOCS.RS

@QuietMisdreavus 2019

- @QuietMisdreavus // Grey Mitchell // she/they
- https://github.com/sponsors/QuietMisdreavus
- Recurse Center F2’19
- Rustdoc Team lead
- I like music
- I like docs
- I like Rust

WHAT IS DOCS.RS?



FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Onur Aslan
@oasln / @onur

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FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

- Debuted in February 2016 as crates.fyi
- Originally a Perl script
- Rewritten in Rust for 1% of the memory use
- 10 days to build all of crates.io

ASCENT

- Relaunched as docs.rs in August 2016
- Now with a front page!

HISTORICAL STRUCTURE

- Server donated by Leaseweb
- Iron web server
- LXC build container
- Doc/source files in local database
- Custom fork of rustdoc/cargo

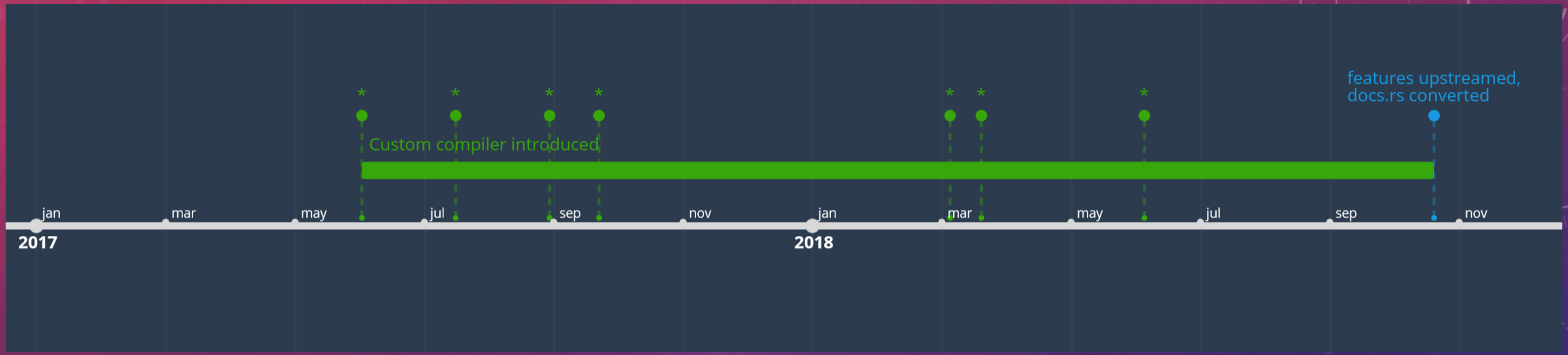
A CUSTOM FORK IS COOL, BUT…

…now you have to rebase your changes to update rustdoc

…and rustdoc is tied to the compiler

…so now you have to rebase the compiler all the time

…and people like to use new language features as soon as they come out



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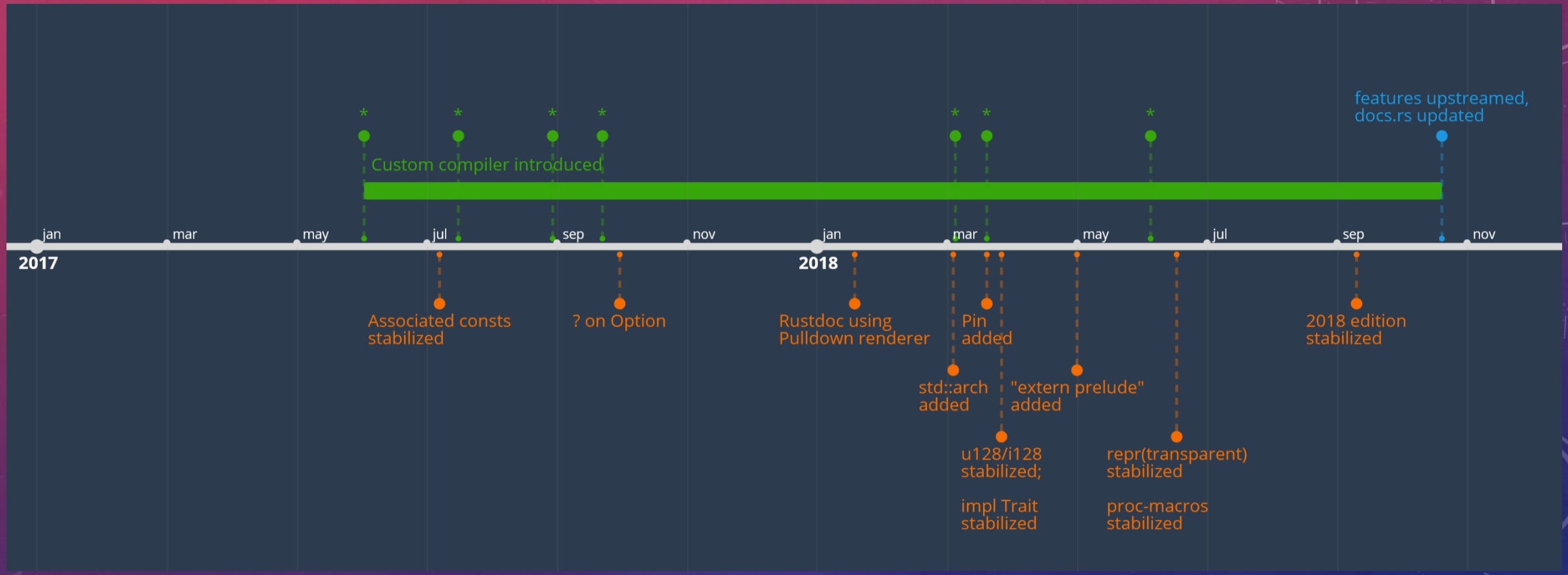

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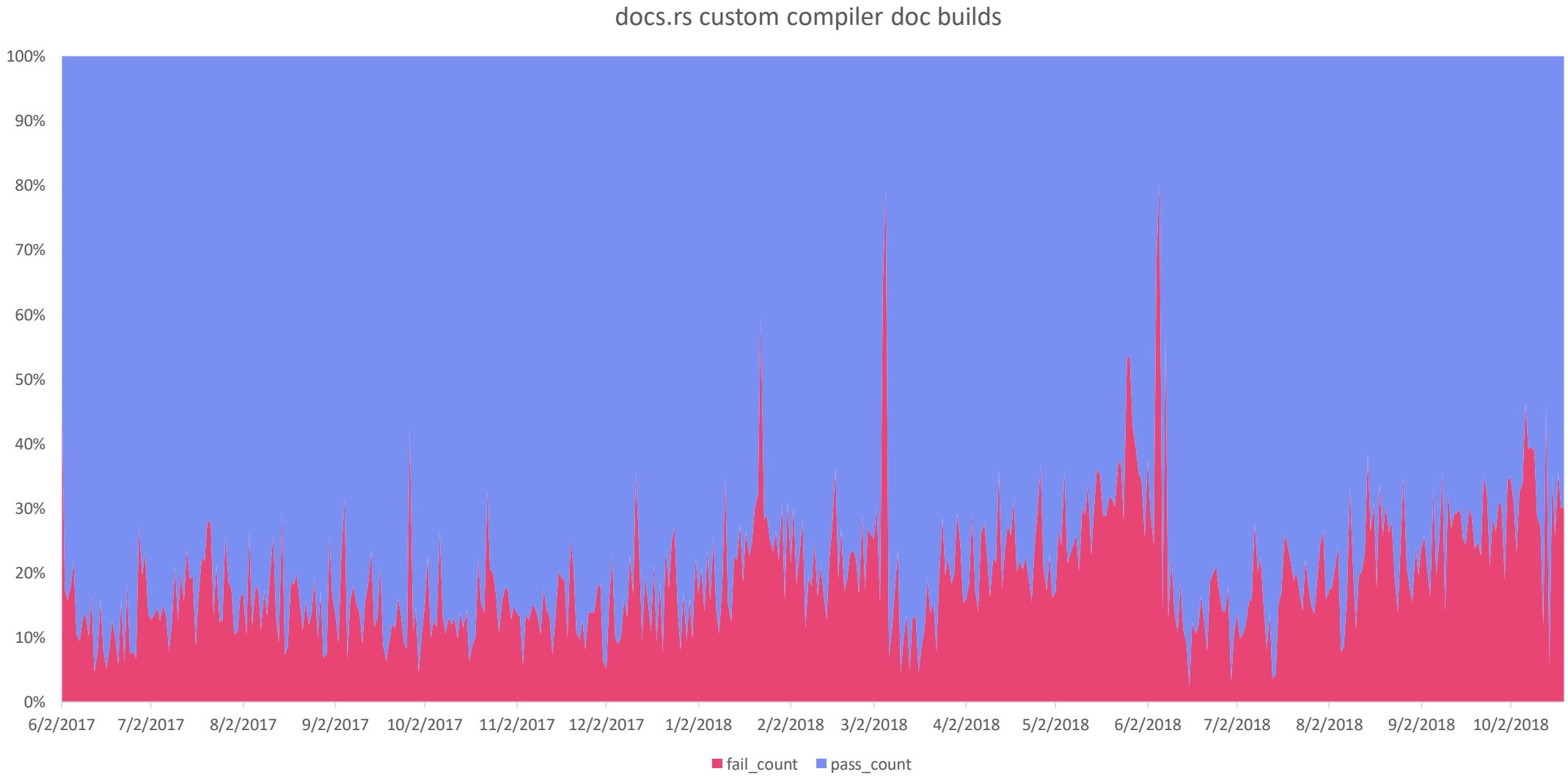
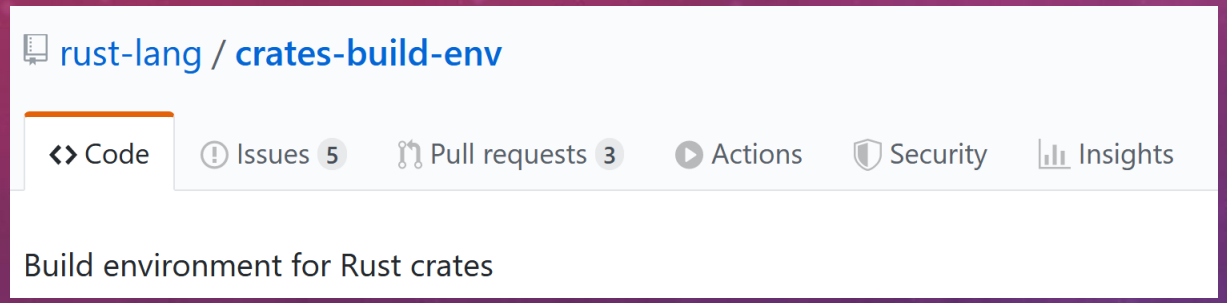

docs.rs custom compiler doc builds
100%
90%
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
6/2/2017
7/2/2017
8/2/2017
9/2/2017
10/2/2017
11/2/2017
12/2/2017
1/2/2018
2/2/2018
3/2/2018
4/2/2018
5/2/2018
6/2/2018
7/2/2018
8/2/2018
9/2/2018
10/2/2018
fail_count
pass_count

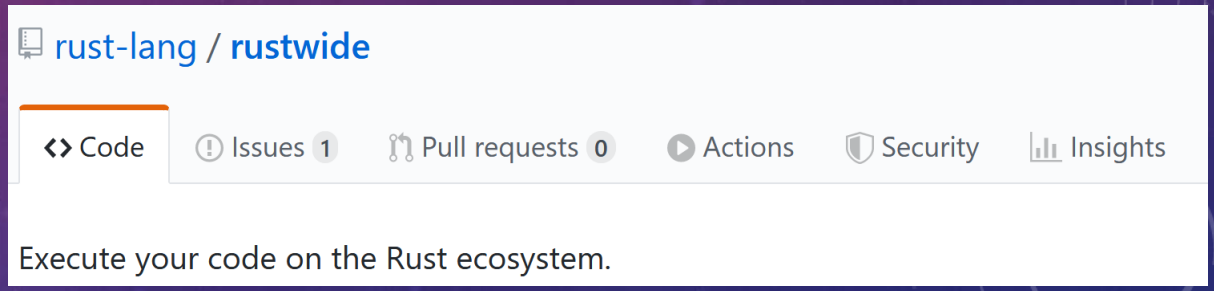
FOUNDATIONS FOR RENEWAL

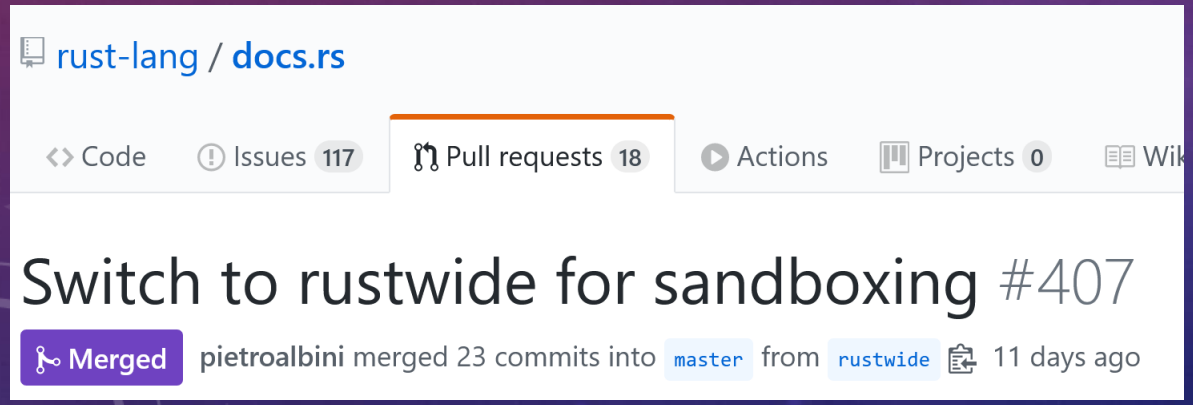
- Rust All-Hands 2018 (February): We want to make this official
- Upstreamed custom features:
  - “resource suffix”: February 2018
  - “extern root URL”: August 2018
- October 2018: let’s upgrade docs.rs!
- December 2018: let’s migrate to infra-team’s AWS account!

SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS

- Infra Team: We're doing something similar with Crater, let's join forces!







CURRENT STRUCTURE

- AWS Server managed by Rust Infrastructure Team
- Iron web server
- Docker build container (crates-build-env, managed by rustwide)
- Doc/source files stored in S3
- Upstream nightly rustdoc/cargo

LIFE LESSONS

- Sometimes something can be come accidentally popular before it’s ready
  - But with the right preparation, it can handle it
- Bus factor and getting new contributors is super important
- Burnout is real, and life can change plans

LINKS

- https://github.com/rust-lang/docs.rs
- https://github.com/rust-lang/crates-build-env
- https://github.com/rust-lang/rustwide
- https://discord.gg/rust-lang #docs-rs

- https://quietmisdreavus.net
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