Building Twitter Bots in Node

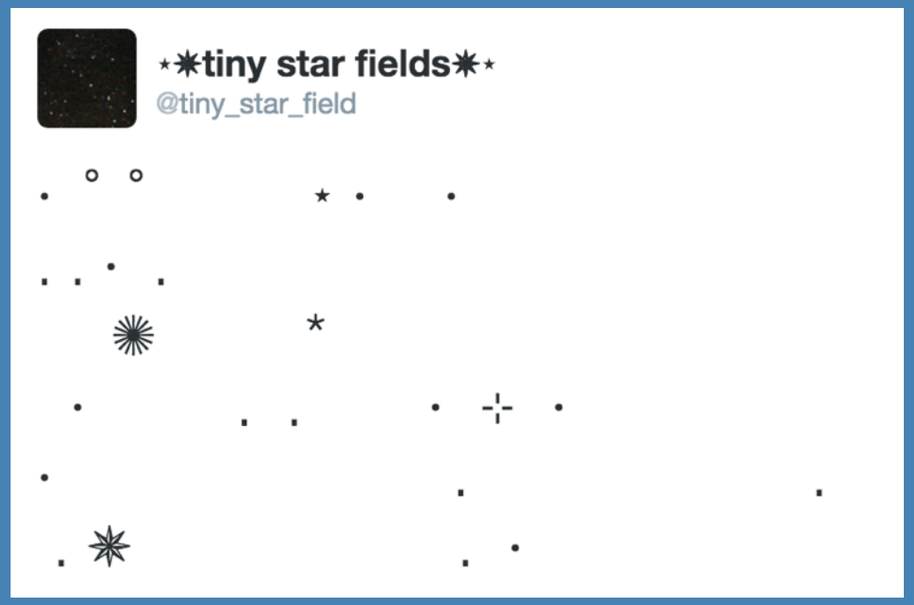
Philip James
@phildini

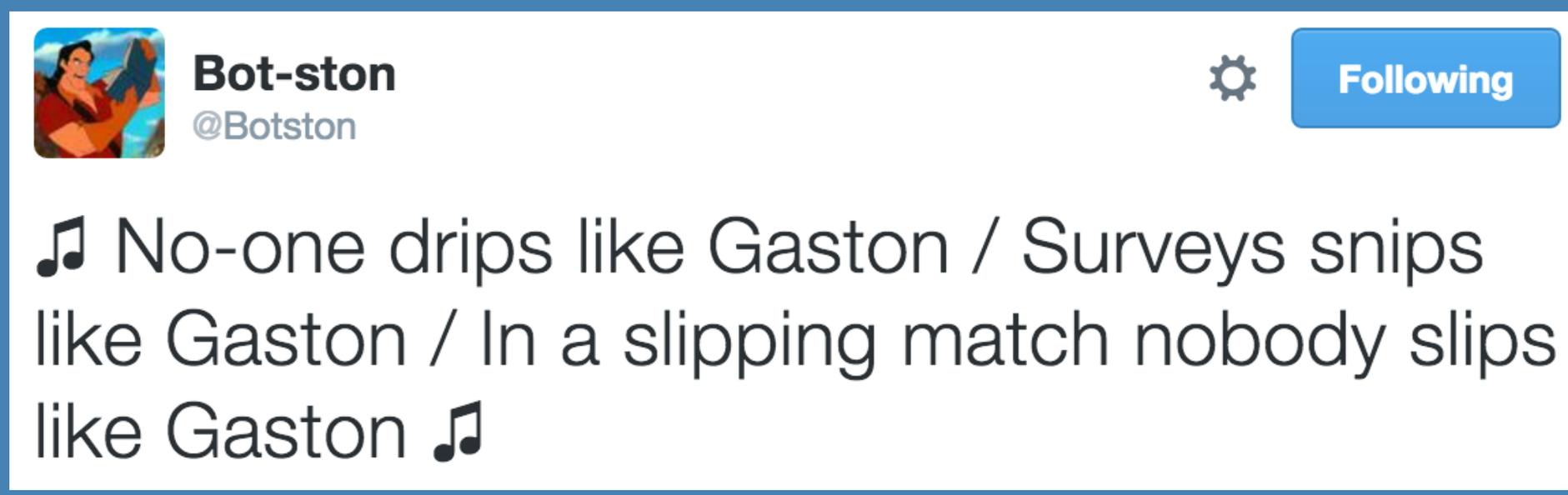
node.js INTERACTIVE

CC BY SA

Who’s this guy?

Why ~~should you~~ build twitter bots? do I





What does a twitter bot need?

- Some bit of code, for posting to twitter
- Write access to a twitter account
- A way to post responsively, or on a schedule

#nodetweets

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What are we going to do?

Get a word from the Wordnik API

Mix that word into a tweet

Post that tweet to twitter

Let’s start coding!

```
bash-3.2$ npm install --save twit request iscool
```

```
"dependencies": {
  "iscool": "^1.1.14",
  "request": "^2.67.0",
  "twit": "^2.1.1"
},
```

Let’s start coding!

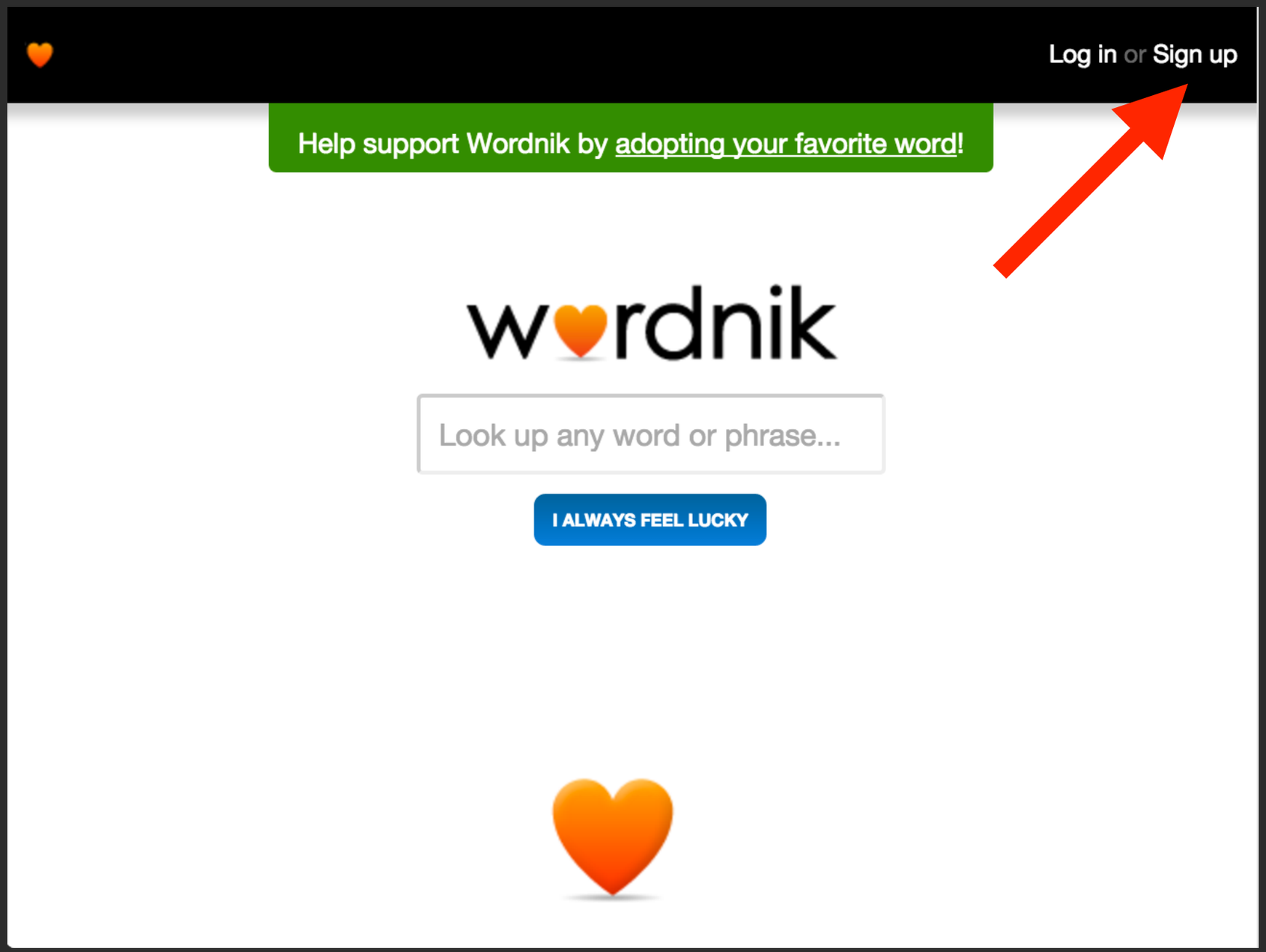
```
var request = require('request');
var createIsCool = require('iscool');

var baseNounUrl = 'http://api.wordnik.com:80/v4/words.json/randomWord&api_key=';
var getNounUrl = baseNounUrl + require('./permissions.js').key;

var isCool = createIsCool();
```

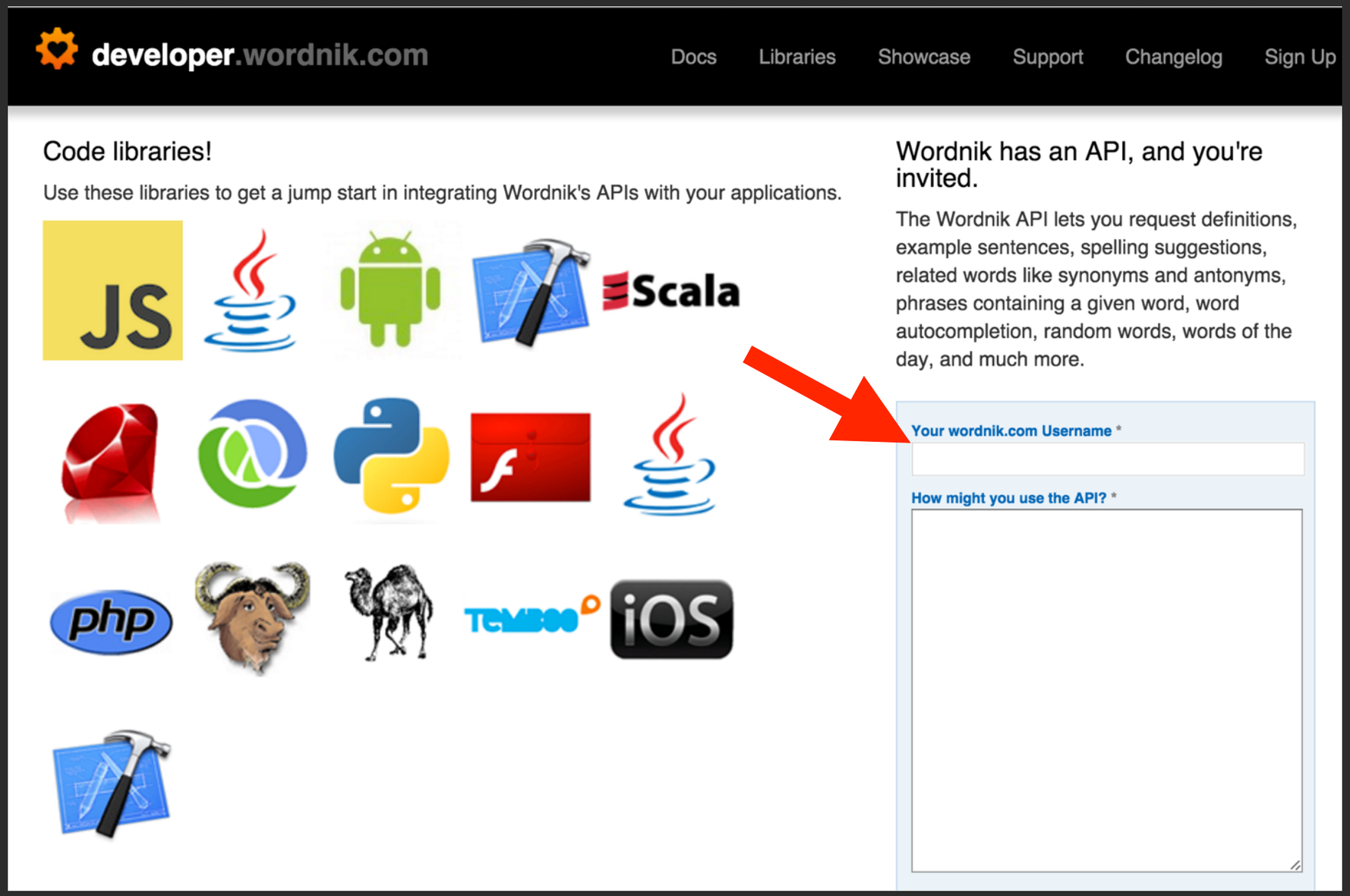
We need a key!

https://www.wordnik.com



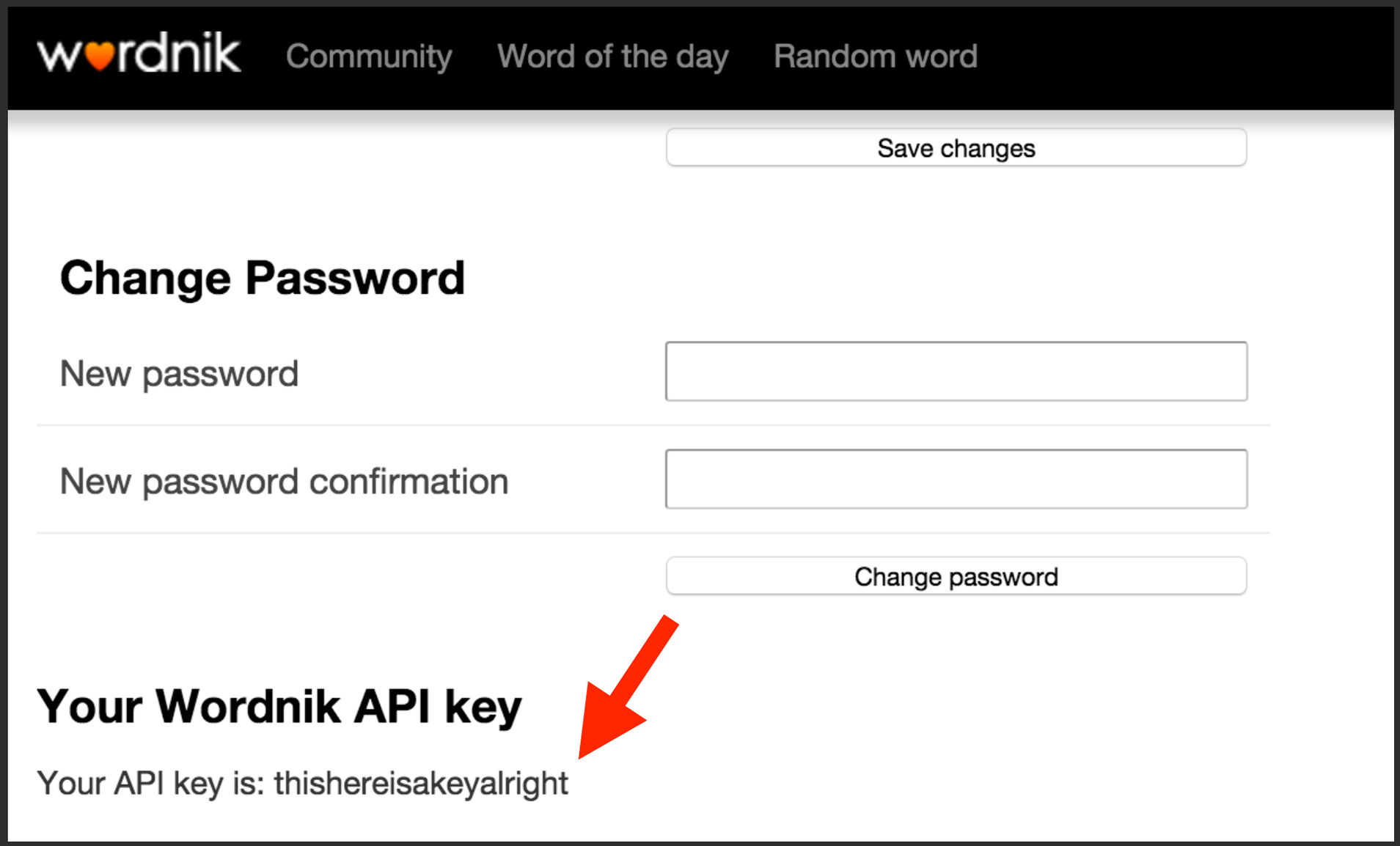
We need a key!

http://developer.wordnik.com/



We need a key!

https://www.wordnik.com/users/edit



We need a key!

permissions.js

```
module.exports = {
        key: 'thishereisakeykindof'
};
```

Let’s start coding!

```
function tweetSnozz() {
    var noun = '',
        tweet = 'The ',
        fruitstring;
    //let's get some adjectives!
    request(getNounUrl, function(error, response, data) {
        // let's make sure we're dealing with JSON
        var nounData = JSON.parse(data);
        console.log(nounData);
        if (!error) {
            noun = nounData.word;
            // if we got back some data from the API and it didn't error
            if (isCool(noun) && !(noun[0] === noun[0].toUpperCase())){
                console.log(noun);
                fruitstring = noun + 'berries';
                tweet += fruitstring + ' taste like ' + fruitstring +'!';
                console.log(tweet);
                return;
            } else {
                tweetSnozz();
            }
        }
    });
}
```

Add some twitter

Twitter doesn't like

~~developers~~

bots

Add some twitter

```
$ gem install twurl
```

```
bash-3.2$ twurl --authorize --consumer-key "key"
  --consumer-secret "secret"
```

```
bash-3.2$ cat ~/.twurlrc
```

Add some twitter

config.js

```
module.exports = {
  consumer_key:        'consumer_key',
  consumer_secret:     'consumer_secret',
  access_token:        'access-token',
  access_token_secret: 'access-token-secret'
};
```

Add some twitter

```
var request = require('request');
var Twit = require('twit');
var T = new Twit(require('./config.js'));
var createIsCool = require('iscool');

function tweetWord(word) {
    T.post('statuses/update', {status: word}, function(err, reply) {
        if (err) {
            console.log('error:', err);
        } else {
            console.log('tweet:', reply);
        }
    });
}
```

Add some twitter

```
if (!error) {
    noun = nounData.word;
    // if we got back some data from the API and it didn't error
    if (isCool(noun) && !(noun[0] === noun[0].toUpperCase())){
        console.log(noun);
        fruitstring = noun + 'berries';
        tweet += fruitstring + ' taste like ' + fruitstring +'!';
        console.log(tweet);
        tweetWord(tweet);
        return;
    } else {
        tweetSnozz();
    }
}
```

Make it Run

```
# m h  dom mon dow   command
13 * * * * * nodejs index.js
```

Where do we go from here?

Go Forth and Bot!

Bots are:

- Fun
- Hopefully straightforward
- Art

Bots need:

- Some bit of code, for posting to twitter
- Write access to a twitter account
- A way to post responsively, or on a schedule

The World Needs Your Twitterbot!

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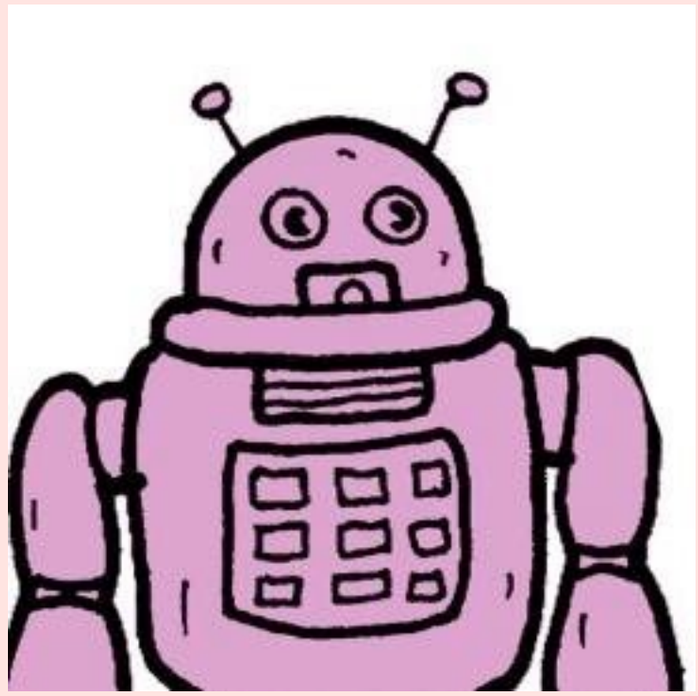
Credits

Erin McKean (@emckean)



Darius Kazemi (@tinysubversions)

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I gave this talk - you can too!

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Thanks!

Questions?

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