

A full-page background image featuring a snowboarder in mid-air, performing a high jump over a snow-covered ridge. The snowboarder is wearing a dark jacket, pants, and a helmet, with one arm raised. The snowboard is red and white. The background shows a vast, snowy mountain landscape under a clear blue sky. The overall image has a dark, teal-blue tint.

# JAMES LAVIN: MY SKILLS

Photo by [Felipe Giacometti](#) on [Unsplash](#)



# PROGRAMMING ELIXIR, PHOENIX, OTP, MACROS, ETC.

```
def handle_event("save", %{"book" => params}, socket) do
  case Library.create_book(params) do
    {:ok, book} ->
      {:noreply,
       socket
       |> put_flash(:info, "created a new book")
       |> redirect(to: ~p"/books/#{book}")}

    {:error, %Ecto.Changeset{} = changeset} ->
      {:noreply, assign(socket, form: to_form(changeset))}
  end
end
```



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Elixir Zone

@elixirzone6902 376 subscribers 8 videos

Long-time Elixir developer eager to share my love for the Elixir & Erlang eco... >

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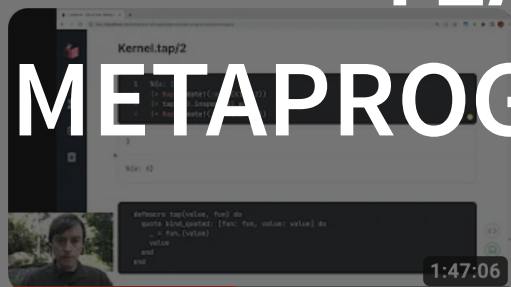
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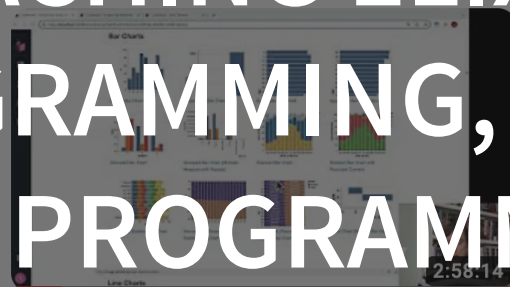
ABOUT

# TEACHING ELIXIR, OTP, METAPROGRAMMING, & CONCURRENT PROGRAMMING



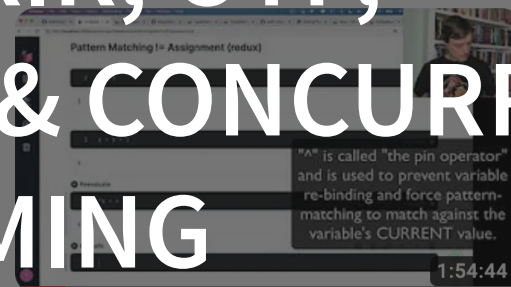
Elixir 104: Metaprogramming, Part 1

448 views • 6 months ago



Elixir 103: Kino, Nx, Explorer, ML, Regression, and VegaLite

1.1k views • 1 year ago



Elixir 102: Build & Evolve a Module With Types, Specs, & Property-Based Tests

3.8k views • 1 year ago



Elixir 101: LiveBook, Funs, St, Testing (...and more)

1.1k views • 1 year ago

I enjoy spreading my love of the Elixir ecosystem



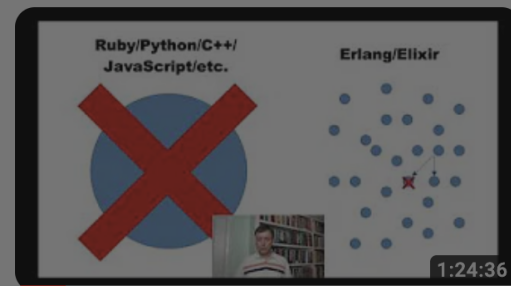
Tech Management Crisis - Part 1: Tech Execs, We Have a Problem

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ElixirZone: Erlang 103 - Collaborating State Machines (in Erlang and Biological Systems)

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ElixirZone: Erlang 102 - Fault-Tolerance & Reliability

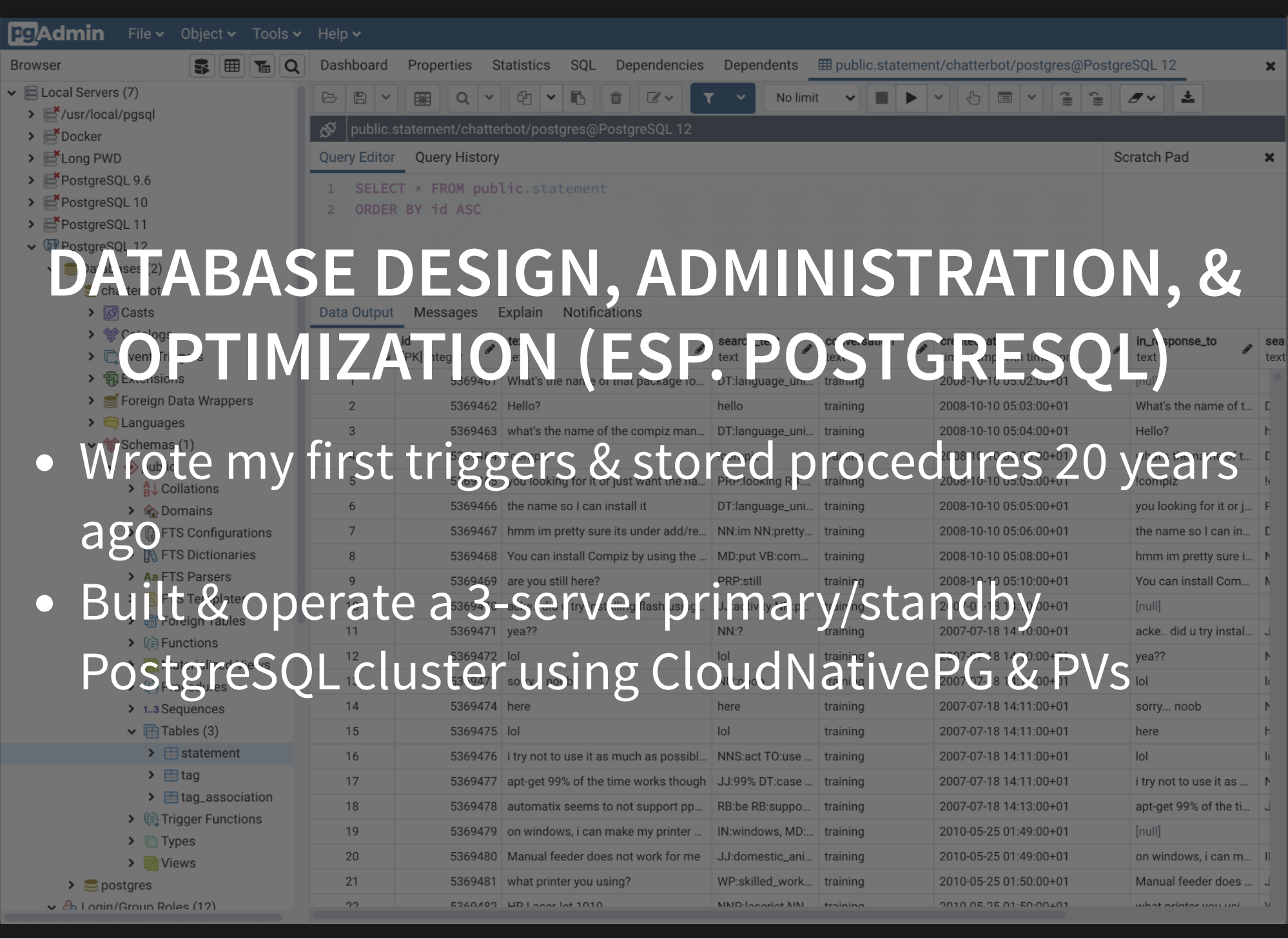
494 views • 1 year ago



ElixirZone: Erlang 101 - Processes

2.6K views • 1 year ago





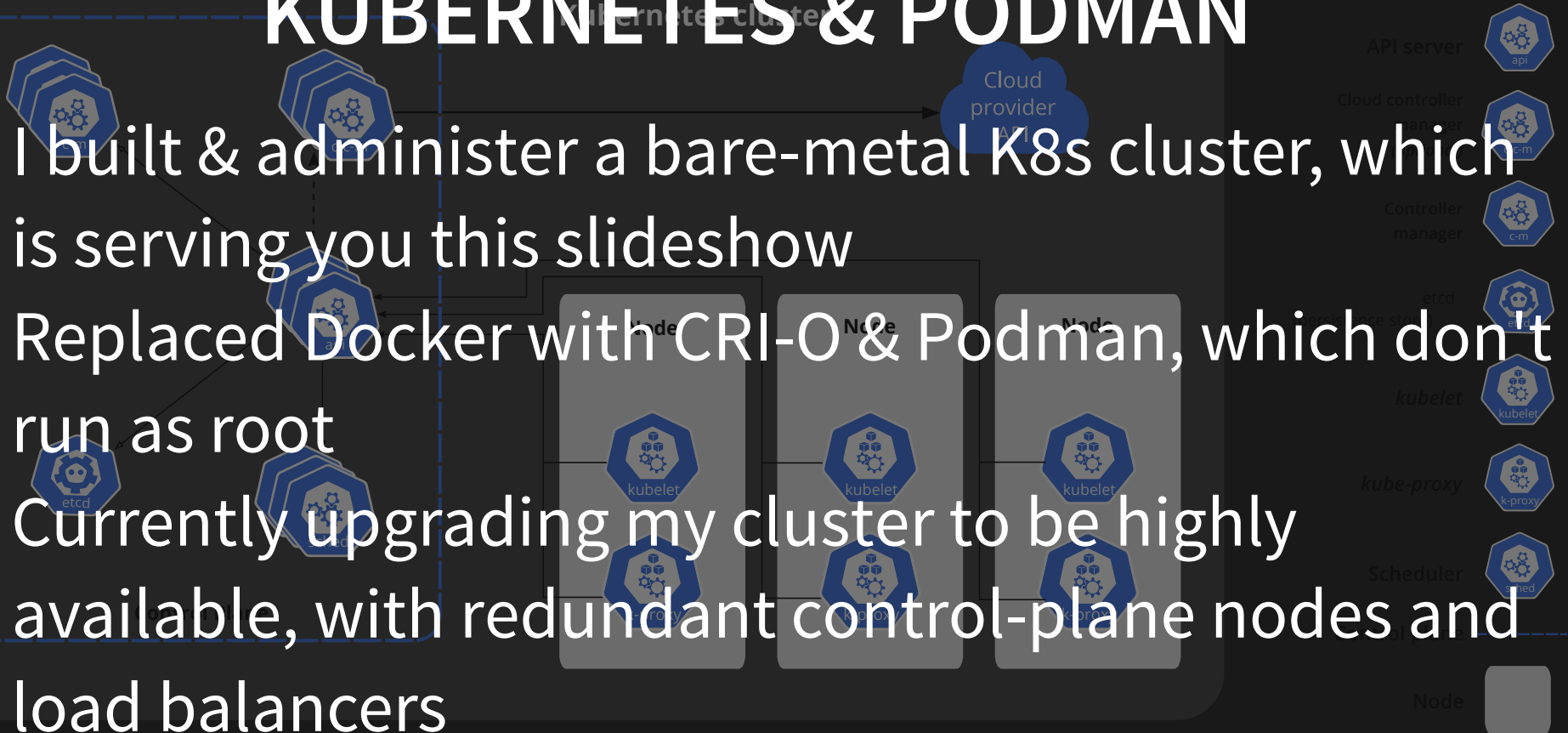
# DATABASE DESIGN, ADMINISTRATION, & OPTIMIZATION (ESP. POSTGRESQL)

- Wrote my first triggers & stored procedures 20 years ago
- Built & operate a 3-server primary/standby PostgreSQL cluster using CloudNativePG & PVs



# KUBERNETES & PODMAN

- I built & administer a bare-metal K8s cluster, which is serving you this slideshow
- Replaced Docker with CRI-O & Podman, which don't run as root
- Currently upgrading my cluster to be highly available, with redundant control-plane nodes and load balancers







— Human-computer interaction layer, where applications can access the network services



— Ensures that data is in a usable format and is where data encryption occurs



— Maintains connections and is responsible for controlling ports and sessions



— Transmits data using transmission protocols including TCP and UDP



— Decides which physical path the data will take



— Defines the format of data on the network



— Transmits raw bit stream over the physical medium

# NETWORKING

(COMPUTERS, NOT PEOPLE)

Since 2019, I've led a platform team with responsibility for networking across multiple environments

```
top - 11:45:36 up 5:34, 1 user, load average: 0.05, 0.06, 0.01
Tasks: 259 total, 1 running, 202 sleeping, 0 stopped, 10 zombie
%Cpu(s): 0.6 us, 0.3 sy, 0.0 ni, 99.1 id, 0.0 wa, 0.0 hi, 0.0 si
GiB Mem : 1.941 total, 0.467 free, 1.007 used, 0.467 buff/
GiB Swap: 1.485 total, 1.418 free, 0.068 used. 0.779 avail
```

# LINUX

- Over 20 years experience building & administering Linux servers
- Currently manage over ten servers I built myself

PR	NI	VIRT	RES	SHR	S	%CPU	%MEM	TIME+	COMMAND
20	0	0.0m	0.0m	0.0m	S	0.0	0.0	0:00.06	ksoftirqd/3
0	-20	0.0m	0.0m	0.0m	I	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	kworker/3:0H-kb
20	0	0.0m	0.0m	0.0m	S	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	kdevtmpfs
0	-20	0.0m	0.0m	0.0m	I	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	netns
20	0	0.0m	0.0m	0.0m	S	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	rcu_tasks_kthre
20	0	0.0m	0.0m	0.0m	S	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	kauditd
20	0	0.0m	0.0m	0.0m	T	0.0	0.0	0:00.61	kworker/2:1-eve
20	0	0.0m	0.0m	0.0m	S	0.0	0.0	0:00.01	khungtaskd
20	0	0.0m	0.0m	0.0m	S	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	oom_reaper
0	-20	0.0m	0.0m	0.0m	I	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	writeback
20	0	0.0m	0.0m	0.0m	S	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	kcompactd0
25	5	0.0m	0.0m	0.0m	S	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	ksmd
39	19	0.0m	0.0m	0.0m	S	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	khugepaged
0	-20	0.0m	0.0m	0.0m	I	0.0	0.0	0:00.00	kintegrityd

# WROTE TWO BOOKS ON LEADERSHIP

## MANAGEMENT SECRETS of the NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS



FROM "PATSIES" TO 3-TIME SUPER BOWL CHAMPS. VOL 1

**James Lavin**

SPORTS/FOOTBALL  
BUSINESS/MANAGEMENT

**Enthusiastic players + skilled coaches +  
unified organization = 3 Super Bowl wins**

**XXXVI XXXVIII XXXIX**  
FEB 3, 2002 FEB 1, 2004 FEB 6, 2005

"Whether you're a New England fan or not, you'll be fascinated by [this] intriguing new book." - *Houston Chronicle*, John McClain

"Lavin makes a strong... case that the Patriots 'are a better organization than they are a team.'" - *New York Times*, Richard Sandome

"Lavin has melded together fascinating quotes, statistics, and revelations that keep the reader entranced... A wonderful opportunity to [meet] the players, characters, and team... Lavin's remarkable story provides the recipe for championship stew."

- *Boston Phoenix*, Christopher Young

"Impressive look at what drives the team's success... It doesn't read like some workish, academic text." - *Boston Herald*, Greg Gatlin

"Timely, insightful book." - *Times-Picayune (New Orleans)*, Peter Finney

"Fascinating" - *Toronto Star*, Dave Perkins

"Required Reading... If the Colts, Steelers and any other NFL organization would like to get a jump on the Patriots, they should definitely pick up a copy."

- *Standard-Times (New Bedford, MA)*, Dan Pires and Steve DeCosta

"Great book. Having read and enjoyed other football-as-a-metaphor-for-life books... I can say [this] is as comprehensive and well-written a book as you can find on this subject... It was his intention to merge his studies of high-performance organizations and his obsession with his favorite team. This he has done most admirably."

- *Yahoo! Sports*, Doug Farrar

"Fascinating read... Gives you a real insight into what goes on in making this franchise what they are... I really recommend it." - *Comcast TV's "Sports Pulse"*, Ed Berliner

James Lavin earned his economics Ph.D. at Stanford, where he analyzed "high performance work organizations" (like the Patriots). He also holds degrees in political science (Harvard, magna cum laude), economics (London School of Economics), and East Asian studies (Stanford). James grew up in Wayland, MA cheering for many disappointing Patriots teams.

[www.PatriotsBook.com](http://www.PatriotsBook.com)

Pointer  Press

USA: \$19.95  
Canada: \$24.95



## MANAGEMENT SECRETS of the NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

**VOLUME 2**



**BUILDING A HIGH-PERFORMANCE ORGANIZATION**

**James Lavin**

SPORTS/FOOTBALL  
BUSINESS/MANAGEMENT

**Enthusiastic players + skilled coaches +  
unified organization = 3 Super Bowl wins**

**XXXVI XXXVIII XXXIX**  
FEB 3, 2002 FEB 1, 2004 FEB 6, 2005

**Early praise for Volume 2**

"James Lavin has totally captured the essence of what makes the New England Patriots [great]. His ability to take the lessons of Bill Belichick and his organization and put them in a framework for all to understand and apply is second to none! Vol. 1 got it started, but Vol. 2 has gone to a whole new level... Bring a highlighter... You'll be energized by what you are reading and learning."

- Head coach Tom Crean, Marquette men's basketball (2003 NCAA Final Four)

**More praise for Volume 1**

"It's a fascinating read, and I'm sure every general manager and owner in the National Football League has rushed out to get it."

- Jack Arute, Sirius Satellite Radio - NFL Channel

"A stunning compendium on the Patriot Way." - Bob George, BosSports.net

"This book is the Rosetta Stone for anyone who is wondering how the Patriots are... building a dynasty in an era where that was supposed to be impossible... Explains the hows and whys about as well as could be explained."

- Jack Thornton, PatriotsPlanet.net

"Must read... If the word 'management' in the title scares you or makes you think 'academic,' please take another look... There are many interesting stories and quotes to illustrate the points in the book... It's informative and full of many chuckles and laughs... A great read."

- Stan Jaksina, PatsFans.com

"Succeeds at going beyond the headlines into the inner workings of the Kraft/Belichick aura. Much more than a look at the Patriots' business acumen. Liberally infused with recollections from players, staff and opponents, 'Secrets' will score in resounding fashion with fans."

- Ken Castro, PatriotsInsider.com

James Lavin earned his economics Ph.D. at Stanford, where he analyzed "high performance work organizations" (like the Patriots). He also holds degrees in political science (Harvard, magna cum laude), economics (London School of Economics), and East Asian studies (Stanford). James grew up in Wayland, MA cheering for many disappointing Patriots teams.

[www.PatriotsBook.com](http://www.PatriotsBook.com)

Pointer  Press

USA: \$24.95  
Canada: \$29.95





A woman with dark hair in a bun is pointing at a laptop screen. A man with glasses is looking at the screen. In the background, another person is working at a desk. The image has a dark overlay.

# FOSTERING COLLABORATION

Since becoming a team lead in 2019, I've focused on fostering collaboration & true teamwork

Photo by [Desola Lanre-Ologun](#) on [Unsplash](#)



A photograph of a person's hands interacting with a laptop. One hand is pointing at the screen, while the other is on the trackpad. The image is overlaid with a dark, semi-transparent filter and white text. The background shows a blurred office or home workspace.

# COACHING & MENTORING

I've long enjoyed sharing knowledge with others and  
am proud of those I've mentored who have thrived

Photo by [John Schnobrich](#) on [Unsplash](#)



A top-down view of a wooden table set for a meal. Two pizzas are the central focus, each on a white plate. The pizza on the left is topped with tomato sauce, melted cheese, and sliced cherry tomatoes. The pizza on the right is topped with tomato sauce, melted cheese, and fresh green herbs. Between the pizzas are two glasses of a vibrant red beverage with ice and white straws. To the left of the pizzas are two glass shakers, one with a perforated top and one with a solid top, containing a dark granular substance. To the right of the pizzas is a small bowl of dark sauce and a piece of bread. The table is also set with white plates, a fork, a knife, and a napkin. The background is a black and white checkered floor.

# MICROSERVICES SYSTEM DESIGN

I believe in small, autonomous, "two-pizza" teams. Teams can operate autonomously using domain-driven design, microservices, and event-driven architecture, coordinating via thoughtfully designed APIs

Photo by [Sarang Pande](#) on [Unsplash](#)



## Completed 2022

- Brad Stone, **The Everything Store: Jeff Bezos and the Age of Amazon**
- Michelle Obama, **Becoming**
- Jeremy DeSilva, **First Steps: How Upright Walking Made Us Human**
- Lawrence Ingrassia, **Billion Dollar Brand Club: How Dollar Shave Club, Warby Parker, and Other Disruptors Are Remaking What We Buy**
- Todd Herman, **The Alter Ego Effect**
- Stacy Perman, **In-N-Out Burger** (didn't enjoy this as much as I had expected to)
- Daniel E. Lieberman, **Exercised: Why Something We Never Evolved to Do Is Healthy and Rewarding**
- Nathan Furr, **Nail It Then Scale It: The Entrepreneur's Guide to Creating and Managing Breakthrough Innovation**
- Jeff Lawson, **Ask Your Developer: How to Harness the Power of Software Development and Win in the 21st Century**
- Mark Manson, **Everything Is F-cked: A Book About Hope**
- Reed Hastings, **No Rules Rules: Netflix and the Culture of Reinvention**
- Mike Michalowicz, **Fix This Next: Make the Vital Change That Will Level Up Your Business**
- Bill Russell, **Go Up For Glory** (autobiography by Boston Celtics legend)
- Leander Kahney, **Jony Ive: The Genius Behind Apple's Greatest Products**
- Allen Gannett, **The Creative Curve: How to Develop the Right Idea at the Right Time**
- Shirish Nadkarni, **From Startup to Exit: An Insider's Guide to Launching and Scaling Your Tech Business**
- Leigh Gallagher, **The Airbnb Story: How Three Ordinary Guys Disrupted an Industry, Made Billions...and Created Plenty of Controversy**
- Ted Gioia, **How to Listen to Jazz**
- Ash Maurya, **Running Lean: Iterate from Plan A to a Plan That Works** (3rd ed)
- Seth Godin, **This Is Marketing: You Can't Be Seen Until You Learn to See**
- Morgan Housel, **The Psychology of Money: Timeless Lessons on Wealth, Greed, and Happiness**
- Sheera Frenkel and Cecilia Kang, **An Ugly Truth: Inside Facebook's Battle for Domination**

AVID NONFICTION READER



# EDUCATION

- Ph.D., Economics, Stanford University
- M.A., East Asian Studies, Stanford University
- M.Sc., Economics, London School of Economics
- A.B. (magna cum laude), Government, Harvard University

Photo by [Good Free Photos](#) on [Unsplash](#)

# LIKES

- Prioritization & getting stuff done
- Meetings with clear objectives
- Collaboration & teamwork
- Brainstorming & exploring options before plunging into projects
- Leaders who speak last, not first
- Diversity, which improves decision-making
- Cross-functional, autonomous teams with responsibility for & authority over their domain
- Modern DevOps tooling & practices

# MORE LIKES

- Teams that care for one another & provide psychological safety
- Modifying code in small increments, keeping it constantly releasable
- Honesty & forthrightness
- Thoughtful tactics guided by long-term vision & mindset
- Humility & constant desire to learn and improve
- Wikis & other docs that communicate business intent across time & space



# DISLIKES

- Unfocused, rambling meetings
- Heavy process (e.g., fullblown SCRUM)
- Artificial deadlines
- Separate departments for databases, QA, Ops, planning, coding, etc.
- Execs micromanaging non-strategic matters
- Metrics purporting to capture individual developer "productivity"
- Meetings to point JIRA cards & schedule long-term work
- Treating devs as "resources" rather than people

# WORK I ENJOY

- Senior/Principal Elixir Developer
- Elixir Team Lead/Manager
- DevOps Team Lead/Manager

# CONTACT ME

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- james@my-domain-name-immediately-above.com
- <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jameslavin/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/@elixirzone6902/videos>

