



## **Event Detection in Unstructured Text** (Using Common Lisp)

Jason Cornez, CTO RavenPack


# What does RavenPack Do?



# RavenPack extracts Meaning from Unstructured BigData


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

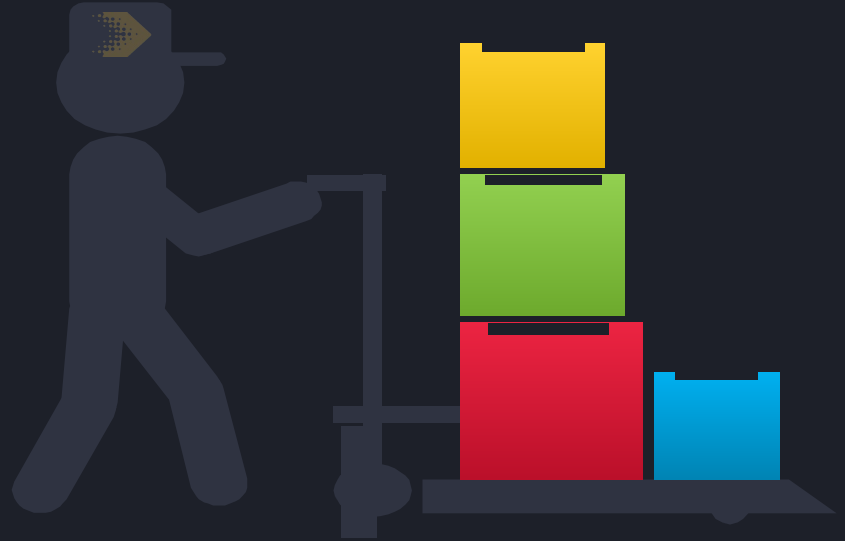
Unstructured data is typically natural language text documents.

 100.000+ Documents Daily

 Low Latency: about 250ms

 Archive of more than 300 million

 AWS Cloud, 24x7



# RAVENPACK ANALYTICS

Actionable Insights from News and Social Media

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



Entities and Events



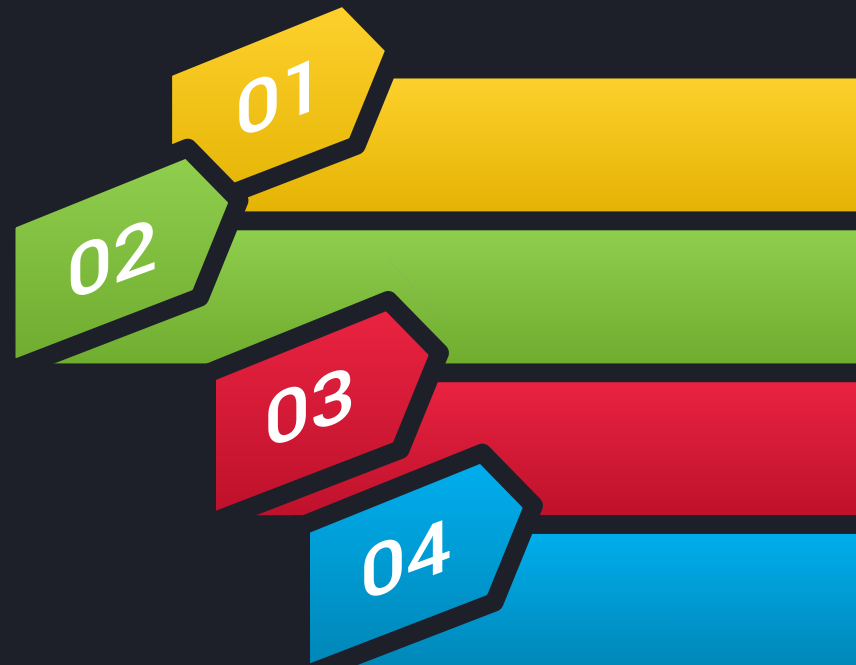
Relevance



Sentiment




Novelty



# RavenPack also processes Private Content

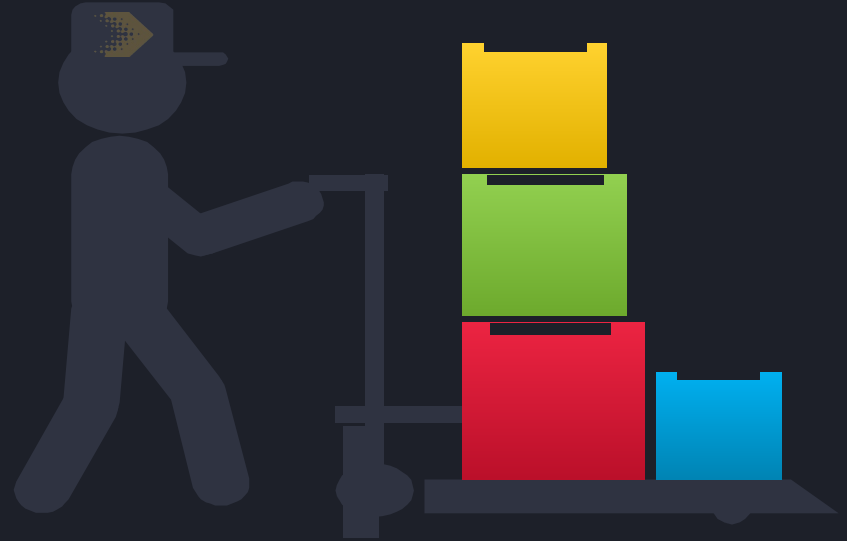
[www.ravenpack.com](http://www.ravenpack.com)

 Email, Skype, Slack, Files

 Custom Entities

 We build Great Software

 We sell Data and Services




**How do you accomplish this?**

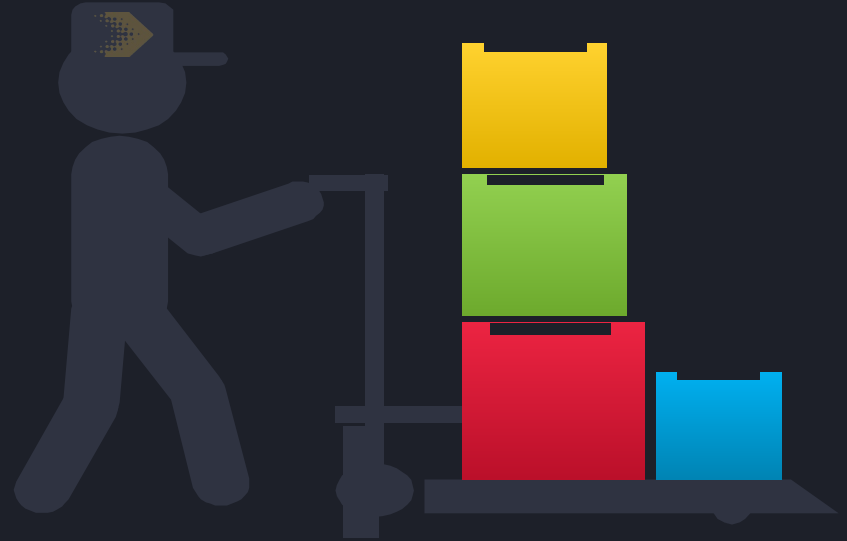
# Modern Architecture

 Distributed

 Multi-threaded

 Easier Migration to the Cloud

 Horizontal Scaling



# Separation of Concerns



Collection - Java



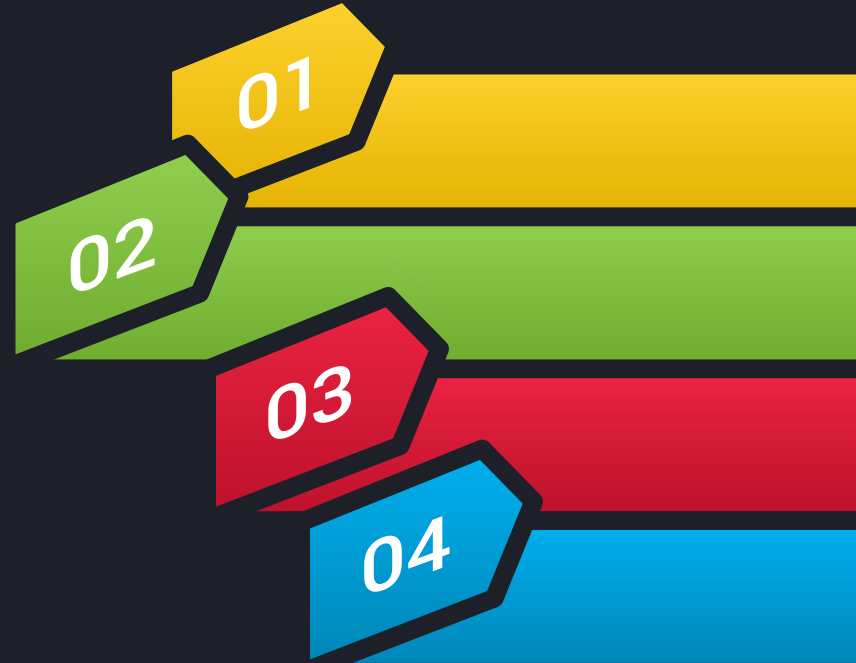
Classification - Lisp



Analytics - Lisp



Distribution - Lisp / Python





# Tell me more about Classification



# Streams-based Classification Framework

Presented at ELS 2013 in Madrid

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



Entity Detection



Attribute Matching



Event Detection



Many Others...



# What is Event Detection?



# Event Detection

RavenPack tracks thousands of event types.

These can be corporate events like:

- bankruptcy
- layoffs
- product announcements
- analyst ratings
- earnings

Also global events like:

- currency exchange
- war
- terrorism
- crop yields
- floods

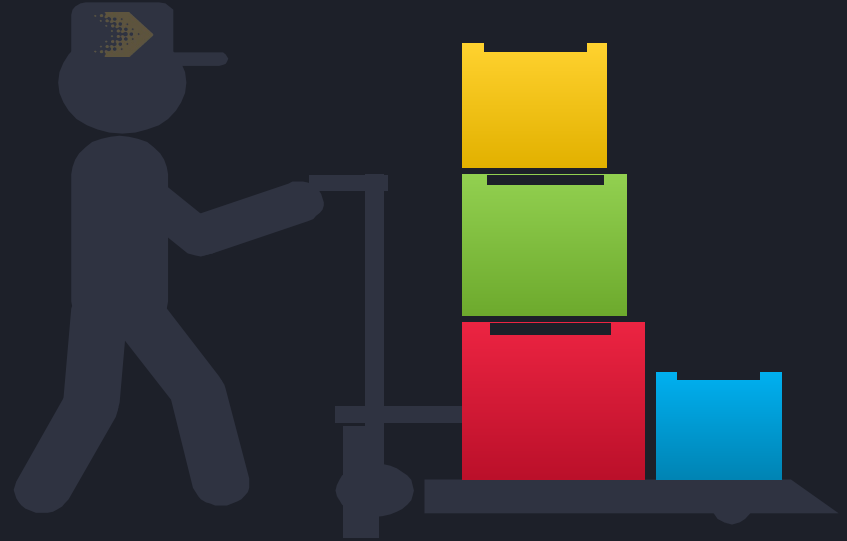
Future events could be related to:

- sports, entertainment, ...



# Event Detection

- Which Entities Participate
- What Role does each Play
- Dates, Magnitude, Sentiment, Trust
- Event Consolidation



# How does Event Detection work?



# Event Detection Classifier

Event Detection matches Templates against  
Annotated Text

## Templates



- “Regular” patterns
- Authored by humans
- About 100,000 templates
- Built using In-House tool

## Annotated Text



- Entity Detections
- Attributes

The same text is often annotated  
in multiple ways



# Some Example Templates

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

\$COMPANY %DECLARE %BANKRUPTCY-KEYWORD

\$ORGANIZATION %FORECAST %UNEMPLOYMENT %FALL

\$PLACE %CONSUMER-CONFIDENCE %RISE

\$COMPANY \* NET INCOME %FALL

*Hmm, something's not quite right...*



# Some Example Templates

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

( :\$COMPANY :%DECLARE :%BANKRUPTCY-KEYWORD )

( :\$ORGANIZATION :%FORECAST :%UNEMPLOYMENT :%FALL )

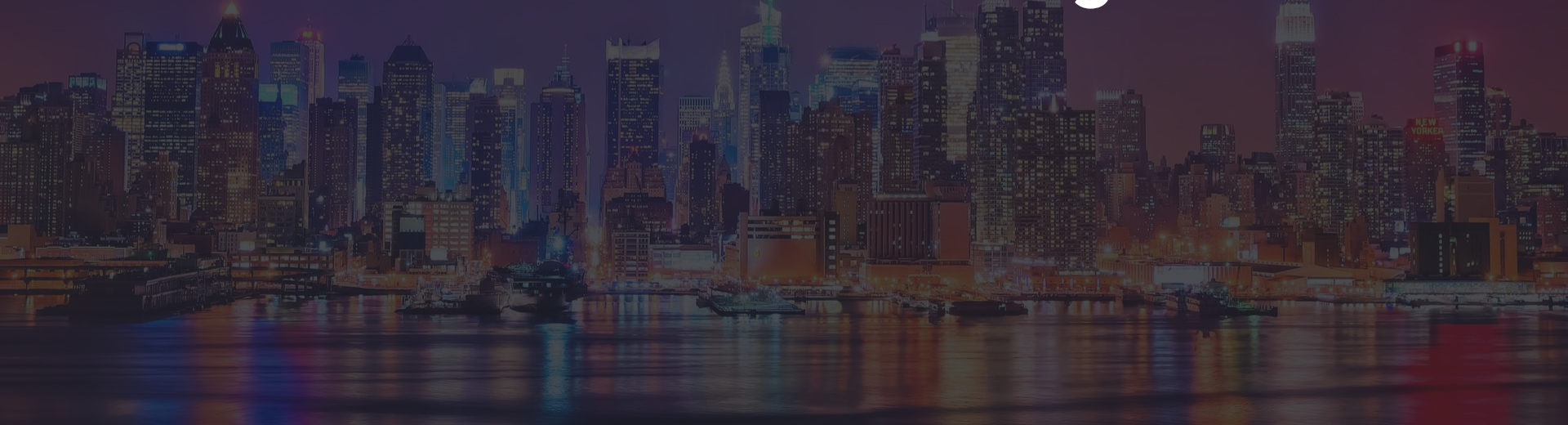
( :\$PLACE :%CONSUMER-CONFIDENCE :%RISE )

( :\$COMPANY :\* :NET :INCOME :%FALL )

*That's better...*

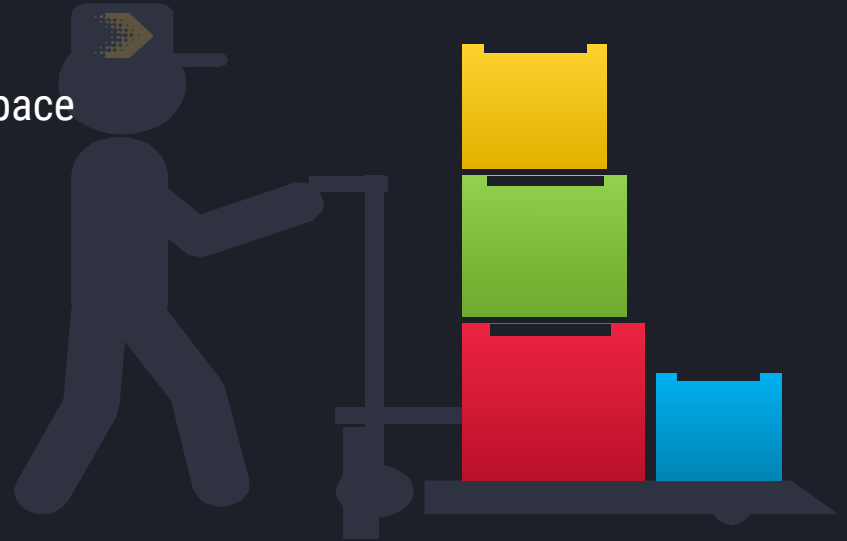


# What about the Matching itself?



# Matching Templates with Annotated Text





- 🗄️ We have something like a Rete algorithm  
But ours was “invented” independently
- ⚙️ Templates are stored in a Trie  
Additions have low impact on speed and space
- 📄 Multiple Templates can match given Text  
Scoring to choose a Winner
- 🔍 Wildcards are the most expensive part

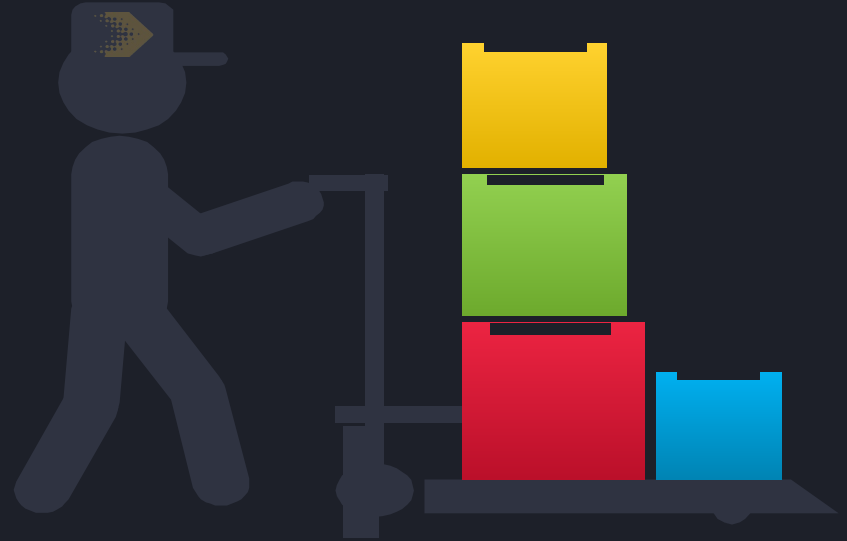


# A Template Trie



# Populating Event Types

-  An Event Type is composed of multiple roles
-  Each role allows particular types of data
-  The matching engine populates roles with entities, attributes, or data
-  Conditions further define a match



# Event Type Examples

Template	Event Type	Value	Types
<input type="text" value="legal-issues"/>  <i>Template maps to type when:</i>  <div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 5px;">           - &lt; POS &gt; - &lt;            - &lt; POS &gt; - &lt;            - &lt; POS &gt; - &lt;            - &lt; POS &gt; - &lt;            - &lt; POS &gt; - &lt;         </div> <input type="text" value="always"/>	1. legal-issues-plaintiff	nil	COMPANY, NATIONALITY, ORGANIZATION, PERSON
	2. legal-issues-defendant	nil	COMPANY, NATIONALITY, ORGANIZATION, PERSON
	3. legal-issues-period	nil	PERIOD(TIMESPAN)
	4. legal-issues-date	nil	PERIOD(Date)
	5. legal-issues-position-plaintiff	nil	POSITION
	6. legal-issues-position-defendant	nil	POSITION
	7. legal-issues-authority	nil	ORGANIZATION(GOVERNMENT)
	8. legal-issues-location	nil	PLACE
	9. legal-issues-sentiment-modifier	nil	MAGNITUDE
	10. legal-issues-sentiment	nil	SENTIMENT
	11. legal-issues-opinion-plaintiff	nil	COMPANY, NATIONALITY, ORGANIZATION, PERSON
	12. legal-issues-opinion-defendant	nil	COMPANY, NATIONALITY, ORGANIZATION, PERSON
	13. legal-issues-opinion-authority	nil	ORGANIZATION(GOVERNMENT)
	14. legal-issues-opinion-location	nil	PLACE
	15. legal-issues-rater	nil	COMPANY, NATIONALITY, ORGANIZATION, PERSON

Template	Event Type	Value	Types
<input type="text" value="earnings-up"/>  <i>Template maps to type when:</i>  <div style="background-color: #e0e0e0; padding: 5px;">           2 &lt; &gt; 3 &lt;            - &lt; POS &gt; - &lt;            - &lt; POS &gt; - &lt;            - &lt; POS &gt; - &lt;            - &lt; POS &gt; - &lt;         </div> <input type="text" value="(AND (&gt; \$6 \$8))"/>	1. earnings-up	nil	COMPANY
	2. earnings-up-actual	nil	CURRENCY, NUMBER
	3. earnings-up-previous	nil	CURRENCY, NUMBER
	4. earnings-up-percentage	nil	NUMBER, PERCENTAGE
	5. earnings-up-period	nil	PERIOD(TIMESPAN)
	6. earnings-up-date	nil	PERIOD(Date)
	7. earnings-up-method	nil	PERIOD(METHOD)
	8. earnings-up-previous-period	nil	PERIOD(TIMESPAN)
	9. earnings-up-type	nil	EARNINGS-TYPE
	10. earnings-up-product	nil	PRODUCT
	11. earnings-up-sentiment-modifier	nil	MAGNITUDE
	12. earnings-up-sentiment	nil	SENTIMENT
	13. earnings-up-opinion	nil	COMPANY
	14. earnings-up-opinion-product	nil	PRODUCT
	15. earnings-up-rater	nil	COMPANY, NATIONALITY, ORGANIZATION, PERSON

**Are there any Limitations?**



# Event Detection Limitations

Opportunities for Improvement

## Many Templates



Authored by humans and they are “fragile”. Even with 100,000 templates, there are many texts where we fail to match events.

## Uncaptured Context




There is often text in wildcards, before or after the match that could contribute context, which we’d like to capture - without the need to write more templates.



**How are you addressing these?**



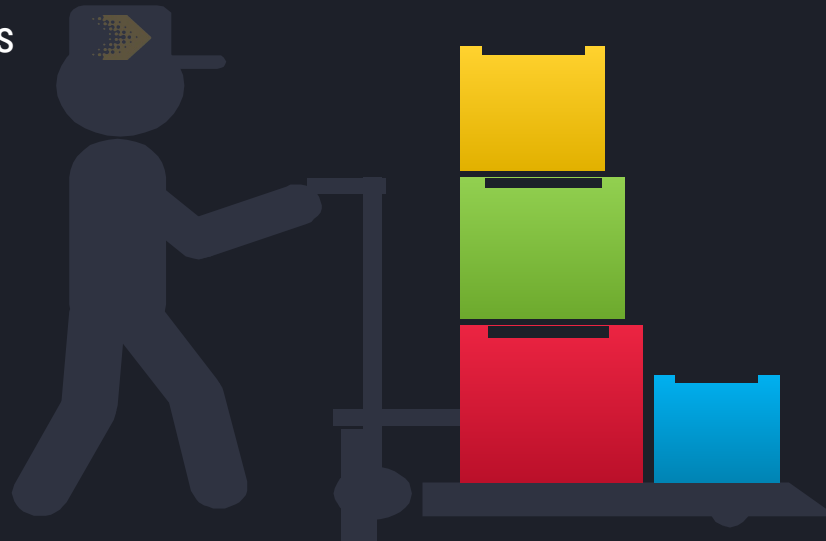
# Event Detection Initiatives

 Augmenting matches to produce Enriched Events

 A matching Template might not fill all Roles

 Inspect Nearby Annotated Text

 Populate Dates, Magnitudes, Sentiment



# Augmented Match Example 1

"MEXICO: Consumer Confidence Index Rises 1% In September On Monthly Basis"

( :\$PLACE :%CONSUMER-CONFIDENCE :%RISE :\$PERCENTAGE :%PREPOSITION-TIME :\$PERIOD )

\$PLACE	%CONSUMER-CONFIDENCE	%RISE	\$PERCENTAGE	%PREPOSITION-TIME	\$PERIOD(*)	\$PERIOD
MEXICO	CONSUMER CONFIDENCE INDEX	RISES	1	IN	SEPTEMBER	ON MONTHLY BASIS
1.	consumer-confidence-up		42125631020B6113DF09246655383EE9 - Mexico (ESS: 0.53)			
2.	consumer-confidence-up-actual					
3.	consumer-confidence-up-previous					
4.	consumer-confidence-up-percentage	1				
5.	consumer-confidence-up-period		TIMESPAN: 2017-09-01 00:00:00 -> 2017-10-01 00:00:00 (Period: -----)			
6.	consumer-confidence-up-rater					
7.	consumer-confidence-up-date					
8.	consumer-confidence-up-method		<b>METH: MOM</b>			
9.	consumer-confidence-up-sentiment-modifier					
10.	consumer-confidence-up-sentiment					
11.	consumer-confidence-up-opinion					
12.	consumer-confidence-up-previous-period					

# Augmented Match Example 2

"In first quarter 2018, the Company repurchased 50.6 million shares of its common stock"

( :\$COMPANY :%BUYBACK :\$NUMBER :%SHARES )

<b>%PREPOSITION-TIME \$PERIOD</b>	<b>\$COMPANY(*)</b>	<b>%BUYBACK</b>	<b>\$NUMBER</b>	<b>%SHARES</b>
<b>IN FIRST QUARTER 2018</b>	<b>THE COMPANY</b>	<b>REPURCHASED</b>	<b>50,600,000</b>	<b>SHARES</b>
1. buybacks	E8846EF4BDF75A87A2EEC359DB4D6588 - Wells Fargo & Co. (ESS: 0.59) (Rep			
2. buybacks-actual				
3. buybacks-previous				
4. buybacks-percentage				
5. buybacks-period	<b>TIMESPAN: 2018-01-01 00:00:00 -&gt; 2018-04-01 00:00:00 (Period: 2018-Q1)</b>			
6. buybacks-date				
7. buybacks-sentiment-modifier				
8. buybacks-sentiment				
9. buybacks-opinion				
10. buybacks-rater				

# What's Next?



# Themes and Beyond

The Future of Event Detection

## Themes



A Theme comprises the essential ingredients required for a match of a particular Event Type.

## Machine Learning



Just have a human say, “this sentence is an example of that event type”. And have the computer do the rest.



# Theme Considerations

( :\$COMPANY :%BANKRUPTCY )

Company enters bankruptcy.

Company exits bankruptcy.

Company should consider bankruptcy.

Company avoids bankruptcy.

Company denies bankruptcy rumors.



# Who Built This?



# Event Detection Classifier Team



Andrew Lawson



Nick Levine



André Thieme



Maybe You?



**Thank you!**  
**Any Additional Questions?**

**Yes, We're in Marbella.  
Yes, We're Hiring!**

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