

[an introduction to open source]

[i. Red Hat and open source]

[**fundamental community truth #1**]

The software commons is the supply chain for our company.

(Which means we have to keep the community happy.)

[**fundamental community truth #2**]

There is no such thing as “the open source community” -- there are *thousands* of individual open source communities.

* * *

Each community produces its own code,
guided by its own principles and rules.

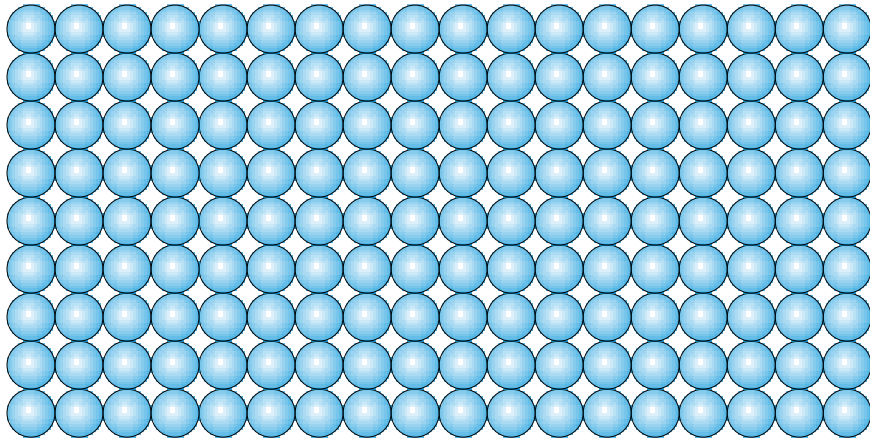
In some communities, we lead.

In other communities, we participate.

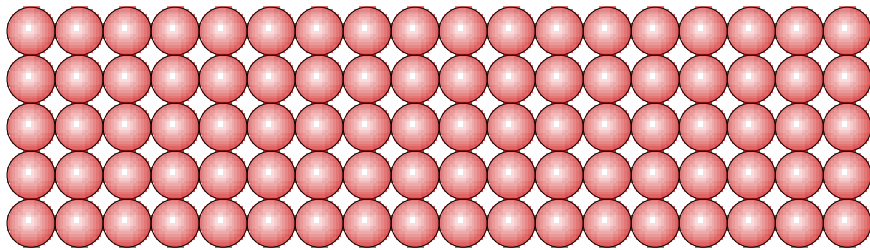
But we can't be everywhere, and it would be crazy to try.

[1 dot = 1 developer community]

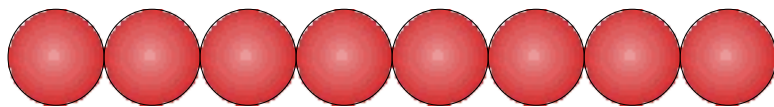
[**Red Hat contributions**]



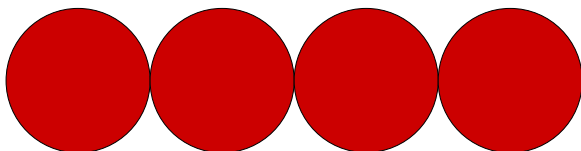
no Red Hat contributions at all
(but could be in Fedora Extras)



low-moderate Red Hat contributions
(most packages in RHEL/Fedora Core)



significant Red Hat contributions
(xen, kernel, glibc, selinux, gcc, gcj, GNOME, etc.)



projects managed by Red Hat
(gfs, fedora directory, hibernate, etc.)

[**fundamental community truth #3**]

Changes that go upstream are supported by everyone.

Changes that do not go upstream are harder to support.

These changes are called *forks*.

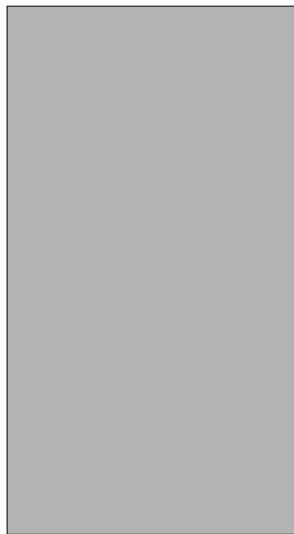
Red Hat's competitive advantage:

**We work upstream better than anybody else...
and we never, ever fork.**

(Okay, almost never.)

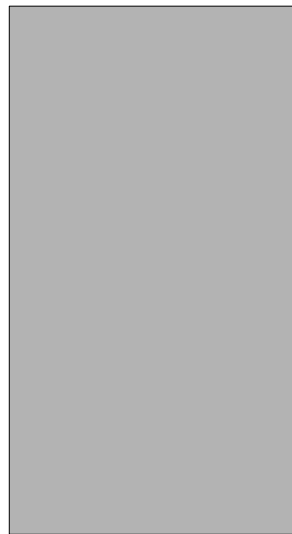
[**watch novell suffer**]

Step 1: Everyone Starts Together



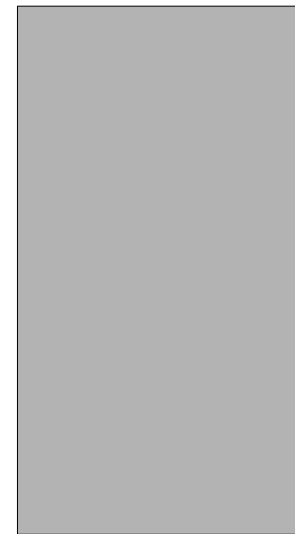
Red Hat
kernel

=



Upstream
kernel

=



Novell
kernel

[**watch novell suffer**]

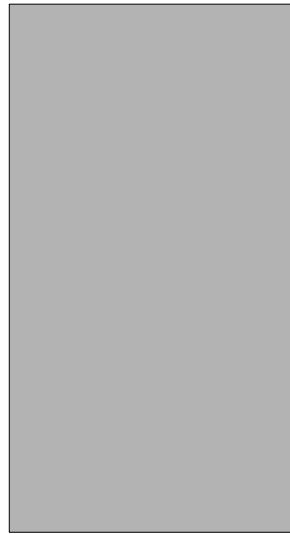
Step 2: Customer Plays Mommy/Daddy

*Hey, can you support
Feature X?*



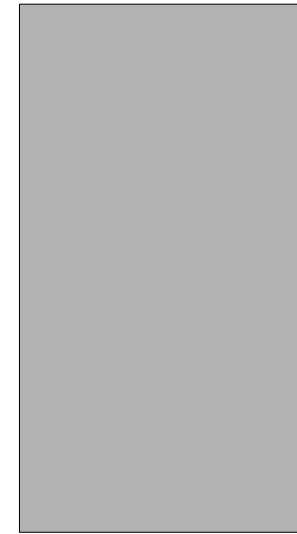
Red Hat
kernel

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Upstream
kernel

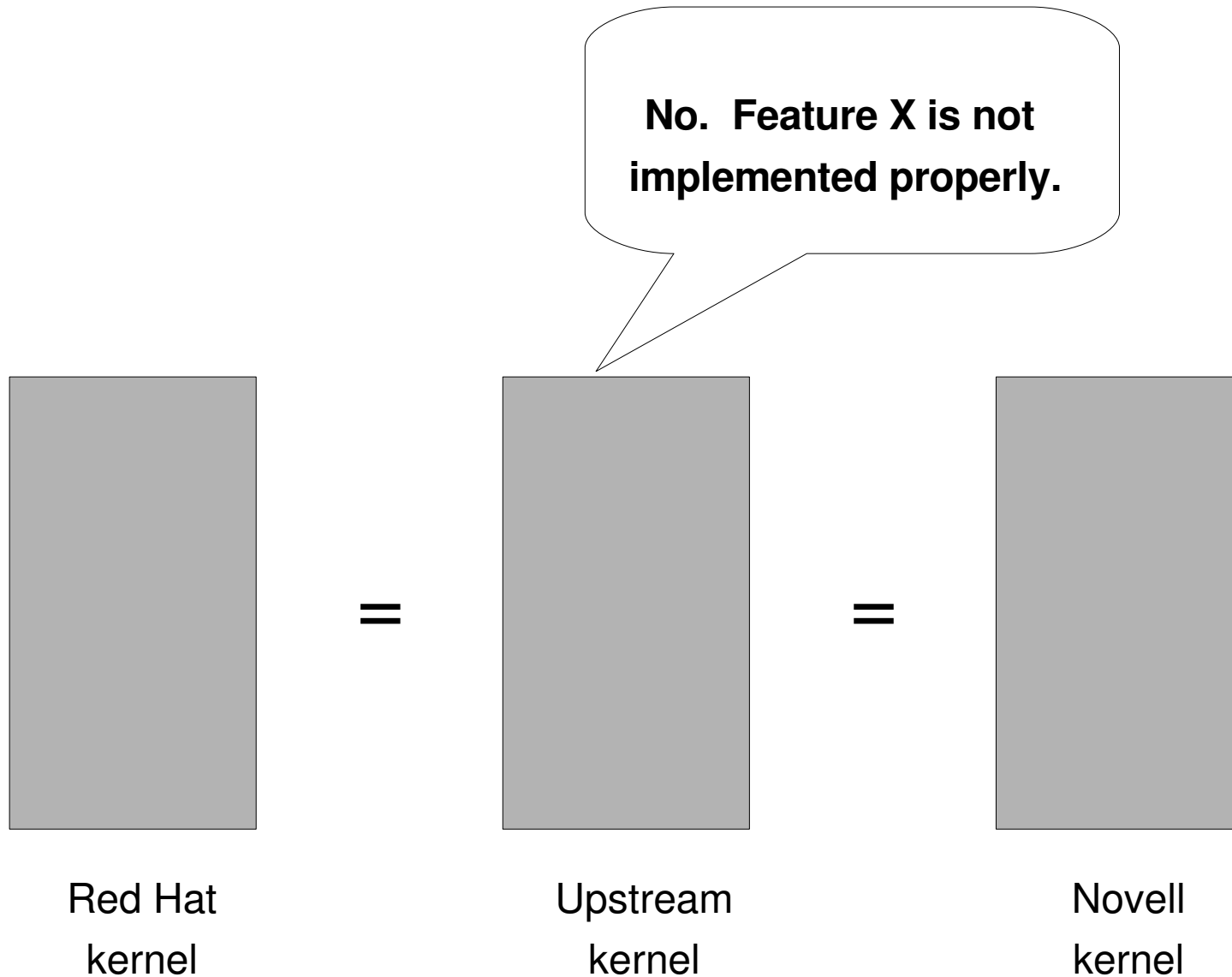
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Novell
kernel

[**watch novell suffer**]

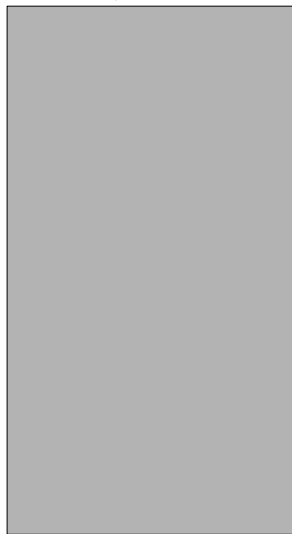
Step 2: Customer Plays Mommy/Daddy



[**watch novell suffer**]

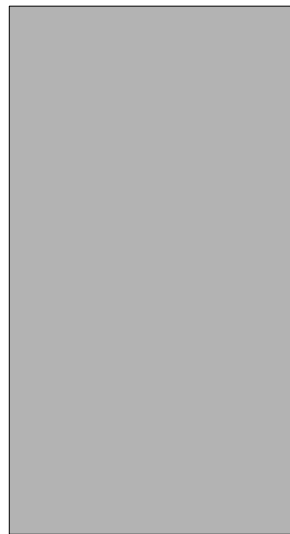
Step 2: Customer Plays Mommy/Daddy

No, Feature X isn't right -- but we will advocate for Feature Y, which will also solve your problem.



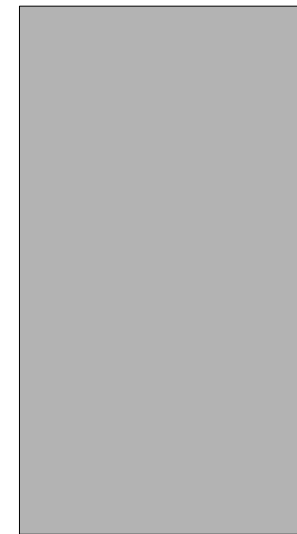
Red Hat
kernel

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Upstream
kernel

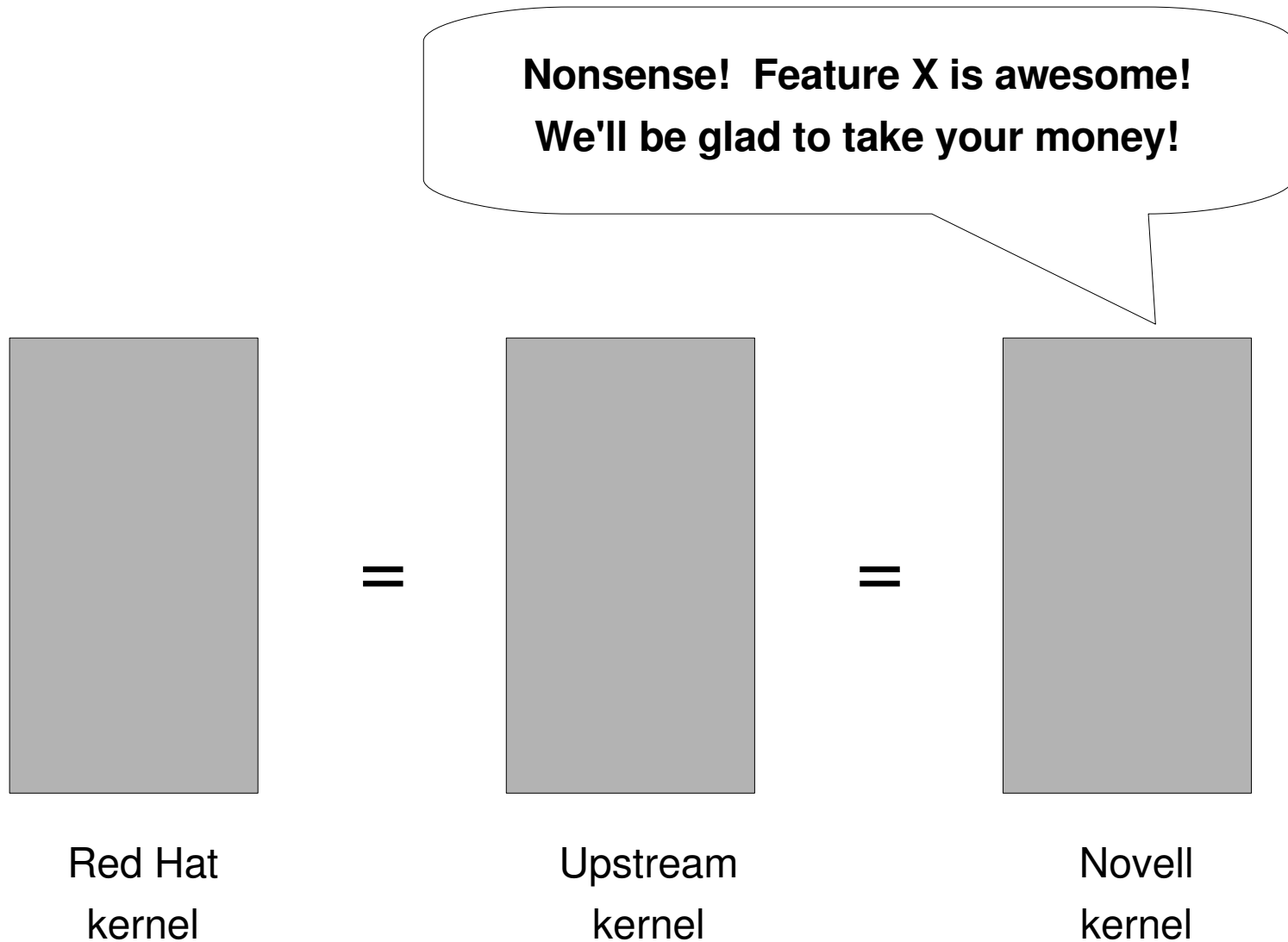
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Novell
kernel

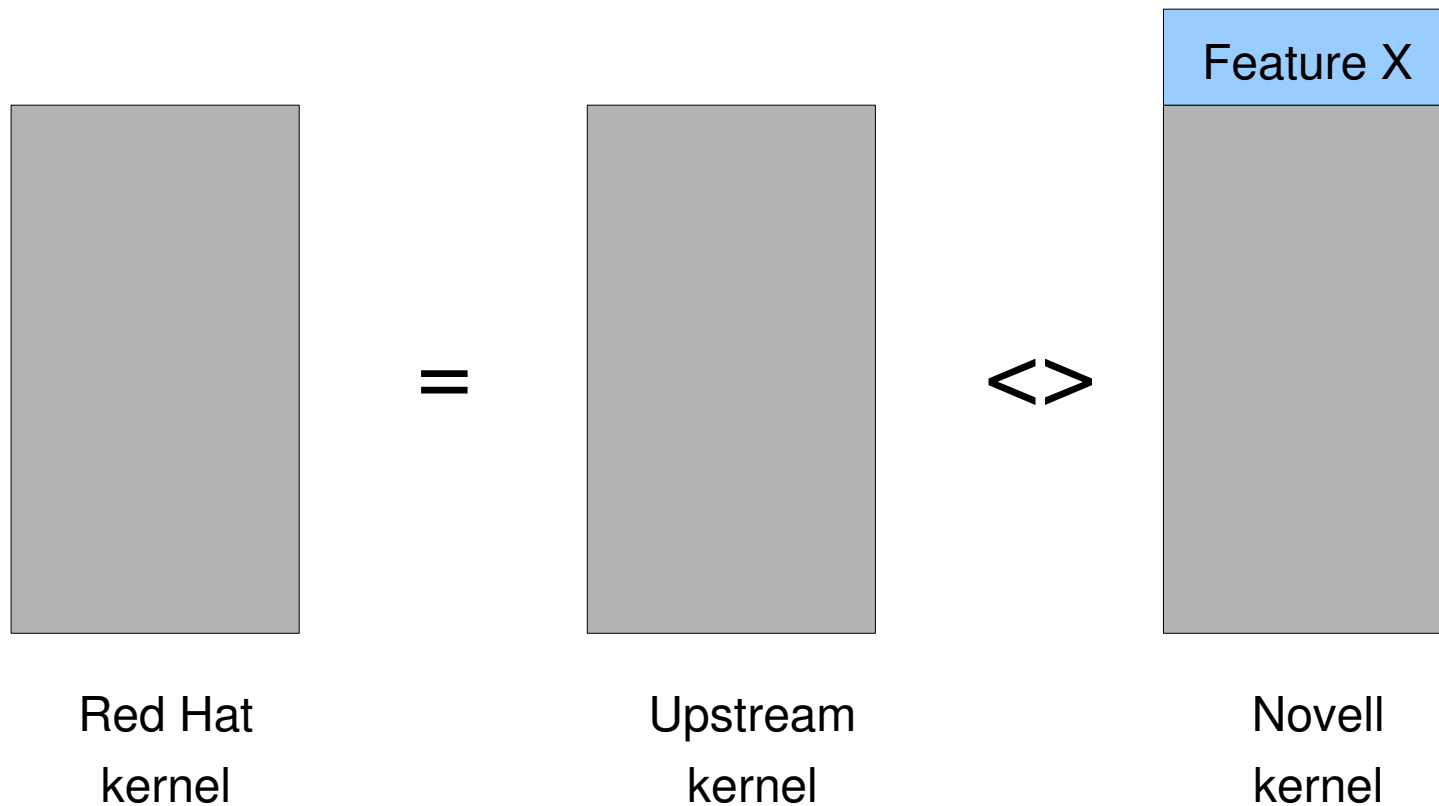
[**watch novell suffer**]

Step 2: Customer Plays Mommy/Daddy



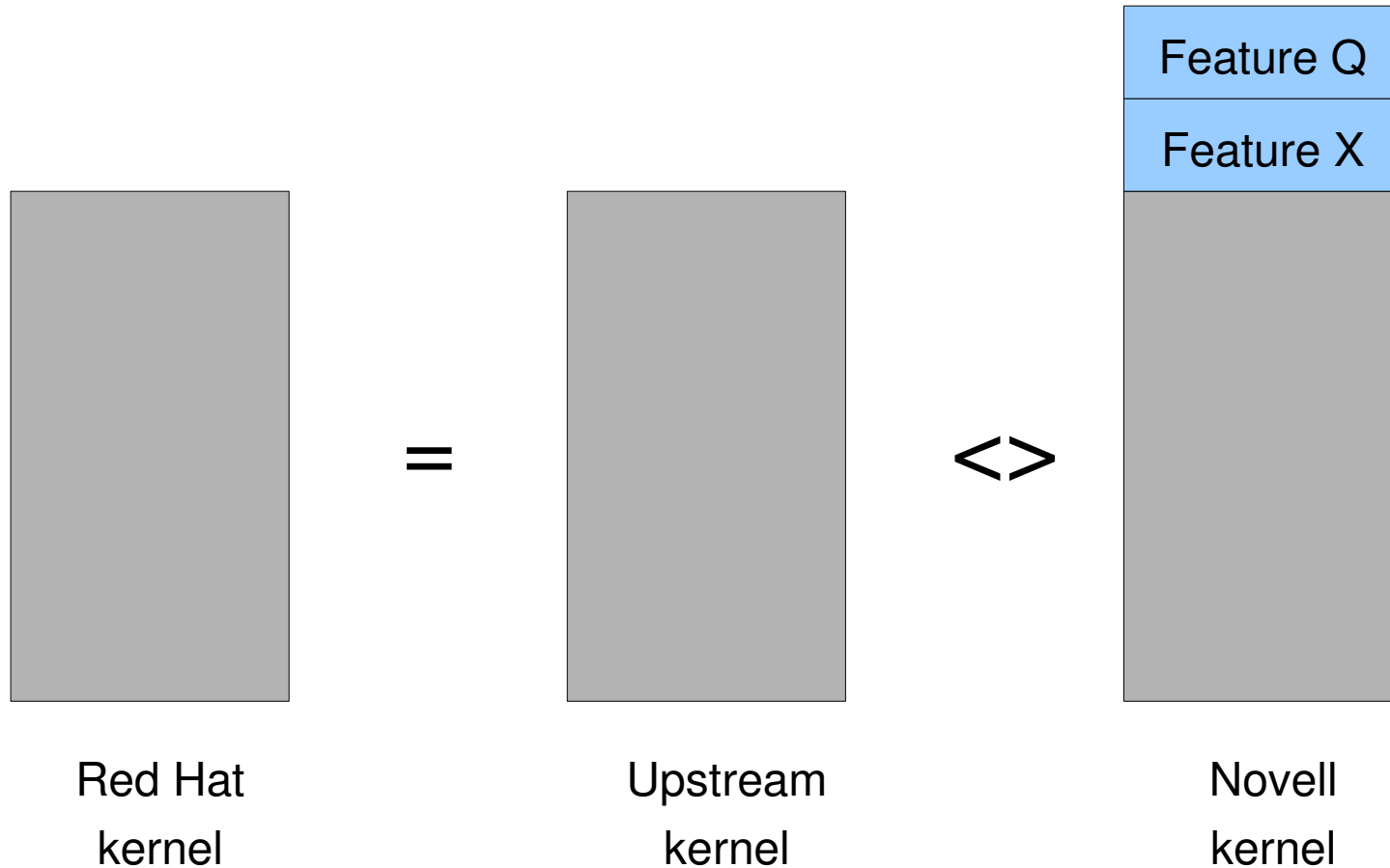
[**watch novell suffer**]

Step 3: Novell ships custom patches



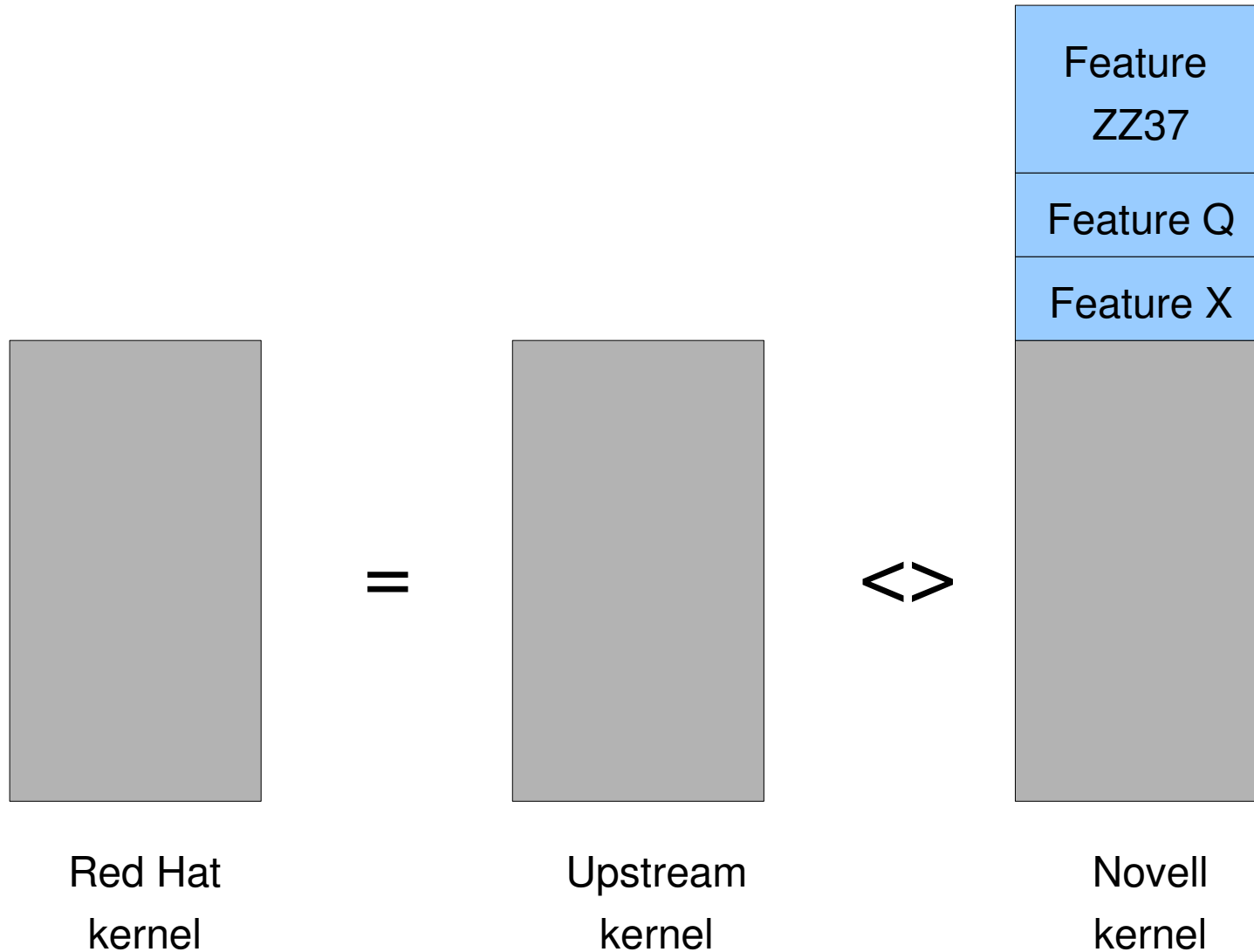
[watch novell suffer]

Step 3: Novell ships custom patches



[**watch novell suffer**]

Step 3: Novell ships custom patches



[**watch novell suffer**]

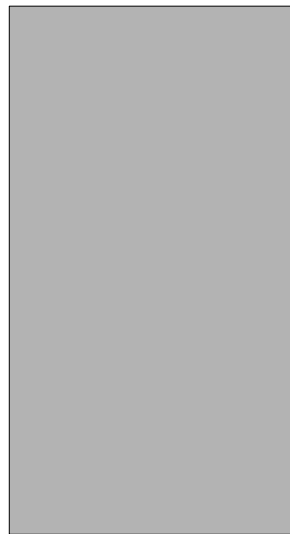
Step 4: Novell's patches break

***HEY! Feature ZZ37 caused a kernel panic in production!
FIX IT!***



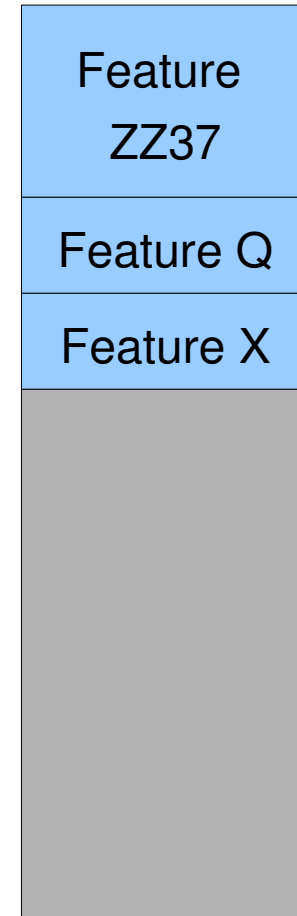
Red Hat
kernel

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Upstream
kernel

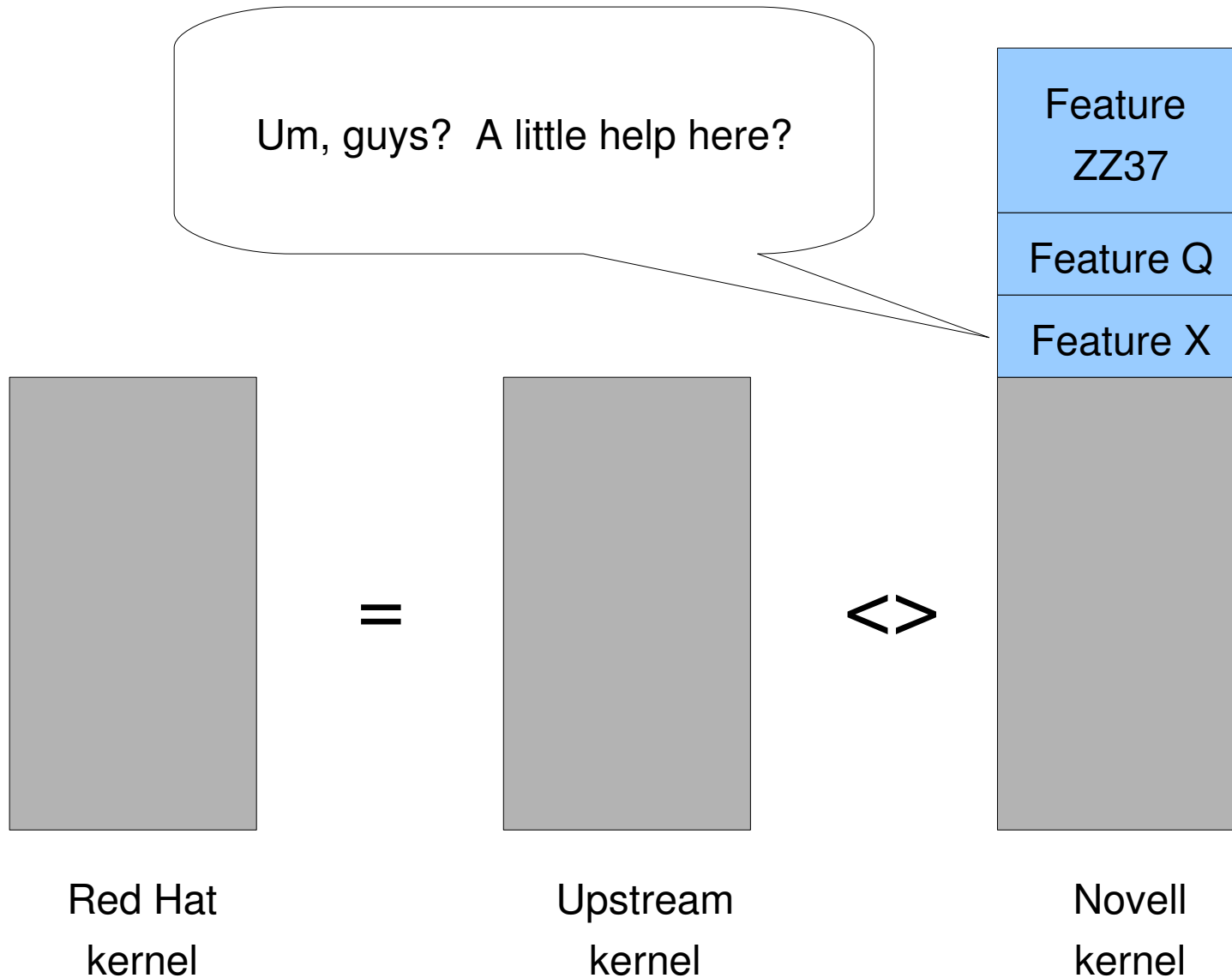
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Novell
kernel

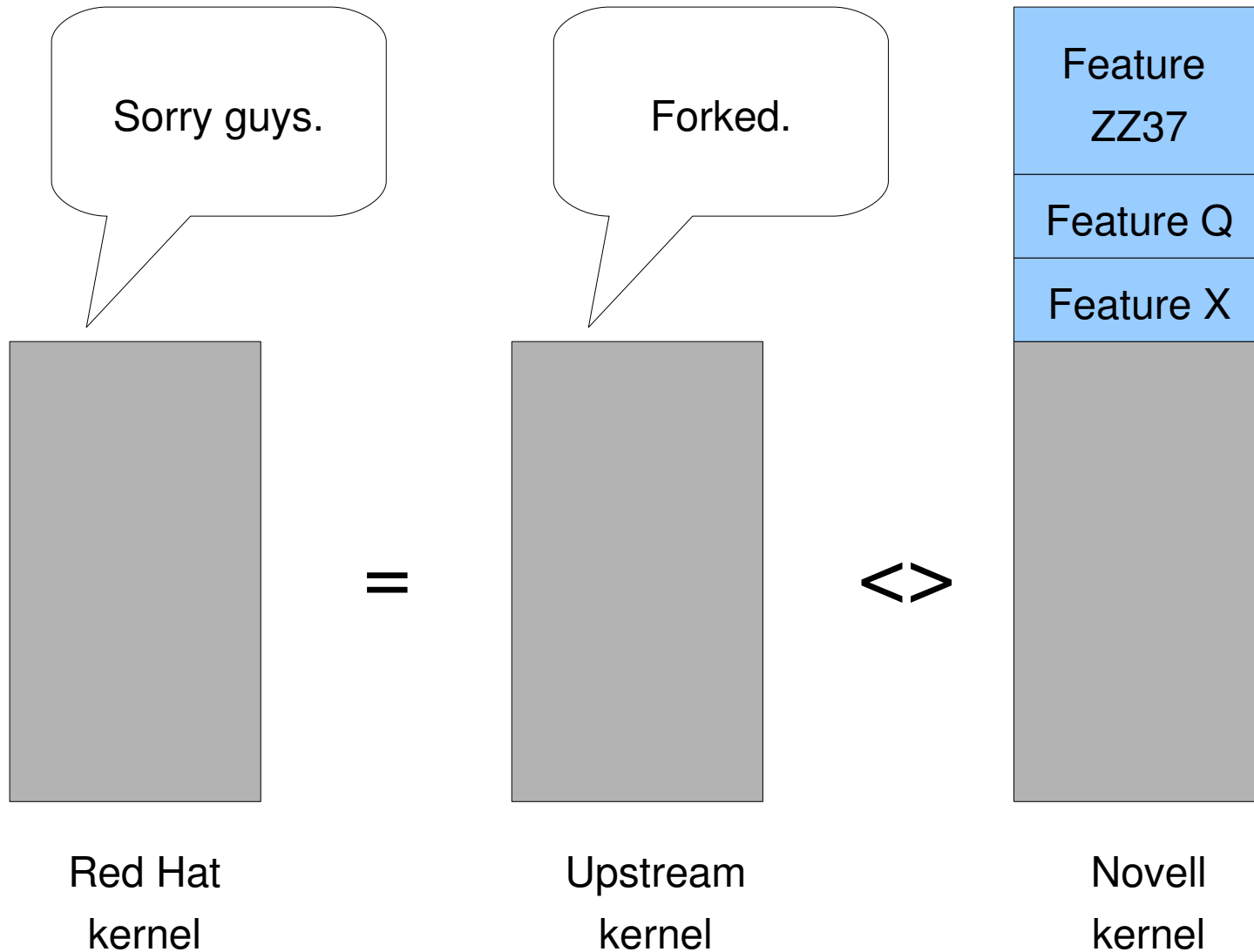
[watch novell suffer]

Step 5: Novell thrashes helplessly



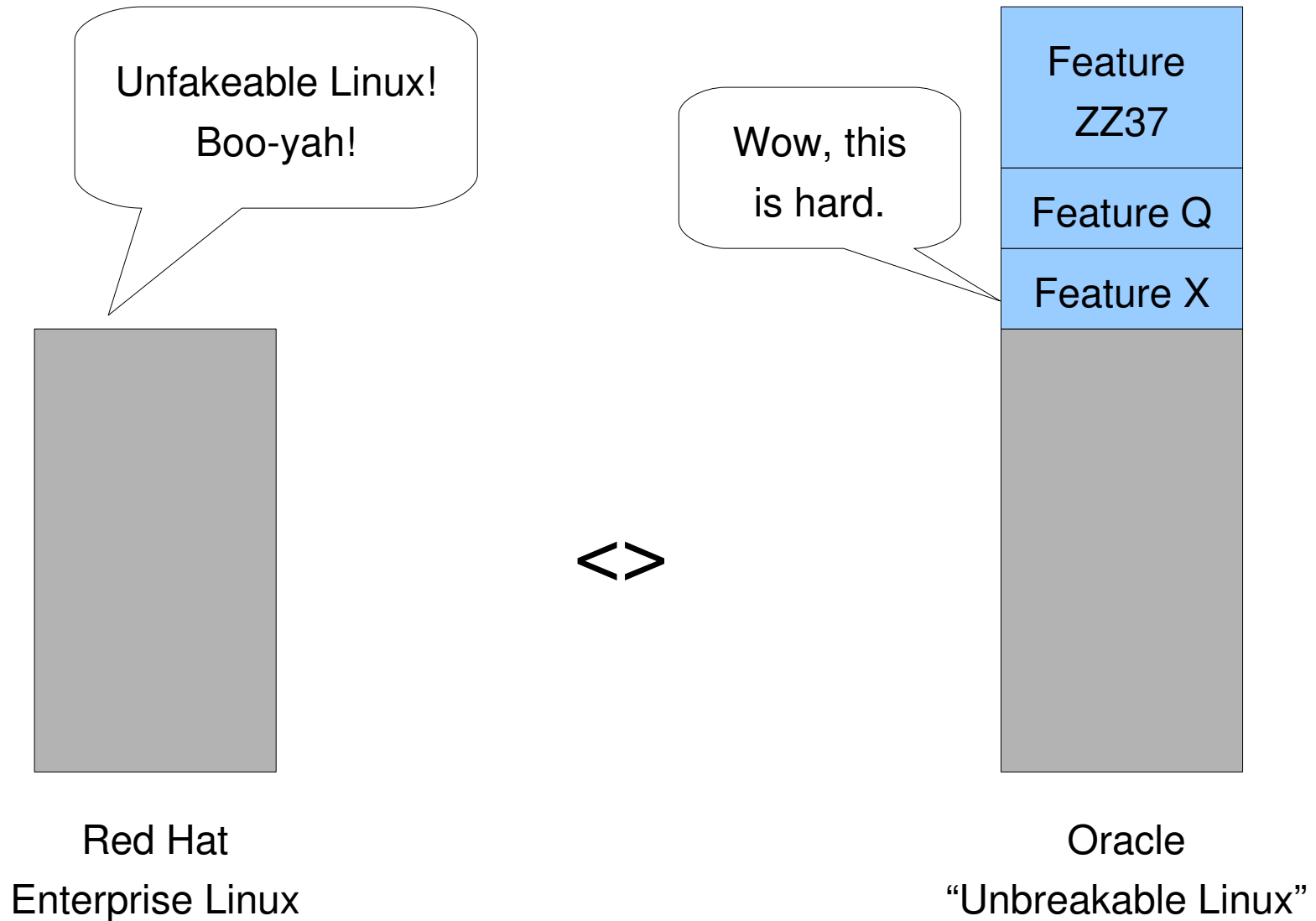
[watch novell suffer]

Step 5: Novell thrashes helplessly



[**watch oracle suffer**]

Step 5: Oracle thrashes helplessly



[ii. open source and lawyers]

VIDEO INTERLUDE

presenting Mr. Mark Webbink,
licensing guru for Red Hat,
who explains **exactly** what we mean by
“open source”.

[pay attention: this is **extremely** important]

[fundamental community truth #4]

BSD-style licenses are okay, but we prefer the GPL.

Why?

Because the GPL builds an ever-expanding commons of code.

[fundamental community truth #5]

**Software patents are one of the greatest threats
to innovation in the software industry.**

(That's why we actively lobby against them.)

[copyrights vs. patents: a simple comparison]

Copyrights

Apply to **actual**
implementations of ideas

Are **clearly** documented
in the code itself

Provide clear protection
from the moment the code
is published

Patents

Apply to **potential**
implementations of ideas

Are **poorly** documented in
a database of lawyerspeak

Must be analyzed and
granted by overworked
government officials who are
less and less able to truly
determine “novelty”

[festive facts]

Number of patents held by Pfizer on Viagra: 1.

[festive facts]

Number of patents held by Pfizer on Viagra: 1.

Number of patents held by Merck on Zocor: 1.

[festive facts]

Number of patents held by Pfizer on Viagra: 1.

Number of patents held by Merck on Zocor: 1.

Number of patents held by Microsoft on “positioning and movement of a cursor”: 16.

[the Red Hat Patent Promise]

Because the world of corporate IT can be an evil place,
we must pursue patents for defensive reasons.

But we promise **never** to sue any developer for writing code
that reads on a Red Hat patent...

so long as that code is **released under an open source license.**

(Read more: http://www.redhat.com/legal/patent_policy.html)

[iii. why open source is better]

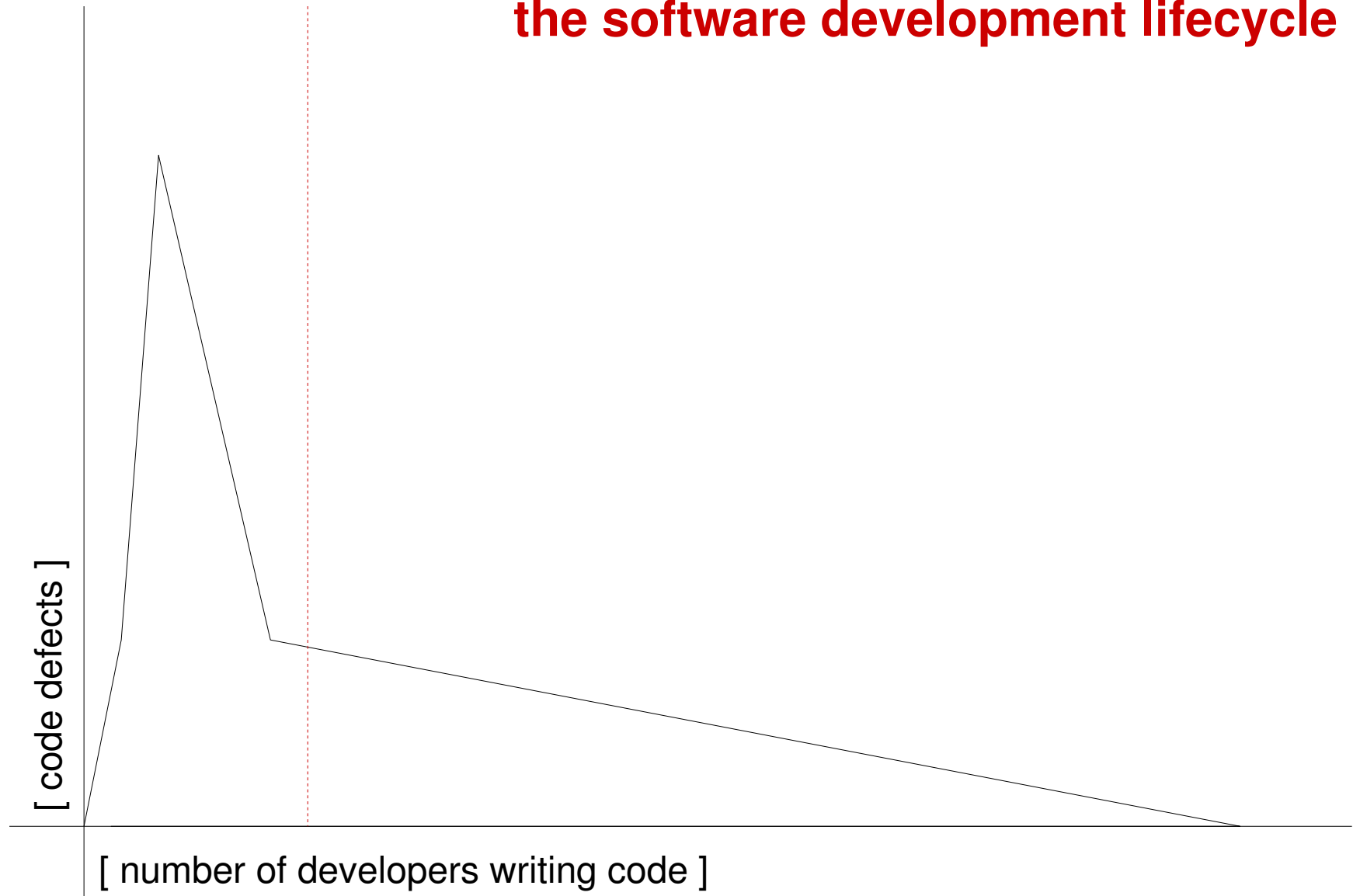
“With enough eyes, all bugs are shallow.”

[eric s. raymond]

“90 percent of everything is crap.”

[theodore sturgeon]

the software development lifecycle



What's that red line?

It's where continued development of proprietary software is no longer cost-effective.

[proof points]

Hollywood
investment bankers
The U.S. Government
millions of web servers
the demise of our competitors

[iv. friends and fiends of open source]

[a few important organizations in the open source world]

FSF	Free Software Foundation, creators of the GPL
OSI	Open Source Initiative, guardians of the term “open source”
ASF	Apache Software Foundation, upstream for Apache (+ others)
Mozilla	Mozilla Foundation / Corporation, upstream for Firefox (+ others)
Eclipse	Eclipse Foundation, the preferred IDE for Java development
SourceForge	The largest repository of open source projects in the world
Canonical	The company behind Ubuntu
Creative Commons	Bringing “open source” ideas to other forms of content

[a pair of companies who “walk the walk”]

IBM

(Apache, Eclipse)

Sun

(OpenOffice, Java)

[a bunch of companies who “talk the talk”]

Novell

Oracle

Apple

Google

**Our customers trust us
because **we are the good guys.****

Don't ever, **ever forget that.**

Greg DeKoenigsberg
[[gdk at redhat dot com](mailto:gdk@redhat.com)]