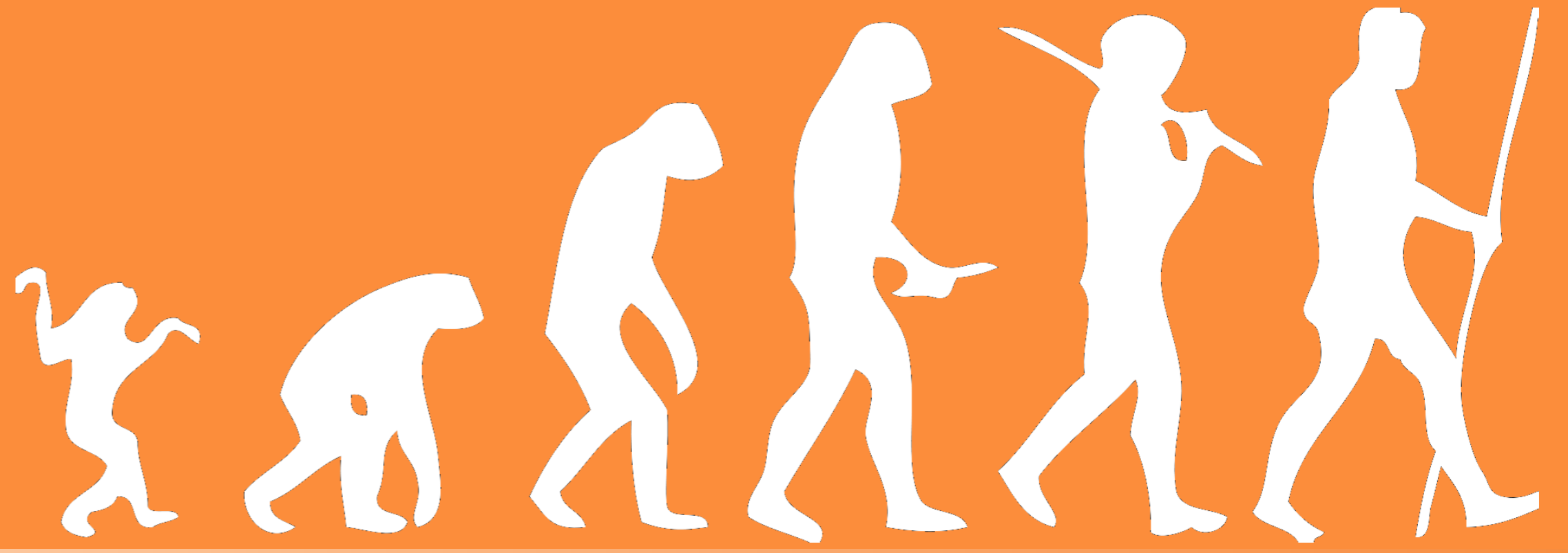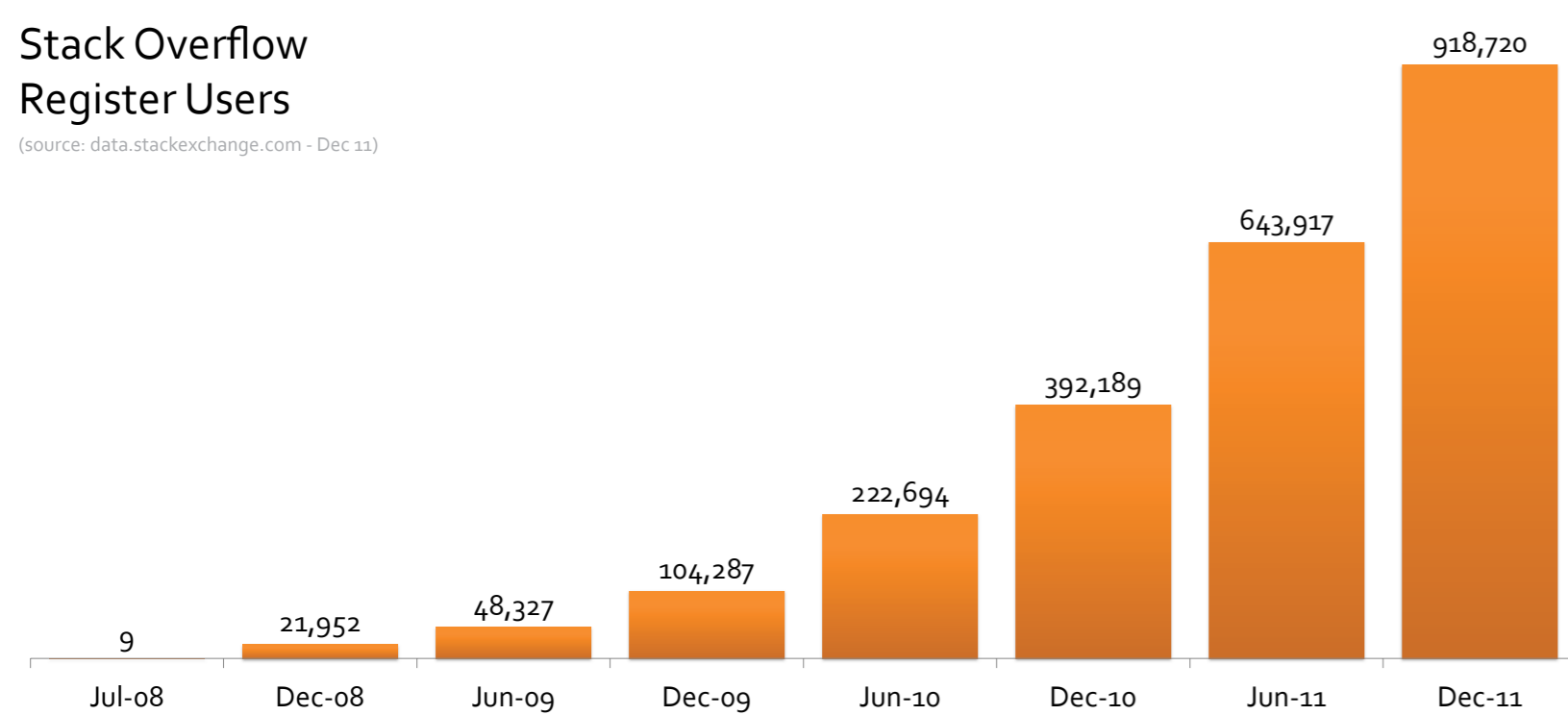# Evolution of the Social Programmer

A question asked on Stack Overflow has a median answer time of 11 minutes. However, users can receive answers only minutes or even seconds after their initial post.

What impact will this virtually on demand access to the stored collective knowledge of a community of experts will have on the profession of software development and the practices of developers.
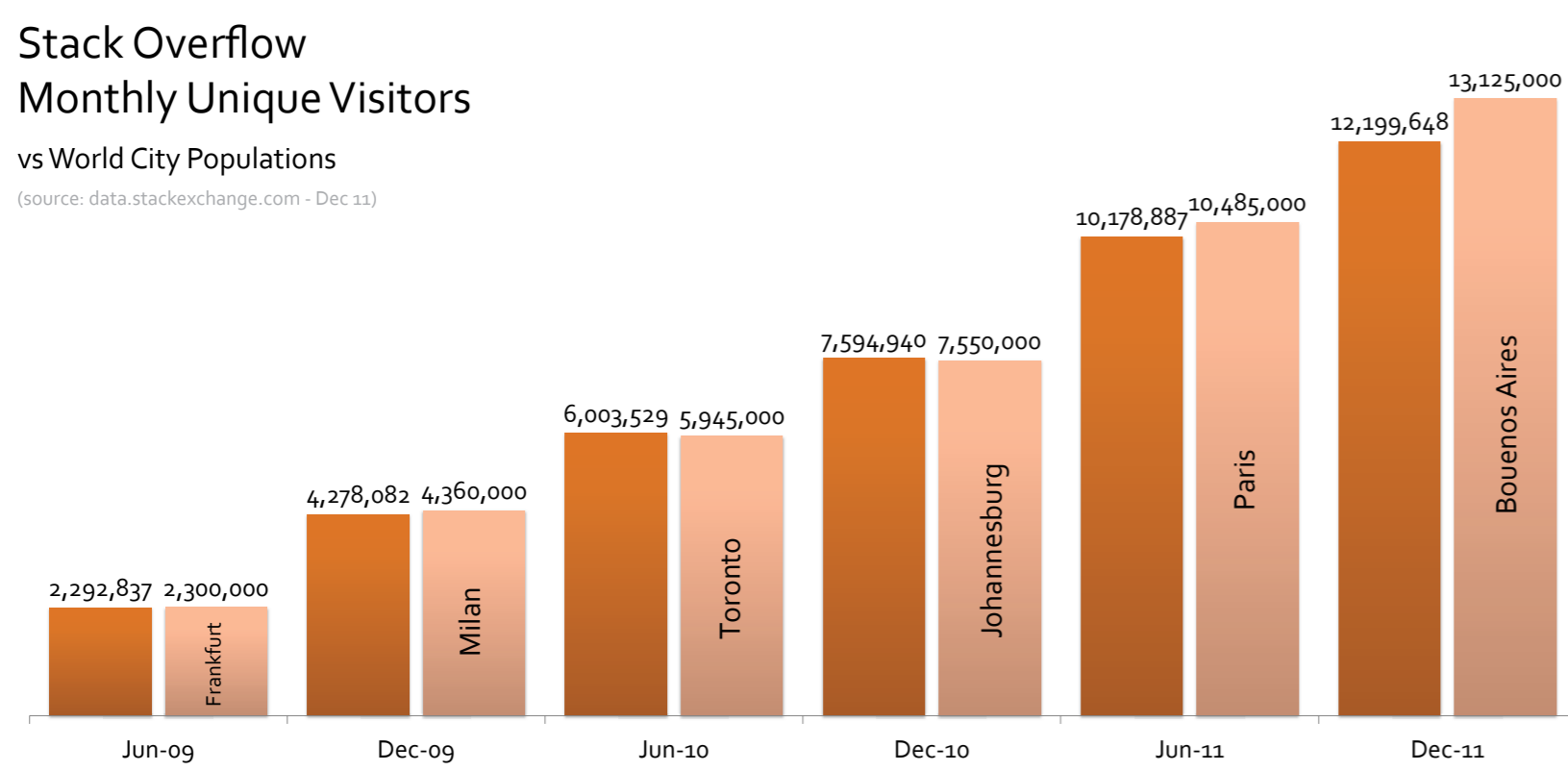
Stack Overflow Register Users
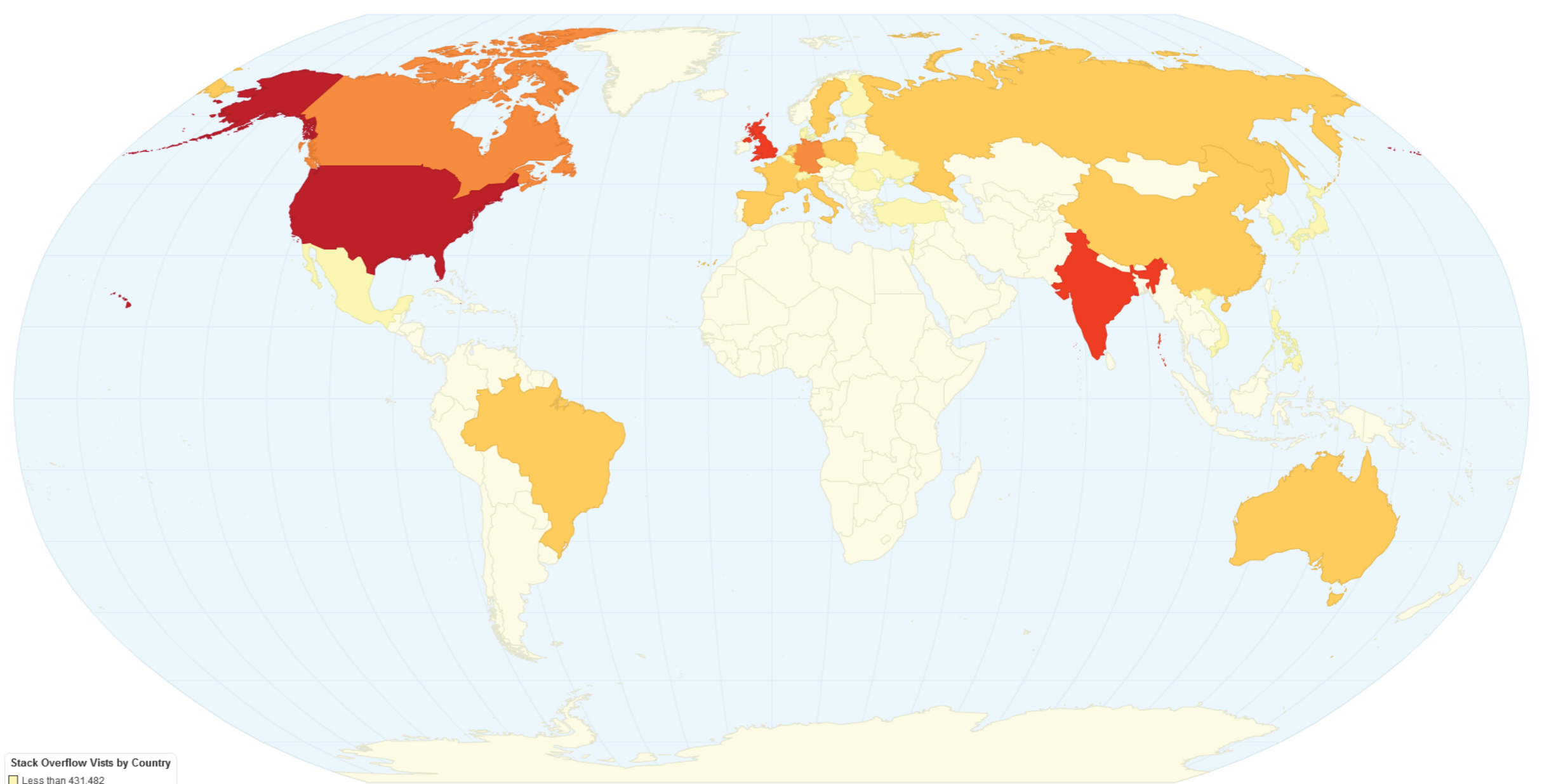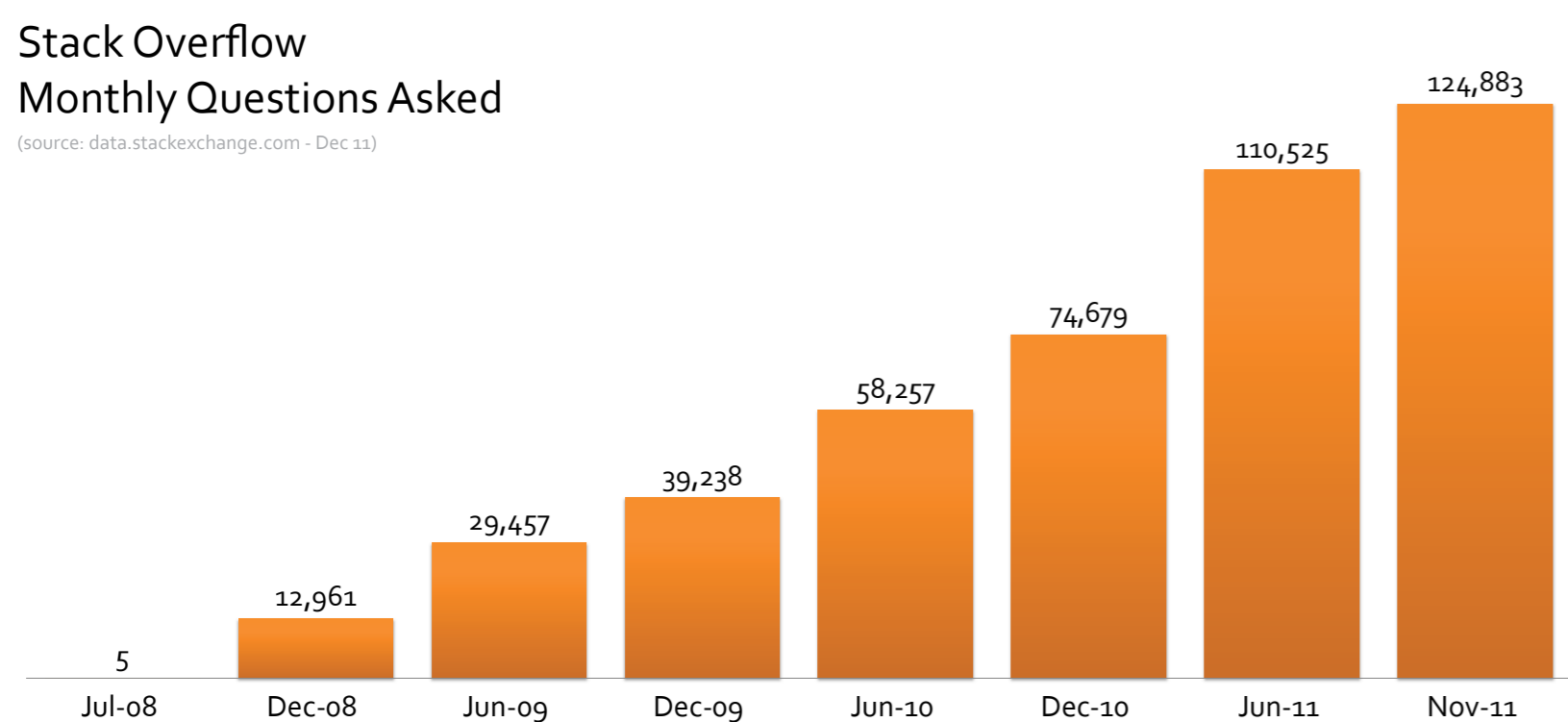(source: data.stackexchange.com - Dec 11)

Jul-08	9
Dec-08	21,952
Jun-09	48,327
Dec-09	104,287
Jun-10	222,694
Dec-10	392,189
Jun-11	643,917
Dec-11	918,720

Stack Overflow Monthly Unique Visitors
vs World City Populations
(source: data.stackexchange.com - Dec 11)

	Stack Overflow	City	City Population
Jun-09	2,292,837	Frankfurt	2,300,000
Dec-09	4,278,082	Milan	4,360,000
Jun-10	6,003,529	Toronto	5,945,000
Dec-10	7,594,940	Johannesburg	7,550,000
Jun-11	10,178,887	Paris	10,485,000
Dec-11	12,199,648	Bouenos Aires	13,125,000

Stack Overflow Monthly Questions Asked
(source: data.stackexchange.com - Dec 11)

Jul-08	5
Dec-08	12,961
Jun-09	29,457
Dec-09	39,238
Jun-10	58,257
Dec-10	74,679
Jun-11	110,525
Nov-11	124,883

Stack Overflow Vits by Country
- Less than 431,482
- 431,482 – 1,222,688
- 1,222,689 – 1,947,367
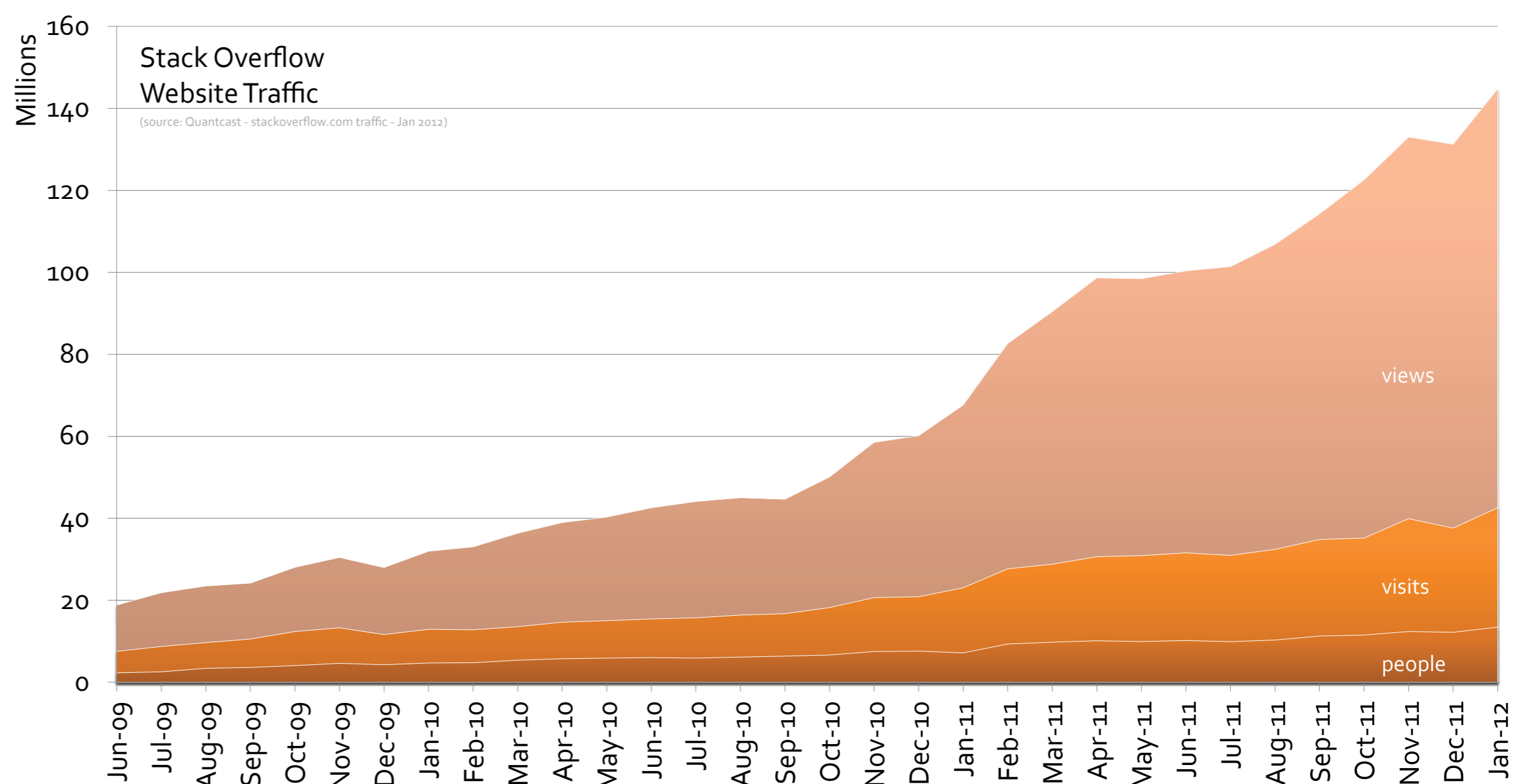- 1,947,367 – 4,046,059
- 4,046,059 – 13,134,911
- No data

Stack Overflow Visits by County
(source: Jole Spolsky - April 7th, 2011 - http://blog.stackoverflow.com/2011/04/stack-overflow-around-the-world/)

Map created using ChartsBin.com under Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported License.)

Stack Overflow Website Traffic
(source: Quantcast - stackoverflow.com traffic - Jan 2012)

Millions — 160, 140, 120, 100, 80, 60, 40, 20

views
visits
people

Jun-09, Jul-09, Aug-09, Sep-09, Oct-09, Nov-09, Dec-09, Jan-10, Feb-10, Mar-10, Apr-10, May-10, Jun-10, Jul-10, Aug-10, Sep-10, Oct-10, Nov-10, Dec-10, Jan-11, Feb-11, Mar-11, Apr-11, May-11, Jun-11, Jul-11, Aug-11, Sep-11, Oct-11, Nov-11, Dec-11, Jan-12

2.4m Questions

5.1m Answers

4 Posts per minute

1.2m Person-hours
(based on estimate of 10 min per post)

3.5k Views per minute

274th Ranked US website
(source: Quantcast Jan 2012)

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