Quicklisp
Technically and Socially

ECLM 2011
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Or, Solving CL’s Library Problem
There Are No Libraries
Oops, not that one
Libraries are too hard to install
clbuild, asdf-install, or bust
Building a nest from scratch
Nesting with asdf-install
“I hated ASDF”
Incoherence
“Cliki.net expired again?”
I could go on and on about asdf-install
But I won’t
Now to pick on clbuild!
“Any OS you like, as long as it’s Unix.”
asdf-install and clbuild as inspiration
• Easy to install
• Always available
• Work everywhere
• Keep things coherent
Easy to install:
a little boring
Work everywhere
Always available:
also slightly boring
Keeping things coherent
Build the world and take notes
Check out *all* the things (or update them)
Take snapshots
Build each system, from alexandria to zs3
Trace dependencies, carefully
Learning from build failure
Publish success as a dist
Personal scalability
Things to do
• Improve, share the dist-making project
• Gather, build, and publish documentation
• Test build on many implementations
• Hackability
• ...and much, much more
Quicklisp socially
For users, everything is easier
“I started/resumed using CL because of Quicklisp.”
For authors, too
“I’m publishing my libraries because of Quicklisp.”
“I’m submitting patches because of Quicklisp.”
Dependency heaven?
Things to do
• Shared evaluation of projects: ratings, recommendations

• More metadata: how to discuss projects, how to report a bug

• Documentation of Quicklisp itself

• Much, much more
Want to make CL nicer to use?
JFDI (Just Do It)
Thanks to library authors
Thanks to users
Thanks to Edi Weitz, Arthur Lemmens, et al