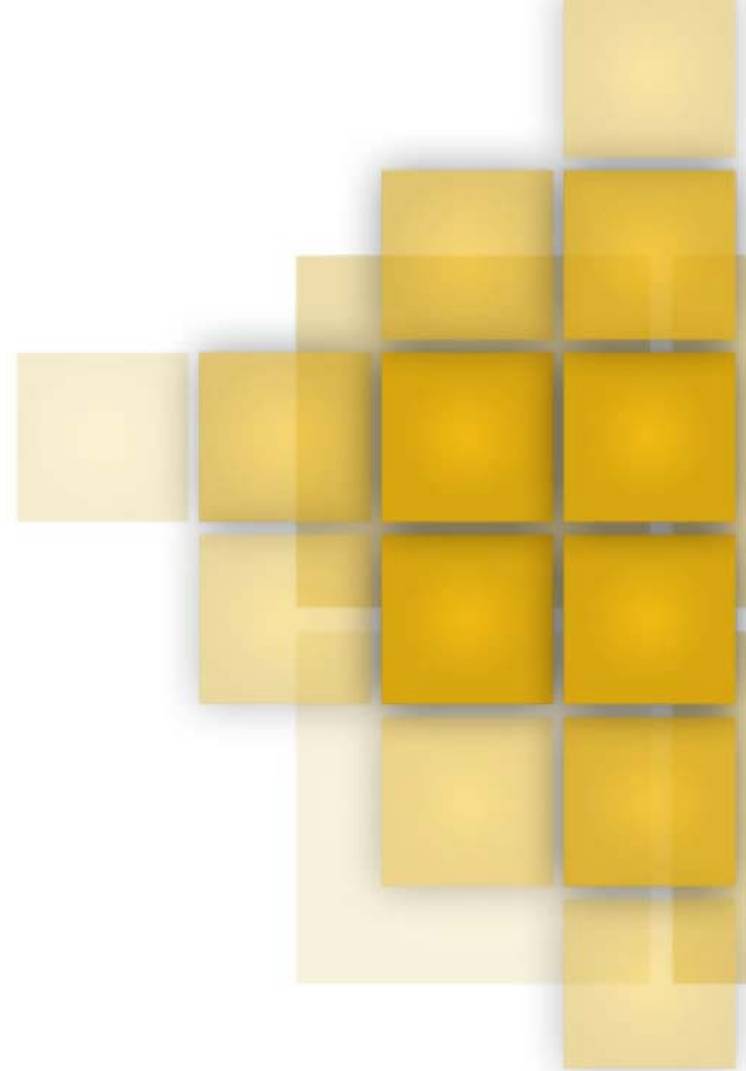


Transporting Bugs with Checkpoints

Jakob Engblom
Technical Marketing Manager – Simics
Wind River

jakob.engblom@windriver.com | <http://blogs.windriver.com/engblom/>

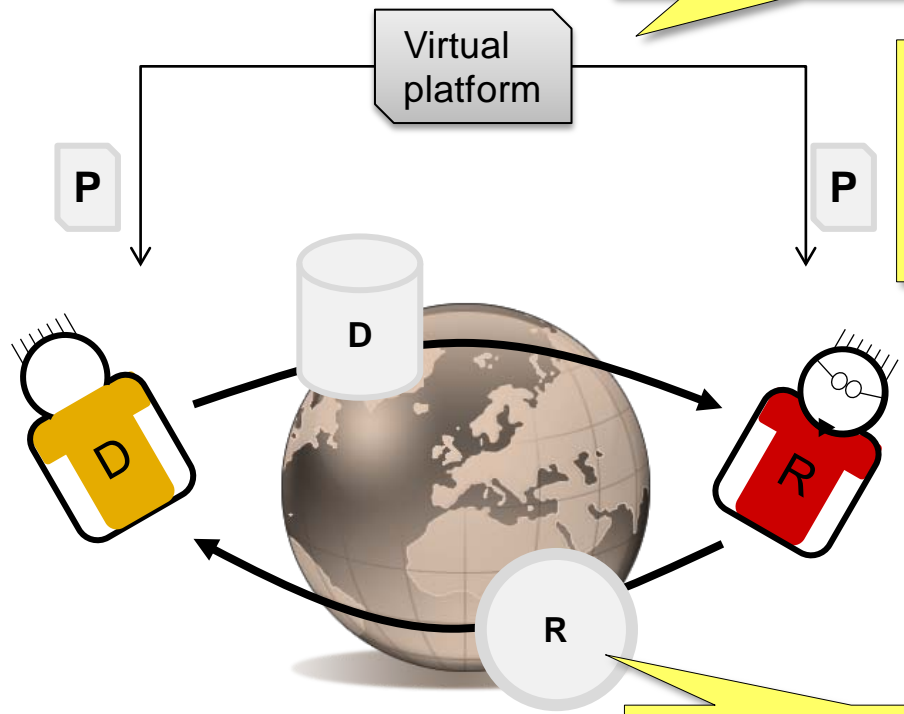


What?

A developer D creates a piece of software and passes it on for testing and use

The developer and reporter are both using a virtual platform to run software

The software user finds a bug and needs to report it to the developer. This makes him or her the reporter R



The reporter uses virtual platform checkpointing to pass the bug to the developer. This ensures perfect replication and that the complete target state is communicated.

checkpoint

hardware configuration or reconfiguration

software package, load, or configuration

Why? – Bug Reporting is no Fun

17.1.2.180910 / 0000 / 20090512041901 / 0.00000 / 0.00000 (1000 000 0.00000)

When navigating to a page that requires the use of the scroll bars, the scroll wheel on the mouse (and scroll touch bar on the touch pad) fail to scroll the page.

Reproducible: Always

Steps to Reproduce:

1. Navigate to <http://www.google.com>
2. Enter search query "Waldo"
3. Attempt to scroll using scroll wheel, note failure.

Actual Results:

The window failed to scroll

Expected Results:

The window should move down (if possible) on a scroll down event, or up in a scroll up event.

Currently using the nightly build (Build 20090512041901) with the default theme. Currently using Adblock plus, download statusbar, downthemall!, edit middle, firebug, fireftp, flashgot, google preview, greasemonkey, httpfox, ie tab, microsoft .net framework assistant, nightly tester tools, twitter fox, user agent switcher, and window resizer plugins.

Provide steps to reproduce the bug

Try to capture all relevant aspects of the software environment...

Pity the developer who tries to reproduce this

https://bugzilla.mozilla.org/show_bug.cgi?id=492885

Why?

- Guaranteed bug reproduction
 - Any number of times
 - At any point in time, any place in the world, on any host (*)
 - No "cannot reproduce" or "unconfirmed"
- Complete state transfer
 - No need to describe the state
 - No need to reconstruct the state
 - No need to ask follow-up questions
 - No risk that the software used in the bug becomes hard to get
- = Engineer convenience, process efficiency, faster bug resolution, less development risk

How? – Technology Background

Virtual Platform

- Model of hardware
- Runs the complete SW
- Provides "the impossible"
 - Checkpointing
 - Determinism
 - Synchronous stop
- Speed is of the essence
 - TLM models
 - Fast JIT ISS
 - Minimally sufficient timing detail
- Might be simplified
 - Stubs, partial models, ...
 - As long as the SW runs

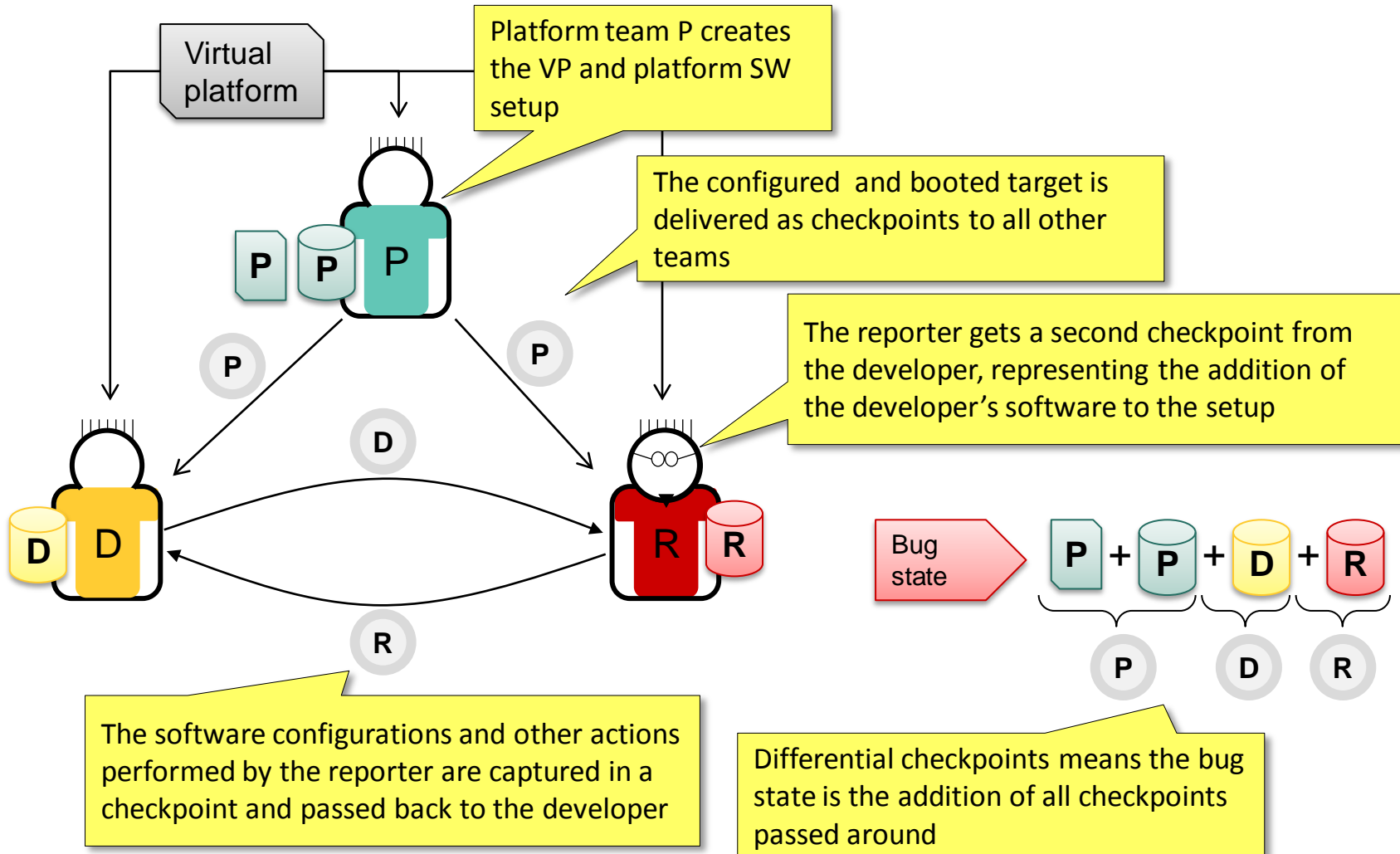
Checkpoint

- Captures
 - Processor state
 - Memory state
 - Disk state
 - Device state
 - Target time and date
- Does not include
 - Model implementation
 - Session information like breakpoints
- Needs to be portable
 - Across hosts
 - Across implementations
 - Across time and space

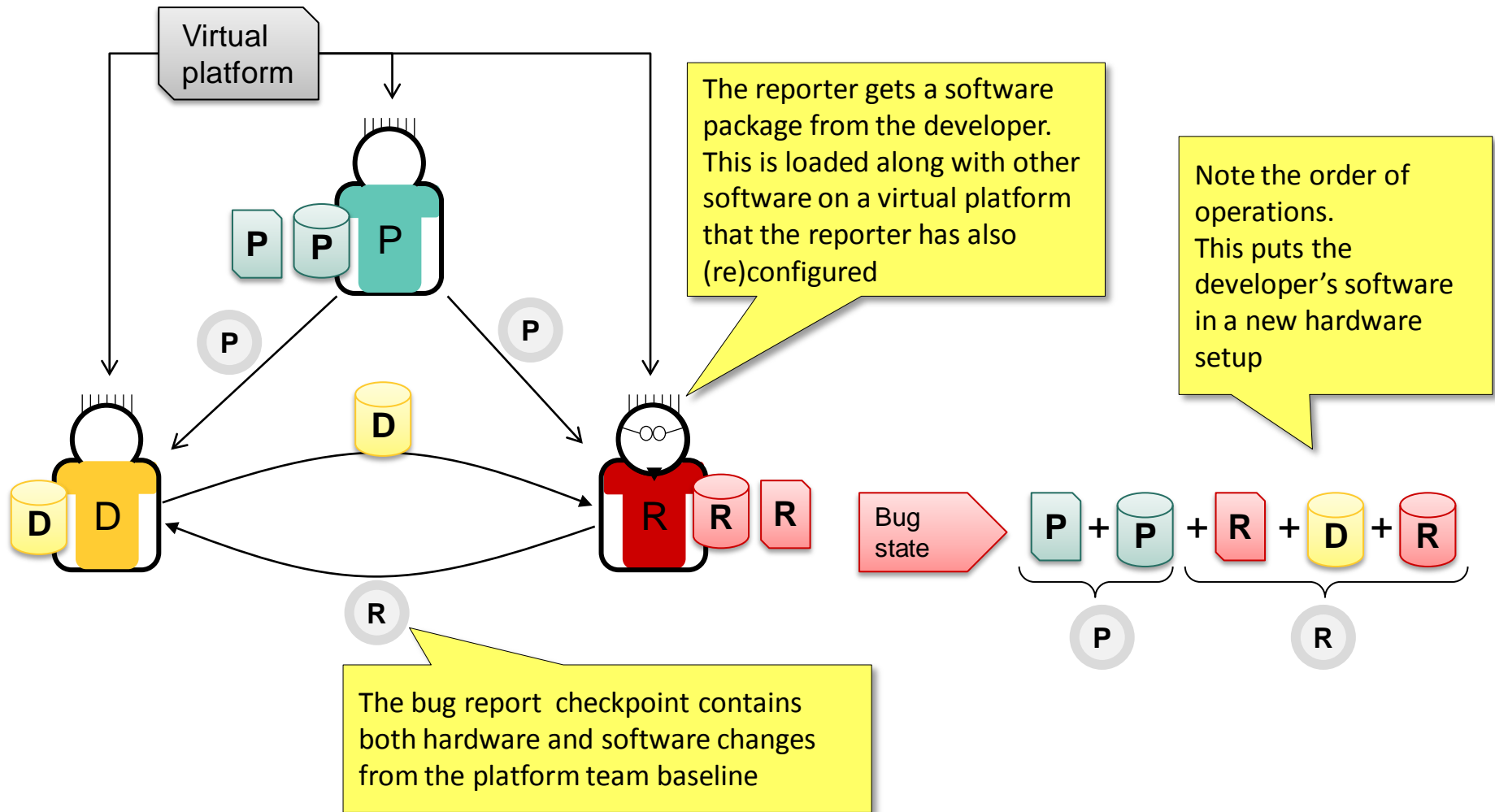
Working Efficiently with Checkpoints

- Use differential checkpoints
 - Difference between checkpoint state and initial state
 - Difference between checkpoints
 - Minimize the data moved
- Position the checkpoint time just before bug hits
 - Shorten the wait for developer
 - Minimize the need to provide input scripts and recordings
 - Reporter might have to iterate to find the optimum spot

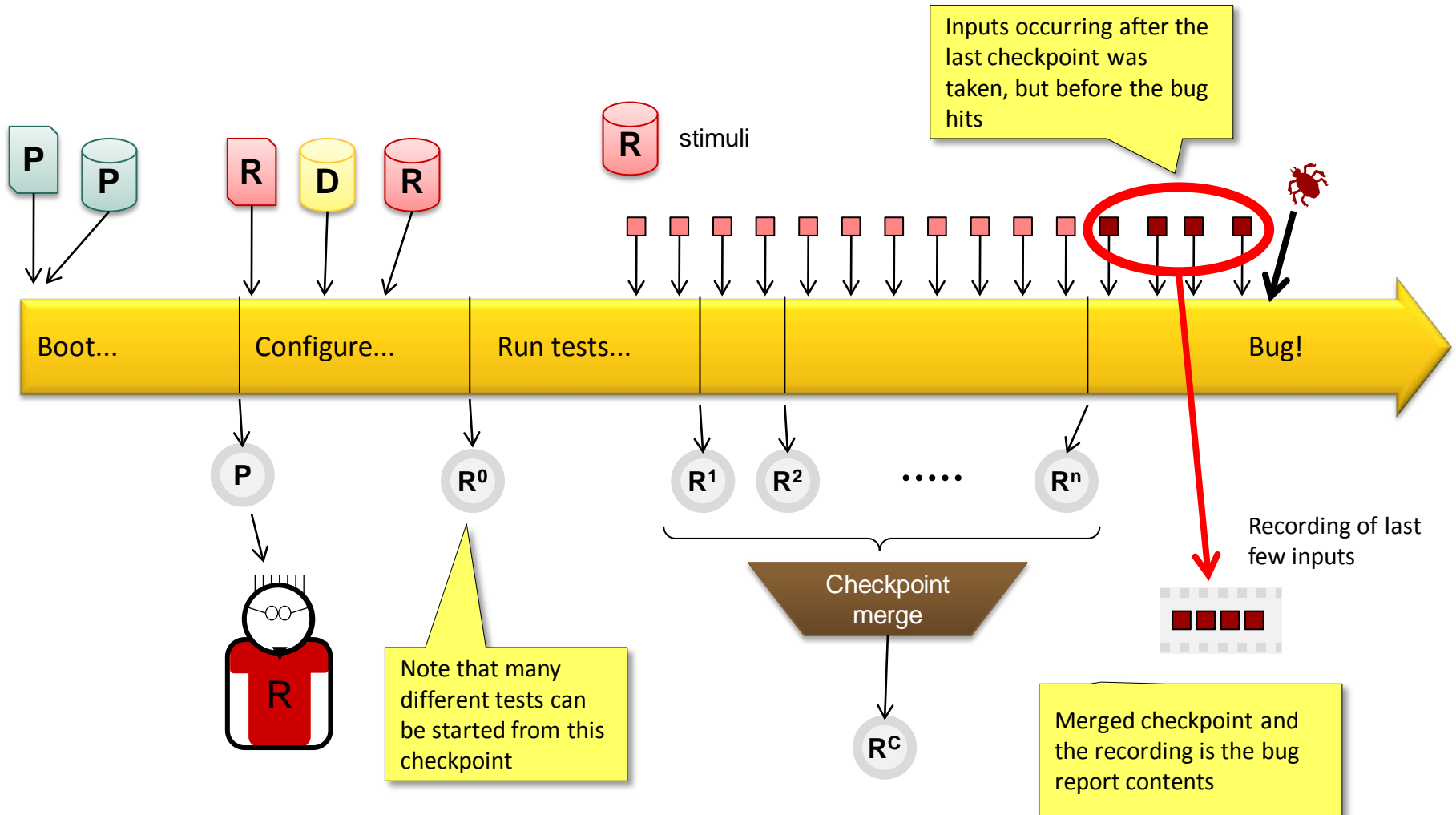
Working Efficiently: Nightly Boot



The Reporter Configures Target



Replaying Target Stimuli



Quick Demo Example



Paper Addendum Online

- <http://jakob.engbloms.se/archives/1231>
 - More related work

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