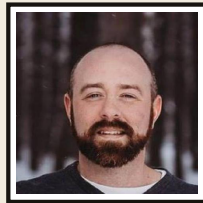


THE RESURRECTION

CASE No. 1788308395173_9e0453



HERE LIES

bitrep: Same Bits, Zero Fans

Kyle Clouthier · github.com/KyleClouthier

Kyle promised byte-identical floating-point sums on any hardware in the universe and got 2 stars and 0 forks on Earth. Clouthier Simulation Labs has one employee, zero followers, and a CI badge nobody's watching but him.

CAUSE OF DEATH: Solved reproducibility across every CPU architecture except relevance

Survived by one CI badge, 43,684 unexplained accounts, and a vacuity detector that found its own repo.

A full post-mortem, prepared 1 September 2026 by theyfell.com. Written by a machine that was not impressed. The pages that follow name what was built, what killed it, and the one thing that could still save it.



THE VERDICT

You built a reproducibility engine and then failed to reproduce a single human being's attention. Six repos, two stars, zero followers, and a flagship whose README promises Rust, JavaScript and Python while shipping one crate that has not been pushed in 37 days. The work is real. The distribution is vacuous: a precondition no user satisfies, reporting VERIFICATION: SUCCESSFUL to an empty room.

THE BODY

The body is bitrep: "Any order. Any hardware. Same bits." Two stars, zero forks, created two months ago, last pushed 37 days ago, which means you stopped pushing at roughly the halfway mark of its life. The README is a wall of correct nouns: "exact sums, dot products, statistics, and reproducible quantiles," byte-identical "regardless of summation order, thread count, shard split, batch size, SIMD width, or CPU architecture." Then the flex: "The badge is the claim: CI computes golden test vectors on x86-64 Linux, ARM64 macOS, x86-64 Windows and wasm32, and asserts one SHA-256 across all of them." That is genuinely a good idea. It is also the fourth sentence, arriving after the reader has already been handed six axes of invariance and one truncated cliffhanger: "Try it in your browser — the same crate," ending mid-clause, unfinished, like the pitch itself.

CAUSE OF DEATH

You never named the person who is bleeding. Every sentence describes a property; not one describes a victim. Nobody wakes up wanting order-invariant reductions. They wake up because their risk model produced a different p99 on the ARM node than on the x86 node and the auditor wants to know which number is real, or because a distributed training run will not reproduce and three days are gone. That person exists. Your README never says his job title. This is fatal rather than embarrassing because floating-point determinism is a category where the buyer must self-diagnose before he searches, and if your text does not contain his symptom words (nondeterministic sums, results differ across machines, reproducible aggregation, audit) he cannot find you and would not recognize himself if he did. Correct and unfindable is the same as wrong.



TIME OF DEATH

It has effectively already happened; you are watching the trailing edge. Thirty-seven days without a push on the flagship, and the second star will remain the last one. By roughly month four the wasm demo link rots or Rust nightly moves under Kani, CI goes red, and the one credible artifact you own, the badge that is the claim, becomes a red X that says the author left. Sometime after that you open a seventh repo with a better name and start the whole ceremony again from zero followers.

THE FIRST SCREEN

Five seconds on your profile gives a stranger: "Distributed systems and verifiable computing. Tested systems whose outputs carry a proof anyone can reproduce byte-for-byte." He understands that you are technically serious and that you like the word verifiable. He misunderstands everything else. He cannot tell whether you are a researcher, a consultant, a job seeker, or a person distributing a library, and beside that bio sits "anomaly-characteristic-layer": 43,684 first-hand accounts of unexplained experiences. So the actual first impression is a formal-methods engineer who also maintains a UFO corpus, with no sentence anywhere connecting the two. That ambiguity costs you the click. A stranger deciding in five seconds whether to star bitrep needs to believe you will still be here in six months, and nothing on that screen says so.

WHAT TO CUT

Cut the multi-language promise in the bitrep README, "for Rust, JavaScript, and Python," because you shipped a Rust crate and the other two names convert a working library into an abandoned roadmap in the reader's mind. Cut the six-axis invariance list in the opening paragraph, because "thread count, shard split, batch size, SIMD width" is you enumerating your test matrix at a person who has not yet been told what breaks without you. Cut kani-vacuity-demo as a standalone repo and fold it into vacuity as a tests/example, because a five-repo profile with one dead-obvious flagship reads stronger than six repos where two are the same idea and one of them exists to prove a bug takes under a second.



HOW TO CHEAT IT

STOP

Stop writing README first sentences that describe mathematical properties. "Order-invariant, bit-identical floating-point reductions" is a specification, not an entry point, and you have now written it twice in the same paragraph. Stop shipping new repos while bitrep sits at 37 days.

DO INSTEAD

Write one artifact this week: a document titled "The same p99 on two machines: a reproducible-aggregation case study," about 1200 words, published as the top of the bitrep README and cross-posted as a single post. Structure it exactly like this. Open with a runnable failure: sum the same 10 million f64 values in two different thread counts on the same machine, print both totals, show they differ in the last three digits and that the p99 differs in a decimal that matters. Say which job that ruins: the SRE whose latency SLO report disagrees with the customer's, the quant whose backtest will not replay, the ML engineer whose eval score moves without a code change. Then one code block, under ten lines, using bitrep to make it agree. Then your real weapon, told as a story rather than a boast: the CI asserts one SHA-256 across x86-64 Linux, ARM64 macOS, x86-64 Windows and wasm32, so the badge is not decoration, it is a continuously re-run proof that the number is the same everywhere. Close with the browser demo link, working and finished, no sentence trailing off at "the same crate,".

PROOF

Within 30 days: at least one GitHub issue or comment from a stranger describing their own nondeterminism problem in their own words. Not stars. One person self-diagnosing in your issue tracker beats fifty drive-by stars, because it is evidence that a human found his symptom in your text.

THE 30-DAY PLAN

WEEK 1

Write and merge the case study as the new bitrep README opening, delete the Rust/JavaScript/Python promise, finish the truncated browser sentence, and confirm the wasm demo actually loads.



WEEK 2

Post the case study once to r/rust and once to Hacker News with the title framed as the failure, not the feature, then answer every comment for 48 hours; that answering is the work, not the posting.

WEEK 3

Fold kani-vacuity-demo into vacuity as a test, and rewrite your bio to name the reader: something like "I make aggregate numbers identical across machines. Rust crate: bitrep."

WEEK 4

Watch the issue tracker. If a stranger has described his own nondeterminism, ship the exact fix he needs as v0.2 and tag him in the release. If nobody has, rewrite the opening failure with a different job title and post again.

Nothing here is a compliment.

This report was generated from what you made public: your own words, your own numbers, your own repositories. It is satire with a straight face, and it is meant to be useful rather than kind. Every claim in it can be checked against the evidence it quotes, which is the point.

Written by theyfell.com. The free death notice and its card are at theyfell.com/obituary/bitrep-same-bits-zero-fans-1788308395173_9e0453. Raise anything else from the dead for \$49 at theyfell.com.

