

Searching for Sustainability: Avalon in the Samvera Community

Jon W. Dunn
Indiana University

David Schober
Ryan Steans
Northwestern University

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Background: What is Avalon?

- Open source software system that enables libraries and archives to provide access to audio and video collections
- ~~Hydra~~ Samvera Solution Bundle
- Goals:
 - Easily installable and configurable
 - Serve a variety of use cases and institutions
 - Create a basis for sustainable development
- Currently in production at 12+ institutions



Fête (Excerpt) - Avalon Media Sys x

https://pawpaw.dlib.indiana.edu/media_objects/m326m172d

Sign in>>

avalon
MEDIA SYSTEM

Browse Search



Fête (Excerpt)

Date
2010

Main contributor
Langlais, Jean, 1907-1991

Summary
Recorded on May 2, 2010, Auer Concert Hall, Indiana University, Bloomington.

Contributor
Young, Christopher C. (Christopher Clark)

Publisher
William and Gayle Cook Music Library

Subject
Organ music

Collection
Sample Collection

Unit
University Archives

00:32 01:03

Share

A grant aimed at sustainability

- US Institute of Museum and library Services (IMLS) grant aimed at finding a sustainable model
- We took two years to focus on what we were doing and how we could improve
- This presentation will try to talk through the challenges of building a sustainable model in a complex environment



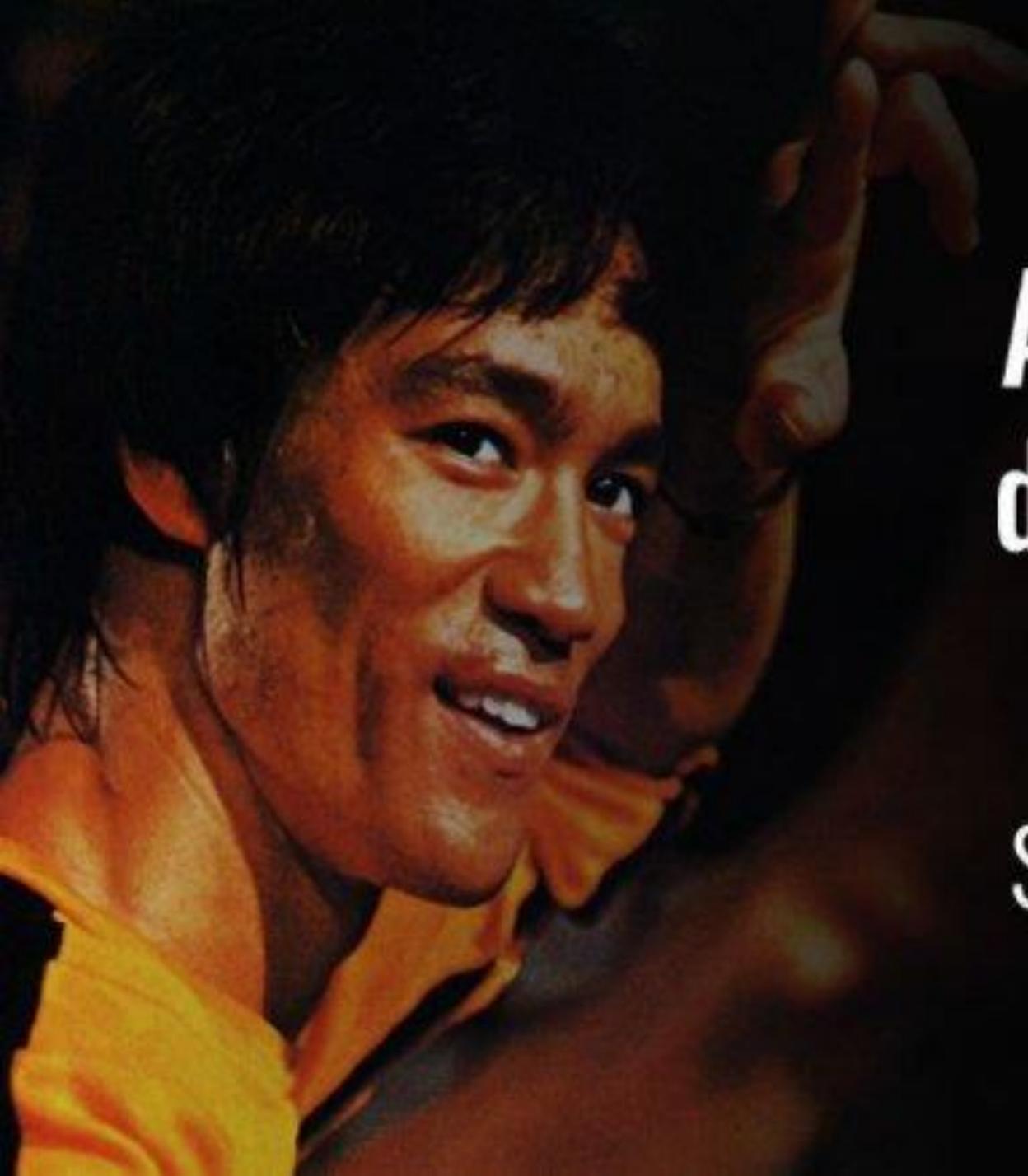
The **successful** warrior
is the **average** man,
with **laser-like** focus.

Bruce Lee



We focused on three areas of sustainability

- Broaden activity within the core community
- Deepen engagement with new users and new partners
- Widen involvement with new technical communities



Absorb what is useful,
discard what is useless,
and **add** what is
specifically **your own**.

- *Bruce Lee*

Broadening activity within core community

- Avalon 7 (Avalon on Hyrax – under development)
 - Developed a component-based approach
 - Dedicated team members to the core codebase
 - Work closely with Product owners to align roadmaps



00:25 / 03:07



Annotations

Act I



Part II



Conclusion of Act 1.

Saxophone solo (00:25.63)



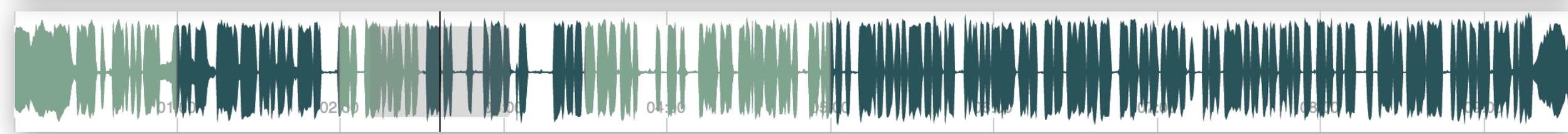
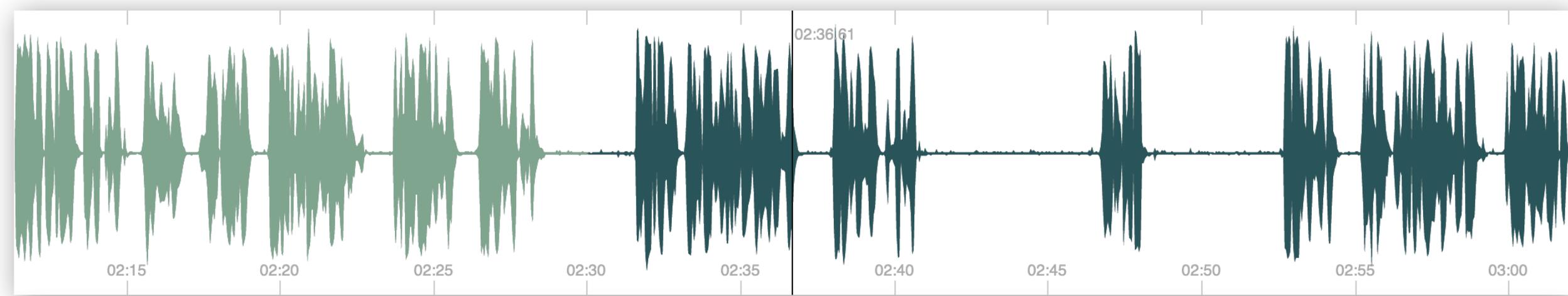
Timeline information

Jazz - Jazz Performance

Description of timeline



REVERT CHANGES



▶ 2:37 / 9:32

Add a Heading

Add a Timespan

Lunchroom Manners

Introduction

Part 1 (00:00:00.00 - 00:01:00.00)

Broadening our activity within the core community

- Dedicate Members to the Core Hyrax Team
 - Dedicated resources to normalize releases
 - Improve quality of the product
 - Create a cohesive team rather than feature requests
- Community Sprints
 - Swappable backends (Hyrax on Wings/Valkyrie)
 - Collections Extensions

Broadening activity within core community

- Joined, led, and developed core working groups and sprints
 - UI working group
 - Roadmap
 - Community Sprints
 - Governance WG
 - Hyrax working group
 - Permissions working group
 - Tech calls
 - Ad hoc calls with leadership
 - And more...

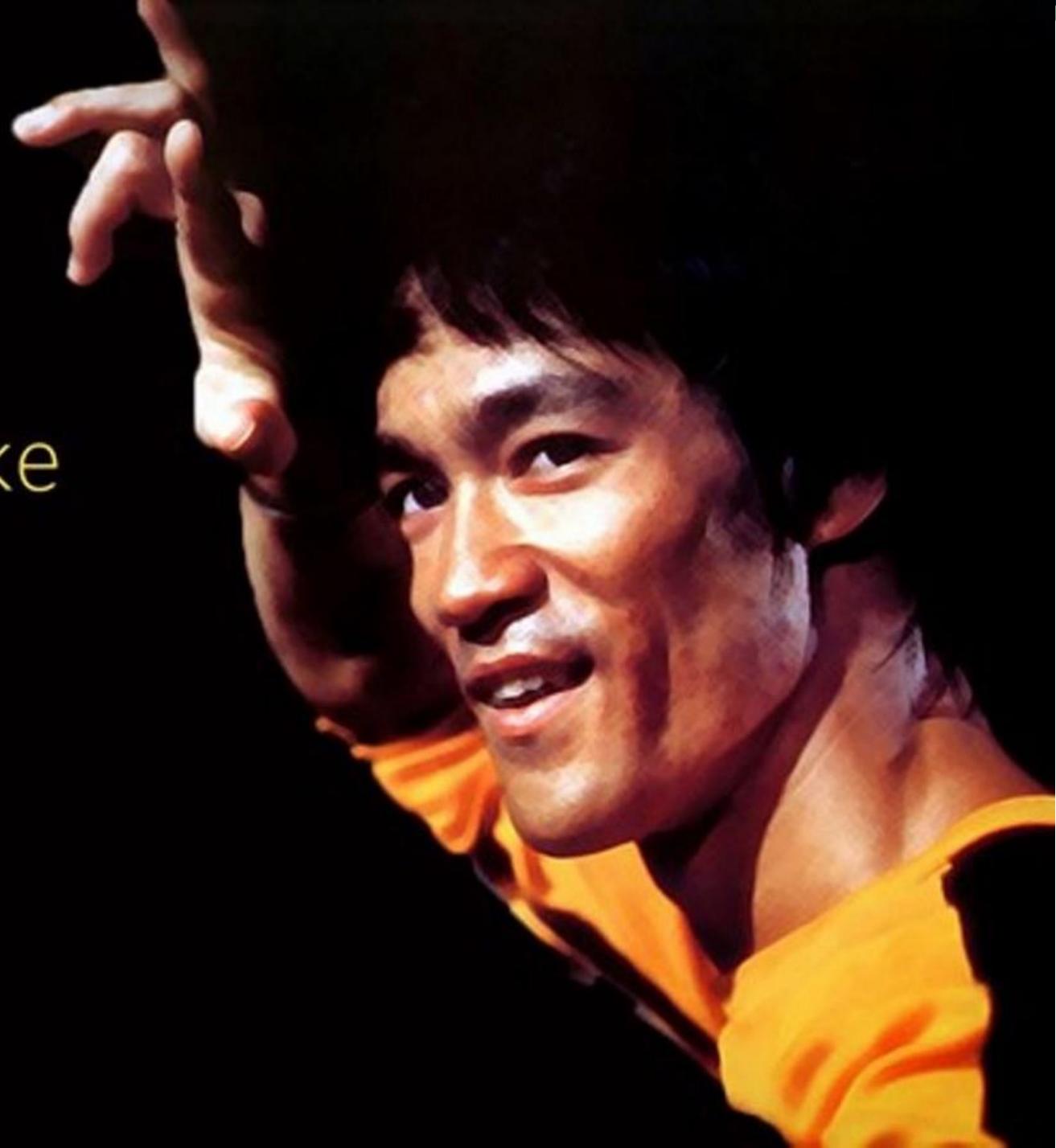
Deepening engagement with new adopters, partners, and users

- Develop one-on-one relationships
 - Finding users: current and potential
 - Team-to-team meetings
 - Lots of follow up
 - Learn about our users

Deepening engagement with new adopters, partners, and users

- Create opportunities for the curious to engage
 - Forums (Mini webinars)
 - Online "Office Hours"
 - Roundtables: users, leaders
 - Email: lists, individual contacts
 - Slack channel within Samvera Slack workgroup

Empty your mind, be
formless. Shapeless, like
water.



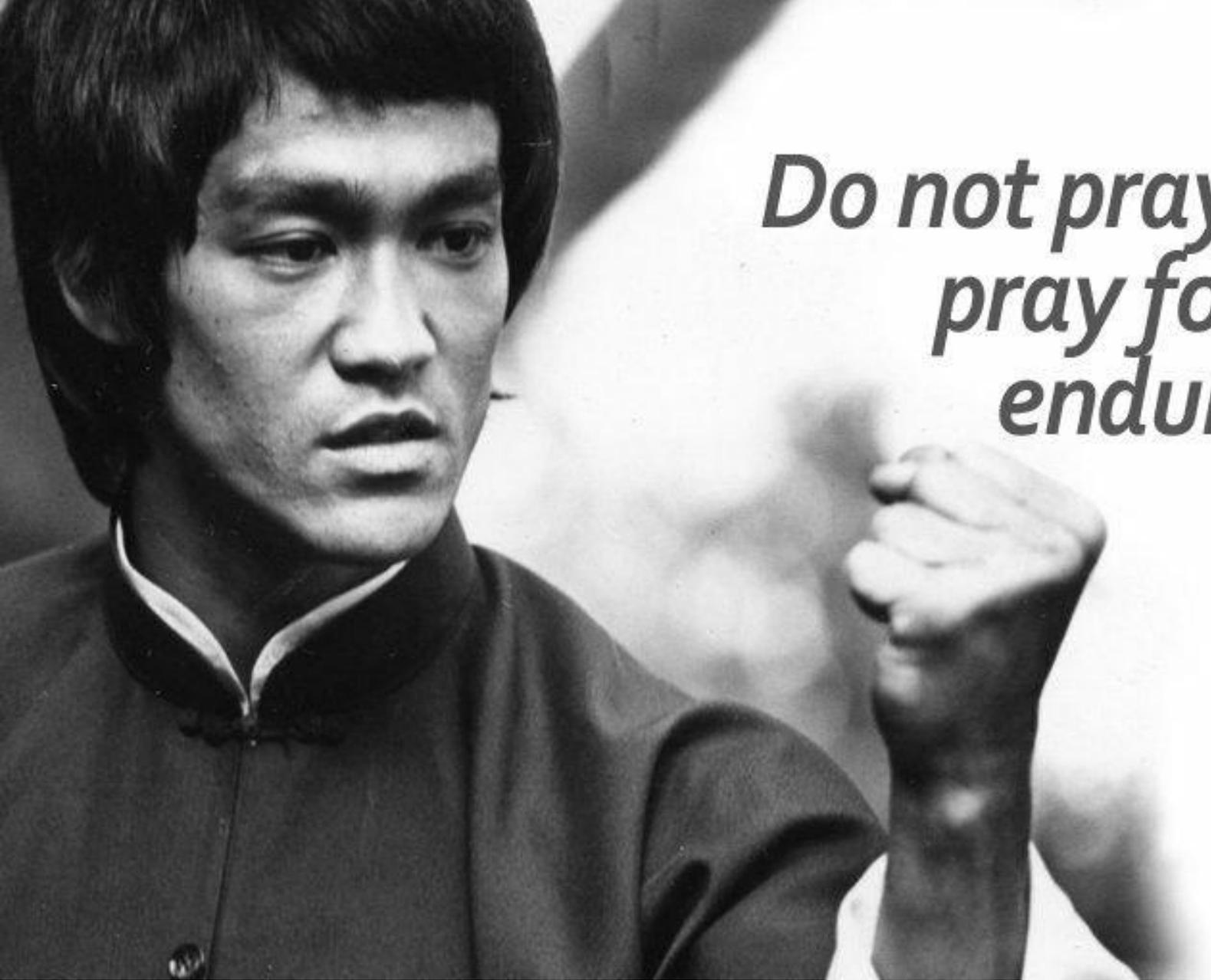
Widening involvement in other technical communities

- Seeing technological opportunities, e.g. IIF
 - Developer and project management time on IIF Presentation API 2.0 spec, IIF AV Technical Specification Group
 - Developed a standalone “Avalonish” IIF player



Widening involvement in other technical communities

- Opening doors to new partnerships and vendor relationships
 - WGBH: American Archive of Public Broadcasting
 - AVP: Oral History Metadata Synchronizer (OHMS), Aviary
 - LYRASIS: Hosted Avalon pilot
- New communities
 - AV archiving (AMIA/IASA)
 - Oral history

A black and white photograph of Bruce Lee. He is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark, high-collared martial arts gi. He has a serious, focused expression and is looking slightly to the right. His right hand is raised in a fist, with the thumb tucked in, in a classic martial arts stance. The background is out of focus, showing what appears to be a white wall or a light-colored surface.

*Do not pray for an easy life,
pray for the strength to
endure a difficult one.*

Bruce Lee

Challenges and Successes

- Time and resources. Dedicated time is critical
- Allowing the team to learn how to contribute, it's a slow process
- “Fail fast” is hard to pull off in open source communities

Conclusion

- The way to sustainability is to be practiced and disciplined enough to respond to a changing environment while also driving a solution to end users.

Thank You!



Northwestern



More information available at avalonmediasystem.org