Digital Wisdom for a Digital Age: Spirituality & Technology in the 21st Century

Michael Paulus & Ryan Ingersoll

Christ & Cascadia Conference
Seattle, September 27, 2014

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Overview:

1. "Technology"
2. Digital Nativity
3. Digital Wisdom

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"Of making many books there is no end, and much study is a weariness of the flesh."
(Ecclesiastes 12.12)

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"Hard" – artifacts (hammer, book, computer)

"Soft" – applied specialized knowledge (carpentry, publishing, coding)

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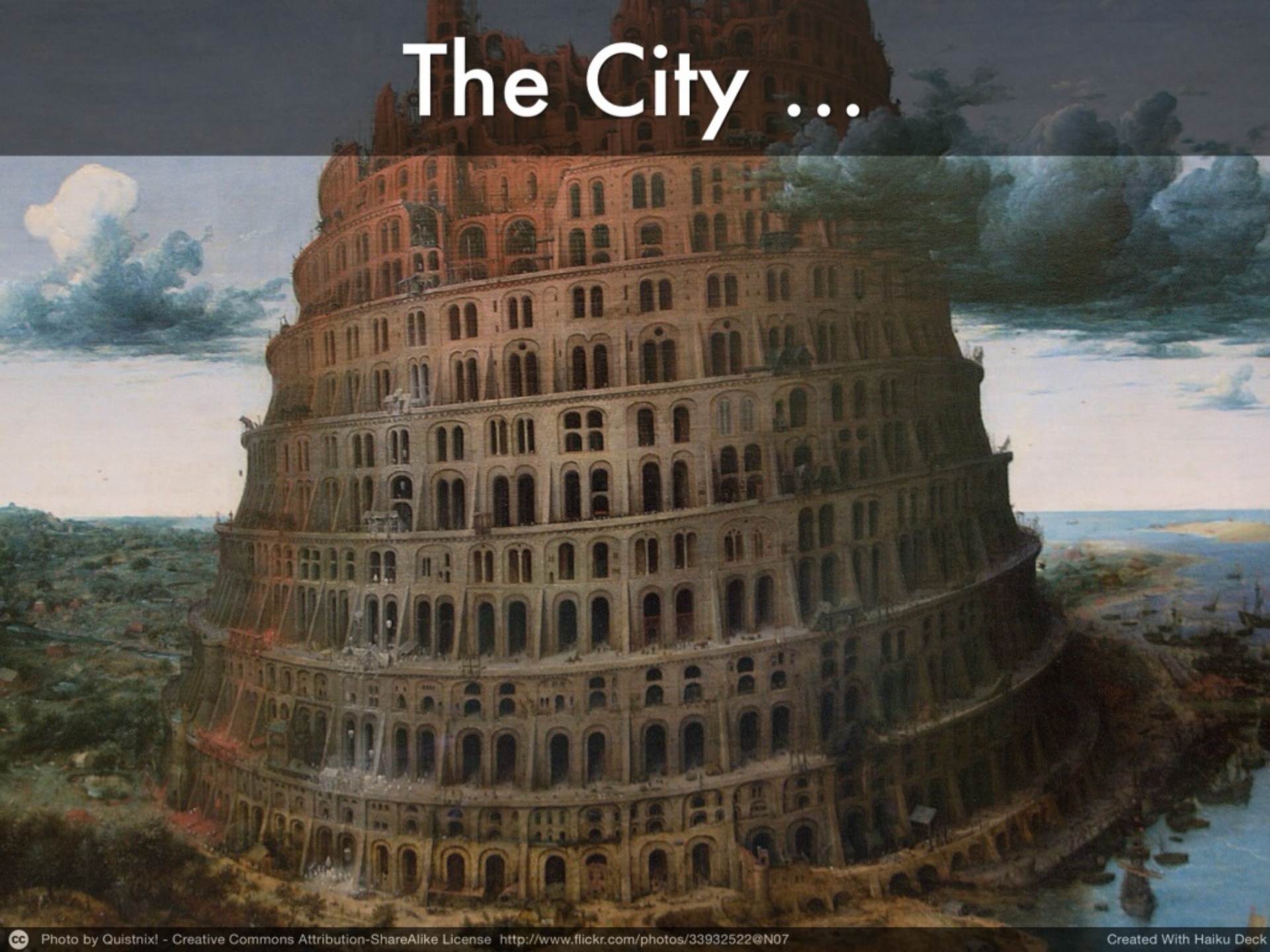
The City …



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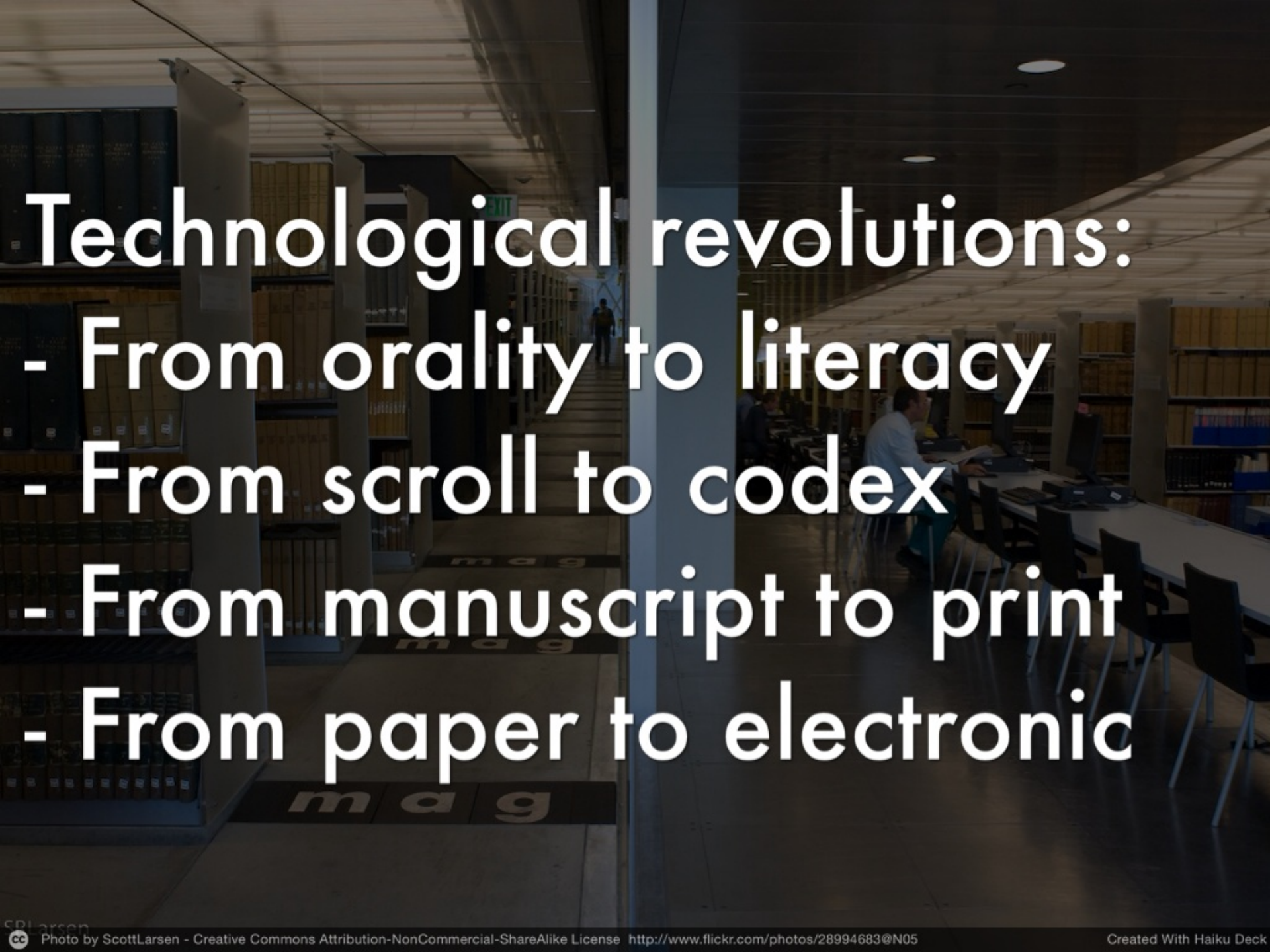

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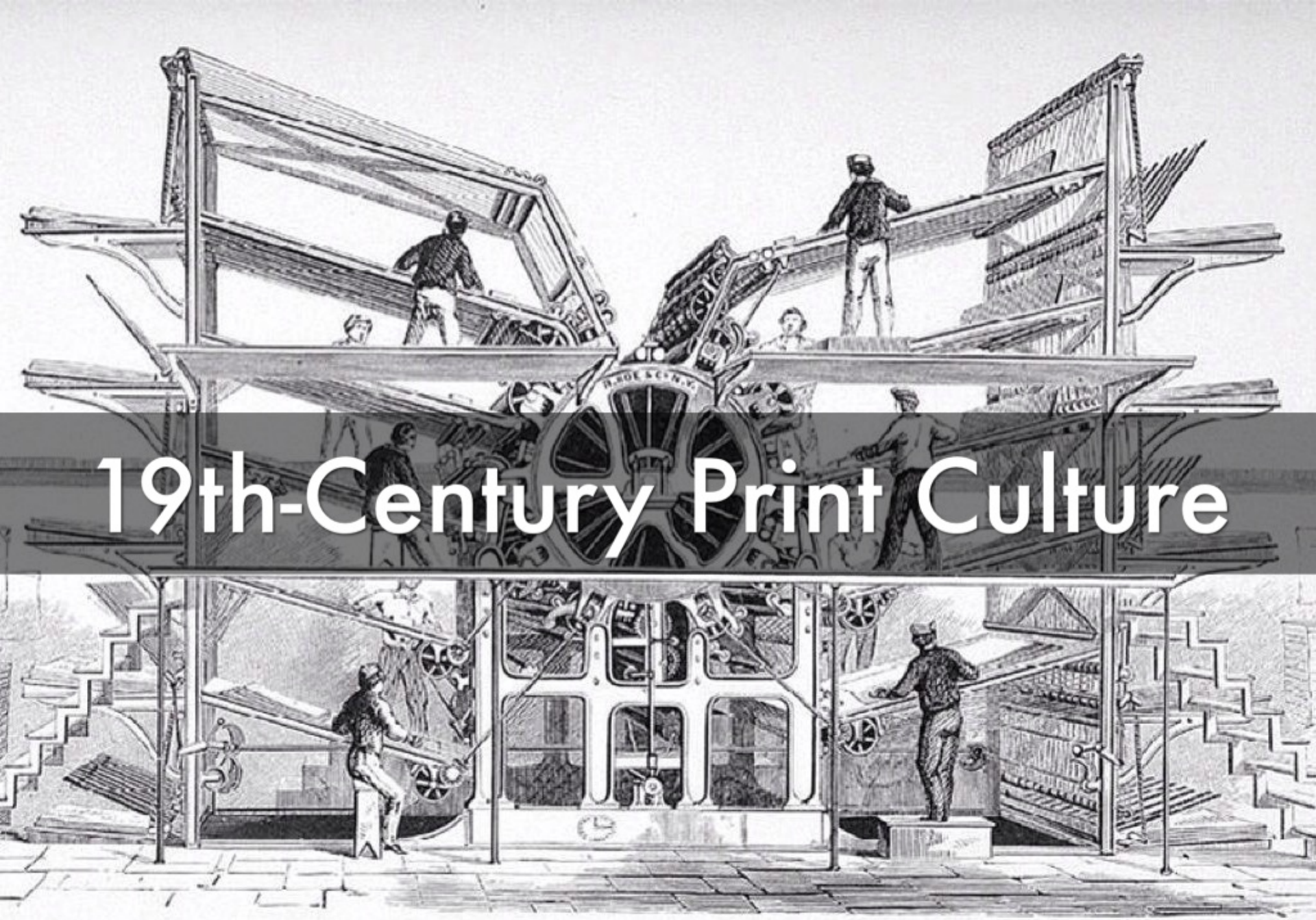
19th-Century Print Culture



TEN CYLINDER ROTARY TYPE-REVOLVING PRESS

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The Northwest Mission

Images from Whitman College and Northwest Archives

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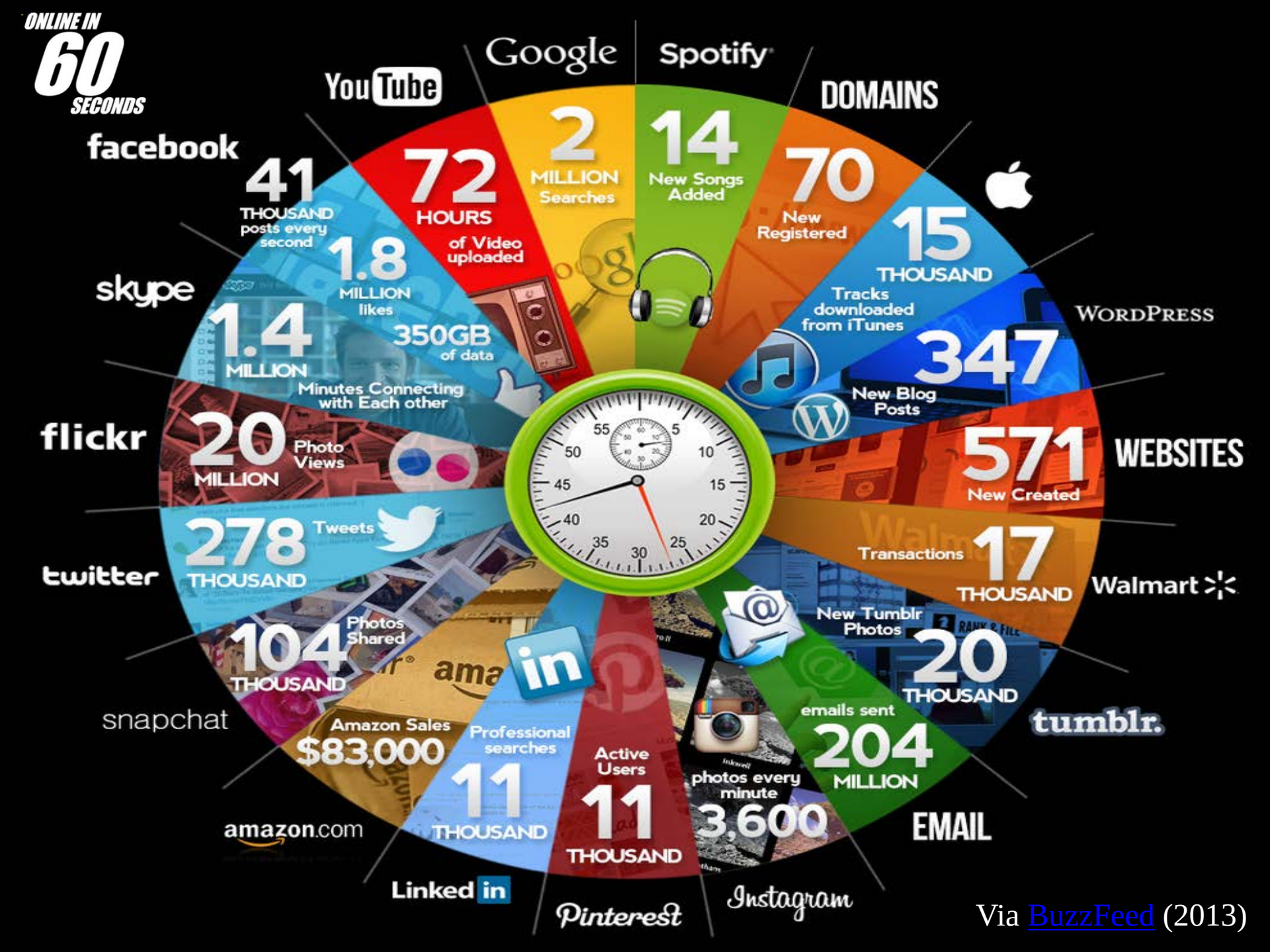

Via BuzzFeed (2013)

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Our Context: SPU Library Tech Desk

- Launched in 2011 (9400+ visits)
- Need for tech tools, training, & space for students
- Academic survey + vocational & spiritual development

No Grandma,
Listen,
Double-click the Internet
Explorer Icon.

Age: 18-29, Pew Internet Study (2012)

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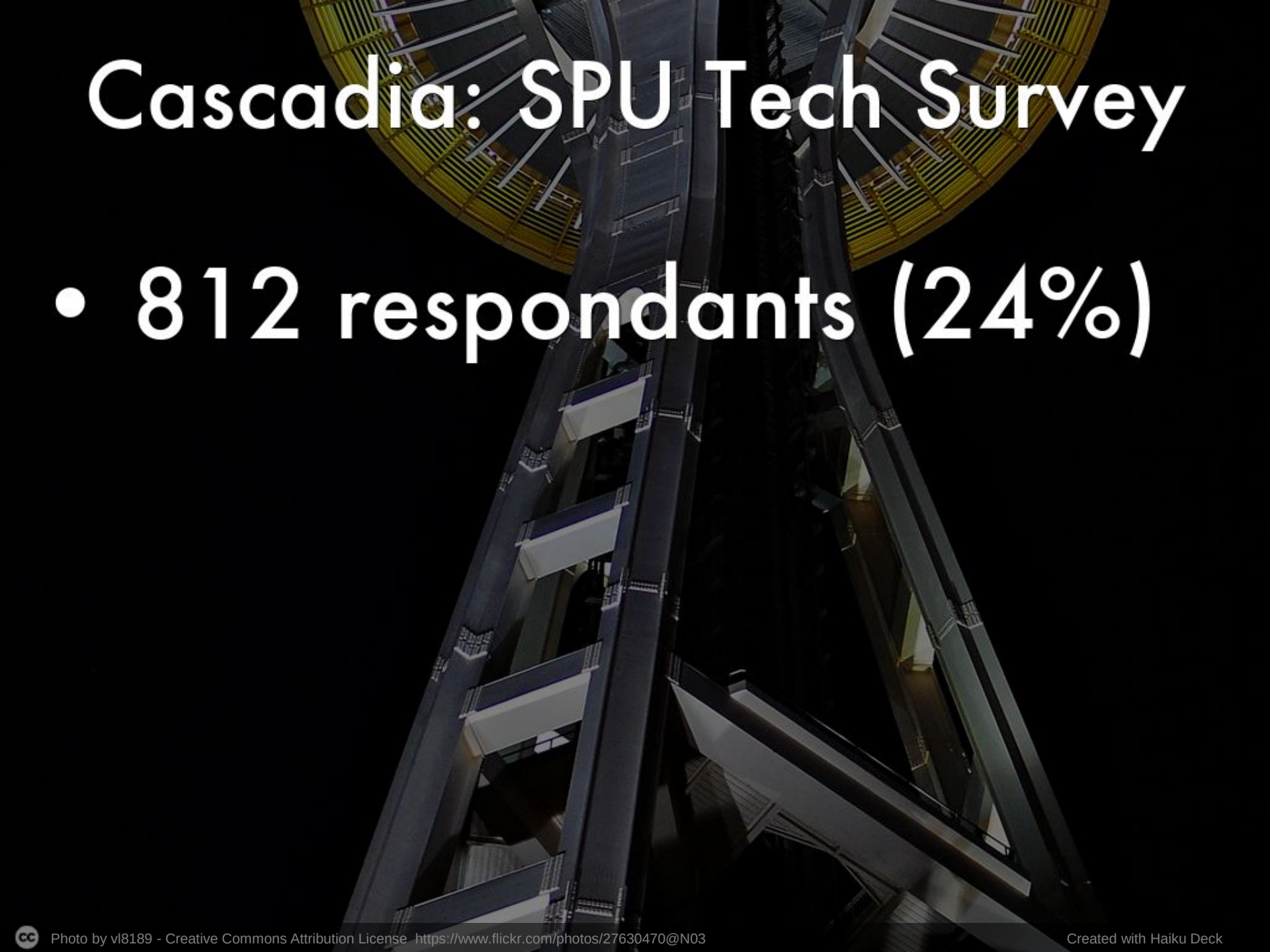
Cascadia: SPU Tech Survey

- 812 respondants (24%)



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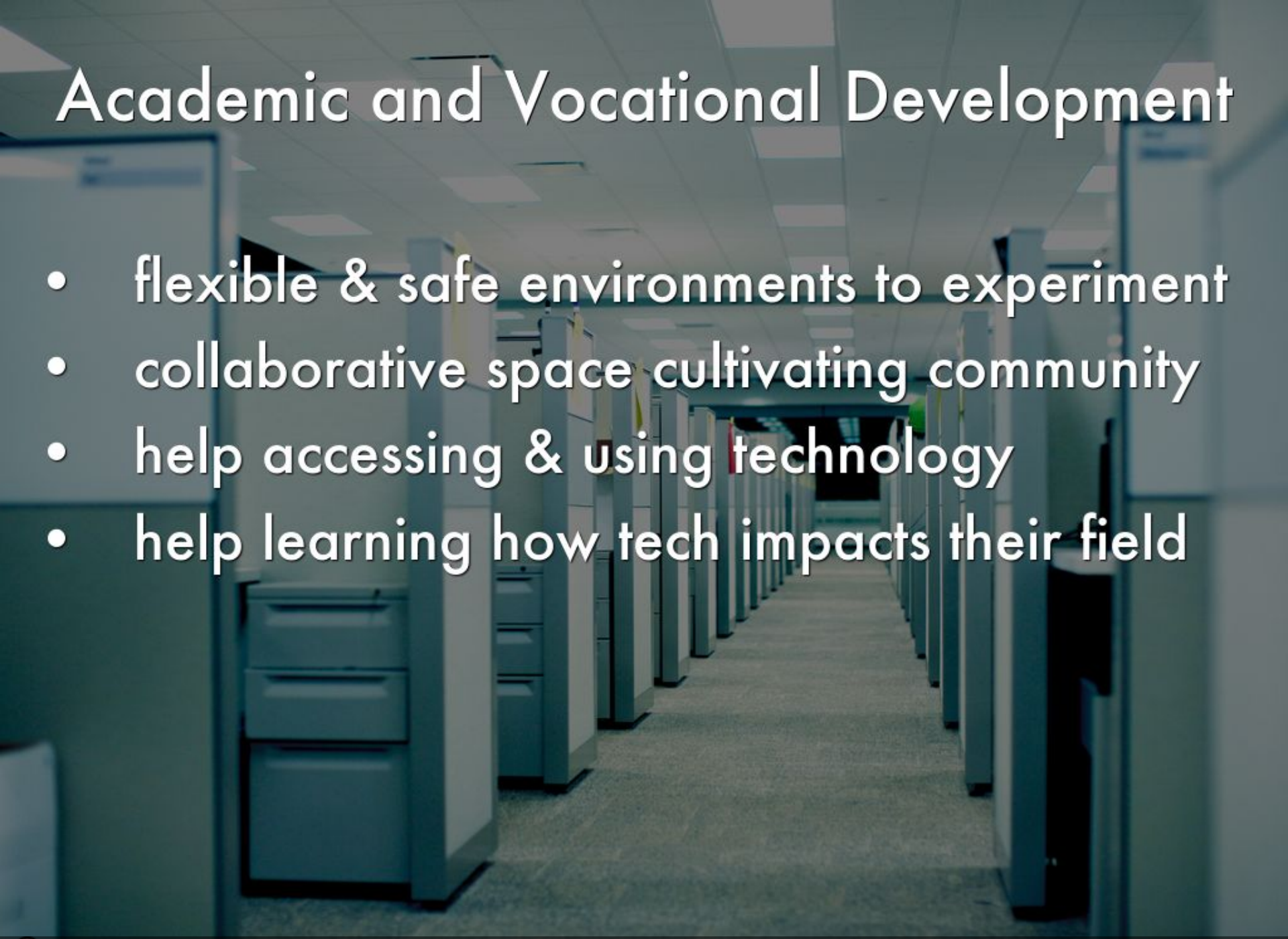
Academic and Vocational Development

- flexible & safe environments to experiment
- collaborative space cultivating community
- help accessing & using technology
- help learning how tech impacts their field



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"Umm.. I worship GOD not a computer"

"I don't really think about technology when I connect with God."

"Technology takes away from the beauty"

"This is absolutely ridiculous. Of course not."

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"I do not think tech tools are necessary or important for spiritual life, perhaps with the exception of using computers and the like to connect and listen to sermons online."

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Tech Tools Important to Spiritual Life

- Digital text tools (Logos)
- Digital Bibles (YouVersion)
- Computers and mobile devices
- Facebook, audio/video tools

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Technology to Connect with God and Others

- Share/Social
- Read
- Research/Study
- Listen

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"Technology can be used to access God's word and create a space and focus for worship."

"I use the Xbox to communicate with non believers and bring a Christian perspective to Call of Duty"

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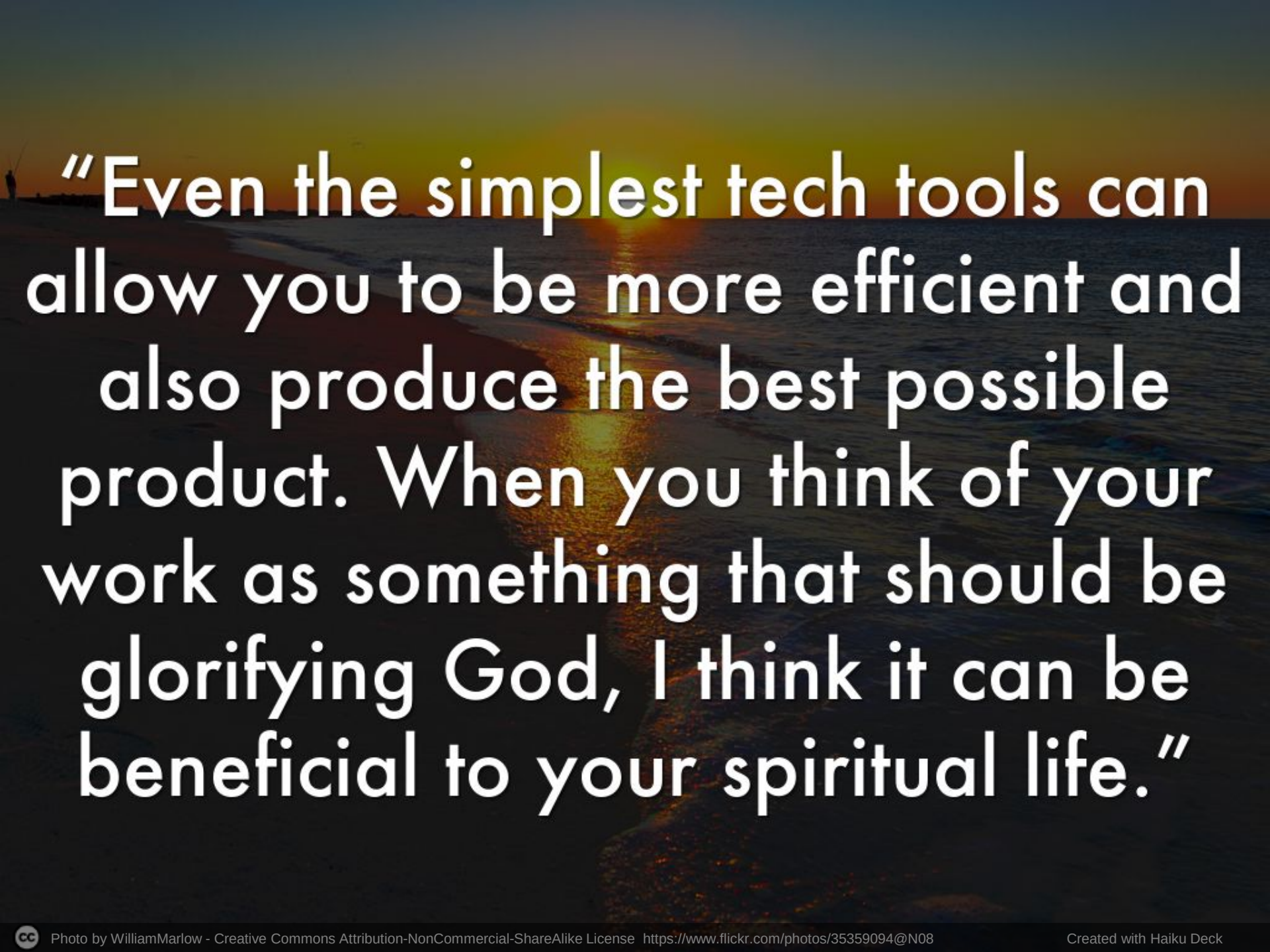

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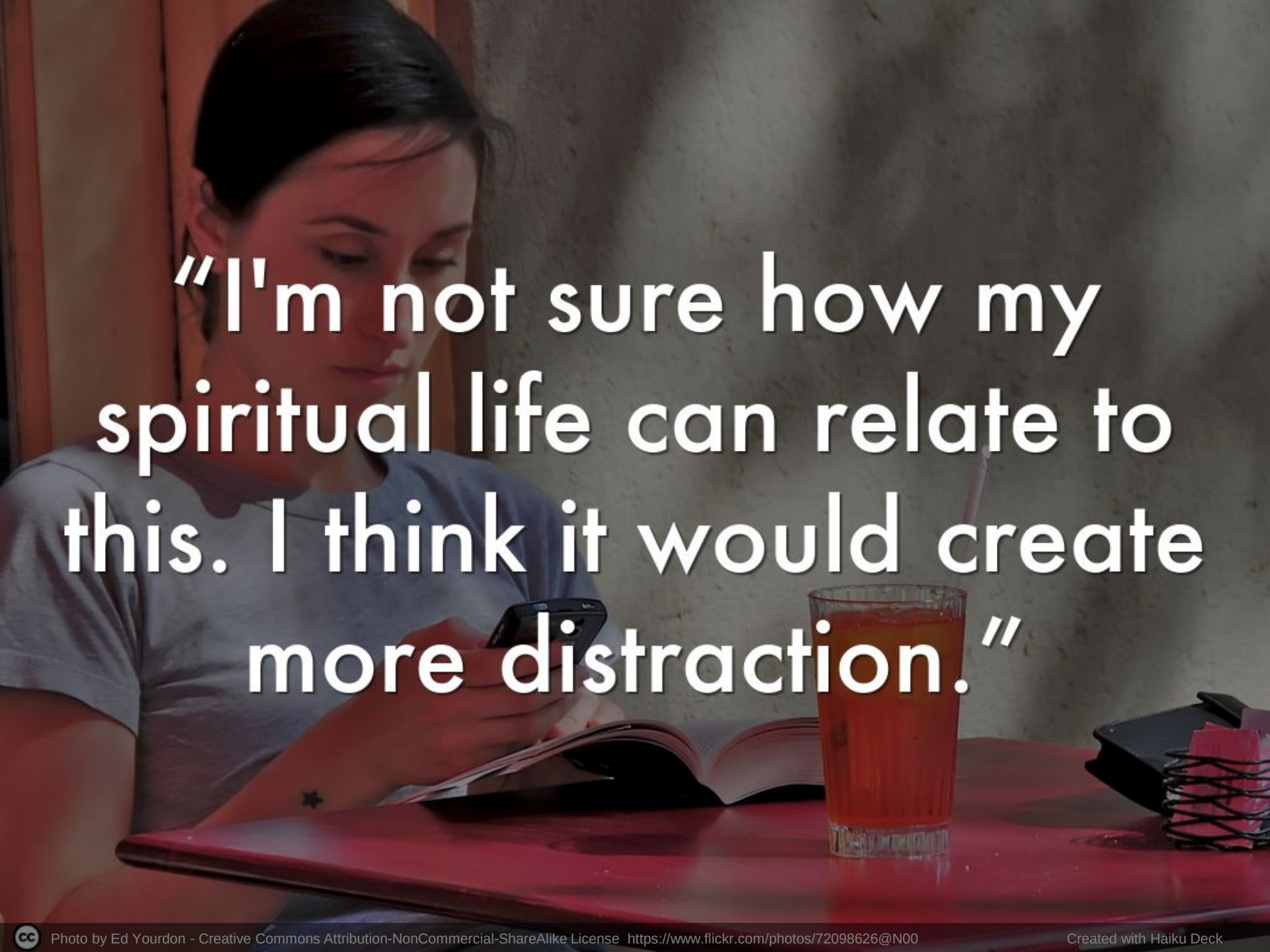

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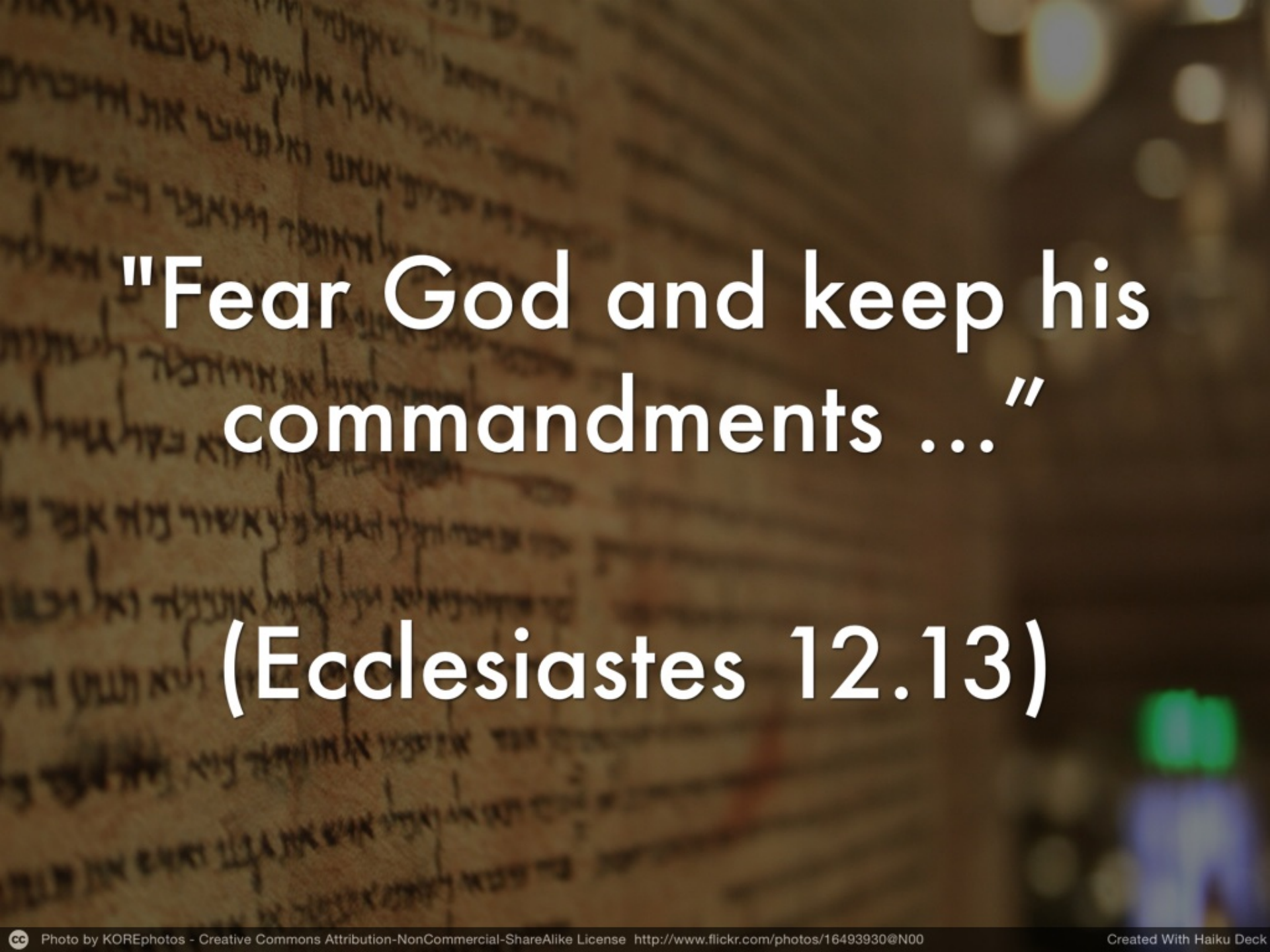
"Fear God and keep his commandments …"

(Ecclesiastes 12.13)



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Attention

Augustine in his study by Vittore Carpaccio (1502)

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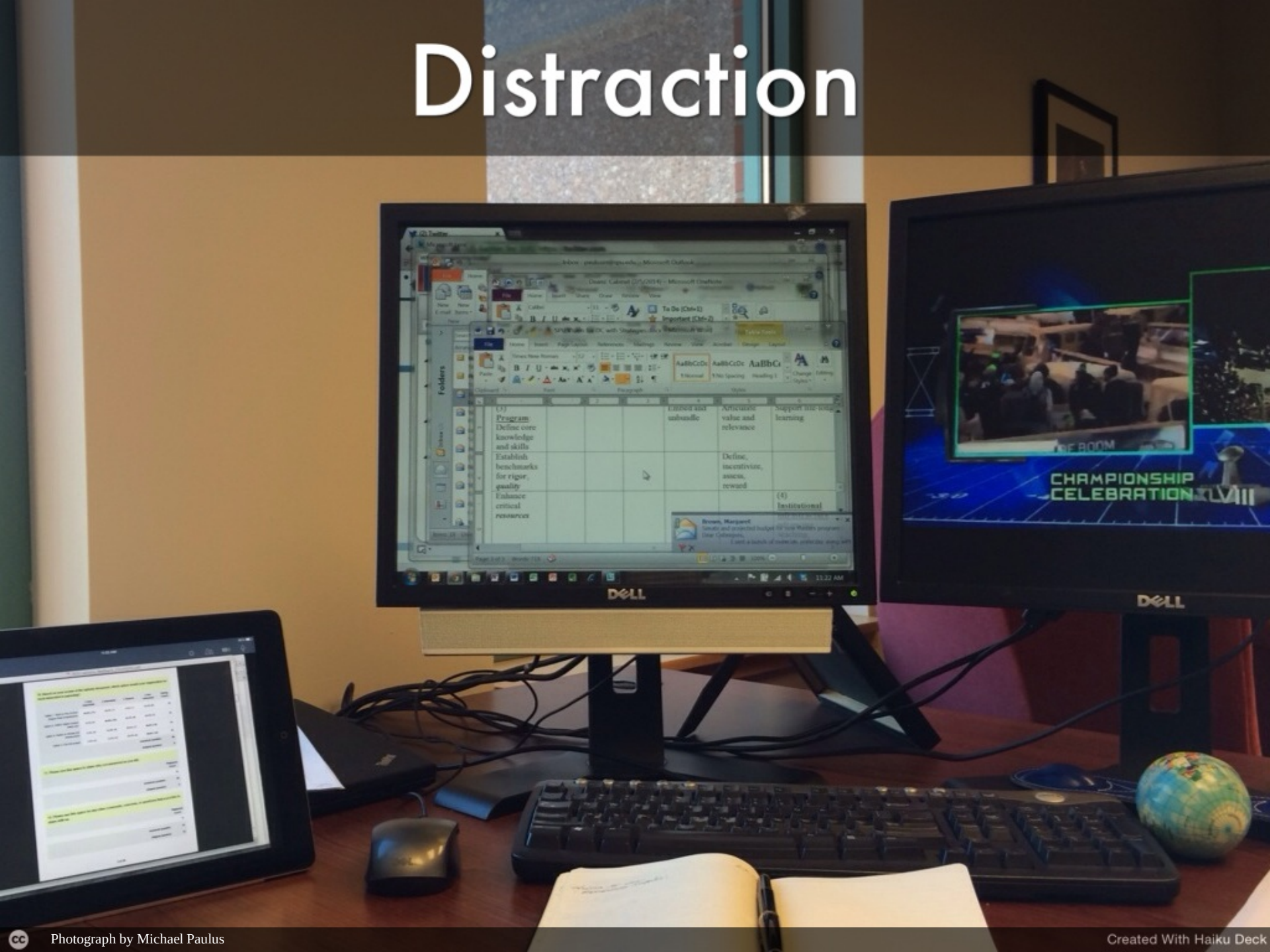
Distraction



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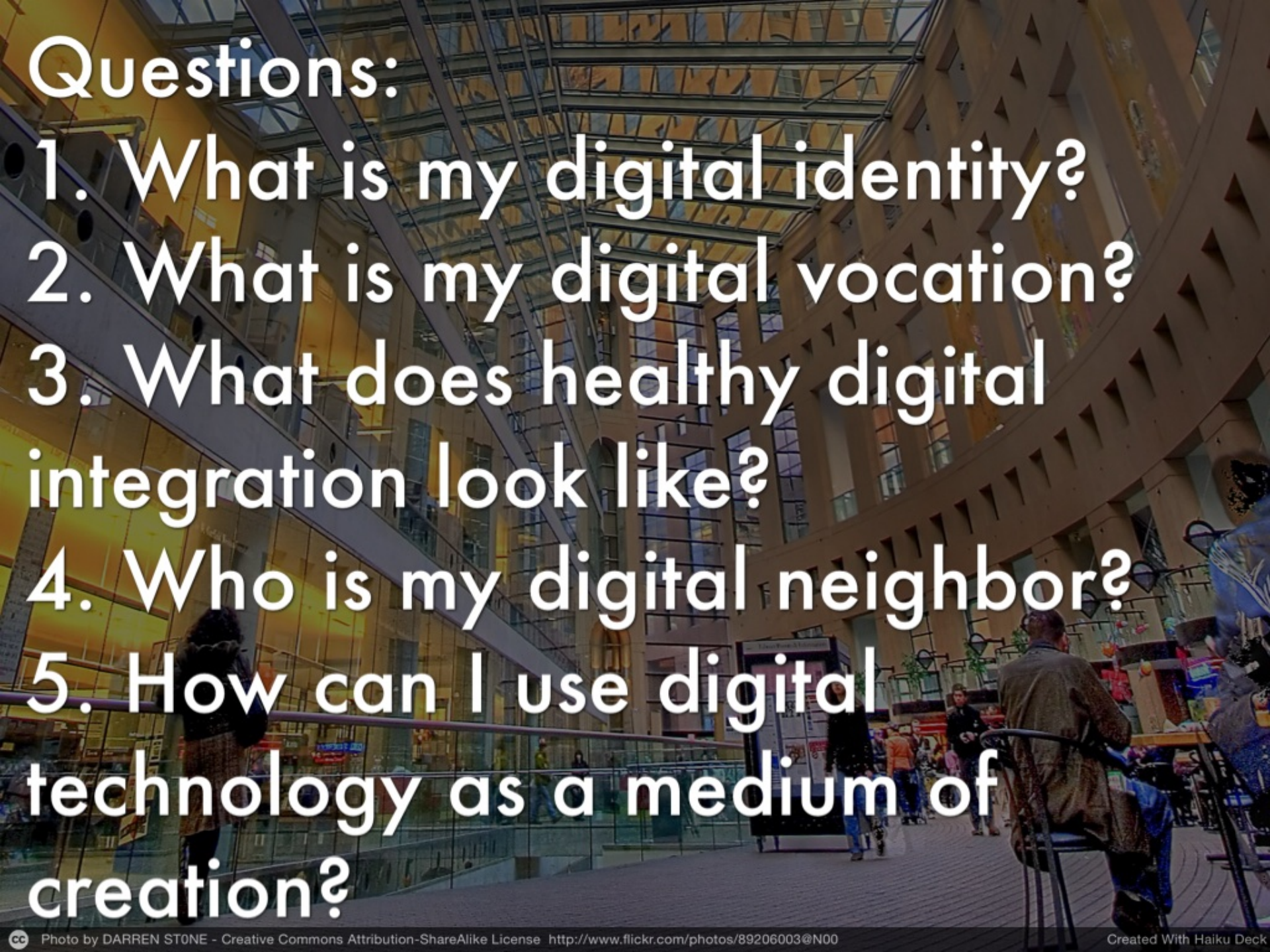

Questions:

1. What is my digital identity?
2. What is my digital vocation?
3. What does healthy digital integration look like?
4. Who is my digital neighbor?
5. How can I use digital technology as a medium of creation?

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