

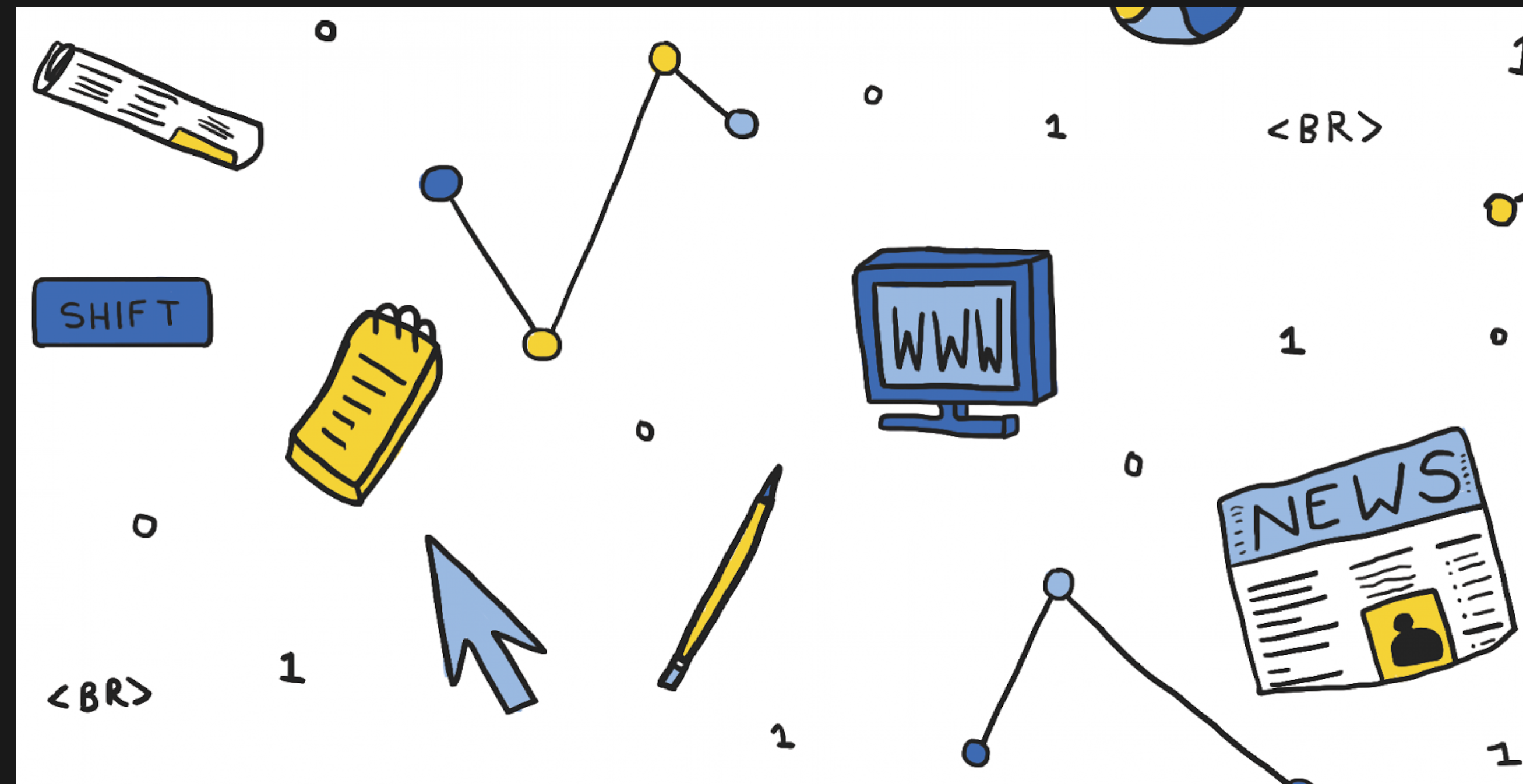
COMPUTATIONAL JOURNALISM

Kelsey Whipple

University of Massachusetts Amherst

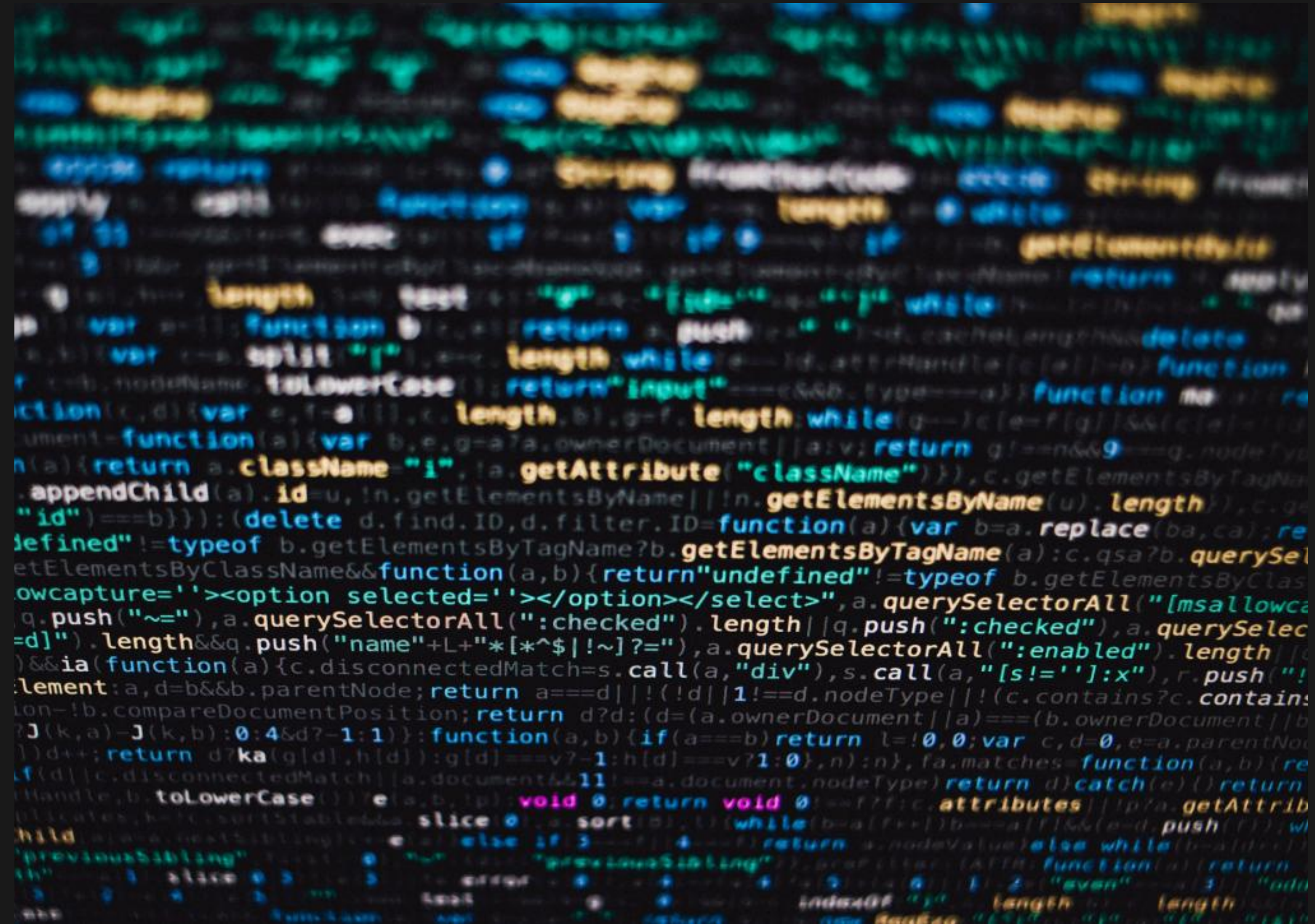
What is computational journalism?

- Computational journalists immerse themselves in numbers, data, and digital tools, and they use highly developed skills to draw out and make sense of the stories inside them.
- Computational journalists use computers and their vast affordance to analyze information by aggregating it, automating it, drawing correlations within it and a variety of other skills.
- These journalists also use algorithms to automate journalistic processes or decrease the workloads and costs associated with them.



What is computational journalism?

- Computational thinking is the ability to think mathematically and strategically in order to efficiently and creatively solve, automate, or otherwise rethink problems.
- Computational journalism comes with the same high ethical standards as traditional journalism, such as verification and transparency, to ensure that the process of gathering, analyzing, and disseminating information to the public is accurate and inclusive.
- Because it often relies on making sense of large datasets, data journalism is a notably collaborative subfield.



Key Takeaways:

- Computational journalism covers both "the application of computing _and_ computational thinking" to various journalistic activities, including information gathering, sensemaking, and information dissemination. Such an approach maintains an allegiance to core journalistic values like verification and transparency.
- Computational journalists are often skilled in numerous programming languages and familiar with a variety of data analysis software. However, such journalists will often work in teams with non-programmers to produce high-impact journalism.
- Data journalism is a growing and particularly collaborative genre of journalism. Journalists often share (or make open-source) datasets, scripts, and other tools of the trade with each other and with the public.