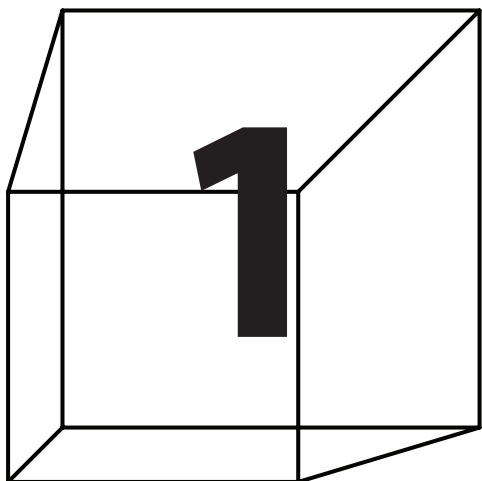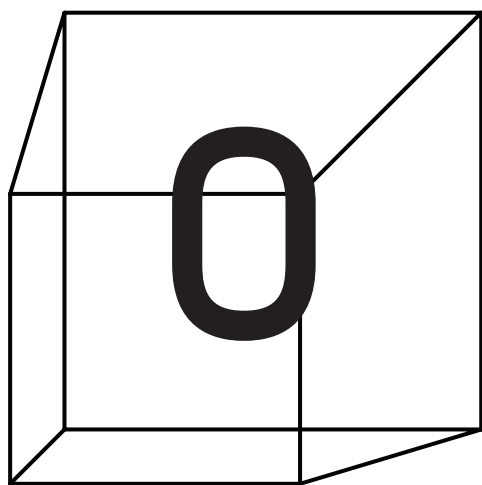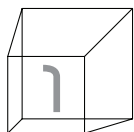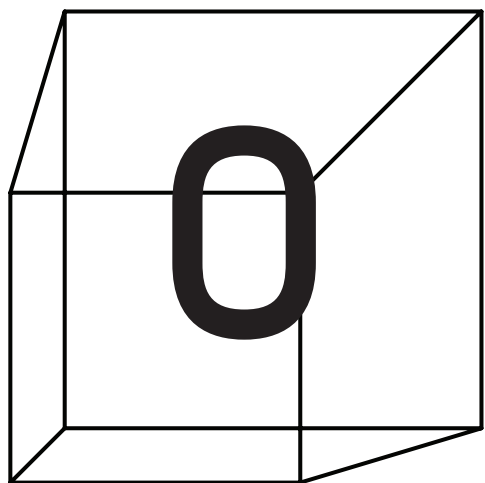# The 1egend 0f the Bit

Starring **0** and **1** in a hair–raising tale of mystery and intrigue, **1/2** makes a cameo appearance for a stunning surprise ending. You'll be riveted as the bits change their lives and learn their value.

Produced with **Adobe InDesign** CS3
Text in **Planet Estyle** 24pt and 72pt
0, 1 and **1/2** in **Adobe Myriad Pro** Black
EPS Line art by **James J Lemon**

The Legend of the Little Gray Bit
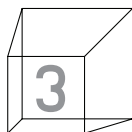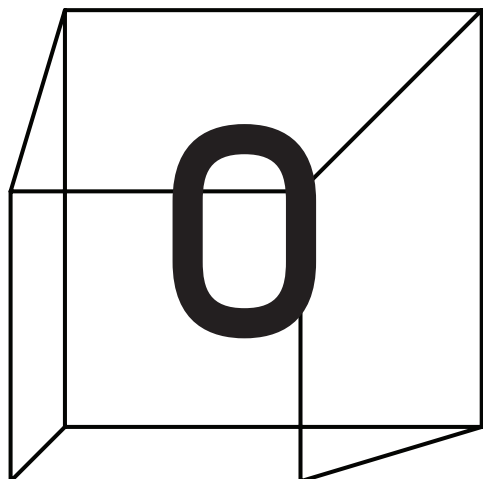is dedicated to my hardworking friends in the software development world.

Once upon a time, there was a "bit".

A little dab of silicon.
At first, it was an Obscure and well-hidden bit that only applied under certain Obscure and well-hidden conditions. It was known to only an Obscure and well-hidden group.
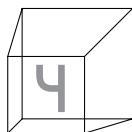
Otherwise specifically to be ignored, this bit.
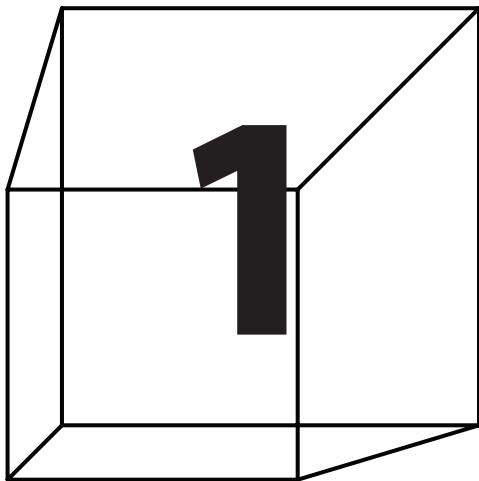
Always, traditionally, officially

ignored.

Nobody paid any attention to the bit.
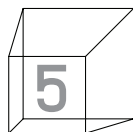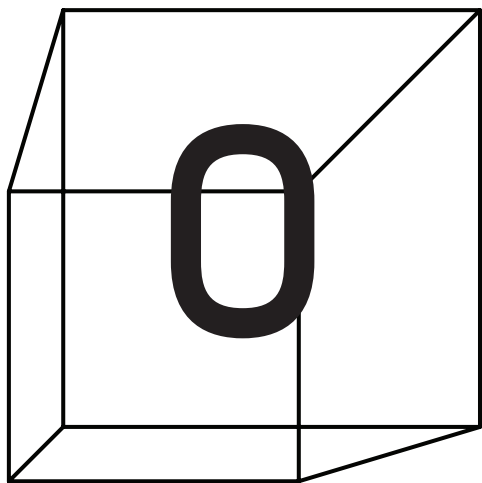The bit would shout, and there would be

no echo.

The bit could be zer0 or the bit could be 0ne. The bit could be clear or the bit could be set. It was not associated in any way with any other bits.
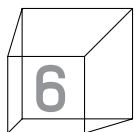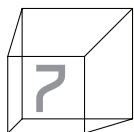
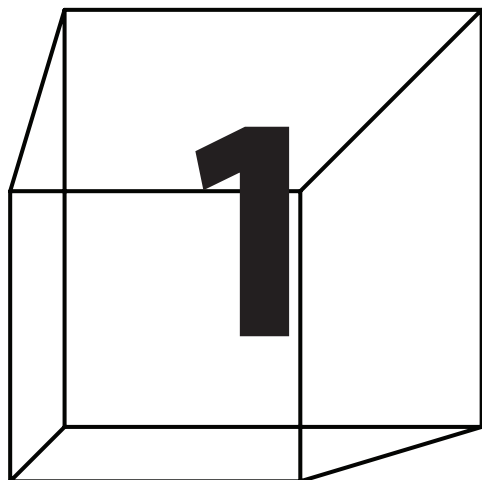**1**t was a loner.

Or, so we thought.

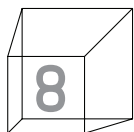One day, the bit was set.

Then 1t happened

and continued to happen.

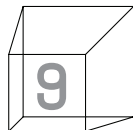**1**t had been set many times be-fore

but no one had noticed.

At the same time one of the neighboring bits changed to a very unexpected value, and there was a massive fire.
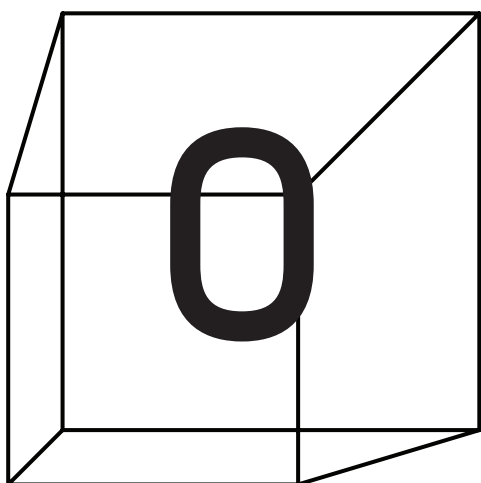
(specifically, a core dump).

Suddenly, the bit's cover was blown!

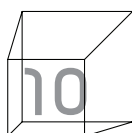Now, everyone would be looking at the bit!

Alas, it's true, there is little meaning in the bit.
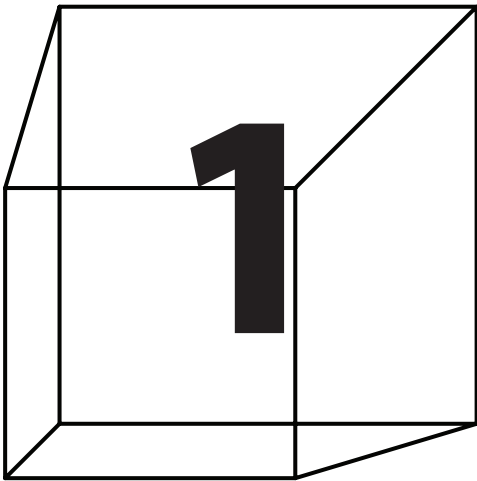It's a flag saying, more or less,

" O ne or more of many things has
failed for whatever reason or at least I think so, or
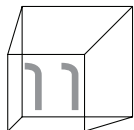at least I might be in some sort of

tr O uble."

It's a gray bit, which says... "Any Other thing I tell you now, might be a **1** ie!"

A little devil on your left shoulder, a grain of salt, a gray cloud...
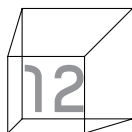
Use **your** judgment!

11

No one could figure out
what the bit was telling them.

Sometimes it could safely be 1gnored. We immediately began to seek the value of the bit. The bit became a legend and so we forever call it

"the **1egend** bit."

We erected a little shrine to the bit where we provide small gray offerings in the vain hope that the bit will not be set and remain forever clear.
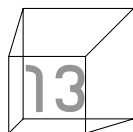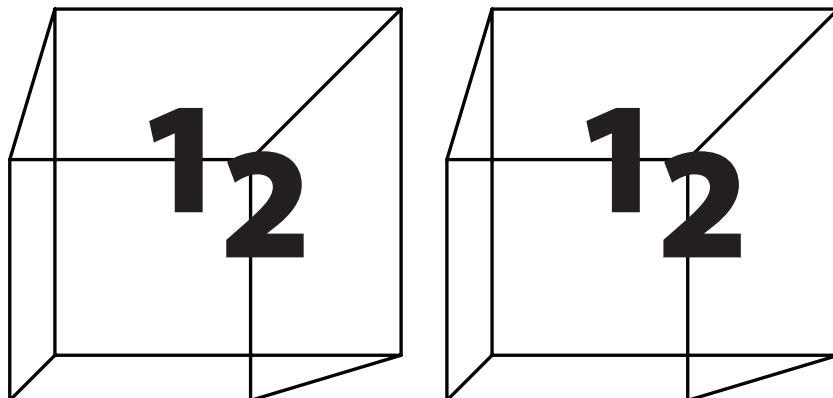
Then we dis- covered...

...there are indeed,

2W0 bits. Not 0ne but 2w0!

1 2   **1 2**

? But that's another story.

Goodnight, little

1