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# Fighting the imposter: from nowhere in Molise to Node.js contributor

**Paolo Insogna**

Node.js TSC, Principal Engineer

"Somebody else should be here."



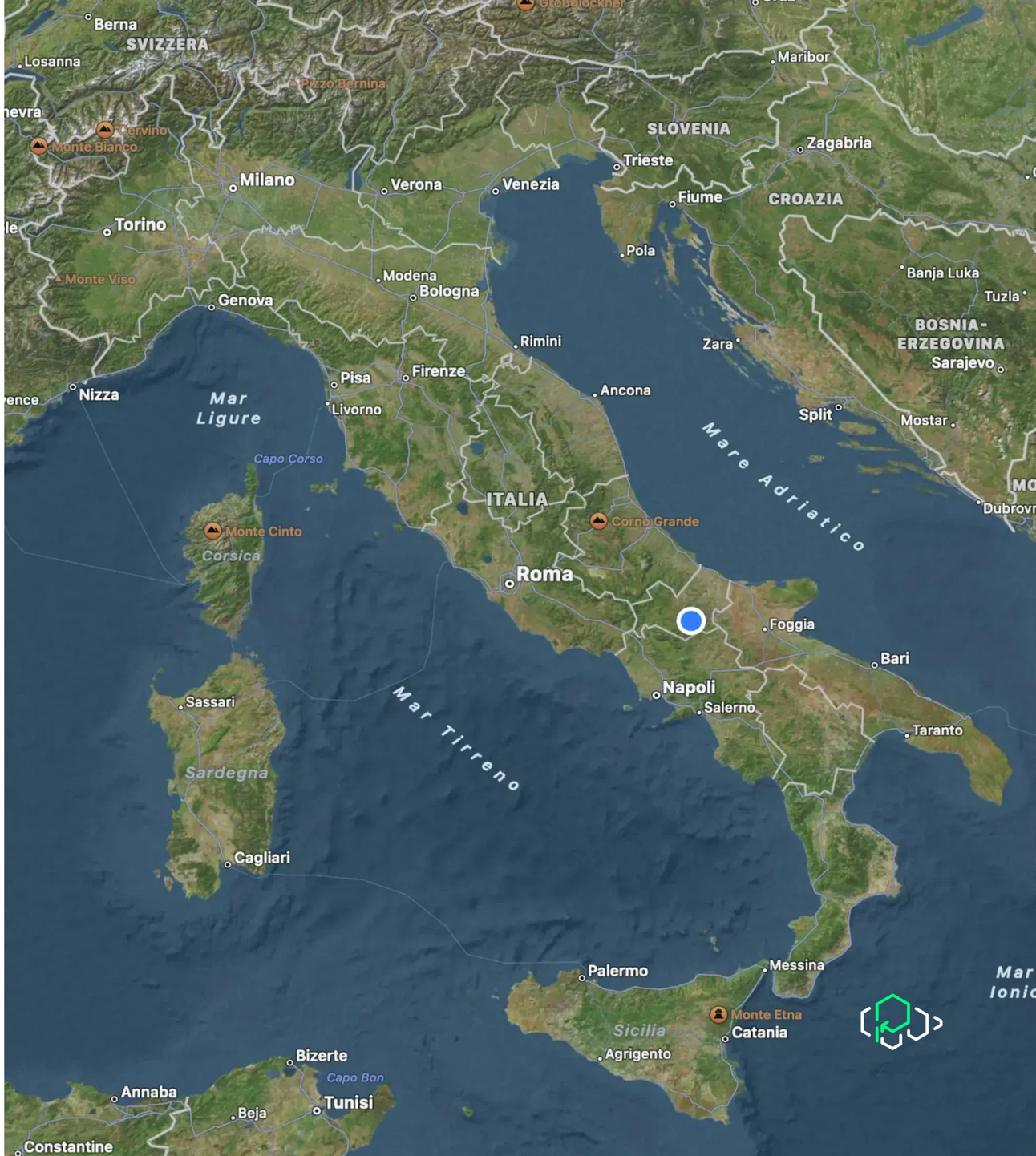
# Hello, I'm **Paolo**!



**Node.js** Technical Steering Committee Member

**Platformatic** Principal Engineer

`paoloinsogna.dev` `ShogunPanda` `p_insogna` `pinsogna`



# Some companies trusting us

Booking.com

Article

supabase

Case Study

SPENDESK

Case Study

# That voice is always here.



"What if they find out?"



"It was just luck."



# What does that voice stop you from doing?




Curiosity
Creates
a Kinder
Brighter
World
♡
Let me tell you MY story.

# From nowhere in Molise.

Born in 1984 in Campobasso



# Computer Engineering

Tor Vergata, Rome · 2006



# And then, back home.

2009




A BIGGER YOU ANYWHERE
New Horizons Together
USA New Opportunities
CANADA A Brighter You
AUSTRALIA Live the Adventure
NEW ZEALAND More Than a Job
A Brighter Tomorrow
Good People Brighter Places
Someone believed I could do more.

# Viralheat, H-1B visa

Foster City, CA, USA · 2012






# What did I find there?

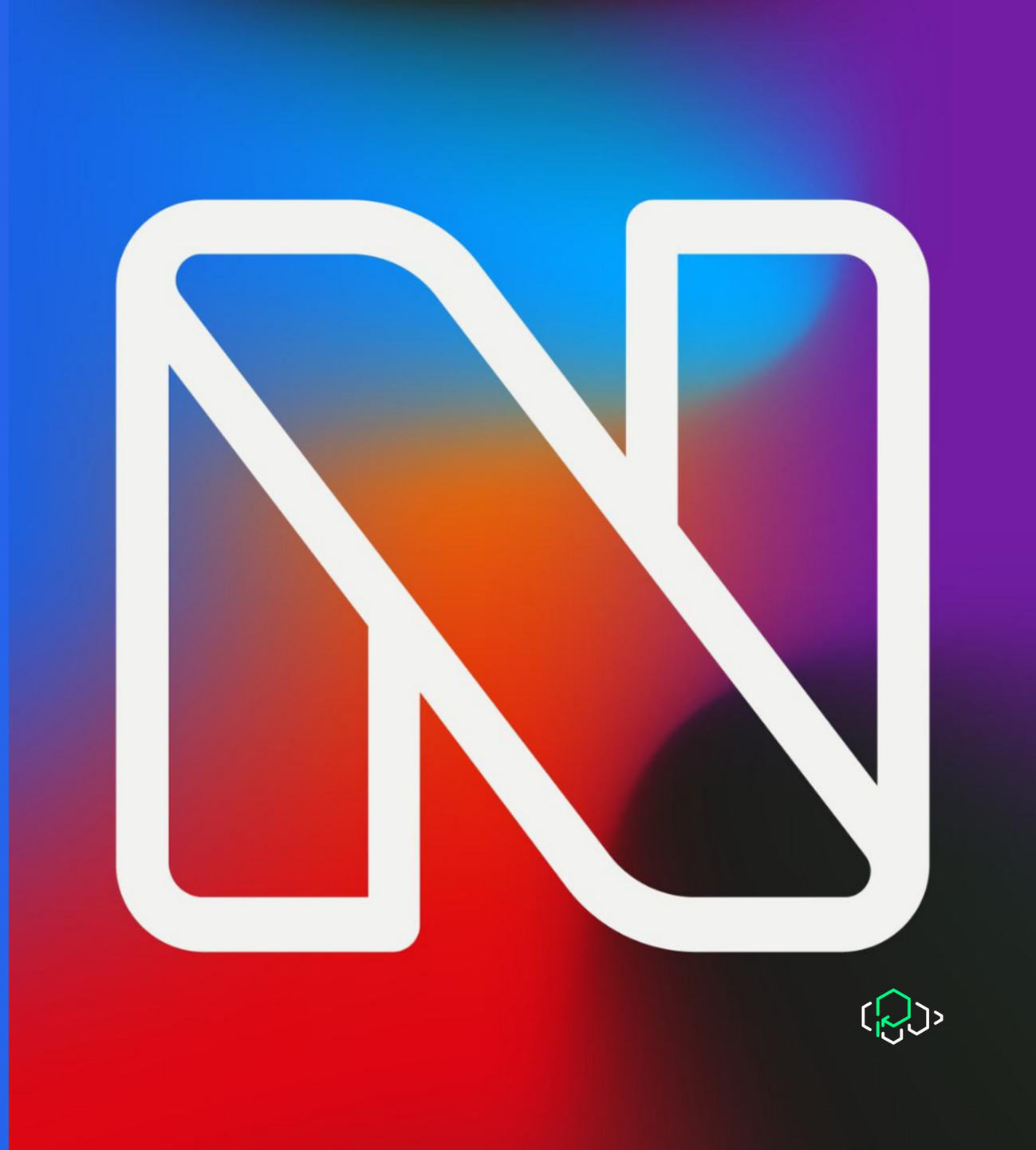
# Back in Italy, working remotely.

2016



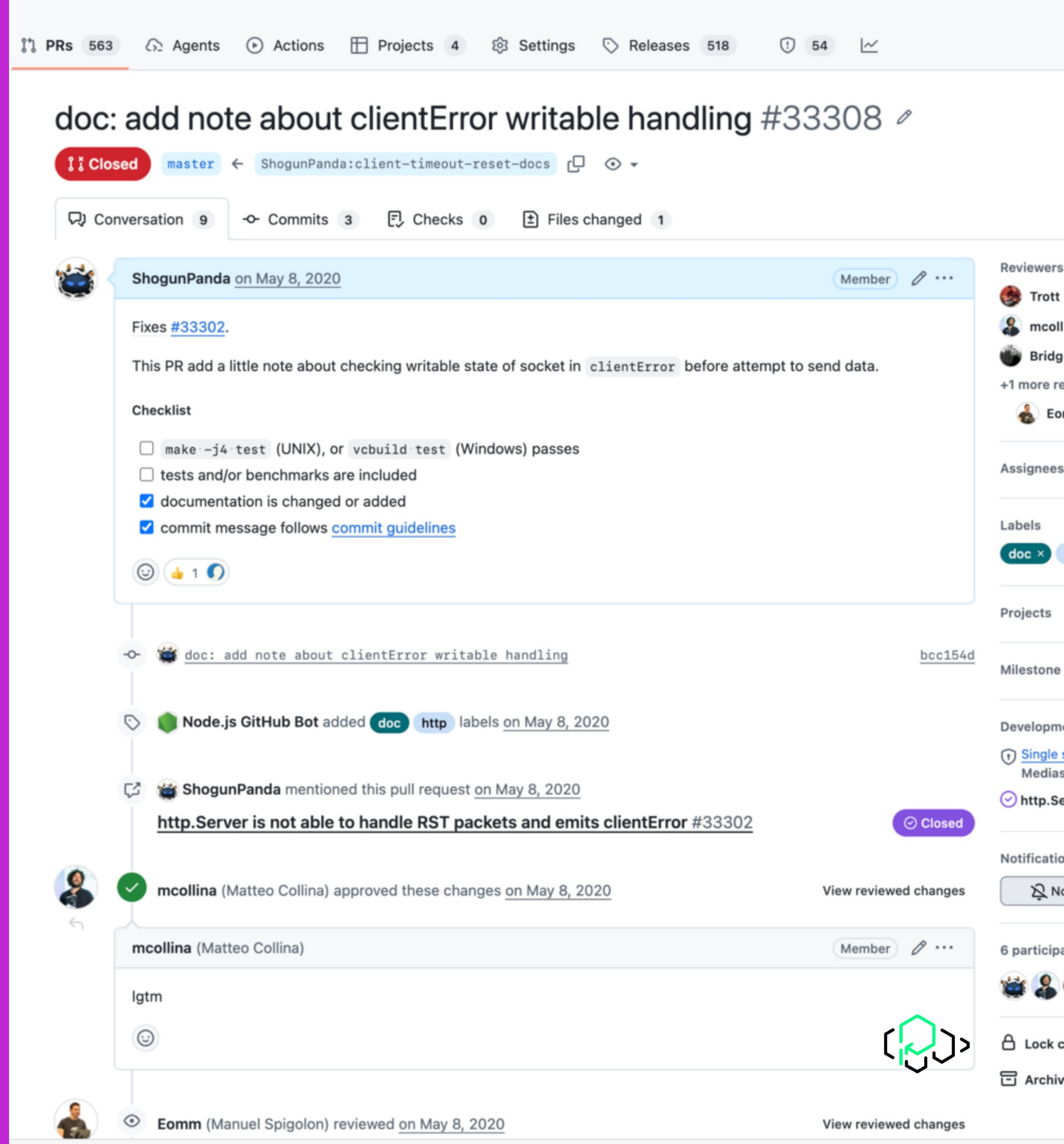
# Senior Developer, NearForm

2018



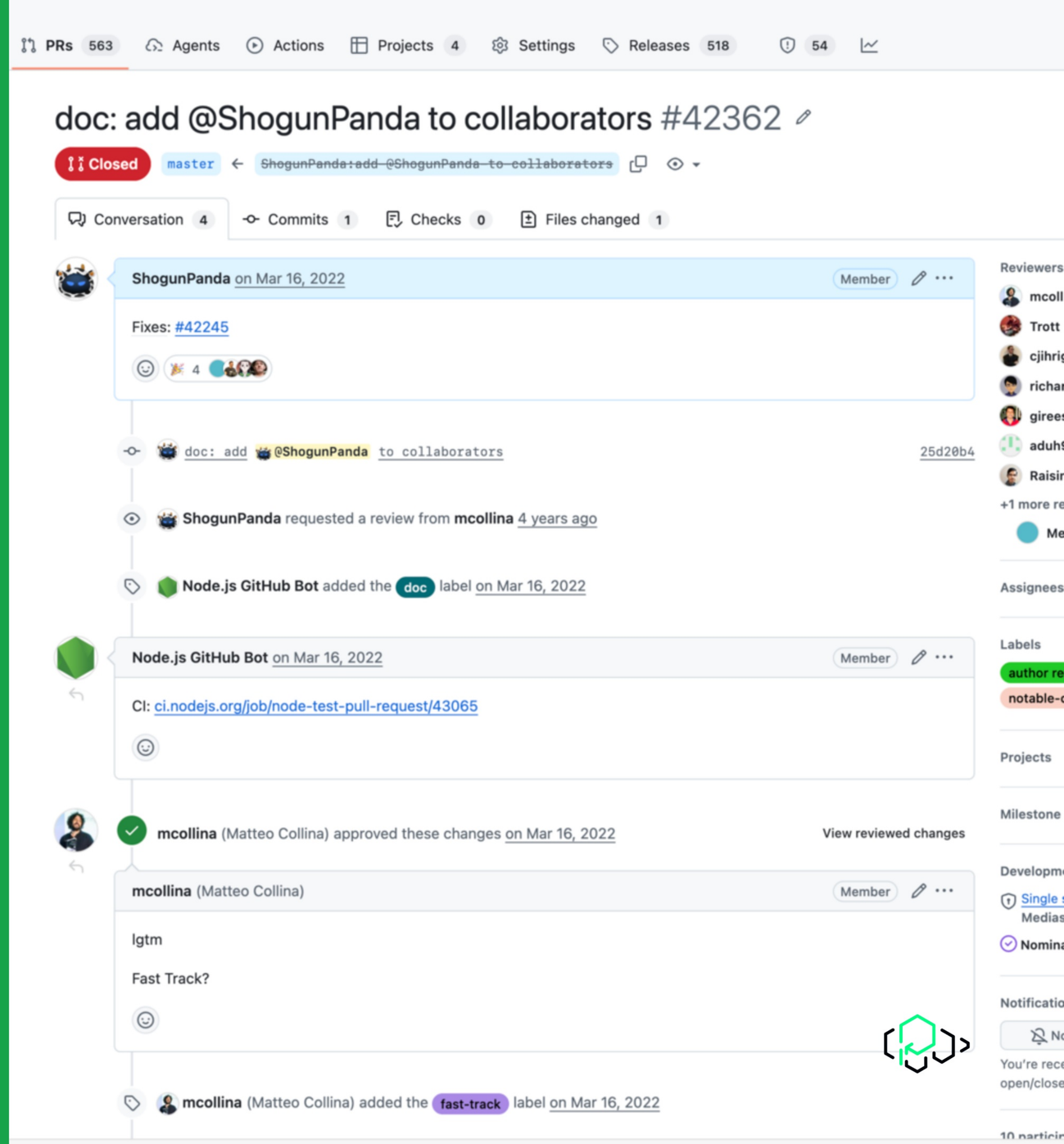
# My first Node.js contribution

2020



# Node.js collaborator

2022



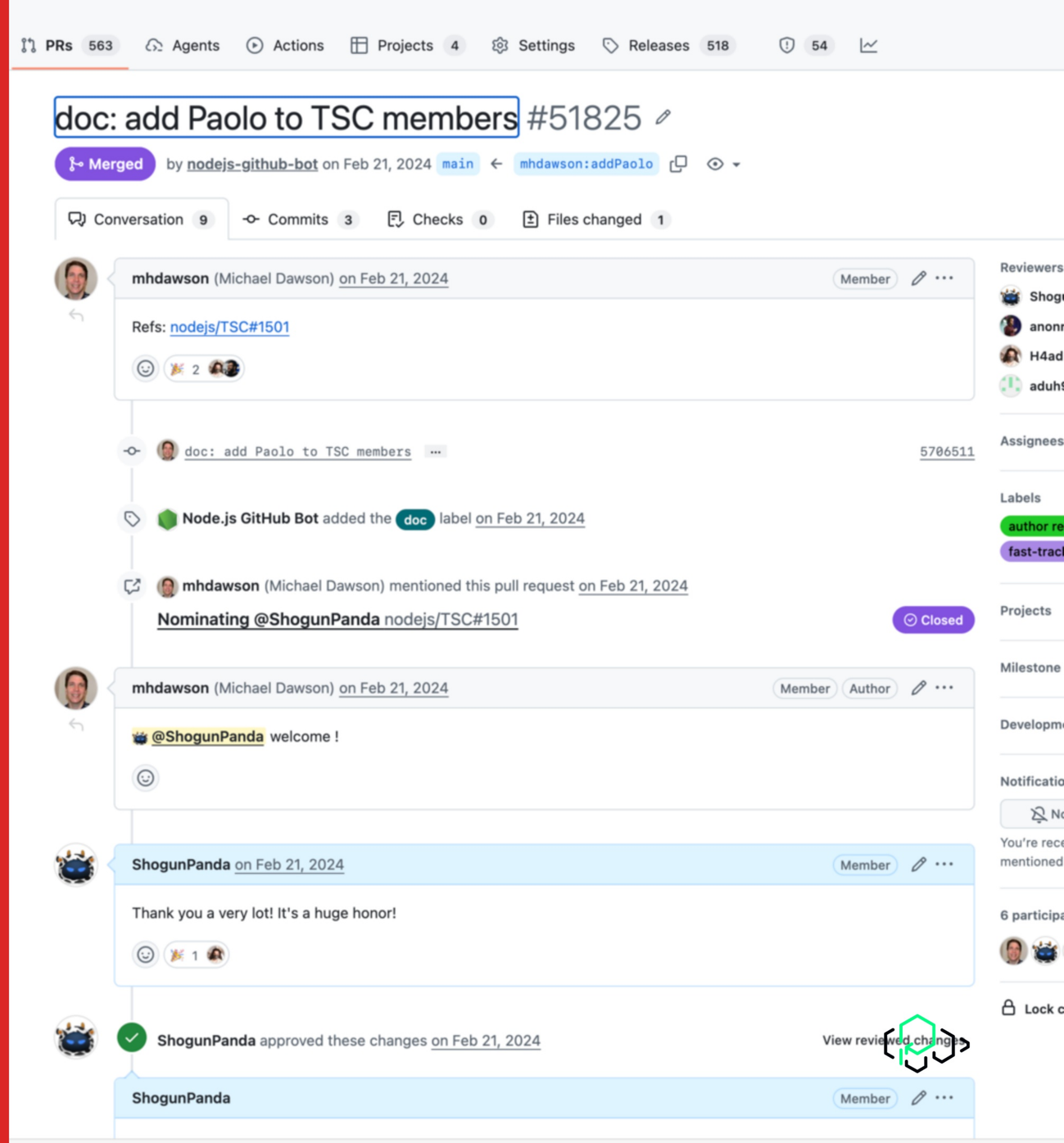



# Then I stepped onto a stage.

**Almost 60 speaking appearances since 2022.**

# Node.js TSC

2024



# Principal Engineer, Platformatic

2024






# And yet, that voice is still here.

# So, what is that voice?



# Imposter syndrome

*“A psychological phenomenon in which individuals struggle to internalize their achievements and fear being exposed as frauds, despite evidence of their competence.”*

**Adapted from Clance & Imes (1978) and Bravata et al. (2020)**

**Success is luck.**
**Failure is me.**



I just need
one more
achievement.



# HAVE YOU EVER HEARD THESE?

# Who do you think you are?



Be happy with what you have.



# Why take the risk?



# Stay out of the spotlight.




Be grateful for the crumbs.

# You start believing them...



...and lose yourself.



# IT'S TIME TO KICK THEM OUT!



# THERE IS NO OFFICIAL PLAYBOOK.

# THESE ARE MY COPING STRATEGIES.

~~Who do you think you are?~~

# I am who I fought to become.



~~Be happy with what you have.~~

# Wanting more is healthy if it harms no one.



~~Why take the risk?~~

# Don’t mistake uncertainty for danger.



~~Stay out of the spotlight.~~

# Be there to **share** knowledge, not to brag.



~~Be grateful for the crumbs.~~

# Know what you earned. It’s not a gift.




SCREW IT! Don’t overthink it!

# One last thing™

*“Dude, sucking at something is the first step towards being sorta good at something.”*

**Jake the Dog — Adventure Time**



# Who's next?





# Thank you!

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