Getting More Out of What You Do

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Disclaimer
Not trying to reinvent the wheel
Discover something new
Offering a reminder
A different perspective

"Sometimes you need to look at Life from a different perspective."
On what you already know...
On what you already know...

...which is that this dress is white and gold
About me

- Started off in computer science
- Switched to BIS
- Stayed for an MBA
About me

INTJ

Be polite, be courteous, show professionalism, and have a plan to kill everyone in the room.

fakeposters.com
About me

I AM AN INTJ
Your argument is invalid

fakeposters.com
About me

WEB DEVELOPERS

WHAT MY FRIENDS THINK I DO
WHAT MY MOM THINKS I DO
WHAT SOCIETY THINKS I DO
WHAT OUR CLIENTS THINK WE DO
WHAT I THINK I DO
WHAT WE REALLY DO

zach nicodemus
Section 1

WHAT I HAVE LEARNED
Lesson #1
Everything you do lasts forever
By forever I mean forever...
..or until you have left ISU...to pursue other, less noble careers.
...or retired
...or been fired
...or meet your untimely end
Sometimes forever is even longer
Sometimes forever is even longer

WHAT DO YOU MEAN

DUCT TAPE WON'T FIX IT?
Everything you do lasts forever

- Decisions you make today will have a lasting impact
- An idea or proof of concept can become the standard without your control or intent
- An incomplete idea becomes implemented
LESSON #2
Everyone has a little terrorist in them
Everyone has a little terrorist in them

- If you give into their demands, you have lost
- If you blindly fulfill requests, you will be taken advantage of
- Be prepared to say no and to fight back with your own terms
LESSON #3
Biases and skewed perspectives

- Strong aversion to change
- We are fully invested in this product/process/idea
- We can’t do it like them, we have “special” needs
- Decision making based on incorrect or outdated information
- Issues with accountability
Section 2

WHAT YOU CAN DO
THING YOU CAN DO #1
Question everything...

...especially yourself
Question Everything

- Mostly an internal process
- Be aware of your own bias
- Understand the bias of others
- What keeps reoccurring?
Questions to ask out loud

- Currently, what is working for you and what is not?
- Who will benefit the most?
- Can existing resources be utilized?
- Forget about the technology, what are you trying to accomplish?
Other useful phrases

- I have a question...
- I have a crazy idea…
- Excuse my ignorance, but why...
- Hypothetically, what if...
Try Harder
Try Harder

- Do not limit yourself
- Challenge yourself to think outside the box and outside your comfort zone
- Use proven methods in new ways
- Do not immediately ask for help
- Work towards understanding, not simply following instructions
Try Harder...but not too hard

- ROI calculations
- On a hard deadline
- Limited use
- Limited impact
- Creates more work than it would save
THING YOU CAN DO #3
Avoid being single point of success or failure
Work piles up
Can you fully go on vacation?
What if you get hit by a bus?
Avoid being single point of success or failure
THING YOU CAN DO #4
Provide Flexibility
Modularize & Reuse
Example: Calendar Feeds

Provides options:

- start - where the feed starts
- limit - number of events to show
- template - provide different layouts
### Example: Calendar Feeds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **MAY 20** | Eastern Europe: A Century of Unfinished Business  
Wed, May 20, 2015 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Alumni Center, $35 for four sessions (Sen Professional members), $45 for four sessions (Non members) |
| **MAY 21** | Classroom Journey Bus Trip #2 to Cahokia Mounds  
Thu, May 21, 2015 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM See Event Description - $60 for Senior Professional members, $75 non-members |
| **MAY 27** | Eastern Europe: A Century of Unfinished Business  
Wed, May 27, 2015 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Alumni Center, $35 for four sessions (Sen Professional members), $45 for four sessions (Non members) |
| **JUN 3** | Eastern Europe: A Century of Unfinished Business  
6/3/15 at 9:30 AM Alumni Center |
Example: Calendar Feeds

**Eastern Europe: A Century of Unfinished Business**

East Central Europe has always been an ethnically diverse crossroads between great expansionist empires. Beginning with the treaties that ended the Great War, this course will discuss a century of...

**Start:** 9:30 AM on 5/20/15  
**End:** 11:30 AM on 5/20/15  
**Cost:** $35 for four sessions (Sen Professional members), $45 for four sessions (Non members)  
**Location:** Alumni Center  
**Room:** 116

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**Classroom Journey Bus Trip #2 to Cahokia Mounds**

About 900 years ago, thousands of Native Americans resided in the Mississippi River Valley near present-day St. Louis. Archaeologists call the settlement Cahokia. Within a century, circa AD 1200, ...

**Start:** 8:00 AM on 5/21/15  
**End:** 5:30 PM on 5/21/15  
**Cost:** $60 for Senior Professional members, $75 non-members

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**Eastern Europe: A Century of Unfinished Business**

**Start:** 9:30 AM on 5/20/15  
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**Classroom Journey Bus Trip #2 to Cahokia Mounds**

5/21/15 at 8:00 AM

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**Eastern Europe: A Century of Unfinished Business**

5/27/15 at 9:30 AM  
**Alumni Center**
Example: Stories Feeds

- http://education.illinoisstate.edu/
- http://metcalf.illinoisstate.edu/
- http://alumni.illinoisstate.edu/
THING YOU CAN DO #5
Empower others

Empower your clients, users, or fellow employees
Map Locations Editor

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        }
      ]
    }
]```
The Goal

- Enable others to utilize what you create without your assistance
- Reduce your recurring tasks
- Listen to and anticipate needs
- Reduce the number of requests to modify existing work
- Be a catalyst for change and improved efficiency
Thank you!

ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?