

The Path to Senior Sysadmin

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**The green slides
are what I show
on the projector**

Probably in a different color

In the B&W version, the projected slides are
the ones on the left side of the page

**The black slides
are my speaking
notes**

In the B&W version, my speaking notes are
the ones on the right side of the page

Latest Slides

- <http://menlo.com/lisa-2013/m9>
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Schedule

- 1:30 – 3:00 Lecture + Q&A
- 3:00 – 3:30 Break
- 3:30 – 5:00 More lecture + Q&A

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I Promise

No “Death by
PowerPoint”

I Promise

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PowerPoint”

Purpose

Some *suggestions* for professional and personal growth, and to help you advance your career

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Purpose

Some *suggestions* for professional and personal growth, and to help you advance your career

Suggestions, Not Rules

- Everything I say is a suggestion
- May not apply to every job or person
- May apply differently at different jobs or in different sectors

Intended Audience

- Generalist v. specialist
- Any sector (.com, .edu, .gov, etc.)
- Any O/S
- Currently “mid-level”
 - “Junior” can get advice for long-term career planning

Intended Audience

- I’m going to cover generalists
 - Because that’s what I am
 - And probably what most of you are
- Specialists can figure out equivalent “hard skills”

Intended Audience

- Generalist v. specialist
- Any sector (.com, .edu, .gov, etc.)
- Any O/S
- Currently “mid-level”
 - “Junior” can get advice for long-term career planning

No Xenophobia

- Speaking of O/Ses ...
- I’m going to say “*nix” / “Unix” / “Linux”
 - Because I’m lazy
- Please pretend I said “the operating system of your choice”
- All the skills are the same
 - They just have different names

Agenda

- “Hard” technical skills
- “Squishy” technical skills
- “Soft” skills

Agenda

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Agenda

- “Hard” technical skills
- “Squishy” technical skills
- “Soft” skills

“Hard” Skills

- Specific technical stuff
- Different for generalists v. specialists
- Stuff that “faces out”

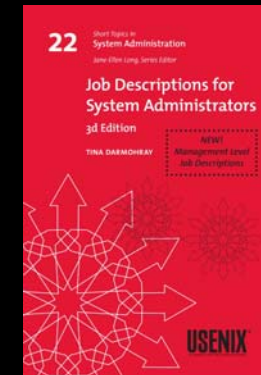
Hard Skills

- Covers some of the same material as this section of the tutorial



Hard Skills

- Covers some of the same material as this section of the tutorial



Agenda

- “Hard” technical skills
- “Squishy” technical skills
- “Soft” skills

“Squishy” Skills

- These are very clearly technical skills
- But not based on specific technologies (or commands or whatever)
- Some “face out”
 - Planning & analysis
- Others “face in”
 - Career growth

Agenda

- “Hard” technical skills
- “Squishy” technical skills
- “Soft” skills

“Soft” Skills

- This is the stuff that “faces in”
- It’s stuff about ourselves
- A little bit of changing who we are
- A lot about changing how we deal with **other people** and the world around us
- These are the hardest to learn

Agenda

- “Hard” technical skills
- “Squishy” technical skills
- “Soft” skills

Soft + Squishy

- Already said “hard” will be different for specialists v. generalists
- “Soft” and Squishy apply to everyone

Bad News

Bad News

- I have some bad news for you ...

Bad News

- You probably won't like a lot of what I plan to say today

Bad News

- You're not going to like a lot of what I plan to say today

Bad News

- You want to hear things like:
 - “Expert with Puppet”
 - “Deep internals of Xen”
 - “TCP 3-way handshake”

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Bad News

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 - “Expert with Puppet”
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 - “TCP 3-way handshake”

Bad News

- I’ll say all that, but ...
- You could probably figure out most of it for yourself
- It won’t take you very long
- It’s not very hard
- It’s the least important part of this class

Bad News

Bad News

- You will probably like “Squishy Skills”

Bad News

Bad News

- But you're really going to hate "soft skills"
- Unfortunately (for you), they're the most important
- And the hardest to learn

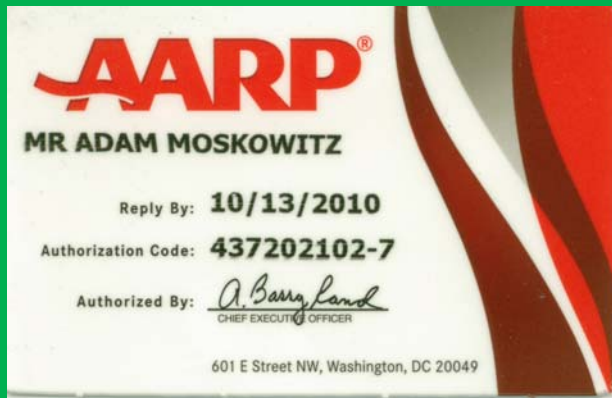
Bad News



Bad News

- Because becoming a senior sysadmin is only a little bit about this

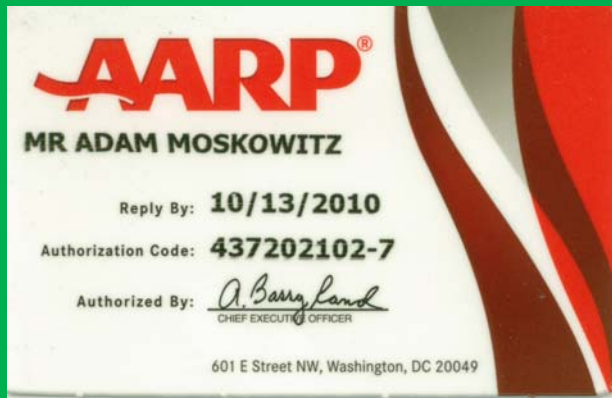
Bad News



Bad News

- And a lot about this

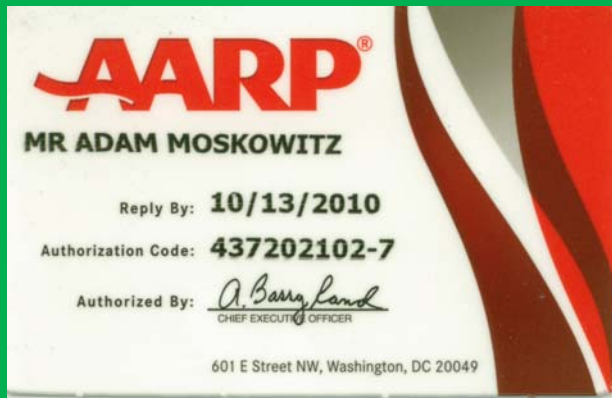
Bad News



Bad News

- Well, not so much age as maturity

Bad News



Bad News

- Most common manifestations of a lack of maturity:
 - Bad attitude
 - Lack of respect for your co-workers

Agenda

- “Hard” technical skills
- “Squishy” technical skills
- “Soft” skills

Let's Start Over

- Let's pretend to get off on the right foot

Agenda

- “Hard” technical skills
- “Squishy” technical skills
- “Soft” skills

No Answers

- I’m just going to list skills you need to learn
- I’m not addressing how or where to learn them
- There’s not enough time today
- For most folks, just getting the list of skills is a big step forward

“Hard” Skills

- “Hard” technical skills
- “Squishy” technical skills
- “Soft” skills

“Hard” Skills

- The obvious stuff: back-ups, email, networking, printing, storage, *nix commands, etc.
- **VERY** high-level overview
 - names, examples
 - maybe why you want/need them

Hard Skills

- “Hard” technical skills
- “Squishy” technical skills
- “Soft” skills

Hard Skills

- Not everyone needs all of these skills
- Not every job requires all these skills
- These are suggestions and guidelines, not hard-and-fast rules

Hard Skills

- All “user” commands
- All “admin” commands

Hard Skills

- Full and thorough knowledge of “standard” *nix “user” commands
 - a/k/a POSIX.2
 - a/k/a (1)
- Same for admin commands
 - a/k/a (7)

Hard Skills

- All “user” commands
- All “admin” commands

Hard Skills

- Easier to solve problems if you’re familiar with **all** the tools
- Someone in #lopsa asks programming question, thinking answer will be complicated
 - “Just use comm”
 - “Oh!”
- others: join, uniq, expr

Hard Skills

- The boot process
 - `/etc/init.d/...`
 - Solaris SMF
 - OS/X launchd
 - etc.
- Run levels

Hard Skills

- Complete understanding of the boot process, run levels (`/etc/inittab`), start-up file (`/etc/init.d`)
- Alternates:
 - Solaris SMF, OS X launchd, maybe others

Hard Skills

- The boot process
 - /etc/init.d/...
 - Solaris SMF
 - OS/X launchd
 - etc.
- Run levels

Hard Skills

- For example:
 - single user → 2 → 3 → 4 → 5?
 - Or single user → 5?
- I'm pretty sure Linux is 1 → 5
- At least one older system was
1 → 2 → 3 → 4 → 5

Hard Skills

- Back-ups
- RAID, volume management
- NIS / LDAP / AD / ...
- PAM
- Multi-factor authentication

Hard Skills

- Strong understanding (in general, and at least one implementation) of:
 - Back-up
 - RAID, volume management
 - NIS/LDAP/AD/...
 - PAM
 - N-factor authentication
- (Sysconfig comes later)

Hard Skills

- Programming skills

Hard Skills

- Programming skills
 - Because automation is your friend
 - Because there's always some stuff the devs won't write for you
 - To understand other people's code
- Several levels:
 - "Entry requirements": comfortable with shell, awk, and sed

Hard Skills

- Programming skills

Hard Skills

- (levels)
 - Very comfortable writing modestly complicated perl programs (with subs, “use <module>,” error checking)
 - because perl is still the most widely-used and widely-understood programming language for sysadmins
 - python and/or ruby catching up but not there yet

Hard Skills

- Programming skills

Hard Skills

- (levels)
 - C
 - mostly for understanding
 - enough to understand POSIX.1
 - enough to read the kernel
 - both needed for very deep debugging
 - Assembler
 - bonus, not a requirement
 - helps with the deepest bits of the kernel

Hard Skills

- Programming skills
- Software engineering

Hard Skills

- Software engineering skills, too
 - basic version control
 - RCS (found everywhere, easy to use)
 - git, mercurial, maybe bazaar
 - used for s/w dev and for system config files (with or without sysconfig tools)

Hard Skills

- Programming skills
- Software engineering

Hard Skills

- (s/w eng)
 - variables/config parameters versus hard-coded constants
 - makes it easier to use software on more than one system or for more than one user

Hard Skills

- System configuration
 - a/k/a configuration management
- Puppet, Chef, etc.

Hard Skills

- System configuration tools
- “The Big Four”: bcfg2, chef, cfengine, puppet
 - (isconf, lcfg, pan, quattor, radmind)
- Understand their use/purpose/benefit
- Have set up one from scratch

Hard Skills

- Networking

Hard Skills

- Networking
- Basic knowledge of common protocols:
 - IP, TCP, UDP
 - Set-up, tear-down, ARP, basic routing, etc.
- In-depth knowledge of “application” protocols:
 - DHCP, DNS, FTP, HTTP, LDAP, NFS, POP/IMAP, SSH, SMTP, Telnet

Hard Skills

- Networking

Hard Skills

- (nets)
- Solid understanding of routers, firewalls, load balancers, caches, (WAN) accelerators
- Ability to use a protocol analyzer (wireshark, NetScout)
- All required for debugging network problems

Hard Skills

- Bonus points: the kernel

Hard Skills

- Triple-bonus skill: In-depth understanding of the *nix kernel

Hard Skills

- Wait for it ...

Hard Skills

- Here's one you **really** won't like 😊



Hard Skills

- Learn Windows (desktop)
- Learn common Office apps
 - Word, Excel, PowerPoint
- Learn Outlook
- Because it's the standard
- And you need to "play nice" with managers, executives, etc.

Agenda

- “Hard” technical skills
- “Squishy” technical skills
- “Soft” skills

“Squishy” Skills

- HUH? ☺
- These are very clearly technical skills
 - But not based on specific technologies (or commands or whatever)
- Some “face out”
 - Planning & analysis
- Others “face in”
 - Career growth

Agenda

- “Hard” technical skills
- “Squishy” technical skills
- “Soft” skills

Squishy

- “Out”
- Analysis, planning, design, & evaluation
 - Ability to look at “big picture” for a project
 - Figure out requirements
 - Make a plan based on analysis
 - Evaluate results
 - Includes things like roll-back, decision trees, scheduling

“Squishy” Skills

- “Big Picture”

“Squishy” Skills

- “Big Picture”
- Need to be able to figure out how all the pieces fit together
- And how pieces affect each other
 - System throughput/response time
 - Security
- ...

Squishy Skills

- “Big Picture”

Squishy

- (big picture)
- Must be able to apply this to new systems during design/planning
- And to existing projects for systemic trouble-shooting

Squishy Skills

- Standards

Squishy

- “Standards”
- “POSIX”
 - “Open Group Base Specification”
 - “IEEE Std 1003.x”
 - “Single Unix Specification”
 - “Spec 1170”
- Covers the API and user commands
 - Woefully incomplete on sysadmin stuff

Squishy Skills

- Process

Squishy

- “Process”
 - “Rules” and systems for how things get done
 - Change management, disaster plans, security breaches, releases, etc.
 - Need to be able to figure out how much process is appropriate
 - And what kind of process
 - automatic or manual?
 - And for what things

Squishy Skills

- Process

Squishy

- (process)
- Also need to be able to evaluate existing process, recommend changes/improvements
 - starts to address business requirements
 - coming in a few minutes

Squishy Skills

- Process

Squishy

- Process – if done correctly – can actually help
- Learn how to evaluate processes and effectiveness
- Learn how to change processes to improve effectiveness
 - No, that's not just throwing it all out!

Squishy Skills

- Change management

Squishy

- Change management is a great example of how process – if done well – can help
- Mistakes are expensive
- Good change management reduces the number of mistakes
- It can also limit downtime if the plan includes rollback or recovery

Squishy Skills

- Regulations and laws

Squishy

- Regulations
- SOX, HIPAA, FERPA, PCI, etc.
- Minimum is to know they exist
- Next is to be able to work with “experts” to implement any/all applicable regulations
- ...

Squishy Skills

- Regulations and laws

Squishy

- (regs)
- One skill that “faces in”: **BE WILLING TO WORK WITHIN THESE RULES**
 - Some of it is bullshit
 - But it's what we're stuck with
- Senior means doing it because it's what's required
 - And doing it without complaining!

Squishy Skills

- Regulations and laws

Squishy

- The point isn't about security
- The point isn't about making sense
- It's about complying with legal requirements
- Because that's necessary to stay in business

Squishy Skills

- Regulations and laws

Squishy

- You don't have to like it
- You **do** have to help implement it
- Ideally you should help improve it

Squishy Skills

- Business
- Specifically ...

Squishy

- And that brings us to ...
- Understanding (the) business
- Ahem ...
- Unless your business is sysadmin consulting services ...

Squishy Skills

- It's all about business!

Squishy

- Sysadmin is about supporting the business!
- EVERYTHING sysadmin does needs to have a business reason behind it:
 - meet an SLA, meet a defined risk level, conform to a regulation, build a product, enable an employee to perform his/her job, etc.
- ...

Squishy Skills

- It's all about business:
 - Staying in business
 - Producing the product
 - Delivering the service
 - Making money
 - OK, maybe not for .edu ☺
 - Helping people do all of the above

Squishy

- The gear isn't there for you to do "cool stuff" with
- "Good enough": meet the requirements **AND NO MORE**
 - because any extra time/money is wasted

You
Ain't
Gonna
Need
It

You
Ain't
Gonna
Need
It

Squishy Skills

- YAGNI

Squishy

- YAGNI
- From Agile / Extreme Programming
- “You Ain’t Gonna Need It”
- Or, don’t build unless there’s a defined requirement
- Again, wasted time/money

Squishy Skills

- YAGNI
- BDIM: Business-Driven IT Management

Squishy

- Yes, some “economy of scale” and “planning for future growth”
- But that should be part of the business plan, too
- Some people call this BDIM: “Business-Driven IT Management”
 - I say there’s no other kind!

Squishy Skills

- BDIM: Business-Driven IT Management
- The “bottom line”

Squishy

- When asked, if you can't provide the business case for a particular task (machine, whatever), management probably can't provide it either
- In which case, don't do that task

Squishy Skills

- Budgeting

Squishy

- Budgeting
- Part of the business side of sysadmin
- Your manager will probably do most of the work
 - But needs accurate data from you
 - And that requires long-range planning, analysis, etc.

Squishy Skills

- Your manager

Squishy

- Skills that “face in” ...
- Similar to budgeting, you’re likely to know more about the technical side of IT than your manager
- THIS IS OK!
- LEARN TO ACCEPT IT!
- ...

Squishy Skills

- Your manager

Squishy

- Managers manage people
 - Senior sysadmins manage technology
- Managers may never have been sysadmins
 - Because so many sysadmins have bad people skills and thus make lousy managers
- Again, it's not the manager's job to be the technology expert

Squishy Skills

- Your manager

Squishy

- This means you can't ask your manager for technical help
- You have to learn how to learn new things on your own
 - Quickly
 - With limited resources
 - From incomplete or incorrect documentation

Squishy Skills

- Who to ask for help?
- Not your manager 😊

Squishy

- You also need to develop a network of people you can ask for help:
 - People you meet at LISA 😊
 - Or SCALE or OLF or ...
 - LOPSA / SAGE / USENIX
 - Mailing lists, IRC, personal contacts
 - Local sysadmin groups
 - Back Bay LISA / BayLISA / ...

Squishy Skills

- Professional development

Squishy

- Professional development
 - LISA, PICC, Velocity, etc.
 - Even if you have to pay for it yourself

Squishy Skills

- Professional development

Squishy

- You need to stay abreast of the literature
 - Minimum = LISA proceedings
- Probably should read / keep up with some “near field” stuff as well
 - DB / SQL
 - UI / CHI
 - Programming

Squishy Skills

- Books

Squishy

- Sort-of related to learning: books
- You ought to have your own reference books
 - So you can take them with you when you change jobs
- Not going to give you a list
 - It changes too quickly

Squishy Skills

- Books

Squishy

- Ought to include:
 - One O/S design text
 - One language reference
 - One sysadmin reference
 - like Nemeth et al. or Limoncelli et al.
 - One networking reference

Squishy Skills

- Asking for help
 - Knowing when to ask

Squishy

- Know when to ask for help
- Mainly for programming help
 - Because some things, especially those intended for end users, would benefit from solid S/W engineering

Squishy Skills

- Asking for help
 - Knowing when to ask

Squishy

- Also for sysadmin help
 - If the operation has the potential for large-scale disruption
 - Or it's hard to roll back if it goes wrong
- In this case, could get help from someone less experienced
 - Make yourself explain it to the other person
 - And don't continue until they (and you) fully understand it
 - OK, maybe that's overkill

Agenda

- “Hard” technical skills
- “Squishy” technical skills
- “Soft” skills

“Soft” Skills

- This is the stuff you probably don't want to hear

**Pay
Attention!**

Pay Attention!

Pay Attention!

- Please notice your “gut” reaction to this next section

Pay Attention!

- Please notice your “gut” reaction to this next section

Pay Attention!

- Please notice your “gut” reaction to this next section
- The more you don’t like what I’m saying, the more you probably need to hear it
- And the harder it will be for you to learn

Pay Attention!

- Please notice your “gut” reaction to this next section
- The more you don’t like what I’m saying, the more you probably need to hear it
- And the harder it will be for you to learn

“Soft” Skills

- This is the stuff you probably don't want to hear
- Please listen anyway

“Soft” Skills

- This is the stuff you probably don't want to hear
- This is almost certainly the stuff you need to hear the most
- It's also probably going to be the hardest for you to learn
- Because sysadmin is about people (and business) **not** technology!

Soft Skills

- It's all about people!
 - Well, people and business
 - But mainly people
 - Because people are who make the business happen

Soft Skills

- Yes, people, not technology
- “But I’m not ‘a people person’”
- As a senior sysadmin, you need to change this about yourself
 - Or learn to fake it **really well**

Soft Skills

- It's all about people!

Soft Skills

- Like it or not, extroverts win
- It may not be fair, but it's how the game is played
- The rules aren't likely to change in your lifetime
- So learn to play by the rules or accept that you can never win

Soft Skills

- It's all about people!

Soft Skills

- With all that in mind ...
- Let's dive into "soft" skills

Soft Skills

- Attitude
- Attitude
- Attitude
- A few “people skills”
- Attitude
- One “hard soft” skill

Soft Skills

- Attitude
- Attitude
- Attitude
- A few “people skills”
- Attitude
- One “hard soft” skill

Soft Skills

- It's all about people!
 - And how you deal with them

Soft Skills

- Yes, people and business, not technology
- I said this in "squishy": Machines exist to perform business functions
- Sysadmin is about keeping those machines running
- And about helping people use those machines

Soft Skills

- Be helpful and friendly

Soft Skills

- Attitude #1: Be helpful and friendly
- If people don't ask for help because sysadmins make them uncomfortable, those people won't be effective when there are problems
- You have failed to perform your job
 - (of helping those people)

Soft Skills

- Be helpful and friendly
- Your job is to help
 - Help the people
 - Help the business

Soft Skills

- Worth repeating
- Your job is to help the business
 - Keep machines running
 - Help people use the machines
- Have to stay within security/PCI/etc. but the goal is to “get to yes” and not “just say no”

Soft Skills

- Be helpful and friendly
- Your job is to help
 - Help the people
 - Help the business

Soft Skills

- Part of this is giving the answer most helpful to the person asking
 - In terms they will understand!
- Being pedantic doesn't help
- Being snide doesn't help
- Saying "don't do that" doesn't help

Soft Skills

- Be helpful and friendly
- Your job is to help
 - Help the people
 - Help the business

Soft Skills

- Don't answer a question the person didn't ask
- If what the person is asking doesn't make sense, ask him/her to clarify
 - Or ask questions to understand the real problem the person is trying to solve
- Remember, the goal is "getting to 'yes'"

Soft Skills

- Respect

Soft Skills

- Attitude #2: Respect other people in the company
- They know less about computers than you do
 - Probably a LOT less
- **IT'S NOT THEIR JOB** to know a lot about computers
 - If it was their job, the company wouldn't need to hire you!

Soft Skills

- Respect

Soft Skills

- Attitude #3: More respect
- Other people ARE NOT STUPID!
- Many of them are experts in their own fields
- They can't solve computer problems ...
- You can't solve nuclear physics problems
- Doesn't make either of you stupid!



Soft Skills

- Example:
- I use an IBM ThinkPad X-61
- My wife uses a Mac iBook
- Very different physically:
 - Different latch
 - Different on/off switch
 - Different pointing devices
 - Different buttons

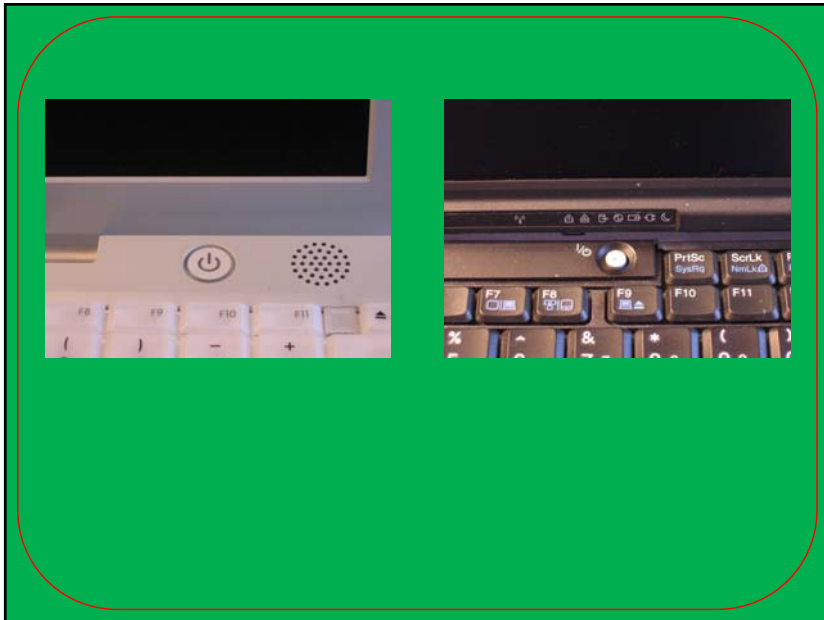


Soft Skills

- While on vacation, she tried to use my X61, and had to ask ...



- How do I open it?



- How do I turn it on?



- Which button clicks the mouse?

**“Boy, is she
dumb!”**

- “Boy, is she dumb!”

**“Boy, is she
dumb!”**

Um, no.

Soft Skills

- Um, no ...
- She has an MS in biomedical engineering
 - And at least one patent
- She's also an MD
- In some ways, she's smarter than I am
 - I just happen to know more about computers than she does

7,500 hrs = my wife

- She has ~7,500 hours experience using a computer

7,500 hrs = my wife

120,000 hrs = me

- I have ~120,000 hours experience

7,500 hrs = my wife

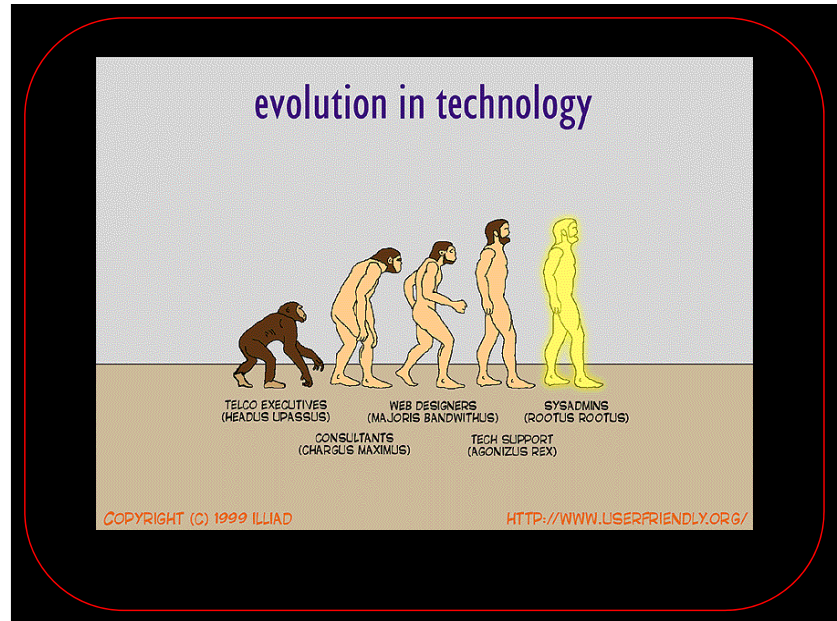
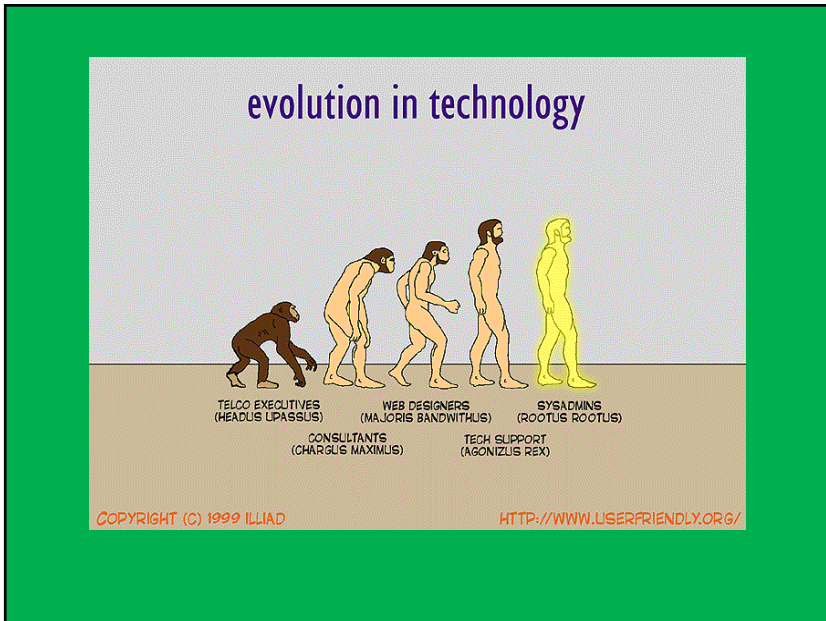
x 16

120,000 hrs = me

- That's a factor of 16

x 16

- 16!
- That's a lot!
- Most sysadmins forget how big a gap that is



Soft Skills

- It's a joke
- But it's also insulting

Soft Skills

- As a joke it's mildly amusing
- Too many sysadmins take it seriously
- Don't do that
- You are not better than your co-workers
 - And maybe not even smarter
- You simply know more about computers than they do

Soft Skills

- Managers

Soft Skills

- Speaking of telco executives ...
- Learn how to talk to managers
 - Give appropriate level of detail
 - Approach from business perspective
 - Solid reasoning, not dogma or cargo cult

Soft Skills

- Managers

Soft Skills

- (managers)
- If your manager isn't (wasn't) a sysadmin, s/he is going to depend on you for advice on the technical side of things
- If you can't give useful answers, your manager will move you aside and use someone else

Soft Skills

- Developers

Soft Skills

- More being helpful ...
- When the developers you work with give you bad software, rather than bash them, **GO WORK WITH THEM** to help them fix the problem
- Help them understand the problem

Soft Skills

- Developers

Soft Skills

- Which is more likely to get results?
- Complaining to fellow sysadmins about “stupid developers”
- Or asking the developers to fix the software?

Soft Skills

- Developers

Soft Skills

- The developers may say “no”
- Most likely they’ll say “you need to get it added to our schedule”
- That’s as good as a “yes”
- Why?
- ...

Soft Skills

- Developers

Soft Skills

- Because now you can go to your manager with a specific request
- “Hey boss, there’s a problem with the latest release of the software ...”
- “I talked with the developers to figure out how to fix it ...”
- “But I need help from you to get it onto their schedule.”

Soft Skills

- What your manager wants to hear

Soft Skills

- Your boss likes it when you come to him/her this way:
 - You identified a problem
 - You did as much as you could to solve it
 - You recognized when you couldn't do any more
 - You identified what else needed to be done and by whom

Soft Skills

- Traits of senior employees

Soft Skills

- All of those are skills senior people have
- Whining to your peers is not something senior people do
- Whining to your *boss* is something only very junior people do
 - Or people who want to get fired

Soft Skills

- Back to those developers ...

Soft Skills

- Getting back to the developers ...

Soft Skills

- Developers

Soft Skills

- Developers are not dumb
- Usually they're just not familiar with ops requirements
- Or, more likely, ops stuff never made it into the design, so it's not on the devs' schedule
- In which case, work with the designers
 - Because this isn't the devs' fault

Soft Skills

- One “hard soft” skill
 - But you still won’t like it 😊

Soft Skills

- I mentioned one “hard soft” skill ...
- Public speaking
- Well, not really “public speaking” as “giving presentations at work”

Soft Skills

- “Workplace presentations”

Soft Skills

- (presentations)
- Need to present to:
 - your group
 - other groups
 - your manager
 - 1st- / 2nd-level managers
 - executives

Soft Skills

- “Workplace presentations”

Soft Skills

- (presentations)
- Many people **hate** this
 - Not just sysadmins, not just techies
- You have to learn to do it
 - And do it reasonably well
- Because giving presentations will be part of the job of the most senior technical person on the team

Soft Skills

- “Workplace presentations”

Soft Skills

- (presentations)
- Again, if your boss can't depend on you to do these, you're not likely to get promoted to that senior position

Soft Skills

- “Workplace presentations”

Soft Skills

- (presentations)
- Actual “public speaking” is what you’ll see on Wed-Thu-Fri
- But the skills are pretty much the same
 - Although it should be easier in a small(er) setting inside your company
- “Workplace presentations” are the minimum you need to learn to do

Soft Skills

- “Workplace presentations”
- Public speaking

Soft Skills

- (presentations)
- However ...
- Getting a paper or talk accepted at a conference is a good way to get your boss to send you 😊
- But for that you’ll need to go to the next level of actual “public speaking”

Soft Skills

- **No whining!**

Soft Skills

- I've talked about process, change management, SOX / HIPAA / et al., learning Windows, dealing with developers
- Most important thing: **no whining!**

Soft Skills

- **No whining!**

Soft Skills

- It's OK to question these things
 - IF you are doing it purely on a technical level
 - AND doing it fairly, without bias
 - AND with the intent of improving things
- In fact, suggesting changes is a good thing

Soft Skills

- **No whining!**

Soft Skills

- Whining about any of these is Very Bad
- Your boss doesn't want to hear you whine
- People who whine are not the people who get promoted to senior

Soft Skills

- No whining!

Soft Skills

- Because part of being senior is accepting things
- And working to change them for the better
- But **not whining** about it!
- Your attitude is almost as important as your actions

Soft Skills

- Almost done ...

(almost done)

OK, A Few Answers

- Find a mentor

OK, A Few Answers

- For soft skills, find a mentor
 - A good manager
 - Probably NOT a techie
- Might find someone through the LOPSA Mentorship program
 - But someone you work with might be easier
 - Again, doesn't have to be technical

That's All, Folks

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