MIS3640 - Problem Solving and Software Design

So, how are you doing?

Please introduce yourself, including:

- **Who** are you? **Where** are you now?
- Which **year** are you in? What **concentration**?
- **Why** are you taking this class?
- Do you have any **programming experience**?
- How was your **2020**?
- How can we **remember** you?

Agenda

- Introduction to the course, syllabus and deliverables
- Term Project (*mentioned*)
- Software
  - Python
  - Visual Studio Code, and extensions
  - GitHub.com, GitHub desktop
- Write your first Python program!

Syllabus

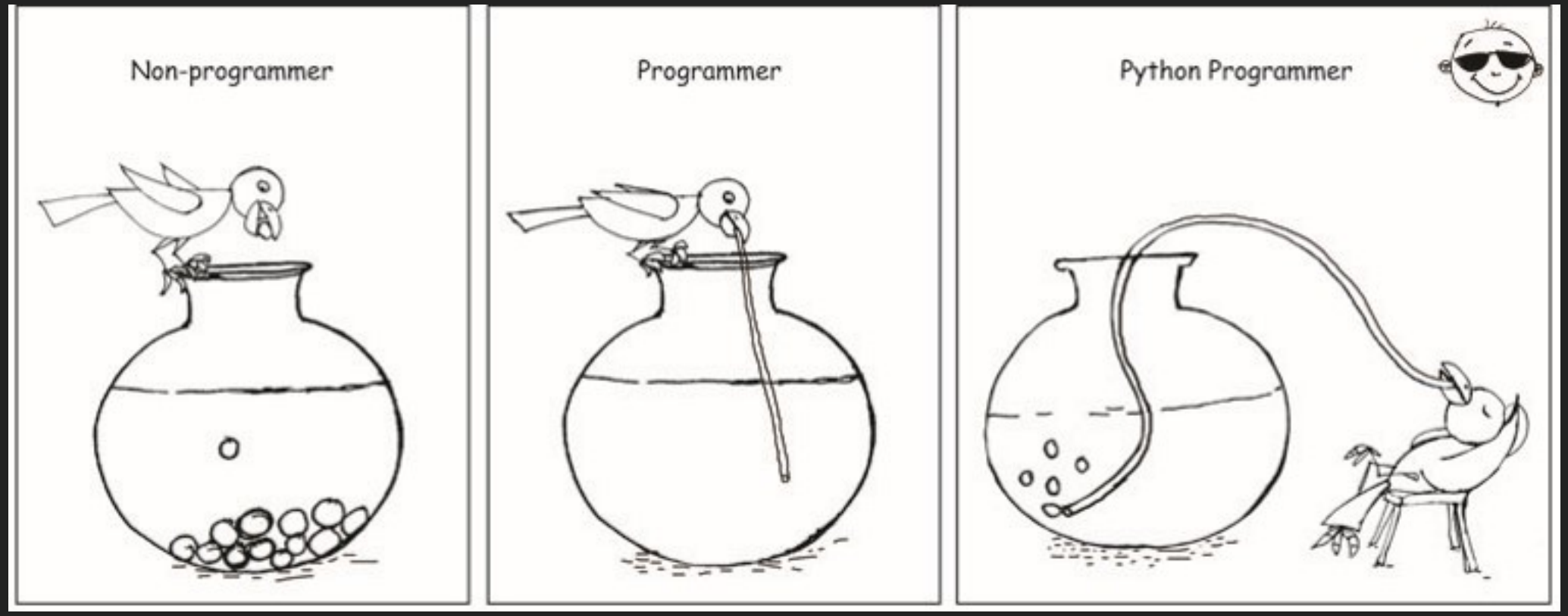
- Instructor: Zhi Li (李直)
- Email: zli@babson.edu
- Office Hour:
  - by appointment
  - Canvas/GitHub/Slack
- Class GitHub: github.com/MIS3640

Syllabus

- Course Objectives
- Prerequisites and Textbook
- Software
- Term Project - a personal website
- Graded Homework/In-Class Exercises/Exam
- Grading
- Course Policies

How to Learn Python Programming?

Python is …Simple and Elegant!

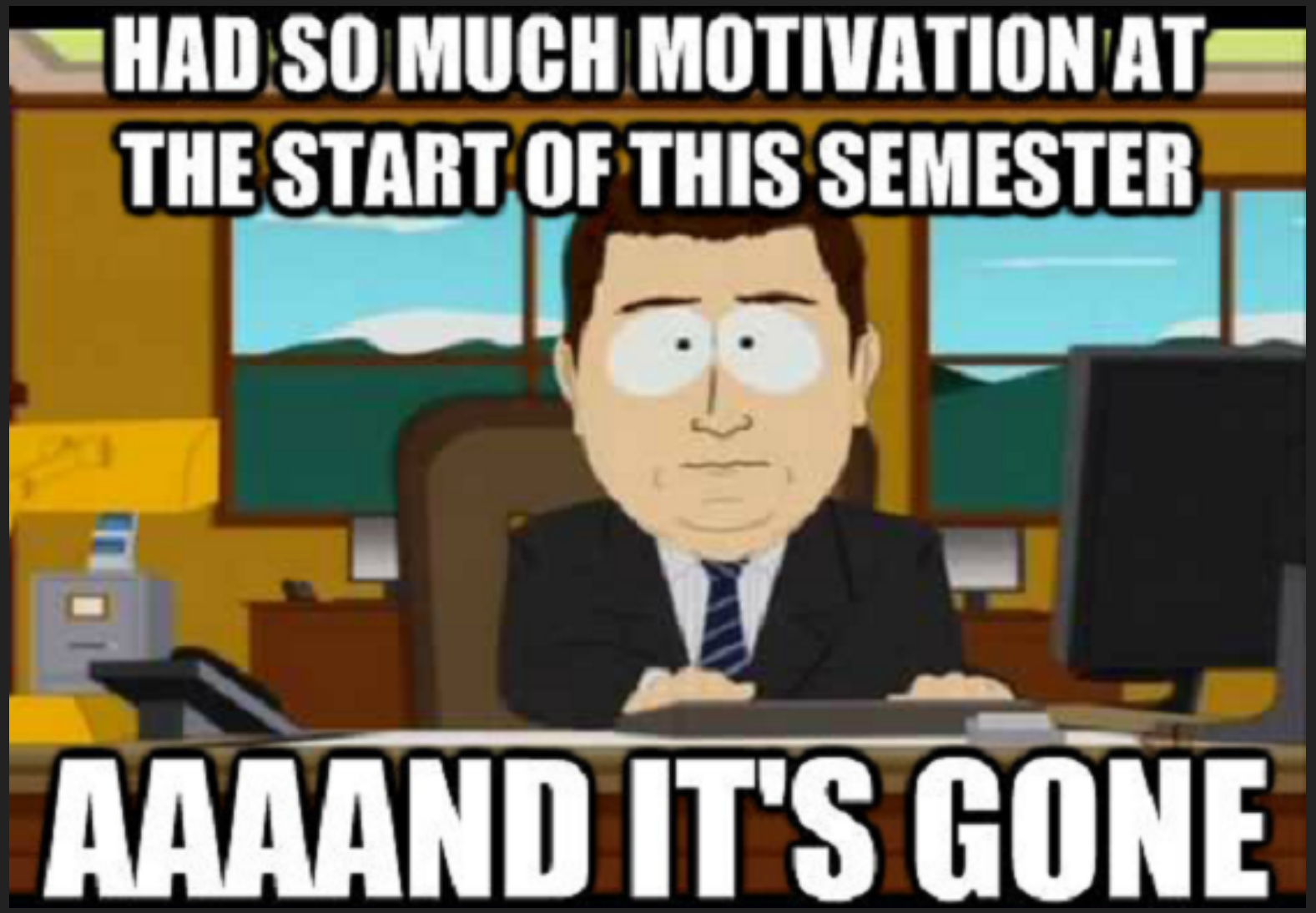


Source: http://lpycot.appspot.com

However, coding is hard.

It takes time to get good at coding.

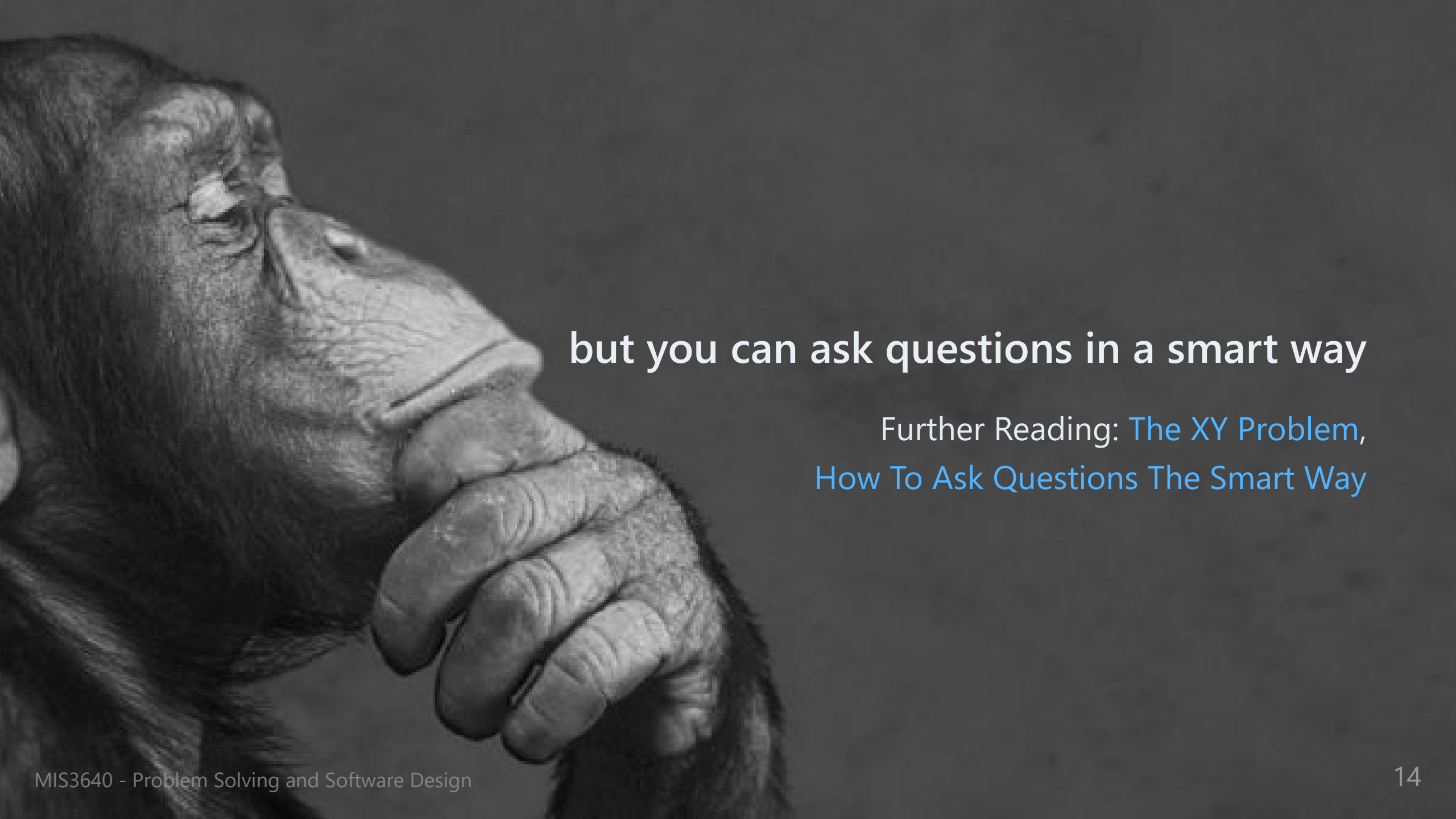
YOU HAVE A LOT OF TIME TO STUDY
AAAAND IT'S GONE


HAD SO MUCH MOTIVATION AT
THE START OF THIS SEMESTER
AAAAND IT'S GONE

Further reading: There's no such thing as bad code

There are NO STUPID QUESTIONS

or stupid answers



but you can ask questions in a smart way

Further Reading: The XY Problem,
How To Ask Questions The Smart Way

What If I need to..?

- figure out how to sort a list of numbers?
- understand a warning/error/alert, aka. ***debug***
- find the solutions to XXX?
- hack my router?
- ...?

Google
stackoverflow
reddit
slack

More on How to Succeed in this Course

- Do not take the *"couch potato"* approach
- Think of my code as one of the "answers"
- You need to code by yourself
  - This force you to think in certain ways and ask specific questions
- After you've attempted it yourself, look at my code and think about what you were missing and why

More on How to Succeed in this Course

- People *new* to programming don't know what it is like to be a programmer, or to take a programming course
- If you expect things to work the *first time*, you don't have a good sense of what it is really like
- **Don't give up** at the *first sign of error*
- **EXPECT**: to spend hours, entire nights, even multiple days getting things to work
- This is where the ***REAL LEARNING*** happens
- Being spoon-fed answers leads to *WEAK* problem solving abilities.

Questions?

Now, prepare to get your hands dirty!