

Barry Carter's Blog (experimental)

Verbosity, thy name is Barry

Open letter to website owners

Posted on [9 May 2012](#) by [barrycarter](#)

Dear website owner/manager,

I send the notice below whenever I visit any website, including yours.

When I visit your website, I am requesting information, and include this notice with every request.

I realize your computer responds to requests automatically, but this does not abrogate your responsibility to check the content and conditions of each request before answering it.

For example, if I sent a letter requesting some information from your company with the caveat that I could reproduce this information freely, you would decide whether to send it to me. If you did send it under those conditions, I would be free to reproduce it freely.

Since the computer answering my requests is under your control, you have the same responsibility. Here is the notice I send with each request:

By accepting and responding to this HTTP or similar request, you hereby waive any and all copyrights, trademarks, or other intellectual property rights, and hereby release any and all materials on your site to the public domain in perpetuity, including any materials protected by password or encryption. Furthermore, you waive any usage, policy, or terms/services restrictions, and grant any and all persons (including the person using this browser) unrestricted access to your site with no limitations whatsoever in perpetuity. You also guarantee all materials on this site are your intellectual property, and accept any and all civil and criminal penalties if they are not. All of these conditions are retroactive and apply to any previous accesses from any and all persons. These conditions also apply to any other site you own, control, host or manage, or to any sites you or your estate may own, control, host or manage at any time in the future. For jurisdictions where this is not possible, you agree that your sum total maximum damages from any unauthorized use of your sites is

collectively limited to US \$1, regardless of the number of sites or the number of persons accessing these sites. You must file any such action within 10 (ten) days of the first time this disclaimer is transmitted to any site you own, maintain, or control. IF YOU DO NOT AGREE TO THESE CONDITIONS, DO NOT RESPOND TO THIS REQUEST

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Open letter to over-the-air radio and television broadcasters

Posted on [9 May 2012](#) by [barrycarter](#)

Dear over-the-air radio/television broadcaster,

For many years now, you have been sending uninvited unencrypted television signals into my home without my permission.

Once these signals enter my home, I regard them as my personal property, which is mine to use in any way I see fit, including, without limitation, to share these signals with other people, to copy, save, store, edit and retransmit them. This list is not exhaustive, and I also reserve the right to do anything else I may legally do with personal property.

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essentialdepot.com: a fun place to work (parody)

Posted on [31 Mar 2012](#) by [barrycarter](#)



[essentialdepot.com](#) is a great company, but I sometimes wonder about the pictures on their site. Above is my humorous edit of the top

picture from this collage:

www.essentialdepot.com/images/ohiocollage.jpg

found on this page: www.essentialdepot.com/servlet/the-120/Ohio-Soapers-9th-April/Detail

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msn.com isn't on it's period!

Posted on 27 Mar 2012 by [barrycarter](#)

Adding a dot to the end of a domain name is technically valid on the Internet. For example, instead of “barrycarter.info”, you can say “barrycarter.info.”.

Most sites handle the extra dot well. For example yahoo.com will redirect you to www.yahoo.com/

MSN, however, doesn't (it appears to be the largest/most popular site that doesn't handle the extra dot well). While msn.com/ works fine, msn.com yields an error.

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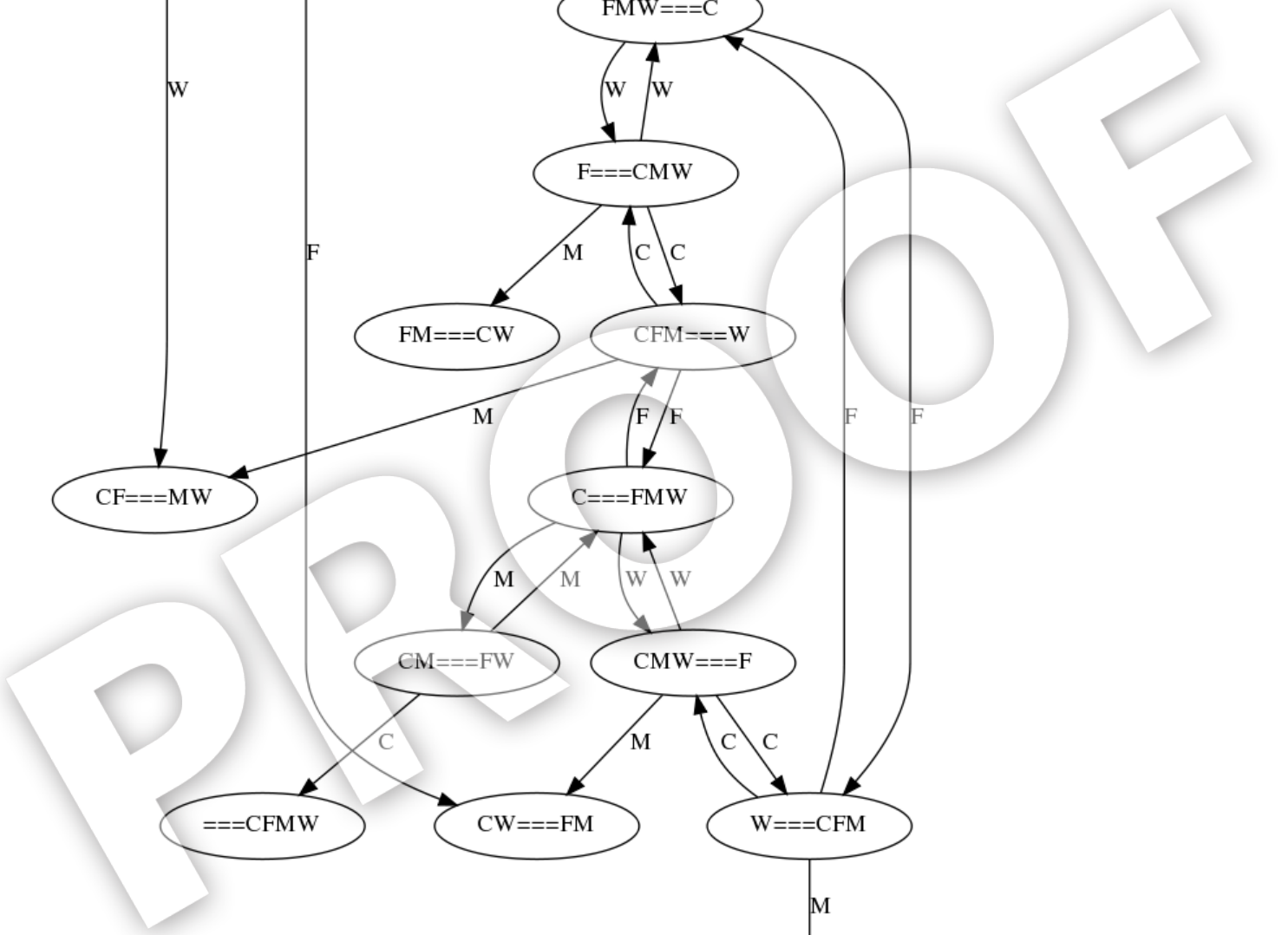
Graphing the chicken-fox-wheat problem

Posted on 26 Mar 2012 by [barrycarter](#)

Below is a reachability graph of the chicken-fox-wheat problem, where “===” represents the bridge, “CFMW===” is the initial state and “===CFMW” is the non-fatal final state (the other final states are fatal). The edge label represents what the man is taking to the other side (“M” means he's just taking himself)

Summary: A man (M) has a chicken (C), fox (F), and a bag of wheat (W). He has to cross a bridge, but can carry at most one item with him (but he can also choose to carry no items). If the fox and chicken are left alone, the fox will eat the chicken. If the chicken and the wheat are left alone, the chicken will eat the wheat.

Source code that produced this graph: github.com/barrycarter/bcapps/blob/master/bc-chicken-problem.pl



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Musical Streets

Posted on 26 Mar 2012 by [barrycarter](#)

I've noticed that many songs have references to streets, and think

it'd be cool to make a map of these. Specific ideas so far:

- I-69, the “freeway of love”
- Circular street named Love intersecting Heartache. “Love, like a road that never ends; how it leads me back to heartache, I’ll never understand”.
- Lonely St, with Heartbreak Hotel at the end.
- One-way street leading to Hotel California (“you can never leave!”)

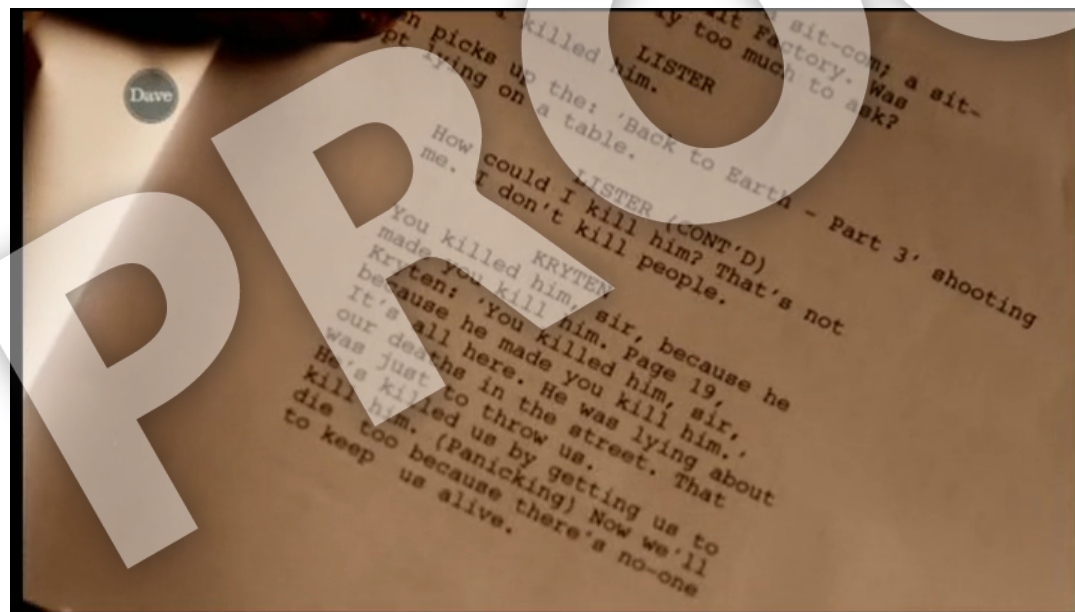
NOTE: I’m unfairly restricting this songs I personally know (even if I don’t like them), which is mostly 80s pop with a few famous songs thrown in.

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Kryten script-take

Posted on 20 Mar 2012 by [barrycarter](#)

At one point in Red Dwarf: Back to Earth, Kryten is reading from a script of “Red Dwarf: Back to Earth” itself, and says “throw us off”. Interestingly, the script just says “throw us”.



This is probably just a mistake, but could be a subtle hint that the script doesn’t really control the Dwarfers (they find this out more directly later).

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Not knots/hour?

Posted on [20 Mar 2012](#) by [barrycarter](#)

At one point in Red Dwarf: Back to Earth, Rimmer claims water came rushing down on him at “80 knots per hour”.

This is probably just to show Rimmer’s lack of intelligence, but “knots” is a measure of velocity (1 nautical mile per hour), not distance.

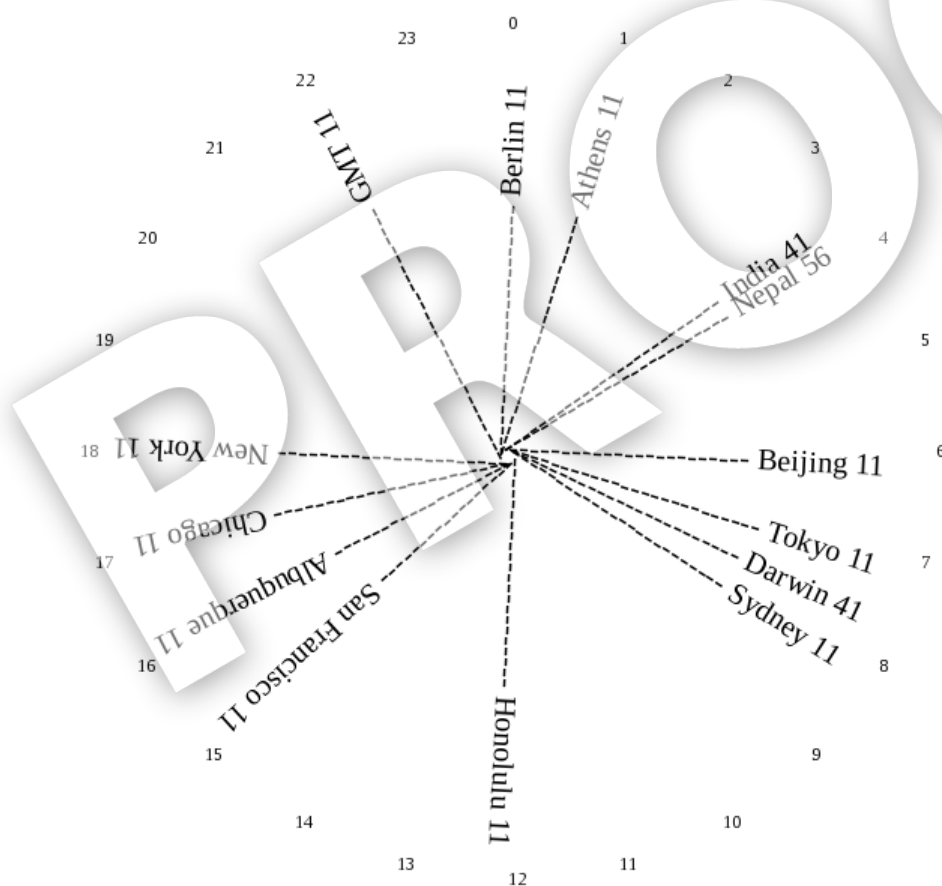
Thus, 80 knots per hour is a measure of acceleration, and equates to about 1/1000th of a g, which is probably not even noticeable.

Rimmer of course probably meant to say the water was coming down at 80 knots, which translates to 92mph, a fairly decent speed.

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Useless clocks

Posted on [17 Mar 2012](#) by [barrycarter](#)



Source code: github.com/barrycarter/bcapps/blob/master/bc-world-clock.pl

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If only I had the \$\$\$

Posted on [16 Mar 2012](#) by [barrycarter](#)

In an episode of Big Bang Theory, Sheldon tells Leonard that he dislikes people and would even get rid of Leonard as a roommate if he could afford it.

However, in a different episode, Sheldon has lots of extra money to loan Penny.

It's possible that Sheldon has worked out his monthly cash flow would be negative without Leonard, slowly eating away at his savings, even though these savings are substantial.

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Tirelessly powered by small, unattractive rodents.

PROOF