I realize that this reading is more aimed towards software engineers, but the scope of suggested knowledge seems rather daunting. Many of the concepts have an air of familiarity while others seem quite alien. One concept on the side of familiarity would be coding. By familiar I mean I am familiar with the idea of it but as far as getting my feet wet, well, they are hardly damp. I am currently taking the prereq Python class, but it seems that ultimately it is introductory in its scope. I will add though that I had no intention of going into programming as a major, but I am rather enjoying it. Perhaps because it appeals to my inquisitive and problem solving nature, though it certainly is not my insipid mathematical prowess . I have heard that is a beneficial language to have for a sys admin as you can create scripts with it to streamline data to maximize efficiency in the workplace. I will probably continue to supplement my education by delving further into that particular language through the means of code academy or whatever resources are available online, and from what I can tell there are a plethora.

I had an idea that some abilities in the IT fields are certainly bolstered by the knowledge of Linux, but I am becoming more aware of the scope at which it can help. The example shown of what Linux can do in the Engineers in the Wild segment is a shining example of being able to streamline a workload with an ample comprehension of command line tools. Having such a powerful shell at your command with a firm grasp of the logistics of the system can certainly set you ahead. I do intend to expand my knowledge and familiarity with it as I move beyond the scope of the class, especially as I am seeing more and more how pertinent Linux can be in security, both in maintaining a secure server, and the ability to run penetration tests on your servers. I keep seeing the name Apache in systemadmin subs pertaining to web server projects and it looks like it mostly runs on Linux as well. Seeing how the source code appears to be freely available that may have to be one of the next endeavors I look into, I suspect it will come up in some future classes as well.

As far as the core computer skills segment of the reading, again, is either out of my scope or over my head at this point in my education. With such an elementary perception of programming, things like algorithm analysis, coding patterns and data structures are still foreign to me. Though I will say that with even the minimal coding experience I possess, I am already able to look at some code and not have it look like such a foreign language to me. Perhaps if I get a firm understanding of one language others will incline themselves to my comprehension more readily, and the idea of learning half a dozen languages won’t seem like such a daunting endeavor.

Finally, in the last part of the reading the question was asked; “How do you master all of this ‘great stuff?’” Practice makes perfect seems to be the key adage at work here. School will end and there will be many more certs to earn. I’ve been making a point to at least try to passively learn some things outside of the school curriculum by means of joining subreddits or watching a video on a subject I am unfamiliar with in my freetime, so at least that way I can have an idea of what everything is. Once I get a solid knowledgebase I can then expand upon it with online courses and the likes outside of a formal education to be able to pad my resume and help find that job that both pays well and is enjoyable one day.