

**Pycon Uganda 2023**

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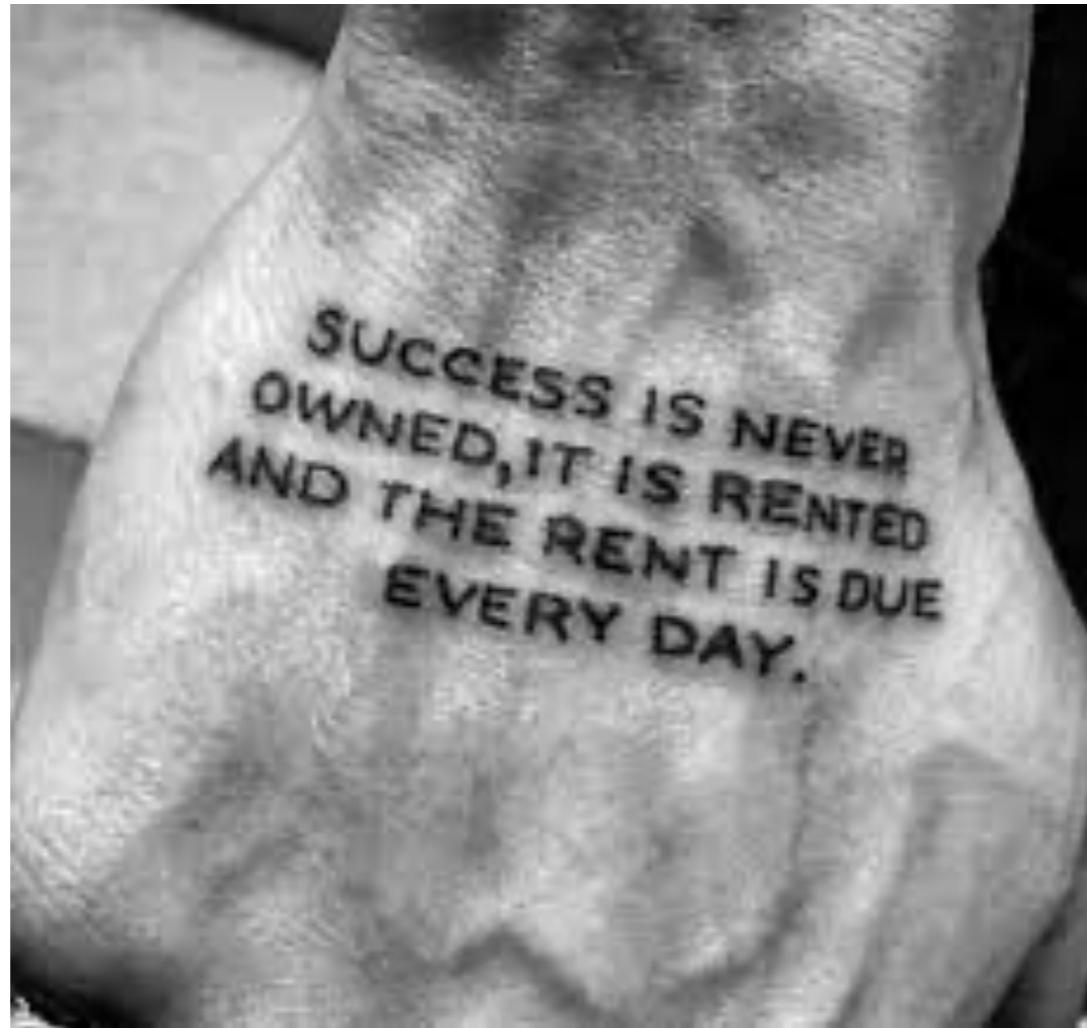
# ***Life and Tech***

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*snippets from the past, sounds & smells of the  
present with sights set to the future*

*By Stephen Senkomago Musoake  
@ssmusoake*

*Create a lifestyle that brings out  
the best in you by creating  
options and taking control*



**MAKE A  
DENT**  
*IN THE  
Universe!*

# MANTRA

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It is not death that a man/woman should fear, but s/he should fear never beginning to live

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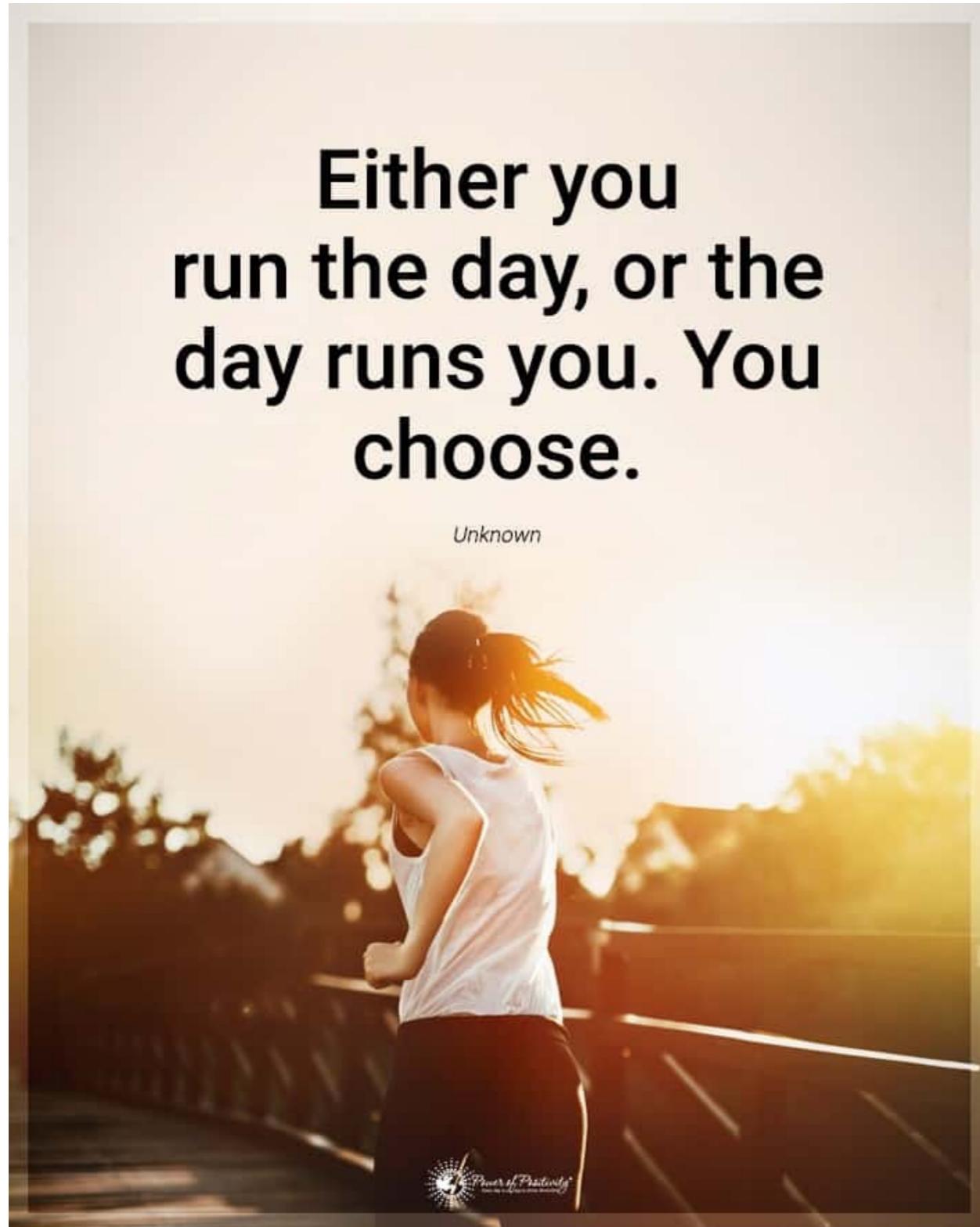
Marcus Aurelius

Meditations 12.1



A photograph of three men dressed in detailed medieval-style armor, standing in a dark, atmospheric setting with a blue tint. The man in the center has a prominent mustache and is looking directly at the camera. The man on the left has long hair and is slightly behind the others. The man on the right also has long hair and is positioned to the right. The background is dark and moody.

**AND SO IT BEGINS**

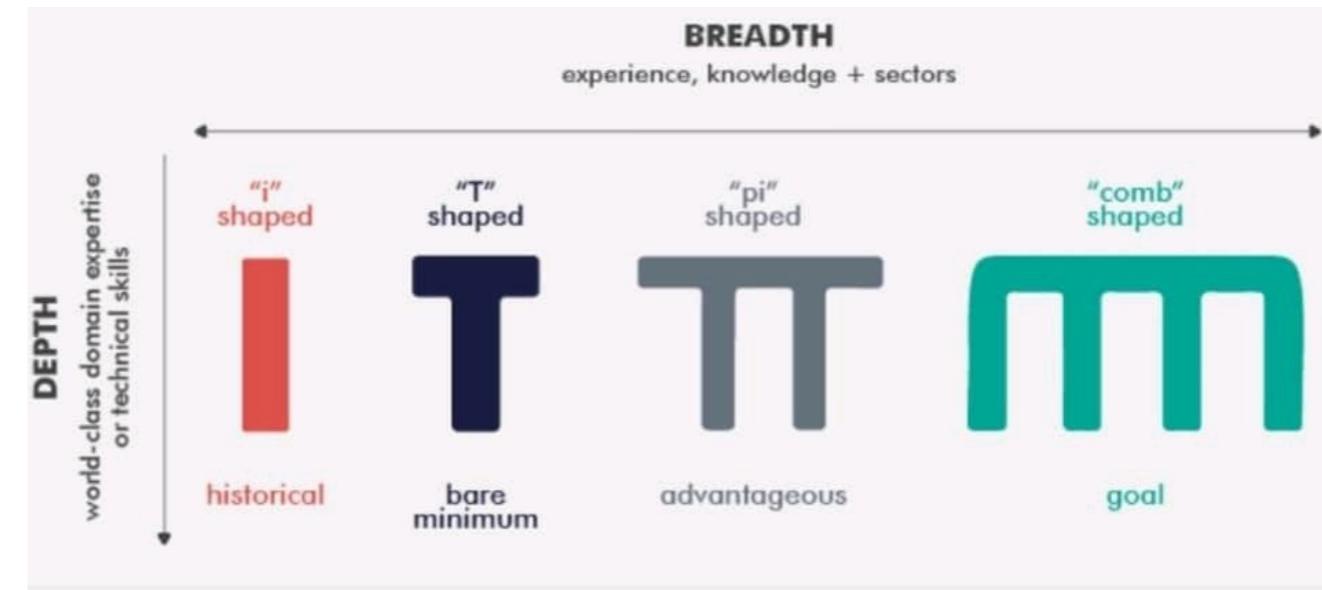


- Mastery – how do you stand out: Kaizen
- Outwork everybody – put in the work and you will stand out
- Luck – create your own luck
- Opensource
- Mantras – what do you repeat to yourself everyday
- Co-opetition
- Compounding – the long game

# MASTERY

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- Noun: *comprehensive knowledge or skill in a particular subject or activity*
- Your experiences, network, circumstances, environment make you unique
- You need 10,000 hours (Malcolm Gladwell) or 10,000 iterations (Naval)
- One skill good, 2 skills good , more skills better – compounding
- Subject Matter Expertise – health, fintech, agriculture



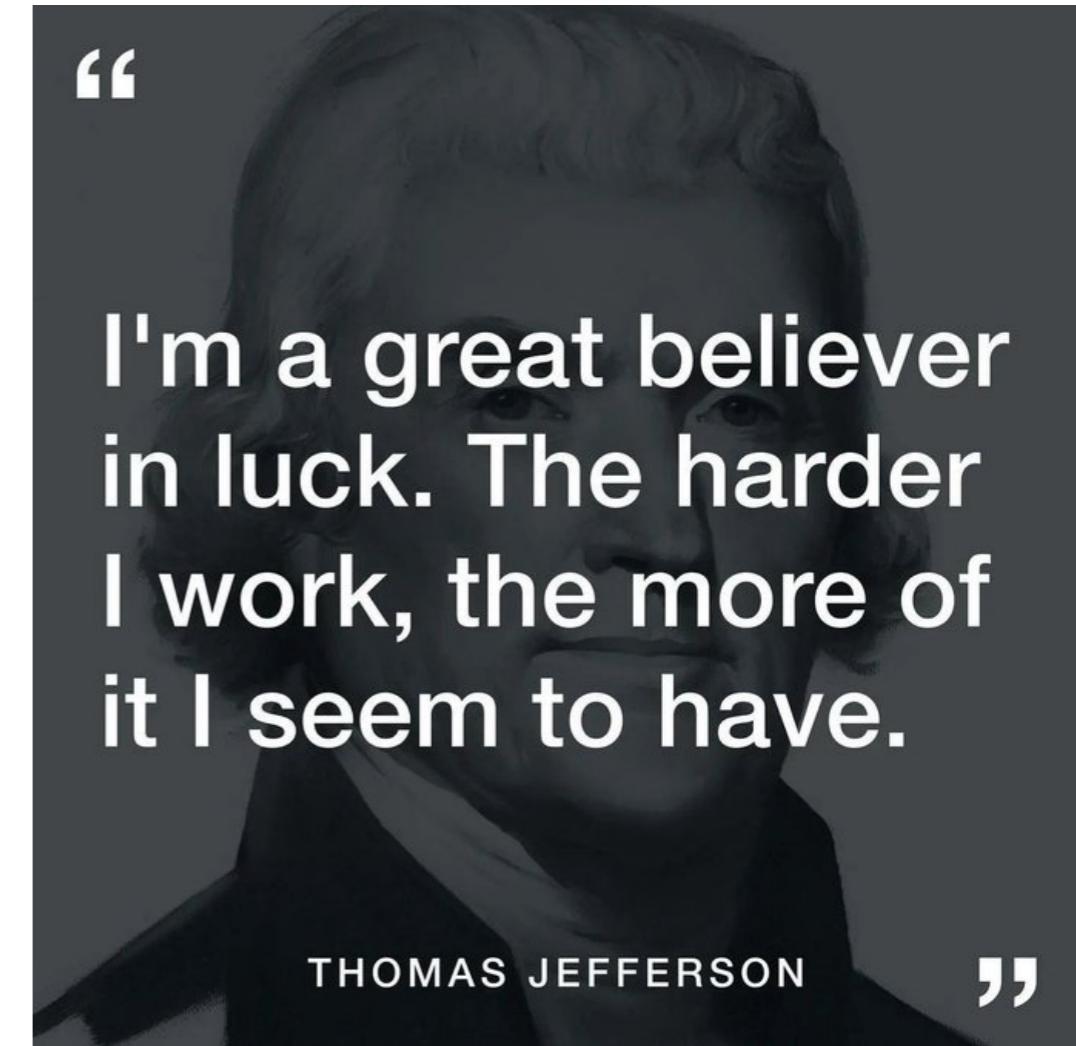
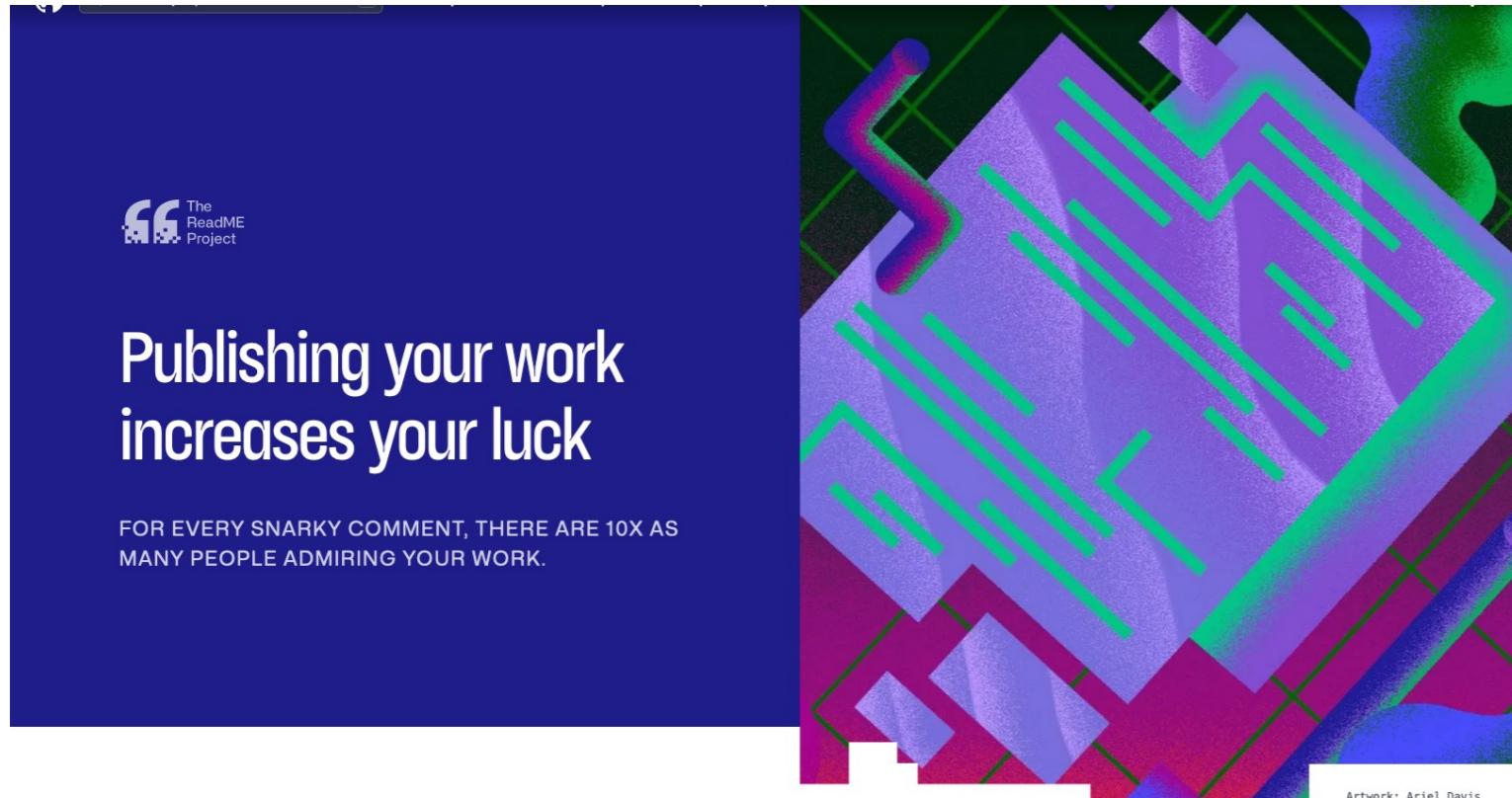
# OUTWORK EVERYBODY

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- The best simply don't become the best without putting in the work.
- Outworking the rest means:
- Applying ourselves more than everyone around us.
- Committing ourselves more than everyone else.
- Studying our craft, industry, or specialty more than everyone else
- Be like an athlete – train,



# LUCK – OPPORTUNITY MEETS PREPARATION



Aaron Francis // MARKETING ENGINEER, TUPLE

## Capturing the luck

You've *increased the odds* that good, unexpected things will come your way. The exact form is hard to predict, but here are a few potential outcomes:

- People start to know you as the person that talks about X, Y, and Z.
- You start to get emails from people saying that they read your stuff and liked it.
- You get a DM about a job you might be interested in.

# OPENSOURCE

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## □ Ethos

- Shared knowledge, knowing that others will be able to build on it and make it better
- Scratch your own itch, share the experiences with others
- Stand on the shoulders of giants

□ Social construct around technology – the village raises a child, thus the child has a responsibility to support the village (in some way, shape or form)

□ Build a bigger table instead of a higher wall

□ Coded in Africa for Africa by Africans

□ Start your journey - HacktoberFest, Google Summer of Code

□ Build, sharpen, showcase your capabilities on the global stage



# MANTRAS

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- ❑ Ontime is late!
- ❑ Always show up, deliver even on your bad days
- ❑ Grit: out-work, outlast the competition
- ❑ When in doubt over-communicate, Bad news must travel fast
- ❑ Invest in yourself – buy books, software tools, computer equipment, productivity enhancements
- ❑ Pay It Forward – answer questions, Volunteer to help others, even within your team & organization
- ❑ Work hard so that you can know when to work smart
- ❑ Be the change you want to see in the world

# COMPOUNDING

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**The man who does **more** than he  
is **paid** for will soon be paid for  
more than he does.**

**- Napoleon Hill**



- Making time work in your favor
- Your investments (skills, network, exposure experience) form a larger base on which future earnings may accumulate and grow faster
- Skills decay & atrophy if you do not use them (at times it is okay)
- Excellence today pays off tomorrow

# DO NOT ...

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“  
**GIVE THEM NOTHING!  
BUT TAKE FROM THEM  
EVERYTHING!**

KING LEONIDAS

*The hardest thing  
about writing  
code is knowing  
what to build*

*The end of a  
melody is not its  
goal but if the  
melody does not  
end it does not  
achieve its goal*

*To go fast, go  
alone. To go far  
go together*

*Si vis pacem, para  
bellum*

- Master your tools of trade – what do you have in your belt? IDE, framework
- Automate the manual tasks – leverage the Python skills you have
- Anticipate the needs of your clients, manager and organization – increase your value
- Share and teach how you do what you do – share your learnings
- Stay formless, learn, evolve, adapt, grow
- Learn from other practices – web, smartphone, data, AI/ML, SQL

# CAREER

*Say yes first then figure out the rest*

*~Branson*

*If you are the  
smartest person  
in the room, you  
are in the wrong  
room*

*Ask and thee shall  
receive*

*The best way to  
predict the future  
is to create it*

- Work for your employer – invest 50% additional time exploring and improving yourself
- Share your knowledge experiences and lessons with others – at work, the world (remember luck)
- Try many different things to figure out what works for you
- Read, Read, Read & learn from others within and outside tech
  - The Company of One
  - The Innovator's Dilemma
  - The Art of War
  - 48 Laws of Power
  - Atomic Habits
- Keep LinkedIn, GitHub, Personal blog up-to-date & your resume polished
- Find your strengths and maximize the value/impact you bring to the table

# FAMILY

*Companionship is  
a key factor*

*Love is temporary  
insanity that  
makes one see  
another as better  
than all else*

*Relationships are  
trying to make 1 +  
1 = 3 even when  
the ones are not  
full*

*Jerry McGuire: I  
love him not for  
the man he is but  
the man he wants  
to be*

- There is no silver bullet or short cuts
- Hard/Difficult requires sacrifice but enjoyable & fulfilling
- There is no best approach
- There are however best practices
  - Companionship vs Love
  - Network – friends, family (despite challenges)
  - Talk with your partner (at least 1 hour per day)
  - Do something together – business, hobby
  - Do, Learn, adapt, refine, repeat....
  - Work-life balance is a verb - a pendulum that keeps swinging

# FINANCES

*Watch the pennies  
and the pounds  
will work  
themselves out*

*Multiple income  
streams are no-  
longer a luxury  
but a necessity ~  
Cash Flow  
Quadrant*

*Be the one person  
everyone wants to  
call and work with*

*Search for wealth  
not riches*

- There is no silver bullet or short cuts
- There is no best approach
- There are however best practices
  - Pay yourself first – Rich Dad
  - At times it may be difficult to save, so maybe easier to take credit and pay off
  - Play the long game
  - Investing in your skills pays off – become better each day (compounding)
- Side hustles
  - Compliment the day-job
  - Ensure "NO CONFLICT" of interest or create questions of integrity
- Work, grind, sell yourself, increase your earning potential
- Open doors for others whenever you can

# SHOW ME THE MONEY!!!

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- Look for opportunities – get employed, start your own business
- Freelancers - Always take a deposit, get paid for work delivered
- Have a target billing rate (even if employed) – then work towards it building skills and networks
- When you get close, double the rate – start again





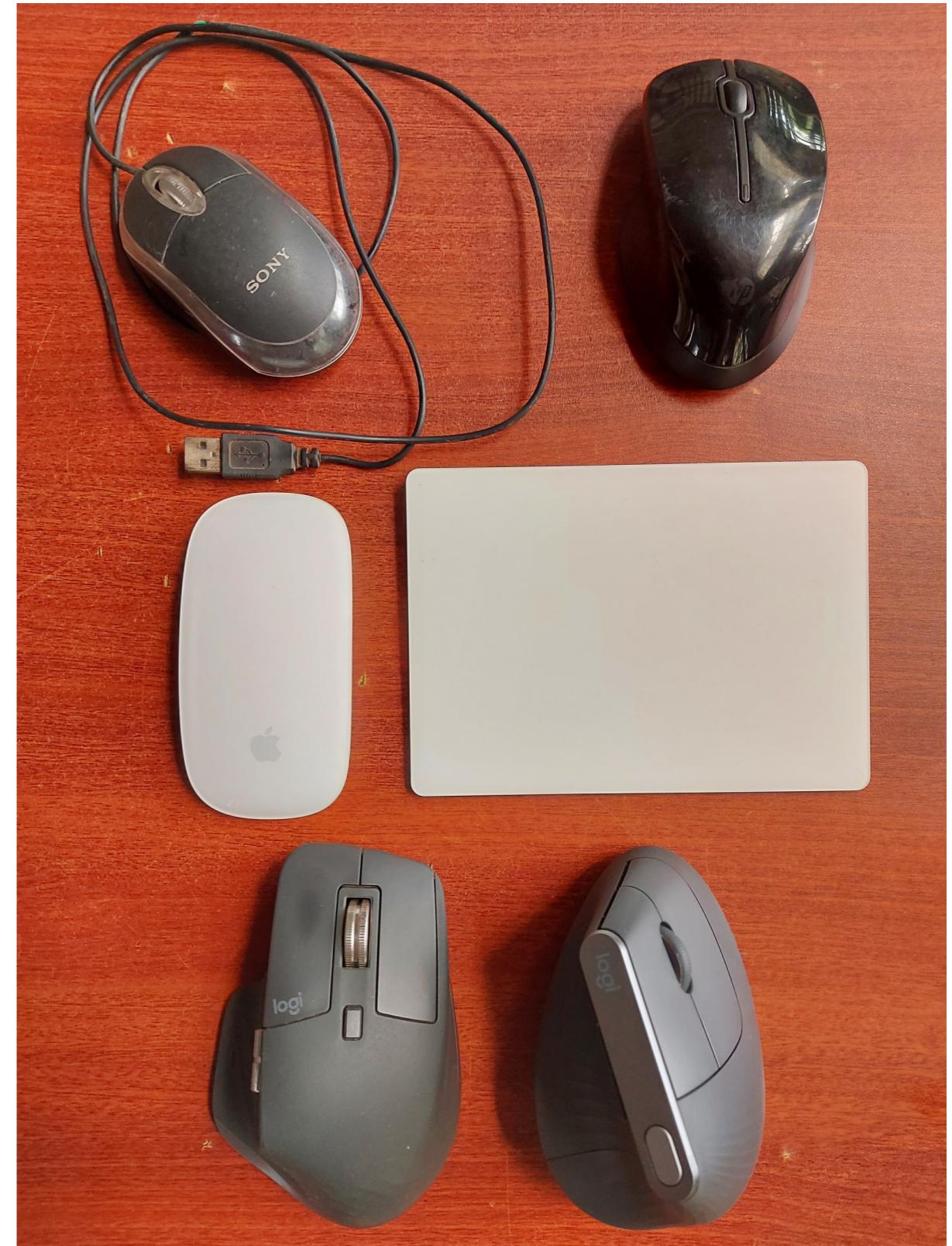
*Rest when you are weary*

*Early to bed and early to rise makes a man/woman healthy, wealthy and wise*

*Find what works for you by trying something out, measure, rinse, repeat*

# EXPERIMENTS TO FIND WHAT WORKS FOR YOU

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# WHY ME?

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- 27-year technology veteran – still reinventing myself over time
- Civil engineer by training – never practiced formally but use the skills everyday
- Self taught software tinkerer who loves growing techies – work yourself out of a job I was told (I enjoy doing that)
- 9 years back in full time software delivery
  - 8 years in e-health – Java/HTML/CSS, part time epidemiologist, disease surveillance specialist
  - 9 months in Fintech – using Python at Beyonic making business payments better
  - Poultry farmer – retirement plan



# SHOUT OUT ....

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## Beyonic

🔊 /Bey-onic/

### is a payment solution

that enables your business  
to *manage transactions* like  
a boss.



# IN CLOSING

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*DO NOT BE TOO BUSY*

*Enjoy your projects, family and life*

*Keep learning*

*Read*

*Stand on the shoulders of Giants*

*Share your stories with others*

*Discipline, Discipline, Discipline*

*AND MOST OF ALL*

*Keep driving to get better everyday day ~ Kaizen  
(Solomon King)*

# THANK YOU

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*For questions or suggestions*

@ssmusoke

<http://ssmusoke.com>

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