MY ROAD OF 2014

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Strugling for Happy Lives and Free Sprits

[April 2, 2014 at 12:52 – classicthesis version 4.1]

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Part I

SPRING 2014

1

FEB - 2014

1.1 HANDLE EXCEL FILES IN C

Perhaps, we begin to handle Microsoft Excel files in C. We do the search over the Internet. There are several packages or libraries that can be used.

1. xlsLIB, C++/C library to construct Excel .xls files in code. Detail in http://sourceforge.net/projects/xlslib/files/
2. Office (2007) Open XML File Formats. Detail in http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/aa338205.aspx
3. CSV formats. The format do not handle Chinese characters very well, since it includes the information of encoding in itself.

The last two methods are recommended strongly.

1.2 20 YEARS OF WEB DEVELOPMENT

I read the ariticle *20 Years of Web Development*, written by Reuven M. Lerner, a well-known columnist of Linux Journal. The idea from the article make me feel something inside, same as the author.

If I can not get my fix of e-mail, or blogs, or newspapers or Hacker News, I feel cut off from the rest of the world. I'd like to take the opportunity to look at where Web technologies have come from, and where they're going.

1.2.1 *In the Beginning*

In the beginning, the Web was static. A Web brower requested a document from the server. Instead, the server could lie to the browser, creating a document on the fly, by executing a program. The Web servers invoke external programs in a 'cgi-bin' directory. The 'cgi' programs could be written in C and shell, later, in Perl and Tcl in those days.

For example, MIT students put their newspapers on the Web in 1993, and made it possible for people to search through the newspaper's archives.

In 1995, no one really thought the web programming as serious software development. At that time, applications were serious desktop software. I began to understand where the Web was head when you learned about relational databases and understand how powerful Web applications could be when connected to a powerful, flexible

system for storing and retrieving data. DB ranking list is at http://db-engines.com/en/ranking.

And at that point, the browser could be the beginning of a new platform for applications. [PPTs also turn the bullets scheme into words-scheme.] Nowadays, the vision has turned into a reality.

edited on 2014-02-27

1.2.2 *Libraries and Frameworks*

It did not take long before Web development really began to take off. The growth of the Web happened at about the same time that the term *open source* was coined. Open-source operating systems and languages - in those days, Perl, Python and PHP - grew in popularity, both because they were free of charge and because they offered enormous numbers of standardized, debugged and highly useful libraries.

2

MARCH - 2014

2.1 REMOVE COMMENTS FROM FILES IN C

You use the tool *gcc* to remove the comments in files.

```
gcc -fpreprocessed -dD -E test.c
```

edited on2014-03-05.

2.2 COLOR SCHEME IN BORLAND C++

The backgroud is blue, 0, 0, 168, 0000A8. The text is yellow, FFFF44, 255,255,68

2.3 4 BEHAVIORS YOU NEVER WANT TO SEE IN A LEADER

1. Complaining. One of the many challenges an organizational leader faces is buy-in from his people. It establishes your reputation as a gossip hound. When people know where you stand, they also know what you stand for.
2. Emotional volatility. Not to be confused with expressing emotion. It also requires understanding different personalities, because some people learn easier after having a heart-to-heart converstation while others need a more direct kick in the buttocks.
3. Playing "nice". People need a leader, not a friend. Friends help you out with your business; leaders help you fit in according to the business. Leaders seek to understand and align your values and goals with the company's vision and strategy.
4. Minding other people's matters (micromanagement). Starting out as an entrepreneur, you have to wear all the hats, but as your company grows, you are now focused on higher-level planning. It's not easy removing the tactical, operational and strategic hats. If you want your company to grow then you must focus on what only you can affect – and let your people do the same.

2.4 ENGLISH PARAGRAPHS

The words in the following are extracted from the GitHub CEO & Co-Founder, Chris Wanstrath. Making sure GitHub employees are

getting the right feedback and have a safe way to voice their concerns is a primary focus of the company. We wish Julie well in her future endeavors.

2.5 A STARTLINGLY SIMPLE THEORY ABOUT THE MISSING MALAYSIA AIRLINES JET

They had to ditch in the ocean. He just didn't have the time.

2.6 TELSA CAN TOPPLE THE CAR-DEALER MONOPOLY

What is revolutionary, however, is Elon Musk's desire to build a retail network free from the franchise-dealer monopoly.

2.7 APPLE DESIGNER JONATHAN IVE TALKS ABOUT STEVE JOBS AND NEW PRODUCTS - TIME

Many of us spend more time with his screens than with our families. Some of us like his screens more than our families.

Objects and their manufacture are inseparable. You understand a product if you understand how it's made. Apple is notorious for making the insides of its machines look as good as the outside. We did it because we cared. I want to know what things are for, how they work, what they can or should be made of, before I even begin to think what they should look like. More and more people do. There is a resurgence of the idea of craft. They may be revolutionary, high-tech magic boxes, but they look so elegantly.

Because when you realize how well you can make something, falling short, whether seen or not, feels like failure. He likes the idea of this interview series because he sees himself as more of a maker than a designer. His love of simplicity and directness extends beyond tech. The simple truth is, Ive hates fuss and relishes simplicity.

They remake what they saw as the bland, lazy world around them. Everyone I work with shares the same love of and respect for making, he says. We can be bitterly critical of our work.

And we would ask the same questions, have the same curiosity about things. If you do something and it turns out pretty good, then you should go do something else wonderful, not dwell on it for too long. Just figure out what's next.

Ive talks so much more about making things than designing them. The product you have in your hand, or put into your ear, or have in your pocket, is more personal than the product you have on your desk. People have an incredibly personal relationship with what we make.

Developing life-changing products is very expensive. It's pretty and doubtless costs a pretty penny to make . It's thousands and thousands

of hours of struggle. It's only when you've achieved what you set out to do that you can say, We are at the beginning of a remarkable time, when a remarkable number of products will be developed. There is this almost pre-verbal, instinctive understanding about what we do, why we do it. We share the same values.

Most people won't realize that writing is a craft. You have to take your appernticeship in it like anything else.
-Katherine Anne Porter

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APRIL - 2014

3.1 BIG DATA ARE WE MAKING A BIG MISTAKE

Big data: are we making a big mistake? By Tim Harford
http://www.ft.com/cms/s/2/21a6e7d8-b479-11e3-a09a-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2xS1VXiUc

Sometimes, **Big Data analysis** produces uncannily accurate results; They are cheap to collect relative to their size and they are a messy collage of datapoints collected for disparate purposes and they can be updated in real time.

1. cheap to collect
2. collage of datapoints
3. disparate purposes
4. update in real time

With enough data, "the numbers speak for themselves".

As our communication leisure and commerce have moved to the internet and the internet has moved into our phones, our cars and even our glasses or watches, life can be recorded and quantified in a way that would have been hard to imagine just a decade ago. There are a lot of small data problems that occur in big data, says Spiegelhalter. "They don't disappear because you've got lots of the stuff. They get worse."

We seek new ways to understand our lives. Figuring out what causes what is hard (impossible" some say). If you have no idea what is behind a correlation, you have no idea what might cause that correlation to break down.

Statisticians have spent the past 200 years figuring out what traps lie in wait when we try to understand the world through data. They cared about correlation rather than causation. When it comes to data, size isn't everything.

US-based Twitter users were disproportionately young urban or suburban and black. There must always be a question about who and what is missing" especially with a messy pile of found data. Twitter users are not representative of the population as a whole. Who cares about causation or sampling bias" though" when there is money to be made? We found data contain systematic biases and it takes careful thought to spot and correct for those biases.

There are two issues: sample error and sample bias. The larger the sample, the smaller the margin of error (sample error). The sample bias is more dangerous, because the sample is not randomly choosen at all. You should find an unbias sample. Find the detail in *Number sense*, wroten by Kaiser Fung. Another bias example is about the iPhone app, *Boston Street Bump*. You should find data contain systematic biases and it takes careful thought to spot and correct for those biases.

Multiple-comparisons problem: We observed pattern could have emerged at random, we call that pattern "statistically significant". "Why Most Published Research Findings Are False" There are a few cases in which analysis of very large data sets has worked miracles, like Google Translate.

Big data do not solve the problem that has obsessed statisticians and scientists for centuries: the problem of insight , of inferring what is going on, and figuring out how we might intervene to change a system for the better. To use big data to produce such answers will require large strides in statistical methods. "But nobody wants 'data'. What they want are the answers." Many contrary results are languishing in desk drawers because they just didn't seem interesting enough to publish.

"Big data" has arrived but big insights have not. The challenge now is to solve new problems and gain new answers – without making the same old statistical mistakes on a grander scale than ever. As for the idea that "with enough data" the numbers speak for themselves" – that seems hopelessly naive in data sets where spurious patterns vastly outnumber genuine discoveries.

edited on 2014-04-02.