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Introduction |

this is a weird way for an apprentice to do their journal...

I know. A theory that has proven itself true time and again in my life is that when your house is in order, everything else seems to fall into place. During my apprenticeship, documentation of my experiences will live here. Every bit of information will have a home and, if I am successful, you will have an easy and enjoyable time living through this experience alongside me.

A LITTLE OTYLE

For the past several years I have been experimenting with bullet journaling. It is a style of organizing thoughts that puts constrictions on the amount and type of information included. The idea is that simple is better. Traditionally this style is handwritten, which forces the user to be very choosy about priorities. For the purposes of this journal, I have chosen to use this technique in digital form.

DO WHAT'S UP AHEAD?

Ahead are a few relatively basic sections. Here's the rundown:

The [future log](#) shows all of the events on the horizon in one simple list. Done. Easy.

The [monthly log](#) pages each have one line of text devoted to each day of the month. I use this limited space to chronicle the event(s) of the day that stood out or resonated with me the most. Together each line tells the story of my day-to-day experiences at Sparkbox.

Each [weekly log](#) page is where I'll spend most of my time. I employ 'done' lists instead of the traditional 'to-do' lists. This small change helps me focus on completing activities rather than simply starting them. 'Random Anxieties' is entertaining: we all experience silly worries from time to time. I like to write mine down so that I can admire their ridiculousness and avoid carrying them around with me. Lastly - 'Social Highlights' will give insight into adventures with fellow Sparkboxers in and around the Dayton web development community.

preface |

best to start at the beginning...

I am an introvert by nature, which confuses people because I am a bit gregarious, quite outgoing, and only sometimes shy. This first week incited a fury of self-reflection about how I have managed to find myself in this wonderful situation and what I intend to do about it since my efforts have landed me here.

So, how'd I get here? As child of the late eighties, I was born in ...lol no, I'm just kidding; the story starts a few years after that. Back in August of last year, I received a very exciting invitation on LinkedIn. Some rando guy - one Ben Callahan - noticed my interest in UI/UX and invited me to a workshop. '

- I'd seen it a few years ago and it stuck
with me.
I
remember thinking,
Oh Past Betty... you sweet summer child.

So b invites me to this workshop. I couldn't be more excited. I have the choice of two speakers, one being Alex. 'effing. Clark. Alex Clark - the guy from Brooklyn who INVENTED Couch to 5k (C25K). I love this guy! C25K employs a classic user experience model from which I've drawn inspiration for years. He spoke at SXSW - in FACT, he would be giving the same talk at this Build Right workshop!
Completely ridiculously wonderful. And Jody took care of everything. She made it all very simple!

The day finally arrives. I'm ready to walk out the door when, out of nowhere:

IMPOSTER SYNDROME... FRAK.

I had to take a moment.

I talk it out with my roommate Jordan:

Did they ask you for qualifications?
(Jordan is the Socratic voice of reason.)

Why do you think you were invited?

You're doing pretty good for just pretending. Coulda fooled me. (laughing at me) Yeah, you're not a special snowflake here. Everyone feels like that.

Right... and you ARE an actual web professional. Didn't you just build LexisNexis' customer facing training and support sites? You used to work in IT. You know what a JSON file is and how to use it. You programmed a pong game in C# on Unity last week...

Mhmm

Just remember: you'll probably never see any of these folks again, so you might as well go and do what you love to do and not worry about the people.

So, with Jordan's permission (which I apparently subconsciously required), I told my social anxieties where they could shove it, put on my brave face, and proceeded to attend the workshop.

Wow, am I happy that I did. It was incredible. I could easily entertain with at least a couple of pages of anecdotes, but I'll spare you the majority.

Long story short, I was having fun every single moment of the workshop, and it showed. I think there is something a bit magical that happens when you mix productivity with passion and fun. It is a feeling that is barely describable and better experienced first person.

Conversation during the happy hour after the workshop put me on Cloud 9. I had the opportunity to dive deep into topics that I seldom get to discuss and rarely with such satisfying discourse.

There is something special about this space - about the people who inhabit it and function here everyday. To say it is a kind of electricity is both accurate and horribly cheesy - an actual, metaphorical sparkbox. Touché. Aptly named.

I didn't want to leave, but I also didn't want to overstay my welcome. I said my thank yous and goodbyes and made my way to the elevator to thank Alex Clark and Ben.

Ben said something to me that probably was just a passing remark to him, but carried something special for me. He requested that I stay in touch.

Having familiarized myself with the Apprenticeship before the workshop, I knew that I was planning on staying in touch, so I gave him my word that I would.

I took my experiences that day and those words of subtle encouragement and used it to fuel my efforts. I worked hard. I got lucky, thank goodness. From here forward is a chronicle of my experiences. This is big. Huge. This is one of those life-changing moments, and I want to remember everything.

future log |

things that are a ways down the line

January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

- JAN 30: Personal Appointment - leave by 4:15
- JAN 31: Code for Dayton 6:30 - 8:30p @ 714 E Monument Ave
- FEB 01: Dayton Web Developers - 6pm @ Sparkbox
- FEB 07: Personal Appt - half day? Whole day? Find out.
- FEB 08: Dayton Clean Coders - 11:30a - 1p @ Sparkbox
- FEB 18: TA for GDI Intro to Programming Concepts - 12p @ Sparkbox
- FEB 25: Girl Scouts Website Workshop w/Austin & Cat
- MAR 18: TA for GDI Intro to HTML/CSS - 12p? @ Sparkbox
- MAR 25: TA for GDI Intro to HTML/CSS - 12p? @ Sparkbox

February

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28

March

1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
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21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28
29	30	31	

April

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May

1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30
31					

June

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9
10	11	12
13	14	15
16	17	18
19	20	21
22	23	24
25	26	27
28	29	30
31		

january |

one line each day -- only one!

T	17	First day at Sparkbox
W	18	Introduction to Command Line
R	19	Exploration of command line, git, terminal, etc
F	20	Devoured Getting Real in a single day... tasty

read

S	21	Flashcards, doggo sitting, and Call of Duty
Su	22	Family, Flashcards, doggo sitting, review Getting Real, and Call of Duty
M	23	First Coffee Hour w/Ben & Rob
T	24	Creating dotfiles and aliases, playing in terminal, playing with git
W	25	Introduction to Git - start strategizing goals
R	26	Played VP for the first time and talked to Oodle.io Creative Director!
F	27	First time helping to make Friday Lunch
S	28	laundry, home project, git flashcards
Su	29	home project, flashcards
M	30	Git, Personal appointment - leave by 4:15pm
T	31	Code for Dayton 6:30 - 8:30p @ 714 E Monument Ave

february |

code is my valentine

W	01	Dayton Web Developers - 6pm @ Sparkbox
R	02	
F	03	First time leading Friday Lunch
S	04	
Su	05	
M	06	
T	07	Personal appointment - half day? Whole day? Find out.
W	08	Dayton Clean Coders - 11:30a - 1p @ Sparkbox
R	09	
F	10	
S	11	
Su	12	
M	13	
T	14	Happy Valentine's Day!
W	15	
R	16	
F	17	
S	18	TA for GDI Intro to Programming Concepts - 12p @ Sparkbox
Su	19	
M	20	
T	21	
W	22	
R	23	
F	24	
S	25	Girl Scouts Website Workshop w/Austin & Cat
Su	26	
M	27	
T	28	

march |

luck is when preparedness meets opportunity

W	01	
R	02	
F	03	
S	04	
Su	05	
M	06	
T	07	
W	08	
R	09	
F	10	
S	11	
Su	12	
M	13	
T	14	
W	15	
R	16	
F	17	
S	18	TA for GDI Intro to HTML/CSS - 12p? @ Sparkbox
Su	19	
M	20	
T	21	
W	22	
R	23	
F	24	
S	25	TA for GDI Intro to HTML/CSS - 12p? @ Sparkbox
Su	26	
M	27	
T	28	
W	29	
R	30	
F	31	

april |

or - the month Betty will become a hip aunt. Err'body call me Auntie B

S	01
Su	02
M	03
T	04
W	05 Baby Brother's Birthday
R	06 Boyfriend's Birthday
F	07
S	08
Su	09
M	10
T	11
W	12
R	13
F	14
S	15
Su	16
M	17
T	18
W	19
R	20
F	21
S	22
Su	23
M	24
T	25
W	26
R	27
F	28
S	29
Su	30

may | may the fourth be with you

M	01	
T	02	
W	03	
R	04	Star Wars Day
F	05	Cinco de Mayo
S	06	
Su	07	
M	08	
T	09	
W	11	
R	12	
F	13	
S	14	
Su	15	
M	16	
T	17	
W	18	
R	19	
F	20	
S	21	
Su	22	
M	23	
T	24	
W	25	
R	26	
F	27	
S	28	
Su	29	
M	30	
T	31	

june |

the best month of all the months

W	01
R	02
F	03
S	04
Su	05
M	06
T	07
W	08
R	09
F	10
S	11
Su	12
M	13
T	14
W	15
R	16
	Happy Birthday Betty!
F	17
S	18
Su	19
M	20
T	21
W	22
R	23
F	24
S	25
Su	26
M	27
T	28
W	29
R	30

week one |

January 17, 2017 → January 24, 2017

DONE LIST

- ✓ Basic computer setup
- ✓ Read: Learning Command Line the Hard Way
- ✓ [Read: Getting Real by 37signals \[NOTES \]](#)
- ✓ Read: 40 Terms & Tricks for Command Line
- ✓ Completed: Try Git
- ✓ Completed: Git Real 1
- ✓ Completed: Git Real 2
- ✓ Attended: Gem City JS
- ✓ Attended: GDI Dayton
- ✓ Submitted: 31 hours
- ✓ Created: Command Line Flashcards
- ❑ WIP Reading: The Passionate Programmer
- ✓ Read: standard.sparkbox.com
- ✓ Created .bash_profile
- ✓ Created .bashrc
- ✓ Created aliases and other customizations
- ✓ more alias and command line experimentation
- ✓ WIP TA with GDI Dayton
 - ✓ Application completed and submitted
 - Classes that I've signed up to TA:
 - ~~cancelled~~ Intro to Web Concepts (Sat. 2/4)
 - Intro to Programming Concepts (Sat. 2/18)
 - Intro to HTML/CSS (Sat. 3/18)
 - Intro to HTML/CSS (Sat. 3/25)

SOCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Food Friday!
- Celebrating January birthdays
- Repping Sparkbox at Gem City JS and GDI Dayton
- ❑ convince someone to play ping pong

RANDOM ANXIETIES

- Wow, I talk a lot
- I wonder if anyone notices that I wear the same jacket everyday and I always forget to take it off once I'm here
- I need to get my gym routine back on track - start setting alarm for 6am

- Do I really need this much coffee? No.
- How do I initiate ping pong? There's gotta be a system, or they're all psychically linked.
 - ✓ UPDATE: Slack Channel
- When is payday?
 - ✓ UPDATE: 31st

HAPPY THOUGHTS

My first week has been a riot! There is so much brain-food to be consumed and I'm feasting like I've been lost in the desert for a month. Command Line seems rather intuitive. I'm wondering if that can be attributed to previous knowledge or the scientifically verified fact that technology has chosen to like me.

RIGHT IN THE NOSTALGIA

Command Line is bringing up a surprising amount of nostalgia and memories that I haven't tapped into for a very, very long time. The first computer I ever played on was an old Microsoft DOS machine. My dad has always been a tech geek, and he had four or five of these machines in his office growing up. We housed the computers at home for a time when dad was moving office buildings -- I was probably four or five years old. I think I played Oregon Trail and a variety of text DOS games for a solid week while they were set up. The whole thing ran on command line. Talking to the computer this week was akin to being reunited with my mother tongue.

WORK SMARTER, NOT HARDER

So here is where my head is at when it comes to strategy: This apprenticeship is an incredibly rare opportunity and I know that I have to be smart and strategic if I want to get the most out of my limited time here. Flashcards are going to be important. I used to be pretty bad at wrought memorization. I tried too hard to force the information. I've learned that if I work smarter and simply try to see the information countless times, eventually it will stick without me wasting energy.

I'm adjusting from a night owl schedule - I find a lot of productive energy in the evenings. But that's not to say that I'm definitively not a morning person... I will be again once I've adjusted. I will know I'm back in my routine when my gym

schedule is back on track, my nails are polished and nice, and all of my laundry is nicely folded and put away. Those three factors are key to my self-awareness of my personal well-being. If any of those slip, I'm either adjusting, or I need to pay attention to self-care to get in the groove of things.

This week everything is very new. Next week I'll start to find a rhythm - laundry should be finished by that weekend, which puts me on track to get back to the gym starting the third week. I can work on adjusting my sleep schedule to 6am in the meantime, which should put me to work between 8:00a and 9:30a depending on how much time I spend at the gym.

I confessed to Heather that when it comes to mornings - she'll probably beat me here every time, at least for a while. It's not a competition, but we have a nice dynamic where we push each other to succeed. When it comes to mornings, I'm taking a page from : undercut the competition and attack the problem differently. I know I function best under certain conditions in the morning (getting my heartrate up), so I'll do that and come in with saddles blazing at 9:15 instead of wasting my morning being asleep at my desk at 8am. Thankfully, I almost always hit a very productive groove as people are packing up for the day. I tend to get lost in what I'm doing and the quiet of the evening and suddenly I look up and it is 6:30p.

IDE PROJECT

Otherwise, my new routine is coming together very nicely, and my current side project is going very well. Normally I like to have something with code going - and I do, but it is in its very beginning stages and not much worth commenting on yet.

Before I dive into that project, I'm finishing up one that has been a couple of months in the making: spring cleaning.

My least favorite game to play is I try to do a decent spring cleaning every year. Some years it gets more attention than others. This year, I promised my parents that I would set an example for the rest of my siblings and get all of my old stuff out of their basement.

This was accomplished a week or so before starting this apprenticeship. I'm now at the point where all things have been sorted and donated and trashed. So now, I'm going back and organizing so that everything has a home and I can spend valuable willpower doing things like not searching for my headphones and missing socks.

I do spring cleaning a little differently. My aesthetic is clean, cozy, and modern with lots of gem-toned color and plant life - and not a lot of knick knacks or clutter. My personal space is an oasis for recuperation and I like just enough decor to facilitate a peaceful mind. My storage areas, on the other hand, are places where my creativity flourishes. I love the creativity that comes from decorating such a restricted space. My goal is to create joy anytime I need to open a drawer or pop my head into a closet.

The interiors of all of my storage are plastered with maps and clippings from old art magazines. A lot of it is goofy and funny, or very design-esque. There are quotes, and nostalgic illustrations, and images that remind me of the character I want to embody - fun, full of grace... intelligent, and independent with a little bit of an edge and a lot of laugh lines. Jackie-O, Audrey Hepburn, Oprah, Mary Tyler-Moore...

It has been a long process, and I can vaguely see the edges - it'll start coming together next week.

THIS WEEK HAS BEEN...

... really stinkin' fun. And challenging. I wouldn't say difficult or hard, but certainly challenging... and satisfying. I'm keeping in mind that this is a marathon, not a sprint.

week two

January 25, 2017 → February 1, 2017

DONE LIST

- WIP Reading: The Passionate Programmer
- Upload .files to github
- Upload journal to github
- Clone sparkbox repository
- Submit a change to the standards repo
- Submit a change to the apprentice repo
- Pair with people and talk about git!
- Get journal up to par - bullet journal strategy
- Change hostName in Terminal
- Install Hyper

SOCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- convince someone to play ping pong
 - UPDATE: Played ping pong!!! Volley Pong!
- First Coffee Chat - Monday
- First time doing prep help for Friday lunch

RANDOM ANXIETIES

-

HAPPY THOUGHTS

Wowza what an awesome week!

week three |

February 2, 2017 → February 7, 2017

DONE LIST

All the things

SOCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Coffee Talk

RANDOM ANXIETIES

We've all got 'em

HAPPY THOUGHTS

Wowza what an awesome week!

week four | February 8, 2017 → February 14, 2017

DONE LIOT

All the things

SOCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Coffee Talk

RANDOM ANXIETIES

We've all got 'em

HAPPY THOUGHTS

Wowza what an awesome week!

week five | February 15, 2017 → February 21, 2017

DONE LIST

All the things

SOCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Coffee Talk

RANDOM ANXIETIES

We've all got 'em

HAPPY THOUGHTS

Wowza what an awesome week!

week six | February 22, 2017 → February 28, 2017

DONE LIST

All the things

SOCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Coffee Talk

RANDOM ANXIETIES

We've all got 'em

HAPPY THOUGHTS

Wowza what an awesome week!

week seven | March 1, 2017 → March 7, 2017

DONE LIST

All the things

SOCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Coffee Talk

RANDOM ANXIETIES

We've all got 'em

HAPPY THOUGHTS

Wowza what an awesome week!

week eight | March 8, 2017 → March 14, 2017

DONE LIST

All the things

SOCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Coffee Talk

RANDOM ANXIETIES

We've all got 'em

HAPPY THOUGHTS

Wowza what an awesome week!

week nine |

March 15, 2017 → March 21, 2017

DONE LIST

All the things

SOCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Coffee Talk

RANDOM ANXIETIES

We've all got 'em

HAPPY THOUGHTS

Wowza what an awesome week!

week ten |

March 22, 2017 → March 28, 2017

DONE LIST

All the things

SOCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Coffee Talk

RANDOM ANXIETIES

We've all got 'em

HAPPY THOUGHTS

Wowza what an awesome week!

week eleven | March 29, 2017 → April 4, 2017

DONE LIOT

All the things

SOCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Coffee Talk

RANDOM ANXIETIES

We've all got 'em

HAPPY THOUGHTS

Wowza what an awesome week!

week twelve | April 5, 2017 → April 11, 2017

DONE LIOT

All the things

SOCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Coffee Talk

RANDOM ANXIETIES

We've all got 'em

HAPPY THOUGHTS

Wowza what an awesome week!

week thirteen | April 12, 2017 → April 18, 2017

DONE LIST

All the things

SOCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Coffee Talk

RANDOM ANXIETIES

We've all got 'em

HAPPY THOUGHTS

Wowza what an awesome week!

week fourteen |

April 19, 2017 → April 25, 2017

DONE LIST

All the things

SOCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Coffee Talk

RANDOM ANXIETIES

We've all got 'em

HAPPY THOUGHTS

Wowza what an awesome week!

week fifteen |

April 26, 2017 → May 2, 2017

DONE LIST

All the things

SOCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Coffee Talk

RANDOM ANXIETIES

We've all got 'em

HAPPY THOUGHTS

Wowza what an awesome week!

week sixteen |

May 3, 2017 → May 9, 2017

DONE LIST

All the things

SOCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Coffee Talk

RANDOM ANXIETIES

We've all got 'em

HAPPY THOUGHTS

Wowza what an awesome week!

week seventeen |

May 10, 2017 → May 16, 2017

DONE LIST

All the things

SOCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Coffee Talk

RANDOM ANXIETIES

We've all got 'em

HAPPY THOUGHTS

Wowza what an awesome week!

week eighteen |

May 17, 2017 → May 23, 2017

DONE LIST

All the things

SOCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Coffee Talk

RANDOM ANXIETIES

We've all got 'em

HAPPY THOUGHTS

Wowza what an awesome week!

week nineteen |

May 24, 2017 → May 30, 2017

DONE LIST

All the things

SOCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Coffee Talk

RANDOM ANXIETIES

We've all got 'em

HAPPY THOUGHTS

Wowza what an awesome week!

week twenty |

May 31, 2017 → June 6, 2017

DONE LIST

All the things

SOCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Coffee Talk

RANDOM ANXIETIES

We've all got 'em

HAPPY THOUGHTS

Wowza what an awesome week!

week twenty-one |

June 7, 2017 → June 13, 2017

DONE LIST

All the things

SOCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Coffee Talk

RANDOM ANXIETIES

We've all got 'em

HAPPY THOUGHTS

Wowza what an awesome week!

week twenty-two |

June 14, 2017 → June 20, 2017

DONE LIST

All the things

SOCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Coffee Talk

RANDOM ANXIETIES

We've all got 'em

HAPPY THOUGHTS

Wowza what an awesome week!