Tame the Monkeys

2 May 2022

I’m staring at that which I need to be working on. I can’t focus.

Jean-Louis Gassée says he writes because the thoughts in his mind act like a crowd of rowdy monkeys screaming and bouncing around in a cage. That describes my brain exactly at this moment. I need to tame the monkeys.

So, what is it that I’m working on that is so uninspiring? It’s actually a cool little machine/system ticketing system for our medical physics department. I’m at this point, though, where I need a little more constructive feedback.

The two leads that I’m working with are Carri and Zac. Carri has an old system that she wants to pretty much mimic. Zac has a few ideas as to where he wants to take it. When we do meet with each other, schedules usually conspire to only allow me to meet one or the other at a time. This causes the project to get pulled into a couple of different directions. Git branching is great for this, but I don’t want anything to get too out of line with master, so I would like to be able to meet a little more often to keep everything stitched together.

I’m also just bloody bored with it.

About a week and a half ago, I had a major surgery on my left ankle. There were pins, a realignment, and some bone removal. There will be no weight born on it for the next 7 weeks. I spent a few days doing pretty much nothing. Then I slowly edged into reading and doing internet things. I was an internet consumer slug. Then, I read a manual about my camera (Nikon DF) and played with the features that I sort of new existed, but never knew how to access. This fueled my desire to create something again. A desire to be creative.

If I could only walk.

I tried experimenting again with the iPad’s drawing capability. It’s nice, but it doesn’t feel like paper. It’s taking some getting used to. I’m also not that good a drawing anymore. To be honest, there are a lot of complex situations that I’ve never been very good at. At least, it’s always taken me a lot of gumption to get my ass going and just focus on it.

DISTRACTION: I decided to put this note (these notes) into the git repository for my eventual website. It turns out that it now requires tokens and a lot of security stuff. I guess it’s a good thing for work things, but it’s something that I really hate dealing with. In addition to that, a new off-site researcher isn’t able to get on to our citrix environment. I really don’t know what Matt is requiring for access to that.

DISTRACTION II: Microsoft’s grammar suggestions. I’m not writing a business/technical anything. I’m just screaming quietly at a page. These are distracting, though sometimes useful in that I might have used the wrong leading word, but still, it interrupts the flow.

So the past week has led me to really contemplate retirement. That would mean a big reduction of income. Personally, that probably wouldn’t be a problem, but there are so many things I would have to stop doing. Just last night, Peter Steinberg (friend) convinced Natalie (wife) that we needed to join him for sushi. Well that was a hundred dollars down. I would also need to get a family subscription to Office 365. I really tried to use Apple Pages, but it just wasn’t working that well. That just might be a case of the iPad needing more training, but still.

Then there’s the case of the tech that I would like to acquire before I retire: a nifty Mac laptop with a big screen, a Nikon Z camera, some lens stuff… I could get by without any of that, I guess, but that’s where my brain is.