title: **Something taking 5 or 15 seconds is the bane of my existence.**
num_comments: 32
num_up_votes: 120
upvote_ratio: 0.98

Post Text

Compilation. Running Tests. Starting up your dev server. 5 Seconds is effing forever for me. Whatever I was thinking is just gone, or I ALT+TAB and fall down a rabbit hole. "I just ran this test, wait, was I expecting it to fail?" How do you all deal with it?

Comments

Commenter_2
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 37
I'm not always successful, but I have developed a habit of recognizing when I'm about to shift focus because I'm bored of waiting for something that has had me waiting for 1.5 seconds. I count down from 10 or 5 or something if it really would be done very soon. Or count a few breaths like a micro meditation session.

It gives me just enough time to be more rational and deliberate about what I do next. Is this actually taking too long, or am I just getting impatient? Do I need an actual break so I can focus? Can I be more efficient about this?

Commenter_3
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 3
I do this too, with even daily hygiene tasks. I do not want to floss, but I counted and it only takes about 30 seconds to do, so I can't even argue with myself and I just count while I'm doing it to get out of my head.

It is such a bad habit of mine to cmd+tab to chrome and open facebook in a new tab while things compile and get sucked in. I've blocked facebook a few times even. These days if it's really taking too long I try to go into my work email so if i get distracted at least it's work related.

Commenter_2
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 2
Yeah, that time blindness can make tiny amounts of time seem huge, and the opposite as well.

Commenter_4
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 10
Username checks out

Commenter_5
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 47
I hate it too. I can't always fix it, but I have started using the `say` CLI tool on OSX. When I need to run a CLI command that takes a while, I just add `&& say 'All done, check your terminal'` at the end, and the computer literally tells me to go check. You can install it on Linux too.

Unknown_User
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 14
[deleted]

Commenter_6
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 1

This reminds of back in the day using Grunt with Compass scss compilation (slow af) and having a task at the end that would play one of the Apple chime sounds. Ended up driving my colleagues at the time nuts, even though I thought I had the volume so low only I would hear it.

Commenter_5
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 1
Great point!

Commenter_7
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 3
Second this. Hell, I've built this into things as small as long running VBA macros. I do them for both completion and error statuses. If I know something will be taking 20+ minutes, I know that it's either going to be running or if it stops for any reason, it'll say something.

That way, if I wander off and check Reddit or the stock market or something, I don't stay there for 30 minutes when my script errored out in 5.

Unknown_User
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 4
I appreciate you

Commenter_8
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 1
I love this and I do it too with some things. It's really nice.

Commenter_9
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 9
multiple monitors instead of alt-tab

Unknown_User
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 3
[deleted]

Commenter_9
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 1
Yes, on each monitor (24", 21", 32", 21")

Commenter_10
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 2
Same. 27, 27, 24, 21.   i have a lot of open windows.

1 with a show/music videos to distract me just enough. Then logs, an editor or 2, my browser with 10 windows each with a different subject and 40 tabs on each, etc.

Commenter_9
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 1
Most of my work happens on my central monitor, and I manually resize windows as necessary. IDE sits in bottom left quadrant or across the entire left half if I'm working on something long, when I'm not writing code this space could be taken up by SQL developer, Excel, Word, or a browser. Team and personal chats sits on top right, shell next to them, file explorer on the bottom right, and whatever I'm looking at for reference generally fills the remaining space. Right lateral monitor is for my email/calendar program and for company-wide chatting. Left lateral monitor serves two

purposes, when I'm in a meeting it's my screenshare monitor and when I'm not it's where I keep my browser with all the tabs. Far-left monitor does not connect to LVDI, I use it for zoom calls, youtube, reddit, LinkedIn, personal email, and other small distractions.

Unknown_User
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 8
[deleted]

> ###### OP
> ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 14
> I've actually started having my iPad under my computer monitor. I'll use that to google or reddit while the context of my actual work never leaves my screen.
>
> Because, you know, ADHD object permanence.
>
> > ###### Unknown_User
> > ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 1
> > [deleted]
> >
> > > ###### OP
> > > ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 1
> > > yeah, it comes up a lot. it's not a perfect analogy, since we're understand the concept unlike babies... but if an adhd person doesn't see something you just forget about it quickly. it's why we spill the glass we just put down or forget about the vegetables rotting in the bin and can't find they thing we *just* had.

Commenter_12
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 4
I (try to) set a puzzle alarm when I start a 'rabbit hole' activity.

Being dragged slowly away by snoozing a few times after a small puzzle elevates my brain to the "Oh, this alarm is relevant to ME" mode.

After doing so for a year or two it is easier to react to an alarm, and I can now allow myself enough breaks that my brain doesn't go "Unn unn, nope" when I try to end a break.

Commenter_13
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 10
Fidget with some object. Get a spiner. Or just fiddle with pen and paper. Draw something. Clean your keyboard/monitor. Reorganize desk.

I also keep extensive paper to do lists and I update them when I'm waiting.

Phone is on the other side of the room and only calls send notifications on work hours.

Do not get side tracked by any kind of media or you're fucking gone

> ###### Commenter_14
> ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 6
> Yeah I make that last mistake alot. Codes compiling and it isn't instant, so I use that as an excuse to go on social media like discord, then forget about it, and then come back to see the compiler failed with an error. Fix the error, and repeat.

Commenter_15
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 8
My current task at work is to move a bunch of resources around in Azure.

1. Try to move the resource group
2. Wait 5 mins for validation
3. Validation failed, need to shift some other resources into the group first
4. Try to move the first resource
5. Wait 5 mins for validation
6. Submit
7. Wait 3 mins for completion
8. Try to move the second resource, fail because the previous operation is still "pending" despite having completed
9. Wait 3 mins for the change to register
10. Try again
11. Wait 5 mins for validation
12. Submit
13. Wait 3 mins for completion
14. <You are here>

If I had a flamethrower and there was a data centre in front of me, I swear...

> ###### Commenter_16
> ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 2
> Can this be automated through scripting?
>
> > ###### Commenter_15
> > ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 2
> > Probably, yes.

> ###### Commenter_17
> ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 2
> Nope, never made it past 2
>
> > ###### Commenter_15
> > ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 6
> > I got distracted twice just trying to write the list lmao

> ###### Commenter_18
> ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 1
> This sounds like my personal hell!
>
> > ###### Commenter_15
> > ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 1
> > I ended up having to do crisis management instead and I'm so relieved lmao. Much more my element.
> >
> > > ###### Commenter_18
> > > ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 1
> > > I can relate.

Commenter_19

ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 5
I've been playing the N64 mario picross game on my switch so I just play that while waiting for my work computer to do things. Easy to keep an eye on the PC screen and pick up/pause the game. I can do the same thing with animal crossing and also with crochet.

Commenter_20
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 2
Too true. Every internal tool that moves to a slower system is terrible. I often use web mail and that just moved to a much slower cloud version, that several second wait for each email to load annoying as hell.

Commenter_21
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 1
I use either OneNote or the screenshot tool and I keep it open until the task that I'm waiting on has finished While working on my other two monitors

Commenter_22
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 1
Tiling window manager

Commenter_10
ID: REDACTED! ~(o.o)~ <3, Upvotes: 1
I close everything but absolutely necessary stuff.

The first 4 or 5 times it happens, and I feel my attention try to _grab onto_ something else is REALLY tough. Then since I havent gone to anything it flips back to my main task.

This usually works like 1 week out of 4. The other 4 I just