



Personal Blog of Rob Muhlestein (rwxrob)

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Hello friend. Welcome. Here you'll find my random ranting about nothing and everything. Some ideas start here and end somewhere else. Mostly I write for me but might as well share it.

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Copyright

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AI or die

For 10 years I used some form of Zettelkasten or knowledge base instead of a blog but since the advent of AI and large language models (LLMs) writing anything that isn't narrative prose is just stupid.

An AI assistant can find answers faster than any search I could ever do before.

These things favor stories, articles, and blogs over random note-taking and are sourced from the Internet.

Very few people will realize why this matters. Most of mediocrity will continue to chase the pointless trends and play with idiotic wastes of time like Obsidian and other flashy note-taking systems rather than incorporating AI into their workflows to get *actual* knowledge work done. Not me. While they are making 40 minute videos about how to get Excalidraw to render from your highly specific note taking with a stupid Lua plugin I will use by time for other things:

- Ongoing learning and research in real-time, anytime
- Interactive language instruction in Russian and French
- Automatic bibliographic reference creation down to the page number
- Automated YouTube descriptions and chapter markers derived from transcripts
- Full bike trip planning *while moving on the bike*
- Early medical issue diagnosis and training plans
- Breaking writers block for anything I'd ever write
- Perfect grammar and punctuation evaluation of my writing
- Automatic code comment generation from the code itself
- Mundane code creation

All I can say to the many skeptics out there is *try it*. Get ChatGPT and begin using it for stuff for which you would use Google search. Then, increase that, have it make you a plan for the day. Ask it what to eat for the next meal based on your day and current fitness goals. Show it your favorite painting and ask it to comment on it and provide resources. This isn't the kind of thing you will believe until it happens to you.

2025

Wednesday, January 1, 2025, 12:02:14PM EST

Here we are in a new year. I'm a sucker for setting goals and reviewing them after the fact. Sipping coffee and eating a waffle with my wife while she writes in her shiny new 2025 journal. Sam is lounging on the patio in the sun. Seems like 2025 is going to be a great year.

Goals

- Hour a day outside: bike, paddle, hike
- Get new teeth
- Finish book: *Terminal Velocity*
- Finish book: *Coding from the Get Go*

Events

- Son's college graduation in Idaho
- Son's stay with us in apartment

Changes:

- Books now available in PDF and EPUB automatically
- Reward hard-working readers over lazy viewers
- One blog post per day
- Daily cycling at sunset
- Mostly SCREEN mode livestreaming
- YouTube update videos
- Perl over bash for small scripts

Banishing Bash

- Not as flexible or ubiquitous as POSIX
- Safer than POSIX but not as safe as `perl -T`
- Bloated with completely unnecessary stuff (100x > perl)
- `-r-xr-xr-x 1 root wheel 1.2M Aug 4 06:31 /bin/bash`
- `-rwxr-xr-x 1 root wheel 134K Aug 4 06:31 /usr/bin/perl`
- Slooooow, really slow (one reason `dash` was invented)
- Only integer math support
- Dependence on other external tools for text processing

- Bashisms aren't really that great
- Extended regular expressions are absolutely grotesque
- Using `/bin/sh` is `/bin/bash` on some systems but POSIX limited

Pumping up Perl

"Perl is, by and large, a digested and simplified version of Unix. Perl is the Cliff Notes of Unix. I could never really get myself to learn sed, awk, zsh, grep, find, m4, pipes, xargs, tee, cut, paste, yacc, lex, various IPC or even C for that matter. I ought to. In practice, in almost all cases I use perl." - Larry Wall