

Pessimism, Entitlement, and other virtues of a successful debugging approach

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<https://joind.in/13810>



Your presenter

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(no subject)

From: [REDACTED]

10:37 AM (3 hours ago)



To: allen@emphanos.com

Subject:

Date: Thursday, March 19, 2015 10:37 AM

OMG, that didn't work. I tried the new feature and I can't do anything.

Can you fix it please, thanks!!

--

[REDACTED]@emphanos.com

**Debugging starts in
3... 2... 1...**

Story time

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Act 1

Disappearing nodes!

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Act 2

Can't save new content!

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Act 3

I can't masquerade!

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Act 4

Newsletter emails
aren't going out!

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Well, that sucked.

- wasted effort
- wasted time
- loss of stakeholder confidence
- frustration and stress
- no social life
- my kids don't know me
- my dog hates me

Appropriate responses

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Appropriate responses



1. Skepticism

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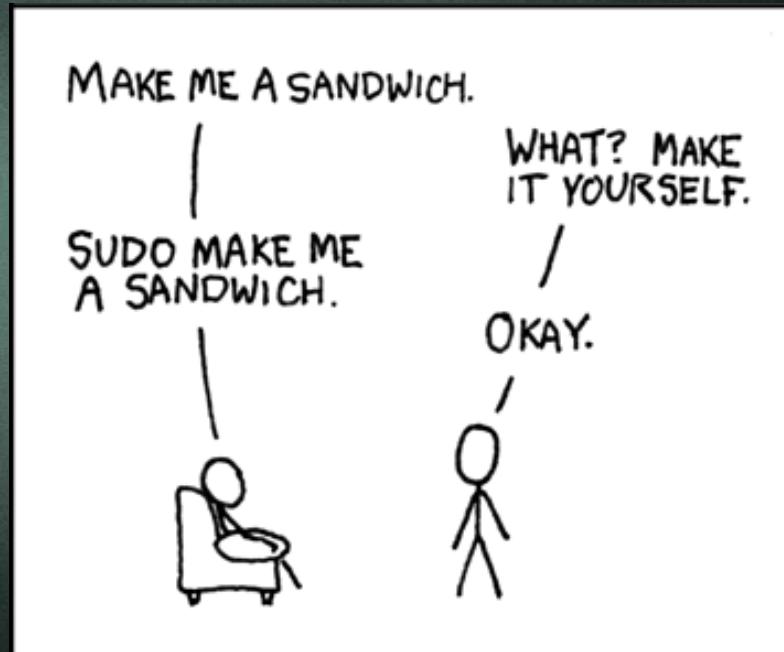
Appropriate responses



2. Finger-pointing

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Appropriate responses



3. Entitlement

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Appropriate responses



4. Impatience

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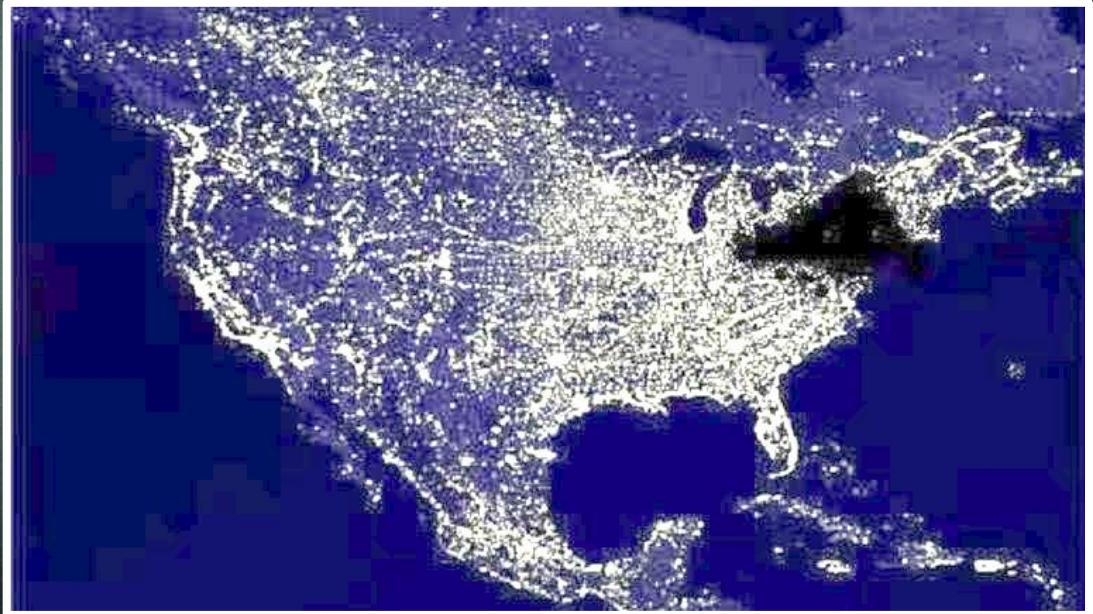
Appropriate responses



5. Laziness

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Appropriate responses



6. Pessimism

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Appropriate responses



7. Ruthlessness

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Appropriate responses



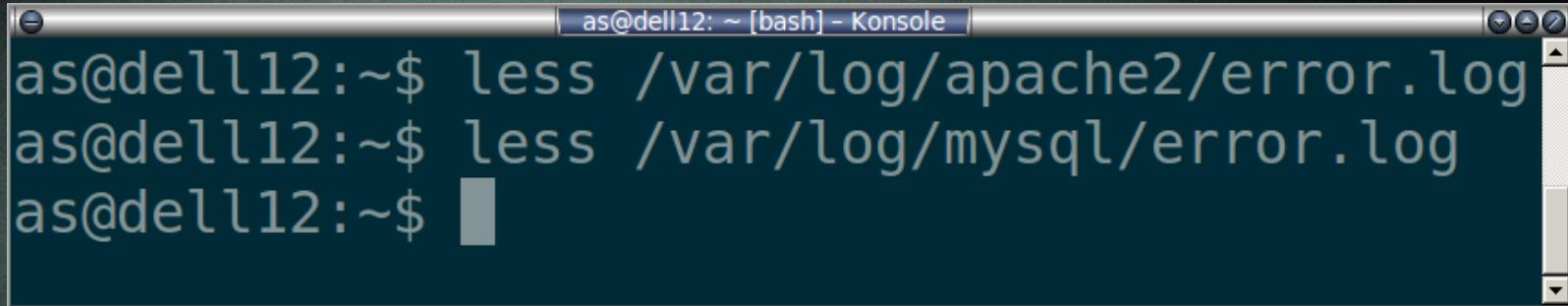
8. More skepticism

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Tools

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Logs



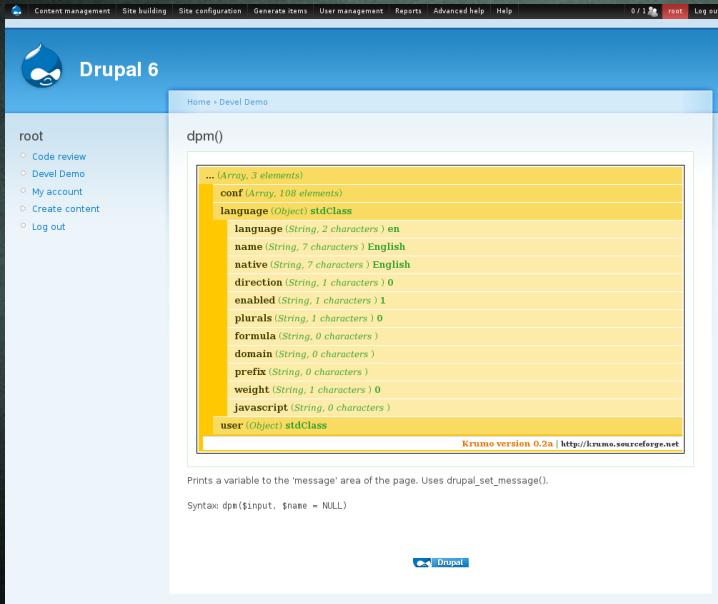
The screenshot shows a terminal window titled "as@dell12: ~ [bash] - Konsole". It displays two commands entered by the user:

```
as@dell12:~$ less /var/log/apache2/error.log
as@dell12:~$ less /var/log/mysql/error.log
as@dell12:~$ █
```

The terminal window has a dark background and light-colored text. A vertical scroll bar is visible on the right side of the window.

- http: apache / nginx
- database: mysql / postgresql

Devel module (Drupal)



<http://drupal.org/project/devel>

- Easily examine variables.
- Limit output via Drupal permissions.

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Firebug



Firebug

<http://getfirebug.com>

- Analyze DOM and network calls, analyze and execute JavaScript, all within the browser.
- Similar features available natively in Google Chrome.

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FirePHP

```
<?php  
  
FB::log('Log message');  
FB::info('Info message');  
FB::warn('Warn message');  
FB::error('Error message');  
  
?>
```



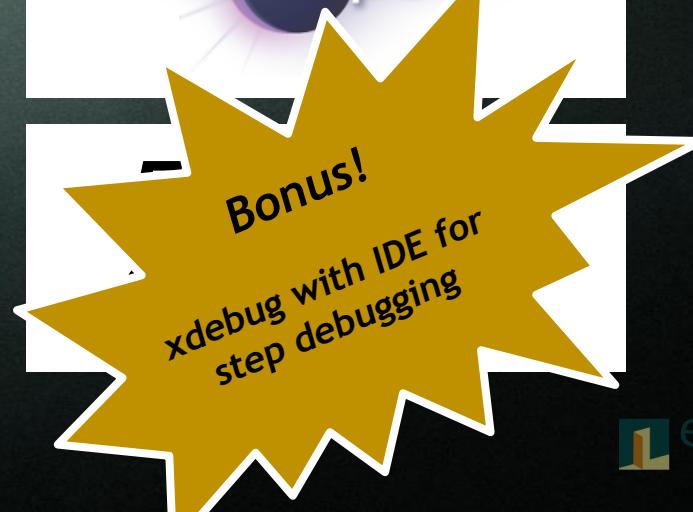
<http://firephp.org>

Send debugging messages to Firebug from PHP.

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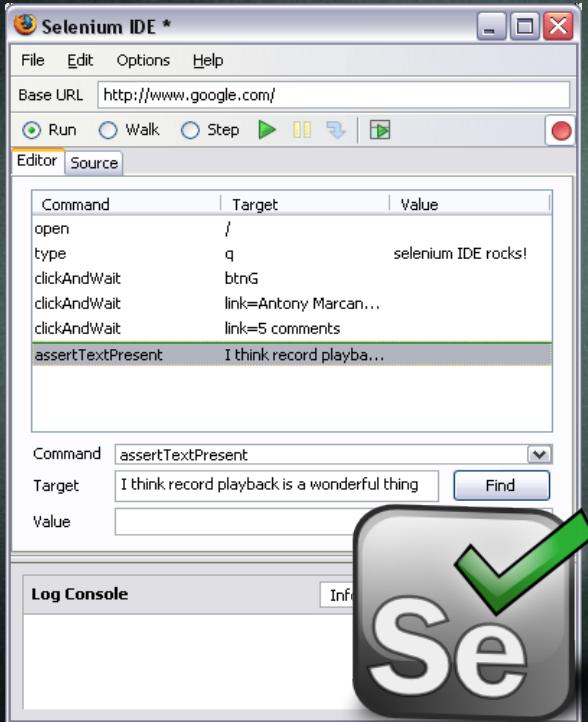
A good IDE helps.

Quickly navigate through unfamiliar code.



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Selenium



Command	Target	Value
open	/	
type	q	selenium IDE rocks!
clickAndWait	btnG	
clickAndWait	link=Antony Marca...	
clickAndWait	link=5 comments	
assertTextPresent	I think record playba...	

Command: assertTextPresent
Target: I think record playback is a wonderful thing
Value:

Log Console



<http://seleniumhq.org>

- Script the browser to perform the steps necessary to replicate a bug.
- Write regression tests to ensure bugs stay gone.

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Questions so far?

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Your turn:

Hi Allen,

For some reason I can't upload images on the site anymore. I just did it yesterday and never had a problem before, but now it's just saying "Could not upload file" or something. Any ideas?

Thanks,
Jim

What to do?

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Hit me up: @TwoMice
allen@emphanos.com



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