Hello all,

In my opinion it is better to be less proficient but still competent in a vast array of tools, compared to being very proficient in a handful of tools. This is because certain skill sets are needed at different times and certain skills that are specialized might not be needed at that particular instance. A very basic example of this is if you have someone who is optimized at using software for analyzing Unix based systems working on a Windows PC project. It would be better to have someone who is competent in forensic software for both Unix / Windows and is still able to perform the task at hand. Rather than having a person optimized for a Unix project but cannot perform the analysis on a windows machine. Specialization can arguably lead to stagnation if their skills are not being honed in on.

An example of why it is good to have competent knowledge in vast array of tools then specialized in some, is that certain projects might not use those specialized tools. Concepts like if the tool is specialized or a “one stop shop” type of tool comes in to question. One stop shop type of tools might give you a broad analysis of a device but specialized tools can recover more knowledge of a particular instance. Becoming proficient in a tool could help greatly for that particular instance but if it is not being applied on the job site then it doesn’t matter. Having a broad knowledge of many tools can prevent that an ensure that some aspect of your knowledge base is being applied.

Another argument is that having broad knowledge of many tools can lead to better specialization down the road if need be and can potentially reduce the learning curve as times goes by. As one becomes more familiar with many tool facets they will become more familiar with the overall flow and design of these tools architectures reducing the learning curve as new tools are applied. As someone becomes more familiar with the broad array of tools they will begin to realize and understand where they need or care too specialize. Overall uncovering where they need to increase their skills set.

So in conclusion, I am saying it is better to have a broad base of knowledge among tools because you’ll have a better chance of using one of them, you’ll learn others quicker, and you will then better understand where you will need to specialize in if need be.

Thanks again ALL!

-ERIC WEBB

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