

2007-10-24 Show Notes

<u>Offset</u>	<u>Topic</u>
00:17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Intro
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DC CopyNight• Vacation• Questions for Professor Lessig
06:31	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Word of the Week: Conway's Law
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• http://www.catb.org/jargon/html/C/Conways-Law.html
07:55	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inner Chapter: Will
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Definition<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The faculty by which a person decides on and initiates action• Without will, there is no action• The nature of the action seems to beg the amount of will• I think this is a false perception<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Getting started is the hard part• Practice makes the most difficult, complex task easier• Practicing is mustering will repeatedly• Why am I talking about will?<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Many perceive me as being highly disciplined• I don't think I do anything special• Try to mentor coworkers to be more disciplined• How do you achieve that?• Will plus practice equals discipline• Organizational will<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Best thought of as consensus• Requires some sense of commitment• Communication, perception may be more involved• Still boils down to that decision to act• Not as relevant to organization discipline• Discipline comes from leadership, culture more than organization will• How do you encourage, garner or find will?<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Treat it as a hacking challenge<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Experiment, everyone is different• Take notes, keep a journal on what does and does not work• Research! There are many books, resources to be found• Stack the deck, make it as easy to choose action as not<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lots of automation• Enlightened self interest

Offset

Topic

- How is doing something hard, now, going to make life easier later on?
- I am a code documentation fiend
- I hate being interrupted
- I especially hate it for simple questions
- Every bit of code I document is potentially one less simple question
- This makes the will to document easier than leaving it an risking interruption
- Stupid tricks help
 - Motivational songs
 - Mantras
 - Really, whatever gets you moving, working
- Balance work and reward
 - Traditional motivational techniques
 - Defer a pleasure activity, like a game, a movie or a book until some discrete unit of work is complete
 - I think this is risky, the reward is also a temptation to avoid work
 - You need to find ways of working up will that are less likely to be subverted
 - The improvement in discipline should yield its own rewards, without anything artificial added
 - Will can be its own reward, sometimes
 - The satisfaction of a job undertaken and completed
 - The bragging rights of good practices
- Borrow will from group, peers
 - Having a group doing similar, if not the same work, can help
 - Careful, can also turn into competition, demotivate
 - The right kind of self-aware group can seriously help
 - Solidarity with writer friends
- Will doesn't necessarily transfer
 - Each activity begs its own particular quality, quantity
 - I can muster will to code
 - I have a much harder time with physical activities
 - Exercise is one challenge, not surprisingly
 - Techniques can be translated, to help
 - Stupid motivational phrases help me exercise
 - Constantly looking for advice from friends tackling exercise goals
- Simply being conscious of that moment of will can help
 - Am I making an excuse or is this just an opportunity to act and I want to do something else?
 - I find realizing I need will is often enough to find it
 - Kind of like intentional programming, don't by default or coincidence

Offset	Topic
25:21	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Act with intent, the will to act will come• Outro• Contact me<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Email to feedback@thecommandline.net• Web site at http://thecommandline.net/• IM to command.line@skype• Listener comment line is 360-252-7284• del.icio.us tag is "for:cmdln"• http://twitter.com/cmdln• I'd like to thank libsyn.com for AAC hosting and Wouter de Bie for MP3 hosting• These notes and the show audio and music are covered by a Creative Commons license<ul style="list-style-type: none">• http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/us/• Attribution, non-commercial, share alike