

Offset	Topic
00:17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Intro
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Balticon ● Memorial day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● War time efforts of tech geeks past and present ● Friend considering re-enlisting
02:06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Word of the Week: deadlock
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● http://catb.org/jargon/html/D/deadlock.html
03:33	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Monologue: Volunteerism
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Thinking about my participation at conventions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Definitely a fan ● Most of the creators I associate with are writers or create entertainment content ● I spend a lot of my time behind the scenes ● Have earned a reputation as a volunteer ● More so than the actual work that I do ● A little frustrated by some offers of help <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Seen many volunteer but not show up ● Not a criticism, just an observation ● Many seem eager online but hesitant in person ● Like they are waiting for permission ● Trust me, event organizers, others will rarely refuse offers of help ● No need to be shy ● Organizers don't always have time to chase down volunteers ● If you are worried they have too much help, don't worry ● Not likely possible they could ever have too much help ● Volunteering doesn't need to be big <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Part of the problem is that, like many things, some think contributions need to be big ● Just being available for the little things is enough ● Large events are just collections of small things, coordinated ● Coordinators will not always have a list of these little things ● Be solicitous, simply keep asking, "How can I help?" ● Why do I do it? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● After my first Dragon*Con, realized how over worked organizers were ● Immensely respected the job they did ● I wanted to see them succeed without such heavy sacrifice ● After the first volunteer work, found it very rewarding ● Didn't get huge accolades, most people didn't notice

Offset

Topic

- Meant a lot when the folks who noticed gave quiet thanks
- I'd go to the cons, anyway, but wanted to get more involved
- My show doesn't always lend well to being a program participant
 - I don't have a book I can read from
 - Of the topics I can discuss, many don't fit in with the SF conventions I enjoy attending
- Silver lining is meeting new people
- Recording authors I might not otherwise have discovered
- Recording podcasts, podcasters to which I might not have otherwise listened
- Learning new skills, like wireless mics, PAs, large mixing boards
- Improving my existing skills, more experience with my own portable gear
- To be perfectly honest, I kind of like the reputation I've earned
- Got me thinking more generally
- Role of volunteering in free and open software
 - Large software projects are like large events
 - Many, many smaller tasks
 - Not always enough time to list them all
 - One problem is prioritizing
 - Software is horrifically more complicated
 - Tracking dependencies to the critical path can be difficult
 - I've heard criticisms of some want to be contributors taking advantage
 - Simply re-formatting code or source without adding anything substantive
 - In software, this is pretty transparent
 - These kinds of contributors typically don't last but are a problem on more open projects
 - They are one of the reasons some projects reserve commit rights
 - If commit rights need to be granted, many projects will still provide a way to submit patches
 - This affords them a way to review while limiting the code re-formatters
 - The best advice I heard matches my experience volunteering at events
 - Pick a small but real defect
 - Write a patch, write the best code you know how, submit it
 - I'd be willing to bet if you looked at most well known contributors, long list of small but significant commits
 - Bear in mind there are other places you can contribute beyond code
 - Many projects struggle with documentation--user guides, developer guides, etc.
- Role of volunteering in activism

Offset

Topic

- Activism doesn't work without volunteers
- Action also doesn't have to be big
- Much of it works because of the huge numbers, not because of any single effort
- This is a realization I have yet to put into practice
- Until I made the connection, thought it required more
- Now realize some part of successful activism is just showing up
- Asking, "How can I help?"
- Role in the workplace
 - The best resources are the most self sufficient
 - See something that needs doing and just pitch in
 - Sometimes lose sight of it, myself
 - Volunteer's attitude can lighten the stress
 - Encourage that sense of cooperation, collaboration
 - Many contributions we have to make, to collect pay
 - The contributions we volunteer can be the most rewarding

24:02

• Outro

- Contact me
 - Email to feedback@thecommandline.net
 - Web site at <http://thecommandline.net/>
 - IM to command.line@skype
 - Listener comment line is 240-949-2638
 - 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
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