

Offset	Topic
00:17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro
04:09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Word of the Week: deflected
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://catb.org/jargon/html/D/deflected.html
05:14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inner Chapter: Inspiration
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do you deal with coding block? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depends on if the block is on a started project or on starting a new project • On a started project, usually a bit easier <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already know the problem you are trying solve • May get stuck on a detail • Reading, researching what others have down is an easy answer • Even if you don't find an exact solution, may give you ideas • Usually it is a small detail stumping you • Something you perhaps have not done before • Just need to find some guidance, how to extend what you know into what you don't • Is it like I/O programming or a certain type of threading? Resource access like a database? • On starting a new project, much more difficult <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy answer is scratch your own itch • However, this may be frustrating if there are existing solutions • Don't be afraid to write your own if you feel strongly • Don't expect anyone else to use if it is too close to other programs • Can be satisfying, regardless <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Its valid practice to improve your coding • May also help spur other, unrelated ideas • With open source, you can also be inspired to hack on someone else's code • Can work on a smaller problem, borrow inertia • The act of reading existing code may help give you ideas • Personally, I have a lot more trouble with starting new projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I often feel like my day job consumes my inspiration • Recent experience has taught me that is just because I use the same technology • I experience some fatigue trying to use the heavier weight, more complex tools • For smaller projects, there is just too much grunt work to start a new project • Discourages me from hacking on my own time

Offset

Topic

- Taking some time to learn something lighter, smaller, like Python has helped
- Also helps me keep projects more separate in my mind
- I'm sure there will still be some cross pollination
- Using a different set of tools makes my personal projects feel less like work
- Always take time to just think
 - In either case, stop coding or trying to code
 - Get up and walk around
 - Talk about your ideas with someone else
 - Talking shifts modality, helps you use other parts of your brain
 - Draw your code, sketch in new parts as they occur
 - Diagramming also uses a different part of your brain
 - Only keep what you need, make sure to simplify
 - Have seen too many people obsess about their drawings
 - The ideas are more important
 - If you keep coding, you run the risk of remaining blind to problems, opportunities
 - If you shift to another way of thinking, you may see something you overlooked
 - Thinking, talking and drawing are cheaper than coding
 - Can generate a lot of ideas and just see what sticks
 - Reading can also be helpful, make a practice of always trying to learn new things
- Silver lining of alphabet soup - chock full of ideas
 - It is easy to make fun of alphabet soup
 - Technologies and standards that exist mostly for their own sake
 - XML, SOAP, SOA, et. al.
 - Studying them can reveal some interesting smaller pieces in the details
 - Very often these monstrosities started as collections of good, smaller ideas
 - If you can uncover those original good ideas, they can be inspiring
 - Be careful of golden hammer, though
 - The veneer of a proper acronym can encourage some to think they should use
 - Not all specs, tools are equally
 - Be skeptical, take them with a grain of salt
 - Strike a balance, don't dismiss them out of hand either
- Be persistent, even in the absence of inspiration
 - See the Inner Chapter on Will
 - Sometimes just coding, even without an idea, can spark ideas

Offset

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- Very often avoiding it because you don't think you have an idea is a false barrier
- The more ideas you use, the more occur to you
 - Like static friction, getting started is often the problem
 - Once you start brain storming, ideas come more easily
 - Personally, if I take the effort to put an idea down, it seems to clear the way for more
 - If I hold an idea in my head too long, I get stuck in it
 - If you take good notes, an excellent practice for many reasons, you can revisit later
 - I use either a notebook or a personal wiki
 - Both encourage just recording ideas as they come
 - Can organize them later

22:06

• 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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