

THE INVISIBLE TRACEBACK

BLOCKERS THAT MAKE
POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTORS
DROP OUT
(AND HOW TO FIX THEM)

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TWO REQUESTS:

TWO REQUESTS:

1. PLEASE IGNORE ME

TWO REQUESTS:

1. PLEASE IGNORE ME

2. PLEASE KEEP TRACK OF
WHAT YOU DO WHEN YOU
IGNORE ME

WHO AM I?

WHO AM I?

WHO AM I?

HACKER

WHO AM I?

HACKER OF SYSTEMS

WHO AM I?

**HACKER OF SYSTEMS FOR
PEOPLE**

WHO AM I?

**HACKER OF SYSTEMS OF
PEOPLE**

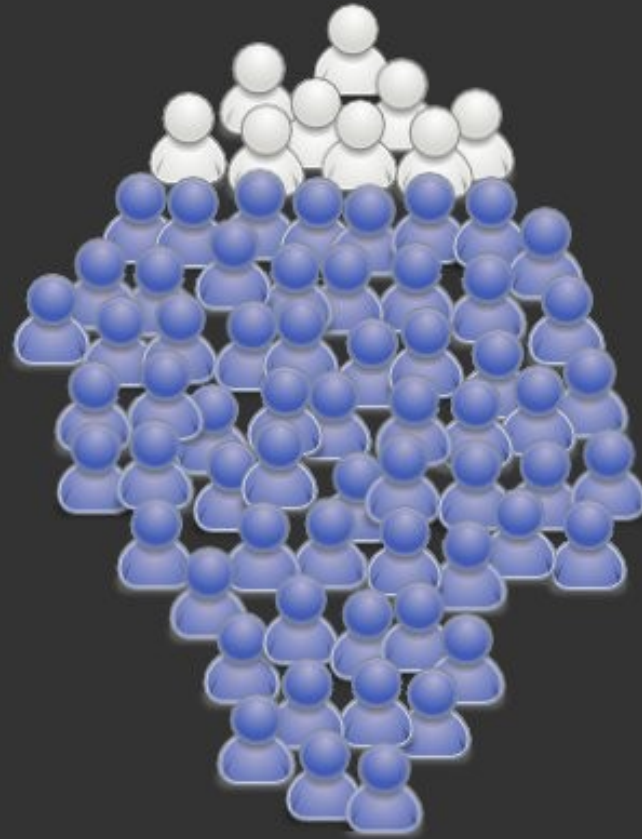
WHO AM I?

**HACKER OF SYSTEMS OF
PEOPLE MAKING SYSTEMS
FOR PEOPLE**

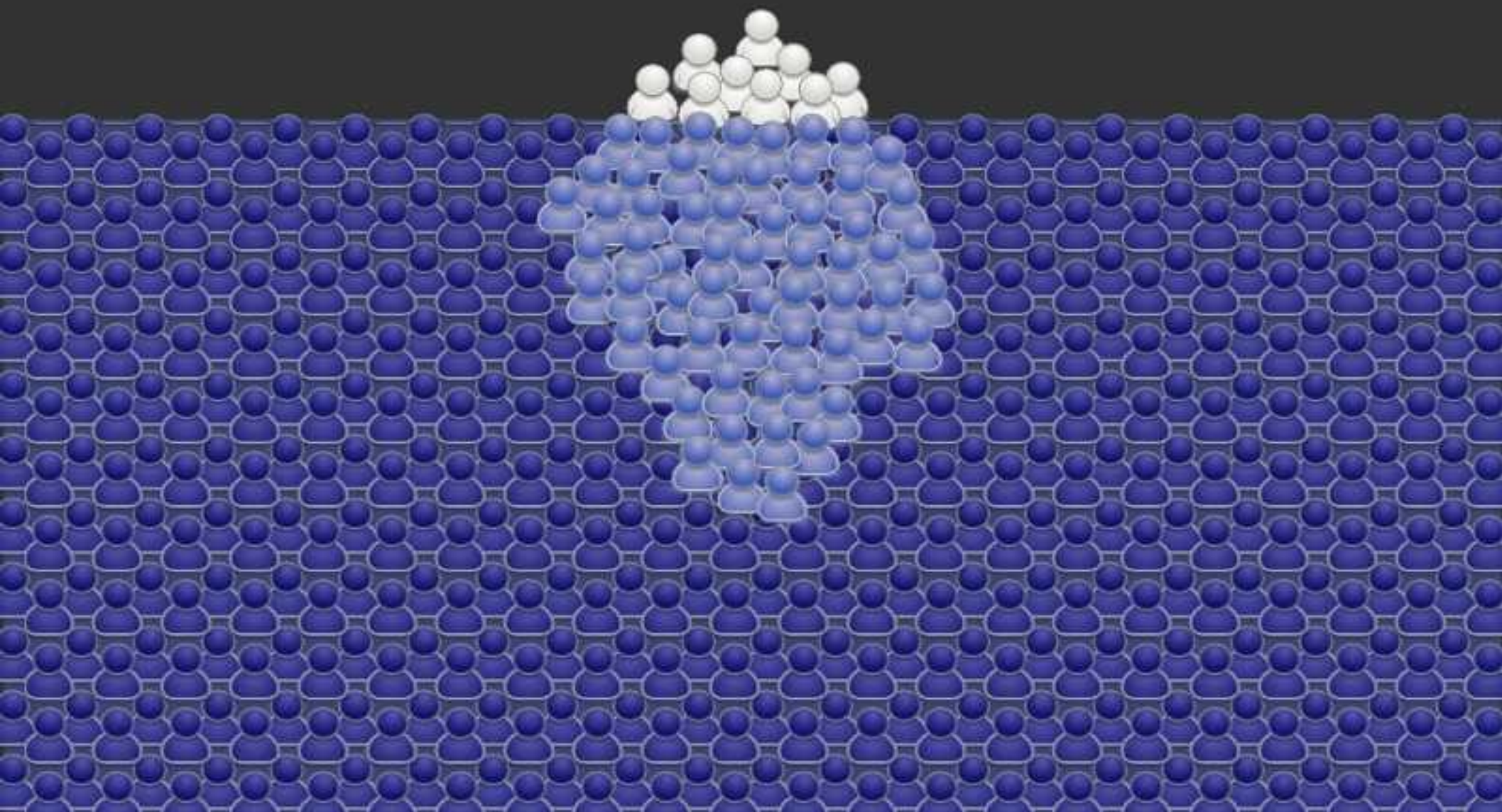
**WHERE ARE THE
PEOPLE?**



HERE.



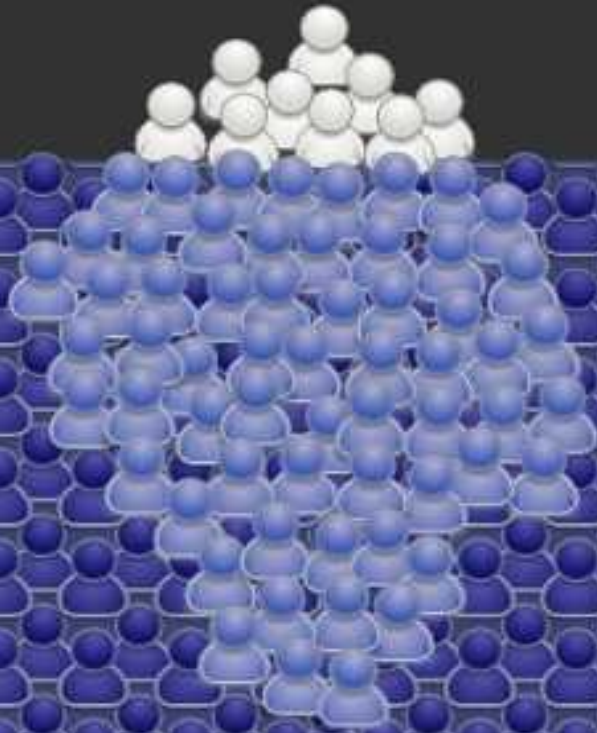
OR REALLY, HERE.



UNIX PHILOSOPHY #12: RULE OF REPAIR

**"WHEN YOU MUST FAIL,
FAIL NOISILY
AND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE."**

**THESE PEOPLE
KNOW IT.**



**THESE PEOPLE
DON'T.**

**LISTEN
UNDERWATER.**

**THE IMPORTANT THING IS
WHAT YOU DON'T HEAR.**

TRACEBACK

WEB.SERVER TRACEBACK (MOST RECENT CALL LAST):

```
EXCEPTIONS.VALUEERROR?: INVALID LITERAL FOR INT():
/USR/LOCAL/LIB/PYTHON2.4/SITE-PACKAGES/TWISTED/WEB/SERVER.PY, LINE
152 IN PROCESS 150 SELF.POSTPATH = MAP(UNQUOTE,
STRING.SPLIT(SELF.PATH[1:], '/')) 151 TRY: 152 RESRC =
SELF.SITE.GETRESOURCEFOR(SELF) 153 SELF.RENDER(RESRC) SELF SITE
TWISTED.WEB.SERVER.SITE INSTANCE @ 0X4086F32C
<TWISTED.WEB.SERVER.SITE INSTANCE AT 0X4086F32C> PATH '/AMD-
FULL/BUILDS/' POSTPATH LIST INSTANCE @ 0X40D2F2EC LOCALS SELF
TWISTED.WEB.SERVER.REQUEST INSTANCE @ 0X40D2448C <GET /AMD-
FULL/BUILDS/ HTTP/1.1> GLOBALS UNQUOTE <BUILT-IN FUNCTION UNQUOTE>
STRING <MODULE 'STRING' FROM '/USR/LIB/PYTHON2.4/STRING.PYC'>
/USR/LOCAL/LIB/PYTHON2.4/SITE-PACKAGES/TWISTED/WEB/SERVER.PY, LINE
507 IN GETRESOURCEFOR 505 # SERVERS AND DISCONNECTED SITES. 506
REQUEST.SITEPATH = COPY.COPY(REQUEST.PREPATH) 507 RETURN
RESOURCE.GETCHILDFORREQUEST(SELF.RESOURCE, REQUEST) 508 SELF
RESOURCE.BUILDBOT.STATUS.HTML.STATUSRESOURCE? INSTANCE @
0X4086512C <BUILDBOT.STATUS.HTML.STATUSRESOURCE? INSTANCE AT
0X4086512C> LOCALS SELF TWISTED.WEB.SERVER.SITE INSTANCE @
0X4086F32C <TWISTED.WEB.SERVER.SITE INSTANCE AT 0X4086F32C> REQUEST
TWISTED.WEB.SERVER.REQUEST INSTANCE @ 0X40D2448C <GET /AMD-
FULL/BUILDS/ HTTP/1.1> GLOBALS COPY <MODULE 'COPY' FROM
'/USR/LIB/PYTHON2.4/COPY.PYC'> RESOURCE <MODULE
'TWISTED.WEB.RESOURCE' FROM '/USR/LOCAL/LIB/PYTHON2.4/SITE-
PACKAGES/TWISTED/WEB/RESOURCE.PYC'> /USR/LOCAL/LIB/PYTHON2.4/SITE-
```

TRACEBACK

TRACEBACK

OKAY.

**LET'S MOVE AROUND
A BIT.**

BLOCKERS

1. I DON'T HAVE IT.
2. I'M NOT ALLOWED TO USE IT.
3. I'M NOT ALLOWED TO PLAY WITH IT.
4. I DON'T KNOW I CAN TWEAK IT.
5. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO TWEAK IT.
6. I DON'T SEE WHY I'D TWEAK IT.
7. I DON'T KNOW ANYONE WOULD CARE ABOUT MY TWEAKS.
8. I DON'T KNOW WHO WOULD CARE ABOUT MY TWEAKS.
9. I DON'T KNOW HOW TO APPROACH THE PEOPLE WHO WOULD CARE ABOUT MY TWEAKS.
10. I DON'T KNOW THAT THIS IS A BUG.

MORE BLOCKERS

11. THE PEOPLE ON THE MAILING LIST ARE MEAN,

12. I'M AFRAID TO BREAK IT.

13. I DON'T WANT TO MAINTAIN MY TWEAK FOREVER.

14. NO VOLUNTEER TRIAGE. OR: VOLUNTEER TRIAGE, BUT NO VOLUNTEER EXCLUSION

15. I'M TOO NEW TO FIT IN WITH THE OLD HATS

16. SITE IS NOT WELL KNOWN

17. NEED A BETTER ELEVATOR PITCH

18. NEED A BETTER PROJECT TO START WITH GRADUALLY.

YET MORE BLOCKERS

19. NEED TO CLARIFY APPROPRIATENESS OF PROJECT FOR PARTICULAR SITUATIONS.

20. I DON'T KNOW IF THIS WILL SUIT MY NEEDS

21. I DON'T KNOW IF THIS WILL SCALE

22. I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

23. I DON'T KNOW ENGLISH

24. I'M TRYING TO BE POLITE, AND PEOPLE ARE IGNORING ME

25. I'VE SIGNED AN NDA

26. I CAN'T FIND THE CORRECT PLACE TO CONTRIBUTE (TOO MANY MAILING LISTS, ETC)

LEARNING ABOUT VS LEARNING TO BE

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU KNOW,
IT'S WHAT YOU WANT TO
LEARN.

HOW TO GET A JOB

1. STUDY HARD
2. GET GOOD GRADES
3. MAKE A RESUME
4. DO RESEARCH
5. APPLY TO JOBS
6. GET INTERVIEWED
7. GET AN OFFER
8. ACCEPT THE OFFER
9. GO TO ORIENTATION
10. WORK ON SOMETHING

HOW TO WORK ON OPEN SOURCE

10. WORK ON SOMETHING

WHAT DO THESE STEPS DO?

2. GET GOOD GRADES
3. MAKE A RESUME
4. DO RESEARCH
5. APPLY TO JOBS
6. GET INTERVIEWED
7. GET AN OFFER
8. ACCEPT THE OFFER
9. GO TO ORIENTATION

FILTERS

**HIRING DEPENDS ON THE
APPROVAL OF ONE.**

**PARTICIPATION DEPENDS ON
A RAPPORT WITH MANY.**

SCAFFOLDING

SCAFFOLDING

DREYFUS MODEL

1. NOVICE

2. ADVANCED BEGINNER

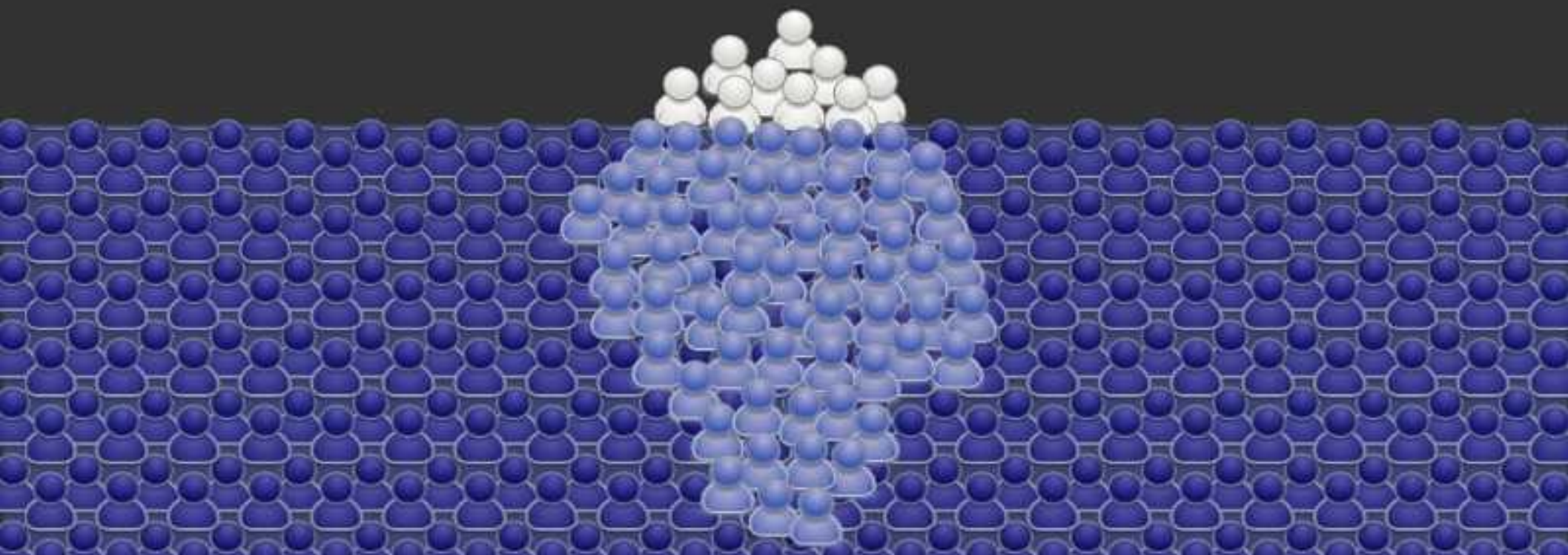
3. COMPETENT

4. PROFICIENT

5. EXPERT

RADICAL TRANSPARENCY

**TEACHES STUDENTS YOU
DIDN'T KNOW WERE THERE**



(LIKE THESE FOLKS)

FANCY WORDS

1. ACCIDENTAL LEARNING

2. ZONE OF PROXIMAL
DEVELOPMENT

3. LEGITIMATE PERIPHERAL
PARTICIPATION

LEARNING TO BIKE

1. WATCHING

2. SOMEBODY PUSHES YOU

3. RIDING ON THE DRIVEWAY

PAY IT FORWARD

**TO PAY FOR A LESSON,
DOCUMENT IT.**

LEGITIMATE PERIPHERAL PARTICIPATION

1. MISSION-CRITICAL,

3. NOBODY REALLY CARES

LEGITIMATE PERIPHERAL PARTICIPATION

1. MISSION-CRITICAL,
2. WE HAVE NO TIME
3. NOBODY REALLY CARES

"HARD TO CONTRIBUTE" IS A BUG

- 1. MISSION-CRITICAL**
- 2. WE HAVE NO TIME**
- 3. NOBODY REALLY CARES**

DREYFUS MODEL

1. NOVICE

2. ADVANCED BEGINNER

3. COMPETENT

4. PROFICIENT

5. EXPERT

RULE OF THUMB

EVERYTHING IS HACKABLE.

DREYFUS MODEL

1. NOVICE

2. ADVANCED BEGINNER

3. COMPETENT

4. PROFICIENT

5. EXPERT

ALGORITHM

1. THINK OF SOMETHING YOU ALREADY CARE ABOUT
2. RUN (WHILE THINKING OUT LOUD)

UNIX PHILOSOPHY #12: RULE OF REPAIR

**“WHEN YOU MUST FAIL,
FAIL NOISILY
AND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.”**

TRACEBACK

1. OLDER SIBLING USES
LINUX

2. DISCOVER THE GIMP

3. OFFER TO HELP

4. "NO, GO AWAY"

TRACEBACK

1. INTRODUCE SELF ON
MAILING LIST

2. "I'M IN CHARGE"

TRACEBACK

1. OFFER TO HELP

2. WAIT FOR INSTRUCTIONS

3. LOOP RUNS FOREVER

TRACEBACK

HOW ABOUT YOURS?

THANK YOU

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