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?

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):

Exception: 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)

<twisted.web.server.Site instance at 0x4086f32c> path '/amd-full/builds/'

Locals:
self: twisted.web.server.Request instance @ 0x40d2448c
request: twisted.web.server.Request instance @ 0x40d2448c

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 request.sitepath = copy.copy(request.prepath)
506 return resource.getChildForRequest(self.resource, request)

<buildbot.status.html.StatusResource instance at 0x4086512c>
Locals:
self: twisted.web.server.Site instance @ 0x4086f32c
request: twisted.web.server.Request instance @ 0x40d2448c

/usr/local/lib/python2.4/site-packages/twisted/web/resource.py, line 150 in getChildWithDefault
148 return self.children[path]
149 return self.getChild(path, request)

buildbot.status.html.StatusResourceBuilder instance @ 0x40c48c6c
Locals:
path: 'builds'
self: buildbot.status.html.StatusResourceBuilder instance @ 0x40c48c6c
request: twisted.web.server.Request instance @ 0x40d2448c

/usr/local/lib/python2.4/site-packages/buildbot/status/html.py, line 615 in getChild
613 num = request.postpath.pop(0)
614 request.prepath.append(num)
615 num = int(num)
616 if path == "events":

Locals:
path: 'builds'
um: request: twisted.web.server.Request instance @ 0x40d2448c
...
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.
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
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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