It's 2018 already? I was just getting used to 2017.

IN THIS WEEK'S ISSUE: Be selfish--mentor someone! Turn on those images, we aim for amusing (though sometimes we miss).

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(aka The Project Plan)**

Issue Number 73

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The "Back In Action" issue.

Thought For The Week:
"Holy crap it's cold."

1. Mentor Because You're Selfish
by Ethan Banks

The popular image of a mentor is a wise and kindly elder who, motivated by altruism, shares her or his hard-won knowledge and experience with a rough-edged youngster.

I've mentored people in my career, but altruism only took me so far. If I'm completely honest, much of the investment I made in others has been driven by **selfishness**.

In IT, many technical challenges are organizationally specific. A newbie can grind through books and Web research and self-study, but a mentor who can explain a problem and its solution in the context of the specific environment in which they work shortens the learning curve dramatically.

This is where selfishness plays a role in mentoring. As a senior engineer I like to be left alone to research, design, and think about how to move the organization forward. If I'm constantly weighed down by questions and tasks about the IT environment because I keep all the clues to myself, I can't be maximally useful to the business.

If I don't share my knowledge, I'll be too busy in the day-to-day to be effective in the year-to-year.

Therefore, I mentor. I want you, the mentee, to be able to confidently and capably make decisions, complete tasks, lead projects, and with any luck, leave me alone. See? **Selfish**.

You should be selfish, too.

I know you don't get paid to mentor. You don't have time to mentor. The ignorant questions from sad little junior engineers irritate you. Oh, I know. I feel that.

Even so, I argue that you don't have time to NOT mentor.

Think of mentoring like automation. When you do something over and over, that task is a candidate for automation. If there are network jobs you do again and again, mentor someone else to handle them. The advantages are multiplied.

1. You get better, because you have to understand what you're doing well enough to be able to teach it.

2. You make the IT organization better because you're less of a bottleneck. You've spread your skills across the IT organization.

3. You make the business better because you've freed up time for more senior tasks. You can apply IT to business needs instead of reacting to that red icon because no one else knows what to do.

So be a little selfish. Invest in others, and thank yourself for a job well done.

Sponsor: Cisco FutureWAN
FUTUREWAN'18: SD-WAN Virtual Summit, January 23-26

The [must-attend virtual summit](#) of the year is back!

Join the global community of leading industry analysts, technology professionals, service providers, and the Packet Pushers in a series of interactive webinars, roundtables and keynote sessions: all accessible online from anywhere in the world.

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FUTUREWAN'18
The SD-WAN Virtual Summit
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Jan. 23 to 26

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Thanks, Internet

All kinds of amusing things wash up in our social feeds.

Grandpa, is that you?

Packet Pushers Virtual Design Clinic

Coming March 2018!

The Packet Pushers will host a Virtual Design Clinic on Tuesday, March 20, 2018. This live, online event will offer engineering deep dives on network challenges and solutions.

It will feature presentations from the Packet Pushers, independent

speakers, and sponsors. After the event, we'll make the presentations available free for [Packet Pushers members](#).

Stay tuned for more details on speakers and how to register.

Internets Of Interest

A collection of pre-loved links that might interest you. "Pre-loved" because I liked them enough to put into this newsletter. It's not *true* love.

By Greg Ferro and Drew Conry-Murray

On The Rise Of Digital Addiction Activisim

Computer science professor Cal Newport comments on a letter sent by a major Apple shareholder asking the tech company to undertake research into the addictive properties of mobile devices, particularly for young children.

Newport writes that Apple is the wrong target. He ascribes more blame

to Facebook and other tech companies that profit from "compulsive use" of mobile devices, as well as the larger attention economy.

He also spots a potential business idea:

"I think there's an interesting opportunity here for start-ups to explore alternative business models that reward value more than raw usage (think: paid subscription)."

Check out the whole blog. There are a number of big and important ideas in this piece.

LINK

The Telecom Industry Must Reframe Open Source to Give it a Chance

Open source software and projects including ONAP, ONOS, and CORD undergird a host of telecom initiatives to rethink how these organizations operate their infrastructure and provide services.

But an article in SDX Central warns that the promises of innovation and interoperability with open source haven't lived up to expectations.

"...there are hundreds of different projects and standardization bodies, some of which are working on alternate solutions to the same issues. At this point it's clear the expectation that open source communities will save costly resources by avoiding reinventing the wheel has not evolved."

The article proposes a few ideas for telcos and carriers on how to make the most of open source.

LINK

Technology 2.0 - Post death of IT

Keith Townsend, a.k.a. [The CTO Advisor](#), delves into the notion that traditional IT will be disrupted by the rise of cloud and online services.

But rather than debate whether this will happen, he has advice for how IT leaders and professionals can continue to bring value to the business even amidst changes to how technology is delivered to the enterprise.

[LINK](#)

Join the Datanauts on their mission to bust silos and explore the latest developments in cloud, convergence, data centers, and more. Sign up free here.

Network Break is a weekly podcast that delivers news & analysis on the networking industry in a fun, fast-paced style. Subscribe here!

Product News

Find out about interesting new products, or get essential information about things you might already be using.

Endace Releases New Packet Capture Appliance For Branch Offices

Endace, which makes packet capture appliances for network forensics, troubleshooting, security, and performance monitoring, has released a new box for branch offices.

The EP-124 Network Analytics Platform is a 1RU appliance with four 1/10GbE links or one 40GbE link. It has 3.8Tbytes of available storage and can write packets to disk at up to 1 Gbps.

LINK

LiveAction Brings Service Provider Monitoring In-House

LiveAction is a network visualization and monitoring company with many deep specializations, including QoS and SD-WAN. On December 18, 2017, LiveAction announced that they acquired LivingObjects. This acquisition puts LiveAction into the service provider space, where traditionally they've catered to the needs of enterprises.

LINK

Briefings In Brief: A New Packet Pushers Podcast

Want more tech news? Subscribe to our newest podcast channel, Briefings In Brief. We take five minutes or less to summarize and analyze tech news, product announcements, or other interesting items that come across our desks.

LINK

Recent Podcasts

The last five podcasts published on Packet Pushers

PacketPushers.net - The Last Five

[Datanauts 117: Inside The World Of DBAs And SQL Server](#)

[Network Break 167: Meltdown & Spectre Strike; Oracle CEO Predicts IT Shakeout](#)

[Show 372: Kentik & Network Traffic Intelligence (Sponsored)](#)

[Datanauts 116: Understanding VXLAN Networking](#)

[Show 371: Looking Forward To The Year That Was 2017](#)

Full Stack Journey tells personal stories about the ongoing quest to become a full stack engineer. [Subscribe today!](#)

Priority Queue tackles niche and nerdy tech topics and cutting-edge research projects. [Subscribe here!](#)

Quick Survey: 2017 Regrets

At the dawn of a new year it's traditional to reflect on your goals, contemplate your dreams, and consider the ways you can improve yourself and the world around you.

That's nice, but do it somewhere else. Let's talk about the things you regret from last year. This may not be inspirational, but it might be instructive.

In 2017 I wish...

A. I'd studied harder for that certification
B. I hadn't made that config change
C. I'd said 'No' to that project
D. I'd invested in BitCoin
E. I *hadn't* invested in BitCoin
F. I regret nothing!!!

Did We Miss Something?

Got an link or an article to share? Email it to humaninfrastructure@packetpushers.net

The End Bit

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Human Infrastructure is bi-weekly newsletter with view, perspectives, and opinions. It is edited and published by Greg Ferro and Drew Conry-Murray from PacketPushers.net. If you'd like to contribute, email Drew at drew.conrymurray@packetpushers.net.

We don't give away your email address or personal details because that would suck.