The Finer Art of Being a Senior Sysadmin

http://bit.ly/seniorSA

Sheeri Cabral

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@sheeri www.sheeri.com

It should not be a length of time

Experience **is** a requirement

The Battle Against Any Guess
www.battleagainstanyguess.com

Which brings us to Tom Limoncelli...

http://everythingsysadmin.com/2012/09/seniorsysadmins.html

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(but is smart enough to check that assumption
since superficial symptoms can be deceiving).

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By creating processes others can follow
you enable delegation
and multiply effectiveness

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What's better?

http://everythingsysadmin.com/2012/09/seniorsysadmins.html

What's better?
Knowing a lot?

http://everythingsysadmin.com/2012/09/seniorsysadmins.html

What's better?
Knowing a lot?
Or being good yourself

http://everythingsysadmin.com/2012/09/seniorsysadmins.html

What's better?
Knowing a lot?
Or being good yourself
and helping others learn too?

But how?

wikis

But how?

wikis

checklists

But how?

www.checkmarkable.com

wikis

checklists

But how?

blog posts

wikis

checklists

But how?

blog posts

speaking

wikis

checklists

podcasts

But how?

blog posts

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wikis

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webinars

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blog posts

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writing a book

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podcasts

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speaking

writing a book

teaching

Ops School

https://ops-school.readthedocs.org/en/latest

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Virtual Self-Study Groups:
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MySQL Marinate

www.mysqlmarinate.com

wikis

checklists

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Keep learning from others!

g posts

speaking

writing a book

teaching

Level up!

Let's turn to John Allspaw

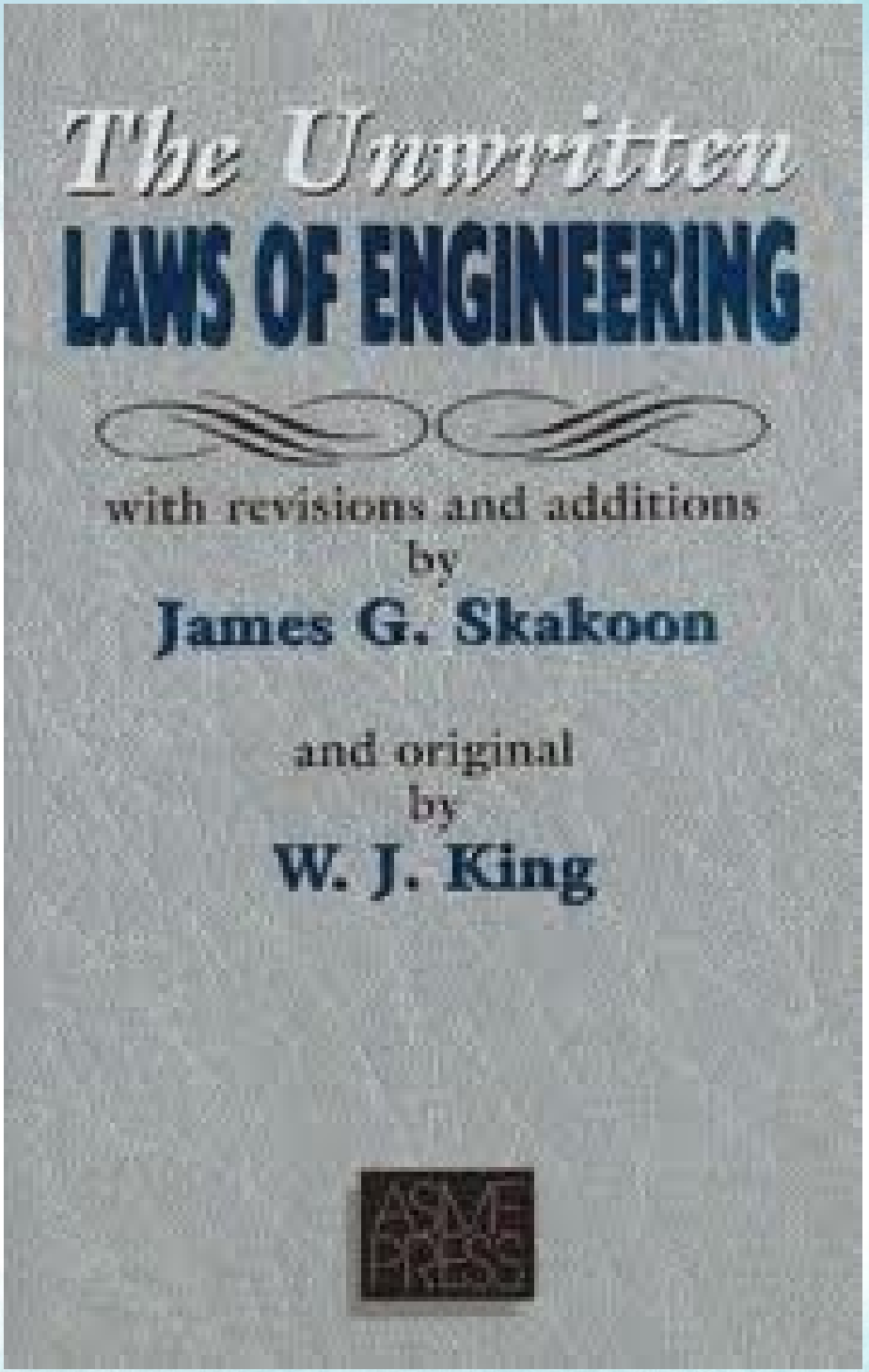
http://www.kitchensoap.com/2012/10/25/on-being-a-senior-engineer/

Experience aka “Engineering maturity”

Can there be engineering maturity in DevOps?

http://www.kitchensoap.com/2012/10/25/on-being-a-senior-engineer/

“The Unwritten Laws of Engineering” written in 1944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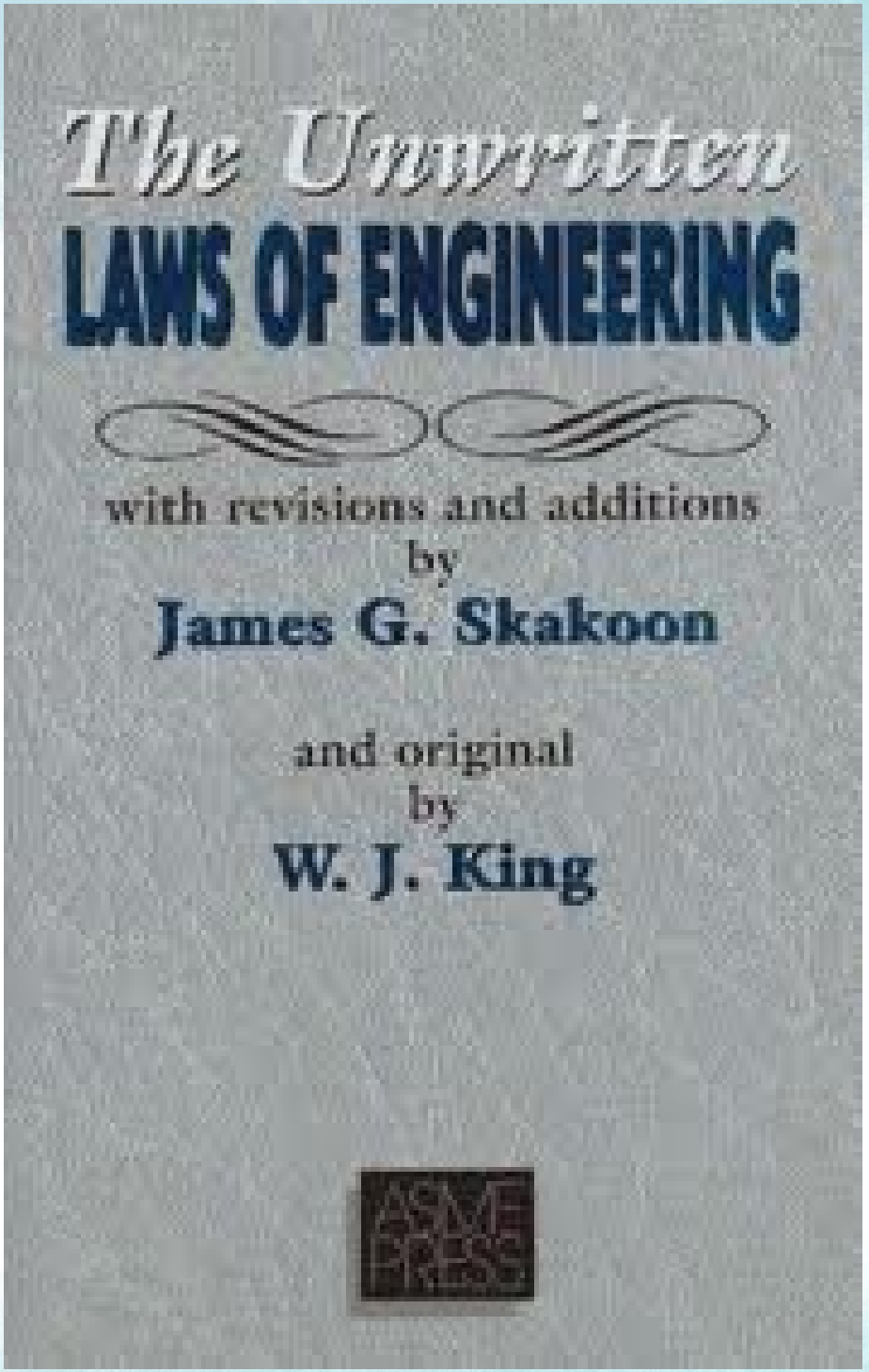
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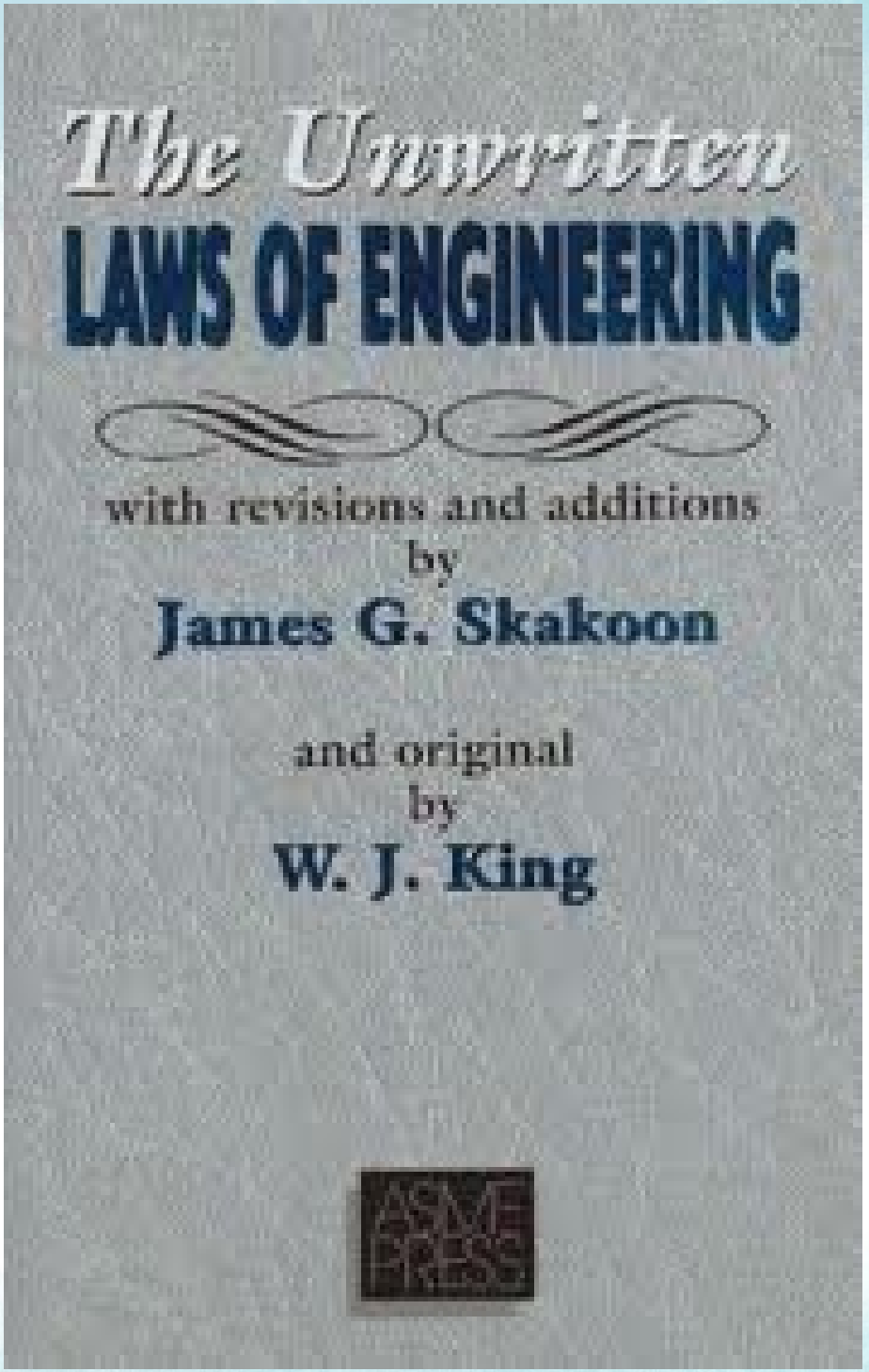

Mature engineers
seek out constructive criticism
of their designs.

It's nice to have people say “yes” and “you're a genius!”

It's nice to have people say
“yes” and “you're a genius!”
but it's not optimal.

Mature engineers
understand the non-technical areas
of how they are perceived.

It does not matter how good you are

It does not matter how good you are if nobody wants to work with you

Level up
on communication

Critique tech
not people

Mature engineers understand
that not all of their projects
are filled with rockstar-on-stage work.

Having the power to accept commits is like being a janitor

See also: documentation

Mature engineers make their trade-offs explicit when making judgements and decisions.

That means knowing what your tradeoffs are

Mature engineers know
the importance of

feelings people have.

Mature engineers know the importance of (sometimes irrational) feelings people have.

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Allspaw's article is worth reading: It ends with The Ten Commandments of Egoless Programming

The Peter Principle
and the myth of the corporate ladder

Do not contribute to the problem!

Feedback?