The Finer Art of Being a Senior Sysadmin

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It should not be a length of time
Experience is a requirement
The Battle Against Any Guess
www.battleagainstanygues.com
Which brings us to Tom Limoncilli...
http://everythingsysadmin.com/2012/09/seniorsysadmins.html

A senior person
A senior person understands the internal workings of the systems he/she administers.
A senior person understands the internal workings of the systems he/she administers and debugs issues from a place of science,
A senior person understands the internal workings of the systems he/she administers and debugs issues from a place of science, not guessing or rote memorization.
A senior person understands the internal workings of the systems he/she administers and debugs issues from a place of science, not guessing or rote memorization.
A senior person has enough experience to know a problem's solution
A senior person has enough experience to know a problem's solution because he or she has seen and fixed it before.
A senior person has enough experience to know a problem's solution because he or she has seen and fixed it before (but is smart enough to check that assumption.)
A senior person has enough experience to know a problem's solution because he or she has seen and fixed it before (but is smart enough to check that assumption since superficial symptoms can be deceiving).
A senior person automates their way out of problems
A senior person automates their way out of problems rather than "working harder".
A senior person automates their way out of problems rather than "working harder". They automate themselves out of a job constantly.
A senior person automates their way out of problems rather than "working harder". They automate themselves out of a job constantly so they can be re-assigned to more interesting projects.
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A senior person automates their way out of problems rather than "working harder". They document themselves out of a job constantly so they can be re-assigned to more interesting projects.
By creating processes others can follow
By creating processes others can follow you enable delegation
By creating processes others can follow you enable delegation and multiply effectiveness
What's better?
What's better? Knowing a lot?
What's better?  
Knowing a lot?  
Or being good yourself
What's better?
Knowing a lot?
Or being good yourself
and helping others learn too?

http://everythingsysadmin.com/2012/09/seniorsysadmins.html
But how?
But how?
But how?
But how?

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wikis
checklists
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But how?

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But how?

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www.mysqlmarinate.com
Keep learning from others!

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Level up!
Let's turn to John Allspaw
Experience aka “Engineering maturity”
Can there be engineering maturity in DevOps?
“The Unwritten Laws of Engineering” written in 1944
The Unwritten Laws of Engineering

with revisions and additions
by
James G. Skakoon

and original
by
W. J. King
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ASME Press

USD 14.95

69 pages
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.
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?