

2008-06-25 Show Notes

<u>Offset</u>	<u>Topic</u>
00:17	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Intro
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Musings on three years
03:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Word of the Week: deep space
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• http://catb.org/jargon/html/D/deep-space.html
04:51	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rant: Three Year Itch
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seems like the previous generation stayed at jobs for a long time<ul style="list-style-type: none">• My uncle was at HP for most of his life• A college friend's dad was at IBM most of his life• One of my career mentors was at IBM for the better part of a decade• At some point this seems to have changed<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coincides with the bubble• That was my first job change, to move to an up and coming internet company• Second change was when the bubble burst• That trend has continued for me• As a hiring manager at several jobs, so I was not unique• Earlier on, was critical of three year job stints• Lately, accept it as the norm• Used to say at some big companies could have multiple careers with the same employer<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Especially true of IBM• My old mentor did this during his long stay• Was there a tendency to shift focus every few year even with longer employment spans?• If so, would suggest it is not the market, but something about engineering• That's somewhat comforting to consider• Not constant career changes, at least<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have been able to stay within programming• True of the better candidates I have seen• I only consulted during my first few jobs• I have known some consultants who just can't stay on longer projects or switch to product development• Most of my career has been product development• Most of those jobs I left because of big changes<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Change of ownership• Struggling with growth problems• This has been so consistent across employers for me, feeling an itch to change now<ul style="list-style-type: none">• At the three year mark with my current employer

Offset

Topic

- It makes it hard to keep day-to-day frustrations in perspective
- Are these severe enough changes that leaving is warranted?
- Or are the irritations just normal for a growing company?
- Unlike past jobs, the core of the business is unchanged, still growing
- Company makes most of its revenue on subscriptions
- While we are trying to launch a new service, not trying to drop subscription aspect
- I lack the perspective to figure out why I am feeling the itch
- Nothing to compare it against
- On consideration, it is most likely normal growth
- As a hacker, there is also the risk of boredom
 - Especially with product development, don't want to change technology constantly
 - Run the risk of being left behind
 - If core technology is still available, still supported, less of a risk
 - Despite the recent criticism, enterprise Java is not going away
 - Lack of opportunity to play with genuinely interesting new technology, though
 - Could just adopt JSF, GWT since I am the principal
 - Experienced enough to realize the cost, risk is not worth it
- Not just the technology, the domain too
 - Most domains are pretty constant
 - Our boss is trying to effect a change in the industry, growing service model to new types of security
 - Skeptical he'll be successful
 - Someone has to try, that's how innovation works
 - Odds are against him, success is the exception
 - Again, could capitalize on the new opportunity
 - Makes more sense to wait, see if the market reacts well
 - Even so, had my fill of video for a lifetime, working on compression
 - Makes the itch worse, given how slow most industry change, otherwise
- What other opportunities am I missing?
 - Always that question in the back of my mind
 - Perhaps as a consequence of missing out on the dot-com millions
 - Maybe some truly novel start up is worth the risk
 - Gets easier to resist as I get older
 - Have worked for a variety of startups, seen how hard it is to succeed
 - What about other opportunities, to follow specific interests like security, public policy or journalism?
 - Many of these *would* require a career change
 - Probably some retooling, which is a big sacrifice
 - On the other hand, the podcast has continually surprised me

Offset

Topic

- Who knows what doors it might eventually open if I stick with it
- Thankfully, even if I change jobs, some things are continuous
 - Easy enough to find a job with many of the same technologies
 - Even if I have to switch languages, other knowledge transfers
 - System design, database design, algorithm selection, ability to learn new technology, skills
 - Career can evolve incrementally even if jobs are short lived
 - At times, felt it was worth taking a riskier job
 - Rarely have been on the market long, even during some bad downturns
 - Have had to consider consulting, which I hate, but would pay the bills
 - Not sure I am up for a big leap at this point, maybe in six or nine years
- Feeling the itch a *little* bit with the podcast, too
 - No desire to stop
 - Feel good about my routine, and the things I think work
 - Don't feel I have come anywhere near mastering it
 - Still much to learn about audio
 - Also still learning tricks, techniques to improve content production
 - The itch I have been getting lately is to strive to be more of a journalist
 - Do more of my own research
 - With a day jib, it is a bit harder to be flexible, open to find, follow a story
 - Do fear I will run out of topics, though
 - Wonder how much longer I can keep producing content before I start repeating
 - Have made small changes in the past
 - Will probably introduce some small changes for year four, too
 - Thankfully, don't have a history of short projects to bias me
 - My hobbies and interests have been too dissimilar to evoke this itch feeling as strongly as work
 - Would really have to be overwhelmed or go through a drastic change to lose the opportunity for surprising experience

29:32

- **Outro**
 - Contact me
 - Email to feedback@thecommandline.net
 - Web site at <http://thecommandline.net/>
 - IM to [command.line@skype](skype:command.line)
 - Listener comment line is 240-949-2638
 - del.icio.us tag is "for:cmdln"
 - <http://twitter.com/cmdln>

Offset**Topic**

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