IF ONLY I KNEW THIS SHIT IN COLLEGE
Achieving Your Dreams

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IF ONLY
I KNEW THIS SHIT
IN COLLEGE
I WAS A PARTICULARLY DUMB STUDENT
I AM A PARTICULARLY DUMB PROFESSIONAL
BUT I KNOW SLIGHTLY MORE NOW
This is the talk I wish my dumb student self had heard.
2008  INFORMATION SYSTEMS, CARNEGIE MELLON
2008  DEVELOPER AT PAC (PALO ALTO)
2010  DEVELOPER AT GITHUB (SAN FRANCISCO)
2014  WASTED YOUR TIME ON THIS TERRIBLE TALK
IF ONLY I KNEW
IF ONLY I KNEW
STARTUPS WERE FOR ME
I LOVE STARTUPS
I was one successful interview away from never being at one
YOUR WORK HAS IMPACT
13 EMPLOYEES AT ACQUISITION
3500 EMPLOYEES AT ACQUISITION
FEW CAN SCARE THE HELL OUTTA MANY
YOUR WORK IS MORE FUN
MORE OF THIS
LESS OF THIS
MORE OF THIS

PROGRAMMING
LESS OF THIS
MORE TIME SPENT WORKING DIRECTLY ON PRODUCT
YOUR WORK USES COOL TECHNOLOGY
WAY EASIER TO USE

PYTHON  RUBY  NOSQL
BRAINFUCK  NODE.JS
YOU ALSO GET TO WEAR MANY HATS
YOU’LL BE FILTHY RICH
YOU'LL BE FILTHY RICH
DO IT FOR **LOVE OF PRODUCT** AND THE SOMewhat **REASONABLE SALARY** WITH RESPECT TOWARDS SOCIETY AT LARGE
13 EMPLOYEES AT ACQUISITION
LUCKYGRAM
IT'S A GREAT INDUSTRY, EVEN WITHOUT THE MILLIONS
CONSIDER A STARTUP
IF ONLY I KNEW FINDING A COMPANY WAS HARD
Finding **The One** is hard
FINDING A GOOD ONE IS HARD TOO
PAY ATTENTION TO COMPANIES YOU ADMIRE
PAY ATTENTION TO WHO WORKS THERE
DON’T LET BENEFITS BLIND YOU;
LOOK AT THE CORE UNIT OF WORK
THE INTERVIEW
THE INTERVIEW
PAC WAS STRUCTURED, TRADITIONAL
THE INTERVIEW
MUCH MORE INFLUENCED BY MY BACKGROUND
THE INTERVIEW

GITHUB GOT ME THROWN OUT OF A BAR
THE INTERVIEW

MUCH MORE INFLUENCED BY ACCOMPLISHMENTS
THE INTERVIEW
TAILOR ANY INTERVIEW TO THE COMPANY
WE'VE PROBABLY ALREADY SEEN YOUR WORK

WHAT DO WE LOOK FOR?
WHAT DO WE LOOK FOR?
TASTE AND CULTURE
WHAT DO WE LOOK FOR?

T-SHAPED PEOPLE (DEPTH + BREADTH)
IF ONLY I KNEW

LEAVING A COMPANY WAS HARD
IT'S HARD TO DITCH PLEASANT COMPANIES
IT’S HARD TO DITCH FRIENDS
IT’S HARD TO DITCH THE OFFICE
IT’S HARD TO DITCH THE CITY
IT'S HARD TO DITCH THE INSURANCE
IT’S HARD TO DITCH THE SALARY
IT’S HARD TO DITCH THE PRODUCT
LONGEVITY IS GREAT
JUST KEEP ASKING QUESTIONS:
AM I IMPROVING?
IS THIS COMPANY IMPROVING?
IS THE COMPANY GOING TO BURN IN A CASHLESS FIRE MERE MONTHS FROM NOW?
DO I DREAD THE WORK?
SPEND TIME ASSESSING THIS
MOVING UP SOMETIMES MEANS MOVING OUT
IF ONLY I KNEW
HOW TO DEAL WITH HATERS
A SWEARING STORY
documentation is fucking important™
THIS MADE ALL THE WHOLESOME MICROSOFT PEOPLE ANGRY
I was perusing the Interwebs yesterday and stumbled on a new article from Zach Holman called Don’t Give Your Users Shit Work. I was a little taken aback by the swear word in the title. I clicked around Zach’s site, and found his Talks area and clicked on A Documentation Talk and the second slide dropped the F-bomb. Wow, really? I said to myself, is this how to connect with someone who is trying to learn about a technology? I was surprised to find swearing to up front and center on Zach’s blog.

**Is swearing in technology conference presentations appropriate?**
When did this start being OK? Swearing has always been a part of popular culture and certainly always been a part of technology and technology people. However, in my experience swearing has been more often an after work bonding activity, if at all. It’s hanging with fellow coders in a pub after a long day’s debugging. It wasn’t a part of presentations and certainly not welcome in the boardroom.

I propose that David Heinemeier Hansson popularized swearing unapologetically, or at least brought it out in the open at large keynotes and presentations. David says:
Fucking Your Way Out

I'm not opposed to swearing in presentations, or anywhere for that matter. I don't cringe when I read F-bombs nor do I care if you have the word "Fuck" embroidered on your Calvins. Swearing says more about your abilities as a speaker then it does your content... that's the problem.
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2011

F*ck These Idiots

A Microsoft employee named Scott Hanselman recently took up the gauntlet of an issue the Rails community settled in 2006:

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...

There’s hundreds of thousands of perfectly cromulent words to use that aren’t the Seven Dirty Words. Or even just the two words that evoke scatology or copulation. At least use some colorful metaphors or create a new turn of phrase. Shakespeare managed, thou frothy tickle-brained papinjay. Zounds.

When you hear that a Microsoft employee was telling DHH and a GitHub employee how they should talk, you might laugh it off with a thought like “f*ck that shit.” But let me expound a little further. Scott Hanselman’s employment status with Microsoft doesn’t just invalidate his opinion because I
Swearing

Swearing is a strong tool. It can be a particularly strong tool during presentations.

Emotion

When it comes to your talk, I want you to avoid bullet points. I want you to avoid recitation. I want to learn and to experience what pains and problems you faced, and then discover interesting solutions that grew from them.

I want a story.

Humans are storytellers. The best stories convey a sense of emotion.
Swearing to Make Your Point: A Tale of F**k and Sh*t

Profanity is a divisive subject. Some think obscenities have no place in any polite conversation,
Mr. Holman has a lot of growing up to do.

- JSAVIMBI, HACKER NEWS
I watched his video the other day and the first phrase that came to mind to describe him was, "smug little prick".

- GEORGIEPORGIE, HACKER NEWS
Yeah, I just wrote it for the page views.

- ONE OF THE BLOGGERS, TO ME, A YEAR LATER
ONCE YOU DO SOMETHING PUBLICLY, IT’S NO LONGER YOURS
PEOPLE WILL DISCUSS IT, REMIX IT, MISINTERPRET IT, IMPROVE IT
IF YOU REALLY CARE, THEN IGNORE THE HATERS
IF YOUR VALUE COMES FROM WHAT PEOPLE ON THE INTERNET THINK, THEN YOU ARE FUCKED
SHIPPING THINGS IS GRATIFYING
HELPING PEOPLE IS DEEPLY GRATIFYING
SO, CREATE.
POST SCRIPT: THIS **HOT DRAMA** WAS THE BEST THING THAT HAPPENED TO ME
IF ONLY I KNEW

NOT TO JUMP INTO AN UNKNOWN BODY OF WATER WITHOUT FIRST PLANNING A SAFE AND EXPEDIENT EXIT STRATEGY
IF ONLY I KNEW
NOT TO BE AN ASSHOLE
"BEING A DICK IS OKAY"
- STEVE JOBS
JUST BECAUSE CODE IS LOGIC DOESN'T MEAN PROBLEMS ARE LOGICAL
COMPUTERS DON'T CREATE PROBLEMS; PEOPLE DO
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A DICK TO BUILD GREAT PRODUCT
DON’T GIVE FEEDBACK IMMEDIATELY;
COOL DOWN FIRST
WHINY RANTS ARE INVERSELY PROPORTIONAL TO ACCOMPLISHMENTS
YOU WON’T REGRET POSITIVE FEEDBACK
IF ONLY I KNEW
HOW TO IMPROVE MYSELF
DON'T RELY ON WORK FOR GROWTH
BUILD RIDICULOUS SIDE PROJECTS
YOU’LL MEET PEOPLE
PEOPLE WILL MEET YOU
DUMB EXPERIMENTS BECOME SMART PATTERNS
IF ONLY I KNEW
EVERYONE IS PRETTY AVERAGE
EVERYONE IS A BIT INTIMIDATING
THE BEST TAKEAWAY IS THAT MOST HUMANS ARE AVERAGE
EVEN THE "BEST" AND "COOLEST" ARE PRETTY DUMB
“EVERYTHING AROUND YOU WAS MADE BY PEOPLE THAT WERE NO SMARTER THAN YOU”
THIS MAKES ME FEEL SO MUCH BETTER
IF ONLY I KNEW

HOW THE INDUSTRY WORKED
THE TECH INDUSTRY IS WONDERFUL
THE TECH INDUSTRY IS HORRIBLE
THE TECH INDUSTRY IS SMALL AS FUCK
SOMETIMES IT IS ABOUT WHO YOU KNOW
PUBLICIZE YOURSELF

TWITTER  BLOG  OPEN SOURCE  TALKS
QUIT CARING ABOUT TECHNOLOGY
DON'T BE AN ASSHOLE
STUCK AT A COMPANY YOU DON'T LIKE
WHO JUMPS INTO DEEP RIPTIDES
WITHOUT LOOKING