

Pycon Uganda 2023

Life and Tech

*snippets from the past, sounds & smells of the
present with sights set to the future*

*By Stephen Senkomago Musoke
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*Create a lifestyle that brings out
the best in you by creating
options and taking control*



MAKE A
DENT
U IN THE ↴
Universe!

MANTRA

It is not death that a
man/woman should
fear, but s/he should
fear never beginning to
live

~

Marcus Aurelius
Meditations 12.1

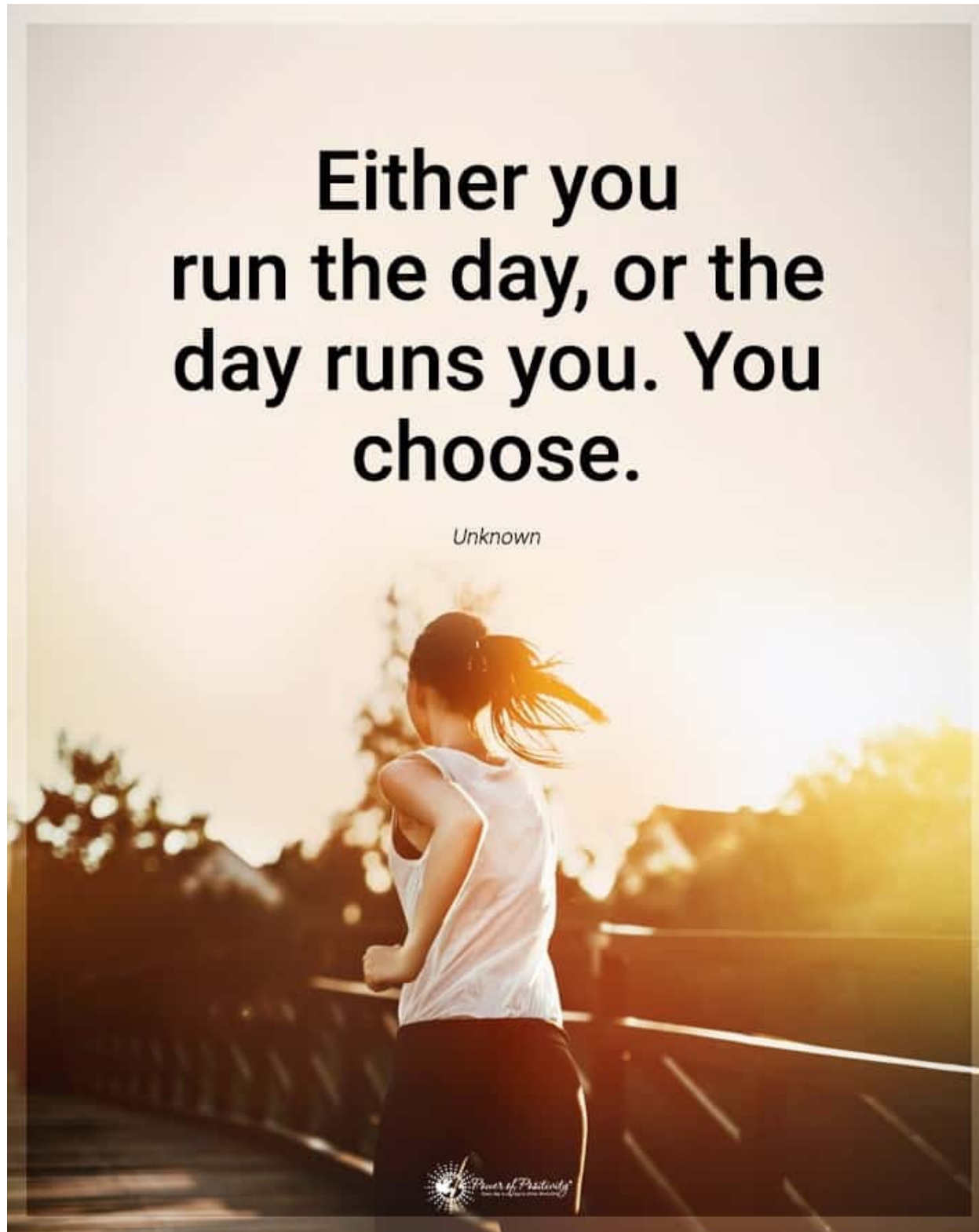




AND SO IT BEGINS

**Either you
run the day, or the
day runs you. You
choose.**

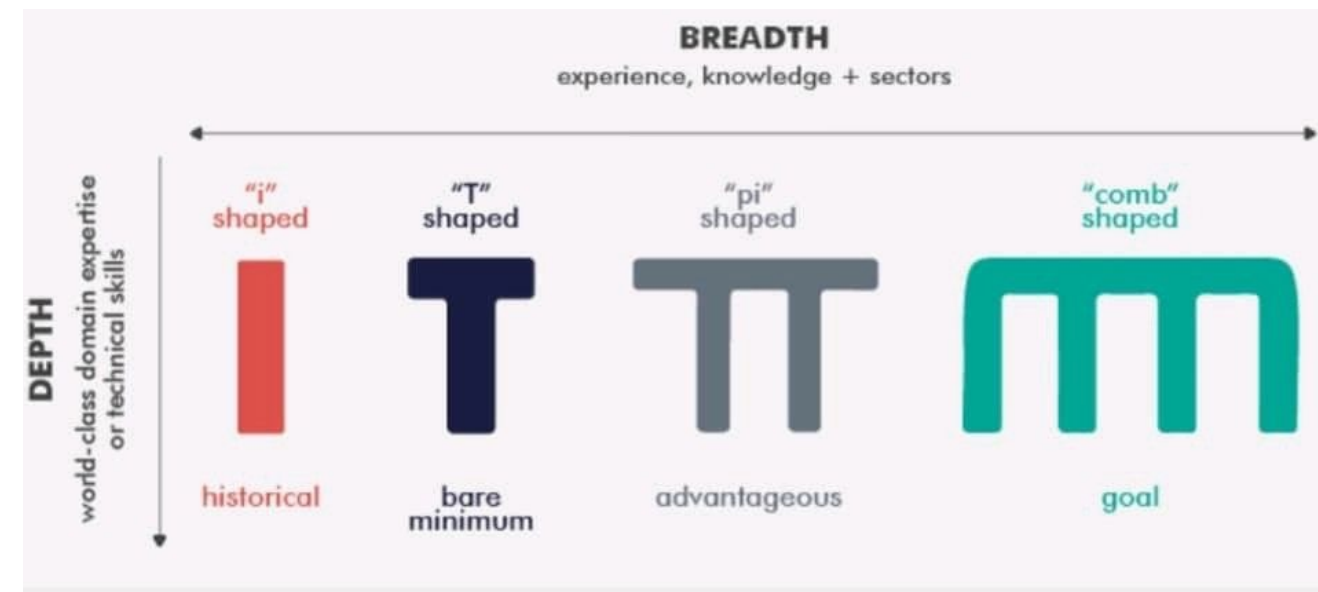
Unknown



- ❑ Mastery – how do you stand out: Kaizen
- ❑ Outwork everybody – put in the work and you will stand out
- ❑ Luck – create your own luck
- ❑ Opensource
- ❑ Mantras – what do you repeat to yourself everyday
- ❑ Co-opetition
- ❑ Compounding – the long game

MASTERY

- ❑ Noun: *comprehensive knowledge or skill in a particular subject or activity*
- ❑ Your experiences, network, circumstances, environment make you unique
- ❑ You need 10,000 hours (Malcolm Gladwell) or 10,000 iterations (Naval)
- ❑ One skill good, 2 skills good, more skills better – compounding
- ❑ Subject Matter Expertise – health, fintech, agriculture



OUTWORK EVERYBODY

- The best simply don't become the best without putting in the work.
- Outworking the rest means:
- Applying ourselves more than everyone around us.
- Committing ourselves more than everyone else.
- Studying our craft, industry, or specialty more than everyone else
- Be like an athlete – train,



LUCK – OPPORTUNITY MEETS PREPARATION



Publishing your work increases your luck

FOR EVERY SNARKY COMMENT, THERE ARE 10X AS MANY PEOPLE ADMIRING YOUR WORK.



Artwork: Ariel Davis



Aaron Francis // MARKETING ENGINEER, TUPLE

Capturing the luck

You've *increased the odds* that good, unexpected things will come your way. The exact form is hard to predict, but here are a few potential outcomes:

- People start to know you as the person that talks about X, Y, and Z.
- You start to get emails from people saying that they read your stuff and liked it.
- You get a DM about a job you might be interested in.

“

I'm a great believer in luck. The harder I work, the more of it I seem to have.

THOMAS JEFFERSON

”

OPENSOURCE

□ Ethos

- Shared knowledge, knowing that others will be able to build on it and make it better
- Scratch your own itch, share the experiences with others
- Stand on the shoulders of giants

□ Social construct around technology – the village raises a child, thus the child has a responsibility to support the village (in some way, shape or form)

□ Build a bigger table instead of a higher wall

□ Coded in Africa for Africa by Africans

□ Start your journey - HacktoberFest, Google Summer of Code

□ Build, sharpen, showcase your capabilities on the global stage



MANTRAS



- ❑ On time is late!
- ❑ Always show up, deliver even on your bad days
- ❑ Grit: out-work, outlast the competition
- ❑ When in doubt over-communicate, Bad news must travel fast
- ❑ Invest in yourself – buy books, software tools, computer equipment, productivity enhancements
- ❑ Pay It Forward – answer questions, Volunteer to help others, even within your team & organization
- ❑ Work hard so that you can know when to work smart
- ❑ Be the change you want to see in the world

COMPOUNDING

The man who does **more than he is **paid** for will soon be paid for more than he does.**
- Napoleon Hill



- ❑ Making time work in your favor
- ❑ Your investments (skills, network, exposure experience) form a larger base on which future earnings may accumulate and grow faster
- ❑ Skills decay & atrophy if you do not use them (at times it is okay)
- ❑ Excellence today pays off tomorrow

DO NOT ...

“

**GIVE THEM NOTHING!
BUT TAKE FROM THEM
EVERYTHING!**

KING LEONIDAS



TECH

*The hardest thing
about writing
code is knowing
what to build*

*The end of a
melody is not its
goal but if the
melody does not
end it does not
achieve its goal*

*To go fast, go
alone. To go far
go together*

*Si vis pacem, para
bellum*

- ❑ Master your tools of trade – what do you have in your belt? IDE, framework
- ❑ Automate the manual tasks – leverage the Python skills you have
- ❑ Anticipate the needs of your clients, manager and organization – increase your value
- ❑ Share and teach how you do what you do – share your learnings
- ❑ Stay formless, learn, evolve, adapt, grow
- ❑ Learn from other practices – web, smartphone, data, AI/ML, SQL

CAREER

*Say yes first then
figure out the rest*

~Branson

*If you are the
smartest person
in the room, you
are in the wrong
room*

*Ask and thee shall
receive*

*The best way to
predict the future
is to create it*

- ❑ Work for your employer – invest 50% additional time exploring and improving yourself
- ❑ Share your knowledge experiences and lessons with others – at work, the world (remember luck)
- ❑ Try many different things to figure out what works for you
- ❑ Read, Read, Read & learn from others within and outside tech
 - ❑ The Company of One
 - ❑ The Innovator's Dilemma
 - ❑ The Art of War
 - ❑ 48 Laws of Power
 - ❑ Atomic Habits
- ❑ Keep LinkedIn, GitHub, Personal blog up-to-date & your resume polished
- ❑ Find your strengths and maximize the value/impact you bring to the table

FAMILY

*Companionship is
a key factor*

*Love is temporary
insanity that
makes one see
another as better
than all else*

*Relationships are
trying to make 1 +
1 = 3 even when
the ones are not
full*

*Jerry McGuire: I
love him not for
the man he is but
the man he wants
to be*

- ❑ There is no silver bullet or short cuts
- ❑ Hard/Difficult requires sacrifice but enjoyable & fulfilling
- ❑ There is no best approach
- ❑ There are however best practices
 - ❑ Companionship vs Love
 - ❑ Network – friends, family (despite challenges)
 - ❑ Talk with your partner (at least 1 hour per day)
 - ❑ Do something together – business, hobby
 - ❑ Do, Learn, adapt, refine, repeat....
- ❑ Work-life balance is a verb - a pendulum that keeps swinging

FINANCES

*Watch the pennies
and the pounds
will work
themselves out*

*Multiple income
streams are no-
longer a luxury
but a necessity ~
Cash Flow
Quadrant*

*Be the one person
everyone wants to
call and work with*

*Search for wealth
not riches*

- ❑ There is no silver bullet or short cuts
- ❑ There is no best approach
- ❑ There are however best practices
 - ❑ Pay yourself first – Rich Dad
 - ❑ At times it may be difficult to save, so maybe easier to take credit and pay off
 - ❑ Play the long game
 - ❑ Investing in your skills pays off – become better each day (compounding)
- ❑ Side hustles
 - ❑ Compliment the day-job
 - ❑ Ensure "NO CONFLICT" of interest or create questions of integrity
- ❑ Work, grind, sell yourself, increase your earning potential
- ❑ Open doors for others whenever you can

SHOW ME THE MONEY!!!

- ❑ Look for opportunities – get employed, start your own business
- ❑ Freelancers - Always take a deposit, get paid for work delivered
- ❑ Have a target billing rate (even if employed) – then work towards it building skills and networks
- ❑ When you get close, double the rate – start again



HEALTH

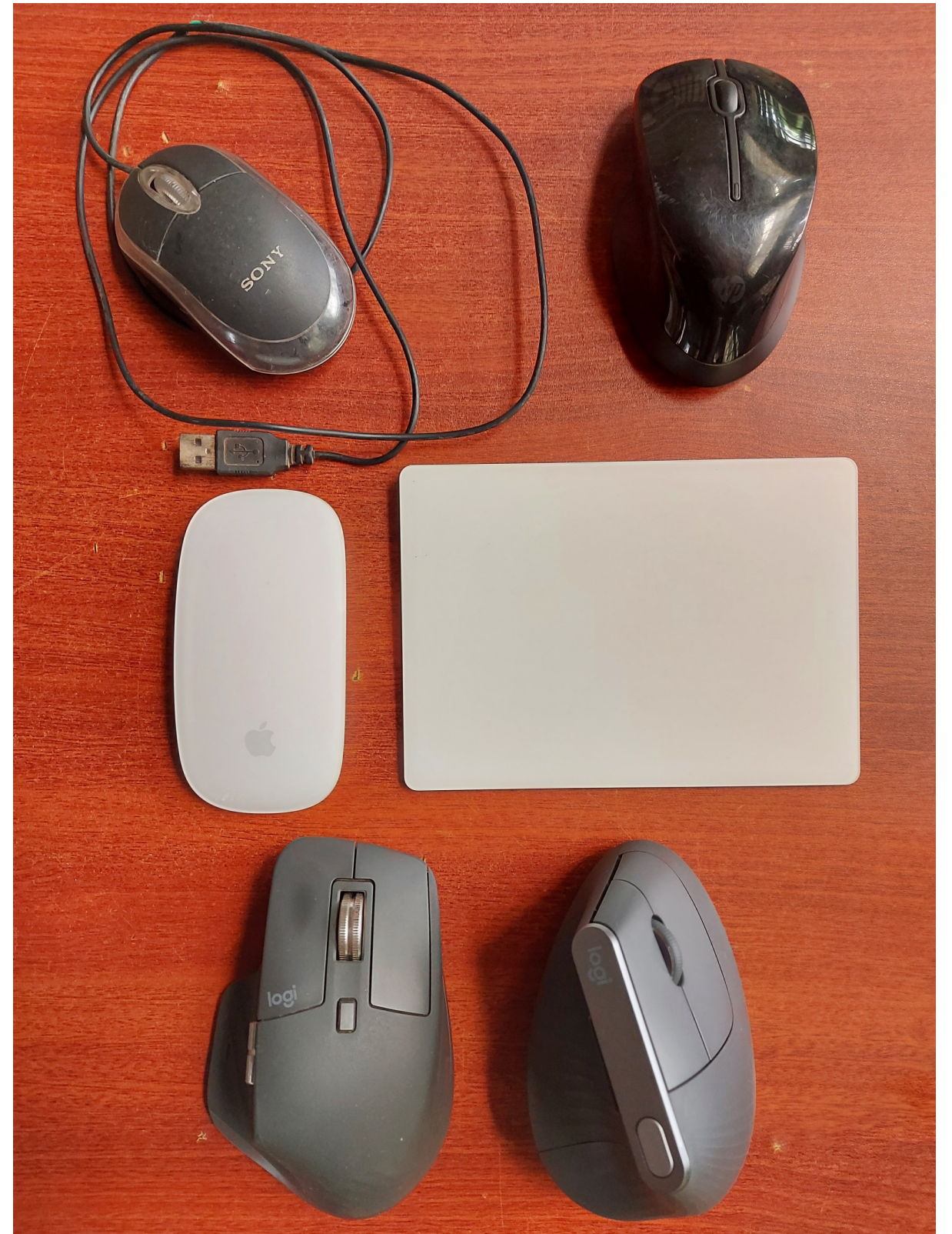


Rest when you are weary

Early to bed and early to rise makes a man/woman healthy, wealthy and wise

Find what works for you by trying something out, measure, rinse, repeat

EXPERIMENTS TO FIND WHAT WORKS FOR YOU



WHY ME?

- 27-year technology veteran – still reinventing myself over time
- Civil engineer by training – never practiced formally but use the skills everyday
- Self taught software tinkerer who loves growing techies – work yourself out of a job I was told (I enjoy doing that)
- 9 years back in full time software delivery
 - 8 years in e-health – Java/HTML/CSS, part time epidemiologist, disease surveillance specialist
 - 9 months in Fintech – using Python at Beyonic making business payments better
 - Poultry farmer – retirement plan



SHOUT OUT

Beyonic

🔊 / Bey-onic /

is a payment solution

that enables your business
to *manage transactions* like
a boss.



IN CLOSING

DO NOT BE TOO BUSY

Enjoy your projects, family and life

Keep learning

Read

Stand on the shoulders of Giants

Share your stories with others

Discipline, Discipline, Discipline

AND MOST OF ALL

Keep driving to get better everyday day ~ Kaizen

(Solomon King)

THANK YOU

For questions or suggestions

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<http://ssmusoke.com>
