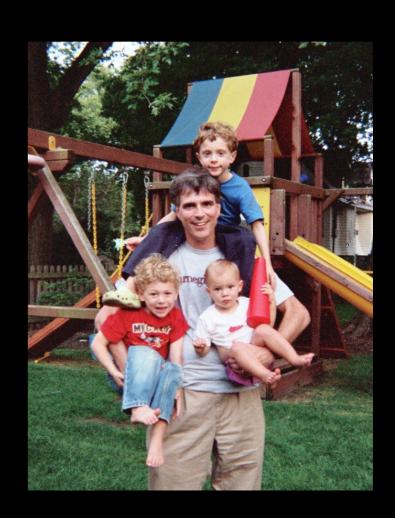
# Time Management

Randy Pausch
Carnegie Mellon
University



## August 15th, 2007: "3 to 6 months"



#### Today is 3 months and 12 days.









#### Goals

**Avoid wasting time** 

**Bosses & delegation** 

Specific skills and tools

Stress and procrastination

## www.randypausch.com



## Remember that time is money

--- Ben Franklin

what are you worth an hour?

#### Time must be managed, like money

Much of this will only make sense later

**Boss / Advisor / Parent** 

Lightning pace, heavy on techniques

# One Good Thief is Worth Ten Good Scholars:

• Time Management for Teachers, Cathy Collins, 1987

• Career Track Seminar: Taking control of Your Work Day 1990

#### "The Time Famine"

**Bad time management = stress** 

This is life advice

# The overall goal is FUN!





### Two hours wasted per day

Messy desk

Can't find things

Miss appointments

Unprepared for meetings

Tired/unable to concentrate

• Being successful doesn't make you manage your time well.

• Managing your time well makes you successful.

#### Goals, Priorities, and Planning

Why am I doing this? What is the goal?

Why will I succeed?

What happens if I chose not to do it?

Doing things right vs. doing the right things

100 things to do in my life

#### **The 80/20 Rule**

Critical few and the trivial many

Having the courage of your convictions

Good judgment comes from experience

Experience comes from bad judgment

#### Inspiration

"If you can dream it, you can do it"
-- Walt Disney

Disneyland was built in 366 days.

#### **Planning**

Failing to plan is planning to fail

• Plan Each Day, Each Week, Each Semester

• You can always change your plan, but only once you <u>have one!</u>

#### TO DO Lists

Break things down into small steps

Like a child cleaning his/her room

Do the ugliest thing first



#### **Due Soon**

**Not Due Soon** 

**Important** 

Not Important



#### **Due Soon**

**Not Due Soon** 

**Important** 

Not **Important** 



**Due Soon** 

**Not Due Soon** 

**Important** 

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**Due Soon** 

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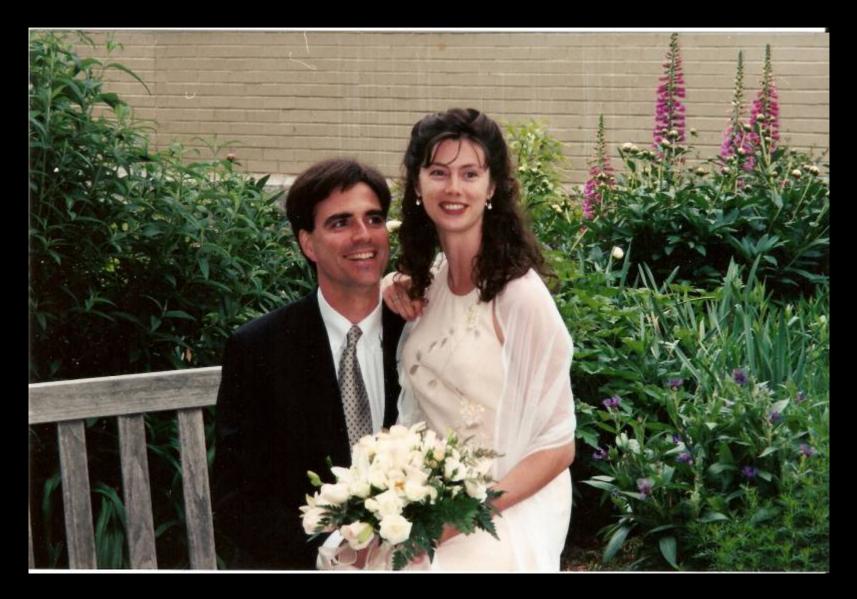
3 4

#### **Paperwork**

- Clutter is death; it leads to thrashing. Keep desk clear: focus on one thing at a time
- Touch each piece of paper once
- Touch each piece of email once; your inbox is <u>not</u> your TODO list



#### A good file system is essential



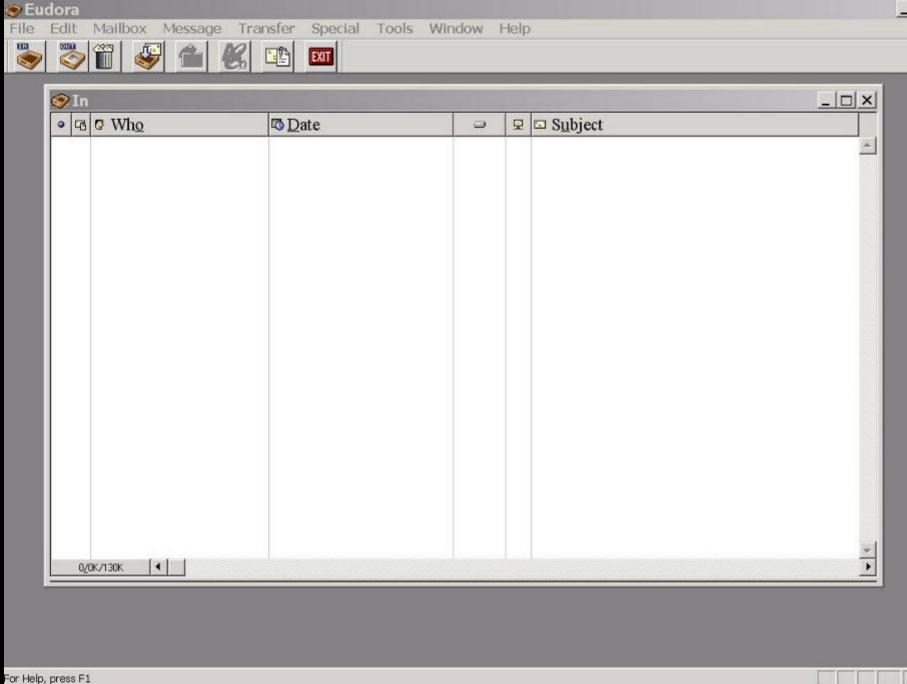








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X emacs: todo.txt
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File Edit Apps Options Buffers Tools
                                                                                                              Help
1 Barry Lhormer thank you -> skylights
O really account for my time: palm pilot program
1 Jane Prev: Steve & Wanda
1 NSF EHR directorate c:\pausch\RESEARCH\FUNDING\NSF\ehr/announcement.txt
1 SIGGRAPH paper on VR rig (need Dan & Asim packaging)
1 c:\pausch\RESEARCH\UntetherVR\OtherSystems.txt, especially Patti Denbrook at NRL
1 get funding (NSF and other) for Alice
l look for a designer (cliff replacement); - Design masters ; - HCI Ph.D. - undergrad
1 update benficiaries on retirement plans
1 wide FOV NTSC HMD
2 BVW: harden gloves/buttons, good screenshots in advance (press packet), camera rehearsal
2 Book Cohon, Lanier, Sutherland, Brooks <who else> for next year's BVW
2 Dan S. -> get out of teaching PUI in the future
2 ETC LONG TERM: we need faculty doing *real research*
2 Who are the 10 people to show the new Alice to? Jane Prey, Mark Stehlick, Jim Morris, Alan Kay
2 follow up email with Jinny Meade of Intel for ETC funding
2h order wedding pictures
3 Get Larry Niven to come to campus
3 Jai Will
3 Jai's investments
3 VR Build John Hench's Portal, All of Mary Poppins (penquins); stereo?; strob light transition; what can *only∲
we* now do in VR?
3 turing test for video games: simple study
3h put up door knocker
3h thank you note to Jim Graham
4 update my Wil (do a real one)
write a paper w/Denny on all the ways we can quantify immersion
5 Acm and ieee memberships so i can be a fellow down the road mary shaw
5 Jai: appraise ring: thank you to Chad callsToAppraiseRingRickicki's boss
5 caller ID that projects caller's face...
5 plumber; overall water pressure): Bob Buerkle of Standard Plumbing (412)-621-5579 we had Jeff Toluseak (sp?)
6 Petra Fallaux - Dan Boyarski recommends her film/scene/camera angle lecture ; Petronella E Fallaux : Miller G 🦑
allery : pf0w+@andrew.cmu.edu : x3877
6 caitlin intel fellowship
6 take a drawing class
6h constantini - send BVW videotape and thank you note
7 Six-sided IOWA cave connection (Get an ETC student there for the summer)
7 single height PCMCIA card with hard drive
8 shooting range on way to airport 494-2803
----XEmacs: todo.txt
                                (Text PenDel) ----
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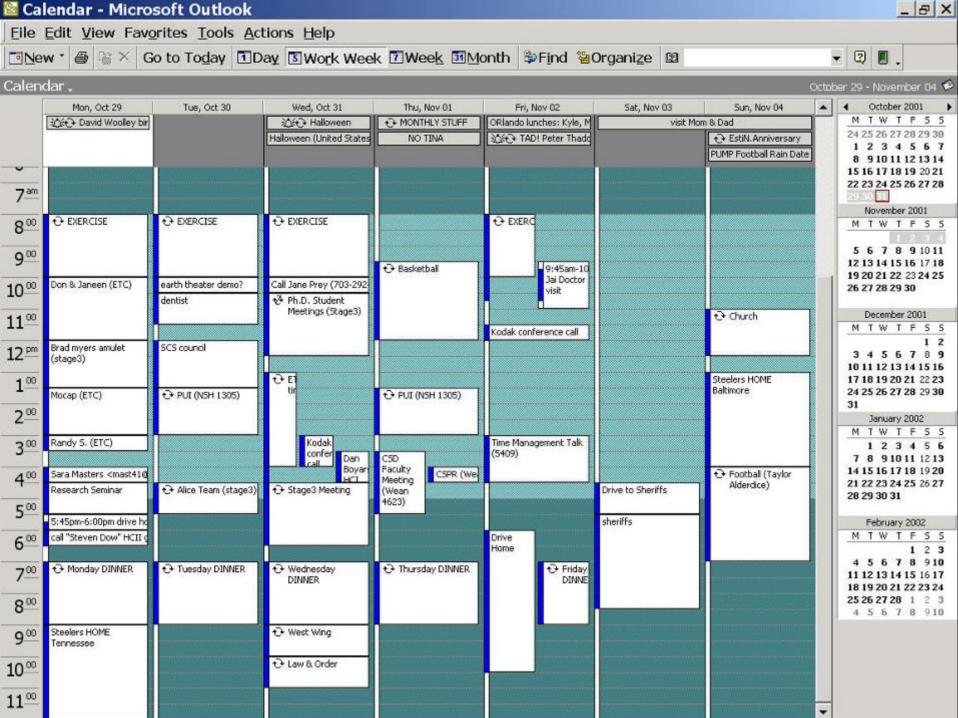








\_ & X









## Telephone

Keep calls short; stand during call

Start by announcing goals for the call

Don't put your feet up

Have something in view to do next

# Telephone

Get done: "I have students waiting"

How to hang up on telemarketers

Group calls: 11:30am and 4:30pm

# My "phone hour" every day

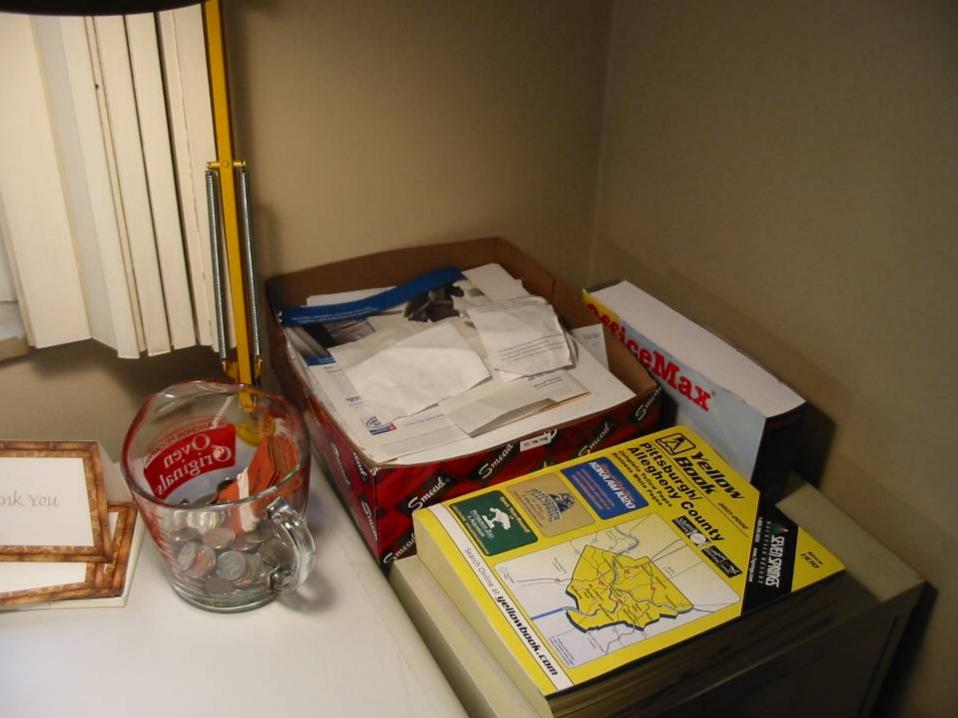




















# **Office Logistics**

Make your office comfortable for you, and optionally comfortable for others

No soft comfortable chairs! I have folding chairs, some people cut off front legs

# Scheduling Yourself

You don't <u>find</u> time for important things, you <u>make</u> it

Everything you do is an opportunity cost

Learn to say "No"

#### Gentle No's

"I'll do it if nobody else steps forward" or "I'll be your deep fall back," but you have to keep searching.

Moving parties in grad school...

# **Everyone has Good and Bad Times**

Find your creative/thinking time. Defend it ruthlessly, spend it alone, maybe at home.

Find your dead time. Schedule meetings, phone calls, and mundane stuff during it.

## Interruptions

6-9 minutes, 4-5 minute recovery — five interruptions shoots an hour

You must reduce frequency and length of interruptions (turn phone calls into email)

E-mail "ding" on new mail is an interruption -> TURN IT OFF!!



# Blurting: save-ups



# **Cutting Things Short**

"I'm in the middle of something now..."

Start with "I only have 5 minutes" – you can always extend this

Stand up, stroll to the door, complement, thank, shake hands

Clock-watching; on wall behind them

#### **Time Journals**

It's amazing what you learn!

Monitor yourself in 15 minute increments for between 3 days and two weeks.

Update every ½ hour: not at end of day

#### TIME LOG

	ACTIVITY	BUSINESS FUNCTION	NOTES
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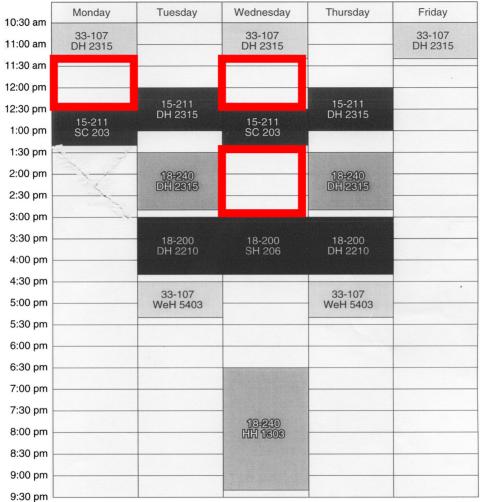
#### Fred Brooks' Time Clocks



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History of Fall 1997 Sepodile

Course	Sec	Units	Professor	Course Name
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18-200	С	12.0	Hoburg	Mathimatical Foundations of EE
18-240	В	12.0	Thomas	Fundamentals of Computer Engineering
33-107	G	12.0	Meyer, Feenstra	Physics for Engineering Students II
80-210	Α	9.0	Scheines	Introduction to Logic



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Course	Sec	Units	Professor	Course Name Fundamental Structs of Computer Science   Mathimatical Foundations of EE Fundamentals of Computer Engineering Physics for Engineering Students II Introduction to Logic
15-211	E	12.0	Blum, Goldstein	
18-200	C	12.0	Hoburg	
18-240	B	12.0	Thomas	
33-107	G	12.0	Meyer, Feenstra	
80-210	A	9.0	Scheines	



# **Using Time Journal Data**

What doesn't need to be done?

What can someone else do?

What can I do more efficiently?

How am I wasting other people's time?

# Work-Life Balance





STEPHANIE KLEIN-DAVIS 1 The Roanoke Times

a Bullitt Avenue resident, worries about the effect on her unborn child from the sound of jackhammers.

# **Coming to Charlottesville**



#### **Procrastination**

# "Procrastination is the thief of time"

Edward Young Night Thoughts, 1742

# **Balancing Act**

# "Work expands so as to fill the time available for its completion"

Parkinson's Law Cyril Parkinson, 1957

# **Avoiding Procrastination**

Doing things at the last minute is much more expensive than just before the last minute

Deadlines are really important: establish them yourself!

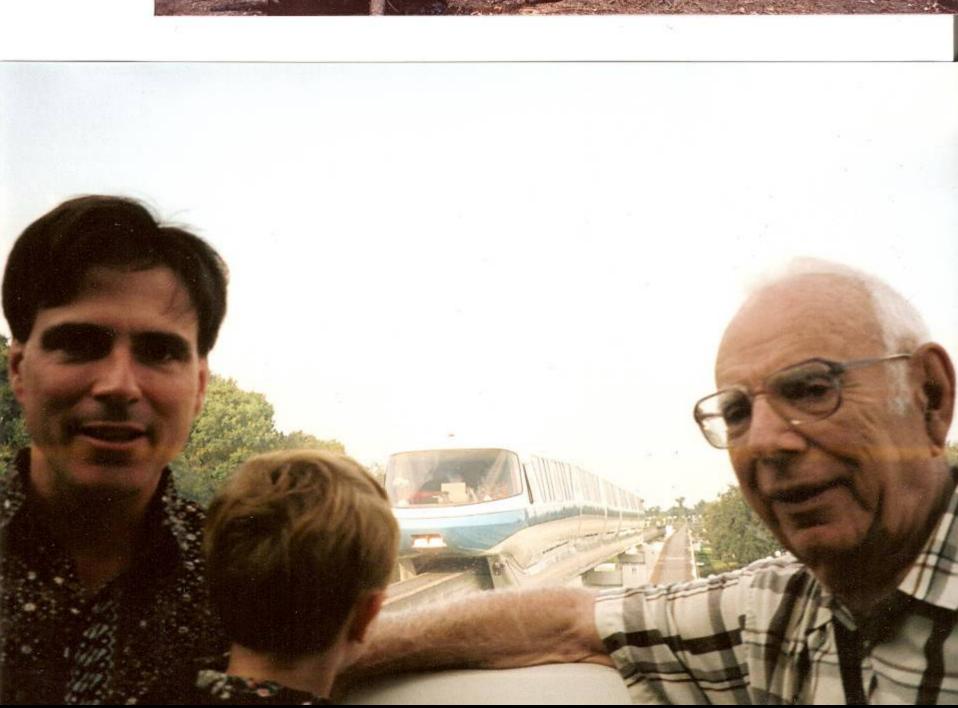
#### **Comfort Zones**

Identify why you aren't enthusiastic

Fear of embarrassment

Fear of failure

Sometimes all you have to do is ask!



# Delegation

No one is an island

You can accomplish a lot more with help

## Delegation is not dumping

Grant authority with responsibility.

To the worst job yourself

Treat your people well

Staff and secretaries are your lifeline; they should be treated well!

## Alf Weaver Taught Me...

**Specific** thing to do

**Specific** date/time

Specific penalty
Or reward
... for THEM



## Challenge People

• People rise to the challenge: Delegate "until they complain"

• Communication Must Be Clear: "Get it in writing" – Judge Wapner

• Give objectives, not procedures

• Tell the relative importance of each task

## **Never too Early to Delegate**





## Sociology

Beware upward delegation!

Reinforce behavior you want repeated

Ignorance is your friend — I do not know how to run the photocopier or the fax machine

## Meetings

Average executive: > 40% of time Lock the door, unplug the phone Maximum of 1 hour Prepare: there must be an agenda 1 minute minutes: an efficient way to keep track of decisions made in a meeting: who is responsible for what by when?

## **Technology**

Janitor's comment

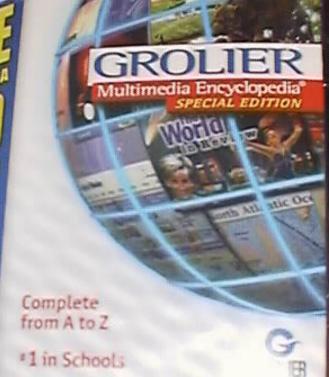
Only use technology that's worth it

# NOKIA 5190 WITH THAT?



Shown with optional color faceplate.





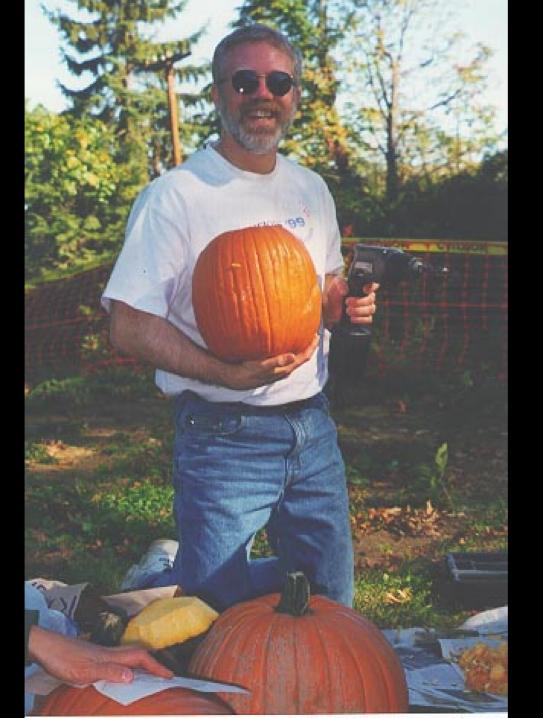


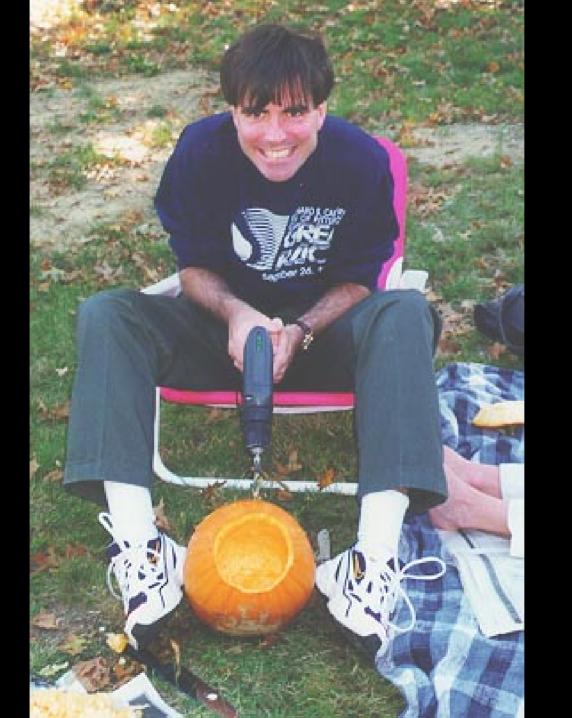
## Video of office worker was here

Change the way you're doing things









## Randy's Magic E-Mail Tips



Save all of it, for searching

If you want something done, only one recipient.

If you <u>really</u> want something done, CC someone powerful.

Nagging is okay after 48 hours

# Care and Feeding of Bosses Time Management Advice

Write things down

When's our next meeting?

What's my goal to have done by then?

Who to turn to for help?

Remember: bosses want results!

## General Advice: Vacations

#### Phone callers should get two options:

- 1. If urgent, contact John Smith at 555-1212
- 2. Otherwise please call back June 1

It's not a vacation if you're reading email.





## **Important Advice**

Kill your television – 28 hours/week

Turn money into time – especially important for people with kids

Eat and sleep and exercise. Above all else!

## General Advice

Never break a promise, but re-negotiate them if need be.

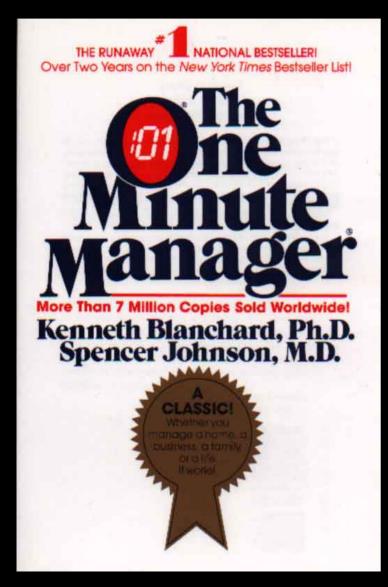
If you haven't got time to do it right, you don't have time to do it wrong.

Recognize that most things are pass/fail.

Feedback loops: ask in confidence.



## Recommended Readings



THE HABITS OF HIGHLY EFFECTIVE PEOPLE

#### Powerful Lessons in Personal Change

"Destined to be the personal leadership handbook of the decade."-Scott DeGarmo, Editor-in-Chief, Success magazine



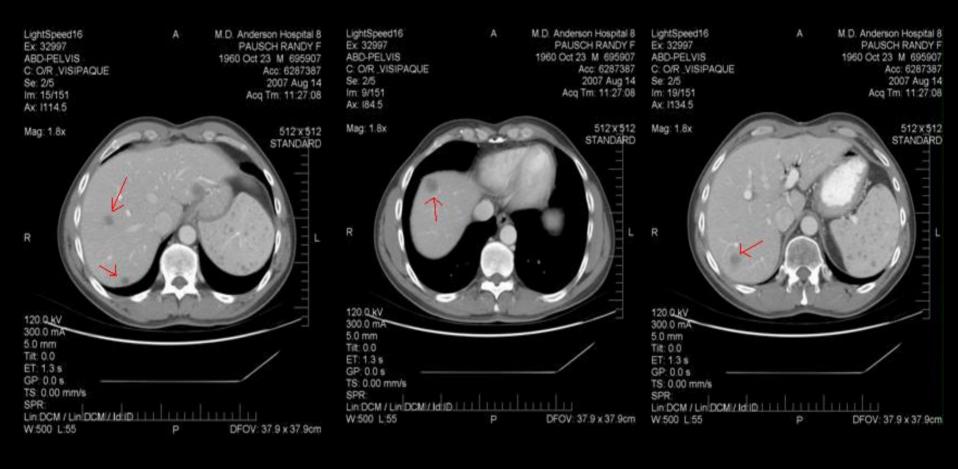
FRANKLIN COVEY CO.

## **Action Items**



- 1. Get a day-timer or PDA
- 2. Put your TODO list in priority order
- 3. Do a time journal, or count hours of TV

4. Make a note in your day-timer to revisit this talk in 30 days. Ask "What have I changed?"



## Time Management

Randy Pausch
Carnegie Mellon
www.randypausch.com

