

Time to drop a...



Photo by Karolina Grabowska

WHAT CHOICE?!?



Whyyyyyy?!?



STEREO BREAKTHROUGH



Bone Fone

A new concept in sound technology may revolutionize the way we listen to stereo music.

The Bone Fone surrounds your entire body with a sound almost impossible to imagine.

The image is a promotional poster for "Bone Fone". It features a black and white photograph of a woman with long hair, wearing a large, dark, collar-like device around her neck. The text is in a bold, sans-serif font.

S.N.A.F.U.

- 1999 - Y2K bug avoidance
- 2000 - Everyone in I.T. takes a nap
- 2001 - Dot-com bubble bursts
- 2002 - Amazon launches AWS
- 2003 - WiFi deployed to >6,000 hotels
- 2004 - Gmail debuts
 - Google indexes >8 million pages
- 2005 - YouTube uses more bandwidth in 1 year than the entire internet did in 2000
- 2006 - Y Combinator kicks off investment frenzy
 - Amazon launches ECC
- 2007 - iPhone (and later, Android) debut
- 2008 - Stack overflow, Github, Twilio debut
- 2009 - Iomega Rev drive debuts
- 2010 - iPad debuts
 - 4.7 billion mobile phone subscriptions
- 2011 - >600,000 iPhone/iPad apps
 - >400,000 Android apps.
 - >800 million FB users
 - Revolution in the middle east enabled by mobile phone use
- 2012 - Tablet computers become the fastest adopted hardware in history.
- 2015 - Windows 10
- 2020 - Pandemic causes global WFH overnight
- 2021 - SolarWinds hack
- something something blockchain
- 2023 - the rise of LLM and generative AI.



Photo by Alexander Schimmeck

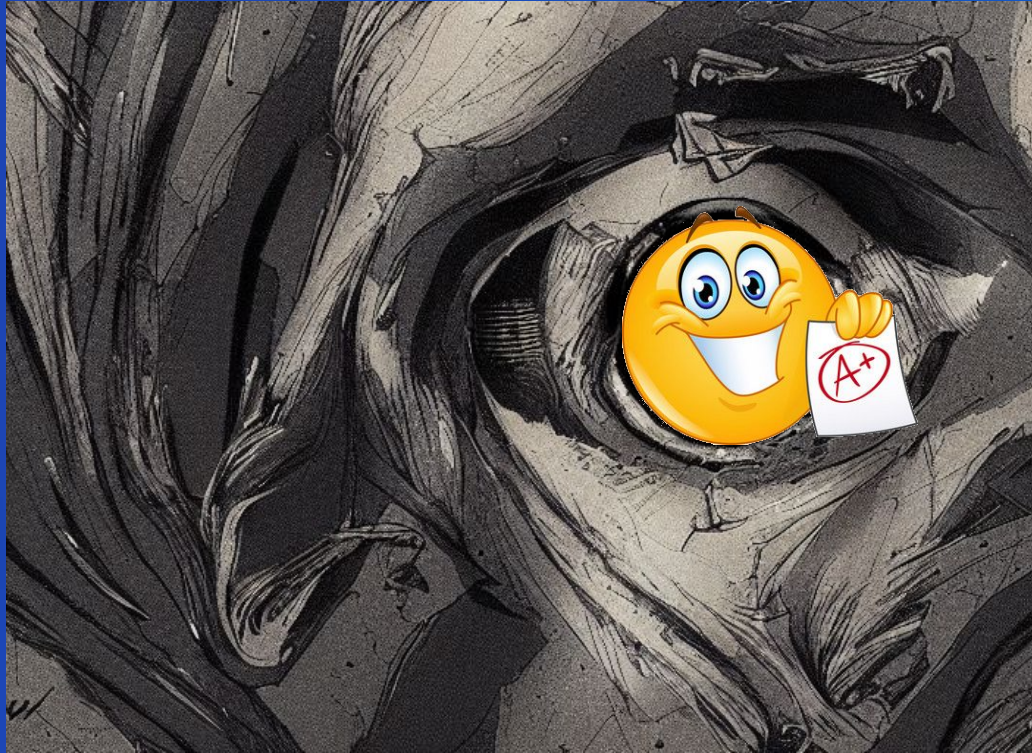
Looking back at a lifetime of poor technical choices

Leon Adato

\$date();



Or: When you stare into the face of failure



And success smiles back



Leon Adato

- Principal Technical Evangelist
 - **at Kentik**
- ~35 yrs in tech.
- ~25 yrs monitoring & observability.
- ~10 yrs as a Tech Evangelist, DevRel Advocate, and (ugh) “Head Geek.”
- Tivoli, BMC, OpenView, janky perl scripts, Nagios, SolarWinds, DOS batch files, Zabbix, Grafana, New Relic, and other assorted nightmare fuel.

@LeonAdato on almost all social media.

This is an Oyster Talk™



THE LEDE

**There's no such thing
as a poor technical choice.**



OK, maybe there are a couple

- No backups
- Thinking replicas, mirrors, RAID, or SAN are a backup
- Move fast, break things... IN TEST!
- You *do* have a test env, right?
- Trying to do it all yourself.
- Using Oracle
- Starting a land war in Asia

The Cleveland Freenet



10 years later...

ITS A FULL SYSTEM
the VI editor



I KNOW THIS

It's always DNS...

```
$ORIGIN tld.
$TTL 5m

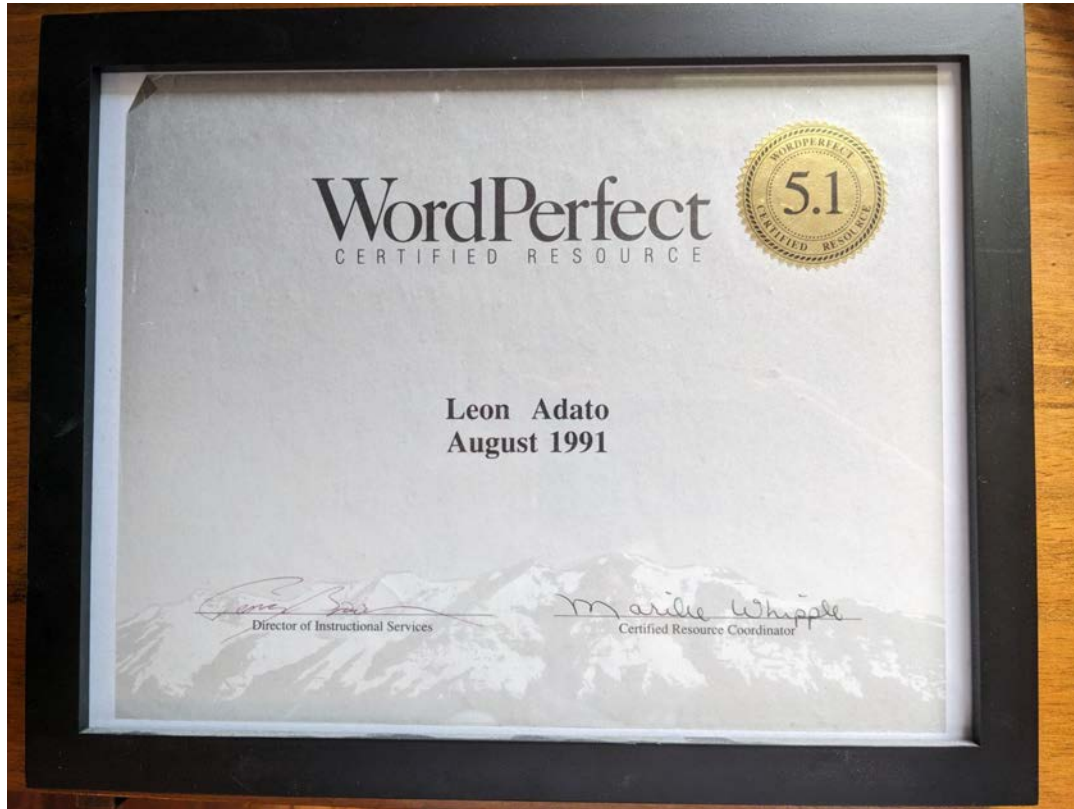
example      IN      SOA      ns1.example.tld. hostmaster.example.tld. (
              90          ; serial
              4h         ; refresh
              15m        ; retry
              8h         ; expire
              4m)        ; negative caching TTL
              IN      NS       ns1.example.tld.
              IN      NS       ns2.example.tld.
              MX      10      mail.example.tld.
              IN      A        127.0.0.1

              IN      TXT     "v=spf1 a mx a:mail.example.tld a:www.example.tld ?all"

$ORIGIN example.tld.

ns1          IN      A        127.0.0.2
ns2          IN      A        127.0.0.3
www          IN      CNAME    example.tld.
mail        IN      AAAA    :::1
mail        IN      A        127.0.0.4
```


WordPerfect



WordPerfect

```
The title of my document

This is my document. I think I'll add a bold word. And maybe
something underlined for a change.

    this will indent some text on both sides of the screen,
    which is kind of helpful

                But it's also cool to try flush-right

C:\WP51\DOD_DENU.DOC                               Doc 1 Pg 1 Ln 1.67" Pos 1"
{ ▲ ▲ ▲ ▲ ▲ ▲ ▲ ▲ ▲ ▲ ▲ ▲ } ▲ ▲
[HRt]
This is my document. I think I'll add a [BOLD]bold[bold] word. And maybe[SRt]
something [UND]underlined[und] for a change. [HRt]
[HRt]
[→Indent←]this will indent some text on both sides of the screen,[SRt]
which is kind of helpful[HRt]
[HRt]
[Flsh Rgt]But it's also cool to try flush[-]right[HRt]
[HRt]
[HRt]

Press Reveal Codes to restore screen
```

WordPerfect

<P>

This is my document. I think I'll add a bold word. And maybe
 something <u>underlined</u> for a change</P>

<blockquote>this will indent some text on both sides of the screen,
 which is kind of helpful</blockquote>

<P align="right">But it's also cool to try flush-right</P>

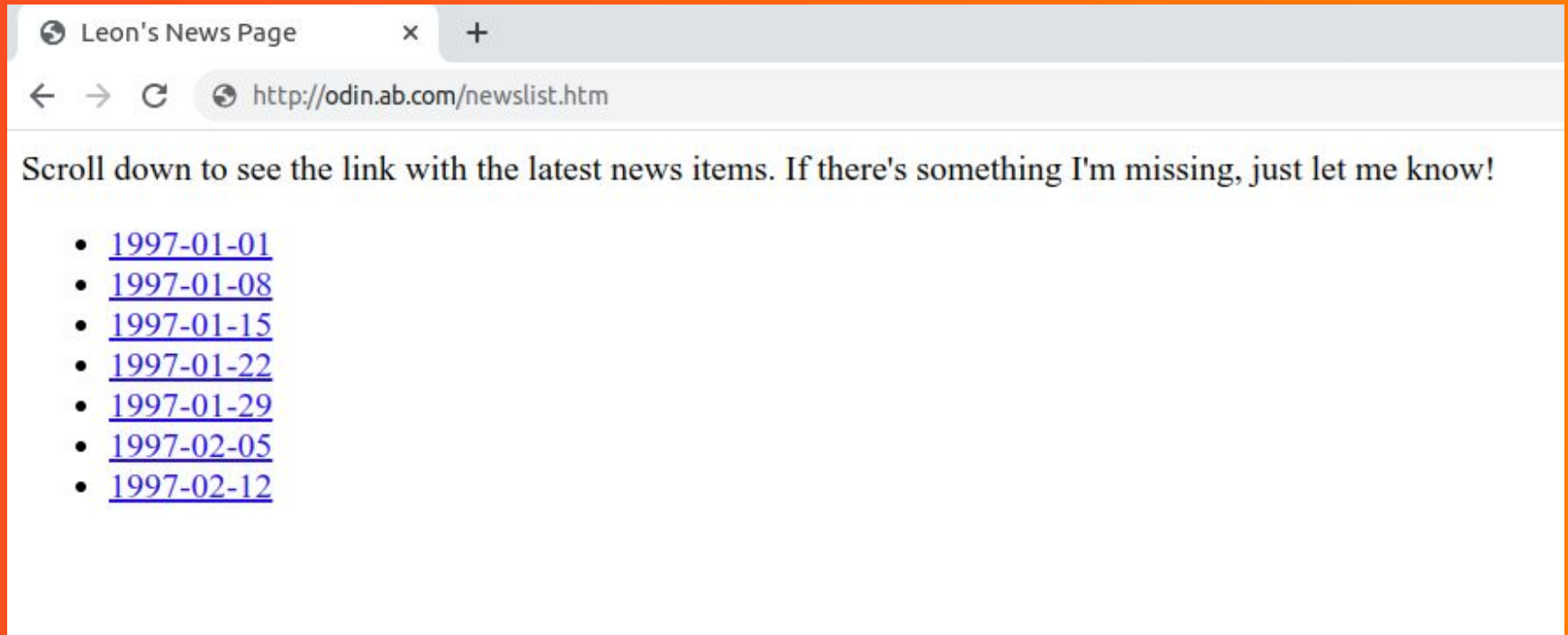
```
{ ▲ ▲ ▲ ▲ ▲ ▲ ▲ ▲ ▲ ▲ ▲ ▲ } ▲ ▲  
[HRt]  
This is my document. I think I'll add a [BOLD]bold[bold] word. And maybe[Srt]  
something [UND]underlined[und] for a change. [HRt]  
[HRt]  
[→Indent←]this will indent some text on both sides of the screen,[Srt]  
which is kind of helpful[HRt]  
[HRt]  
[Flsh Rgt]But it's also cool to try flush[-]right[HRt]  
[HRt]  
[HRt]  
Press Reveal Codes to restore screen
```

My newsletter phase

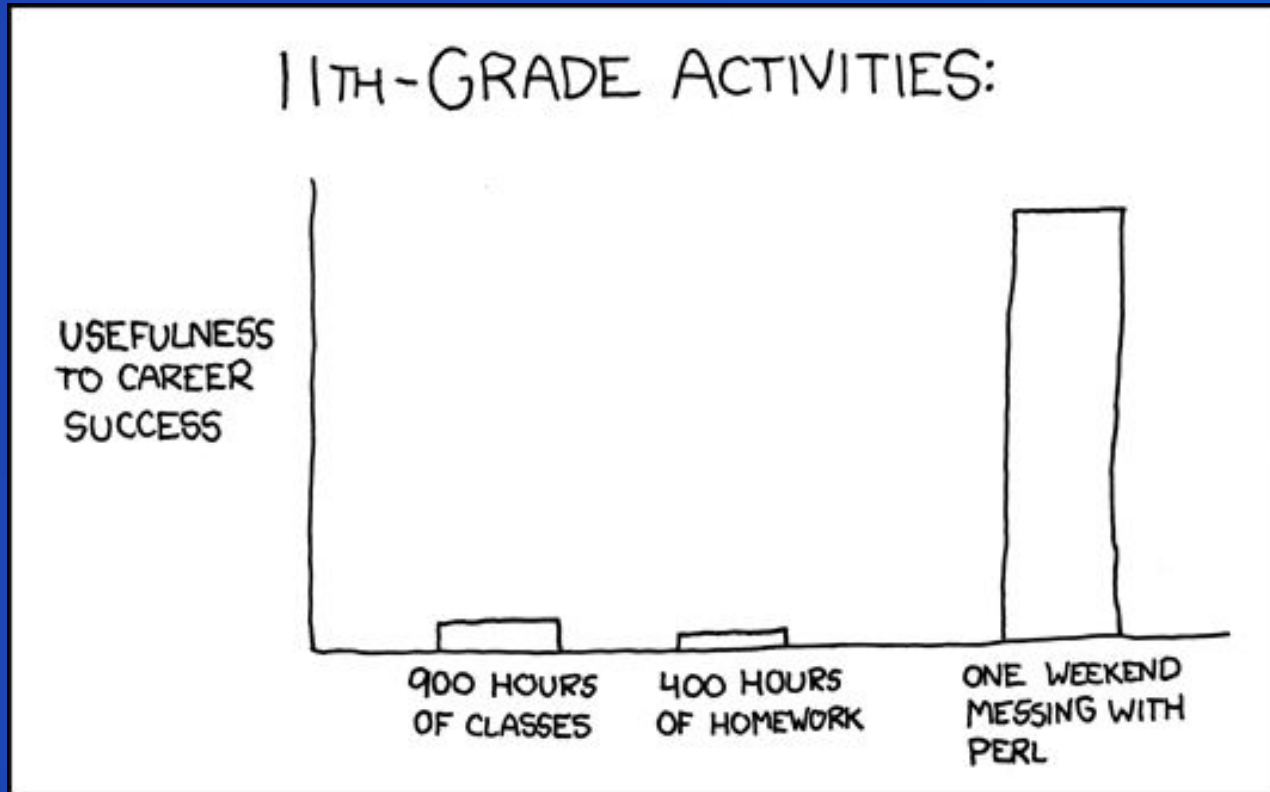


Photo by Wonderlane

My newsletter phase



Perl



Tivoli

Tivoli

THE POWER TO MANAGE. ANYTHING. ANYWHERE.

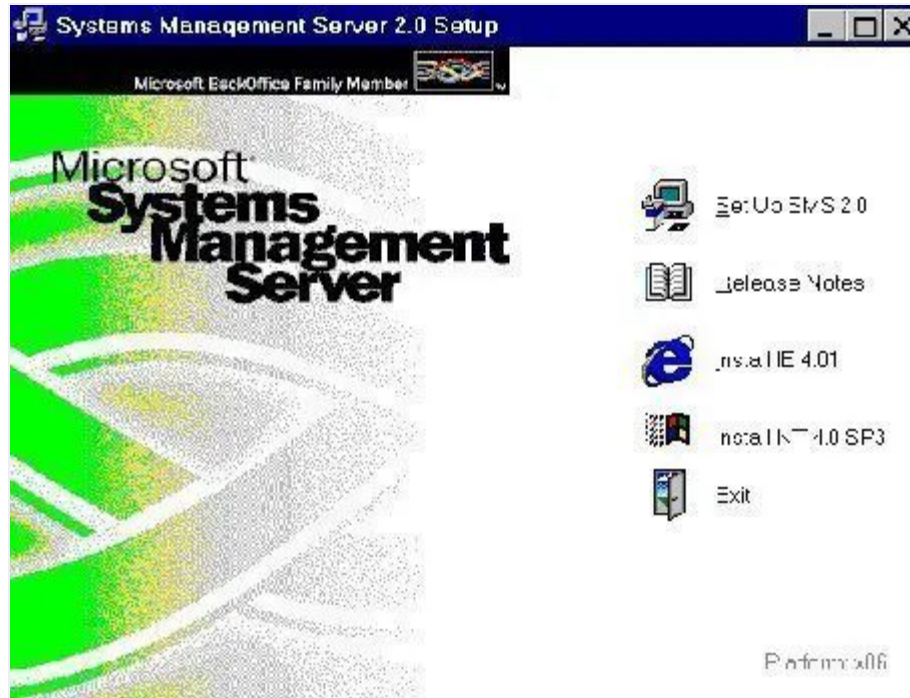


Tivoli

THE POWER TO MANAGE. ANYTHING. ANYWHERE.



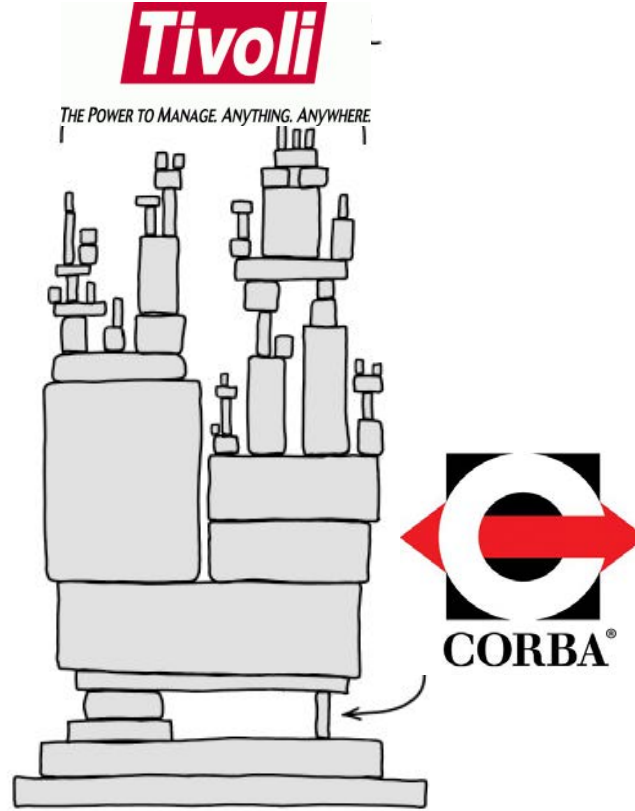
SMS (not pictured)



10 lbs of sh*t in a 5 lb sack



Standing on the shoulders of...



The career move



Poor technical choice rubbernecking

- Two sev 1 events, 1 week apart
- Both from a config change in prod
- One person walked to the door
- One person given a stern talking to



Alerts don't suck, YOUR alerts suck.



This alert would be immediately triggered on 32,000,000 object(s) in alert scope. **Show list**. If this behavior is not expected, try to **adjust the trigger condition**.

Choose your own adventure disaster



Choose your own adventure disaster

- Doing Kubernetes
- NOT doing Kubernetes
- ChatGPT
- Blockchain
- Using <this> framework
- ...or language
- ...or platform
- AWS vs Azure vs GCP
- Oracle
- On prem vs colo vs cloud vs hybrid
- Monitoring with x solution
- ...vs y solution
- ...vs ALL the solutions
- ...vs building it yourself

“There's always a next thing” – Seth Godin

*This thing, the thing we have now,
is worth working with,
because it offers so many opportunities
compared with merely waiting
for the next thing.*



What's the REAL lesson?

- There are no bad tech choices?
- The real treasure was the cables we collected along the way?
- Or maybe it's something else... ?



Misspent youth

- “Loquacious”
- Obsessive journaling
- Theater

Did not direct
Pixar movies



How DO you DevRel?

- Talking to customers
- Participating in online forums
- Creating videos
- Presenting conference talks
- Being on podcasts
- Writing blog posts
- ...and more!



There are no poor technical choices because:

- It's not about the tech.
- It was never about the tech.
- It will always be about you.



github.com/LeonAdato/os-poor-tech-choices/

The screenshot shows a GitHub repository page for 'os-poor-tech-choices' by user LeonAdato. The repository is public and has 1 branch (main) and 0 tags. The commit history table lists several files pushed 4 months ago, including images, OpenSource_Poor-tech-choices.odp, OpenSource_Poor-tech-choices.pdf, OpenSource_Poor-tech-choices.pptx, abstracts.md, and readme.md. The most recent commit is 'Update readme.md' by LeonAdato, dated 'now', with 7 commits in total. Below the commit history, the README.md file is displayed with the following content:

Open Source Conference Talk: "Looking Back at a Lifetime of Poor Technical Choices".

Description

After delivering this talk in front of a couple of audiences, it has become abundantly clear that not only do LOTS of people have similar stories, EVERYONE could probably speak to this topic! Moreover, if you lined up any number of people to give this talk, each one would be completely unique and utterly compelling.

Which is why I've decided to take the bones of this talk and make it open source. The concept is now free and available for everyone to use, build upon, riff on, and generally play around with.

Are you [🤖]IRRITATED?

I'm ready for your
questions!

@LeonAdato

