

5 Habits of Successful Startup Engineers

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Enjoy Your Peers

- You will be spending more time with your coworkers, under more intense situations than you have ever experienced. Choose wisely and act accordingly.

Be a Skeptic

- Beware of Ball Pits, Rockstars, and Magic
- Focus on the fundamentals - extras are just that.
- Rockstars are often one-hit wonders
- Fundamental technical breakthroughs are exceedingly rare.

Recognize Real Change

- C, Java, ObjC, C++, C#, PHP, VB, Python, Perl, Ruby, MySQL, Postgres, Apache, Linux, Mac OS X, TCP/IP, HTTP all > 10 years old, C is 40 years old
- iOS, Android, Ruby on Rails, Node.js, JSON all are ≤ 10 years old
- Recognize important shifts, eg. web, mobile, cloud, SSDs, but filter the hype

Reinvent Yourself

- Do something different every few years.
- Professional and Personal
- You are the sum total of your experiences.

Take Ownership

- You write the code, you own the product's success.
- You answer the emails and attend to the 3 AM pages.
- There is no barrier between your work and the market in which it must succeed.