

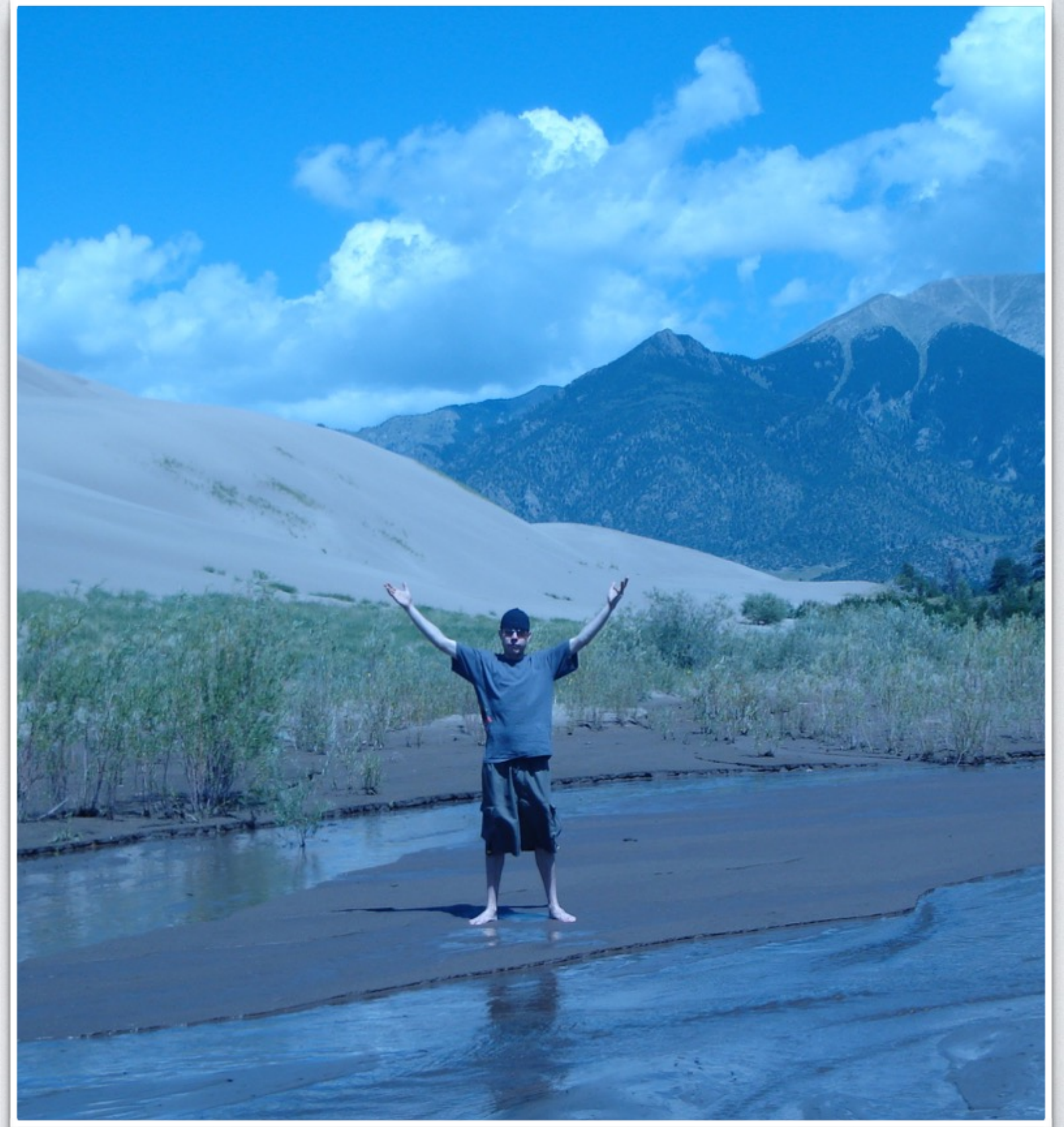
STREAMLINED TEMPLATE DEVELOPMENT

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ABOUT ME

- Organizer for Denver Joomla! User Group
- Freelance developer & owner of NetSense Media, LLC.
- Specializes in Joomla! and WordPress Development
- Rocket Theme Support Team 2011 to 2013
- BA in Music w/Minor in Psychology from the University of Northern Colorado
- Self taught programmer and designer
- Colorado Native
- Avid golfer, hiker, gardener, musician, drummer & dj
- Addicted to Joomla!, coffee & techno music



A FEW OF MY PHILOSOPHIES

- Meeting project requirements is the most important goal. Use appropriate tools and techniques to meet that goal.
- Designs should be functional and complement the content.
- Keep it simple and minimize complications whenever possible.
- Plan ahead and create long term solutions.

FRONT END DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES

- Each website is unique and presents unique challenges
- The final requirements may or may not be provided from the start
- Integration with third party products and/or work of other developers
- Cross browser and device compatibility
- Long term maintenance and updating requirements

TEMPLATE SYSTEM CONCEPTS

- A template system should be simple, flexible and maintainable
- Installation should be quick and easy
- Include useful tools and reusable solutions to common problems
- Think forward. Plan for future needs and changes

TEMPLATE SYSTEM OPTIONS

- Default Joomla! Template
- Develop a custom template or framework from scratch
- Use or modify a third party solution

TEMPLATE SYSTEM OPTIONS

DEFAULT JOOMLA! TEMPLATE

Pros:

- Comes pre-installed & provides a quick start
- Maintained and supported by Joomla!
- Provides a standardized environment

Cons:

- Doesn't offer many features by default
- Requires more customization and development time

TEMPLATE SYSTEM OPTIONS

CUSTOM TEMPLATE FROM SCRATCH

Pros:

- Can be designed any way you choose
- More control over every aspect from start to finish

Cons:

- Requires advanced development skills and extensive development time
- Extended maintenance and upkeep, especially during major Joomla! updates

TEMPLATE SYSTEM OPTIONS

THIRD PARTY TOOLS

Pros:

- Maintained and supported by another party
- Provides a standardized environment
- Advanced features are often included

Cons:

- Support and maintenance vary between different products and developers
- Might not play nice with other third party extensions
- Unnecessary features can get in the way
- May not use Joomla! standards and require steep learning curves

BUILD A REPEATABLE SYSTEM

- Choose tools that suit your skill set and work requirements
- Create solutions for dealing with the cons and quirks of your system
- Identify and reuse successful methods and tools
- Don't over plan. Stay flexible & deal with new challenges as they come along

ACHIEVE PROJECT GOALS USING A SYSTEM

- The project dictates the goals. Determine how your system will help you meet those goals
- Identify project tasks that can be handled quickly by your system, as well as tasks that will require additional development
- Joomla! is a tool just like a template system is a tool. Utilize core features whenever possible then customize to suit the project

TIPS FOR STREAMLINED SUCCESS

- Use defaults and core features to your advantage by setting them to cover the most common scenario. Individual parameters can then be adjusted as necessary.
- Extensions and template overrides should only be used as they become necessary. Explore other options if possible.
- Avoid using the content editor to create HTML and CSS that your design relies on. Try to “Client Proof” your work

TIPS FOR STREAMLINED SUCCESS

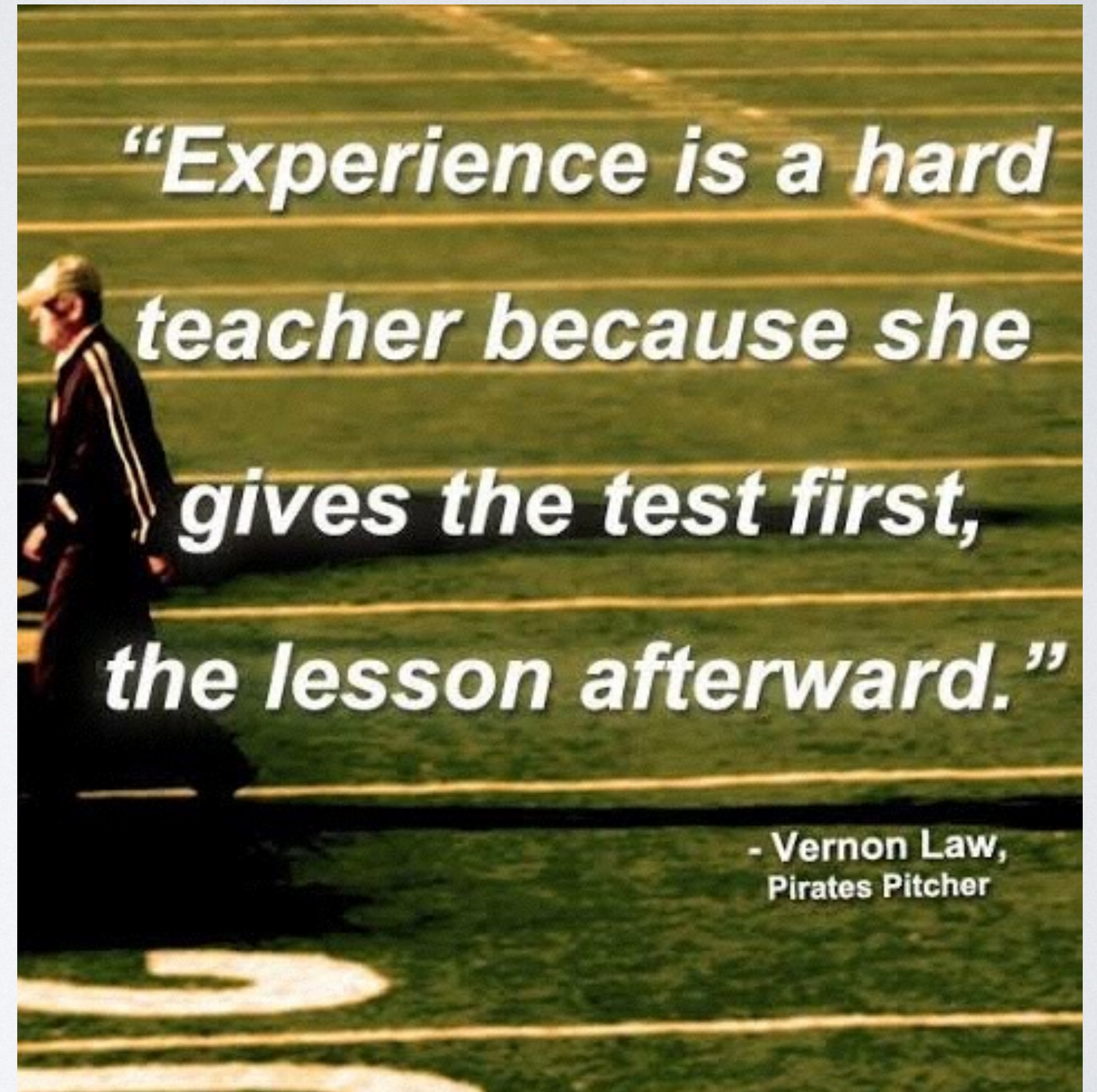
- Invest a bit of time in your system on every project with the goal of saving time on future projects
- Expedite and automate installations & technical routines as much as possible in order to focus more time on the project goals
- Improving time management and quality of work are the goals of the system. If either are suffering, rethink and adjust the system

FINAL POINTS

Don't be afraid to fail. Learn from your mistakes. The best solutions are often found in hindsight.

Choose the path of least resistance. Use the easiest method available and avoid over-complicating the process.

Building an efficient system is worth the effort. A bit of time saved on each project can add up to hours, days and weeks over the long run.



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