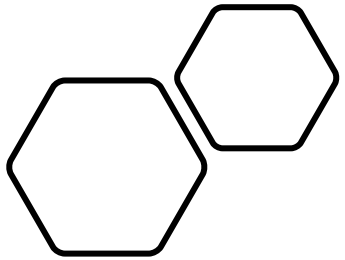
The Secret Thoughts of a Successful Hacker



Exploring Imposter Syndrome and Pluralistic Ignorance in Pentesting

Nadean Tanner

(I’m qualified to give this presentation…I think)

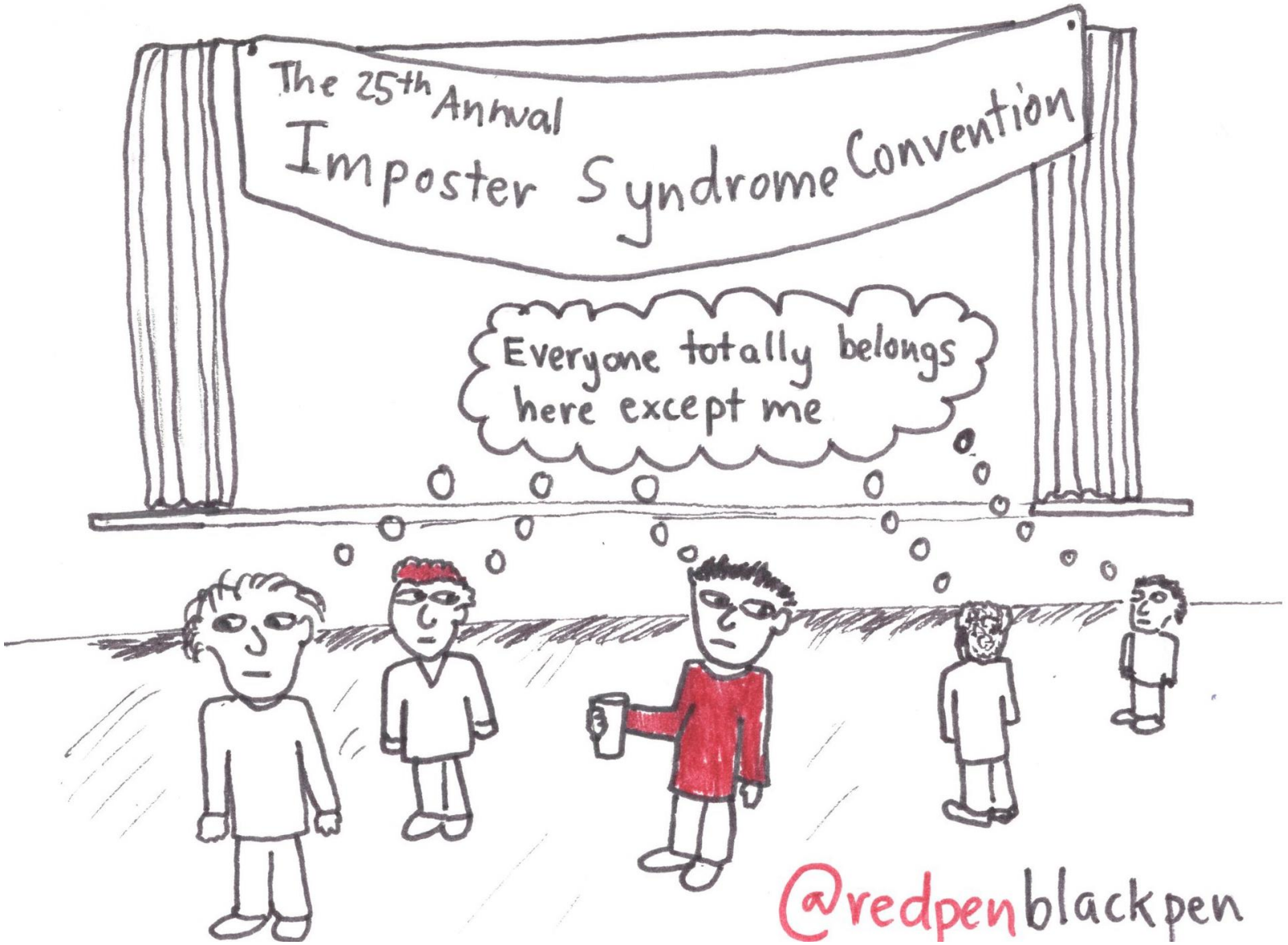
anon.
BURTON

Impostor Syndrome

/imˈpästər/ ˈ/sinˌdrōm/

A concept describing individuals who are marked by an inability to internalize their accomplishments and a persistent fear of being exposed as a "fraud".

“What if they find out I’m not as smart as they think I am?”
“I can’t pull this hack off? Who am I kidding?”
“This exploit will never work”
“Lucky me, I was in the right place at the right time.”
“If I can do it, anyone can do it.”


The 25th Annual
Imposter Syndrome Convention
Everyone totally belongs here except me
@redpenblackpen

Imposter Syndrome and Pluralistic Ignorance

WHAT IS IT?

WHO HAS IT?

WHEN DOES IT HAPPEN?

WHERE TO GET HELP?

HOW TO GET RID OF IT?

% Of Respondents With Imposter Syndrome In The Past Year

- Daily
- Regularly
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- Never

89% of respondents reported a level of Imposter Syndrome that will be affecting their performance.

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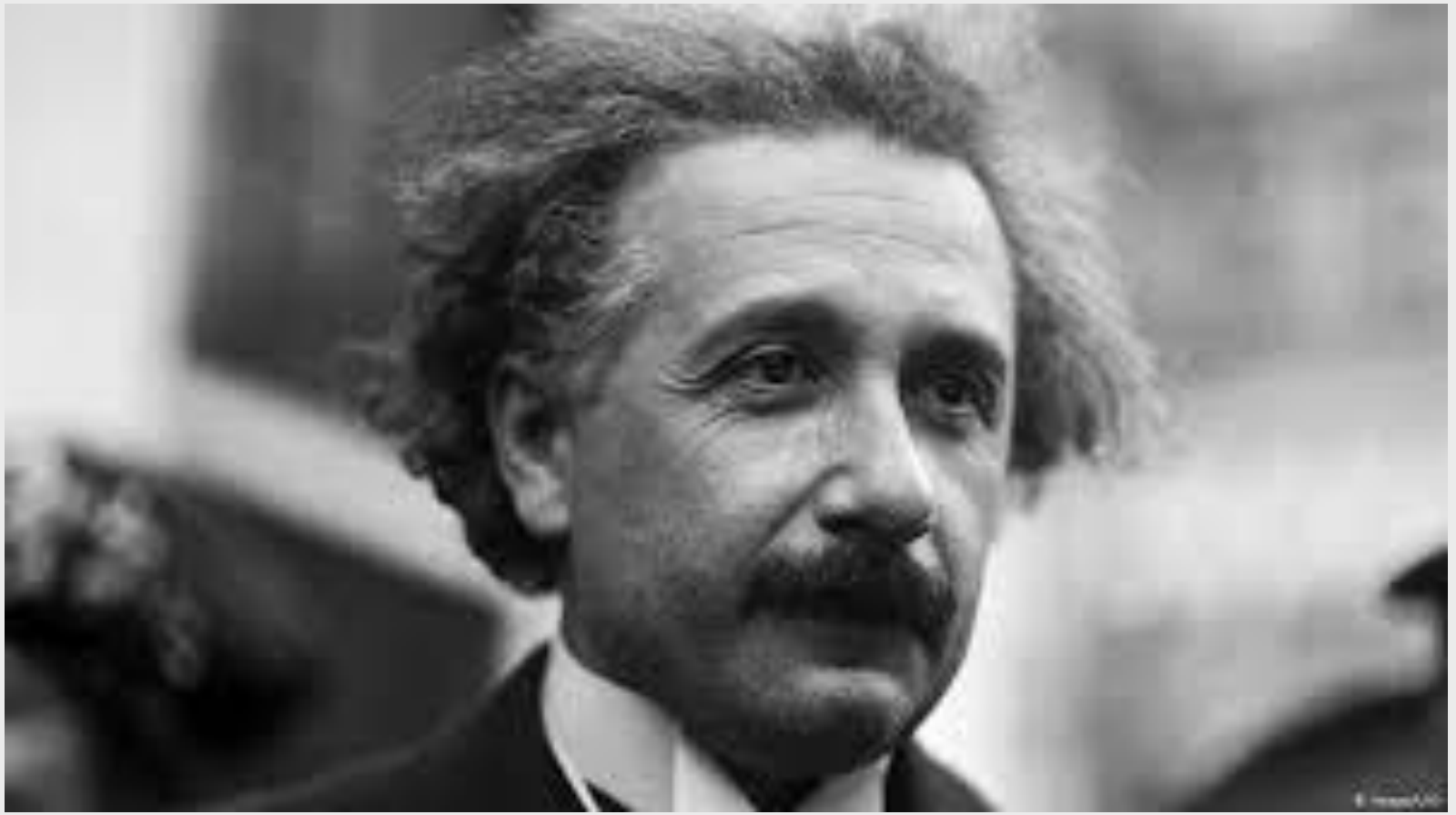


STOP

“Imposter Syndrome... when you work in tech, everybody has it and nobody talks about it. You're SUPPOSED to be the smartest person in the room! You're the software engineer genius, and you should know it all, right?!

Here's the truth: we were all imposters at some point. No matter how skilled or expert you are today, YOU WERE ONCE A NOOB TOO!

So stop pretending you know it all... raise your hand and ask the question... embrace the fact that tech is a constant flux of learning” - Caleb Hurd

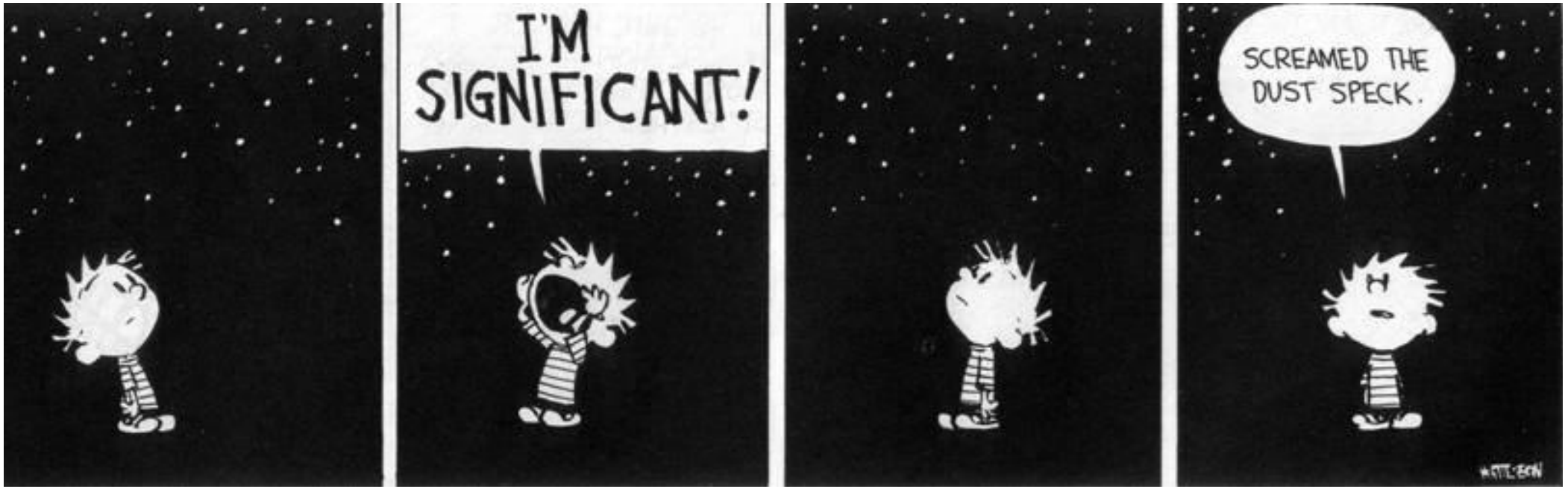
Types of Imposters

Perfectionist

Expert

Soloist

Multitasker


I'M SIGNIFICANT!
SCREAMED THE DUST SPECK.

About me…

CISSP® Certified Information Systems Security Professional

Microsoft® CERTIFIED IT Professional

Microsoft CERTIFIED Systems Administrator

Microsoft CERTIFIED Technology Specialist

Microsoft CERTIFIED Trainer

Microsoft CERTIFIED Professional

ITIL®

Microsoft Office Specialist Master

Pearson TEST ADMINISTRATOR PPC

RAPID7 nexpose® CERTIFIED ADMINISTRATOR

RAPID7 metasploit® pro CERTIFIED SPECIALIST

RAPID7 insightVM® CERTIFIED ADMINISTRATOR

RAPID7 insightIDR® CERTIFIED SPECIALIST

RAPID7 ADVANCED Vulnerability Manager CERTIFIED

CompTIA A+

CompTIA Network+ CERTIFIED·CE

CompTIA Security+ CERTIFIED·CE

CompTIA CASP CERTIFIED·CE

CompTIA Server+

CompTIA CTT+

CompTIA CSAP Security Analytics PROFESSIONAL

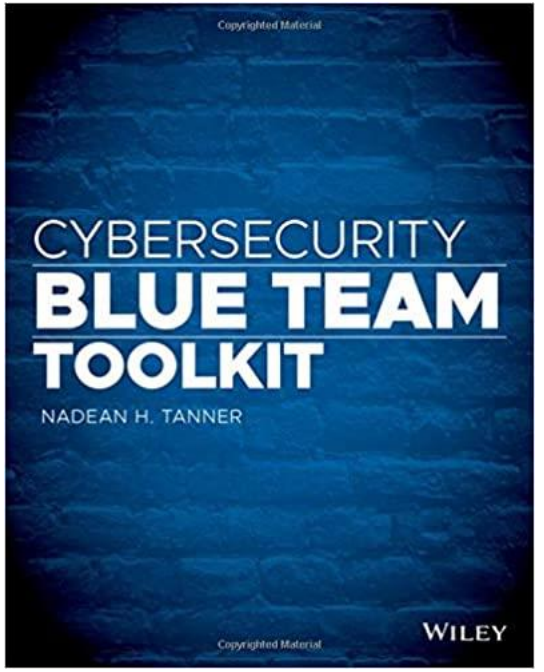
CompTIA CIOS IT Operations SPECIALIST

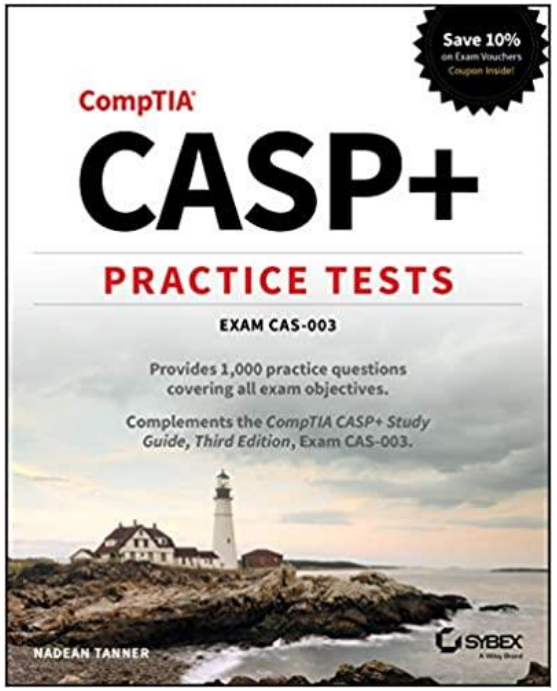
CompTIA CSIS Secure Infrastructure SPECIALIST

CompTIA CNIP Network Infrastructure PROFESSIONAL

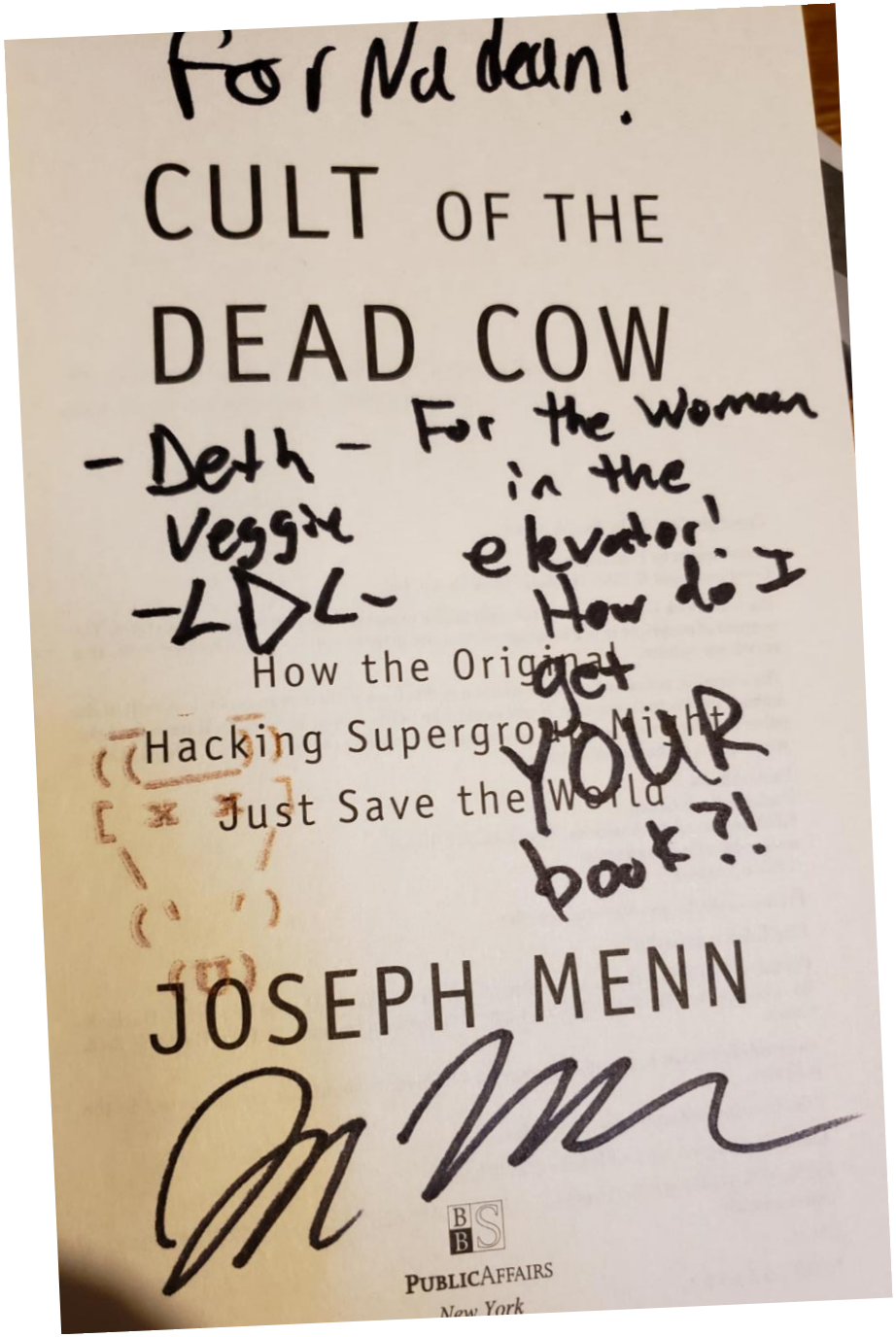
RSA Security Analytics

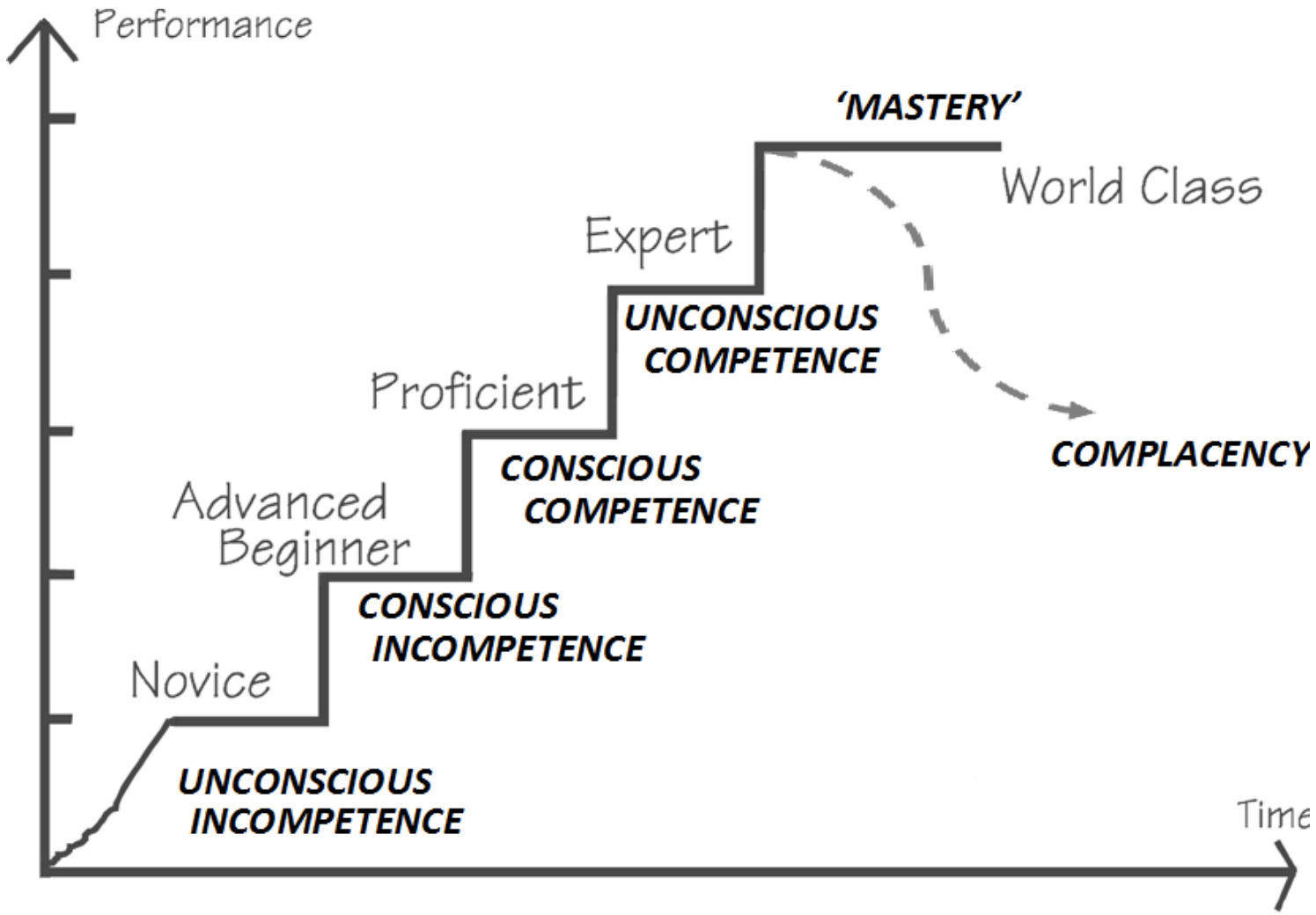
aws CERTIFIED Cloud Practitioner





MANAGE THIRD
PARTY RISK
RSA
RAPID7


For Nadean!
CULT OF THE
DEAD COW
-Deth-
Veggie
-LDL-
For the Woman
in the
elevator!
How do I
get
YOUR
book?!
How the Original
Hacking Supergroup Might
Just Save the World
JOSEPH MENN
PUBLICAFFAIRS
New York


Performance
'MASTERY'
World Class
Expert
UNCONSCIOUS COMPETENCE
Proficient
CONSCIOUS COMPETENCE
Advanced Beginner
CONSCIOUS INCOMPETENCE
Novice
UNCONSCIOUS INCOMPETENCE
COMPLACENCY
Time

How best to manage your own self-doubt?

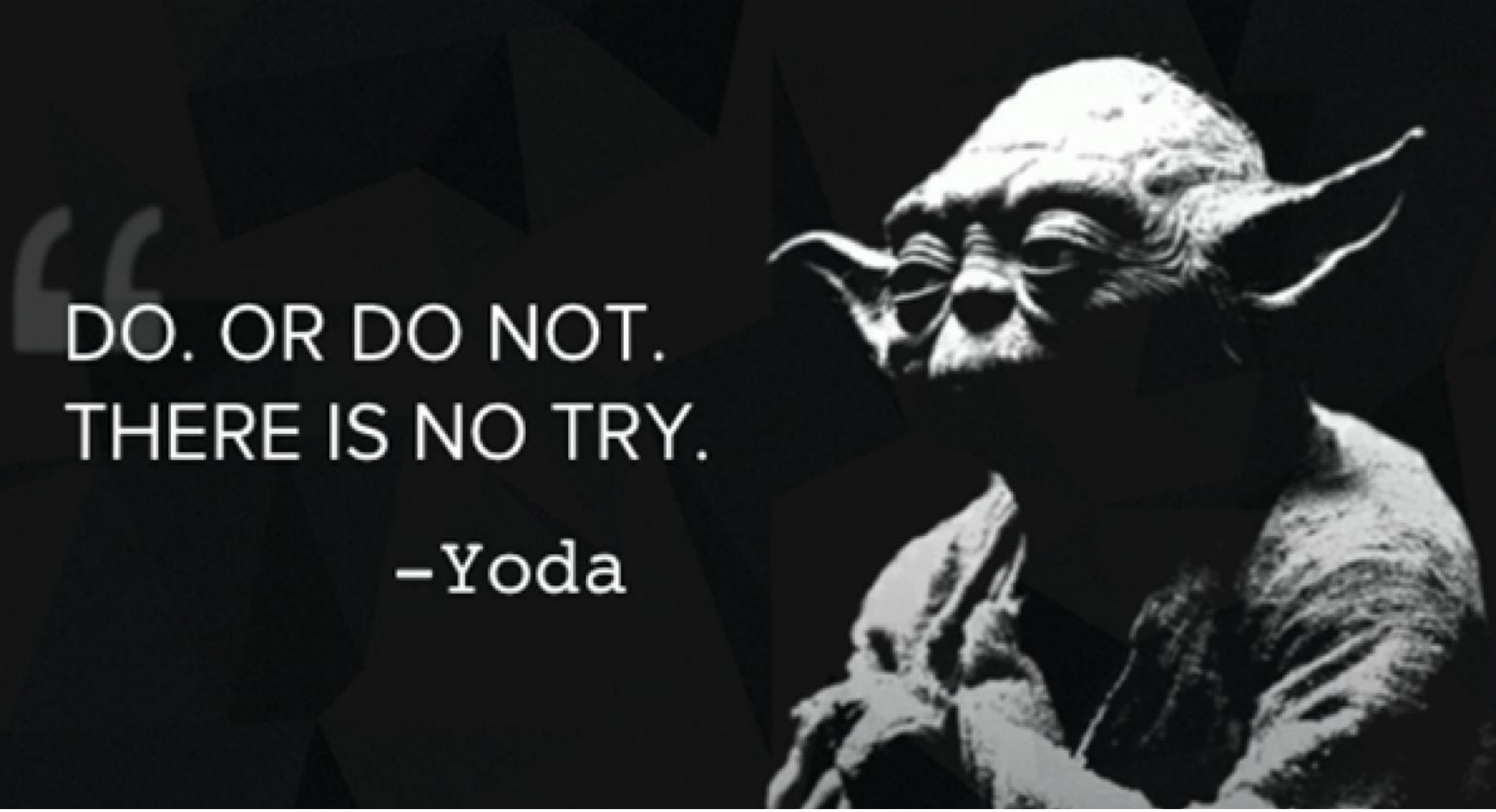
Obviously

But

Never

Impossible

Try


DO. OR DO NOT.
THERE IS NO TRY.
-Yoda

Homework

REMOVE TOXIC WORDS FROM YOUR VOCABULARY

LET GO OF BEING A PERFECTIONIST

STRETCH AND TRACK YOUR SUCCESS

HAVE A MENTOR, BE A MENTOR

“You can’t be that kid standing at the top of the waterslide, overthinking it. You have to go down the chute.
...You have to let people see what you wrote.
It will never be perfect, but perfect is overrated.”

– TINA FEY

grammarly

Thank you