

My husband has had an epiphany. The Morning After a freakish accident involving a small child and an expensive computational device, now freed from his “prison cell” of portable connectivity, he smiles at me bleary-eyed, with a dressed-like-a-mormon missionary sheen.

“I am part of the Cult of Organization” he beams. “Let me show you!” I am bleary-eyed too, and I don’t remember much of the first lecture. I think to myself *he hasn’t eaten meat in 4 years now*. Cult leaders deprive their followers of protein to make them more docile.

“I know it’s a self-help book, but it’s ok, it was written about in WIRED! And, I need to go buy it NOW.” And he means actually going into the car and driving to a physical store, to have it in his hands today. *He’s doing this weird analog thing now – he even has a paper notebook!*

“Look at this software. It’s called Tiddlywiki.” Behold client-side software – all one HTML file - that will change all our LIVES.

Go download GTD\_Tiddlywiki now. Actually GTD is a flavor of the regular Tiddlywiki, which you can also go download. It will change your life, and you can continue eating that cow, pig, or whatever protein you like to put in your body. Tiddlywiki is a file that you pull up in a browser (like Internet Explorer or Firefox) and it allows you to make a sort of to-do list, but not only that. The file is a webpage that you modify through your browser; you can create new buttons which link to wiki-like containers of words (“tiddlers”) that you type in and modify whenever you wish. All client-side; it’s all sitting on your own computer. The only unfortunate thing is the name “Tiddler.”

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I created a new tiddler called “Ideas for the Hub” and then “Books to Read” and then “Vacation To India With Jane.” I made one called “Thesis” and linked it to my thesis which is now a 10-page single-spaced word document in my computer. Maybe it doesn’t sound like such a big deal, but the thing is, now I have a central location, index, for all the stuff that’s on my computer, and it’s portable, can be stuck on a stick or emailed somewhere. Yes, there are other software mechanisms that allow you to do this sort of thing, but as my husband said, “They Suck.”

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The book of the cult that my shiny new husband has joined is called “Getting Things Done, The Art of Stress-Free Productivity” by David Allen, who I think must have done some sort of Asian studies too, because in his first couple of chapters, he talks about the importance of having a clear mind while you’re hanging out during the day, being awake and trying to do stuff. I haven’t had a clear mind since I had that weird hormonal thing happen to me when I was pregnant. But the whole clear mind thing makes sense to me and rings a bell, (rimshot) I think I remember it from the years BC (Before Child).

In this day and age we are constantly having to think about work; there are no boundaries anymore, your job is not stable and you always have to be networking, thinking, planning. People work 80 hours a week now. So Mr. Allen says that we need some way of organizing all the stuff we have to constantly think about so we can have that clear mind again. Then he goes on to describe how to organize. The book is nice so far – I actually haven't finished it yet. (rim shot). But I do have a tiddlywiki, and I had a bit of stress-freeness the other day.

The one other thing I learned about how to solve big, overwhelming problems, is from Tae Kwon Do class – you break down the really big hard stuff into smaller, more manageable goals. So for example, if you have to write a thesis, you could write down all the smaller steps, like, instead of 1) write thesis, you can have, 1) make list of books 2) collect books, 3) write thesis topic sentence, 4) write outline, and then a number for each part of the outline you fill in. Then when you look at your list, it's not as scary and doesn't make you want to go hide under the covers in your bed.

Now apparently in this Cult of Organization, you need to check out something called <http://www.43folders.com>, which is one of those life hacks sites. Then you need to go have a Hipster PDA; a stack of index cards and clips. Palm is totally out; you need to go analog. For this, you need to purchase a really good pen and some good index cards and a good index card printer. Or get a moleskine. And write now.