

Carl Selinger's
*Stuff you don't learn
in engineering school*



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Make yourself better every day!

All generations experience change.

You cannot predict the future, so don't waste any time worrying about it.

The challenge you must accept, right now, is to make yourself better every day.

Jeff Immelt – CEO, General Electric



Openers ...

- Welcome to the real world!
- The real world isn't neat
- There's never enough time
- Need to learn and apply a toolkit of soft skills
- Find out what works for you
- Hey! Who wants to be a "CEO"?

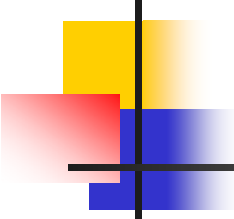
You already *are* the CEO ... of *you!*

Remember: *technical competency* is the core of your career success!



Important soft skills – a checklist

- Better writing, speaking & listening
- Making decisions
- Setting priorities & managing time
- Being effective at meetings
- Understanding yourself & others
- Working in teams



Important soft skills (continued)

- Negotiating
- Being more creative
- Ethics in the workplace
- Adapting to the workplace
- Dealing with stress & having fun
- Developing leadership skills
- Taking action



The Bottom Line for Engineers

- Employers *expect* you to know the technical stuff
- Your abilities in the soft nontechnical skills will be *discriminators* in getting hired, retained and promoted.



“In a peaceful world” ...

“It’s what you do,
not what you say.

If you’re not part of the future,
then get out of the way.”

John Mellencamp

Be the best person
and professional
that you can be!

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*Stuff You Don't Learn in Engineering School:
Skills for Success in the Real World*
(Wiley-IEEE Press, 2004)

