

J. Michael Locke

Musings

#102: Musing **November 28, 2020**

Hope everyone had a good Thanksgiving and stayed healthy.

Many executives speak of their software being “in the cloud” without really understanding it. “In the cloud” just means on servers being managed by someone else in their datacenter. You still need to know what is going on. Historically, most folks hosted their software locally “on prem(ises).” Software companies pushed their SAAS models (software as a service) where they run the software on their servers (or one of the major cloud providers) and basically rent it to you (Salesforce really pioneered this model.) Amazon Web Services (AWS) is the leading cloud provider. Google and Microsoft (Azure) are playing catchup. But cloud providers can have availability issues as well. AWS was having major issues Wednesday affecting everyone using them. So folks like Roku couldn’t offer their streaming service and there was nothing they could do about it. You have no control. I am not saying it is wrong to be “in the cloud” but important to understand exactly what that means and the risks involved. I like the hybrid-cloud approach with some things at places like AWS but also having some in your own private datacenter.

As a leader, you have to create a sense of urgency. Things should get done as soon as possible. If the entire organization works this way, the company gets speed as a competitive weapon. Don’t be “big company” and get to it next week with folks going home at 6pm and not checking in again until 9am the next day. Demand that minutes come out the night the meeting was held. Expect your team to check email at night, on weekends and on vacation. Don’t have key executives turning on the “out of office” email message. Hopefully you are all reading this on Saturday after Thanksgiving.

I have written on the “feminization” of our society. Here is another example. The country of Scotland is making menstrual products (tampons and pads) free and available in public locations. I guess there is a term called “period poverty.” Another example, Vanderbilt will have a female kicker today.

Spent some time with my brother who runs the medical staff at a hospital recently. He spoke of the nursing/allied health worker crisis. They have unused beds and equipment because they don’t have the staff. An underreported story along with the fact that 40% of Covid deaths occurring in nursing homes.

According to WSJ, “the Coronavirus is now killing around 0.6% of people it infects. The death rate of seasonal influenza is 0.1%.”

Another “winner” from Covid – the game of chess. Record sign-ups at Chess.com. Also helped by a Netflix movie – The Queen’s Gambit.

RIP Diego Maradona (and compliments to anyone who can do his signature move) and Tab (the first diet cola in 1963.) For a sign of how times have changed, check out this old Tab commercial – imagine this now. [Be a mindsticker](#)

Be safe.

jml