Process Automation: Improve your productivity

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What is Process Automation?

Automation: A wikipedia definition

- Automation is the use of control systems and information technologies to **reduce the need for human work** in the production of goods and services. In the scope of industrialization, automation is a step beyond mechanization. Whereas mechanization provided human operators with machinery to assist them with the muscular requirements of work, **automation greatly decreases the need for human sensory and mental requirements** as well. Automation plays an increasingly important role in the world economy and in daily experience.

What is Process Automation?

Process Automation

- Replacing a manual process with an automatically controlled one, the goal being **decreasing costs and increasing consistency and reliability**.

What to automate?

Our candidates

- Repetitive tasks
- Workflows
- Point and click
- Communication

The shell is your friend

Advantages

- Control over the system
- Scripting
- Speed
- Remote Access

Disadvantages

- Steep learning curve
- Multitasking difficult
- Need to memorize syntax and options

Thor Introduction

Where to get it?

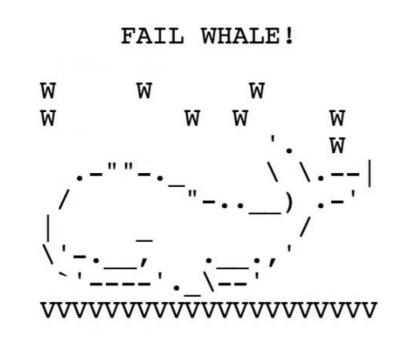- http://github.com/wycats/thor

What is it?

- Thor is a simple and efficient **tool for building self-documenting command line utilities**. It removes the pain of parsing command line options, writing "USAGE:" banners, and can also be used as an alternative to the Rake build tool. The syntax is Rake-like, so it should be familiar to most Rake users.

Who's using it?

- Bundler
- Rails 3 generators
- Engine Yard gem
- Homesick
- Me and soon you too!

An easy example

- Twitter from the shell

```
        FAIL WHALE!

W          W           W
W                 W   W           W
                     '.          W
    .-" "-._        \ \.--|
   /          "-..__) .-'
   |                  /
   \ '-.        _    '
    `.'___'. _ \=='
    vvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvv
```

Building an interface for redmine

- A review of a real example

Getting your hands dirty

It's time to do some real work.

- Suggestions:
    - Extend the twitter client
    - Flickr API
    - Make your own thing

Credits

http://forum.xda-developers.com/showthread.php?t=350861

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Automation

http://www.industrial-automation-hands-on.com/industrial-automation-forums.html

http://www.techzilo.com/twitter-fail-whale-ascii-art/

http://passionforcinema.com/thats-all-folks-giving-credits-where-its-due/