

5 Tips on Becoming an Early-tenure Master Inventor



Find A Sustainable Motivation

- .. that would see you thru 2-3 years - Arguably the minimum it'd take to become MI
 - IBM-wide recognition, STSM-DE-Fellow path aid (one of the many)
 - Cool title, External fame, Goog hits, Bragging rights
 - Extra \$\$\$ to buy that *<fill in the blank>*
 - Researcher's dilemma
 - Love publications? You can still publish** once patent application is filed with USPTO
 - Mentoring and expanding your network
 - Easier to prove credibility and draw first-time inventors for brainstorming

** Work with IP Law to determine in what form and when exactly is it safe to

Start Early



src: <http://www.kibois.org/Images/Head%20Start/Head%20start.jpg>

Start Early

- .. No really, start today!
- Sooner you get that first patent in, less the chances of the '*minimum 1 granted patent*' requirement being a roadblock to your MI application
- Sooner you get to 12 FILEs, earlier you can start focusing on other aspects of MI package
 - Invention Development Team (IDT) membership
 - Mentoring others, Product scrubs/mining
 - Leading presentations and talks
 - Helping IP Law identify infringement candidates

Expand Your Thinking

- *Apply*
 - A different technique to a known problem
 - A new heuristic for a known algorithm
- *Revive*
 - That once-cool undergrad project or masters thesis
 - Those abandoned topics on the way to a PhD dissertation
- *Question*
 - Assumptions in technical articles, papers, designs
- *Abstract*
 - Low-level design
 - Implementations

Collaborate, Soliloquy, Collaborate, Soliloquy

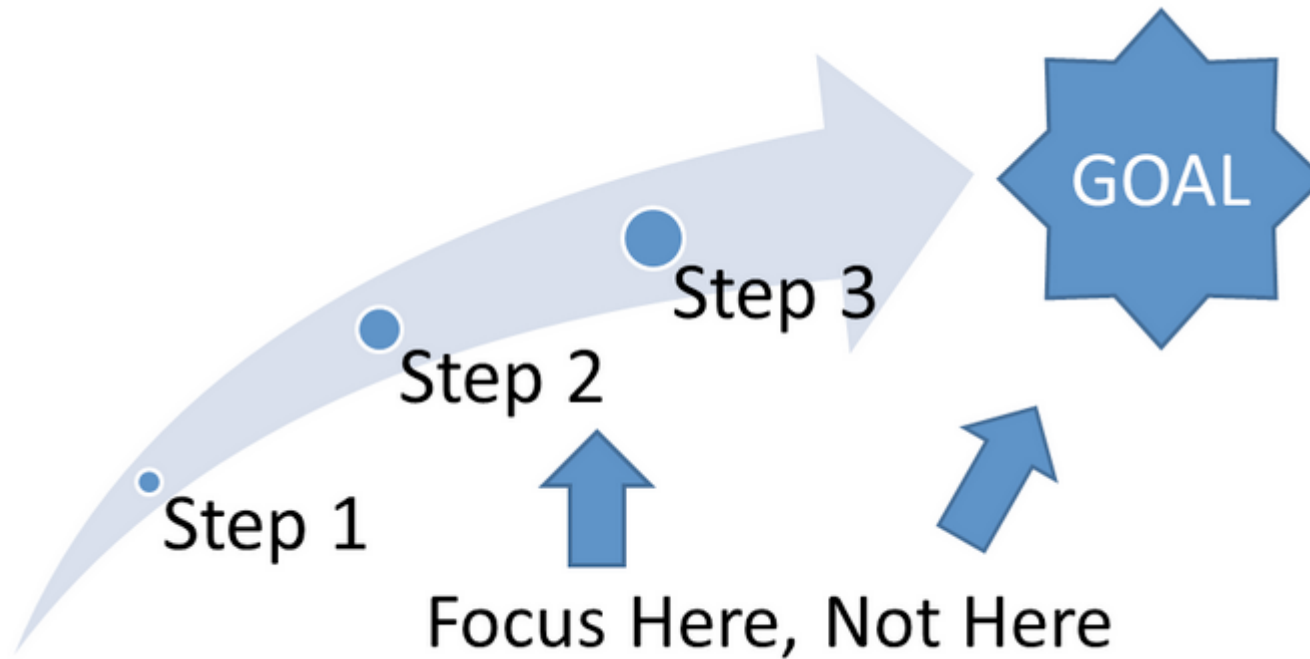


src: <http://pmtips.net/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/build-collaborate-engage.jpg>

Collaborate, Soliloquy, Collaborate, Soliloquy

- Genius is splendid, but collaboration necessary for early-tenure MI
- Collaboration
 - Investing in others
 - In the *hope* that they'd invest back in you
 - Such that the whole is larger than the sum of parts
 - If the *hope* isn't fulfilled, have faith in Universe/Karma, move on..
- It's OK to bounce your ideas off others
 - If one can figure out your method and steal your idea by just hearing (exceptions granted), you probably don't have something truly defensible (at the USPTO)

Focus on One Step At a Time



Src: <http://personalsuccesstoday.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/goal-focus-process.png>

Focus on One Step At a Time

- .. and when close to achieving it, overlap the last bit with the next goal to make a gradual transition
 - Get to 10 FILE and start participating in 1 IDT (continue inventing)
 - After reaching 12 FILEs, Participate in 2-3 IDTs for next 6-8 months
 - After gaining a diverse IDT experience, sign off 2 and participate in just 1
 - Start mentoring 5-6 first time inventors
 - After helping ~5 to their first FILE/Publish, minimize to 2-3 over next 6 months
 - Start focusing on presentations, patent scrubs, product patent mining
 - Eventually, get to a stable MI-like state where you have a balance between patent brainstorming, IDT membership, presentations, mentoring
 - Apply for an MI

Thank You

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