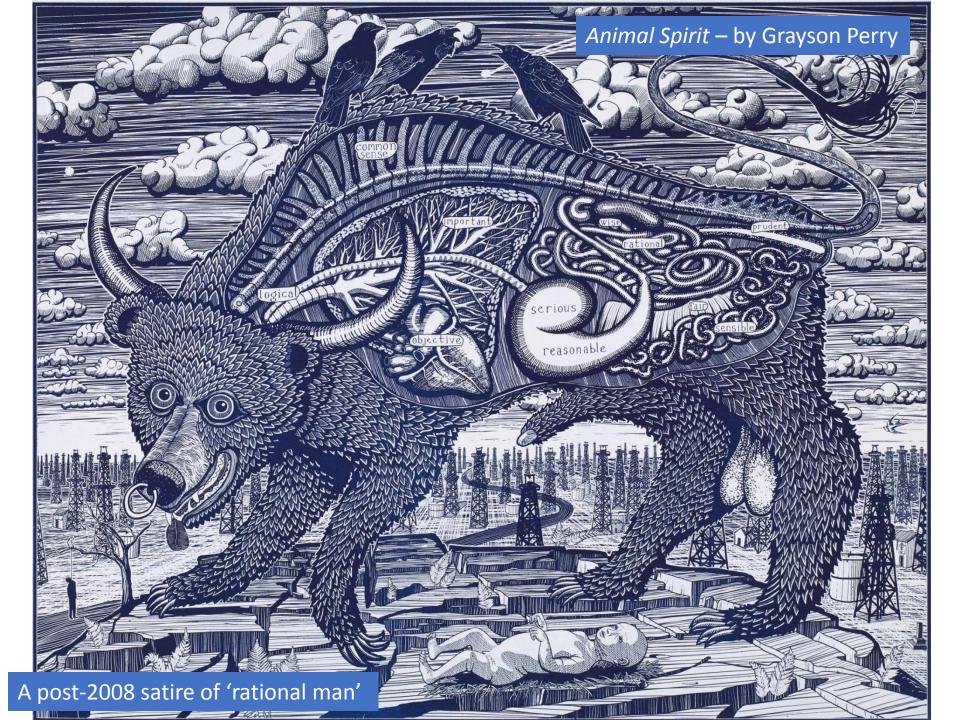


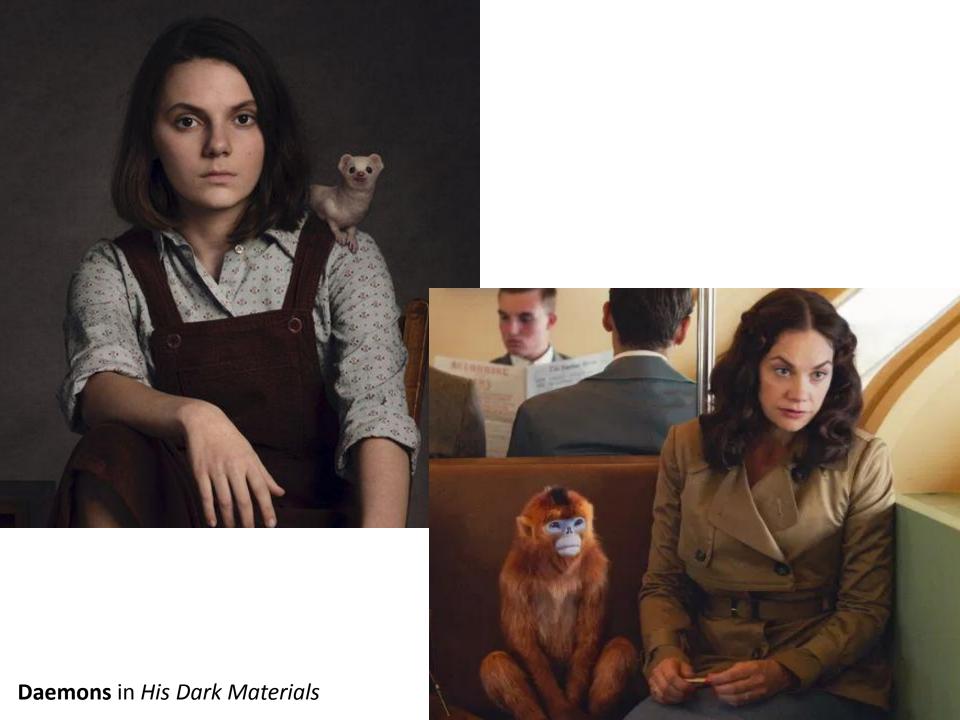
'The mind programme that helped me win my Olympic Golds' Sir Chris Hoy

A visual summary of *The Chimp*Paradox by

Dr Steve Peters

Andy French. June 2021.





The One Page Summary

Peter's presents a highly simplified, but *physically realistic* model of the **psychological mind**. A *trio* of independent thinking systems: (1) human; (2) chimp; (3) computer.

You can then *apply this model to help manage*: (i) yourself in isolation and (ii) yourself in the context of others. Peter's model is both powerful and interesting because is based upon a model mechanism of *machinery that we all possess*, rather than ideals and stories that may or may not be generally applicable. i.e. and often don't address why we might think & act in a particular way.

The *Chimp Paradox* describes the **high likelihood of conflict between the human and chimp systems**, and how this is often the root cause of undesirable behaviour.



speed = x1

HumanRational thinking Society rules Self-development agenda



speed = x5

ChimpEmotional thinking Jungle rules Self-survival agenda



speed = x20

Computer

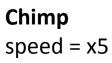
Executes *pre-programmed* thoughts and behaviours.
Also a *reference library* of Information, Beliefs, Values



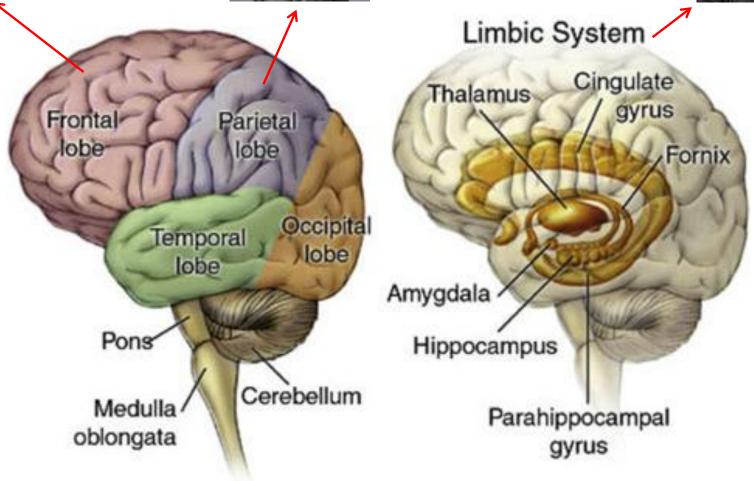
Human speed = x1



Computer speed = x20







Crudely, **human**, **chimp** and **computer** systems correspond to *distinct physical brain structures*. Blood flow can be re-routed preferentially between them, so one can be more active ("in control") at any given time.





speed = x1

Human Rational thinking Society rules Self-development agenda

"System 2"



speed = x5

Chimp

Emotional thinking Jungle rules Self-survival agenda

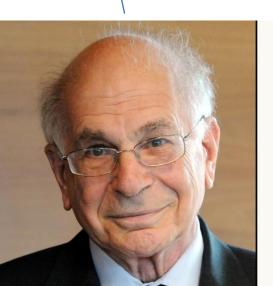


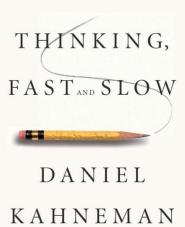
speed = x20

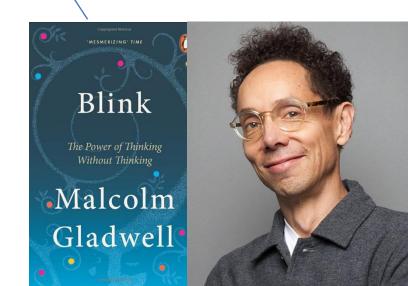
Computer

Executes *pre-programmed* thoughts and behaviours Also a *reference library* of // Information, Beliefs, Values

"System 1"







So Peters wishes us to think like Spock?

The physical fact is all *homo sapiens* have brains that comprise of 'human' (frontal lobes), 'chimp' (limbic system) and 'computer' (parietal) structures.

The full richness of our consciousness, what makes us who we are, is the interplay between

all three thinking systems.

live long and prosper!

However, 'Vulcan thinking' is often **highly desirable in modern society**, which is probably why Peters assigns this the 'human' label. He is being aspirational. Also to *distinguish* 'chimp' thinking, which can often lead to problems if allowed to dominate our cognitive processes.







But this *doesn't* mean chimp thinking must be suppressed – it is a root part of our minds and cannot be turned off. However, it can be *managed* so **human thinking is in control more often.**

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The differences between human, chimp and computer.

2. The Planet of Others

How {human_i, chimp_i} may interact with {human_i, chimp_i}

3. The Planet Connect

How to make communication effective

4. The Planet of the Real World

Jungle vs Society. How to deal with instant and chronic stress

5. The Planet of Shadows

Mental health, and the difference between malfunction and dysfunction

6. The Planet of Success

A seven step plan. Dreams are not the same as goals

7. The Planet of Happiness



I really like



But first, who is Dr Steve Peters?

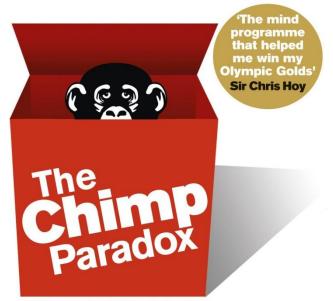
- English NHS psychiatrist who works in elite sport.

 Originally a mathematics teacher!
- Has degrees in mathematics, medicine and medical education. Also postgraduate qualifications in sports medicine, education & psychiatry.
- His book *The Chimp Paradox* proposes a simple, practical model of the psychological mind and how people can learn skills to manage their thoughts.
- Has helped sports stars including Ronnie O'Sullivan, Steven Gerrard, Craig Bellamy, Sir Bradley Wiggins, Sir Chris Hoy and Victoria Pendleton.
- Teams he has assisted include the GB Olympic cycling team, Team Sky, England's Rugby Union side and Liverpool Football Club.



Dr Steve Peters

CREATOR OF THE **Groundbreaking** mind model



The

MIND MANAGEMENT

Programme for

Confidence, Success and Happiness



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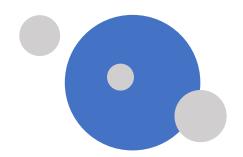
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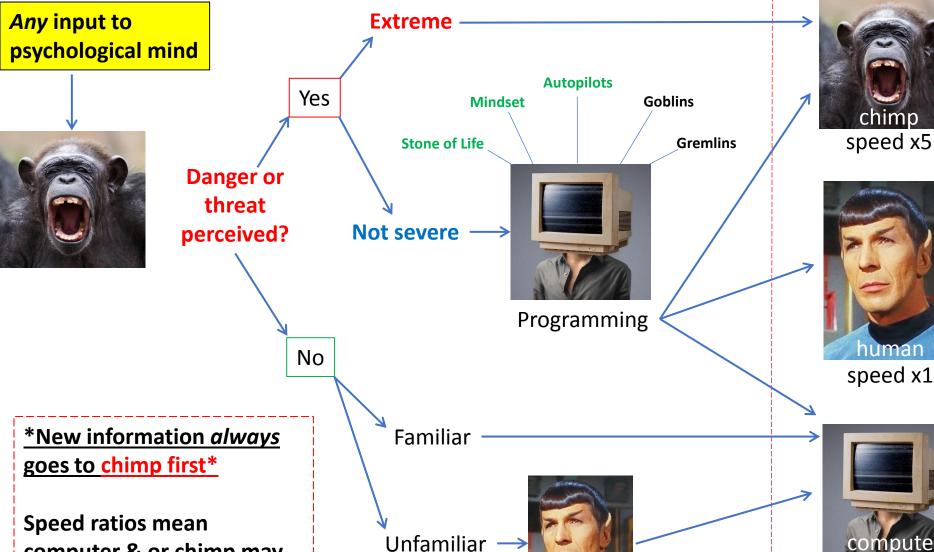
Seven step plan. Dreams are not the same as goals

7. The Planet of Happiness



The Psychological Mind Information Flow Model

Controlling thinking system



computer & or chimp may

react before human is even

aware.

speed x20

Write new

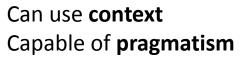
program



speed = x1

Human

Rational thinking
Society rules
Self-development agenda



Values are: honesty, compassion, conscience

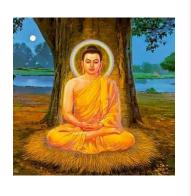
Desire to be law-abiding



Self-control.Sense of **purpose Achievement** and **satisfaction**











speed = x5

Chimp

Emotional thinking
Jungle rules
Self-survival agenda



*Info always
goes to chimp
first*

Binary, catastrophic thinking Paranoid, vulnerable Forms rapid, binary opinions

Reacts to body language

Instinctive (fear, flight, fight response)

Urges (sex, power, ego, food, troop)

Female chimp different from male chimp

Overall: Chimp interprets new information emotionally,

- ... then gives an offer to the human
- ... who has a **choice** to **accept** or **reject** the offer (unless an **automatic response from computer** is initiated)

So human can ultimately gain control, if we can manage the chimp. Chimp is too powerful to suppress, so we can only nurture, then manage. Three strategies:

1. Exercise: Let the chimp 'vent' in a 'locked compound'. e.g. to friends (NOT colleagues!),

or 'to the wind' during physical exercise. When particularly aroused, the chimp will need to be exercised before the human can take control. Listen to the chimp, and don't comment.





- **2. Box**: Apply **facts**, **reason**, **truth**, **logic** to *calm* the chimp down. Helpful to *physically write/draw/type* rather than just think. Human thinking is easier to perpetuate this way.
- 3. <u>Distract</u>: i.e. 'bananas.' Create *positive emotion* via praise, approval etc.

The computer: the 'guiding moon' of Planet Chimp & Human (i.e. 'The Divided Planet')

Thinks and acts automatically for you using programmed thoughts and behaviours.

Reference source for information, beliefs, and values.

By chimp and human independently



Autopilots

Useful automatic thinking (ride a bike, play guitar, stay calm when stressed...)





Snow White ←→ Alpha Wolf

Mindset

Perception of self, others and the world

See **Planet** of Others

'connectivity or interface rules'



Stone of Life

The key reference source of truths, values and purpose



Goblins



Hard-wired

unhelpful programs (established in early childhood)

Gremlins



Soft-wired unhelpful programs





The Stone of Life:

Key reference source for both human and chimp

but not always *personal*

Being cheery and *personable* is always a good idea

'Common sense'

Truths of Life

Evidence based facts

e.g.

- Laws of Physics
- You cannot be 100% certain
- Life isn't always fair
- Everything changes
- You can only persuade about 60% of people. 20% will like you whatever you do, 20% will dislike you whatever you do.

Care for others

Raise/inspire a new generation



Values

Personal judgements & beliefs

Top tip ** Make your own Stone of Life poster

Humanist principles

Religious doctrine

A billion
Facebook/Instagram/
TikTok Likes...

Be #1 at

Acquire wealth, possessions and power

Life force

Your perception of purpose, your mission

Solve a problem for society

Be respected

Create calm and happiness around you

Goblins



Hard-wired unhelpful programs

Usually established in early childhood. **Very difficult to remove** but *can* be contained. via new **Autopilots**.

I will *never* have any aptitude for maths/art/music/sport/languages....

People from my background are inferior. I'll never make progress no matter how hard I work My worth is only based upon what I achieve

Relationships never last. You can't trust anybody

Dogs/spiders/snakes are always dangerous

Those people are my enemy

I am only good if others say I am

Being popular is more important than anything else

Even what is inscribed on my **Stone of Life**

People will always judge me by my skin colour/gender/accent

Gremlins



'Soft-wired' unhelpful programs

Temporary – can be replaced by Autopilots.

> I should always be on time, whatever the circumstance

If I make a mistake it will haunt me forever, no matter what I do

My last boss was unkind. Therefore I should not trust authority

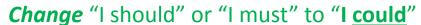
I am too old to learn anything new, particularly information technology

Nobody listens when I have something to say

I will never be as fit and happy as I was in my youth

Facebook tells me everyone is more successful than me. I have wasted my life

> My only identity is as a parent



Controlling The Psychological Mind Information Flow Model thinking system Reminder! Any input to Extreme psychological mind **Autopilots** Yes **Goblins Mindset** speed x5 **Stone of Life Gremlins Danger or** threat perceived? Not severe AGAIN! **Programming** human No speed x1 Familiar *New information always goes to chimp first* **Speed ratios mean** Unfamiliar computer & or chimp may Write new speed x20 react before human is even program aware.

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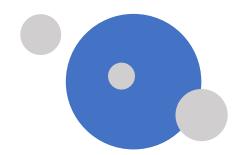
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Mindset spectrum. Your default computer program for how to interact with others.



* Avoid the extremes! *



Both extremes are dominated by emotive chimp thinking



Snow White

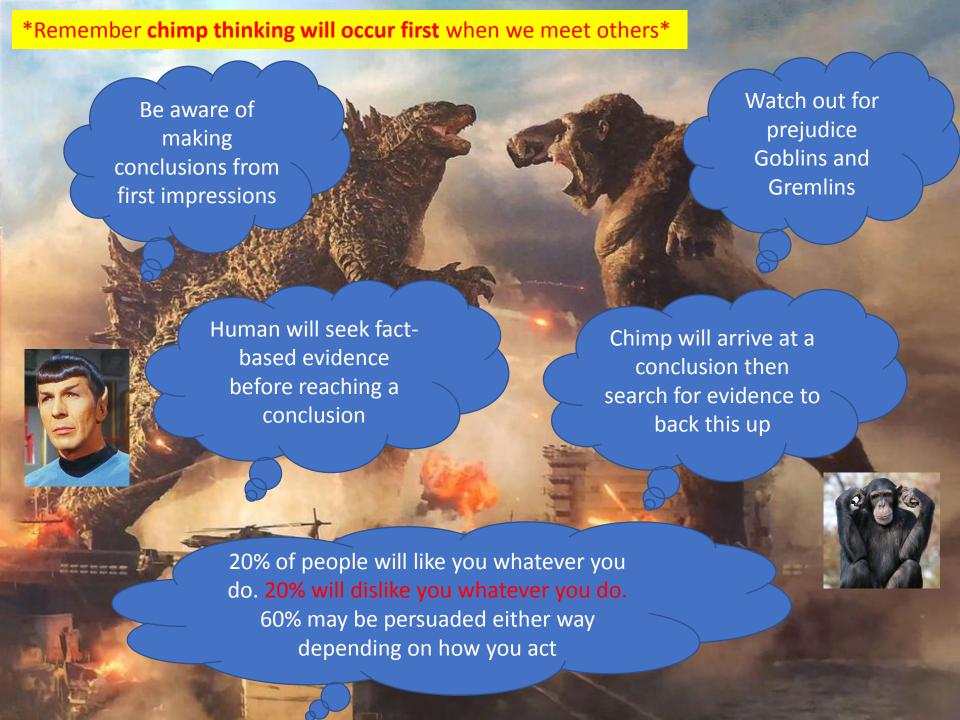
→ Alpha Wolf

- Self image of perpetual innocence
- Passive
- Always a victim, never at fault
- At the mercy of others and circumstances
- No accountability
- No responsibility
- No power to change anything

Psychopathy implies a distinct, and different brain function from the norm. It is not just a society label for 'bad people.'

- Dictator
- Control freak
- Personal success and sustained power is all
- Other people are irrelevant, and are expendable. It doesn't matter if they get hurt. Their opinions carry no weight

Note if an Alpha Wolf is also a *psychopath* they will *not* be able to empathize and are typically devoid of conscience based Autopilots.



The Planet of Others has a Troop Moon

Human and chimp have different troop requirements which can lead to social problems, dysfunctional relationships, and heartache!





Human:

Thinking follows Society Rules, i.e. social values. Hence strong desire to socialize.

Desire human value qualities.

But <u>all of humanity can't be in your troop.</u> You can't please everybody, but humans will want to try. About 20% will not like you whatever you do. Accept this fact and move on.

Chimp:

strong urge. *Enemies everywhere*, so troop is highly selective. Desire *superficial* qualities: power, good looks, material wealth etc.

Troops are *not fixed*. You have a **choice** who is in it. *Opinions outside of your troop are less important*. Troops are mutually beneficial. All members gain from and contribute to the troop.



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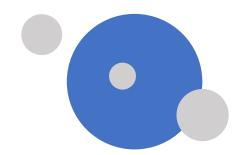
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The Square of Communication

Unless you have a **complete square.** reschedule a meeting! Don't confuse a two-way meeting with a process to exercise (i.e. vent) your chimp.

Enough time to say what you need to say.
To check the message has been understood, and to begin a dialogue.

Right time

Right place

time |

Right agenda

Want *human to human dialogue,*So consider likely **agenda(s)** of **your** chimp *and* the other chimp. You may have to manage *both* chimps.



For important meetings:

- Written agenda circulated beforehand
- Summary of meeting agreed afterwards (there may be differing minutes in disputes, and future meetings may require mediation).
- Be <u>personable</u> (not always <u>personal</u>) and **respectful**, even if you disagree.

Safe, tranquil, quiet environment.
Won't be disturbed or eavesdropped.



Right way



Positive body language
Intonation: Clear, calm
and unhurried
Avoid emotive language
Avoid overly emotive
delivery but some emotion is
necessary if you wish to inspire!

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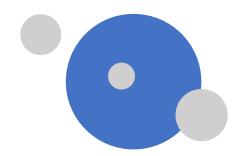
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The Planet of the Real World

A reminder that human and an chimp make sense of the **Real World** in *different* ways.





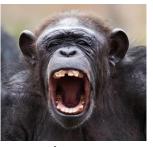
speed = x1

Human

Social rules

Driven by **life quality** and **humane values**

The **computer** takes input from *both* human and chimp and creates a **model of the Real World** that acts as a **reference** for *both* human and chimp.





speed = x5

Chimp

Jungle rules

Driven by **survival instinct** and other **primitive desires**



speed x20

How is this new information similar to what I have experienced before?





Any Autopilots I can use?

The Moon of Instant Stress (and how to deal with it)

You need to program an **Autopilot**. The recipe is as follows:

1. **Recognize you are under instant stress.** Chimp gets information first so almost certainly will react first. Use the word *CHANGE* to remind you that you need to **change your immediate reaction**, which <u>will be chimp thinking</u>.





i.e. on Stone of Life

- 2. Imagine hitting a **PAUSE** button for your chimp.
- 3. Physically or mentally **DISTANCE** yourself from the situation.
- 4. **SURVEY** the situation from an imaginary Helicopter. The problem may look smaller and will be placed in a wider context.
- 5. Ask **QUESTIONS**: Is this stress permanent or fleeting? Does this relate to the *really important* things in my life?
- 6. Form a **PLAN** to remove the stress. Consider whether the chimp or human will act on the plan.
- 7. **SMILE** and seek humour in the situation!







Useful reflective techniques that could form part of **stress-busting Autopilots**

AMP

You can't sensibly gather any more information.

Sometimes a decision may prove to be dire with the annoying power of hindsight. **ACCEPT** the situation, make a decision, and **MOVE ON** with a **PLAN**



Time Machine

Imagine recalling a stress situation *decades in the future*. Would it still matter?





Look back not forward

Start from where you are, and reflect how far you have come and what resources you possess. Temporarily ignore where you want to be and what you want until the stress has passed.

The Moon of Chronic Stress (and how to deal with it)

Relaxation techniques, and schedule time for relaxation



Learn to **let go** worthless thoughts such as "beating yourself up" over past mistakes that have been dealt with.



Delegate

Ask for help

Be realistic

Get perspective



You are in charge of your feelings and reactions (but 'you' *might* be your chimp)



Look beyond the problem to **solutions**

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Know the *difference* between **MALFUNCTION** and **DYSFUNCTION** when keeping the psychological mind healthy:

MALFUNCTION

The machine is not working. You are ill. Take responsibility to seek treatment.



The machine is not working properly. <u>Take</u> responsibility to work on *maintenance* of physical and mental health.





MAN-FLU

AN ILLNESS THAT CAUSES MALES OF THE SPECIES TO BE HELPLESS AND SICKER THAN ANY OTHER FAMILY MEMBER.

IN FEMALES: A COLD

How many of us *ignore* a dysfunction until it becomes a malfunction?

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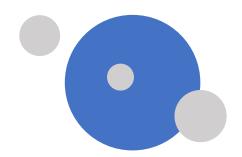
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The Planet of Success has three Moons

The Regal Moon

Which realm are you operating in, and who wears the crown? Are you the Monarch or Subject, or does a Committee run the realm?



The CORE moon

Commitment Ownership Responsibility Excellence

The Moon of Carrots (which is not the Moon of Sticks)



The Regal Moon

Which realm are you operating in, and who wears the crown? Are you the Monarch or Subject, or does a Committee run the realm?



You will operate in *different* realms, perhaps simultaneously, and many will <u>not be yours!</u>

Society laws Physics laws

- In your realm, you wear the crown, although even you may be constrained by Realm Rules. Choose Advisors carefully. A Monarch seeks the opinion of Advisors and behaves politely to Subjects (but doesn't seek their opinion).
- If you don't wear the crown <u>you are not in charge</u>. If you are chosen as an Advisor, offer counsel when called for, but <u>don't be too upset if advice is not taken up</u>.
- Subjects should always treat the Monarch with respect, but that doesn't mean being walked over. If you cannot agree with a Monarch's decision, move on to other realms.

 Unless you wear the crown, or become an Advisor, or can form part of Committee via the Realm Rules, you do not have the power to change things. Accept this fact.

The CORE moon

Commitment Ownership Responsibility Excellence

For success to occur, it is **commitment** *not motivation* that matters. Chimps are motivation driven, <u>humans are commitment driven</u>.

Commitment Screen. Yes this could probably be the basis of a form to fill in!

1. What I need to perform a task (e.g. climbing a rock face)

Essential requirements (e.g. rope system, harness, helmet for rock climbing, how to set these)

Significant requirements (e.g climbing grade, climber fitness/skill, weather conditions)

Desirable requirements (e.g. fancy shoes, chalk, motivational music, your favourite flapjacks)

2. Solutions ready for likely difficulties that may arise

Hurdles (e.g. No safe location for setting up rope system. You can't 'get around' this).

Barriers (e.g. No sensible access to base of a sea cliff, so you need to abseil down first).

Pitfalls (e.g. Loose rocks, and difficult places to place safe protection, or a tricky move.

Wear a helmet and put lots of protection below – i.e. assume you may fall).

To achieve excellence you need:

- To pass the Commitment Screen
- 2. A plan for which you have ownership and responsibility for execution
- 3. A desire to strive for *personal* excellence in the execution of the plan



The Moon of Carrots (which is not the Moon of Sticks)







Civilized society replaces Sticks with Carrots

In modern society, physical violence is mercifully rare. More common Sticks (which can often be *self inflicted*) are:

- Guilt
- Blame
- Regret
- Beating yourself up

Note putting someone else in a constant guilt trip loop over past actions that have been dealt with is an **ABUSIVE REMINDER**. *Don't do it*, move on.

So **be prepared to take advantage of opportunity**but a *civilized society must provide opportunities* —> SUCCESS in order for its citizens to flourish.

success starts with opportunity





The 7 Ps

Prior Preparation and Planning Prevents Perennially Poor Performance

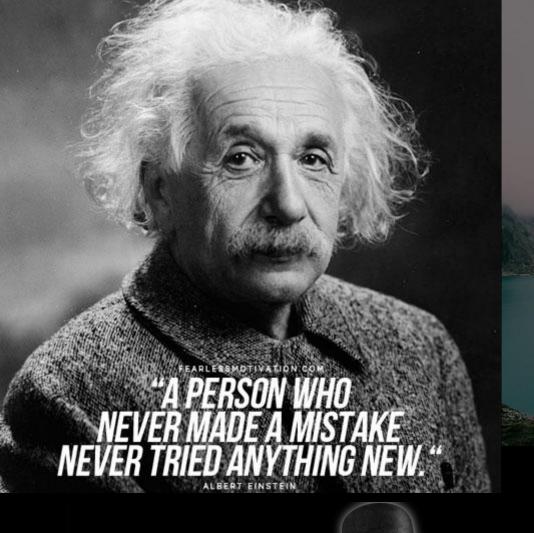


How to Plan for Success

1. The **Dream**: something you want to happen but <u>is not totally within your control</u>. **Goals**, which you can control, support dreams.

Dreams engage the chimp, Goals engage the human.

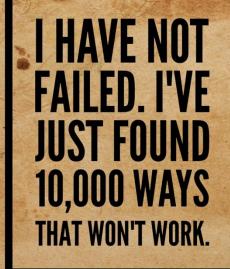
- 2. **Target** (*just* out of reach) and **Maintenance Goals** are the *foundation stones* of your Dream. Work out what these are, and *commit to only one or two at a time*.
- 3. Perform a Commitment Screen. (i.e. visit the CORE Moon).
- 4. Make a **SMARTA Plan** (**S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**chievable, **R**ealistic, **T**imebound, **A**greed). Write it down and get a trusted friend to see if it makes sense.
- 5. Monitor stages of success with charts and visuals. Celebrate completion of stages. Share the journey with a friend, but don't boast about it to colleagues.
- 6. Audit progress. Consider *sources* of **problems** in this order: 1) You; 2) Circumstances; 3) Others. This is human thinking. The chimp will invert this order.
- 7. Watch out for chimp-driven post-success emotions:
- Complacency Fear of losing Success Success wasn't as good as I imagined This recent Success was not enough, I want more, immediately
 - Partial success may be acceptable. You don't always need to Win or Lose
 - Failures need not be catastrophic. Failures may actually be helpful to sharpen problem solving skills for future dreams.
 - "Anything in life is only important as you want it to be."



Success consists of going from **failure to failure** without loss of enthusiasm.

- Winston Churchill





Thomas A. Edison

SUCCESS.com

The applications of Peters' model are presented via a 'solar system' of planets and their moons.

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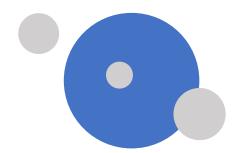
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How to be: happy, confident, secure



The Planet of Happiness

Having list:

- Achievements
- Possessions
- Positive emotions
- Physical fitness
- Intellectual stimulation

MASLOW'S HIERARCHY CREATIVITY. Abraham Harold Maslow (April 1, 1908 - June 8, 197 SPONTANEITY. was a psychologist who studied positive OF NEEDS human qualities and the lives of exempla-LACK OF PREJUDICE ACCEPTANCE OF FACT ry people. In 1954, Maslow created the Hierarchy of Human Needs and SELF-ACTUALIZATION expressed his theories in his book ABRAHAM Motivation and Personality. Self-Actualization - A person's motivation to reach his or ner full potential. As shown in Maslow's Hierarchy of LOVE/BELONGING Needs, a person's basic needs must be met before self-actualization can be OF HEALTH, OF PROPERTY BREATHING, FOOD, WATER, SLEEP HOMEOSTASIS, EXCRETION PHYSIOLOGICAL

Being list:

- Self worth (your assessment of your worth as a person)
- Self image (how you see your personality & presence)
- Self confidence (what you believe you are capable of doing)
- Self esteem (how you compare yourself to others)

— Maslow proposes a hierarchy of our needs, rather than a list.

However, Peters is perhaps more specific about what is on the happiness list.

MASLOW'S HIERARCHY OF NEEDS

ABRAHAM

MASLOW

MORALITY,
CREATIVITY,
SPONTANEITY,
PROBLEM SOLVING,
LACK OF PREJUDICE,
ACCEPTANCE OF FACTS

SELF-ACTUALIZATION

SELF-ESTEEM, CONFIDENCE, ACHIEVEMENT, RESPECT OF OTHERS, RESPECT BY OTHERS

ESTEEM

FRIENDSHIP, FAMILY, INTIMACY

LOVE/BELONGING

SECURITY OF BODY, OF EMPLOYMENT, OF RESOURCES, OF MORALITY, OF THE FAMILY, OF HEALTH, OF PROPERTY

SAFETY

BREATHING, FOOD, WATER, SLEEP, HOMEOSTASIS, EXCRETION

PHYSIOLOGICAL

Abraham Harold Maslow (April 1, 1908 - June 8, 1970)
was a psychologist who studied positive
human qualities and the lives of exemplary people. In 1954, Maslow created the
Hierarchy of Human Needs and
expressed his theories in his book,
Motivation and Personality.





Self-Actualization - A person's motivation to reach his or her full potential. As shown in Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, a person's basic needs must be met before self-actualization can be achieved.







The Moon of Confidence

- Confidence based on ability gives power to the chimp
- Confidence based on opportunity to give your best gives power to the human

The Moon of Security

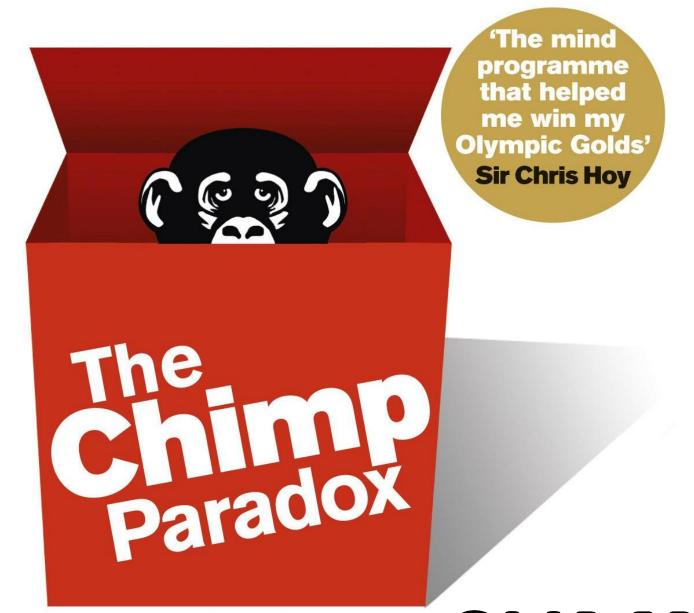
- Chimp is *paranoid* and sees either *catastrophic mortal danger*, or *100% secure relaxation*. i.e. binary, extreme views.
- Human is aware that all risk <u>cannot be avoided</u> and must be accepted. Human has a <u>responsibility</u> to manage the chimp, via the programming of an appropriate Autopilot.

Remember, the chimp gets information first, and the Computer works 20x faster than a human. So a chimp-activated Autopilot may occur before the human is even aware of what is going on.

This is perhaps the most important take-home message of this presentation.

<u>The human is responsible</u> for programming Autopilots to help manage their

<u>chimp</u>. Autopilots increase the chance of better responding to day-to-day stimuli, particularly those associated with stressful situations.



SUMMARY

Wiki summary of The Chimp Paradox

The One Page Summary

Peter's presents a highly simplified, but *physically realistic* model of the **psychological mind**. A *trio* of independent thinking systems: (1) human; (2) chimp; (3) computer.

You can then *apply this model to help manage*: (i) yourself in isolation and (ii) yourself in the context of others. Peter's model is both powerful and interesting because is based upon a model mechanism of *machinery that we all possess*, rather than ideals and stories that may or may not be generally applicable. i.e. and often don't address why we might think & act in a particular way.

The *Chimp Paradox* describes the **high likelihood of conflict between the human and chimp systems**, and how this is often the root cause of undesirable behaviour.



speed = x1

Human Rational thinking Society rules Self-development agenda



speed = x5

Chimp

Emotional thinking
Jungle rules
Self-survival agenda



speed = x20

Computer

Executes *pre-programmed* thoughts and behaviours Also a library: Information, Beliefs, Values

Controlling Psychological Mind Information Flow Model thinking system Extreme Any input to psychological mind **Autopilots** Yes **Goblins** Mindset speed x5 **Stone of Life Gremlins** Danger or threat Not severe perceived? Programming No speed x1 Familiar Info always goes to chimp first **Speed ratios mean** Unfamiliar computer or chimp may Write new react before human is

even aware.

speed x20

program



The Square of Communication

The Planet Connect

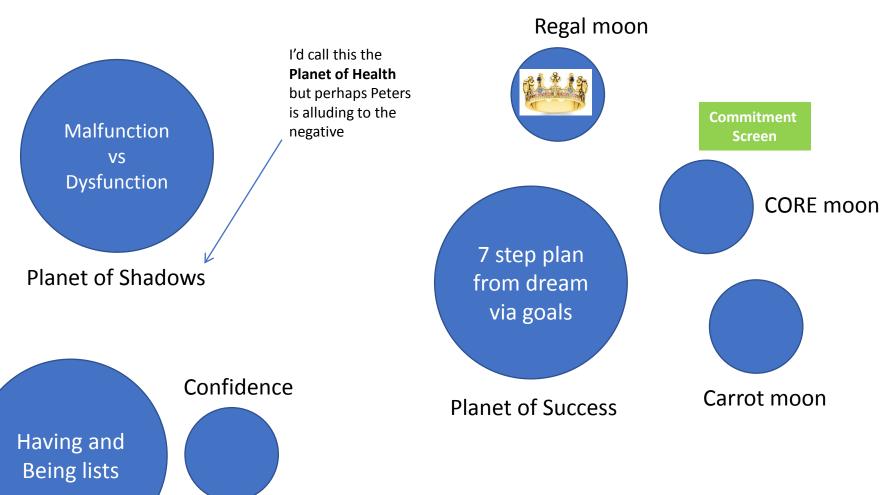
Chimp and human program a computer model

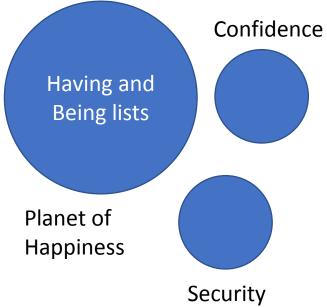
Planet of the Real World

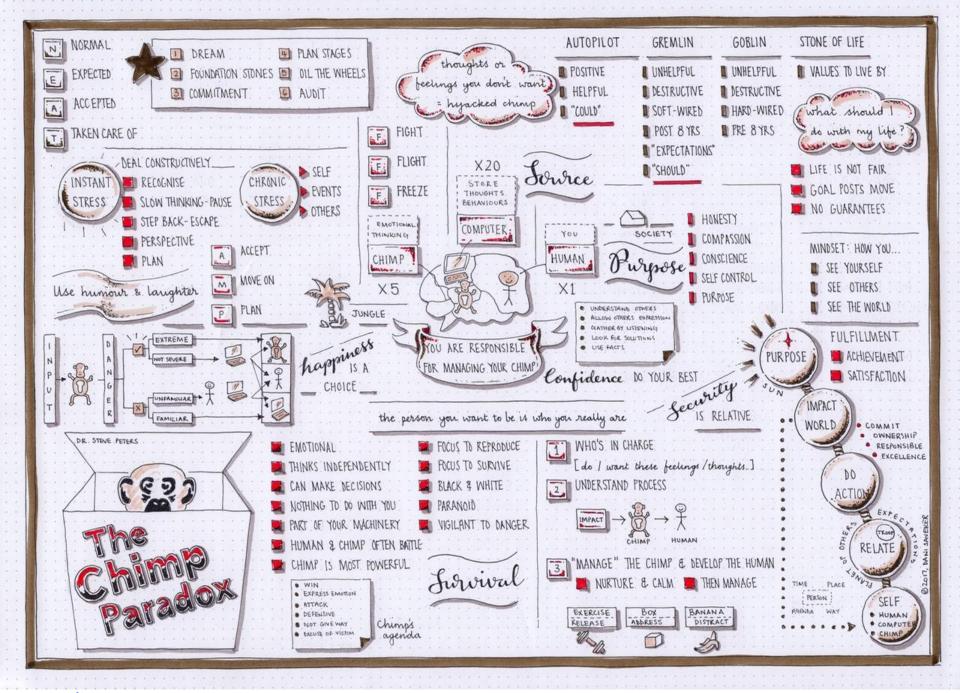
Chronic Stress Moon

Autopilots!

Instant Stress Moon













QUESTIONS

Misc illustration elements

