

You came in with those monkeys, you leave with those monkeys!

If you recognize those words than you must have heard Terry Watson give a presentation. For a while it seemed Terry and I were at every tech fair and state convention together. He would be keynote I would be breakout, I would be keynote he would be breakout. I will tell his monkey story to the best of my ability.

Have you ever been around somebody that had monkeys on their back? What I mean is they carry all these problems around with them and are always looking to leave one of their problems with you, monkeys. Now I do believe in being passionate about other people's problems and always willing to hear them out and many times the advice they are seeking is in the story they tell you, but some people are loaded with monkeys all the time. It's like they are monkey magnets and not only carry their own monkeys but also others. It seems the more monkeys they have the sadder they are but in a strange way it's what they thrive on.

Terry tells the story of sitting in his office and here comes a monkey caravan, we all listen to these people and sadly we take one of the monkeys as our own problem, well you need to stop it! Not saying be cold hearted and not have compassion but carrying extra monkeys doesn't help you with your career and personal life. Give the words of encouragement, if a simple way to help make the problem go away is available share it but when they leave your space they must take their damn monkeys with them!

In my life, I use these metaphors and those close to me understand if I say monkeys means somebody is trying to lay their problems on you. Another one is did you throw the "gas can" which if you read an earlier article/blog you would know that is developing a preconceived outcome before it ever happens.

Starting today learn how to handle monkeys that are being delivered to you! If they came in with those monkeys they are going to leave with those monkeys! Thanks Terry!!!!!!