

## **When 1 + 1 = <1**

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Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society

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As background, my 30-year career with the Feds started in the humidity of Florida and Texas to the South China Sea of southeast Asia via the San Francisco Bay area of California. Then on to the coolness of Alaska and Nevada, and back again to the green trees of Oregon where in 1997 I retired to the mountain solitude of Hugo. It is here my wife, Cindy, and I built a new home together. Mt. Sexton is in the frame of my kitchen window every day after I get up to make several cups of coffee — aroma roasted, mountain grown they say. Early each morning our just two-year old dogies, Deeno and Pebbles, obnoxiously say hi with their grinning teeth, wet noses, and tails a going while asking, “Where’s breakfast?”

Anyway, what’s with this *When 1 + 1 = <1*? That does not sound right.  $1 + 1 = 2$ , right? It’s a combination of two lives, mine and my good friend Karen Rose, and our physicals rotating into old age and, of course, being very special. I had a bout of acute gallbladder pancreatitis in 2012 and now have chronic pancreatitis. In 2013 Karen had arterial embolism which would have caused infarction in one of her legs. It eventually resulted in the loss of the leg and now she is on dialysis. What a crowd, group, bunch, or humans of two, among other health issues we both tire easily and forget things. By the way this is a long story, so grab your favorite brew and sit down in the easy chair. . . don’t forget to keep reading. And, fair warning, being a little bit of a computer geek will probably help in understanding and enjoying this story.

The story’s beginning was many years ago, 2003 to be exact, when Karen informed us she would like to be the Web Master for the Hugo Neighborhood Association & Historical Society (*Hugo Neighborhood*, or HUNAHS). Our little group of volunteers is in northern Josephine County, Oregon. The use of “HUNAHS” is, we hope, a way to use the magic vowel ‘U’ in Hugo so we too can have our own county-wide catchword. Say it like you say Hugo, HU-NAHS. Her original idea and proposal to us was that under the HUNAHS Board’s direction she would design and maintain a *Hugo Neighborhood* web page covering both land use and history. She was going to use Go Daddy to publish our web stuff on the internet. I think I know what a sugar daddy is. I guess I will find out what a Go Daddy is, maybe it’s a Go Daddy Go!

The bottom-line was that I and all the other officers, resoundingly responded, GREAT! Our motto, like most small underfunded and staffed groups, was “*Whatever the volunteer wants, the volunteer gets.*” . . . if it doesn’t cost money. I, as a retired land use planner jumped on the idea, and developed a large multi-page organizational outline of what I thought could be Hugo’s web page. Planning for the future, you know. After Karen saw my outline she took about ½ a micro second to say “*No Way*” described with a few expletives. Her idea was that the web page would be a simple one to two page outline, and that’s the way it went. We have been laughing for years now, with this memory, because the web page morphed into a monster of land use and history information that boggles the mind. She did a wonderful job and Hugo gets compliments all the time.

Anyway, over a decade after Karen started our web site, I found himself in the role of a student learning how she set up the *Hugo Neighborhood's* web page, and how to maintain it. As the student, I have a new title, Co-Web Master. Wow, I better get to busy learning my new job. When Karen started, she decided to use one of the "better" WYSIWYG HTML editors. WYSIWYG is a foul sting of letters called an acronym for "*What You See Is What You Get*".

Never knew what a WYSIWYG was did you? Now try to pronounce it. Smile. Don't know your acronyms from your antonyms or your apronyms from your autonyms? Confused about tautonyms and toponyms? Perplexed by patronyms, confused by contronyms (contranym), baffled by bacronyms, or stumped by synonyms? Do you muddle your meronyms, metonyms, and metronyms, nor heteronyms, hyperonyms, and hyponyms? Me too!

Now that we sorta know what WYSIWYG means, what is this other foul sting of letters, HTML? It is short for *HyperText Markup Language*, the authoring language used to create documents on the world wide web. The HTML defines the structure and layout of a web document by using a variety of tags and attributes. The correct structure for an HTML document starts with <HTML><HEAD> (enter here what document is about) <BODY> and ends with </BODY></HTML>. All the information you'd like to include in your web page fits in between the <BODY> and </BODY> tags. There are hundreds of other tags used to format and layout the information in a web page. Tags are also used to specify hypertext links. These allow web developers to direct users to other web pages with only a click of the mouse on either an image or words. Now that your ready, how about you being the Co-Web Master? I can be replaced with just a minimal of encouragement.

Stated in another way a HTML editor is similar to text editors. It is a specialized piece of computer software that assists in the creation of web code or HTML code. Now that I have explained that, what is a WYSIWYG editor really? You are probably beginning to get the idea about the central theme of this story, When  $1 + 1 = < 1$ .

Perhaps the real question should be *What is an HTML editor with WYSIWYG mode?* As you now know WYSIWYG stands for "*What You See Is What You Get*". When an HTML editor is in WYSIWYG mode, the HTML page is rendered as though it is being viewed with a web browser. The only difference is that, the web developer can edit the page at the same time.

They say formatting text with a WYSIWYG editor is as simple as highlighting the text, then clicking the "x" button (or whichever button you need). Just like in a wordprocessing program like Microsoft Word, or a desktop publishing application, such as QuarkXpress, which allows you to see what the page will look like while you're editing it. It's kind of like editing a preview of your web page. Although usually referred to as "WYSIWYG editors", these are better described as an HTML editor with WYSIWYG mode. The user can switch between "Code view" and "WYSIWYG view".

The “better” WYSIWYG HTML editor, Karen started using was *FrontPage*, full name Microsoft Office FrontPage. It was so great that at a tender age of five years it was put out to pasture. Sound familiar? *FrontPage* is now a discontinued WYSIWYG HTML editor and web site administration tool from Microsoft for the Microsoft Windows line of operating systems. It was branded as part of the Microsoft Office suite from 1997 to 2003. Yup, they replaced it in 2006 with a new system. And, that’s another gripe I have, they are always updating these gosh darn computer systems, seems like each year, until shortly its got a RIP over it.

But, us old-timers that have a hard time changing, hold on to good things, like my wife Cindy still works pretty good and I am keeping her. I am also still using an old word processing program called WordPerfect even though I went to Rogue Community College to learn how to use Word with Cindy. She just rolls her eyes and shakes her head at me. I’m tired and I have to go to the bathroom. Be back in a minute.

Oh, by the way, after you have learned how to use your HTML editor with WYSIWYG mode, you can look at your new web page at home on your computer, or you can web publish it so others can see it at home on their computers. Now I’m trying to remember what Karen told me about Go Daddy. It publishes our web stuff on the internet. Remember? This is the outfit that was going to be our internet domain registrar and web hosting company. It turns out that Go Daddy is not a long string to letters to represent something else and is the real name of the company. I can’t take it; just when you think you have it figured out they go normal! Also, did you catch the fact that “HUNAHS” is not a foul sounding string of letters? It is understandably a loving icon for a great neighborhood. You might think this is inconsistent thinking, but probably is the relativity theory in action.

Nearly as old as the Internet itself, GoDaddy supporters say it was created to give people an easy, affordable way to get their ideas online. I’m sure that’s true even if it feels like a commercial advertisement. Today, it has more than 12 million customers around the world, that’s three Oregons full. Go Daddy says they’re here to help people easily start, confidently grow and successfully run their own ventures. In short, to help them kick ass, online and off (almost a quote)! Finally, something I can understand. Smile.

I feel it must be an important company with a 65,000 square foot data center in the old U.S. of A. This data center is connected to an optical fiber DWDM Ethernet backbone with a speed of 20 Gigabits per second. In 2013, Go Daddy reached more than 55 million domain names under management. At that time, Go Daddy was reported as the largest ICANN-accredited registrar in the world, at the size of four times their closest competitor. I’m not going to try to explain something else that I don’t understand - those other stings of letters describing Go Daddy. Have fun.

Guess what? After I learn how to use Frontpage and Go Daddy Karen and I are going to develop a self-help *Frontpage and Go Daddy Protocols Manual* (FGO Manual) so that I will remember all I learned and what to do when I am home alone web publishing. Look at that, we just created another set of letters, FGO, standing for Frontpage and Go Daddy. This is supposed to make our life easily, all these short-cut words. She did tell me that it would not be that bad, and that I

could telephone her if I had questions. I secretly think that this is why it is taking so long being a Co-Web Master student . . . I'm afraid to be home alone.

At first glance, needing a FGO Forgetfulness Manual sounds like I might have some form of Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder. The actual description does not feel like I have it because I don't have any of the hyperactivity characteristics, . . . but, I forget.

Another buddy offered that you do not have forgetfulness, you have stress, and you are over exciting your brain, just get rid of it. My stress or my brain? We understand that it's hardly surprising that tough times can stimulate the brain. Back in our hunter-gatherer past, quick thinking was a survival skill. Whether tracking a gazelle or meeting a deadline, we need to stay mentally sharp in times of stress. The wrinkle is that I haven't figure out how WYSIWYG HTML GO DADDY training is like a survival trait. In this modern world some say having computer skills is survival of the fitness, or did another guy say that?

They say (many times I wonder who "they" are) stress can literally energize the brain. The body responds to stress by releasing sugar into the bloodstream and sending extra blood to the brain, essentially giving brain cells a feast of energy. Meanwhile, the stress hormone cortisol helps alert the hippocampus, a part of the brain that's crucial for storing and retrieving memories. A little stress also sharpens all of the senses, making it possible to remember smells, tastes, and sounds that otherwise might have gone unnoticed. Perhaps I can get over my forgetfulness with a new hippocampus? I wonder where you buy one?

I also wonder about the relationship of hippocampus and the three-chambered stomach hippopotamus. As you know the hippo, is named after a cranky river horse, a large, mostly herbivorous mammal in sub-Saharan Africa, and one of only two extant species in the family Hippopotamidae. Maybe its because the hippocampus was named after its resemblance to a seahorse? Maybe its about horses? Did you know that I was on a horse three times in my life and fell off on two of those three adventures. I wonder if one of those times I landed on my head? They say the hippocampus is a major component of the brains of humans and other vertebrates. It plays important roles in the consolidation of information from short-term memory to long-term memory and spatial navigation. We have two, I suspect one is probably for backup, and we probably need it because Alzheimer's disease finds the hippocampus one of the first regions of the brain to suffer damage. Memory loss and disorientation are included among the early symptoms. Boy, do you remember where the hospital is located? I'm feeling a checkup coming on.

As you might suspect, or not, Karen is a communicating human. In her job before retirement she was deep into HTML with WYSIWYG, and she thinks along those organized logical processes when conducting my web training. You should see her computer room and her coded pencils and erasers.

We human beings are very much at the mercy of our particular language, or languages, which become the mediums of expression for our particular groups. The fact of the matter is that the 'real world' is to a large extent unconsciously built upon the language habits of the group. No

two languages are ever sufficiently similar to be considered as representing the same social reality. The HTML - WYSIWYG worlds in which different humans live are distinct worlds, not merely the same world with different labels attached ... We see and hear and otherwise experience very largely as we do because the language habits of our community predispose certain choices of interpretation.

By now you might suspect that I might not be fully human, but you would be wrong; I have a birth certificate that says so. Another human, me, considers myself organized and over time I developed a short-hand way of thinking. In sum, we think the way we think, organized or not. We two humans are two people with two well used thinking processes which normally do not have much trouble communicating. Unless, perhaps, you are working on some technical idea new to one of us, me, with important new terms and processes. This is hard using old mental hardware through a kaleidoscopic flux of impressions which have to be organized by our minds, especially my mind. We cut thoughts up, organize them into concepts, and ascribe significance largely because we are humans to an agreement to organize it in this way or that - an agreement that holds throughout the particular speech community being used. The agreement is, of course, an implicit and unstated one, *but its terms are absolutely obligatory*; we cannot talk at all except by subscribing to the organization and classification of data which the agreement decrees. By the way, have you ever seen that HTML with WYSIWYG agreement? Remind me to ask my wife to pass the milk.

Any act of human communication can be seen as involving a kind of translation. It's impossible to mean the same thing in two, or more, different WYSIWYG ways, or maybe not. The importance of what is 'lost in translation' varies, of course.

Reason for many things, including my web training, is the capacity for consciously making sense of things, based on new or existing information. It is normally considered to be a definitive characteristic of human nature. The concept of reason is sometimes referred to as rationality or the faculty of drawing inferences, in opposition to intuitive reason. This rational reasoning idea finally get us back to the arithmetic question of When  $1 + 1 = <1$ , the core of our story.

Somewhere during my 5<sup>th</sup> training session Karen laughingly told me that she thought our two brains equaled, maybe one brain, we were collectively so forgetful. Remember when adding forgetfulness it is not additive or cumulative; it is sorta subtractive decremental, decreescent (becoming less by gradual diminution), degressive, regressive, or diminishing (i.e.,  $1 + 1 = 1$ ).

I laughed with her. Laughter in adversity has got to be good for the soul. One researcher found that "*Research has shown that people who volunteer often live longer.*" We must be going to live a long time if our heavenly receipt is the number of volunteer hours we donate to our little community. Another researcher said "*Adversity has the same effect on a man that severe training has on the pugilist: it reduces him to his fighting weight.*" They, he, him, her, she might be right; I have lost 100 pounds. I'm not sure how many pounds Karen has shed. She might be cheating though because she now only has one leg. Another observed "*In prosperity, our friends know us; in adversity, we know our friends.*" Boy, howdy. That one works because sometimes the actual words can appear negative, but the body language and the twinkling of the eye is the

force of friends moving forward to the day Karen puts on her new prosthesis, and drives her red Mustang about town.

Intuition, is the ability to acquire knowledge without inference or the use of reason. The word *intuition* is sorta *to look inside* or *to contemplate*. Intuition is thus often conceived as a kind of inner perception, sometimes regarded as real lucidity or understanding. Cases of intuition are of a great diversity, however processes by which they happen typically remain mostly unknown to the thinker, as opposed to our view of rational thinking.

Reason or "reasoning" is associated with thinking, cognition, and intellect. Reason, like habit or intuition, is one of the ways by which thinking comes from one idea to a related idea. For example, it is the means by which rational beings understand themselves to think about cause and effect, truth and falsehood, and what is good or bad. It is also closely identified with the ability to self-consciously change beliefs, attitudes, traditions, and institutions, and therefore with the capacity for freedom and self-determination. But, today intuition wins When  $1 + 1 = 1$  is the correct answer.

Or, perhaps what is going on is a form regressive in the sense of being, characterized by, or developing in the course of an evolutionary process involving increasing simplification of bodily structure and brain flows. Or, perhaps it is a form of decremental (e.g., abatement, decline, decrease, dent, depletion, depression, diminishment, diminution, drop, drop-off, fall, falloff, loss, reduction, shrinkage, step-down) shrinkage or step-down shrinkage. There is something about shrinkage that sounds uncomfortable, . . . but I forget.

My Hugo vernacular finds that  $1 + 1 = <1$  fits better for me as a form of diminishing (i.e., make or become less) with synonyms such as decrease, lessen, decline, reduce, subside, die down, abate, dwindle, fade, slacken off, moderate, let up, ebb, wane, recede, die away/out, peter out. I understand dwindle to peter out.

If you remember, which is, if you remember, "not to forget," Karen had earlier observed she thought our two brains equaled, maybe one brain. I responded to Karen's opinion that  $1 + 1 = 1$  with my  $1 + 1 = <1$  observation and I'm sticking to it. As you know you don't have to be right to have an opinion. Everyone has one . . . what? At that particular moment I probably was just a little more forgetfulness than Karen and my additive or cumulative was just a little more subtractive diminishing than Karen's forgetfulness. Say what?

The important thing was we agreed about the need for developing a FGO Forgetfulness Manual. Every time I see Karen she says she just has not gotten around to reviewing my first draft forgetfulness manual, and perhaps she would just start from scratch, or perhaps she is just forgetting to do it. I resorted to the use of a tape recorder for when Karen was explaining WYSIWYG HTML GO DADDY. Typing what I had heard helped some, but not enough which is why our goal is still to develop my manual for bedside reading.

At the heart of all these thoughts, about numbers being this or that and acronyms, is wonderful friendship. Having the confidence, the normality of making fun of ourselves is part of the heart

of friendship. Some other ideas about friendship I stole, maybe borrowed from a friend(s) that did not care follow.

- It is one of the blessings of old friends that you can afford to be stupid with them. *Ralph Waldo Emerson.*
- It is more fun to talk with someone who doesn't use long, difficult words but rather short, easy words like "What about lunch?" *A.A. Milne, Winnie-the-Pooh.*
- Friends are people who know you really well and like you anyway. *Greg Tamblyn.*
- Love is blind; friendship tries not to notice. *Otto von Bismarck.*
- A true friend is someone who thinks that you are a good egg even though he knows that you are slightly cracked. *Bernard Meltzer.*
- I had to tell him his fly was unzipped. *Karen Rose.*
- Between friends, differences in taste or opinion are irritating in direct proportion to their triviality. *W.H. Auden.*
- 'Tis the privilege of friendship to talk nonsense, and to have her nonsense respected. *Charles Lamb.*
- You can always tell a real friend: when you've made a fool of yourself he doesn't feel you've done a permanent job. *Laurence J. Peter.*
- Friendship is like peeing in your pants. Everyone can see it, but only you can feel the warm feeling inside. *Unknown.*
- The holy passion of Friendship is so sweet and steady and loyal and enduring a nature that it will last through a whole lifetime, if not asked to lend money. *Mark Twain.*

I especially like the one about a true friend being someone who thinks that you are a good egg even though he knows that you are slightly cracked, but I will remember when Karen told me my fly was unzipped. I have always wondered what she was doing looking at my crotch. She was probably thinking he is wearing long pants and not his iconic, original, stretch, cargo, tan shorts by Sportif (that's another story). Smile.

I also love a poem in my in-laws' home, Chuck and Jan Stull. Cindy and I now have it hanging on the livingroom wall in our home.

*Friend, you will be welcome here, be at your ease.  
You can get up when you're ready, and go to bed when you please.  
We will be happy to share with you such as we've got, the leaks in the roof and the soup  
in the pot.  
You will not have to laugh at our jokes, sit deep and come often, you're one of the folks.*

It is hard to describe my friendship with my wife Cindy; she is more than a friend. I do not have the words to accurately do the job justice. If I remember, . . . I'll tell her in private.

I end this story by providing a footnote when sometimes numbers equal more than their totals. For example, you would think as we shared before that  $1 + 1 = 2$ . However, when I'm not with Karen I will always remember that 1 and 1 sometimes equals 6,  $1 + 1 = 6$ . I know this is a fact and Cindy agrees with me. The facts are that two puppies together equal more than two. We had

never had two puppies growing up together in our home with us; previously they had been about 5 - 7 years apart. Anyway we decided to get two puppies, Deeno and Pebbles, that were a month apart.

Deeno is a mut Black Lab and a very smart puppy. Pebbles, believe it or not, is a mut Australian Stumpy Tailed Cattle Dog. We like muts, someone said they were cheaper, but I don't know as the vet doesn't care. Pebbles is in agility training and loves to go walking with Cindy without Deeno. Cindy thinks Deeno would be great on the agility course, but he still has his balls, and she thinks he could be a disruptive influence while demonstrating his Machismo, you know he has a responsibility to provide for, protect, and defend his family.

The first year we were amazed and in awe with the cumulative power two puppies have when playing mindlessly with each other. Everything was fair game to pounce, trample, and haul around. I finally had to built a garden fence to protect our spring plantings and summer harvesting garden produce from our little demons. The back part of the new enclosure is also for my new junk storage area for my "beholder" pieces of which I had previously hidden all over our home lot. Deeno would find all of them, piece by piece, and daily bring something new to the front yard.

The one good thing about puppies together was that the daily scratches from four-month puppy Deeno ceased when he had Pebbles to play with.

And, that's when  $1 + 1 = <1$ .

Mike :)

Mike, Mikie, Michael, Hey You, BH, . . . one or all of us is a friendly hugable Hugoite. Remind me.