

Forum: [Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [Be honest: what actually leveled you up and what was a total waste of time?](#)

Tyr - December 13, 2025, 9:08 pm

Most of us have been around long enough to see the same cycles repeat.

New tools.
New buzzwords.
Same advice repackaged.

With hindsight in mind:

What genuinely moved the needle for you — and what turned out to be a distraction?

Could be anything. For example:
Skills you underestimated early on

Habits that slowed you down without you realizing it

Resources you still revisit even though they're "outdated"

Advice you ignored that ended up being correct

Not interested in trends or marketing. Just experience.

I'll start:

The biggest change for me wasn't technical at all — it was changing my outlook on life and how I approach things mentally. Learning patience, discipline, and not reacting emotionally made everything else easier, both online and offline.

Once I stopped tying progress to quick wins and started thinking long-term, stress dropped and results improved. Following a consistent mindset instead of constantly chasing something new made life feel more stable overall.

Looking back, the biggest waste of time was burning energy on things that didn't actually improve my quality of life.

Your turn HF.

RangoWorld - December 13, 2025, 10:47 pm

I agree on the mindset.

I also chased short term goals and now I'm working on long term ones. Even if it means having short term pain. This is key.

I think focusing less on the tools and system in itself and more on the action is also important. I used to have many different setups for doing and tracking my tasks. Now I just use a simple To Do

List and achieve much more.

SIM-4331310 - December 13, 2025, 11:14 pm

Still looking for that lvl up 2 be honest with you G

Axelyn - December 14, 2025, 12:45 am

For me, the thing that genuinely leveled me up was not a skill or tool but learning how to structure my focus and energy around what actually matters.

I spent years bouncing between tutorials, new frameworks, and the next shiny thing, thinking that consuming more content would make me better. In reality, it only gave me a false sense of progress.

What finally made a difference was choosing one meaningful project and committing to it consistently. No distractions, no switching tasks every week. The mental discipline of saying this is what I will actually finish created compounding results I never got from hopping between trends.

On the other hand, a total waste of time for me was trying to copy other people's paths instead of figuring out what works for my own goals. Forums, guides, and templates all helped a little, but too often I spent energy mimicking instead of doing.

I think the lesson is simple but important. You only level up when you do meaningful work consistently, not when you chase every shortcut.

Jamika - December 14, 2025, 6:48 am

(Dec 13, 2025 10:08 PM)Tyr Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Most of us have been around long enough to see the same cycles repeat.

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The worst thing is to be polite , or respect a rude person. An eye for an eye is the best rule ever

dmitriablovv - December 16, 2025, 1:59 am

(Dec 14, 2025 07:48 AM)Jamika Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) The worst thing is to be polite , or respect a rude person. An eye for an eye is the best rule ever

I totally agree with you, this is the same way i'll pwn the f**ker who pwned me. I'll simply return the favor!

Tyr - December 18, 2025, 9:57 pm

(Dec 14, 2025 07:48 AM)Jamika Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) The worst thing is to be polite , or respect a rude person. An eye for an eye is the best rule ever

Not sure if you've been wise the entire time or if you're getting wiser over the last year because that's some real shit [Jamika](#)

The Pact - December 18, 2025, 10:08 pm

(Dec 14, 2025 07:48 AM)Jamika Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) The worst thing is to be polite , or respect a rude person. An eye for an eye is the best rule ever

Cats shouldn't be smoking. You don't want kitty cancer! ? ? ?

Tyr - December 18, 2025, 10:11 pm

(Dec 18, 2025 11:08 PM)The Pact Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Cats shouldn't be smoking. You don't want kitty cancer! ? ? ?

Hmm. But what if it isn't tobacco and he is smoking CBD based jamaican leaves?

(Dec 14, 2025 12:14 AM)SIM-4331310 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Still looking for that lvl up 2 be honest with you G

It'll come dawg. One level at a time is key. Can't go from step 1-3.

(Dec 14, 2025 01:45 AM)Axelyn Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) For me, the thing that genuinely leveled me up was not a skill or tool but learning how to structure my focus and energy around what actually matters.

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Imho, real progress comes from shipping and chipping away @ one thing consistently, not

collecting more “prep” as a substitute for momentum. I also like the point about copying paths: it's easy to borrow someone else's map and end up in a place you never wanted. What's the one meaningful project you're committing to right now?

(Dec 14, 2025 07:48 AM)Jamika Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) The worst thing is to be polite , or respect a rude person. An eye for an eye is the best rule ever

Well said. However, in some roles (i.e., consider a salesperson) one must conform to basic principles of human interaction and sales psychology in order to put the customer first. Sometimes the rudest customers bring you the most ROI.

The Pact - December 19, 2025, 12:59 am

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If you can respond to someone acting obnoxious with kindness....if they are a sane person at their core they'll probably end up loving you.

Jokerhusband - December 20, 2025, 1:48 am

Learning irrelevant college semester subjects for the sake of marks in exam was a total waste of time as i dont remember anything now and the thing that leveled me up was only the school time hard study of maths and other subjects...

Tyr - December 20, 2025, 10:24 pm

(Dec 20, 2025 02:48 AM)Jokerhusband Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Learning irrelevant college semester subjects for the sake of marks in exam was a total waste of time as i dont remember anything now and the thing that leveled me up was only the school time hard study of maths and other subjects...

That's actually relatable, lol

Oracle Services - December 22, 2025, 5:07 pm

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Your turn HF.

Leveling up and time wasted for me were tied to the same idea: Inefficient energy scatter.

Ever since I set personal strict boundaries within my social life, internal neuroplasticity become more efficient (In terms of investing time in processing attained data). This helped a lot with the brain fog and clarity towards what I always planned for.

In other words: More alone time, but not at the cost of social life where I force myself to solitude. Correct interactions bring a dynamic lifestyle, but also must be processed so that upcoming interactions maintain upward efficiency.

Tyr - January 11, 2026, 11:05 pm

(Dec 22, 2025 06:07 PM)Oracle Services Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Leveling up and time wasted for me were tied to the same idea: Inefficient energy scatter.

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In other words: More alone time, but not at the cost of social life where I force myself to solitude. Correct interactions bring a dynamic lifestyle, but also must be processed so that upcoming interactions maintain upward efficiency.

Sometimes neuroplasticity can be hindered by external forces beyond your control.

too bad i am codependent on females; this is actually what I need to fix in my damn life