

# How to be dispensable

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# How to be indispensable

- Use a language that no-one else knows
- Hack straight into prod and make sure it's not in version control
- Be path critical on every Gant chart
- Never document anything – or document everything so thoroughly no-one can face reading your 1,000 page epic
- Make sure no-one knows how to test your code (including you)
- Use obscure language corners and rely on specifics of this compiler version

# Further details

- What have I left out?
- <http://c2.com/cgi/wiki?GetRidOfIndispensableProgrammerAsQuicklyAsPossible>
- <http://c2.com/cgi/wiki?JobSecurity>

# Conclusion

- "If a programmer is indispensable, get rid of him as quickly as possible."
  - [Gerald Weinberg](#) in [The Psychology Of Computer Programming](#)
- "Corollary: If you yourself suspect you are becoming indispensable, use your awesome powers to immediately make yourself dispensable. Find and train understudies."

# How to be dispensable

- Pair programme or get your work code reviewed – everything you do will be understood by someone else
- Anyone else can carry on with your work tomorrow (including you) – CI, in version control, minimal wiki page, visible TODO list
- Communicate with your team
- Be positive
- Be a friend

# Conclusion

- “If you can't be replaced, you can't be promoted.”

<http://programmers.stackexchange.com/questions/48697/should-a-programmer-be-indispensable>

- “If you’re dispensable your team can do without you, but they’d rather not”