An Incomplete List of Advice for Sophomore Systems Builders

Advice #1
Take on a big project during your next few years.

Advice #2
Learn to use a debugger.

Advice #3
Don’t put off learning about tools (make, svn, python, Matlab, etc.).
Advice #4

Avoid optimizing prematurely.

Advice #5

Build. Burn. Rebuild.

Advice #6

The best designers are the best testers and debuggers.

Advice #7

Good code is like good prose.
Advice #8
Take on a big team project during your next few years.

Advice #9
Don't be afraid to break things.

Advice #10
Turn drudge work into opportunities for invention.