

[steven@macromedia /work]\$ shutdown -h +360 'Going on sabbatical. Please log off'

Posted At : July 29, 2005 7:34 AM | Posted By : Steven Erat

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Like many others at Macromedia, its my turn for a long sabbatical, although I've been eligible for over a year. For the next six weeks, until September 12th, I'll be out of the office. I suspect that this is the **first** and the **last time** I'll be able to take such an extended leave.

I plan to spend the first 3 weeks at home, biking, swimming, reading, and blogging. Some of my objectives include reading parts of several technical books including **one on Eclipse** which has a chapter on building plugins, **one on building Dashboard Widgets** on Mac OSX, and one on **Photoshop CS**. I may take some time to read up SELinux, too.

During this last month I've been reading Thomas Friedman's *The World is Flat*, which I highly recommend, so I hope to finish that up. I think that Friedman's book is complemented by Jared Diamond's *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, and by Spencer Well's *The Journey of Man: A Genetic Odyssey*, but best if read (or viewed) starting with Wells and finishing with Friedman. If I find a day to spare, I think I'll finally sit myself down to watch the whole 8 hour series **Cosmos, by Carl Sagan**.

During the second half of my sabbatical, I'll be in Barcelona, **Spain** and then in **the high Pyrenees**. My wife and I were married in a civil ceremony two years ago and now we will be having a formal ceremony in a **12th century church** in a small mountain village near **the border with France**, close to Pico Aneto, the highest mountain in Spain. I used **Ray's BlogCFC** to create a dual English/Spanish informational website to assist the guests.

If you're not familiar with the region, check **this out**. Its a small Javascript app that zooms in on Barcelona and the Pyrennes, which I made for those who will be travelling from the US. It's a little slow in MSIE, but great in Firefox. This was before Google Earth came out, so I was trying to provide a way for non-technical people to get their bearings.

```
shutdown -h +360 "Going on sabbatical. Please log off"
Broadcast message from root (pts/1)
(Fri Jul 29 11:56:35 2005):
Going on sabbatical. Please log off
The system is going DOWN for system halt in 6 hours!
```