

Engineer's Explained – their Ego's

Ego-wise, two things are important to engineers:

- * How smart they are.
- * How many cool devices they own.

The fastest way to get an engineer to solve a problem is to declare that the problem is unsolvable.

No engineer can walk away from an unsolvable problem until it's solved.

No illness or distraction is sufficient to get the engineer off the case.

These types of challenges quickly become personal -- a battle between the engineer and the laws of nature.

Engineers will go without food and hygiene for days to solve a problem. (Other times just because they forgot.)

And when they succeed in solving the problem they will experience an ego rush that is better than sex -- and I'm including the kind of sex where other people are involved.

Nothing is more threatening to the engineer than the suggestion that somebody has more technical skill.

Normal people sometimes use that knowledge as a lever to extract more work from the engineer. When an engineer says that something can't be done (a code phrase that means it's not fun to do), some clever normal people have learned to glance at the engineer with a look of compassion and pity and say something along these lines:

"I'll ask Bob to figure it out. He knows how to solve difficult technical problems."

At that point it is a good idea for the normal person to not stand between the engineer and the problem.

The engineer will set upon the problem like a starved Chihuahua on a pork chop.