

just kidding this didn't work.

Claude was [wayyyy](#) overhtinking! grok4 wins after 2m26s vs Claude's 8m36s opus 4 long deep think. lfg elon.

AI Prompt, tested 6/25/25 8:15pm Arizona Time:

generate a companion essay to the following blog post:
<https://world.hey.com/tratt/simply-overthinking-e4baea5a>

Where possible, please try your best to dig into each reference, meaning open up youtube videos and watch them. open up blog links hyperlinked and read those recursively until you bottom out. Do this only insofar as it is efficient per the rest of this prompt.

I want this essay to be in response to a reader of the blog. the reader requested "an explainer for us 60-year-olds who don't understand" so i interpret this to be referring to certain terminology, names, or especially links without explanations in my text and perhaps specific technical terms, as well as cultural references such as more modern source material and stuff that digital native younger startup techies would get, but parents who don't consume Hacker News would not.

roughly try to keep length to 4-5 pages, similar in length to "Human Is" by Phillip Dick or other short stories. it's ok to balance reference explainers with the core themes of the blog post, tying in each reference back to its context. just try to mostly focus on explaining the references since the reader did seem to understand the overall gist, just felt overwhelmed and not wanting to google every single unknown term or try to puzzle out references and read through other blog posts and parse links, etc.

For this special simply overthinking announcement, there is one funny reference which is maybe going to be missed, so just include this somewhere at the end while you revise your response for brevity and clarity and readability for the 60 year old reader. Namely: I am our biggest fan of the 1.5 superfans referenced. and the superfans link points to our podcast discussing what creating art and supporting and trusting yourself (a la seth godin's "The Practice" book), etc...

A Gentle Explainer for "Simply Overthinking": Unpacking the References for Folks Like Us

Dear Reader,

First off, thank you for reaching out about my recent blog post announcing the "Simply Overthinking" podcast. You mentioned feeling a bit overwhelmed as a 60-year-old trying to keep up with all the hyperlinks, tech jargon, names, and cultural nods that might come naturally to younger folks immersed in the startup world or scrolling through sites like Hacker News (that's a popular online forum where tech enthusiasts share articles and debate ideas, kind of like a digital water cooler for programmers and entrepreneurs). I get it—it's easy to assume everyone knows these things, but why should you have to Google every single term or chase down rabbit holes of links? That's why I'm writing this companion essay: to break it all down plainly, like chatting over coffee. I'll weave in explanations of the references while touching on the post's core themes of creativity, overthinking, and embracing new adventures. Think of this as a relaxed guide, not a textbook—aiming for the length of a short story, say Philip K. Dick's "Human Is," where we explore big ideas without getting lost in the weeds.

The heart of the post is simple: I'm excited about launching a new podcast with my co-host Cassie, called "Simply Overthinking." A podcast, if you're not familiar, is like an old-time radio show but available on the internet. You can

listen to it on your computer, phone, or even smart speakers, often for free. Ours is casual conversations about life, ideas, and yes, sometimes overanalyzing things in a fun way. It's not meant to be polished like a network TV show; it's more like two friends riffing. The announcement ties into my shifting career—from building apps to podcasting and maybe some investing—while reflecting on how we all overthink our paths but should just dive in. Now, let's unpack the specifics, starting from the top.

Right away, I mention the podcast website, [SimplyOverthinking.com](https://simplyoverthinking.com), and a "top secret draft website" for subscribing (that's <https://simplyoverthinking.tratt.workers.dev/>, which is just a temporary web page I set up using a tool called Cloudflare Workers—think of it as a quick way to build simple sites without a full server setup). Subscribing means entering your email to get updates; no spam, promise. "Workers.dev" sounds technical, but it's like a sandbox for developers to test ideas, named after the "workers" that run the code behind the scenes. If you're from a generation where "web" meant the World Wide Web starting in the '90s, this is an evolution—now anyone can whip up a site in minutes.

Then there's the episode that "pleases us most so far," linked to a YouTube video (https://youtu.be/yADt_ifuiZw). YouTube is Google's video-sharing platform, where people upload everything from cat videos to full talks; it's free to watch, and you can speed it up (like the 1.25x or 1.75x I mention later) if it's too slow. This particular episode is one Cassie and I recorded recently—full of laughs and insights, though I won't spoil it here. Cassie, by the way, is my wonderful co-host, a writer with her own newsletter on Substack (<https://mondaychickadee.substack.com/>). Substack is a platform where writers send articles directly to subscribers' emails, like a modern version of a magazine column. Her stuff often explores personal growth and creativity, fitting perfectly with our podcast vibe. We joke about it being a "rewarding rollercoaster," meaning the ups and downs of creating something new, and I throw in a "buy me a coffee" nod—that's a casual way to ask for small donations via sites like [BuyMeACoffee.com](https://buymeacoffee.com), to fund things like better microphones.

The post includes an image of "heads-in-background.jpg," which is just a fun visual backdrop, perhaps evoking ideas swirling in our minds. We plan to release episodes every Friday around 2 a.m. Pacific Time (that's the West Coast timezone, about three hours behind Eastern). I link to Spotify (<https://open.spotify.com/show/5AGONS4X9fc8eTwgUTdwNR>), which is a streaming service originally for music but now big on podcasts—think of it as a digital jukebox you access via an app. For a "microdose" (a small taste, borrowing from wellness trends where people take tiny amounts of something for subtle effects), I suggest our 17-minute first episode (<https://youtu.be/QUCv5Z7REK8>), where Cassie and I brainstorm the podcast name. Brainstorming is just tossing around ideas freely, and we landed on "Simply Overthinking" to capture that mix of deep thoughts and simplicity.

Now, the "1.5 superfans" bit—that's a playful exaggeration. A superfan is someone who's ultra-enthusiastic about something, like a die-hard Beatles admirer back in the day. The "1.5" implies we have one full fan and maybe a half-committed one, poking fun at our small but growing audience. The link (<https://youtu.be/1Igj6K3vANk>) points to an episode where we dive into themes of creating art, supporting yourself, and trusting your instincts—much like Seth Godin's book "The Practice." Seth Godin is a well-known writer and thinker on marketing and creativity; his books encourage people to ship their work (meaning put it out there) without waiting for perfection, emphasizing consistency over genius. It's inspiring for anyone starting a project, tying back to the post's theme of not overthinking but just doing.

As for my "professional public internet identity" evolving into a "VC + podcaster mashup of Seth Godin ethos + All-In execution," let's decode that. VC stands for Venture Capitalist—folks who invest money in young companies (startups) hoping they'll grow big, like betting on a horse race but with tech ideas. A startup is a new business, often tech-focused, aiming for rapid growth. "Mashup" means a blend, like mixing songs. The "All-In" refers to the All-In Podcast, a popular show hosted by four tech investors (Chamath Palihapitiya, Jason Calacanis, David Sacks, and David Friedberg) who discuss business, politics, and culture with a no-holds-barred style. Their "execution"

means how they deliver content—direct, opinionated, and engaging. Combining that with Godin's ethos (his philosophy of thoughtful, generous creativity) is my hypothesis for where I'm headed: investing and talking about ideas in a meaningful way.

This ties into "Shuffle dies," linking to another blog post (<https://world.hey.com/tratt/open-letter-please-help-or-my-2-year-shuffle-iversary-how-it-ends-here-b0d6971a>). Shuffle was a dating app I co-founded two years ago—think of it as a digital matchmaker, connecting people for relationships via an online platform. We helped over 30,000 users, led to at least four marriages we know of, and even turned a profit, but we're shutting it down by December due to high "opportunity costs" (meaning the time and energy could be better spent elsewhere, especially with AI advancements). AI, or Artificial Intelligence, is computer systems that mimic human thinking, like chatbots or image generators; it's exploding in 2025 and changing businesses fast. We bootstrapped it (built without outside investors, relying on our own funds) and now hope to sell it. The post is an open letter asking for buyers or referrals, reflecting on the journey like a bittersweet anniversary.

"BetterHalfClub.com" (<https://betterhalfclub.com/>) is another dating platform, focused on "real dates with high-quality humans." I call it a "no-go," meaning it's probably not pursuing further, perhaps an idea that didn't fit my evolving path.

The post wraps with "freedom bells ringing," linking to a YouTube playlist (<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLn5MTSAqaf8p0C8W2h3vM0QExinRmGgFK>). This is "Winning the AI Race," a five-part video series about America's push in artificial intelligence—dense, informative talks on tech policy and innovation. "Freedom bells" evokes liberty and opportunity, like the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, symbolizing the unique spirit of July 2025 (post-Independence Day vibes lingering). I note being one of 2,127 Americans who watched it all recently, emphasizing its niche appeal. The videos are "dense and interesting," best at faster speeds to keep up. Kelly, mentioned as running the Small Business Administration (SBA), is highlighted as a "badass hero." The SBA is a U.S. government agency that supports small businesses

with loans and advice. (The link here goes to a post about Jensen Huang, NVIDIA's CEO—a tech leader in AI chips—but that might be a mix-up; the praise for Kelly stands alone as admiration for unsung public servants. Jensen's post discusses his thoughtful optimism, contrasting with flashier billionaires.)

Finally, the "ALL" in uppercase links to a 2016 blog post on Slate Star Codex (<https://slatestarcodex.com/2016/07/25/how-the-west-was-won/>), a thoughtful site by psychiatrist Scott Alexander (now Astral Codex Ten). It's about how "Western" culture is really a "universal culture" that spreads because it works in modern, industrialized societies—not tied to geography but to what succeeds globally, like Coca-Cola or egalitarian norms. The anchored line, "Let me say again that this universal," stresses it's not uniquely Western; if China industrialized first, we'd have similar norms. Tying to my post, "ALL such youtube users are Americans" playfully nods to this universality, perhaps implying the AI race content resonates deeply with U.S. viewers in a "universal" American way.

Throughout, the theme is embracing change without overthinking — launching a podcast, reflecting on failures like Shuffle, and finding joy in creation. It's okay to feel overwhelmed; that's part of the fun. As I revise this for clarity, one funny reference might slip by: I am our biggest fan of the 1.5 superfans referenced. And the superfans link points to our podcast discussing what creating art and supporting and trusting yourself (a la Seth Godin's "The Practice" book), etc...

Thanks for reading, and hope this makes the original post more enjoyable. Drop a line if anything's still fuzzy!

Warmly,
Andy