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SITUATIONAL AWARENESS MATTERS!

Situational Awareness and Decision making under stress

 @RichGasaway

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If you are interested in hosting a program, please contact Dr. Gasaway at
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Welcome

The foundation for
good decision making is
situational awareness.

Situational awareness

Ability to **perceive** AND **understand**
what is happening around you
(in context to how time is passing)
and then, in turn, being able to
accurately **predict** future events...
in time to avoid bad outcomes.





Perception

**Using the senses to capture information...
(clues and cues) about the current situation.**

- **I pay attention...**
- **I keep my head on a swivel...**
- **I look up, down, and all around...**
- **I actively listen...**
- **I size-up a problem first...**





Best Practice

Focus on the 5-7
most critical pieces
of information.





Visual

Audible

Smell

Taste

Sensation

Sensory Integration



Understanding

Making sense out of what you:
See, hear, feel, taste & smell



Comprehension

Moment of clarity



Best Practice

Ask yourself:

“What does this mean?”



Best Practice

Ask yourself:

“Is this what I expected?”





It seems so easy...

See... and understand.

Hear... and understand.

Situational Awareness Barriers

Anything that impacts your:

Perception
Understanding
Prediction

There are over 100 barriers that can impact your situational awareness.



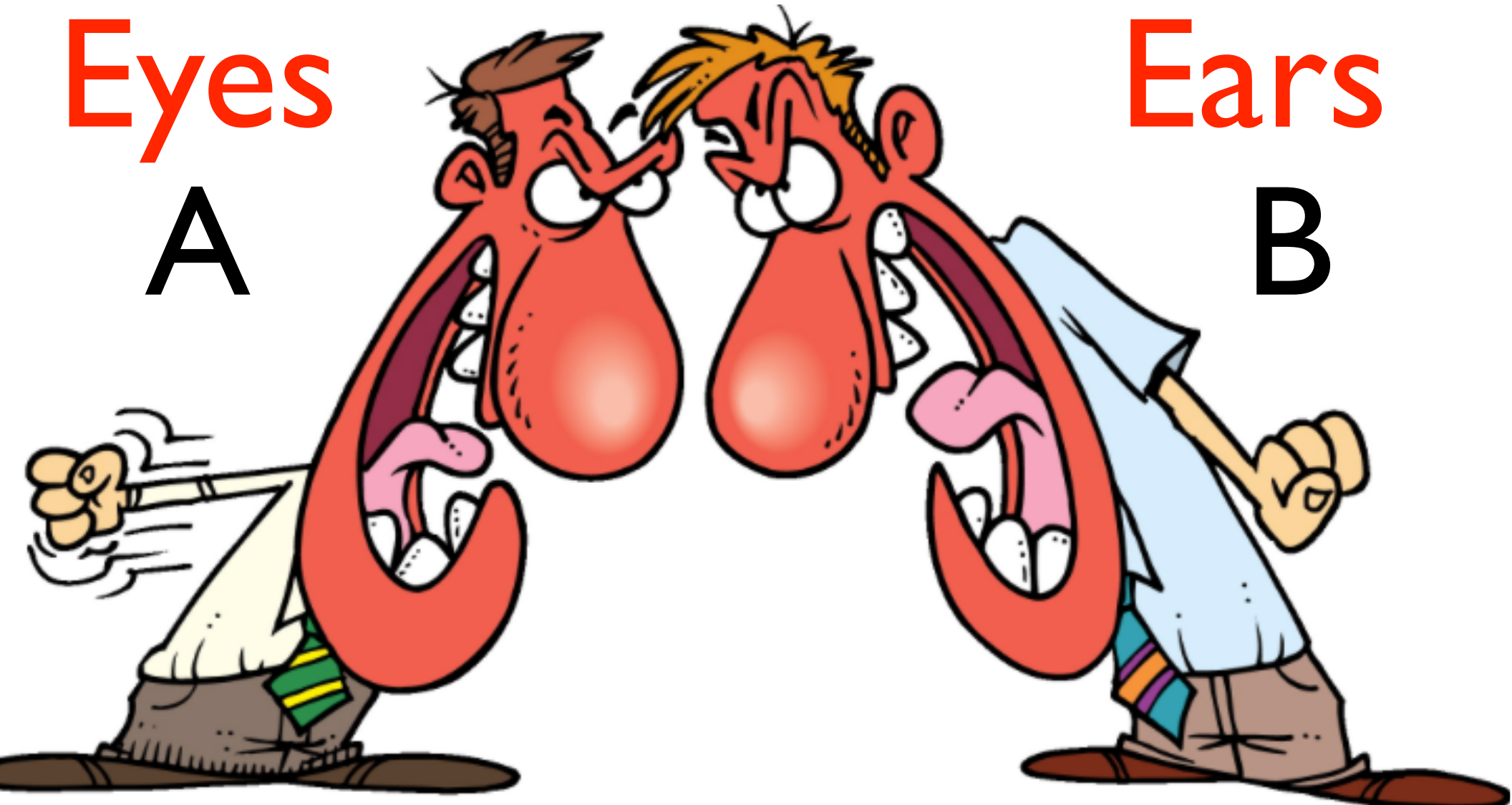
Sensory Conflict

Eyes

A

Ears

B



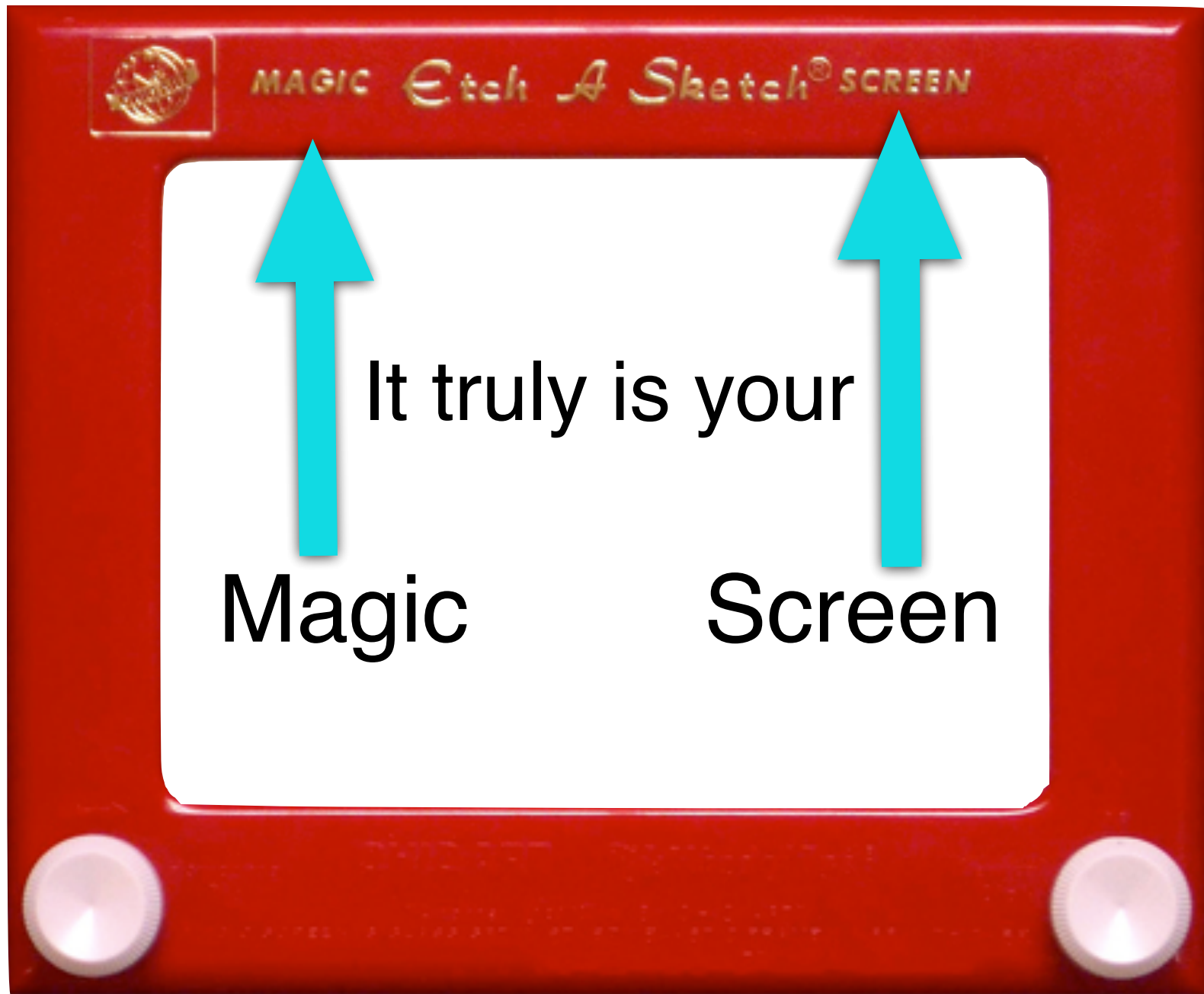
Mind Drift





Where in your brain does your
puzzle of understanding
get assembled?

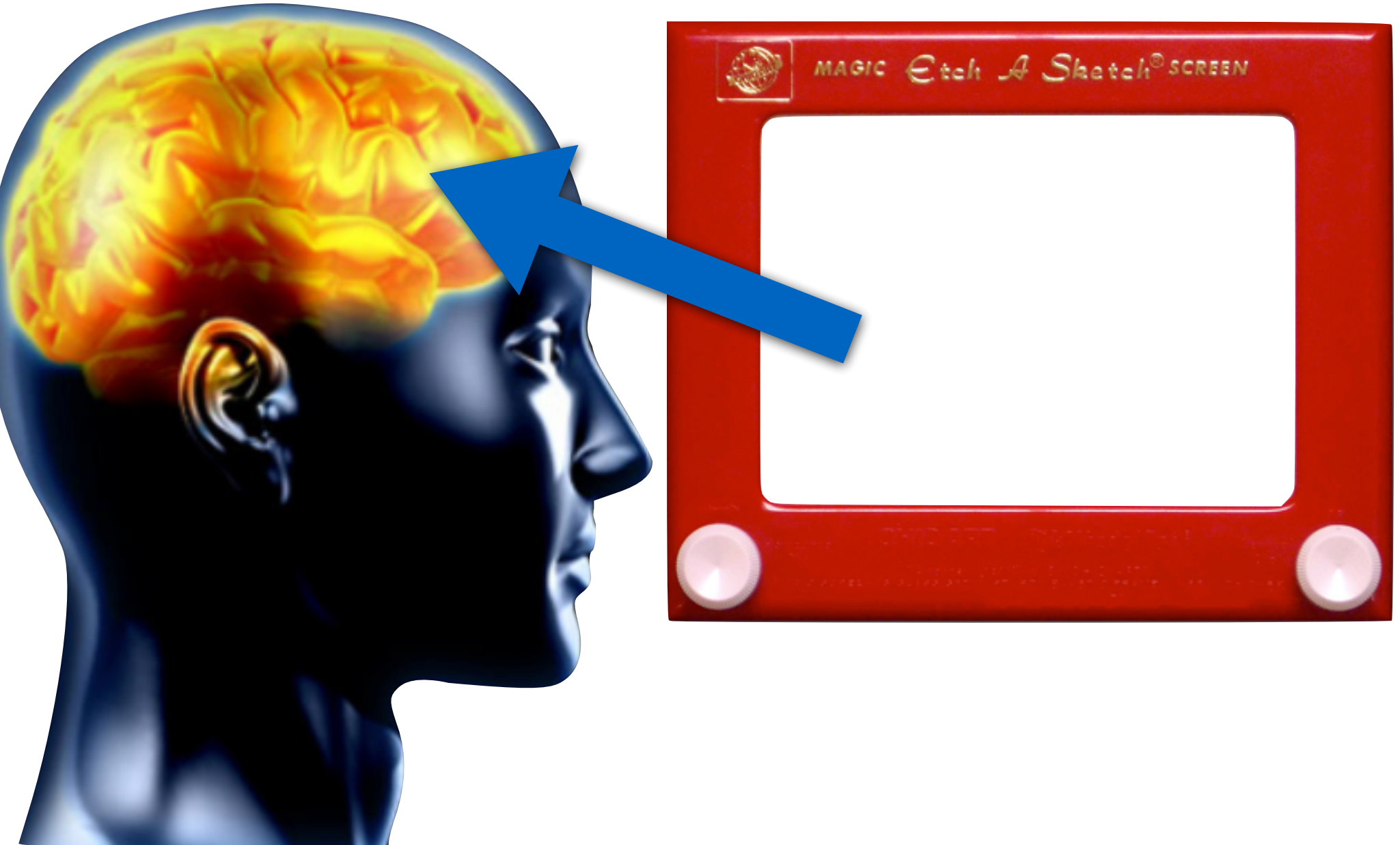








Memory Search





Fact

The capacity of long-term memory:

10x all the information
on the Internet.

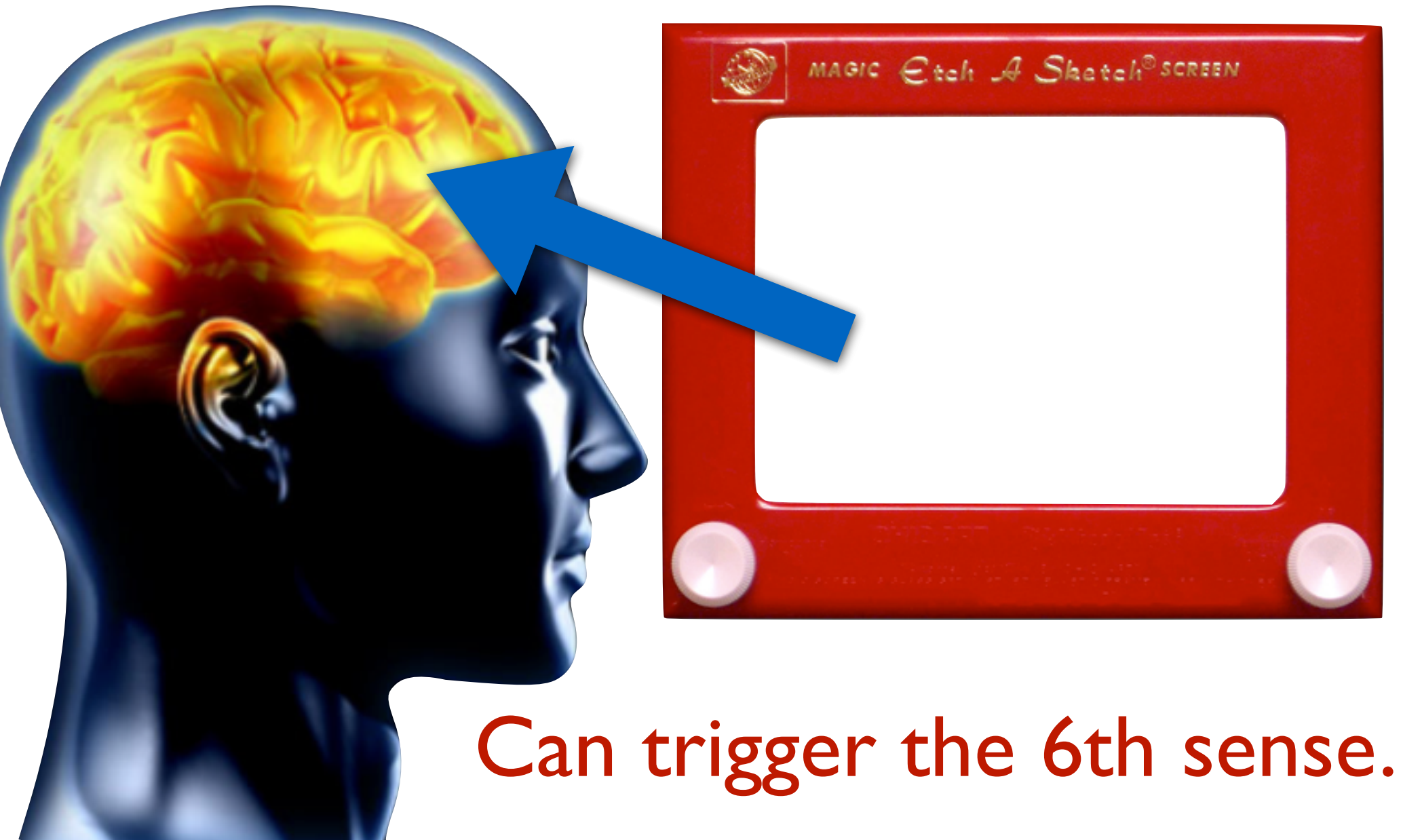


Fact

You can only consciously access:

5% of our long-term
memory data base.

Memory Recall



Can trigger the 6th sense.

Intuition

Knowing...

Without knowing...

How you know.



Your Red Flag Warning System

Intuition





Prediction

A woman with curly hair is wearing a headband made of many gold coins and small gold stars. She is looking directly at the camera with a serious, intense expression. Her hands are raised in front of her, with fingers spread, as if she is performing a magic trick or making a prediction. The background is dark, and the lighting is focused on her face and hands.

**Anticipating future events
before they happen.**



Best Practice

Begin with the
end in mind.



Best Practice

Ask yourself:

What's going to happen if
we do nothing but watch?



Best Practice

Ask yourself:

How long is it going to take for
a bad outcome to occur?

Prediction

A fortune teller with a headband of gold coins and stars, hands hovering over a crystal ball.

Every event unfolds at a certain pace (speed).

Keeping track of the passage of time.

The ability to perceive AND
understand what is happening in
your environment

(in context to how time is passing)

and then, in turn, be able to
accurately predict future events...
in time to avoid bad outcomes.

A close-up photograph of a person with curly hair wearing a headband made of many gold coins. They are looking intensely at a glowing white crystal ball held between their hands. The background is dark, and the lighting is dramatic, highlighting the person's face and the crystal ball.

Prediction

Set Expectations



Best Practice

Ask yourself:

Can we change
the outcome?



Best Practice

Ask yourself:

Are the conditions right?



Best Practice

Ask yourself:

Do we have the
right resources?



Best Practice

Ask yourself:

How much time
do we have?



Best Practice

Ask yourself:

Can we operate faster than
conditions are changing?



MAGIC Etch A Sketch® SCREEN



Your Mind's Eye



MAGIC Etch A Sketch® SCREEN

Situational Awareness Development Process.



MAGIC Etch A Sketch® SCREEN

Sensory inputs

Sight + sound + taste
+ smell + feel



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Visual imagery

Pictures drawn on the
mental sketch pad.



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Memory Search

Explicit & Tacit
Knowledge

Doom - Bliss - Nothing



MAGIC Etch A Sketch® SCREEN

Forecasting

Visualize outcomes
prior to engagement.

Dynamic Decision Making Process

Size-up the situation.



Best Practice

Figure out what the problem is before you throw around a solution.

Dynamic Decision Making Process

Compare the current
situation to past
experiences.

Identify typical solutions.

Dynamic Decision Making Process

**Detect atypical problems
and seek explanations
for them.**

Dynamic Decision Making Process

Run mental options
of decision choices
in your head.

Dynamic Decision Making Process

**Make your decision
and an action plan.**

Dynamic Decision Making Process

**Monitor conditions and
compare them to your
expectations.**

Dynamic Decision Making Process

**Repeat situational
awareness process
continually.**

Handout

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**Helping individuals and teams
improve high-risk decision making.**