

November's Brain Teaser...

You're in a room with three light switches, each of which controls one of three light bulbs in the next room. You need to determine which switch controls which bulb. All lights are off to begin, and you can't see into one room from the other. You can inspect the other room only once. How can you find out which switches are connected to which bulbs? (This is an interview question asked of job applicants at LinkedIn.)

Answer:

Let's call the switches 1, 2, and 3.

Leave switch 1 off.

Turn switch 2 on for ten minutes.

Now turn it off and quickly turn on switch 3.

Go into the room and inspect...

The bulb that is still warm but not lit up is controlled by switch 2. The one that's currently lit up is switch 3. The last one is switch 1.