
Subject: Re: Commons, Was: can i place a job advert
Posted by [Richard Younger](#) on Tue, 27 Nov 2001 02:49:26 GMT
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Hi, Paul.

Paul van Delst wrote:

>
>> Mind you, I'm not supporting banning commons as dogma, but I think
>> there are enough general objections to them to ask people to think a
>> bit before they rush out and use them everywhere they can.
>
> The important part of the above sentence is the fragment: "...ask people to think a bit..."
> :o)

Yup. I heard somewhere that mastery lies not in merely knowing the rules, but in knowing just when to break them. :-)

> I particularly liked the sentence:
>
> "It's a Good Thing(tm) when the programming system you use discourages
> methodologies that tend to cause confusion and mistakes."
>
> If this is to be believed, pointers would never have been invented :o)

I would certainly discourage using pointers when you don't need them. They tend to cause confusion and mistakes. :-)

But sometimes it's just too hard to do without, like sometimes you need common blocks. Well, according to many here, anyway.

There's someone here at the lab who likes to tell of his Fortran IV program where he declared a big global array at the beginning, and then wrote his own interpreter to internally allocate and deallocate chunks of that array. He just needed the dynamic memory, and there really wasn't another way to do it.

I guess the practice of programming defies absolutes.

Best,
Rich

--
Richard Younger
