
Subject: Re: Roses Blooming

Posted by [Mike Wallace](#) on Fri, 09 Jun 2006 20:38:43 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

> Some of you may be wondering what a discussion of roses
> and beauty is doing in an IDL newsgroup, but that is
> because you haven't been reading my e-mail the past few
> days. What has become of the programmers who can write
> beautiful, elegant, clean programs? They are almost a
> dying breed, I fear, in my darker moments. The roses give
> me hope. In stark contrast, I'm afraid, to my e-mail.

When elegance is vying against a tight deadline and a "just get it to work" philosophy, who do you think wins? Many programmers seem to believe that elegant, clean code takes longer to write and with deadlines getting shorter day by day, they will sacrifice elegance for "extra time" in the beginning of the process. However, the "extra time" is fools gold, because the little time saved is used later on many times over when you have to debug or maintain the inelegant solution.

My experience has been that most programmers usually don't realize the value of elegance until the code hits the fan on some project. And even then some still don't see the value to it. Programmers are never taught elegance ... they are taught algorithms, data structures and logic, but not the value simplicity, modularity, and readability. Oh, well.
