
Subject: Re: Interesting Rant

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Tue, 14 Nov 2006 19:09:00 GMT

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Paul van Delst writes:

> are /utterly meaningless/. To write a computer program you have to come to terms with
> this, to accept that whatever you might want the program to mean, the machine will blindly
> follow its meaningless rules and come to some meaningless conclusion. In the test the
> consistent group [good programmers] showed a pre-acceptance of this fact: they are capable
> of seeing mathematical calculation problems in terms of rules, and can follow those rules
> wheresoever they may lead. The inconsistent group [so-so programmers], on the other hand,
> looks for meaning where it is not. The blank group [bad programmers] knows that it is
> looking at meaninglessness, and refuses to deal with it."
>
> From: www.cs.mdx.ac.uk/research/PhDArea/saeed/paper1.pdf

I didn't know scientific papers like this were written
any more. What a delight! And my own personal experience
teaching IDL programming courses confirms that their
analysis is dead-on accurate. :-)

Cheers,

David

--

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")
