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Subject: Re: A Programmer's Education

Posted by [Braedley](#) on Tue, 05 Dec 2006 20:34:24 GMT

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David Fanning wrote:

>> Braedley writes:

>

>>> Why don't I ever see these simple solutions?

>

>> You are probably University-educated. Not your fault. :-)

>

> While we are on this topic (and while I wait for SOLARSOFT

> to finish downloading), what is the most useful class you

> ever took in school?

>

> For me, two come immediately to mind. The typing class

> I took as a sophomore in high school because I was a shy

> boy and the girl/boy ratio was 15:1. I use that knowledge

> every single day of my life. (In, uh, more ways than one.)

>

> And the freshman English Composition class I took in my

> first semester of college from a hippie instructor who

> gently taught a good evangelical Christian boy to question

> everything.

>

> Two great classes that changed my life! :-)

>

> Cheers,

>

> David

>

> P.S. And for Braedley, it is possible to overcome a

> University education, but it takes more time than you

> might expect. :-)

>

> --

> David Fanning, Ph.D.

> Fanning Software Consulting, Inc.

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

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

Well I can tell you my most useless class: Intro to Java 1. Not only had I done everything in that course a year earlier in high school, but the structure of the course bothered me a lot. Instead of going "This is an int. It holds integer values. This is a double. It holds real values. This is a string. It's an array characters. This is a function. It manipulates data." we went "This is an object. We will tell you all about those ints, doubles, and strings down the road after

you're thoroughly confused." Because of that, I'm pretty sure that every single program I wrote was much more procedural than the markers would like (they wanted an object for `_everything_`).

I can't really say what my most useful course would be. Maybe signals, since I'm using that in my work now.

Braedley

PS: I doubt I'll overcome my university education any time soon, I still have a year and a half left of electrical engineering classes after I finish this work term.

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