
Subject: Re: A Programmer's Education

Posted by [Pete Warner](#) on Tue, 05 Dec 2006 20:17:53 GMT

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In my first major electrical circuits lab test our assignment was to figure out what sort of simple circuit was in a black box. I kept measuring current values far more than should have been possible and I my answer was off by a couple orders of magnitude from what I expected. With 5 minutes left I discovered the oscilloscope did not have the correct probes attached and I had wasted most of the hour trying to figure out how my calculations were wrong.

I learned to trust my instincts and that technology is not infallible.

On Dec 5, 12:56 pm, Paul van Delst <Paul.vanDe...@noaa.gov> wrote:

> 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? Easy. Programming in Fortran 251. Not so much for the Fortran stuff (it was taught to us

> physics majors, with drippingly evident disdain, by a CS professor) but because said prof

> failed me on the first assignment because I was the only one in the class that had ordered

> the (correct) results opposite from everyone else. When I confronted him about it

> mentioning that he never specified an order in the assignment, he grudgingly (at least,

> how I remember it) agreed and gave me an appropriate mark. That's when I learned that

> smart people are sometimes just as dumb as the rest of us. No more pedestals for me! :o)

>

>> 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. Hmmm... maybe there's a theme here. The important lessons that one remembers are those that

> provide more questions than answers. (Although, nothing earth-shattering there I guess).

>

> paulv

>

> --

> Paul van Delst Ride lots.
> CIMSS @ NOAA/NCEP/EMC Eddy Merckx
> Ph: (301)763-8000 x7748
> Fax:(301)763-8545
