Subject: Re: fix(4.70*100) is... 469
Posted by mmeron on Thu, 19 Apr 2007 18:15:40 GMT
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In article <MPG.20916bc4bfdc7a43989f4c@news.frii.com>, David Fanning
<news@dfanning.com> writes:
> David Fanning writes:
>
>> I don't think there is anything "wrong" about your
>> assumption, except that it doesn't reflect reality.
>> This is how most of us go wrong with assumptions.
>> We assume something is so that ain't so. :-)
>
> Just to enlarge on this a bit, after poor typing
> skills, incorrect assumptions probably makes up
> the largest percentage of "bugs" in software. If
> you hear someone shouting "I don't f---ing
> believe this!", you can be almost certain an
> assumption is going to come crashing down.
>
> In general, there are better outcomes when our
> assumptions closely model reality than when they
> do not. In this particular case, if your assumption
> is "floating point math on computers can drive you
> crazy", then you are likely to make fewer mistakes
> than if your assumption is "computers always do
> what I expect them to do."
>
In other words, "an ounce of paranoia saves a pound of debugging".

Mati Meron | "When you argue with a fool,
meron@cars.uchicago.edu | chances are he is doing just the same"