
Subject: Re: fix(4.70*100) is... 469

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 19 Apr 2007 19:07:04 GMT

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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."

Cheers,

David

--

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