Subject: Re: Teaching IDL Courses
Posted by Craig Markwardt on Sun, 21 Aug 2011 19:49:25 GMT
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On Aug 18, 11:25 am, David Fanning <n...@idlcoyote.com> wrote:

- > The strange thing is, I think people learned more
- > when the course content was a mess than they learn
- > today. Sometimes I'll lecture for three days and then
- > ask a class to write a short program without my help.
- > Fewer and fewer people, it seems to me, are up to the
- > challenge.

I used to attend seminars and take notes. The purpose of notes was mostly to keep me awake and mentally engaged -- I never go back and referred to the notes again.

Once I was taking notes at a talk and the speaker noticed this. He made a point of announcing it to the rest of the audience, and made a big production of handing me a preprint of his recent paper so that I wouldn't have to take notes anymore. Sorry dude, that's not why I'm taking notes. [That, and coffee doesn't help me stay awake.]

I think seeing something develop slowly - organically - on a black/ white board can help a listener learn and remember something. The content is revealed at human speed. As opposed to projected slides where "everything" is already there on the screen and the audience just views it passively.

Craig