Cole Hudson

11/2/2014

AP Computer Science

A Day in the Life Response

**1.)What stereotypes does this video address?**

This video addresses a couple different stereotypes. In the middle of the video, Keira talks about how the stereotype for a programmer is being really thin, not getting that much sunlight, and spending their days programming in a dark basement. This is completely wrong. Most programmers are normal people (or as normal as programmers come).

**2.)How does a day in the life of these young people compare to the future you imagine for yourself by the time you are 24 years old?**

Right now being 24 seems like a long ways away (9 years!). I honestly don’t know what I imagine myself doing. I could be working at a startup, going to graduate school, or any number of things. It seemed to me that everyone in this video seemed way to relaxed with their job, sort of like they had plateaued. I don’t see myself so much as being in the large corporate world doing the same sort of thing every day. I see myself working intensely with a select group of people on a really cool project. I’ve been reading Steve Jobs’ biography, and working on a team similar to the original Macintosh team would be really cool!

**3.)How does technology enable the people depicted to pursue careers and enjoy lifestyles in ways that are fulfilling?**

Technology allowed Tessa in the first video to pursue many of her interests outside of the workplace, such as photography. Her job pays her well enough that she’s able to live in San Francisco and go out to eat frequently. The job hours give Tessa a lot of flexibility in her schedule to fill with things that she enjoys doing.

**4.)Without a background in computer science how high their jobs or lifestyles be different?**

Without a background in computer science, their lifestyles wouldn’t be as flexible and open; they would be dictated by their job. In the second video, Keira talks about how many of her friends have really boring jobs. That would make it really difficult to get engaged in your job and to put forth your best effort. One of the things that’s so great about computer science is the flexibility that it brings. There is a design studio in the Orlando area where you can work as low as 30 hours a week! On the other hand, it can be very demanding, but only if you choose for it to be. In computer science, your lifestyle really depends on how much you want to put into your job. Without a background in computer science, your job dictates your lifestyle.

**5.)Describe the use of computer-based technology during a typical day in your life. How do these technologies improve or complicate your life?**

Technology is constantly present in my life. In the mornings I wake up to the sound of my iPad’s alarm going off, and I usually go to sleep reading an article on it. In precalculus, we always use calculators to make our lives easier. Even though it was made in the late 90’s, it has saved me hundreds of hours of work. I use my laptop every single day to write programs for this class. Technology can be distracting, though. The constant vibration of my phone from the various twitter notifications and the endless stream of Facebook stories can really complicate life and distract me from it.

**6.)If you had to give up the use of one computer-based technology for a week, which one would it be, and how would you cope without it?**

If I had to give something up, it would definitely be my phone. Though it’s helpful, it can be a bit unnecessary at times and I’m sure that I could get by without it. To cope with this, I would probably rely more heavily on my friends who have phones with them if I needed to call my parents at any point in the day.

**7.)Ask someone in an older generation to describe what effect the absence of this technology had on their lives back in the day. Discuss the generational attitudes about the benefits of technology**

*From an interview with my grandma—*

It took longer to accomplish certain tasks in that technology helps and aids you to do tasks much faster and in a more fun way now. It was exciting to study things like science and physics [then], but now it’s more fun that technology can help you to be more creative. You don’t have to worry about retyping things now with modern keyboards and text editors. Everything is much quicker. Auto-correct is really helpful as well.

It [technology] has lent itself to education. It also grabs your attention with monotonous activities such as games, not really accomplishing anything. It steals your time away from interaction face-to-face with people. Technology is not a good payoff for a healthy lifestyle. There are many people age who will never use a computer and are afraid of them.

**Responses**

**Ben Parsell 11/2/2014 9:00pm**

I completely agree with you about computer science and creativity being intertwined. It's one of the reasons why I love programming so much. There isn't just one way to solve a problem. There is definitely a different feel to computer science jobs; all of the creativity, connectedness, and problem-solving. Computers are a big part of my life (probably more than they should be). I wrote that I would also give up my phone. Like you said, I'm just not as attached to it as some people. It's really crazy to think how much the world has changed since the tech boom. You're probably a bit older than I am, but I still remember a bit of how different things were without the constant connectivity. My dad never had a cell phone until when the iPhone came out. Up to that point he was just using a pager. My dad has really seen how technology has changed drastically because he's in the medical field. His life was definitely "more simple" as you put it. Now he is surrounded with technology at work.

Great post, I can really relate to a lot of what you've writtern here!

**Thomas Oliver 11/2/2014 9:15pm**

The auto industry is a really great use case for your computer science knowledge. Cars seem so mind boggling to me and really complex. I also agree with your statements about the specialization of the computer science industry. People are really starting to have to focus in on what they do best.

While I was at a hackathon in California a few weeks ago I talked to some engineers from Ford about one of their new development platforms. I didn't understand a lot of what they said, but you should definitely check it out:

[**http://openxcplatform.com/**](http://openxcplatform.com/)

**Roi Ozrach 11/2/2014 10:21pm**

I understand what you're saying about the "typical" way of programming. A lot of times there isn't a magical application such as analyzing forest fires or doing cool stuff with proteins. Sometimes it's just that: sitting in front of a screen for hours doing mind-numbing work. I'm also a programmer on our robotics team. What number is your team? I'm on team 1918 NC Gears. Madison, you should definitely check out robotics. It's a ton of fun! Arduinos are really cool as well. Right now I have some Atmega328s (the chip in an arduino) in the mail for a project I'm working on. They're a lot of fun to work with.

networkX looks really cool! I think that I might try it out, though I'm a bit rusty on my python.