Thinking Like a Programmer

Imposter Syndrome

One of the most commonly-expressed worries beginning developers have is feeling not good enough to be labeled a `developer`. It is sometimes hard to see your own successes when compared to others. There is a term for this feeling; it's called the **Imposter Syndrome**.

> **Additional Info!**
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> If you would like to read more about Imposter Syndrome, check out the Wikipedia article on it: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Impostor_syndrome (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Impostor_syndrome).

Due to the vast scale of information that a new developer must comprehend, it's easy to understand why this feeling exists. Much like learning a verbal language, a person can spend years learning it and still only barely pass in a community of native speakers.

In fact, learning how to program is a lot like learning a new language, because it **IS** a new language!

Your brain has to be trained how to think like a programmer using a programming language. It takes years to perfect, and it can be intimidating when there are peers who seemingly understand the language better.

Hard To See Success

From the Wikipedia article:

> *"Even if the outcome results in a positive response, the feedback given has no effect on the individual's perception of personal success."*

As the Wikipedia article suggests, you often ignore your own success and attribute it to luck or deception. The result is that the feeling may not go away even after proving your ability to perform the tasks at hand.

A Driving Force For Learning

Also from the Wikipedia article:

> "It has been estimated that nearly 70 percent of individuals will experience signs and symptoms of impostor phenomenon at least once in their life. This can be a result of a new setting, academic or professional. Research shows that impostor phenomenon is not uncommon for students when entering a new academic environment."

As a beginner or junior developer there will be several situations where you will feel in over your head. It's a significant part of learning.

> "Every great developer you know got there by solving problems they were unqualified to solve until they actually did it." - Patrick McKenzie

Questioning your skills and abilities is one of the driving forces behind expanding your learning. Great developers embrace the struggle of not knowing the solution and use it as a means to further their academic understanding. Trying to learn new techniques and become better skilled at a craft is a continuous struggle. Perfection is not obtainable, but improvement is.

Review

Below is a quiz to review the recently covered material. Quizzes are *not* graded.

Mistakes and Imposter Syndrome Quiz

Your Score

100%

3/3 Questions Correct

| Review | Retake |