

Peer Review

Memo

To: Nathan Hunt

From: Christine Taing

Date: 1/27/16

Re: Peer Review

The author writes about his experience in Computer Science, describing his experience in his classes. He makes an analogy about his Intro to Programming class to the ideals of Steve Jobs and his partner Steve Wozniak because this programming course was about programming following a template, which was what Jobs wanted in computers – a premade computer that people didn't have to put together themselves. Reflecting back, he describes the class as a good transition into the coding world. The author then goes on to describe his Fundamentals of Programming class, making it sound like a series of trial and error, which were the ideas of Herbert Leeds and Jerry Weinberg. His Algorithms and Data class was important in showing him how to think like a programmer to make his codes cleaner and shorter. He uses it to transition to Alan Turing's influence on the modern computer, because he used it to crack a code crucial to the results of World War 2 (this was not mentioned, but I think it should because just Germany's code is really vague). This influenced the importance of the efficiency of an algorithm. He ends by saying the Computer Science is still a new field and the methods in which it is taught can be improved.

Major Points: There was a great analogy about Jobs and Wozniak to the intro class the author took. However, the transitioning sentence, "After Intro to Programming, there was Fundamentals of Programming," sounds a bit forced and out of place. The metaphor comparing Fundies to a parking lot was really great. I think that there could be more said about Herbert Leeds and Jerry Weinberg besides their ideas of trial and error. There are great descriptions in this paper, and I really like how the author related Alan Turing to his Algorithms and Data course. However, the ending does not really fit the rest of the essay because the author did not talk about why the way it is taught is not great in the essay, but the ending says that it can still improve. I think he should either put parts of why it should improve in the body of his essay, or change the ending.

Minor Points: The formatting of the essay is a bit off, there are some larger spaces between some paragraphs than other paragraphs. Some sentences are a bit wordy, such as, "The main lesson of the class, however, is that the computer is really only as good as the human behind it," where "really" can be eradicated. This is throughout the paper.