

/* PAIR PROGRAMMING

THE GOOD AND THE BAD */

WEB 320

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Assignment 2.1

How It Works – Pair programming uses two programmers to tackle a coding problem. One programmer acts as the driver which does the actual coding and implements the needed features from the user stories. The other programmer acts as the guide which keeps the goal of the project in mind and feeds the driver with information and new tasks including user stories. The guide can also help solve challenges and keep a lookout for bugs which the driver may have missed.

— The Good —

- The guide is a fresh pair of eyes which can help the driver with problems that may stump him.
- The guide feeds the driver information or can look it up for him meaning the driver rarely has to stop coding keep him focused
- Advanced problems can be solved quicker with two people
- The guide keeps the driver accountable when it comes to coding standards and best practices.
- The guide can think ahead and get a better understanding of the bigger picture allowing him to make a decision as to what should be completed next.
- Experience is shared between programmers allowing them to pick up best practices or tricks that will help them in the future.
- Mixing partners allow this knowledge to spread throughout the dev team quickly.

— The Bad —

- Pair Programming can cause strife between employees if there is disagreement on coding standards or best practices which are not already outlined in the company's guideline.
- Guides may be tempted to correct minor syntax issues, but the guide should focus on the larger picture and let the driver code.
- Pair Programming can be extremely inefficient if what they are working on is simple, as you now have two people doing what one person can do.
- Pair Programming can also be inefficient in circumstances where there is significant documentation and planning in regards to what needs to be done.
- Drivers are often stressed as they are being watched as they code, leading to some avoidable mistakes and having to fix them later.