



Pair Programming

Raymond Lin · [Follow](#)

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Writing code alone can be a challenge to people or it can be as easy as counting from 1 to 10 for others. Pair programming is a collaborative practice in which individuals pair up together to tack on programming tasks.

In recent times, pair programming has developed with technology which allow users to work together on programming tasks remotely via a shared platform rather than being physically situated on the same computer.

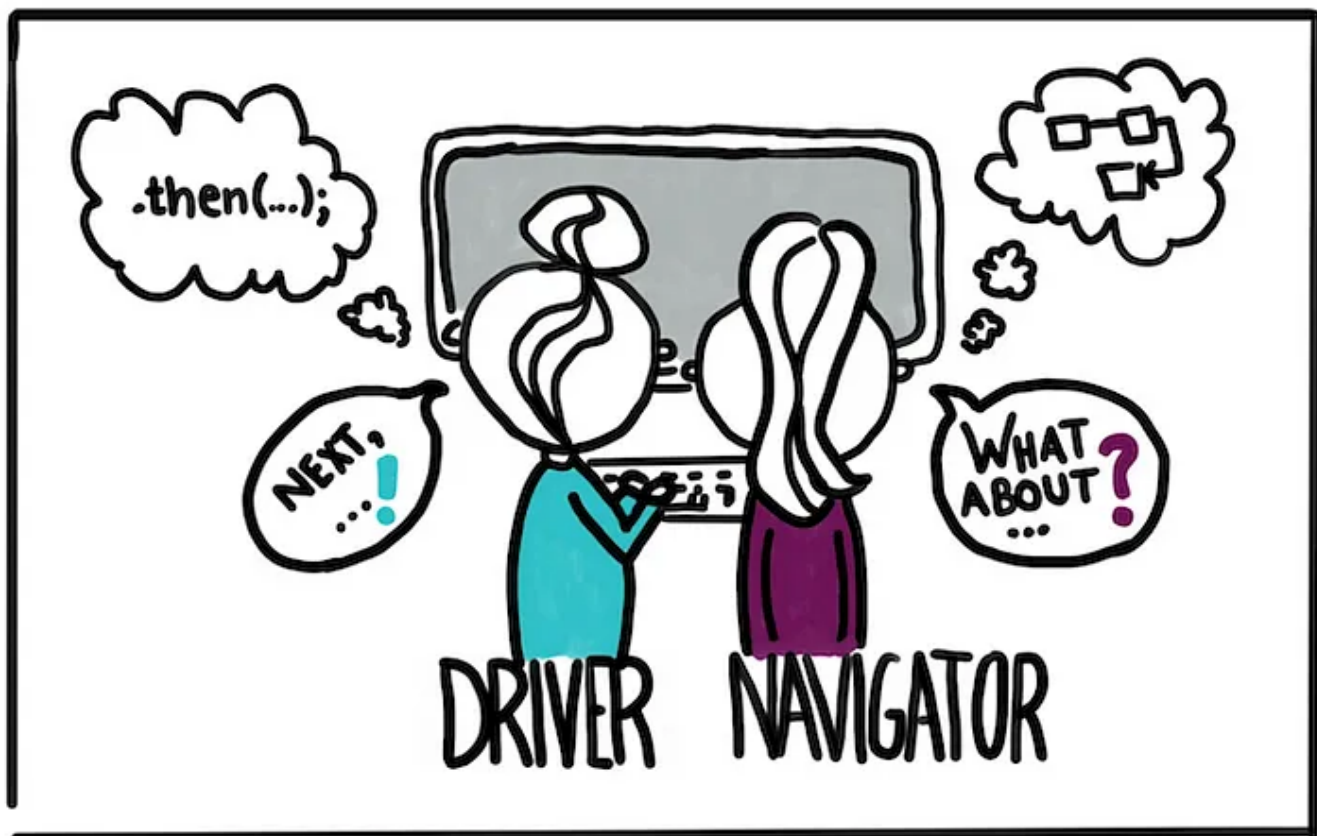
Often times, when I code alone, there are times where confusion happens and it lead to struggles. With pair programming, some of the challenging struggles can be mitigated by exchanging different ideas similar to a support system.

How does Pair Programming work?

Typically when pair programming, there is usually set roles, a **Driver** or a **Navigator**.

A **Driver** is responsible for writing code during the pair programming session. **Navigator** reviews the code that is written by the driver and gives them feedback.

While roles are designated, the driver and navigator often takes turns in each others seats. This allows for both parties to benefit from seeing their different or similar approaches in understanding and solving the problem at hand. Additionally, if the driver does not know how to solve the current problem, the navigator can assist and explain how they would solve it which can further one's knowledge.



Do's and Don'ts

While one may find coding themselves as a better option than pair programming, one should not have the mindset of being “too good” for these type of programming.

For example, web developers should not go into pair programming with the mindset that they themselves and another person would just be added weight or an inconvenience. This will make both individuals pair programming experience poor and no one would benefit from the whole point of pair programming.

Instead, pair programmers should view this experience as something that utilizes both programmers techniques, tips, tricks and etc. Like the term two-heads are better than one, this is heavily applicable in this scenario as using two heads will reap more benefits than just being stubborn on the idea that you yourself can handle everything and anything without assistance.

Personal experience

From my personal experience, pair programming has been something that has helped broaden my views on approaches to problems. In addition to broadening my understanding, productivity can definitely be a noticeable increase as you work through the problems at a quicker pace as well as understand the problem/code as there is feedback and peer review.

While my experience with pair programming has been minimal, I do believe that pair programming does not come without negatives. In a pair programming session where the driver knows what they are doing, may lead to instance where they just want to get the work completed as soon as possible without discussing the code. Alternatively, navigators that expect you to know something you may not know or have forgotten about may also lead to instances where you may feel inadequate or just shy when presenting your code.

Conclusion

While pair programming may seem to be daunting at first, I believe that pair programming as a practice is extremely beneficial for web developers as it allows for a collaborative approach in analyzing problems and solving the issue together. Where a single idea may be good from an individual, a collaborative idea from two can also be greater.



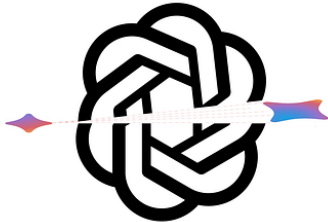
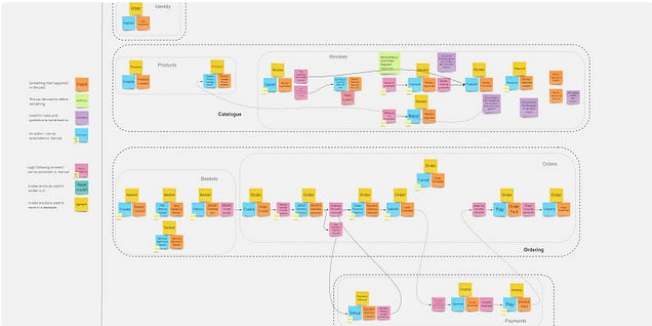
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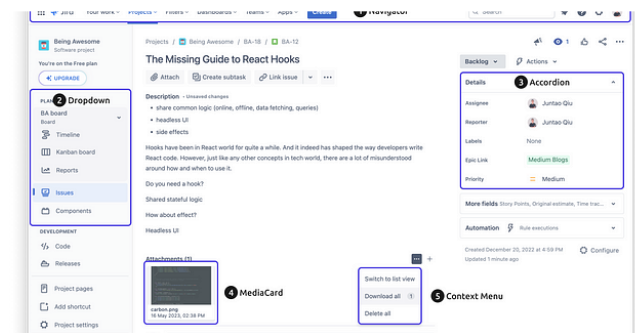
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