

My favorite aspect of programming is the level of control it grants the artist. The digital canvas allows for a non-destructive framework where iterations to one's project can always be made. The visual feedback from the act of programming, especially in an artistic context, is extremely satisfying.

I must say, however, that programming can also be frustrating, especially for a beginner. Why? Because programming is a language and someone just starting out is completely clueless to any of its patterns.

Programming is like an ultra-modern puzzle where you can connect pieces together and, when arranged in the proper way, they display an image. I feel like learning to program is like learning a new word and phrases, or, continuing with the puzzle metaphor, adding new pieces of puzzle to your collection. Programmers are people with mastery over certain puzzle pieces. Due to their comprehension of the shapes, they can manipulate them at will. This form of mastery is quite interesting, especially with the endless puzzle combination that are out there ready to be discovered. The programmer is, then, an eternal student with an extensive control over what he desires to explore and master.

There I also a cheat aspect to programming which I find extremely curious: One can instantly apply the genius of someone else's work. In programming, the ends can be obtained without the means. By that, I mean one does not necessarily need to understand the intricate details of a structure in order to apply it.

I think this metaphor sums it up quite well: A person can spend his entire life growing and nurturing an apple tree. He takes care of it and witnesses its growth every step of the way, but, once it bares fruit, it's like the apples can be picked by anyone, at any time and place. I assume that this is the reason some code is not open sources; some grumpy old men are trying to greedily protect their apples. But nevertheless, it's crazy how someone can just retrieve apples originating from someone else's tree just like that.

Due to the facts that the projects I have worked on were set up to crash if there was even a small mistake or typo, it changed my perspective of functionality. I now believe that an awareness of the smallest details is necessary in order to achieve a functioning body of work.

I am most proud of my final project, because I feel it is a result of my efforts in this class. What makes me most proud is noticing myself being able to recognize some problems and pinpoint their root causes. Finding answers intuitively without having to search online or ask for help made me realize just how much I learned and I'm excited to keep learning!