Zombiemold: Would really love to make this server unique. Have tons of ideas, but don’t know anyone who could program for us.

It was another late night hanging out on the Minecraft server. Like so many teenagers, I’d become obsessed with the game. But being terrible at both mining and crafting, I turned to the social aspect of the game, which resulted in an online friendship with Zombiemold, the server’s owner.

“I have a bit of programming experience,” I typed. It was a bit of an exaggeration. What I had was a week-long coding class taken several years before at summer camp.

Hours of YouTube tutorials later, I was able to write the programs Zombiemold had envisioned. Suddenly I had the ability to make things in my mind real (God complex, anyone?). And not only was I hooked on programming, but also the underlying logic of programming found its way into my approach to grammar, chemistry, foreign language…

Complex topics became that much easier to understand, to map in my brain, and to convey to others.

“I’d love to really make this server unique and I have tons of idea but I don’t know anyone who could program for us,” mused Zombiemold, a minecraft server administrator.

“I have a bit of experience, maybe I could?” I replied quickly, filled with ambition.

“That would be amazing! Look into it if you want and if it seems up your alley, give it a let me know and I’ll send my idea.”

Many hours of YouTube tutorials later I would take Zombiemold up on his offer. Although I had minimal experience with programming at the time, an eager middle-school me had decided to learn how to program in order to give something back to the game he had spent more time than he would like to admit on. And it was an incredible success, and at age 13 I had my first job programming for a Minecraft server, which I continued to do for the next three years.

I fell in love with programming, and despite the fact that every project took hours to fix and caused immense frustration, nothing beat the feeling of having everything finally work. The rush of taking an idea and turning it into something I could see working infront of me was intense, like nothing I had ever felt. I knew that no matter what I went into later in life—I would want programming to be a part of it.