Letter to self:

Dear Zach,

You are a month into this program and you are stuck. Having gone through the challenges of learning programming before in other languages you know the drill. It’s often a simple solution to the problems you are facing, but you are so caught up in the moment you can’t see the bigger picture. Programming is complex with a lot of moving parts. To help your current frustrations, take a moment to run through the following questions:

1. Is your syntax correct i.e. periods, quotes, semicolon, etc.?
2. Are your variables declared correctly and are the correct values feeding into those?
3. Do you have correct references; think scope of variables, methods, etc.?
4. Is “strict mode” enabled?
5. Are loops and if’s closed correctly?

If these common errors don’t seem to be the issue, try googling your problem. You have found this useful in the past, so continue to use this as a resource and ask questions yourself! If this doesn’t help, sleep or walk away from the project. You’ll give your brain sometime to think through what it has done and often the solution will be obvious after time away. Additionally, try drawing out your solution and thoughts. If you can visually see the intended process, errors may become transparent.

Just remember that coding is challenging and doesn’t come easily to everyone. Continue to remember that success is about developing skills through practice. It is not inherited. You will learn through repetition and exposure to problems. It is through these problems and eventual “wins” that your confidence will build and you’ll refine your resources for solving future problems.

Goals:

With all the obstacles that coding will bring, my end goal will make it worth the effort. Through this program, I am hoping to obtain skills to create web pages to supply critical information to my stakeholders with my corporate job. Being able to code myself will help reduce our reliance on external resources and automate laborious work. Additionally, it will keep me relevant as more emphasis is put on nurturing and attracting technical experience in every part of the business. I would also enjoy freelancing for others if the opportunity presents itself and I can develop this as an expertise.

Along with supplementing my professional skills, I want to develop a personal blog for my wife and I. This will be a place where we can document our memories together and share our experiences with others.

Questions I have before I start this journey would be knowing where to find resources on cyber security best practices and incorporating open sourced code into project. I know there is a lot of open source code out there. How do you incorporate these into your own website? Is this common practice or do individuals usually create their own API’s? Additionally, what are the best practices for building out secure websites? Are their current resources for cyber security standards?

<head>Letter to self:</head><br><br>

<p>Dear Zach,<br></p>

<p>You are a month into this program and you are stuck. Having gone through the challenges of learning programming before in other languages you know the drill. It’s often a simple solution to the problems you are facing, but you are so caught up in the moment you can’t see the bigger picture. Programming is complex with a lot of moving parts. To help your current frustrations, take a moment to run through the following questions:<br></p>

<ol>

<li>Is your syntax correct i.e. periods, quotes, semicolon, brackets open & closed, etc.?</li>

<li>Are your variables declared correctly and are the correct value types feeding into those?</li>

<li>Do you have correct references; think scope of variables, methods, etc.?</li>

<li>Is “strict mode” enabled?</li>

<li>Are loops and if’s closed correctly?</li></ol><br>

<p>If these common errors don’t seem to be the issue, try googling your problem. You have found this useful in the past, so continue to use this as a resource and ask questions yourself! If this doesn’t help, sleep or walk away from the project. You’ll give your brain sometime to think through what it has done and often the solution will be obvious after time away. Additionally, try drawing out your solution and thoughts. If you can visually see the intended process, errors may become transparent.<br></p>

<p>Just remember that coding is challenging and doesn’t come easily to everyone. Continue to remember that success is about "developing skills through practice" as Joyce mentions in her article, How To Navigate The Up And Downs Of Learning To Code. It is not inherited. You will learn through repetition and exposure to problems. It is through these problems and eventual “wins” that your confidence will build and you’ll refine your resources for solving future problems. <br></p>

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