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Anthony Wilhelm/EX1

*Why am I interested in Programming?*

I’m interested in programming for a few reasons. First, I would like to give you some background about me which might explain my reasons for selecting this course this semester.

I’ve been working in the oil and gas industry for 10 years as a leasing agent and mineral title researcher. My job consists of approaching landowners and attempting to get them to sign a lease for the company I represent, to explore for oil or natural gas many feet below their property. If I’m fortunate enough to get them to sign the lease agreement, then I’ll perform a 100-year property mineral search on their tract. This is done to determine if the landowner does own the minerals he thinks he owns, (oftentimes during a past sale the mineral rights can be “reserved” to a former seller). I’ve worked with property maps extensively, sometimes getting involved with ArcGIS and Geographic Information Systems in the process. I’ve come back to school to get a degree in GIS, however, NCMC has since removed most of the classes in the program. Fortunately, last semester I was able to take Intro to GIS, and this semester I’m doing a directed study for GIS II. Now that I have been back to school though, I’m rethinking my approach. Getting a degree to simply make maps seems to specified, and oftentimes you can become employed using ArcGIS simply from experience. Basically, I may not need to get a full degree in mapmaking to go make maps.

While working in the oil and gas field for various companies I’ve noticed some serious gaps in the structure of how they manage employees like myself in the field. Some companies will have computer programs where you can upload contact information with the various landowners you see every day, or the leases you acquire, and some companies have websites with maps that allow you to click a given property and input information that way, but others have nothing. I see great value in being able to create programs that manage all this information, especially via your smartphone. In addition to that, I know a Computer Science Degree would generally go a long way with respect to my finances and future employment if I ever wanted to change careers. (You wouldn’t believe the places these oil and gas companies send people, it’s the middle of nowhere USA, freezing in the center of Wyoming or North Dakota doesn’t seem appealing for the rest of my life). These are some of the reasons I’m interested in programming!

*What is GIT and why is it important?*

From what I’ve read and briefly learned the first day of class about GIT, is that it’s a form of Version Control. Projects that create software require other software to keep track of all the changes made to a code base. In order to track what happened to a certain code, or who edited it, or how to find a certain code, GIT is instrumental. It’s important because you could accidentally delete your code, accidentally change or break your code, or accidentally lose it, and GIT can help get it back for you. It also allows you to share code with other developers and backup your code to a remote server. Some GIT commands are as follows, GIT Status, GIT Add, GIT Commit, and GIT Diff. Currently I’m a little freaked out at the learning curve on all this, however, I understand with more practice I’ll start to feel better about it! Below is a screenshot of “Hello World.”

