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Programming Basics

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Reflection on My Programming Experience

Utility of Programming

Much can be achieved with programming skills, programming makes people’s life easier and more productive. Having a machine do simple but tedious and repetitive actions can save a lot of time in a person’s life.

Interactive web pages and applications are, nowadays, widely used by most people. To make the webpage or applications more user-friendly and interactive, programming needs to be used. If a webpage is well designed and programmed, it can save a lot of work since, once its running, no more changes would need to be made to the core of the web page. If any updates need to be made, programming could also make it easier by having the different stages or parts in different functions. Any changes could easily be made in one function without ruining or changing the rest of the program.

Hotels need to have a complex system to be able to have all the information of the guests stored, changed, updated, and accessible. Programming makes this easier for managers and receptionists. A somewhat complex program is designed to allow receptionists or the guests themselves to fill in information. This is then saved, probably in multiple global and local arrays, so it can be used whenever needed. With different functions the program would allow the receptionist to access the information needed just by filling in some parameters. Although most hotel receptionists and managers might not know much about programming, their daily live is easier because of it.

In a store there are multiple items, all with different characteristics, names, and prices. If a cashier had to add up all the prices of each product she would have to, first, have a long list with names, descriptions, and prices for the items and, second, use a calculator to add the prices; this would take forever. A system in a computer could easily be programmed to do this within second. An array of items, descriptions, codes, and prices would be needed. With a simple function, each item could be accessed by their code, moving it then to another local array. Later in the same function, the prices of all items selected would be added and printed out, so the cashier can read it. Another two functions would also be needed, one to easily add items to the first array in case the store starts selling new products, and one to eliminate an item from the array in case the store stops selling a product.

First Programming Experience

This assignment was the first time I programmed a complete and functional application. The hardest part for me was to get started, it was overwhelming knowing all the things I needed to do but not knowing with which one I had to start. To overcome this, I needed help from the teacher, he broke down the general steps for me and, from then on, I just worked hard to get it done.

Another challenge was the lack of experience. I didn’t know the most optimal way to achieve some things, which meant a lot of time in google or texting a friend to ask how to use certain JavaScript methods. Even though it took time, and sometimes it frustrated me, I ended up learning how to effectively look up and understand certain programming aspects. This way, if I forget certain things, at least now I know how to look them up easily and understand the explanation given.

Making three different screens did get me stuck for a few hours. I did not know how to use the same html page to do three different screens. Nevertheless, a classmate taught me how to use divisions and ids to be able to achieve this task.

The rest of the experience, although it was not easy, it was not a problem either. I enjoy being able to think of a solution to a problem and use programming to apply it effectively. I also enjoy seeing how, in a few days, I can go from a blank page to a working application that is 100% mine; it gives me a big feeling of accomplishment. I now know to appreciate programming and programmers more, their tasks are hard and time consuming, but it helps make people’s life, theirs included, much easier by having a computer run a code every time we want to do something instead of us having to do it all every time.

I feel that, even if I don’t end up being a programmer or actively using programming alter on in my life, this experience made me look at things in a different matter, it helped me polish my problem-solving skills, and gave me a tool that could save me a lot of time in the future. It is also one more skill I acquired, which helps me be a complete professional, adaptable to all situations, and will allow me to surpass many challenges in life. I do hope that I end up working with programming in my professional life later. This class definitely had an input in my decision to choose a specialization later on in this career, I feel I can choose programming and be successful at it.