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【ask】

Please recall your recent or previous experience of learning a tool, software or technology. What was the whole process like from hearing about this technology to actually learning to use it to complete some development work?

【answer】

At the beginning, we did speech recognition, and later, after graduation, we did that kind of Java Web -related work, and then when we went to graduate school, a framework for speech recognition was called card y , and that framework had that foreign document at that time. , that document, because it involves some more professional fields of speech recognition, and then that thing is possible, I am more impressed that the document is more like an operation manual, and he has some basic knowledge of speech recognition , he probably spoke less, at that time he was building a voice transcription system for the interrogation, and then used that framework. Well, it can only be said that it is running, and then it takes a lot of time to supplement the knowledge related to the professional fields in front of him, and this is the document that I have a deep impression on. Well, then I remember that this document ran after he gave some small examples, and then, well, it was quite good, and it was also a de facto specification in the field of speech recognition. Then there is another document, the one that impressed me most was the MySQL document of python , because at that time I was going to make a system, to store a data analysis, and then use MySQL to save this thing, and then do When I was doing it, I began to find that no matter what kind of post or the kind of video that explained it, it was still not as good as the official document. The deepest impression in the official document is MySQL , and his official document also involves some of his The bottom layer, that is, in addition to some of the use of MySQL itself, as well as the use of his backup tool, some of his operation and maintenance knowledge, and some of his low-level he has talked about it, and although it is not particularly deep, But it's still very good , and it also comes with a lot of reference books. At that time, I learned a lot from his documents. I have the impression that this kind of document is a very good document, and then it is better. Then I have a bad impression of the documentation, that is, some of the tools developed by this kind of programming, the documentation of the toolkit may not be very good. One is what he described. For example, the tool I used to convert by Jason , Jackson, the description in his document is very simple, about one or two pages of content, there is no official website, and then it provides The function is actually much richer than that document, and the update of his document is not particularly in place. It can only be said that it is to be realized, to do some things, to use some functions, and only to see how his source code does it, and then you may not be particularly helpful when you look at the documentation, but that document is relatively poor.

【ask】

Then you mentioned two, which means that at the beginning, you mentioned two frameworks or tools, and then you also used their documents, and then you think their documents are better, then you can choose one tools, and then tell me, what stages can be divided into your learning process? You can divide it into a pre-middle stage, and a later stage into several stages, and then talk about each stage, the learning process, and you learn a tool, and this process, from the very beginning, will not know anything, Then at the end of the study, he divided the process into stages, and then talked about the characteristics of each stage and the learning goals and so on.

【answer】

Then your needs are the future, if you're going to write documentation? Or do you just want to take a look at everyone's views on documentation and the requirements for documentation at different stages.

【ask】

We actually want to know how the programmer uses it, how to find it, how to use this document, and even how to read this document, that is, at each stage, he should have different needs, we want to understand a whole process, the whole journey.

【answer】

Hmmmm, this can also be said to be the documentation of several databases, because the documentation of this database has always been done relatively well. One document is MySQL , which is a very standard database application document. So when I was going to do this, I just searched mysql.com and went directly to this official document. After finding it, then go to the new type of external operation above him, including how to install it at the beginning, then what general configuration is needed, and how to run it after installation. I remember that his document contains a It is very simple to teach you, just like a database, and then after his installation, how to build some simple things in the table, and then do it according to this, and then use that as an example, imitate Going to do a simple project of mine, this is the early stage. In the mid-term, there will be some problems that are more practical, that is, the application is relatively strong. For example, this database, I probably want to make a backup of the entire database every day , how to do this backup, this full backup and increase. How can I backup this detail? Including some of them, such as some functions I want to implement, I will see if this database provides them. At this time, when I go, I will check whether his document is more detailed, such as this domestic database, PG database, there is a special chapter in this place, I remember that I was looking for it at that time, he Just write, how to use this thing provided inside the database to provide a G command, this kind of command of PG control is backed up. Including he also gave some instructions for a few backup needs, which is to use the one on the cron tab to back up his tasks. It was done at the time. Because I feel that this kind of need in the mid-term is basically a functional need, basically it is to check the document, and then see one or two key words, if he talks in detail, use his, if he talks in detail, I use Search this keyword for how to use the tool represented by this keyword, and then slowly search down until you find a way to use it, or if you don't have it, write a simple example to try it yourself . In the mid-term, this kind of thing is still used very frequently, very much. At the end of the later stage, it is almost some in-depth technology of this kind. Let's take the database as an example. This PG database has a function called huge page, which opens a large data page of a database. Well, its function was that it involved some of the underlying knowledge of PG at that time, such as what the database architecture was like, the facilities implemented at the bottom level , and some of it was his. At this time, looking at the document may be the case. At this time, I remember reading the document at that time, but the document was very little, and the document only talked about the database roughly , and drew a very general concept map. Basically, it is to look at the source code to see the code, change the code, and then do the experimental document. The most important thing to me is some guidance, this picture feels like this. This is the pre-middle-post. To sum up, the role of the previous document is that it has some practical examples, and then this example can help me quickly run the project. In the mid-term, I need a document that can explain some of this engineering program. Its function can be explained in more detail, and then this image can quickly find the functions I need. In the later stage, that is to say, maybe the document will briefly introduce some of the underlying design of this system, and then you can help me, um, simply have some general concepts, that's all. Here are some of my requirements for the front, middle and late stages of this document.

【ask】

Hmm, that's very well said, so you should mainly look at some conceptual use cases in the middle and early stages, and do some more complex and in-depth specific functions in the middle and late stages, right?

【answer】

Well, yes, in fact, both the mid-term and early-stage are fine. The early-stage is basically copying, and there needs to be a better and more detailed example of this practice. I can even copy the code directly and use it. In the mid-term, it means that he wants to show some of the functions he provides to the outside world. The edge, corner and boundary conditions of this function need to be explained in detail, and then this is the requirement of the mid-term. Then it is in the later stage, which is generally used in the later stage. In fact, I feel that it exceeds the requirements of the document. It is not realistic to write the document in such a low-level detail. Maybe the help of the document in the later stage is to have a general outline of this kind. It is very good to draw a picture to explain it.

【ask】

Understood, that means you should also refer to the examples he provided. Do you think these examples are useful?

【answer】

Yes, it is still very useful, he gave it at the time, and we made a backup of that database at that time. Well, three or four backup plans were changed. Finally, it provided a link to a third-party backup tool for the database post green . Then we used this link to do it. This is a commercialization This project is still based on this safety and reliability.

【ask】

Hmm, okay, then my next question is about the type of documentation, which is our developer documentation. For example, in his official documentation, it can be divided into many types, there are many types, and some are introductions Concept introduction functions, and then some are the kind of steps, which will teach you how to do it step by step, and some are reference types, such as providing some API references, and some may be the ones that answer questions and so on. That is, it is divided into many categories, so can you roughly categorize the documents you have read? Then you can talk about what classes are there, and what components these classes contain .

【answer】

What are the components of these classes, the type of document? This means that I want to hear what documents these developers have read, and what is the general composition of these documents?

【ask】

That's right, that's what it means, um.

【answer】

In the documents I read, this kind of answer to difficult questions is the document of the answer class. I have almost never encountered it. For example, if you encounter any problem, you can operate it. I rarely encounter this kind of document. . Then I am familiar with the documents, such as gdk 's documents, which are more familiar. He is almost the usage of this library function, and then he describes this function in this input parameter and output parameter , and some that describe his function in detail and in detail. It's like GDK documentation. His structure is very simple, that is, it is divided according to functions, and then each function is divided into very detailed. In this way, it is roughly equivalent to the kind that can be completely divided, divided into small pieces, and each piece is divided into small pieces. They are independent of each other. In this way, it is a structure that is juxtaposed, and it is a document that describes the function in detail. Then there is another kind of document that you mentioned earlier, the kind of document that you mentioned earlier to introduce usage, including MySQL , which I have seen a lot. He will first talk about the development history of this database. For example, why is MySQL called MySQL ? When was it made by whom? There will be about a page or so of introduction, and then he will quickly Use two or three chapters to tell you how to quickly install it, then use it, quickly create a table, etc., and then give a lot of usage examples of this kind of startup, and then Later, he will introduce the use of his system and this program from the shallower to the deeper, and use the various functions of the corners . For example, from top to bottom, what methods can be used in this database when creating tables , how each method is used, and what kind of functions they are, how can they be directly combined with each other?

, and then say it again. Then he may say, this data manipulation class, what kind of class is this , um , let's talk about it, that's about it. I might be a little messed up. Most of them give an introduction first, then give a practical code, and finally give a complete introduction to its functions. These are his three parts, and then there may be some extended introductions at the end. , For example, if you want to study a deeper topic of this kind, then I have links and books here. This document is basically divided into these 4 parts, introduction, quick start, detailed introduction of functions, and deeper recommendation, these 4 parts.

【ask】

Okay, the next question is about the source of this information about this document, that is to say, your document is generally from the official website, right? Just look at the official website, right?

【answer】

Well, there are many sources of documents, not just the official website. One is that there will be some folk documents. Well, the other thing is to say, including some translated documents, is this also a document?

【ask】

What is a civil document?

【answer】

In official documents, his description of certain functions is not necessarily very accurate. At this time, some people will supplement and improve these contents, which becomes the so-called folk documents.

【ask】

Is this added by the programmers themselves? As far as programmers who understand more thoroughly, do they supplement it by themselves?

【answer】

Yes, they will write some such documents. For example, MySQL is backed up by this. In fact, in addition to the three official backup methods it provides, it also has other better backup methods, and then it needs to be called. Do it, and then he will write some of these, this kind of folk independent documents. There are also some typical documents in various programming languages. In addition to the official documents, he will have other explanations of some of these advanced functions. There are books like this, right? This kind of documents should be counted as documentation. And it's like that, there should be such translation documents, I don't know if it counts.

【ask】

Unofficial translated documentation? If it is of reference value to you, it counts.

【answer】

Well, because I've been translating several books and some documents before. For example, I especially like some programs, and there are some programming languages, such as the d ert language, which is very small, but no one in China wants to translate it to like this thing, and then they say that they participate in the translation. Such a document may be very, very small, and almost no one will read it, but it is also a very important reference method and reference tool in this field.

【ask】

Where do you get the unofficial documents you mentioned, do you take the initiative to search for them? Or is there a recommended way for you to see it?

【answer】

One is from this search engine , and the other is that there will be some magazines of this kind of programmers. It should not be called a magazine, but should be called a content recommendation in the form of a public account. For example, before I have seen some of Liao Xuefeng 's personal website, they will recommend this kind of unofficial document or this kind of content on their personal website.

【ask】

The search you mentioned just now is searched through search engines, so can you tell me how you searched?

【answer】

Others send data, first of all, I have encountered a function that I want to achieve, MySQL backup, I will go to this time, such as Bing search or Google search, search in English, and then use English data to carry out Check it out.

【ask】

Well, you can give some examples of how you construct the expression for this search.

【answer】

search expression?

【ask】

Are they all keywords?

【answer】

Well, I have never used advanced search expressions. For example, I know that AND can be used in Baidu search . This kind of logical expression constitutes a complex conditional search, but this very advanced search is generally not used, because the search In terms of problems, they are relatively clear and straightforward, and there are more people who encounter these problems . In rare cases, such intractable diseases will be encountered. At this time, the problem cannot be solved by looking at the documents. It needs to be said that we need to go to a deeper place to dig. For example, when I was working on this project before, I encountered a network framework in that project. This network There is a memory leak problem in the framework. This problem is not mentioned in the document, and the official document does not mention it. We just said to decompile its source code, we do experiments in the online environment, and then we can solve it. In fact, what stack do general questions go to? A forum like overflow, a community for programmers to ask questions, you can find anything you can find if you search for keywords. If you can't do it, then you can just ask some experienced masters like this, and ask this kind of old man, Lao Kai. Developers, they have and have some experience, and in the end they really can't, that is, they can't look at the source code, and go to the lowest level to solve the problem.

【ask】

That is to say. Generally, no search skills are used. Compared with skills, I feel that search relies more on search resources. Just search on any website, this is more important.

【ask】

Well, that means you are usually a search engine or go directly to that Q&A site to search, right?

【answer】

There are actually differences between Q&A sites. For search engines, you said that the same question is searched on Baidu, the domestic version of Bing search, the international version of Bing search, and Google search. The content he found is still quite different, and then includes Domestic programmer question and answer forum csdn and foreign question and answer forum stack overflow, as for his two problems, there are also differences in search quality. In fact, there are some QQ groups like this in a community like him . You can also go to that kind of place to ask, and that is also a good way to solve the problem.

【ask】

You use foreign ones, right? Search engines and this Q&A community are all used to foreign ones, right?

【answer】

Well, yes, yes, because the domestic search is not very good, but it is true that the quality of what he received is not particularly high, and then there are some incurable diseases, which he basically can't find.

【ask】

So when you search, do you directly use that English keyword to search?

【answer】

Yep.

【ask】

Well, I see, the next question is about this reading habit, that is, how do you read a document after you open it, or how do you quickly locate the information you need?

【answer】

If I read the document with the first goal of solving the problem, I will read the content of this document first, and then I will pick a few topics I am interested in in the middle and spend three or four minutes to look at it, and then finally Go to read his introduction again. After reading the introduction, I will, um, have a general understanding of this thing, and then I will have a general idea of what the content of this document is like, and then the content he involves is in -depth . It’s still shallow, what is his document type, and then I will decide whether to read it or not, how to read it, and to have an in-depth understanding, or just read only a few of them. If I read the document with a problem-solving orientation, then I would mean to get a document, I would go directly to the content related to my problem-solving, and then it would be like that one link , and then slowly read all the relevant content of the document, and then solve the problem while reading, and that's it.

【ask】

That kind of related content is to find through that search positioning?

【answer】

Well, yes, search for positioning, and then it will be said in general documents. We have mentioned this thing in several chapters, you can go and look at it , that's all.

【ask】

Well, let’s talk about this learning process first. The next question is about developers’ expectations for the documentation experience, that is, I want to ask you, what kind of documentation do you think is a good developer documentation?

【answer】

Well, the developer documentation is definitely for developers. For developers, there is an introduction to the use of this application. At least the first part is about how to run the applications in the environment, and then deploy them to run. Up, this introductory part should be essential. The second part is to say that the introduction of its functions may not be detailed, but the core functions must be introduced, and the introduction should be clearer. In the end, it is unrealistic for you to simply rely on this document to solve everything, so the document must have the ability to solve more advanced problems, let alone for example ours The documentation has a community, where you can go to ask questions and reply, or say that our documentation has several recommended books on these advanced topics, and you can read other books, like this.

【ask】

Well, as far as your requirements for him are concerned, basically in terms of content, you should first talk about how he deploys and configures the environment, and then follows a relatively complete introduction of this function, and then some advanced For the expansion of functions, even if the document itself cannot be expanded, some other expansion methods must be provided, right?

【answer】

Yes, that is, the first part must emphasize a manipulative, and then the introduction of the concept in the second part, it is not too complicated , and then it is OK as long as some core functions are taken care of, not to mention the functions of the corners. Everything is covered.

【ask】

In addition to the content of the document itself, do you think you have any expectations for other aspects? For example, the structure of this document, as well as some of its interactive design, as well as his entire language and so on. Then you can briefly describe your expectations.

【answer】

Well, the structure, the document structure is still relatively standardized now, and then this is not expected, because most of them are similar. And in terms of the interactive structure, um, I actually read a lot of documents, and they are all um. Except for very large documents, such as Python, Java , and other global-level documents, other small documents are in GitHub. In that kind of library, like git book, that form is relatively OK, so I think the form of the document should just follow the trend. This is not a particularly strong requirement. Finally, what are you asking about the documentation?

【ask】

His language is that it is internationalized, and some documents are provided in multiple languages.

【answer】

The internationalization of documents, I think, is actually a very important, very important thing, and this thing is actually ignored. I think the documentation should at least, such as domestic developers, should at least provide Chinese and English content, that is, the documentation, because of this our application, there are actually many good applications of ours, but can’t be launched when it is promoted externally? If there is an English document , then your communication will be very wide, and then you will get a lot of feedback, and then this feedback will be brought over to better improve this application, it is actually very helpful. things, and he is often easily overlooked.

【ask】

As for the maintenance of the document, for example, the document update, have you ever encountered a situation where the document update is not timely?

【answer】

some.