

The First Day Skit

Boss: Oh hey welcome. You're working on the project named Fax-2000. Yeah it's a piece of garbage some guy wrote 5 years ago using an old weird technology then he quit and no one understands it but we need to make some changes for the accounting department it should only take a few weeks.

Grad: Is there any documentation?

Boss: Yeah here's a word document someone wrote 4 years ago but it's obsolete and for a different project but it will give you the general idea.

Grad: I heard that Waterfall is dead and Agile is the way to go. Are we doing agile?

Boss: We're not even doing waterfall and we don't have a project manager just do the stuff I tell you.

Grad: Can I rewrite it using Google Maps?

Boss: No

Grad: But my professor said to never repeat code!

Boss: No

Grad: Can I at least refactor the code so that it's easier...

Boss: No

Grad: Are there instructions on what tools I need to install to make this work?

Boss: You'll be fine just google it

Grad: The google search says that technology is no longer supported and vendor was acquired by another company then went bankrupt. What should I do?

Boss: Don't worry you'll figure it out.

Grad: Can you tell me what tool is for?

Boss: Not really but if it's wrong the accountants get mad and then the CFO yells at me. Ask that guy over there who has been there forever and only a year from retirement and tells endless stories and smells like stale coffee, he'll help you out if you ask nicely.

Grad: What am I supposed to change?

Boss: Just read the email from accounting I don't have time to explain.

Grad: Can you tell me how--

Boss: Why aren't you done yet?

(6 months later)

New hire: We should rewrite this in machine learning!

Boss: That's brilliant! I love it!

The Millionaire Skit

Grad: My cool app is going to be famous and I'll make millions and retire early

Real World: What's your app?

Grad: I'm the Chief Officer of Hanging Out of my new company, nomly.io, and we have a Gen-Y-themed app for buying, selling, and talking about gundam.

Real World: No

Grad: Okay then instead I'm going to join a startup that makes the next killer app and I'll make millions in stock options.

Real World: No, the startup will most likely go bust.

Real World: Even if it doesn't, founder's cool vision will dim quickly and they will hope to sell the company cheaply enough just to cover debt and you get nothing. In that process, every decision is based on desperately pleasing possible investors and none of the decisions are based on what's good for the employees, what's good for the clients, what's the best technology, or even common sense.

Real World: Even if it does well despite that, founder gets all the money, you might get a pizza party and a plaque then a new corporate overlord comes who wants to know why the system you built they paid so much money for is so buggy and when will it be fixed--- meanwhile the founder is out playing golf and having their custom home built.

Grad: But I get valueable stock options right?

Real World: No