

Thoughts on “Inevitable Pain”

How the author explains how he programmed his first match making program is how I feel like I program as a novice. Thinking about what I want my program to do, then writing some code towards that goal, then finding bugs or thinking of other things that I want the program to do, and then coding those features in or fixing the bugs that I found. I can see how complex that can be when the program isn't just your own little project, but a product that is being design for or sold to someone else. Even with my own programs I am thinking of new features that I would like to add. Which in turn causes more bugs and problems to fix. With a large-scale project, time works against you in the sense that the longer you take the more changes the customer will think about. You must find the bottom of that curve before to many more requirements are thrown your way. Which isn't the fault of the customer, after all they are paying you for a program that does what they want. But its human nature to always be thinking of what else can the program do for you, to a near endless degree. Perhaps you will soon want your program to roast you a cup of coffee while you do payroll.

When it comes to the models of development that the author talked about, I feel like my style is more of the build and fix it model. I try to get a program functional in some way, or at least get its bones coded in. Then go back and modify what I did to add in features or to fix problems that came up with the end result. Putting all the code into functions helps this immensely. Though my programs so far have been basic. If I was to tackle a larger project I would take more time in deciding on how I want it all to work before I start coding, in order to save time later by dealing with the brittle bones that I created. I will say, the idea of a generated program that is created by a set of user parameters does sound like it would be a good way to deal with making very basic programs that have little impact if they malfunction, so no coffee roasting, payroll software.