Don Torres is a tenacious problem solver throughout the time he's been a student in my JavaScript class. Class involves talks on various topics: object and array methods, problem solving strategies, functions, etc. Don takes these concepts and goes beyond understanding them. He questions the usefulness of different approaches to solving problems with the intent of a master. He is someone seeks out the best way to solve a problem.

For example, the day after we discussed arrow functions, he was able to shorten his functions down to concise, single line functions as if he wrote the part of the standardization of arrow functions himself. Many times, arrow functions provide a way to a better solution, and he utilized their functionality to optimize. His focus on efficiency is what drives the difference between a product that works and a great product.

Another instance of his effective problem solving approach is his interest in time complexity. After reviewing some solutions that became too slow as data input size increased, we started talking about time complexity. For one of his algorithms, I saw the slowing effects of a nested for loop replaced by the much more efficient two-pointer approach. This allows the program to only iterate over the data once. I didn't teach this exact pattern, but Don was able to learn about it on his own after having the class touch on the inefficiency of nested loops briefly during class time.

Coupled with his ability to solve problems is his dedication to being a great programmer. Don lives the farthest away from the site of the class and is one of the first to arrive and the last person to leave. He assists other students fix up faulty laptops and helps contribute to an environment where everyone can participate and have their ideas heard.

Don would be an asset to any team that works hard to solve problems and his search for efficiency would be welcome in any engineering community.

Singed,

Peter Muller
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