

Assignment 10 (End of course reflection)

Name: Edwin Rubio

What stood out to you as the most important things you learned about computer programming this quarter? Why do you think they're important?

Computer programming has brought me to discover another world that uses different languages to talk to computers. Before entering to learn about a computer language, I learned to take into consideration about the basic hardware components that creates a computer. Previously, I did not take much into consideration the parts of the computer that I use daily. One of the main things I learned about it, in higher level point of view, is how a processor (CPU) fetches instructions and executes the commands by using its "Control Unit" and "Arithmetic Logic (ALU)" sectors. Knowing this knowledge allows me to open my mind further into understanding how the CPU process our written source codes. I do understand that there is more knowledge to it, in a lower level view to completely understand how computers work. Going back to understanding a new computer language is one of the most important things that I have learned this quarter. Since it has allowed me to create programs in a small scale. It also showed me that when we write in a higher level language, like C++, we are actually writing code in a human readable level which means that we are not writing it in a machine level. That is why we have compilers that transforms our source code into machine language. Overall, this course has allowed me to understand the basics of computer programming.

What topics do you still find confusing? What can you do to get a better grasp on them?

The topic that still daunts me is pointers. The hardest part about it was to understand how to use the asterisk symbol. The first assignment that required to use of pointers was too difficult. I believe in order to grasp it is to create a simple pointer assignment to understand its basics. The pointer examples that were shown in the lecture videos could have been the assignment. That way it enforces the student to actually write code using the pointer basics rather than just looking at the videos.

What did you learn this quarter about how taking online courses works for you?

I found that taking this course online gave me the flexibility to learn and work full-time. This course gave me the opportunity to learn time management. At the beginning I was struggling since I did not create a schedule to tackle this course. Even though I was able to manage my time this course still did require to sacrifice a lot of my personal time.

How can you generalize your experience in this course in a way that will help you in future courses?

The main experience that I gained while taking this course was time management and commitment. Creating a schedule and committing myself to it will help me to tackle future courses. Rather than the logistics, the content of this course will definitely help me in the future courses as well, for example on the second part of this course.

How has this course helped crystallize your ideas about what a career that involves computer programming might be like?

This course has opened my eyes further on where I want to be in my career. I see that a computer programmer will be challenged often to find solutions. During this course I found out that I like challenges, and I see myself working as a software developer in a team as I got that experience in this course.