**Discussion Topics: Pragmatic Programming**

In this module's discussion board assignment, answer the following questions:

1. Using the ***Pragmatic Programmer*** reading assignment, select one (1) topic and complete the following:
   * Why did you select this topic?
   * Summarize the main points (in your own words) of that topic in three or four sentences.
   * Find at least one additional resource (video, book, article, website, etc.) that supports your summary. Include a link to that resources.

After reading the topics for this module, Topic 37: Listen to Your Lizard Brain, stuck out to me in particular. I cannot begin to count how often my body goes into autopilot. Specific tasks in my daily life are so repetitive that muscle memory drives my actions. This is so true that sometimes, when I take a moment to think through something normal for me to do, I forget how to do it because, most times, I just automatically accomplish it.

As we continue to code, we strengthen our natural instincts. Without realizing it, we are thinking through code and acting on it. These reactions can be indescribable since we are often unaware that they are happening, and we are letting our lizard brains take over (Thomas & Hunt, 2024/2020). When something does not feel right with our code, we must listen to this instinctual warning (Thomas & Hunt, 2024/2020, p. 141). If you are feeling stuck on identifying the issue your brain has detected, sometimes it is best to remove yourself from the environment, giving yourself a break or discussing it without someone else before diving back in (Thomas & Hunt, 2024/2020).

An article that I found that supports this summary is by Mahmoud Al-Qudsi in his 2013 article on NeoSmart Technologies. Although he does not refer to it as his lizard brain, his article focuses on why programmers should trust their instincts. We can save time by listening to our instincts and finding solutions to tricky code (Mahmoud Al-Qudsi, 2008). Even if there are standard practices, as a programmer, if your mind feels this is the wrong direction, listen to it (Mahmoud Al-Qudsi, 2008).

**References**

Mahmoud Al-Qudsi. (2008, May 22). *Programmers Should Trust Their Instincts*. The NeoSmart Files. https://neosmart.net/blog/programmers-should-trust-their-instincts/

Thomas, D., & Hunt, A. (2020). *The Pragmatic Programmer: your journey to mastery*. Addison-Wesley. (Original work published 2024)

***Before you submit your thread, put your name in the subject line.***

**Assignment Requirements and Grading:**

1. An initial post of approximately 250 words is due by **Thursday, 11:59 p.m., CT**.
2. For the initial post to be considered substantive, it should be at least 250 words in length and fully cover the topics being presented. Single-sentence definitions or responses will not be awarded points.
3. Submit your post by clicking on the **Assignment Link** above, then **Create Thread**. You must create a thread in order to view your peers' posts. Tip: Create your post in a Word document and then copy and paste your work into the thread.
4. A minimum of three (3) responses, **to the original threads of other students**, of 100-200 words each are due by **Sunday, 11:59 p.m., CT**.
5. To view the rubric grading criteria, click on the following link: [Discussion Board Grading Rubric](https://content.bellevue.edu/cst/csd/rubricdbv3.pdf).

**(50 points)**