

# Exercise 60

## *A BONUS EXERCISE*

If you remember, we began our exercises with Exercise 0. Sixty exercises should end with Exercise 59. So consider this a bonus exercise. Follow the simple instructions in [index.html](#) to get more familiar with VS Code.

### *The end of the line — or the beginning?*

Throughout my career, I've had the pleasure of teaching programming to thousands of students through in-person training, magazine articles, and books. I was the chief architect and programmer behind an open source framework called Fusebox that was widely used, even powering MySpace back in the day. I've seen how many people's lives have been improved by learning to program.

Today, I believe economies across the developed world are at an inflection point. The rapid adoption of automation and AI will put pressure on jobs, as perhaps nothing in human history has previously. As many as 38% of jobs in the U.S. will no longer be available for humans by the early 2030s. I feel a bit like Noah, asking people, "Does it look we're in for some rain?"

If these predictions prove to be true, it will cause massive unemployment and misery for those displaced. I'm confident that, eventually, we'll figure out a new way, but governments are typically slow to see the problem and even slower to act — and the scale of the problem is so great that it will require governmental solutions.

What do we do in the meantime for ourselves and our families? I'm urging people to consider programming. While it, too, will eventually fall under the onslaught of AI, it will likely take decades. For the foreseeable future, it presents a safe haven.

Of the many types of programming, I recommend front-end programming, involving HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. Not only is this the easiest path to programming, it is in huge demand and that demand

promises to continue its upward trajectory.

## Two big questions

I came to programming from woodworking. I had no background in technology and my aptitude with math was, to put it charitably, *basic*. I know how daunting even the thought of changing careers is — especially when the career in question is a technical one.

Anyone considering such a move probably has (at least) two big questions:

1. Am I *smart* enough?
2. Would I *enjoy* the work of a programmer or would it be misery?

These exercises won't teach you programming; they're not meant to. They are meant to expose you to the kind of work that front-end programmers do on a daily basis. I hope they will help you answer those two questions. And if your answer to them is "Yes" (even a nervous, halting "Yes"), I want to help you develop the skills you'll need to land that first job as you embark on your new career.

If you're interested in learning more, come over to **codingcareer.com** and take a look at the options for learning. There are options for people whose interests range from "Yeah, I think I'd like to learn more" to "How quickly can I make the switch?". See if one of those is right for you.

Finally, I hope you'll reflect on just how dedicated you are to improving your life. I expect the majority of people who start these exercises will bail at some point. If you got here, you didn't. That's nothing to be taken lightly; you should be justly proud of yourself. You did this with very little instruction. That may have been frustrating, but it was purposeful.

Only you can provide the answers to the two big questions. I have an advantage that you don't enjoy: I've worked with very ordinary people and watched them become successful programmers. I started off thinking that programming was only for math geniuses. I know different now. Anyway, I hope you found these exercises helpful — and I hope to see you at **codingcareer.com** to continue your journey.