

Can Clojure function for teaching?

Abstract

If you're like many in the Clojure community (including me), you achieved enlightenment after years of wandering in the desert of willy-nilly mutation. Due to your own experience, you probably consider functional programming hard to learn (or at least harder than imperative programming). In the next half an hours or so, I hope to convince you that it is actually much easier to learn than imperative programming for those completely new to programming. You'll learn about ongoing efforts from the functional programming community to design great curricula for schools, and then get to hear about my own experiences using Clojure to teach children. You'll see some art created by 8-10 year-old Clojurists, then go on a tour of Quilt, the ClojureScript application I developed for teaching. Finally, since no Clojure talk would be complete without it, you'll get to see `clojure.spec` try its hand at making art.

Speaker bio

Josh Glover has come a long way since declaring Lisp a completely pointless language in university. 15 years and three countries later, he shudders at the very thought of using a language other than Clojure. He is really interested in teaching programming and increasing diversity in the industry. He currently lives in Stockholm and works for Klarna, the leading payments company in the Nordics.