

A scenic view of a forested mountain landscape. In the foreground, several tall evergreen trees stand prominently. A dirt path leads through the trees towards a valley in the background. The valley contains a small town or cluster of buildings nestled among green hills. The sky is blue with some white clouds.

2nd hardest thing
in computer science

Definition?

*"There are only two hard things in
Computer Science: cache invalidation
and naming things."*

Phil Carton

#2 Naming things*

*things

- variables
- methods
- classes
- modules
- comments
- inline docs
- commit messages

You don't code for CPU

You don't code for interpreter

You don't code for compiler

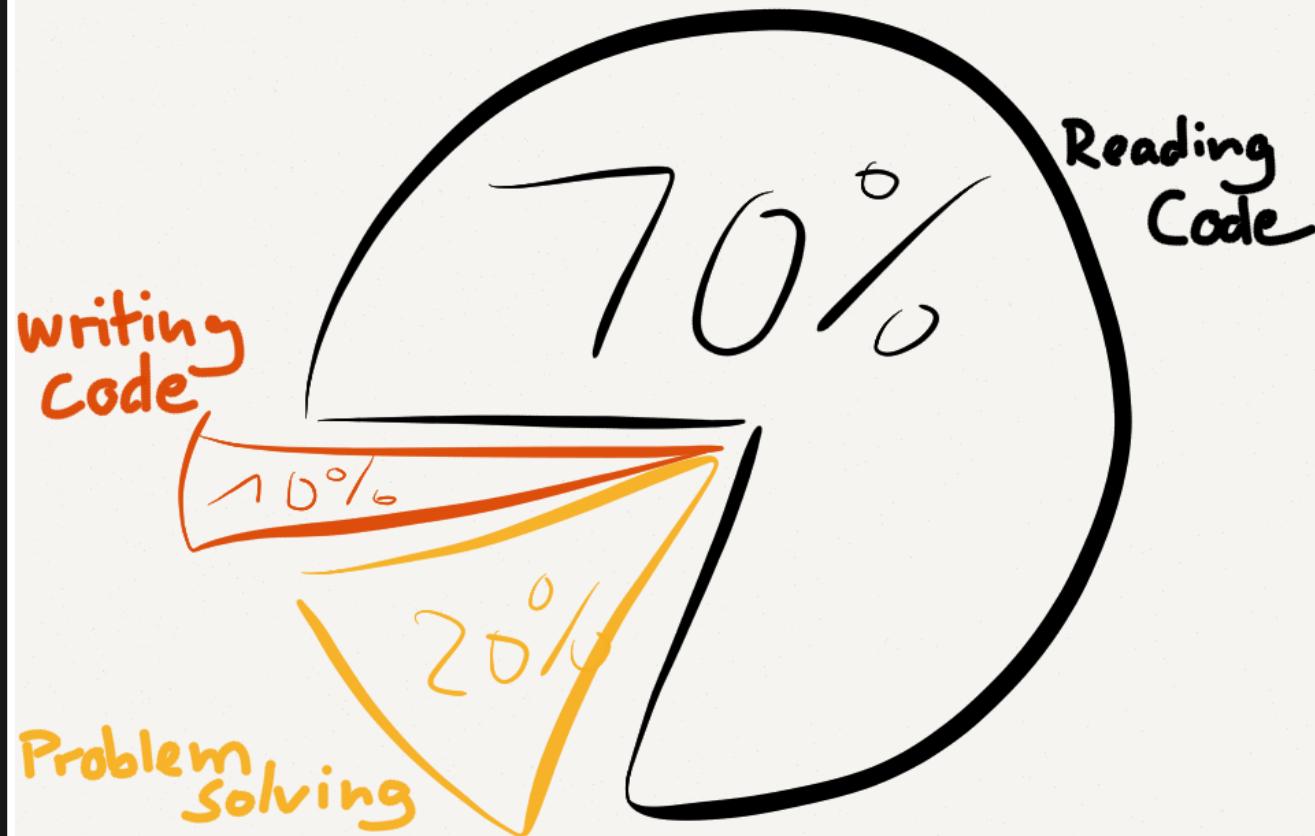
You code for people

You code for other developers

You code for your future self

"Don't code, write prose"

Sławomir Sobótka



"Instead of imagining that our main task is to instruct a computer what to do, let us concentrate rather on explaining to human beings what we want a computer to do."

Donald E. Knuth

Comprehension

~70%

```
function a($b) {  
    sort($b);  
    $c = count($b);  
    if ($c % 2 === 1) {  
        return $b[($c - 1) / 2];  
    } else {  
        return ($b[$c/2 - 1] + $b[$c/2]) / 2;  
    }  
}
```

```
function median($pool) {  
    sort($pool);  
    $size = count($pool);  
    if ($size % 2 === 1) {  
        return $pool[($size - 1) / 2];  
    } else {  
        return ($pool[$size/2 - 1] + $pool[$size/2]) / 2;  
    }  
}
```

Self-documenting code

Programming is mapping

- from problem domain
- via intermediate domain
- into programming domain

Worst variable name

data

**Thank You,
Captain
Obvious!**



Second worst name?

data2

```
$total = $price * $qty;  
$total2 = $total - $discount;  
$total2 += $total * $taxrate;  
  
$total3 = $purchase_order_value + $available_credit;  
if ($total2 < $total3) {  
    echo "You can't afford this order.";  
}
```

```
$order_total = $price * $qty  
$payable_total = $order_total - $discount  
$payable_total += $payable_total * $taxrate  
  
$available_funds = $purchase_order_value + $available_credit  
if ($payable_total < $available_funds) {  
    echo "You can't afford this order.";  
}
```

"No-one sets out to write legacy code"

Rachel Willmer



Broken window theory



Code will decay

Design patterns

*Misapplied Java design patterns are
the root of all
AbstractWordFactoryFactory("evil")*

anonymous HN comment

Naming conventions

- CamelCaseClass
- methodName
- someVariable
- CAPITAL_CONSTANT

syntax < semantics

Bad name

- Does more than what it says
- Says more than what it does
- Does the opposite
- Contains more than what it says
- Says more than what it contains
- Contains the opposite

Common issues

Pseudo getter

get_data()

with extra operations inside

get_create_object()

Alternatives

- fetch
- find
- lookup
- create
- calculate

Not really a boolean

is_active()

```
function is_active() {  
    if (cond) {  
        return 'false';  
    }  
  
    return 'true';  
}
```

is_valid()

```
function is_valid() {  
    if (input_is_valid) {  
        return true;  
    }  
}
```

Plural / singular names

```
function get_person() {  
    return array('John Doe', 'Jane Doe');  
}  
  
function get_employers() {  
    return 'John Doe';  
}
```

Misleading docs

```
function get_lowest_price($user)
{
}
```

```
/**  
 * Actually it returns the highest price.  
 */  
function get_lowest_price($user)  
{  
}
```

```
/**  
 * Actually it returns the highest price.  
 */  
function get_lowest_price($user) {  
    if ($user === null) {  
        return _get_highest_price();  
    } else {  
        return _get_lowest_price($user);  
    }  
}
```

More than one responsibility

Abbreviations

pos
mod
abs
auth

Synonyms

<ThatThing>Manager

- UserManager
- StringManager
- ProductManager
- etc.

Alternatives

- Builder
- Writer
- Adapter
- Factory
- Handler
- Provider
- Converter

Magic numbers

```
$client = new GuzzleHttp\Client();
$url = 'https://2019.phpcon.pl/';

$response = $client->request('GET', $url);
$response_code = $response->getStatusCode();

if ($response_code === 200) {
    echo 'It works!';
} elseif ($response_code === 418) {
    // ???
}
```

```
$client = new GuzzleHttp\Client();
$url = 'https://2019.phpcon.pl/';

$response = $client->request('GET', $url);
$response_code = $response->getStatusCode();

if ($response_code === StatusCode::OK) {
    echo 'Website works!';
} elseif ($response_code === StatusCode::IM_A_TEAPOT) {
    echo 'Would like a cup of tea?';
}
```

Useless comments

```
/**  
 * Returns the data.  
 */  
function get_data() {}  
  
/**  
 * Return maximum ID value from the database.  
 */  
function get_max_id_from_db() {}
```

Explain why, not what or how

*"Code should have comments, but if
your file is more than 25% comments,
that's a red flag: you may be explaining
bad code"*

Adam Culp

Commit messages



added some commits 20 hours ago

- o Deploy fixes
- o trigger commit
- o fix
- o fix
- o compose fiz
- o Sql fix
- o remove sql
- o config fix
- o Docker compose splited
- o Build fix
- o typo
- o env
- o test fix
- o fix
- o trigger
- o last try
- o Easier tests
- o clean up
- o More clean ups
- o bring dredd back
- o fix

Good practices

Define dictionary

Short names

Do not use negation

is_not_enabled()

is_disabled()

Consistent names
in code & docs

Single responsibility

Domain terms

Think about it

ASCII only

```
$Δ = 1;  
++$Δ;  
echo $Δ;
```

```
class 💩💩💩💩 {
    function 💩💩💩($😎, $🐯) {
        return $😎 + $🐯;
    }

}
$hens = 3;
$😢 = $hens + 2;
$hans = new 💩💩💩💩💩;
echo $hans -> 💩💩💩($hens, $😢);
```

Tests!

Commit message

Good commit message

- Speeds up review process
- Helps write release notes
- Helps future maintainers

Short (50 chars or less) summary of changes

More detailed explanatory text, if necessary. Wrap it to about 72 characters or so. In some contexts, the first line is treated as the subject of an email and the rest of the text as the body. The blank line separating the summary from the body is critical (unless you omit the body entirely); tools like rebase can get confused if you run the two together.

Further paragraphs come after blank lines.

- Bullet points are okay, too
- Typically a hyphen or asterisk is used for the bullet, preceded by a single space, with blank lines in between, but conventions vary here

Agree on standards

Use english, please

Boy Scout Rule

Practice

Improve vocabulary

Refactor

Code reviews

Short, bite size, single logical change

Code ownership

Commit messages

Research papers

- <https://www.cqse.eu/publications/2005-concise-and-consistent-naming.pdf>
- <http://www.cs.loyola.edu/~lawrie/papers/lawrieJese07.pdf>
- https://www.researchgate.net/publication/224079441_Relating_Identifier_Naming_Flaws_and_Naming_Conventions
- <http://www.veneraarnaoudova.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/2014-EMSE-Arnaodova-et-al.pdf>

thank you