

Group Discussion: Professionalism, Quality, Peer Reviews, Engineering Notebooks

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Activity Kind

Group Discussion.

Purpose

The purpose of this course is to help you learn to develop software more like a professional and less like a student. The concepts of Quality, Peer Reviews, and Engineering Notebooks are at the heart of being a professional.

Prerequisite

Students are expected to have completed, at a minimum, the following activities:

1. Watched the Video – Backstory – The need for better computation
2. Participated in the Group Discussion – What do you think we are really being asked to do?

Tasking

The mentors will lead this discussion. This is **not** a lecture. While everyone in the class will know a professional software developer well, it is common for most everyone to come into contact with many professionals. The following are examples of the kinds of questions you will be asked.

1. So, what is it that makes a professional different from a construction worker, a farmer's field laborer, and others in similar jobs? Is a commercial jet airliner pilot the same as an auto rickshaw driver? If not, how are they different and how did they get that way?
2. Why is it that a software developer, in many cases, needs to be a professional as opposed to a just a laborer?
3. People will say that there is an expectation of quality. What does that mean? What quality does the commercial jet airliner pilot provide that one does not have with the auto rickshaw driver? How does the Captain of a jet airline become qualified to be a Captain?
4. Why is it that creative people in **all** disciplines need peer reviewers? What can a peer reviewer do that the original author cannot? Why is it that a peer reviewer does not need to be as experienced or as senior as the professional who created the work product?
5. Every good student should know how to take notes during lectures and laboratory experiments. Why is it that students are so resistant to keeping an engineer's notebook for programming tasks?

Your mentor will work through the above set of questions and fully expects every student in the class to have answers. If no one answers, the mentor will call upon individuals to answer. Your ability to make a meaningful contribution to the discussion will be noted, just as your inability to contribute will be.

Deliverables

The notes in your engineering notebook are the deliverables for this assignment.

Submission

Each student must submit their engineering notebook as part of today's standard evening submission of the ENB.