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Code Reading

Report on Spinelli’s Article

Diomidis Spinelli has made a point that your style of coding effects how readable it is. One aspect of style that Spinelli emphasizes is commenting on your code. Commenting on your code will lead to clarifications on lines of code that otherwise seem hard to understand. These comments should be clear and concise. However, misleading comments would lead to unreadable code. So, the coder would need to be careful of what kind of comments you insert between the lines. Spinelli has remarked that in some code the misleading comments make the unreadable code even more unreadable. This is a critical problem if this code was written for a group. No one else in the group would be able to understand the contents of the code if it isn’t written and structured coherently and accompanied by helpful comments. Spinelli has made an interesting point that people tend to trust the comments as the right judgement and just ignore their own judgement at times which leads to confusion if the code and comments aren’t truly consistent. This brings back the point that comments need to be clear and helpful to make the code more readable.

I’ve had some experience with unreadable code in my time as a programmer as well. For one particular assignment that I’ve done in the past, the comments just seemed to be even more confusing than the code. At the time I was writing the code, I knew what the contents were so I wrote comments that were almost meaningless. A week later, I examined the code to only regret that my comments were so unhelpful in explaining any of the code. I had to read through the code multiple times to finally understand it. This extra effort was a waste since it was my code and my comments. If these comments were more helpful, then I wouldn’t have had to waste my time with that code. Well written comments do play a role in making code more readable. They guide the reader in understanding the coder’s process of thinking and makes it easier to understand each line of code. I have read code that had comments that guided me through each line and helped me understand what the original programmer’s thought process was as they wrote their code. Truly helpful comments do make code more readable.

As Spinelli noted, another way to avoid writing unreadable code is by writing code with an IDE with a good editor. The IDE imposes its rules on the programmer, but at the same time allows the programmer to implement a structure to their code. A good editor is great for novice programmers as Spinelli said. The IDE helps you write code that is readable and clean. The IDE will also give your code a concrete structure that that helps others interpret what you’ve written with little trouble. This editor can polish your code and give it a certain structure that can really help you in writing great code that is both readable and complete. This aspect of coding completely changes in the absence of the IDE. The IDE can keep this structure that some coders seem to ignore in their process of programming.

I’ve been using an IDE to write my code ever since I began coding in high school. I completely agree from personal experience about Spinelli’s point on Visual Basic. I wrote in Visual Basic in an amazing IDE that assisted me in writing readable code. This has driven me towards cleaner coding practices on later projects. Along with commenting, the color coding and proper indentation has led me to write code that I could understand even weeks after I’ve written it. The structure the IDE has given to my code has helped fix my errors quickly due the readability the IDE offers. This has led me to resolve errors quicker and helped others read my code quickly and spot my errors for me. All my programs I’ve written have been crucially affected by the IDE I’ve been using. So, I strongly agree on Spinelli’s point on IDE making code more readable and providing strong structure. This strong structure has led me to automatically follow those conventions to make clean, working code.