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Code Reading

Video Report

Early on in the video Thomas Fetherston began talking about chunking as an effective strategy in code reading. He explained that looking at all the information at once could be overwhelming, so breaking the code down to units would create more of a focus. Chunking helps in distinguishing and separating part of the code from one another. In doing so, this strategy also helps in finding the more important bits of the code. When looking at pieces of the code, one of these parts of the code may help you understand another. Fetherston has later said that you’ll start recognizing patterns that were apparent in different parts of the code. This strategy makes reading the much easier piece by piece. This strategy is effective as an efficient way of reading code. Such a strategy saves time and helps you go through a step by step process of analyzing code.

This has been a common method in our class assignments as well. Breaking the code down to bits always helped me in understanding the purpose and process of the code. Trying to understanding every line of code at once was an overwhelming task that leads to an efficient process. This would result in a waste of time and energy. Approaching the code by understanding the core functions and then branching out helps me understand the code quicker. I was able to spot relationships of variable across functions and trace the process of the code quicker this way. Chunking also organizes the code, so the process of the code is visually apparent as well.

Reading books and other study guides will improve your ability in code reading. Knowing specific algorithms and techniques before approaching the code will assist you noticing patterns in the code. The code will already seem familiar with this knowledge. Through further knowledge of these patterns and algorithms, you’ll be able to understand code quickly and work through reading the code more efficiently. Going through these study guides will also help you in increasing your knowledge to make code reading much easier.

Increasing my knowledge of languages and algorithms has always aided my own and other people’s code. This approach takes time but is worth the effort due to its results. Understanding algorithms and patterns this way really helps in future tasks. This amount of knowledge could also help me in understanding new processes and algorithms much more quickly due to experience. Writing in journals, as mentioned by Fetherston, is also a good study guide. This could help me in revisiting past problems that I’ve encountered and resolved. These study guides are a very helpful approach in getting better at code reading.