

Why Computer Science is Awesome

“Computer science is the study of problem solving. A computer scientist views a computer the way an astronomer views a telescope. It’s a way to get at what you’re really interested in studying.” Often, the arguments suggesting that computer science is an anti-intellectual discipline rely on a strawman. Their image of a computer science student seems to be of a sun-deprived geek sitting for hours and typing 1s and 0s as fast as he can. The reality is far different. Computer science is about thinking how best to solve a challenging problem and having the imagination to see the world differently more than it is about gaining a ticket to a job. Whether thinking through a sophisticated algorithm or persevering through debugging a program, computer science does increase one’s appreciation for solving difficult problems and provides the framework to solve new ones, which results in a stimulating educational experience. Computer science is not awesome strictly because of its practical element, or its current value in the job market. It’s awesome because it provides the opportunity to create something brand new and to develop the mental ability to attack difficult problems in a variety of fields, from biology to economics and even to literature.

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