

*theKetoBear asks the Reddit community, "[What's the worst production code base you've seen / worked on?](#)"*

**ClvrNickname had one of the best responses:**

My first software job was at a small startup that was just a trainwreck of terrible code. There are too many problems to list, but one example that comes to mind:

We had a piece of code that needed to basically just take a small dataset, and do some simple comparisons between objects in the set. You'd essentially just write a few nested for loops to grab each combination of items, and maybe ten lines of logic inside to do the actual comparison.

Well, that's what you'd do **if** you were a sane person. What the developer in charge actually did was copy and paste the same core ten lines of code, *700 times* (I counted!), and manually update the indices inside each block of code by hand. We ended up with a production bug because he incorrectly set the indices inside of exactly one of those blocks.

"Why would you let a junior dev commit such horrible code to the codebase?

Why would you hire someone like this in the first place??", you might ask.

Because:

1 - The company had no code review policy. 2 - The company did not use any source control whatsoever. 3 - The "junior dev" was actually the most senior developer in the entire company, with 30 years of experience, and my boss.

When I asked him why the hell he wrote the code this way, he confidently replied "when you're up against a deadline, copying and pasting is the fastest way to write code!" and then went back to not-so-secretly drinking on the job.

So, yeah, I left that place pretty quickly.