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[5 Learning Mistakes] Enough with the questions already!
1 message

John Sonmez (Simple Programmer) <devcareers@simpleprogrammer.com>   Sun, Jun 16, 2019 at 1:01 PM
To: rishavghosh605@gmail.com

Hey Rishav Ghosh,

Recently I watched a couple of devs giving advice to a young programmer.

The new guy had just started his first job as a web developer, and he felt totally out of his depth.

Sure he knew his way around Visual Studio and could whip up a quick CRUD app no problem.

But now he found himself struggling to navigate through a half-million lines of code, and wrestling with the three dozen different open source projects that were frankensteined into this huge app.

He hated bugging his teammates with questions.

And every day he just KNEW one of them was going to explode like a landmine...

"That's IT—no more stupid questions!"

To make matters worse, Twitter and Hacker News were always buzzing about some hot new concept or framework.

He wondered:

"I'm so overwhelmed with how much I want and need to learn to catch up to other developers. Where do I even start?"

The senior devs weren't that helpful.

"You keep going and ignore that feeling. Then a few years have passed and you no longer feel overwhelmed," one told him.

"Make peace with the panic," said the other.

I've been in software development for more than 15 years now.
And I've never seen a time when there was more to learn and

And I've never seen a time when there was more to learn and understand.

(Just the other day I found out that the number of new open source projects DOUBLES every 14 months. Don't expect that to slow down any time soon, either.)

It's definitely tough on new programmers.

Just to call yourself a web developer these days, you have to know HTML5, CSS3, jQuery, MV* frameworks, shims and hacks, responsive design, and on and on.

And in some ways it's even harder when you have some experience, because **you realize how much of what you "knew" just last year is obsolete**.

How do you know which technologies are worth investing the time to learn—and which repos will be a "Github ghost town" in 6 months?

I hear from a lot of developers on this.

"I'm so overwhelmed with everything I need to learn. What should I do next?"

A lot of times these developers want me to help them pick a specific language or framework to learn next.

They want me to gaze into my crystal ball and tell them which horse to bet on for the next 3-5 years.

The answer I give usually takes them off guard.

As a developer, what will matter most in your career is NOT your knowledge of Ruby or Python, or whether you stick with .NET or make the switch to Node.

There's an essential "programmer survival skill" that's FAR more important. When you master this, you won't have to worry about feeling overwhelmed, or getting left behind.

That skill is:

The ability to LEARN EFFICIENTLY.

Now as developers, we tend to see ourselves as good at learning and adapting. I know I did.

But I was wrong.

Turns out, I was making 5 *huge* mistakes that sabotaged my efforts to learn.

Thanks to these flaws in how I approached new topics, I wasted thousands of hours studying while retaining very little.

I caused myself a lot of unnecessary stress and frustration, and missed so many opportunities...

Over the next 5 days, I'll walk you step by step through each of these mistakes—and show you how to avoid them.

When you steer clear of these potholes, you'll find you can master new technologies more easily...

And you'll quickly pull ahead of your software development peers who are still wondering why they can't seem to keep up.

The fun starts tomorrow.

John Sonmez

P.S. Mistake #1 is something that's been drummed into your head since kindergarten.

I used to think this was the ONLY way to really learn something, and I even took pride in it...

And then it got me fired. I'll explain in my next email.

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