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Continuous Learning

We live in interesting times. From day to day development gets distributed throughout the world and more and more people get knowledge and skills of doing your job. If you don’t learn, you will stuck in the same job and become unnecessary. So if you are not marketable, you will be replaced by some cheaper resource.

It is normal, that different employers have also different opinions about training their worker’s skill set and mastership: some of them spend a lot of money to improve the level of their employees; some of them don’t do it at all. Therefore, you are the one person, who have to be responsible for your self-education.

Here’s a list of ways to keep you learning, which can be found for free in the WEB:

It’s very useful to read books, magazines, blogs, Twitter feeds and websites related to subject you are interested in;

If you want to learn new technology, you have to start write some code;

It would be great, if you had a mentor or more experienced friend than you, which can give you some useful advices. Consequently, you can not improve your skills without adviser, or you’ll do it too slowly;

Don’t forget, that a lot of potential mentors you can find in the Web. You have to use capabilities given by Internet;

Owning to learning the frameworks and libraries you use, you can know how it were created, how to do your output better, how to do this tolls better. Use the debugger to see the valid code of this frameworks or libraries. It will help you to see the inside, made by smart programmers.

You must understand all mistakes you’ve done. This means, that it’s very important to know the root of problem and how to solve it. And if you don’t know how to fix it yourself, you may find the decision in the Web.

Teaching and speaking about the subject you are interested in is useful as well. You study hard, when you know, that people will listen to you and ask you questions.

It is important to note, that different study or local user groups help to learn new technology, discipline or language faster and easier.

If you want to be up to date, you have to go to conferences, even online.

In addition, it’s very comfortable to listen to podcasts, if you commute long every day.

Besides, never forget to check your code with static analysis tool and understand all the warnings it reports.

Pragmatic Programmers\* advise to learn new language, technology or tool every year, because you can use them in your current technology stack.

However, not all you learn has to be about technology. Try to think how to optimize acting processes or how to be more productive.

Nonetheless, we cannot study every day for long hours, but it would be nice to spend one or two hours in a week to get new knowledge.

Technology changes fast. Don’t get left behind and be up to date.