

Tony Zhu  
UIN: 226007656  
UGST 181-538  
2 October 2017

### Why is Technology Dang So Big?

I was going to do a normal dry recap of “what I learned” at the Honors Panel at Bethancourt but seeing as I just launched this brand-new website and it’s 3:26am on a Sunday evening, I’m feeling pretty good.<sup>1</sup>

First things first,<sup>2</sup> it’s probably easy to realize I’m not exactly new to coding. This is relevant because I distinctly remember hearing the panel at one point discuss technology’s “profound effect on the industry”.... And then proceeding name some extremely general/vague/buzzwordy scenario. Before I go into my infamous rant-see-and-destroy-everything mode I want to make a couple of acknowledgements:

- First of all, these people weren’t wrong at all. Many of the seemingly empty statements they were making did in fact have a lot of industry experience and sound logic behind them. However it probably could have been stated more accurately, in depth, better etc.
- They didn’t grow up as computer scientists, and this wasn’t a tech panel. I’m also very aware of this fact. While they did quite amazingly at painting life after college that doesn’t mean I can’t talk for 500 words about how excited I am for computer science to affect the world.

Alright first and only example point: technology will probably affect jobs but most of them, especially developers should be safe.

My response: I’m glad this was at least mentioned in response to the question, however a lot of people vastly underestimate how this will affect the job market. Currently there are software technologies that are used in formal business environments to supervise coding proficiency among individual programmers. This is possible because coders can be analyzed for compilation time, efficiency etc. when they upload their snippet of code to the company’s codebase. Basically, we’re already replacing software engineer managers...like the people who’ve coded 10+ years and now play tetris with other people’s work for a living. With the use of the mysterious and ethereal tech of machine learning, even these types of human-based skills will quickly be replaced with soul-less machines. I would go in depth and source everything but honestly it’s nearing 4am and I should probably touch up on the positive things about this panel.

3

---

<sup>1</sup> Let’s also be honest, the last honor’s assignment I turned in was a train wreck of words and at this point I might as well be myself and just roll with what I have to offer this world (but perhaps a little more toned down). Also don’t deny it Honor’s advisor/reader, this is so much more interesting and fun.

<sup>2</sup> First thing second, if the words on this ePortfolio are supposed to be professional and workplace appropriate then let me say that I actually already have an online programming portfolio found here: [snickerton.github.io](https://snickerton.github.io). And while I could adapt *that* website to be my eportfolio, I think having a professional front and a fun, creative backend outlet (this) works well with my life.

<sup>3</sup> I should probably start a blog or something...this paper was definitely supposed to be a massive rant about technology and its misrepresentation in society.

The good of the event:

- It was really interesting getting to talk to the Sophomore Honors Representative<sup>4</sup> as I got to learn what sort of things he enjoyed and regretted Freshman year. As they say, hindsight is 20/20 which gives me a borrowed foresight of about 20/60 at this point.
- Regarding the group at my table, it's cool to have a way to meet new honor's people and learn what people want to do, and why they chose that particular field. In addition, while the icebreaker cards on the table (list of basic questions about majors) were a bit cliché, it served as a good third-party that everyone could make fun of and bond over.
- The panel itself was a 3/7 on informativeness. Honestly, it's not them, it's me.<sup>5</sup> In all seriousness, I may have a slightly above average understanding of my particular industry and education/career path so kudos to the people who got a lot more insight to the panel. That being said, I did have a lot of reaffirmation of some important life lessons:
  - Not everyone just sticks out with the major they've been planning since 8th grade.
  - Life is hard but you gotta pursue and stick it out. Even if people tell you non-positive things like "ehhh... maybe you should never be a comedian."
  - You gotta bring your best to those interviews, even if you're at your worst that day. Because in the end, you get to decide what you're going to be, not life.<sup>6</sup>

---

<sup>4</sup> Guy...person... I really don't remember their title...but they were cool.

<sup>5</sup> This is why I shouldn't be allowed to talk to people past 3.

<sup>6</sup> Freakin' life. Why you always gotta be handing me these lemons. What am I supposed to do with these, drip them into my eyes? You'd like that wouldn't you? Well guess what, I got a blender and two words for you:

Lemonade sonnn!