

# Your Career Is Yours

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Friday, April 20, 12

Giving this because I recently went Independent  
Welcome to software!  
Hope you enjoy learning!  
Devs v. designers





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This is a for profit business  
Not ONLY to make money – wrong field  
Your work generates income somewhere  
Open source projects  
Developer: Easy to be excellent on your own (low barrier)





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Your career is inside of YOU  
Your drive  
Your passion  
More to it than just money  
[Ken Auer's 4 goals]





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Listen to everything  
“Technology moves fast”  
We’re in the info age, and you’re going to need to listen  
Peers. Mentors. The Market.  
Understand what’s going on around you.  
Understand YOURSELF





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Learning is Constant  
Brother's masters degree, OH makes it explicit  
Our learning is often implicit  
learn domains, learn languages  
The info won't be handed to you

Book: PragProg  
Dreyfus Learning Model – learn the rules, expand the rules  
Novice to Expert





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Creative Endeavor

“If you’re not prepared to be wrong, you’ll never come up with anything original.”

Problem solver

most problems aren’t technical

[\$20 mouse story]

# SOFTWARE WARS



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Software Religious Wars  
The suck/rock dichotomy  
Hype over the latest, greatest...ALWAYS  
Use Critical Analysis

- |                      |                       |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| ▸ 1957 – Fortran     | ▸ 1991 – Python       |
| ▸ 1960 – COBOL       | ▸ 1995 – Java         |
| ▸ 1964 – BASIC       | ▸ 1995 – Ruby         |
| ▸ 1972 – C           | ▸ 1995 – PHP          |
| ▸ 1972 – Smalltalk   | ▸ 1996 – Javascript   |
| ▸ 1972 – SQL         | ▸ 2000 – C#           |
| ▸ 1983 – C++         | ▸ 2007 – Clojure      |
| ▸ 1986 – Objective C | ▸ 2009 – Coffeescript |
| ▸ 1987 – Perl        | ▸ 2010 – Dart         |

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Language history

53 years worth

Brendan – retiring in 52 years

Gen X retiring between 2030 and 2047 (18–35 years)





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**Practice!!**

Sculptors, painters, musicians, sketch artists all practice

Musicians specifically practice scales

Code Katas



# Stand Out



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Set yourself apart

HR in Industrial age: 2 hands x 8 hours

“MORE CODE!!!”

Tech skills can be hard to assess and situational

HIGH QUALITY

Flexibility

PragProg – life doesn’t stand still, neither can the code we write

Beauty is the ultimate defense against complexity

BUILD TRUST

Be honest – to your client, your boss, most importantly to yourself

“I don’t know” and “no” are good trust building words

“Easiest way to lose a client...” Van Vleet





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Your career is WORK

Your career is FUN

Work/Life balance

Enjoy your work, don't endure it



# resources

Pragmatic Programmer: <http://amzn.to/HV79ey>

The Suck/Rock Dicotomy: <http://bit.ly/HV70wi>

Rise of Developernomics: <http://onforb.es/HV8bqX>

Ken Robinson TED 2006: <http://bit.ly/HV8j9I>

Ken Robinson TED 2010: <http://bit.ly/HV8qST>

# photos

open book: <http://bit.ly/HV8x0z>

archery target: <http://bit.ly/HV8Kkx>

coins: <http://bit.ly/HV803w>

sign: <http://bit.ly/HV90Ql>

baseball: <http://bit.ly/HV95Um>



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slides: [bit.ly/HVa8nb](http://bit.ly/HVa8nb)