

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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