

Why is programming so hard?

Mattias's Answer



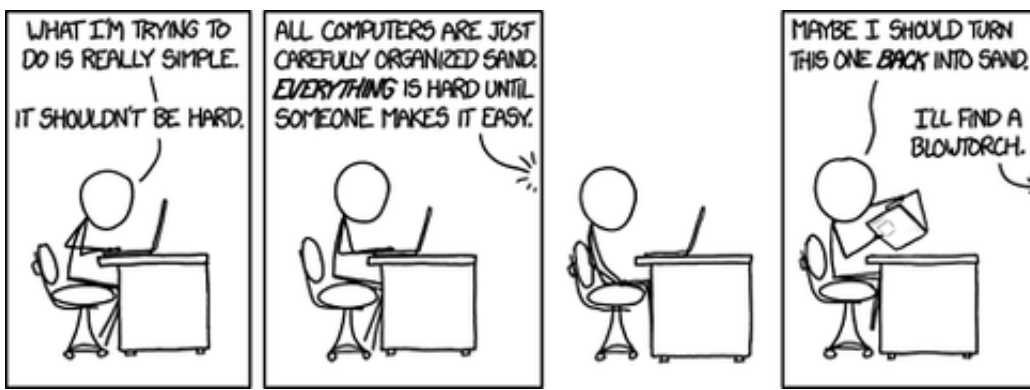
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Mattias has 190+ answers and 11 endorsements in Computer Programming.

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Because it's **development**.

You are *developing*, i.e. *creating* new things, spawning stuff from where there was no stuff before. That is the craft, the art. It's inventing things. The manuals for creating can never be complete, they will always only be indicative, guiding, but never give you the exact path, because in the end, what you are doing *has not been done before*. Not exactly, anyway.



Developing software, especially complex software, is bound to result in problems, frustration, and the need to think in new ways. Problem solving is the core of the craft, and you need to embrace that it's there, and also accept that you'll never know what form the problem come in. You might want all problems to be algorithmic, but the reality just doesn't work that way - it's just too chaotic and unpredictable. Reality is not elegant or simple.

Sometimes documentation is wrong. Sometimes, you run into a weird hardware bug. Sometimes, you spend hours looking for a spelling error that was staring you in the face all the time. That is just the way it is. It is the craft.

If software development was easy to do and easy to learn, everyone could be a developer. But most people can't, and therefore, good developers are hard to find.



Mattias Petter Johansson

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