The Joy of Software Development

ABOUT ME

Abhay Rana (Nemo) @captn3m0 captnemo.in

Member, SDSLabs



WHY?

- Data Structures
- Computer Architecture
- Algorithms
- Operating Systems
- Software Eng
- Computer Networks
- Compiler Theory

CSE course-structure at IITR

- HTML, JavaScript, CSS and GWT.
- Python, JavaScript, and C++
- Web applications, databases, distributed systems, and machine learning
- UI development, JavaScript, open source development.

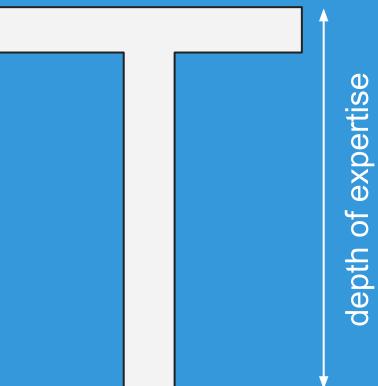
Job requirements at Google+Quora

OVERVIEW*

NON-EXHAUSTIVE
LOTS OF CONCEPTS
VERY LITTLE CODE
SLIDES WILL BE UP SOON
NO NEED TO TAKE NOTES
NEEDS BEFORE SOLUTIONS
Q&A AT END

Breadth-first learning

breadth of knowledge



When I need to know more about something, then I dig into it and learn what I need to know. Breadth first, depth as needed.

- JustaProgrammer

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT*

WATERFALL MODEL
AGILE DEVELOPMENT
RAPID PROTOTYPING
EXTREME PROGRAMMING
SCRUM

WTH?

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT CHARACTERISTIC OF A SOFTWARE?

Across all viewpoints (Developer, User, ...)

ANSWERS I EXPECTED*

- Correctness (Do what it's supposed to do)
- Secure (Confidentiality, Integrity, Availability)
- Available (Be in market, not development)
- Usability
- Complexity
- Maintainable

ITERATIVE DEVELOPMENT

DONE
IS BETTER THAN
PERFECT

ITERATIVE DEVELOPMENT

STAY FOCUSED

G

KEEP SHIPPING

ITERATIVE DEVELOPMENT



EXPERIMENT













PRACTICAL ITERATIVE DEVELOPMENT*

- Launch ASAP
- Take user feedback regularly
- Have frequent deploys/Ship regularly
- Have a tight feedback loop

CONNECT*

- Sony PlayStation Network
- LinkedIn
- Gawker Media
- RSA Security
- Sony Entertainment
- Adobe

SOFTWARE SECURITY IS

COUNTERINTUITIVE

"security is, in most cases, the opposite of obscurity. It's really hard to explain to a non-programmer that the most secure system is the one that everyone understands perfectly."

- <u>neilk</u> on HN

SOFTWARE SECURITY IS

HARD

Heartbleed remained undetected for almost 3 years in a piece of code used by everyone.

Shellshock vulnerability was introduced in the bash code in 1989. It was identified in 2014.

SOFTWARE SECURITY IS

EASY TO GET WRONG

- Often well meaning security patches bring on new vulnerabilities.
- Encryption is very easy to get wrong:
 - nonce reuse
 - RNG vulnerabilities
 - Padding Attacks

SOFTWARE SECURITY NEEDS JUST ONE DEDICATED ATTACKER

"Almost everything can be hacked. Its just a matter of time and dedication."

HOW TO GET STARTED

- Use bcrypt for hashing passwords.
- Run software at least privileges.
- Never trust user input
- Read and understand the OWASP Top 10
- Try some beginner CTFs
- Understand vulnerabilities and keep up

AGNOSTIC DEVELOPMENT

"denoting or relating to hardware or software that is compatible with many types of platform or operating system."

AGNOSTIC DEVELOPMENT

Do system development in C++
Write quick one-time scripts in perl
Machine Learning in Python
Frontend development in Javascript
iOS -> Swift
Android -> Java

CHOOSE THE RIGHT TOOL FOR THE JOB

"Name any closed source generalist programming language?"

"Name any closed source generalist programming language?"

https://github.com/dotnet/roslyn

The .NET Compiler Platform ("Roslyn") provides open-source C# and Visual Basic compilers with rich code analysis APIs.

- PHP
- GCC
- .NET
- Java
- ECMAScript
- Python
- Ruby
- Go

- Firefox
- Chrome(ium)
- Notepad++
- Vim

- W3C
- PNG
- JPG
- IETF
 - HTTP
 - HTTP/2
 - SMTP
- Unicode

Open Source Movement:

 allowing users to change and redistribute the software will make it more powerful and reliable.

Free Software Enthusiast:

- Your software may be more powerful and reliable, but it does not respect my freedom

https://www.gnu.org/philosophy/open-source-misses-the-point.html

- 1. Don't get scared
- 2. Participate in a community that values these principles
 - a. Linux
 - b. Hacker News
 - c. GNU
- 3. Participate any way you can:
 - a. Help out people
 - b. Ask questions, file bugs
 - c. Fix issues

VERSION CONTROL

DO YOU EVEN GIT?

VERSION CONTROL

USE GIT

Or Mercurial, maybe. I won't judge.

VERSION CONTROL

BENEFITS

- Never hunt for backups again.
- Know when the bug was introduced
- Track changes easily
- Code reviews become easier
- Far better than emailing zip files

How many of you:

- 1. Know about writing tests?
- 2. Have written tests yourselves?

```
function basename(path){
    var pieces =
3
      path.split('/');
    return
      pieces[pieces.length-1];
```

basename('/etc/passwd')



basename('http://twitter.com/elonmusk');

```
function basename(path){
   if(path.subtr(0,7)!=='http://')
        throw new Error("Invalid path")
   var pieces = path.split('/');
   return pieces[pieces.length -1];
}
```

basename('/etc/passwd')



```
node code2.js
     projects > ... > talks > josd > code >
                                          master +
elonmusk
/home/nemo/projects/personal/talks/josd/code/code2.js:10
                throw new Error("Invalid path")
Error: Invalid path
    at basename (/home/nemo/projects/personal/talks/josd/code/code2.js:10:9)
    at Object.<anonymous> (/home/nemo/projects/personal/talks/josd/code/code2.js:16:13)
    at Module._compile (module.js:456:26)
    at Object.Module._extensions..js (module.js:474:10)
    at Module.load (module.js:356:32)
    at Function.Module._load (module.js:312:12)
    at Function.Module.runMain (module.js:497:10)
    at startup (node.js:119:16)
    at node.js:901:3
```

```
1 function test_basename (path){
2    if(basename('/etc/passwd') !== 'passwd'){
3        return false
4    }
5    return true;
6 }
```

TEST DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT

- Automated Testing (Write tests)
- TDD
 - Write Tests First
 - Red. Green. Refactor
 - Clean Code
- Regression Testing (Catch bugs)
- Unit Testing (Write better code)
- Integration Testing (Test entire code)

REST & APIs

Don't
Reinvent
The
Wh

REST & APIs

NIH

Not Invented Here

REST & APIs*

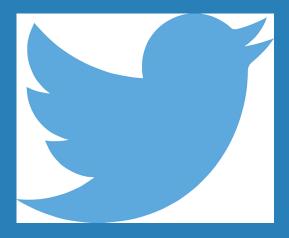
- display a map
- and draw over it
- and drop pins
- and measure distances
- get geolocation data



Use Google Maps

REST & APIs*

- Real time access to news
- Contextual information for each item
- Figure out patterns in online discussions



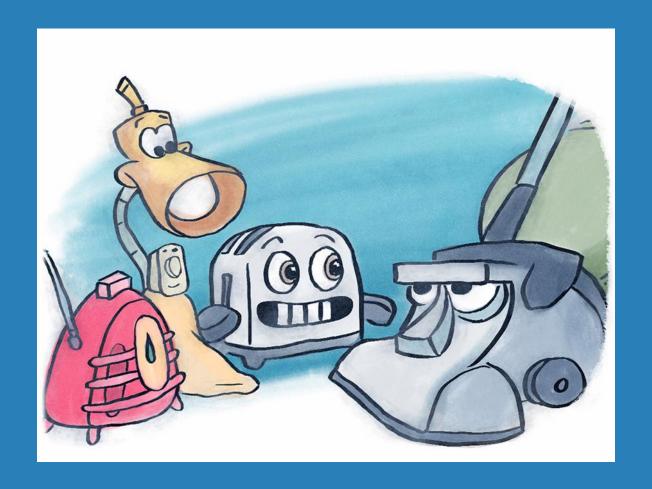
Use Twitter API

REST & APIs*

- Send mails to thousands of people
- In synchonization
- Within a few minutes
- Without hitting spam or getting flagged



Use SendGrid



Inter-machine communication

Representational State Transfer

Representational State Transfer

API over HTTP

(Application-Programming-Interface)

OOP over HTTP

(Object-Oriented-Programming)

REST:

URL = OBJECT

/photos/23

This is a PHOTO

```
GET /photos/23 (see the photo)
POST /photos (post a photo)
PUT /photos/23 (edit a photo)
DELETE /photos/23 (delete a photo)
```

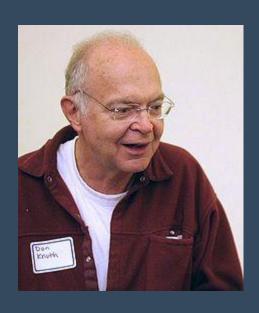
REST GIVES

- a way for machines to talk
- a technique for building good APIs
- a brilliant solution to a real problem

"Read a file of text, determine the n most frequently used words, and print out a sorted list of those words along with their frequencies."

- Communications of the ACM (1986)

// 5 slides left :D



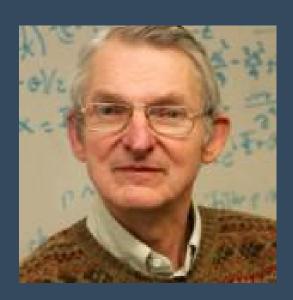
Donald Knuth

- 10 page program
- literate programming
- written in WEB
- based on Pascal
- used custom data structure

In short, as expected from the brilliant scientist



Donald Knuth



Doug McIlroy

```
tr -cs A-Za-z '\n'
tr A-Z a-z |
sort
uniq -c
sort -rn |
sed ${1}q
```

- 1. Remove non word characters
- 2. Convert to lower case
- 3. Sort to bring identical words together.
- 4. Remove duplicates and include a count
- 5. Sort in reverse (-r) numeric (-n) order.
- 6. Remember to quit after reading \$1 lines

// last boring slide

"Every program attempts to expand until it can read mail. Those programs which cannot so expand are replaced by ones which can."

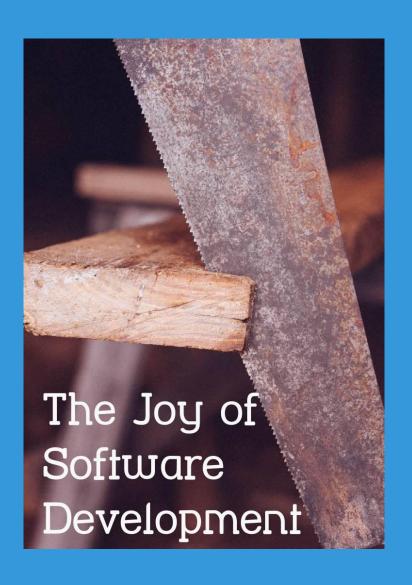
- Zawinski's Law

- Small is beautiful.
- Make each program do one thing well.

onethingwell.org

THE JOY OF SOFWARE DEVELOPMENT

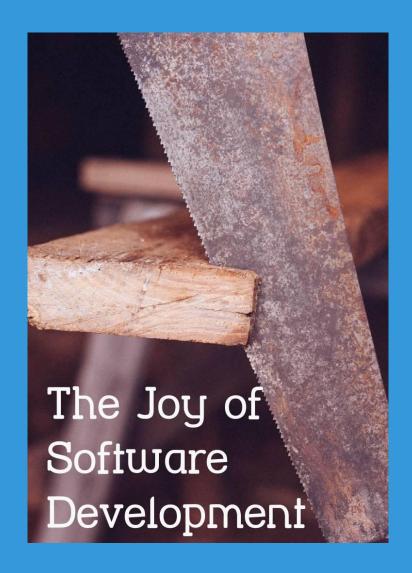
SHIP



THE JOY OF SOFWARE DEVELOPMENT

Read the book at josd.captnemo.in

- Creative Commons licensed
- Written on GitHub
- Free to read
- Free to share
- Feedback welcome



Not yet finished.