

Re: Programming for Electronics Engineers

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From: John Larkin (jjSNIPlarkin_at_highTHISlandPLEASEtechnology.XXX)

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On Sun, 16 Jan 2005 17:18:43 +0000, Danny T <danny@nospam.oops> wrote:

>mc wrote:

>> *The starter pack for Visual C# or Visual Basic (about \$99) is very nice and*

>> *gives you the full power of the .NET Framework.*

>

>*Is that like a cut down version of Visual Studio?*

>

>*I use VS at work, but I've grown fond of the new Express packages.*

>*They're lightweight and fast, though still beta (and using the next*

>*version of the framework):*

>

><http://lab.msdn.microsoft.com/express/>

You have to realize that guys like Jim and I are fulltime circuit designers. We have an infinite, unlearnable amount of stuff to keep up with in our own field, and all the work we can handle, often more. If we do want to write a program to do some math, we need to do it quickly, without spending a couple years getting up to speed in .NET and C++ classes and stuff like that. We're solving math problems, so user interface isn't important. The only eye candy that's really useful to us is graphing data so we can get a feel for the dynamics of a system, and even then we can dump a comma-delimited file to a grapher program. Some of the stuff I do is very compute intensive, so a pig like Visual Basic would be unusable. So what we need is a simple, quick, easy to learn and easy to use language that runs fast. And, at least for me, can do hardware i/o without requiring me to write device drivers.

I think pRogramming should be the fourth 'R' of basic education, something everybody can do. Modern OS's have gone a long way to making programming something only pros have time to learn.

If I wanted to spend serious hours learning a new computer skill, it would be learning Linux.

John