



Re: Per the discussions of Software Engineering

teaching tennis or skiing.

I started-out programming in BASIC and 6502 machine code on a Commodore PET. By the time I went to university, I was quite an accomplished spaghetti programmer. At college, they taught us structured programming in PASCAL. My BASIC and machine code were much better organised after that. I just needed a little pointer in the right direction to correct my self-taught bad habits.

I started writing horrible stuff on PDP-8's, but the PDP-11 taught me how to think... it was designed for cleanly structured data and code. I read the listings of the Focal-11 interpreter and the RSTS timesharing system and the lights came on.

I still do my embedded stuff in 68K assembly, which is at least as nice a language as C. A typical embedded product program takes a week or two to do and never breaks. I finish programs very fast because I hate to program. That's consistent with the quote in "Dreaming in Code", something to the effect that the problem with programmers is that they love to write code.

John

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