

Re: Turing Machines and Physical Computation

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Neil W Rickert <rickert+nn@cs.niu.edu> wrote in message news:<coe8th\$tdu\$1@usenet.cso.niu.edu>...

> > *The putative difficulty in writing effective software is a more common*

> > *and mundane version of the same thing, IMHO.*

>

> *That's actually a quite different problem.*

>

> *Computation is the manipulation of representations.*

I am not sure if that's a good description.

This formal symbol manipulation idea got some otherwise ambitious philosophers like Brian Cantwell Smith and gang quite confused.

Computers can work on representations, that's true. But it is not necessary that what is being manipulated is "representation".

Regards,

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Eray