

Offset	Topic
00:17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little Brother launches • RavenCon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviewed for the Future and You • http://www.thefutureandyou.com/ • http://www.thefutureandyou.libsyn.com/index.php?post_id=334321
02:25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listener Feedback <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C.A. Sizemore on Social Spaces <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reason for following would solve one Twitter annoyance • Apology accepted • Balance of followers, following seems to be a good heuristic
05:44	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Word of the Week: dd <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://catb.org/jargon/html/D/dd.html
07:01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monologue: Effect of Coding on Thought <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request from listeners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From Kreg Steppe, Technorama • "Programming is about patterns and structure. Does that bias, hinder or affect real world interactions in any way?" • From Chris Miller, The Secret Lair • Does being fluent at code make writing prose or other creative endeavors more difficult? • I very much think being a hacker affects cognition • The question is do you have a hacker brain before coding or does coding cause you to think differently? • Sapir-Whorf hypothesis <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sapir-Whorf_hypothesis • Idea is language shapes the way we think • Programming languages definitely qualify • Strong version says language wholly informs thought • Would certainly explain how spending so much time with code effects perceptions • Kenneth Iverson, creator of APL, applied to coding • Turing award winning lecture, "Notation as a tool of thought" • Argued that more powerful notations aided thinking about algorithms • Others have expressed similar sentiments • Usually in support of their favorite programming languages • Discussion with author of the book Kluge, from Quirks and Quarks 4/19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gary Markus • Ad hoc nature of neurology evolution

Offset

Topic

- Ambiguity in language
- Attempt of researcher to craft non-ambiguous language
- Example of parenthesis in math, code
- Failure of experiment around Whorf hypothesis because memory is too poor
- Markus thinks this invalidates strong version Sapir-Whorf
- Probably leaves some room for an affect but doesn't wholly govern how we think
- Hackers think differently
 - Possibly the structure of brains is at odds with other functions
 - Probably less to do with the activity of coding
 - In fact different brain structure may predispose to coding, not the other way around
 - Better at modeling
 - Maintain state of programs in head
 - Able to think through at least a few branches
 - Able to problem solve complex systems
 - Track multiple variables, combinatorial interactions
 - What else requires this?
 - Really asking, not sure except for maybe some other forms of engineering, math
- Frequency, commonness of high functioning autism
 - Asperger, in particular
 - Deficiencies in communications, social skills, bias towards inward focus
 - Need for modeling aligns well
 - Coding can be solitary though doesn't have to be
 - Coding is about clear intent, still a form of communicating
 - Instructions for the machine but higher level languages about clear intent
 - Maintenance is about readability, understanding
 - Machine focus means rules are more rigidly defined, unlike normal socialization
 - Lends credence that it is the predisposition that comes first, not coding as cause
- Frustrated at poor algorithms in real life
 - Many non-computer systems are algorithmic
 - Many examples in the natural world (thanks MWS!)
 - Fibonacci sequence as governs distribution of plant leaves
 - Flocking birds and other swarming behaviors
 - Autocatalytic networks in organic chemistry
 - And the every day

Offset

Topic

- Traffic patterns, including merge, roundabout and 4-way stop (thanks Anna!)
- Cooking, baking, following recipes
- Raising a kid in the sense that your input, guidance is like programming their mind (thanks Heather!)
- The every day is where there is a bit more room for bad "implementations"
- Plane boarding in particular ticks me off
 - Seems vastly unfair, some of that is people gaming the system
 - Recent study proved strict row by row boarding is most efficient
 - Have always felt that to be the case
 - Practical enough to realize it won't be implemented
 - The hacker in me finds it frustrating nonetheless
 - This is a packing problem, not a people problem
 - But since it involved people, there are messy social bits
 - Defies efficient implementation
 - Wife, by contrast, is more easily able to let it go
- Everyone can appreciate the difference between good, bad cooking
 - Strict implementations should yield the same result every time
 - The difference can sometimes be startling
 - Hear chefs speak of how much they enjoy the simplest dishes
 - These often show the difference in skill as a result
 - On a different level, can appreciate that as a hacker
- Seeing the way kids are raised differently is can also be frustrating
 - If you questions the parents views
 - Worry after kids raised with only those perspectives
 - In particular, I worry about solely faith based upbringing
 - Don't believe there is no room for religion
 - But think best upbringing exposes children equally to different views, cultures
- These all have in common the possibility for clear, simple rules
- But they rarely follow such expected courses
- Can range from irksome to distressing for hacker minds
- Got more suggestions, limited by time and think these make the point
- Childhood idea of being an engineer
 - Pressured by parents, grand parents about future
 - Frustrated by toys that aren't as detailed, interesting as I thought they should be
 - Transformers that don't work quite right
 - Other articulated toys that are cruder than I thought they should be
 - Based on that, said I wanted to be an engineer
 - Didn't really understand what was involved

Offset

Topic

- Just thought there was an opportunity to do things better
- Professionally, still motivated by learning how to code better
- Struggling to learn how to re-factor prose
 - Chris ask in particular about writing vs. coding
 - Both seem to use same speech, text centers of the brain
 - I cannot listen to involved talk programs while I code
 - I know others with this same quirk
 - Coding skills don't translate to writing, though
 - Organizational skills, like functional decomposition, help with some specific cases
 - Technical writing and essays can be approached based on structure
 - Narrative, prose not so much
 - Dialogue in particular needs to have all the usual sloppiness of real language
 - Suffers from same Sapir-Whorf experiment
 - Code can be written un-ambiguously
 - Need to do so or computer doesn't do what you want
 - Narration, description, dialogue like that is unreadable
 - Refactoring and editing seem superficially similar
 - Editing is limited by linear nature of prose
 - Code is only limited by connections between constructs
 - It is somewhat linear but branches, has decision points and non-linear complexity
 - Choose your own adventure, interactive fiction may be similar
 - Even then, smallest chunks more like writing than coding
 - Challenge of habit, coding practice doesn't translate
 - Challenge of context switch, coding mindset is different enough that it takes energy to switch to prose
 - That's why I outline my notes
 - Easier to re-organize, like code
 - Also simpler, quicker, more code-like to jot down phrases, snippets
- As a hacker, you are not alone
 - The very reason my motto is hack your world is to encourage hacker mentality
 - I want to write and recognize I need to work with, against my hacker mind
 - The real world often irks me, but I recognize what I cannot hack and that my inability to do so is the source of my frustration
 - Revel in what you can hack
 - Hack creatively, learn how to use that mindset as much as you can
 - The rest can be learned and practiced on its own, if you want it badly enough
 - Bram Cohen even talks about hacking his own asperger

<u>Offset</u>	<u>Topic</u>
28:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reverse engineering social rules and interacting based on rules• Outro<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contact me<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Email to feedback@thecommandline.net• Web site at http://thecommandline.net/• IM to command.line@skype• Listener comment line is 240-949-2638• del.icio.us tag is "for:cmdln"• http://twitter.com/cmdln• I'd like to thank libsyn.com for AAC hosting and Wouter de Bie for MP3 hosting• These notes and the show audio and music are covered by a Creative Commons license<ul style="list-style-type: none">• http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/us/• Attribution, non-commercial, share alike