

Re: OT: Should I learn bash/C/python/perl/other

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Mailing-Lists/Fedora/2005-08/2101.html>

From: Justin Willmert (justin_at_jdjlabs.com)

Date: 08/14/05

Date: Sat, 13 Aug 2005 22:46:54 -0500

To: For users of Fedora Core releases <fedora-list@redhat.com>

Dotan Cohen wrote:

> On 8/12/05, Justin Willmert <justin@jdjlabs.com> wrote:

>

>>Four years ago when I wanted to start my programming career (at 12...and

>>I find I can think more clearly now. How did I ever get by back then???

>>Anyways...), my grandma had me call my uncle since he was a programmer

>>for a very successful firm, and he suggested to me I start with Visual

>>Basic, and then move on to C/C++. Now, knowing that this is a Linux

>>mailing list and that most will not want to go with MS products (as I

>>can fully understand. Linux is a lot easier on the checkbook), I think

>>I'll only give points I think you should work with, and not a certain

>>language.

>>

>> From my experience with learning many different languages, I'd say that

>>the most difficult thing I've ever had to get my head wrapped around was

>>the pointer in C/C++. Since there is a very small chance you'd ever be

>>able to write anything complex without them, you need to have a firm

>>understanding of how they work, and once you get it into your head, it

>>is pretty easy, but I didn't think the path there was *_very_ unpleasant*.

>>With this, my suggestion here would be to find a language that will do

>>more memory management for you, so you don't have to worry about the

>>pointer work.

>>

>>Another thing I think you should look for is a language that is built

>>for users who want a fast development process, rather than the

>>performance oriented (generally speaking. I don't want to be bashed for

>>the reason for/against this. I'm just giving *_my_ opinion*). For example,

>>in VB (sorry again for the MS reference, but that's where my roots lie),

>>everything was built for ease of use. You get introduced to variable

>>types, objects (though in a mangled form when you think of conventional

>>OO programming), general structure/flow of a program, and the thought

>>process needed to look at code and realize how the parts will interact,

>>and with all the behind-the-scenes work, you can show dialogs with one

>>simple function call. This keeps you from some of the dirtier (but more

>>powerful and better performing) pointers, multiple inheritance, and

>>polymorphism.

>>

Fedora: Re: OT: Should I learn bash/C/python/perl/other

>>If you want some more of my experiences, I'd be happy to give you some
>>more, but I thought I'd try to keep this email from becoming too long
>>and I still want to give one more suggestion.

>>

>>OK, I lied earlier when I said I won't point to a specific language.
>>While I was writing this, I realized that I'd actually gotten some
>>experience from another source before I began programming (in my
>>definition). I'd actually been making web pages for a year before that,
>>but I did dabble in JavaScript, and though I didn't understand much of
>>it back then, it did come in very handy when it came time for me to
>>learn the loops and if/else statements in C++ because I recognized the
>>general syntax.

>>

>>So, in closing, if you are looking to eventually head towards C or C++
>>(haven't been watching the thread closely, so you may have already said
>>and I missed it), I hope some of my advice may be useful to you.

>>

>>Sorry for rambling,

>>Justin Willmert

>>

>

>

> Thanks, Justin. I'm not planning on getting into anything too heavy
> just yet, so I think that C would be overkill for me, at least right
> now. I came to the conclusion to learn perl now, and maybe in a year
> or two to start learning C.

>

> The perspective you gave was very relevant. As much as I value the
> word of the programers on the list, it is also important for me to
> hear to opinion of someone who's situation is more similar to mine.

>

> Thanks.

>

> Dotan Cohen

> <http://LyricsList.com/>

>

Dotan,

I'm glad to here I was a help to you. As a little side comment, I
thought C++ would be a couple more years in the future when I just
suddenly took up learning it. I bet you gravitate towards learning C/C++
before you know it.

Start out with realistic expectations and you'll be happily rewarded.

Happy Coding!

Justin

--

fedora-list mailing list

fedora-list@redhat.com

To unsubscribe: <http://www.redhat.com/mailman/listinfo/fedora-list>

Re: OT: Should I learn bash/C/python/perl/other