

The Living Coder

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Abstract

Tales, anecdotes philosophy and musings about the life that surrounds the code we write.

1. Introduction

“What are you doing?”, asked Minsky.

“I am training a randomly wired neural net [1] to play Tic-tac-toe [2]”, Sussman replied.

“Why is the net wired randomly?”, asked Minsky.

“I do not want it to have any preconceptions of how to play”, Sussman said.

Minsky then shut his eyes.

“Why do you close your eyes?” Sussman asked his teacher.

“So that the room will be empty.”

This is the story of the life that exists around the code we write.

The understanding of the fundamentals of programming is never complete without an understanding of the fundamentals of programmers. The purpose of this talk is to encourage us to open our eyes to our own psychology, motivations and social environment, and the impact they are having on our lives and on our code.

2. References

For more information: <http://phirate.posterous.com/tag/livingcoder>

[1] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neural_network

[2] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tic_tac_toe