

fear



Why do people have a fear of programming?

[1] Stereotype of programers. Think war games or tron. People think of programming as a sort of reclusive breed of geeky guys. Maybe there's a stereotype for every profession. At any rate, know that programmers come in all shapes and colors and that you don't have to be a geeky guy to be a part of this community. Programmers are, as it turns out, incredibly helpful and love to share what they've learned. There are a ton of sites online and off where programmers learn from and help each other. Part of this fear involves the idea of doing solitary work late at night. In fact, the best way to do this homework is in groups, working together, sharing successes and failures. Unless your Rich Keeler and you're in Japan.

[2] Walls of books at bookstores. One of the most intimidating things about programming is finding the right resources. Part of the problem is the multitude of books available to help you "teach" yourself programming. These books which are as big as phonebooks and look incredibly tough are scary for the beginner. Part of the trick is learning how to pick a good book. The nice thing about DBN is that there is only one book, so you don't have to be intimidated at the choices. Later, the books in the bookstore look more like bread in the supermarket, and picking the right book becomes less stressful. For now, don't let the computer section frighten you.

[3] fear of math, math class. We probably all had the absent minded geometry teacher who left the chalk erasers in his pockets and had MC Escher drawings on the wall. For some people, this math world was a world that seemed cold and sterile. For others, it was a very powerful world of abstraction and exploration. Part of that fear that a lot of non-math folks had informs the fear of programming. DBN was designed to address that fear -- keeping numbers between 0 - 100, not pushing complex math ideas and so on. Stay fearful, but know that programming is not (but can be for sure) as complicated as most high school math classes..

[4] fear of unknown, hieroglyphics, There is a fear of foreign looking material. Because it looks difficult and doesn't make sense, we believe, then, it must be complicated and hard. In fact, the majority of code ideas are essentially very simple and can be boiled down to simple english (!) sentences. The computer is good at doing very very small things. It just can do them very fast. The majority of programming is harnessing that brute force to do tons of things in a short amount of time. Coding is a lot closer to a natural way of talking and thinking than we commonly believe.

Confidence



learning to program is hard work. Take small steps. Don't be afraid to break things or create things that don't work. We learn a lot by failure as well as success. Good luck!

