Jennifer T. Angiwot
IS-EBIZ
OOB

Reflection: Interview with Douglas Crockford

Douglas Crockford is the senior JavaScript architect at Yahoo. He's been a programmer since the early 70's. Crockford by nature is a simplifier and a tidier. He invented JSON, the data interchange format widely used in Ajax applications, because he found XML too complicated. Crockford's recently published book, JavaScript is a quite nice language if one avoids certain features. This interview with Crockford talks about what he disliked about the ES4 proposal, the importance of code reading as a team activity, and how to move the Web forward despite the legacy of existing systems.

The things I learned about this interview with Douglas Crockford are: first is about the JavaScript. According to Crockford, he likes the simplicity of the ES3 version of JavaScript. I learned about the significance of the changes you can make to a language is related to the success of the language. The more successful the language is, the greater the cost of changing it. You have greater reeducation costs and you have the potential costs of disruption which, as you become bigger, become unacceptable. When you're really successful, you need to be extremely cautious in any changes that you make. JavaScript has become the most popular programming language in the world. There are more JavaScript processors in the world than any other language. JavaScript is the only language where you can write code and run it on any machine. But there is also a worst feature of the JavaScript and that is its dependence on a global object. It doesn't have linkers; it doesn't have any kind of information hiding between compilation units. It all gets dumped together into a common global object.

Second that I learn in this interview is that about code reading. To make your code readable, the simplest thing to do is to be consistent in the presentation so you always indent everything properly; you have white space in all the right places. The concrete thing that programmers should focus on to make their code readable is the subset idea, especially for JavaScript because it contains so many bad features.

Another thing I learned from reading the interview with Crockford is that mathematics is important in programming, which basically said computer programming is a branch of applied math. In this thought, I agree with Crockford because I realized that that's why I'm not good in programming because I'm not also good in mathematic, funny but true. I prove that my self. But its just one of a lot of things that are important.

The interviewer asks Crockford what advice for self taught programmers and he advice them to read a lot. He said that if you are doing web development, find the best site and look for their codes. And his advice for someone who's actually getting a C.S degree who wants to work as a programmer focuses on communication. learn to write; learn to read.