

Creativity and Programming

yes, programming is creative

but you already knew that

it's not just a matter of getting it done...

let's do it right

About Robin

Robin Barre - PHP Developer for 8 years, started working with Drupal in 2007

CivicActions, Technical Lead, Engineer

CivicActions is always curious to find good people with good minds...feel free to ask me about working with CA



Heer, I helps u

Creative

- Working in a framework
- Requires paying attention to other people's code
- You may be new to programming
- You may be a rogue
- Either way you if you want to contribute back you want help from your community

Code Quality

standards - <http://drupal.org/coding-standards>

coder - <http://drupal.org/project/coder>

devel - <http://drupal.org/project/devel>

api.drupal.org

mailing lists

Does anybody use forums on drupal.org?

Keeping Creativity

Is this a problem?

Time alone to work on the project

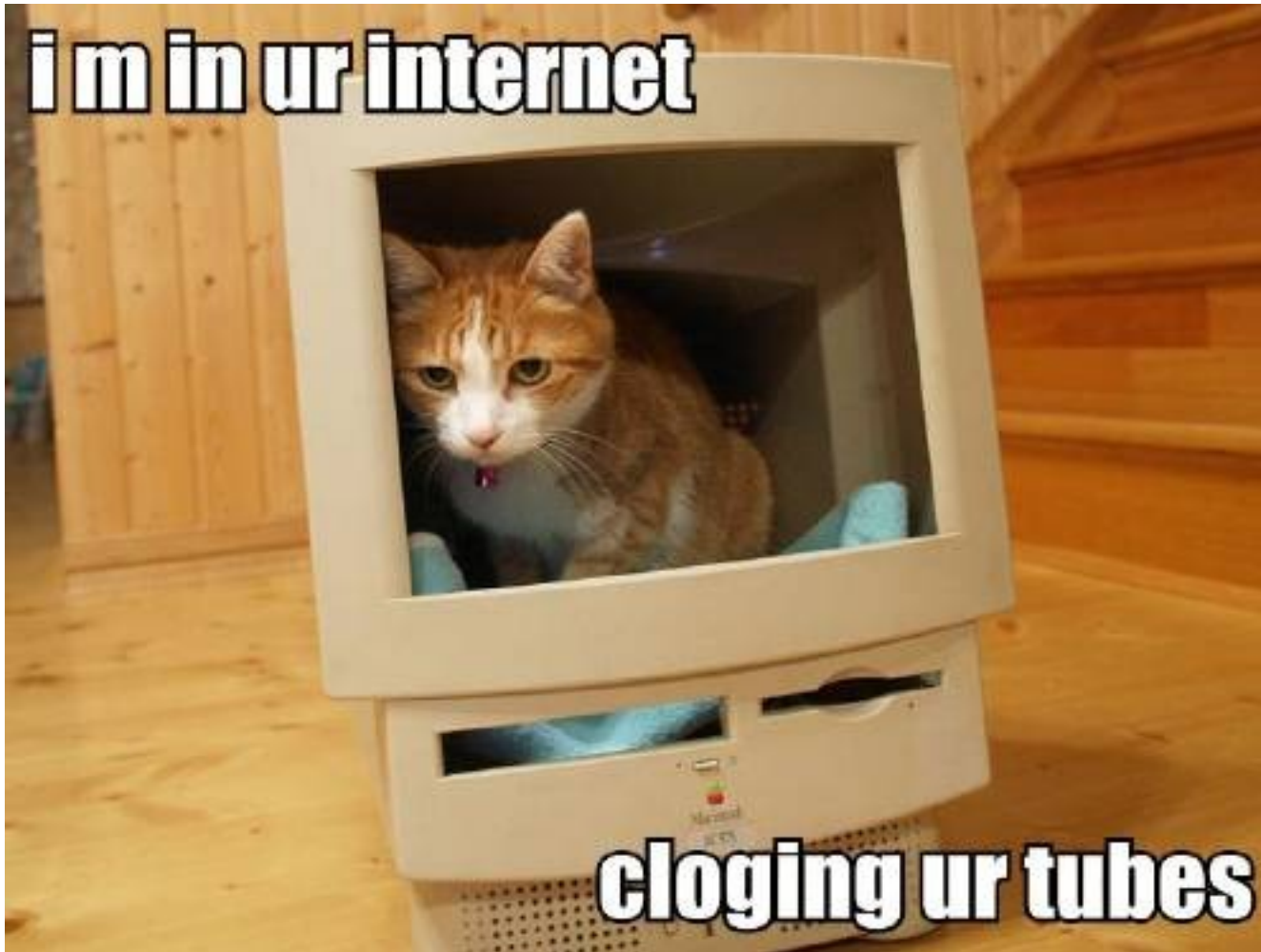
Creativity may come out the first time or when refactoring
(refactoring is good!):

oh that works great (i am such a genius)

oh that's not what the user expected at all (I will fix that)

What are other ways keep creative programming going for
you?

i m in ur internet



cloging ur tubes

Where iz mah creetiviteh?

Rabbit holes CAN close off finding the best solution (but they are the answer sometimes)

Sources may dry up

Deadlines: how often have your great plans been squashed because you didn't have enough time?

What other creativity smashers have you come across?

Code example

Original code

```
function _drimport_db_connection_test() {
  db_set_active(variable_get('import_orig_db',ORIGINAL_DB));
  $test = db_result(db_query('SELECT nid FROM original'));
  $message = "Testing found: " .
    (($test) ? $test . ' = test success' : 'test unsuccessful');
  drupal_set_message($message);
}
```

Revised code

```
function _drimport_db_connection_test() {
  if (db_set_active(variable_get('import_orig_db_connection',ORIGINAL_DB_CONNECTION))) {
    $message = "Test connection successful";
  }
  else {
    $message = 'Test unsuccessful';
  }
  drupal_set_message($message);
}
```

I really want...

Final code

```
function _drimport_db_connection_test() {
  $db_conn = variable_get('import_orig_db_connection',ORIGINAL_DB_CONNECTION);
  $orig_db_name = variable_get('import_orig_db_name',ORIGINAL_DB_NAME);

  db_set_active($db_conn);
  $db_name = db_result(db_query("SELECT DATABASE() AS dbname"));

  if ($db_name == $orig_db_name) {
    $message = "Test connection successful to database $db_name";
  }
  else {
    $message = 'Test connection unsuccessful to database $db_name';
  }
  drupal_set_message($message);
}
```

this still isn't really right...do you know why?

Sources

Clients

Knowing someone else will view your code

Following standards - it can help...I swear!

Talk to a friend: answers solved by explaining to others - even if they don't know Drupal

Is it possible to look for signs of impending doom to our creative programming? Defend ourselves from attacks?

What sources outside of Drupal do you use?

Sources outside of computers?

(yes, it's called the rest of your life) Visual Art? Music?

References

The Art of Unix Programming:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Art_of_Unix_Programming

<http://www.faqs.org/docs/artu/>

The Art of Computer Programming - Book Series:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Art_of_Computer_Programming

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donald_knuth

Interesting article:

Nedjo Rogers discusses the Project modules: <http://association.drupal.org/node/241>

http://www.freesoftwaremagazine.com/articles/focus-software_as_art

Inspiring little bits:

http://www.oreillynet.com/onlamp/blog/2005/07/computer_programming_is_art_an.html

one more lolcat?

