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Always Already Programming

Everyone who interacts with computers has in important ways always already been programming them.

Every time you make a folder or rename a file on your computer, the actions you take through moving your mouse and clicking on buttons, translate into text-based commands or scripts which eventually translate into binary.

Why are the common conceptions of what a programmer and user is so divorced from each other? The distinction between programmer and user is reinforced and maintained by a tech industry that benefits from a population rendered computationally passive. If we accept and adopt the role of *less* agency, we then make it harder for ourselves to come into *more* agency.

We've unpacked the "user" a little, now let's look at the "programmer." When a programmer is writing javascript, they are using prewritten, packaged functions and variables in order to carry out the actions they want their code to do. In this way, the programmer is also the user. Why is using pre-made scripts seen so differently than using buttons that fire pre-made scripts?

When we all build up and cultivate one another's agency to shape technology and online spaces, we are contributing to creating a world that is more supportive, affirming, and healing.



∞ The user programs and the programmer uses ∞

∞ It's buttons all the way down, buttons pressing buttons
∞

Thanks for stopping by!

 **suyashjoshi** commented on May 2 • edited ▾