

Re: Why I've returned

Source: <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/General/comp.programming/2008-01/msg00029.html>

- *From:* William Pursell <bill.pursell@xxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 1 Jan 2008 02:30:36 -0800 (PST)
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On Jan 1, 8:04 am, spinoza1111 <spinoza1...@xxxxxxxx> wrote:

I've returned because the treatment of Herb Schildt's books in this thread in 2000,

<snip>

I ask Heathfield, as the self-appointed leader and enabler of so much bullying here, bullying which makes this newsgroup useless as an Open University style learning tool to people all over the world excluded from higher education, and which may be intended to make it so, to apologize for his conduct. I ask Howard to apologize for his conduct. If they cannot do so, I ask them to leave.

Richard Heathfield, to my knowledge, has never appointed himself leader of any newsgroup, nor is he viewed as a leader in any way. His posts may often be interpreted as "bullying", but I believe that is an incorrect interpretation and your characterization of him is inaccurate. This newsgroup and others in which he participates are hardly useless.

I retained the context in which you mention Schildt's book to point out that I for one am very glad for RH's critiques of that book. It is not a complete pile of rubbish, but it is pretty close. One of the most difficult tasks in learning to design software is determining who to pay attention to and who to ignore. One valuable tool to do that job is to see other people's criticisms of books, articles, etc. Schildt's book may be slightly useful for a complete beginner to programming, but it is NOT a good text, and will probably do more harm than good. A newbie, learning from Schildt's text will undoubtedly learn just enough to be extremely dangerous, but will develop many bad habits. If you are incapable of recognizing the poor quality of that text, then you are clearly not someone to whom much time should be devoted.

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(Apologies to the group at large. It is fairly clear that spinoza is a troll, but I thought someone should present a rebuttal to this attempted character assassination.)

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