

## Re: I have a crisis

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*Source:* <http://coding.derkeiler.com/Archive/Java/comp.lang.java.help/2005-12/msg00666.html>

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- *From:* Roedy Green <[my\\_email\\_is\\_posted\\_on\\_my\\_website@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:my_email_is_posted_on_my_website@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Thu, 15 Dec 2005 10:23:57 GMT
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On 15 Dec 2005 00:12:06 -0800, "marcwentink@xxxxxxxxxxxxx" <[marcwentink@xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:marcwentink@xxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote, quoted or indirectly quoted someone who said :

>. If I compare life now, with my youth in the >80-ties, I see, in my place, the Netherlands

We certainly had some things better than today's kids.

I was able to put myself through all of university and have money left over to lend to my parents. I did not need to borrow any money at all. Granted I lived frugally, but that would be impossible today.

Sex without worrying about HIV was so much fun.

Anyone so inclined could take off and see the world. Today kids live with their parents just to get food.

Employers courted you for jobs. You never had to ask.

As a 23 year old, I was able to buy a 4 bedroom house and pay it off in about 10 years. You'd have to be a rock star to do that today.

I remember going to buy a new car in 1972. The salesman asked what car I could afford. I haughtily replied, "any car, but that's not the point. I don't want to spend any more on a car than necessary for my practical needs."

Today young people just scrape by.

On the other hand, in 1969 if you were gay it was illegal to have sex, even in private with a fellow 80 year old. And I received an average of 3 death threats a day and 300 abusive phone calls a day from Christians who were very upset I was publicly gay.

But back to computers. Speed and minimizing RAM use were much more important then, with much less emphasis on maintainability. It was rather fun to cook up tricky assembler to blow the boss's socks off.

Re: I have a crisis

Back then I talked to my fellows programmers about future programming tools, what are now called IDEs. They thought I was mad. The pod still is not here (a cockpit like pod you get into surrounded by display panels, isolated from the distracting sounds) or the SCID see <http://mindprod.com/projects/scid.html>. I also talked about what are now called class libraries. I presented a lecture on the idea in 1979 at a computer club meeting and was hooted off the stage. I invented my language Abundance with them and presented it in Byte Magazine in 1986.

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Canadian Mind Products, Roedy Green.