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# Professionalism

— by Marc Chee for COMP1511 —

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# What does it mean to be a professional engineer?

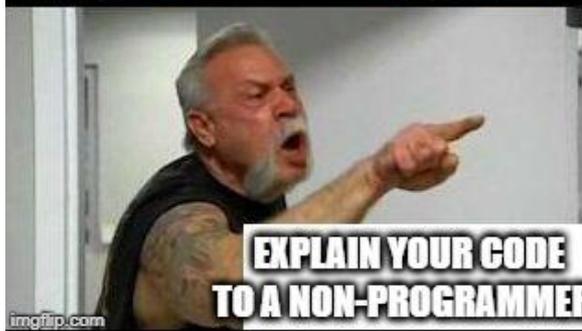
## Four pillars of being a professional:

1. Communication
2. Teamwork
3. Resilience
4. Technical Skills



# Communication

Does everyone understand what you're working on?



# Communication

## Making sure everyone understands what you're doing

- Problem solving in teams involves shared understanding
- In order to solve human problems, we must understand what people need and how we can help them
- The more we communicate with computers the more risk we have of treating people like machines
- The ability to explain our code is important to keep us on track
- It's especially important to be able to explain your code to non-programmers

# Teamwork



**Code is very rarely created alone**

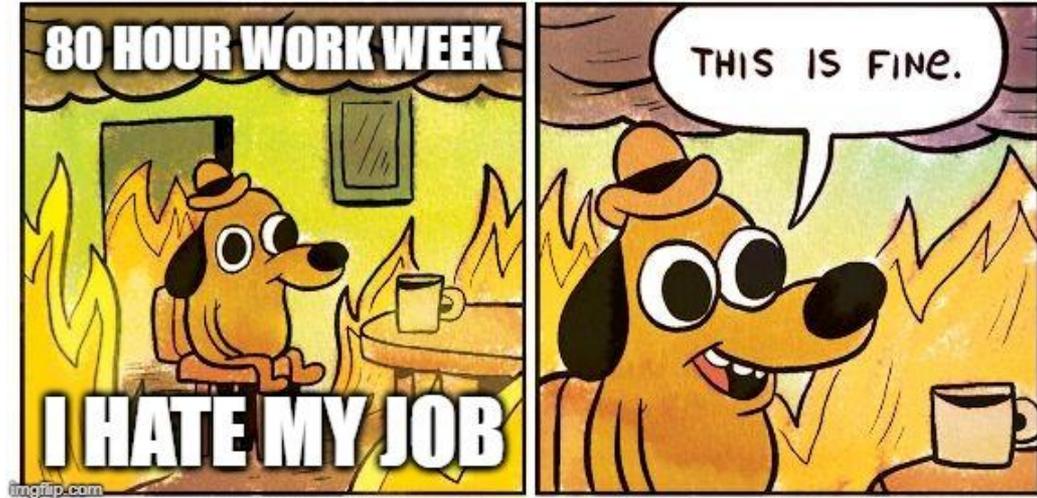
Teams that get along are usually more successful than teams of pure skill

# Teamwork

## Code is very rarely created alone

- Teamwork involves sharing and compromise
- Can you work with other people's ideas?
- Can you follow someone else's style and structure?
- Can you adapt your structure so that other people can use it?
- Can you provide support to your teammates?
- Teams made of people who get along are usually more successful than teams made of very skilled individuals!

# Resilience



**Work is hard. We need to look after ourselves**

- You shouldn't have to "survive" your job
- Dealing with "impossible situations"
- Failure is inevitable, what counts is how you recover, not whether you fail

# Technical Skills

## How's your programming?

- Yes, this comes last in the list
- It's still important but it can't be your only focus
- We have the majority of our degrees to learn technical programming



# More about Resilience and Surviving

## You have an assignment due soon

- Success isn't about getting everything done
- It's about prioritising your effort so you don't have to do as much work!

## Priorities:

- What gets you the most marks with the least amount of time?
- Code Style?
- Clean, basic functionality?
- There are more marks in the earlier stages than later
- Aim for what you can achieve without burning out

# Don't Panic!

Surviving is about acting rationally in panicky situations

- Take a moment to breathe
- Figure out what your options are
- Break problems down into small bits
- Complete small pieces one at a time
- Aim for whatever gets you enough



**WORKING LIKE  
CRAZY ON THE  
HARDEST THING  
YOU CAN THINK  
OF AND THEN FAILING**



**AIMING  
FOR JUST ENOUGH  
TO MAKE  
YOURSELF HAPPY**

# Who can become a professional?

**You. The answer is you.**

- No one knows what they're doing
- Everyone who looks like they know what's going on is just hiding it better
- Or lying to themselves



# Becoming a Professional

It doesn't have to happen yet . . . and it's always ongoing learning!

- Remember to communicate with colleagues
- Follow as well as lead when you're in a team
- Look after yourself
- And above all . . .
- **Care about yourself, the people around you and your work**

# Learning is more important than success

**Learning something new is better than being good at something!**

Remember . . . as nice as high marks are, they're not the same as long term fulfilment

*"I don't care who you are, where you're from, what you've done . . . as long as you love C." - The Backstreet Boys (definitely not misquoted at all)*

