Pragmatic Programmer

David Janzen
Preface

• Tip #1: Care About Your Craft
  – Why do it unless you intend to do it well
  – How is your work similar/different to that of a cabinet maker, a painter, a stonemason, …

• Tip #2: Think! About Your Work
  – Everyday

• Kaizen
  – Make small improvements every day
Chapter 1

• The Cat Ate My Source Code
  – Who is responsible for you and your actions?
    • You
    • Not your parents, your professors, your boss
    • Not your friends, your spouse, your kids
  – Life will always be unfair and uncontrollable
  – You cannot choose what happens to you
  – You can choose your actions and how you respond

• Tip #3: Provide Options, Don’t Make Lame Excuses
Tip 4

- Don’t Live with Broken Windows
- What are Broken Windows in Software?
  - Bad designs, wrong decisions, poor code, no tests; beginning of software entropy
- If you don’t have time to fix it what do you do?
  - Board it up, i.e. remove it or declare it as “not implemented”
Stone Soup and Frog Soup

• Summarize the Stone Soup story
• How does it relate to software?
  – Tip 5: Be a catalyst for change
    – Start something good, show people and say, “of course it would be better if we added…”
• Summarize the Boiling Frog story
• How does it relate to software?
  – Tip 6: Remember the Big Picture
Your Knowledge Portfolio

• How is your software knowledge portfolio similar to a stock portfolio?
  – Invest regularly
  – Diversify
  – Manage risk
  – Buy low, sell high
  – Review and rebalance
Tip 10

- It’s both what you say and the way you say it