

Eric S. Raymond Quotes

*Programming, Problem, Writing, Machines, Different, Thinking, Computer, Use,
Years, Language, Simple, World, People, Firsts, Learning, Interesting,
Independent, Technology, Hackers, Way*

Computer science education cannot make anybody an expert programmer any more than studying brushes and pigment can make somebody an expert painter.

~Eric S. Raymond

The workstation-class machines built by Sun and others opened up new worlds for hackers.

~Eric S. Raymond

Berkeley hackers liked to see themselves as rebels against soulless corporate empires.

~Eric S. Raymond

Good programmers know what to write. Great ones know what to rewrite (and reuse)

~Eric S. Raymond

Smart data structures and dumb code works a lot better than the other way around.

~Eric S. Raymond

Given enough eyeballs, all bugs are shallow (e.g., given a large enough beta-tester and co-developer base, almost every problem will be characterized quickly and the fix obvious to someone).

~Eric S. Raymond

If you have the right attitude, interesting problems will find you.

~Eric S. Raymond

You cannot motivate the best people with money. Money is just a way to keep score. The best people in any field are motivated by passion.

~Eric S. Raymond

Prototype, then polish. Get it working before you optimize it

~Eric S. Raymond

The easiest programs to use are those which demand the least new learning from the user

~Eric S. Raymond

When I hear the words "social responsibility," I want to reach for my gun.

~Eric S. Raymond

When your language is nowhere near Turing-complete, syntactic sugar can be your friend.

~Eric S. Raymond

Any tool should be useful in the expected way, but a truly great tool lends itself to uses you never expected.

~Eric S. Raymond

In early 1993, a hostile observer might have had grounds for thinking that the Unix story was almost played out, and with it the fortunes of the hacker tribe.

~Eric S. Raymond

To solve an interesting problem, start by finding a problem that is interesting to you.

~Eric S. Raymond

Often, the most striking and innovative solutions come from realizing that your concept of the problem was wrong.

~Eric S. Raymond

It is widely grokked that cats have the hacker nature

~Eric S. Raymond

Provided the development coordinator has a communications medium at least as good as the Internet and knows how to lead without coercion, many heads are inevitably better than one.

~Eric S. Raymond

If Unix could present the same face, the same capabilities, on machines of many different types, it could serve as a common software environment for all of them.

~Eric S. Raymond

Alchemists turned into chemists when they stopped keeping secrets.

~Eric S. Raymond

Treating your users as co-developers is your least-hassle route to rapid code improvement and effective debugging.

~Eric S. Raymond

With enough eyes, all bugs are shallow.

~Eric S. Raymond

The next best thing to having good ideas is recognizing good ideas from your users. Sometimes the latter is better.

~Eric S. Raymond

The ARPAnet was the first transcontinental, high-speed computer network.

~Eric S. Raymond

A security system is only as secure as its secret. Beware of pseudo-secrets.

~Eric S. Raymond

Linux evolved in a completely different way. From nearly the beginning, it was rather casually hacked on by huge numbers of volunteers

coordinating only through the Internet.

~Eric S. Raymond

When writing gateway software of any kind, take pains to disturb the data stream as little as possible - and never throw away information unless the recipient forces you to!

~Eric S. Raymond

The iPhone brand is in worse shape than I thought was even possible. And the implications of that are huge... The iPhone is in deep trouble.

~Eric S. Raymond

Release early. Release often. And listen to your customers.

~Eric S. Raymond

When you lose interest in a program, your last duty to it is to hand it off to a competent successor.

~Eric S. Raymond

Being able to break security doesn't make you a hacker anymore than being able to hotwire cars makes you an automotive engineer.

~Eric S. Raymond

If you treat your beta-testers as if they're your most valuable resource, they will respond by becoming your most valuable resource.

~Eric S. Raymond

The beginnings of the hacker culture as we know it today can be conveniently dated to 1961, the year MIT acquired the first PDP-1.

~Eric S. Raymond

Why the hell hasn't wxPython become the standard GUI for Python yet?

~Eric S. Raymond

Today I am one of the senior technical cadre that makes the Internet work, and a core Linux and open-source developer.

~Eric S. Raymond

Every good work of software starts by scratching a developers personal itch.

~Eric S. Raymond

Programmer time is expensive; conserve it in preference to machine time

~Eric S. Raymond

Complexity control is the central problem of writing software in the real world

~Eric S. Raymond

Free markets select for winning solutions.

~Eric S. Raymond

Equally, the Internet interprets attempts at proprietary control as threats and mobilizes to defeat them.

~Eric S. Raymond

A critical factor in its success was that the X developers were willing to give the sources away for free in accordance with the hacker ethic, and able to distribute them over the Internet.

~Eric S. Raymond

That stupid people are more violent is a fact independent of skin color.

~Eric S. Raymond

On first blush this looks to be about money, but it is about power. Is power going to go to the information monopolies, or will it go to developers and users?.

~Eric S. Raymond

Software is largely a service industry operating under the persistent but unfounded delusion that it is a manufacturing industry

~Eric S. Raymond

The central problem of C and C++ is that they require programmers to do their own memory management

~Eric S. Raymond

Grovelling is not a substitute for doing your homework.

~Eric S. Raymond

Microsoft is not the problem. Microsoft is the symptom.

~Eric S. Raymond

And for any agents or proxy of the regime interested in asking me questions face to face, I've got some bullets slathered in pork fat to make you feel extra special welcome.

~Eric S. Raymond

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