

Erik Naggum Quotes

*People, Thinking, Long, World, Life Is, Writing, Book, Believe, Way, Problem,
Trying, Needs, Doe, Steps, Winning, Smart, Years, Successful, Past, Simple*

It's not that Perl programmers are idiots, it's that the language rewards idiotic behavior in a way that no other language or tool has ever done.

~Erik Naggum

Norway did not even have a revolution at the time the rest of Europe was busy figuring out human rights and stuff, because we were busy fighting over how to spell it.

~Erik Naggum

We have no mom-and-pop oil rigs in Norway.

~Erik Naggum

Part of any serious QA is removing Perl code the same way you go over a dilapidated building you inherit to remove chewing gum and duct tape and fix whatever was kept together for real.

~Erik Naggum

Microsoft is not the answer. Microsoft is the question. NO is the answer.

~Erik Naggum

Unformed people delight in the gaudy and in novelty. Cooked people delight in the ordinary.

~Erik Naggum

it's just that in C++ and the like, you don't trust anybody, and in CLOS you basically trust everybody. The practical result is that thieves and bums use C++ and nice people use CLOS.

~Erik Naggum

I guess there are some things that are so gross you just have to forget, or it'll destroy something within you. Perl is the first such thing I have known.

~Erik Naggum

That's why the smartest companies use Common Lisp, but lie about it so all their competitors think Lisp is slow and C++ is fast.

~Erik Naggum

Life is hard, and then you die.

~Erik Naggum

Well, take it from an old hand: the only reason it would be easier to program in C is that you can't easily express complex problems in C, so you don't.

~Erik Naggum

Optimization is generally detrimental to future success, but it is the only way to accomplish present success in competition with others who are equally interested in short-term results.

~Erik Naggum

Suppose we blasted all politicians into space. Would the SETI project find even one of them?

~Erik Naggum

Let's just hope that all the world is run by Bill Gates before the Perl hackers can destroy it.

~Erik Naggum

Languages shape the way we think, or don't.

~Erik Naggum

The purpose of human existence is to learn and to understand as much as we can of what came before us, so we can further the sum total of human knowledge in our life.

~Erik Naggum

Constructing a social system that tends to those who agree with it is a

piece of cake compared to constructing one that makes those who disagree with it want to obey its principles.

~Erik Naggum

C++ is a language strongly optimized for liars and people who go by guesswork and ignorance.

~Erik Naggum

If Perl is the solution, you're solving the wrong problem.

~Erik Naggum

Unfortunately, nigh the whole world is now duped into thinking that silly fill-in forms on web pages is the way to do user interfaces.

~Erik Naggum

The ultimate laziness is not using Perl. That saves you so much work you wouldn't believe it if you had never tried it.

~Erik Naggum

A word says more than a thousand images. Exercises for the visually inclined: illustrate "appreciation", "humor", "software", "education", "inalienable rights", "elegance", "fact".

~Erik Naggum

The currency in the developer community is enthusiasm.

~Erik Naggum

The only important property of evils of the past is that they not be repeated in the future, in any way, shape, or form.

~Erik Naggum

Those who write software only for pay should go hurt some other field.

~Erik Naggum

Structure is nothing if it is all you got. Skeletons spook people if they try to walk around on their own. I really wonder why XML does not.

~Erik Naggum

A system needs to be alive and workable even when other people than the first enthusiasts start using it. Reinvention and revolution are enthusiast stuff. Invention and evolution are engineering.

~Erik Naggum

Contrary to the foolish notion that syntax is immaterial, people optimize the way they express themselves, and so express themselves differently with different syntaxes.

~Erik Naggum

Counting lines is probably a good idea if you want to print it out and are short on paper, but I fail to see the purpose otherwise.

~Erik Naggum

Have you considered the option of getting the joke? If not, try it now and redeem your soul.

~Erik Naggum

I'm bothered by the fact that stupid people don't spontaneously combust, which they should.

~Erik Naggum

In C++, reinvention is its own reward.

~Erik Naggum

The very word "exist" derives from "to step forth, to stand out".

~Erik Naggum

If you want to know why Lisp doesn't win around you, find a mirror.

~Erik Naggum

Gotos aren't damnable to begin with. If you aren't smart enough to distinguish what's bad about some gotos from all gotos, goto hell.

~Erik Naggum

Life is too long to know C++ well.

~Erik Naggum

Would you buy a book proudly stating on the cover that its reader is a dummy? Or would you think "of course it's ironic"?

~Erik Naggum

C is not clean - the language has many gotchas and traps, and although its semantics are simple in some sense, it is not any cleaner than the assembly-language design it is based on.

~Erik Naggum

I have long since given up dealing with people who hold idiotic opinions as if they had arrived at them through thinking about them.

~Erik Naggum

A little knowledge is a dangerous thing. I regret that this isn't fatal.

~Erik Naggum

Enlightenment is probably antithetical to impatience.

~Erik Naggum

XML is a giant step in no direction at all.

~Erik Naggum

'Code sharing' is an economic surplus phenomenon. It works only when none of the people involved in it are in any form of need.

~Erik Naggum

What I actually admire in Perl is its ability to provide a very successful

abstraction of the horrible mess that is collectively called Unix.

~Erik Naggum

Once we were Programmers. Maybe our last best hope is a movie.

~Erik Naggum

The aspects you are willing to ignore are more important than the aspects you are willing to accept.

~Erik Naggum

Sufficiently advanced political correctness is indistinguishable from sarcasm.

~Erik Naggum

Like many older fans of Free Software and Open Source, I have discovered that it is really only free in the sense that the time you spend on it is worthless.

~Erik Naggum

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