Ken Thompson Quotes

Programming, Ideas, Thinking, Gardening, Writing, Data, Different, Wanted, Jobs, Program, Humorous, Garden, Book, Views, Three, Kids, Collaboration, Race, Power, Beauty

One of my most productive days was throwing away 1,000 lines of code.

~Ken Thompson

It is only the inadequacy of the criminal code that saves the hackers from very serious prosecution.

~Ken Thompson

When in doubt, use brute force.

~Ken Thompson

It's always good to take an orthogonal view of something. It develops ideas.

~Ken Thompson

If you want to go somewhere, goto is the best way to get there.

~Ken Thompson

We have persistent objects, they're called files.

~Ken Thompson

You can't trust code that you did not totally create yourself.

~Ken Thompson

I think the major good idea in Unix was its clean and simple interface: open, close, read, and write.

~Ken Thompson

No amount of source-level verification or scrutiny will protect you from using untrusted code.

~Ken Thompson

SCCS, the source motel! Programs check in and never check out!

~Ken Thompson

I don't think there are many people up in research who have strong ideas about things that they haven't really had experience with.

~Ken Thompson

I have to keep up with the scientific literature as part of my job, but increasingly I found myself reading things that weren't really relevant to my academic work, but were relevant to gardening.

~Ken Thompson

In fact, we started off with two or three different shells and the shell had life of its own.

~Ken Thompson

In college, before video games, we would amuse ourselves by posing programming exercises.

~Ken Thompson

The X server has to be the biggest program I've ever seen that doesn't do anything for you.

~Ken Thompson

A well installed microcode bug will be almost impossible to detect.

~Ken Thompson

I am a very bottom-up thinker.

~Ken Thompson

The steady state of disks is full.

~Ken Thompson

I view Linux as something that's not Microsoft - a backlash against Microsoft, no more and no less.

~Ken Thompson

FORTRAN was the language of choice for the same reason that three-legged races are popular.

~Ken Thompson

The average gardener probably knows little about what is going on in his or her garden.

~Ken Thompson

There's a lot of power in executing data - generating data and executing data.

~Ken Thompson

I wanted to avoid, special IO for terminals.

~Ken Thompson

I wanted to separate data from programs, because data and instructions are very different.

~Ken Thompson

Just think, IBM and DEC in the same room, and we did it.

~Ken Thompson

I also have an idea for a book on biodiversity, and why and how we should be conserving it.

~Ken Thompson

On the one hand, the press, television, and movies make heroes of vandals by calling them whiz kids.

~Ken Thompson

For most of that time, I've also been a keen gardener, but for many years I failed to make the connection between gardening and science.

~Ken Thompson

That brings me to Dennis Ritchie. Our collaboration has been a thing of beauty.

~Ken Thompson

I wanted to have virtual memory, at least as it's coupled with file systems.

~Ken Thompson

I also enjoy writing my regular column for Organic Gardening magazine, so I may do more of that sort of thing in the future, if anybody wants it!

~Ken Thompson

I still have a full-time day job, which is why it took me five years to write An Ear to the Ground, and why I won't have another book finished by next week.

~Ken Thompson

So maybe I can go back to being a Gardeners' World addict again.

~Ken Thompson

One is that the perfect garden can be created overnight, which it can't.

~Ken Thompson

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