The Joy of Writing Code from Scratch

When I tell people I'm writing some courses on how to create web pages using Windows Notepad, I usually get the reaction: why?

After all, there are drag-and-drop web development products that make the process so easy. Why would anyone want to create HTML code from scratch? Good question.

On reflection, here are the reasons I write code from scratch; maybe they apply to you too:

* It's creative and empowering - to control even a small part of the World Wide Web, and to come up with creative designs, give me a feeling of satisfaction; and writing the code myself expands my knowledge of how things work

* Coding requires focus and attention - I find it calming to set my focus on getting a web page just right, and rewarding to realize I am able to do just that: it is not beyond my abilities

* Creating web pages is a way of communicating - showing part of my story, and helping organizations show theirs, creates new links and pathways, and coding by hand ensures you aren't sucked into byways you don't want to go down

* Gaining web skills can create employment / contract options that weren't possible before - there is a shortage of tech workers and there just might be a niche for you (or for me); even if you end up using the drag-and-drop products, having coded by hand gives you a deeper understanding of what's possible

So, who would be good at writing code from scratch? Who are the naturals?

I think the people most likely to succeed are those who are good at strategy games (bridge, chess, go, etc.) or puzzles (jigsaw, crossword, anagram, etc.) or who read detective / mystery / spy novels and "get it".

So amaze your friends (and yourself), and astound your enemies: become a do-it-yourself (DIY) coder. Embrace the web, conquer the technology.