

The Joy of Writing Code from Scratch

Do you like to play games that involve strategy (bridge, chess, go, ...)?

Are you good at puzzles (jigsaw, crossword, anagram ...)?

Do you read detective / mystery / spy stories and "get it" quickly?

You are a candidate to be a code writer.

"Oh no! Not that! That's technical. I'm not technical!!"

Well, there's code and then there's code. If you're not technical at all, you don't want to try to write code that plugs in to the operating system, for sure.

But coding for the web is all text based: you key in descriptions of what you want to display:

`<p>`This leading '`<p>`' tells a web browser you want to display a paragraph. And the paragraph goes all the way until the '`</p>`' tag indicates the end.`</p>`

Heck. You know paragraphs. And I wager you get the idea of headers pretty easily. And the concepts of lists, pictures, music, and videos are probably clear to you: when writing for the web you just code text that tells a browser what goes where.

It's so simple to write, you don't need any fancy dancy text editor or web site generator. Just use Notepad (Windows) or TextEdit set for plain text (Mac OS). Type away and then save your text with an '.html' extension, and you're ready to display it in a browser.

And style. You want to tell the browser complicated things like: what color is the background, what color should the text be, what kind of font? Well, you can take defaults. Or you can code some style attributes, like:

```
<p style="background-color: lightblue; color: red; font: courier;">  
This paragraph will display as red courier on a lightblue  
background.</p>
```

Pretty cool, eh? And once you start, you'll find there are benefits:

- * you gain confidence in your skills, and not just coding
- * your ability to concentrate and focus will be improved
- * you will have the ability to create whole websites, to share your story; or support a business or hobby; or, perhaps, to find work(!)

Give it a try. Check out StillPluggingAway.com.