

# How to Avoid Becoming a 10x Engineer





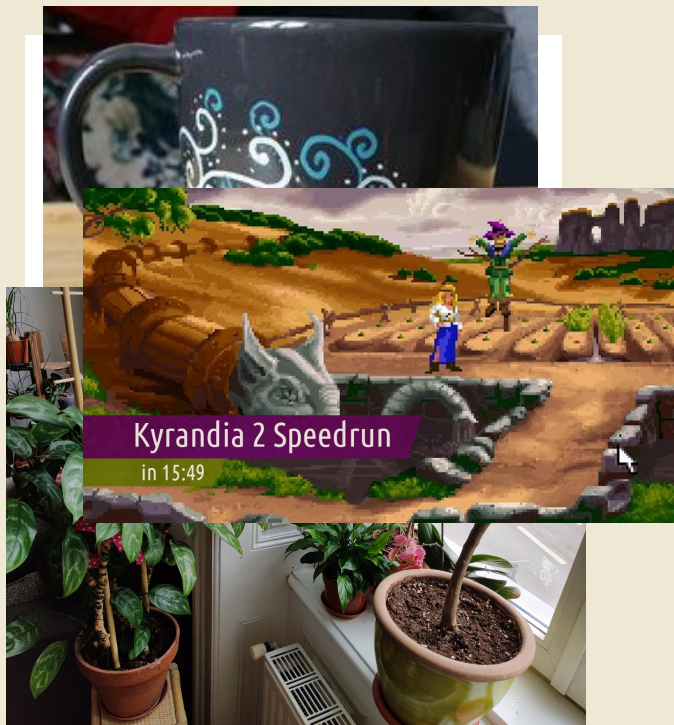




# Kyrandia 2 Speedrun

in 15:49

# whois ivana



- ~~Sometimes paints mugs~~
- ~~Has way too many plants~~
- ~~Sometimes speedruns~~
- Builds aiohttp-based APIs and webservices at wegfinder
- Likes Python somewhat

# Things I've Learned

Everything sucks.



Photo by Ghida Basma from Pexels



# Everything sucks.

Except maybe Postgres. Postgres sucks a bit less than the other things.



Photo by Ghida Basma from Pexels



Image by Gerhard  
Gellinger from Pixabay

Everyone. Has.  
Opinions.

Enter  
**The Internet.**

## THE INTERNET IS KILLING JOBS AND COMPOUNDING INCOME INEQUALITY

Companies like Google, Facebook, Amazon and Apple are sitting on billions in cash. Their founders and CEOs are among the richest individuals on the globe. Google's co-founders, for example, have amassed fortunes of about £23 billion each, [the BBC reports](#). But they're not spreading the wealth.

Instead, a handful of Silicon Valley billionaires are growing richer and richer as the rest of the world slides deeper into poverty – and finds fewer jobs available to them than ever before.

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Companies like Google, Facebook, Amazon and Apple are sitting on billions in cash. Their founders and CEOs are among the richest individuals on the globe. Google's co-founders, for example, have a net worth of about £23 billion each, the BBC reports. But they're not the only ones.

Instead, a handful of Silicon Valley billionaires are pulling away from the rest of the world slides deeper into poverty. The data is available to them than ever before.

## INTERNET TECH COMPANIES KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT US AND THEY'RE SELLING OUR DATA TO ADVERTISERS, SURVEILLANCE FIRMS AND THE GOVERNMENT

What makes Instagram, Facebook and Google so valuable isn't their software. It's the fact that millions of people willingly provide these companies with detailed data about their interests, habits and aspirations, as well as minute-to-minute location updates. Every time we post a photo, like a page or write a status update we are working for free to make the

## THE INTERNET IS COMPOUNDING

# AND THE INTERNET IS TURNING US ALL INTO SAD, LONELY, SELFIE-OBSESSED NARCISSISTS

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A 2013 study at the University of Michigan found that Facebook is making its members "unhappier and more envious of others". In a nationwide poll of Facebook users in the US, only 5 percent said they trusted the site with their data. A third study at Berlin's Humboldt University found that "Facebook made more than 30 percent of its users feel lonelier, angrier or more

## RESELLING LLANCE

sn't their de these

like a page or write a status update we are working for free to make the



Pretty Boy

Share



Follow

Just made some synonym rolls .

Reply Retweet Favorite Storify More



<https://knowyourmeme.com/memes/synonym-rolls>



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@jenxness





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/memes/synonym-rolls

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# Becoming a Better Programmer, According to **The Internet.**

# Don't Go to Meetups & Conferences

That said, unless it's a real research/publication conference - where people discuss and propose solutions to challenging problems - you won't find top-notch programmers in these "meet ups". Why? Because more often than not, these meetups tend to waste too much time, rather than actually solving some problem.

# Give Unsolicited Advice

(a good programmer)

Glances over your shoulder and points at a bug in your code with their finger

# Don't Talk to Inanimate Objects

You can often see hallmarks of great bad programmers by phrases such as “I am so sad that my program doesn't work, I have tried to plead with it and it still doesn't give work.” or by “I feel that this code is right, but I just am not sure why it won't work” or even by “I read to my program every day, and try to be a good friend, but it still doesn't like me, whenever I tried to attach to it, it gives me a core dump”.

Do

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# Just Get This Amazing Thing (c)

With the right tools, the 10x engineer can do the work of “10 engineers”, because they are so much more efficient with their time and execution. While an average engineer might be fumbling their way through a process, a 10xer has already streamlined it and is two steps ahead.

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<https://s3files.core77.com/blog/images/2011/10/0pizzapro01.jpg>

# Fit a Stereotype

(a good programmer)

4. Can complete any sequence of dialogue from Lord of the Rings, Star Wars, Red Dwarf or Monty Python

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Me in 2009 →



# Just Type Faster (Duh)

PROGRAMMING

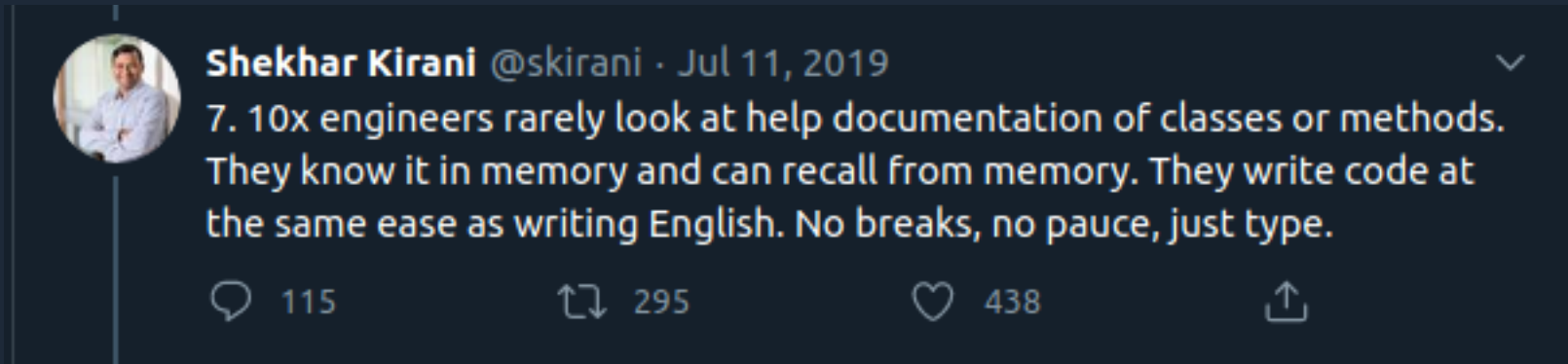
**Want to be a better coder?  
Type faster.**

When I see someone who has been working with computers for a decade and can't surpass 100 WPM for even a short burst, I'll admit, it makes me cringe a little bit. It's just lazy, as Jeff Atwood put it.

# Wear Out the Correct Keys



# Don't Read the Docs



A screenshot of a tweet by Shekhar Kirani (@skirani) from July 11, 2019. The tweet contains a numbered list item (7) stating that 10x engineers rarely look at help documentation, instead relying on memory to write code as easily as writing English. The tweet has 115 replies, 295 retweets, and 438 likes.

**Shekhar Kirani** @skirani · Jul 11, 2019

7. 10x engineers rarely look at help documentation of classes or methods. They know it in memory and can recall from memory. They write code at the same ease as writing English. No breaks, no pause, just type.

115 295 438



# Go Back in Time

You should have started being interested in engineering when you were in your early teens. Now it's too late, all you can be is a normal engineer.

# Set Up Tooltips, Make a Setup, Set Up Tab Stops

One guy, he just graduated and called himself a programmer. I asked him couple of questions.

Have you set up the tooltips of the application? Have you made a setup for your program? Have you set up tab stops according to the flow?

His answers were simple No, No, No.

# Write Tons of Code

As proof, believe it or not, I've written 1MM LOC in under 6 months, resulting in a very functional, relatively bug free, commercial product on the scale of something like Microsoft Office (though totally unrelated). Further, the product was innovative and in fresh territory (as in, no competitive products, no answers on google, just completely on my own). I wouldn't do it again, because I was then on the hook to maintain 1MM lines of code, but I guarantee you, that's at least 10x a normal engineer. That's about 6K LOC a day. The average engineer I've worked with, puts out about 500 LOC a day, the best (but not rockstars), put out about 2K LOC a day. So its not a clear 10x mapping, but that's 12x a normal engineer, and 3x a great engineer. Screw with the numbers all you want, but there's still a clear divide between RockStar output and non RockStar output.

# Write Tons of Code

(But Give It to Someone Else to Maintain)

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```
return(b,a)[a<b]
```



# On Rockstars, Ninjas, and 10x Engineers





# The Balsamico Sauce (BS) Detector

**Possibly legit**

apply additional BS filters

**Balsamico sauce vibes**

nope



**Possibly legit**  
apply additional BS filters

**Balsamico sauce vibes**  
nope

It's physically impossible to do  
what the author wants you to do

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Condescending towards  
people who do need meet  
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Tells you to dance around  
a campfire on the 6<sup>th</sup> full moon

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So What *Can* You Do?



- Practice.





- You have a far bigger influence on the culture of the community you're part of than you realize.

10x engineer < 10 1x engineers



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`pip install engineerquiz`

# Thank You!

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