Microsoft

Developer Stories: Scott Hanselman, teacher and motivator for C# und .NET

Video transcript

Question: What is the difference between software engineering and computer science?

Scott Hanselman: So, computer science is the science around the philosophy of computers. How do they work – CPUs and memories and disk. Software Engineering is the practice of shipping good software – team dynamics and testing and all of that. Which one is better? They are both needed. So, they are neither good nor bad.

Question: What is the most important thing for a software engineer?

Scott Hanselman: Patience, curiosity, and the ability to reinvent yourself, because whatever you are working on right now will not exist in five years. So, you need to learn something new and if you have passion to learn new things, then you will be okay.

Question: Why is diversity so important for programming, isn't it all code and checkboxes?

Scott Hanselman: It is all just code, but those checkboxes are going to be used by a billion people all over the world and most of them don't look like you. So, they have different experiences and they are going to interact with those systems differently. There are a million different things that make us who we are, and you want your users to have the best experience. So, your developers should also look like your users.

Question: Why do you love talking to people - especially on social media?

Scott Hanselman: No one talks about the fact that teachers are selfish. Why do teachers like teaching? Because it feels good. So I can talk to a thousand people, when I give a speech at some Microsoft cloud thing. I don't look at the thousand people. I look around for faces and if I see someone who is like 'mhm, aha, okay' they start to connect with me. I will pick a person on the right and a person on the left. And I will give a speech and I will walk around, wave my arms in the air and all that stuff and I am really just looking at those two people. Because they get it. And then I leave, and I go 'Oh I just made those people powerful', because right after this talk they are going to call their boss and they will say 'I just saw this talk and it was amazing'. A good teacher is excited about their students going home right after class and doing something. Teachers are doing it for the love of teaching, but the pay-off is the enthusiastic person who will feel powerful afterwards.