

Genesis

In the beginning there was void and Dijkstra looked upon the void and said: "Let there be proofs." And he did labour mightily for a period of Seven (arbitrary Units).

On the first He created His handwriting.

On the second He created the pedagogical pause.

On the third the Sun, the daisy and the T-shirt.

On the fourth He pondered whether His commands should be guarded.

On the fifth He created the Disciple of programming.

On the sixth He made His big mistake and created the programmer. Dijkstra bade him: be fruitful and perform binary operators.

And on the seventh He presented the work to the Tuesday Afternoon Club. He was much pleased.

Now the programmer (there was only one, as we all know programmers reproduce by forking) abode in the land of computing. He computed to his heart's content and obeyed the stability condition of never accessing the tree of all programs. But an evil implementation condition sidled up to him and spoke of the delights of the tree of all programs. Taken in by the implementations ugly requirements the programmer partook of the tree.

There were GOTOs and ORACLEs, excluded middles, self-modifying codes and even ... FORTRAN programs.

Dijkstra was outraged and cast the programmer out into the wilderness, exposed to the scorn of mathematicians (and other lowly beasts), naked to the effect of enormous salaries.

And the programmer reflected on the errors of his ways and thought:

"Things aren't too bad ...

... apart from the mathematicians!"