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- ▶ Introduced big-O notation to the computer science community?

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- ▶ Gives monetary rewards for the first finder of any error, no matter how trivial, in their programs or published work?

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  - ▶ Analysis of Algorithms: In a sense founded the field. Originator and popularizer of many familiar terms: e.g., preorder, inorder, postorder.

## Don Knuth, continued

- ▶ Founder of the *Journal of Algorithms* and the *Electronic Journal of Combinatorics* (first and still best electronic journal, imho).

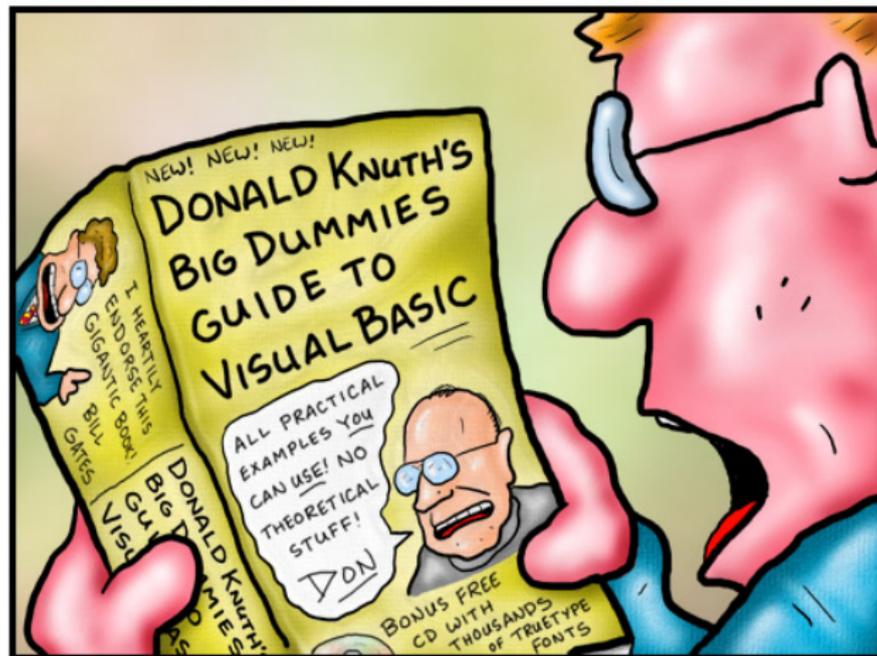
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- ▶ Quote by Alan Kay:

When I was at Stanford with the AI project [in the late 1960s] one of the things we used to do every Thanksgiving is have a computer programming contest with people on research projects in the Bay area. The prize I think was a turkey. [John] McCarthy used to make up the problems. The one year that Knuth entered this, he won both the fastest time getting the program running and he also won the fastest execution of the algorithm. He did it on the worst system with remote batch called the Wilbur system. And he basically beat the shit out of everyone. When they asked him, "How could you possibly do this?" He answered: "When I learned to program, you were lucky if you got five minutes with the machine a day. If you wanted to get the program going, it just had to be written right. So people just learned to program like it was carving stone. You sort of have to sidle up to it. That's how I learned to program."

## DOCTOR FUN

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<http://metlab.unc.edu/Dave/drfun.html>

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Don Knuth finally sells out.

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**Thorvalds:** “Well, God told *me* that I have programmed the best operating system in the world!”

**Knuth:** “Wait, wait - I never said that.”

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## Want to know more?

- ▶ His web pages at Stanford. (link)
- ▶ The “all questions answered” sessions are always interesting. (Oslo)
- ▶ I like what he had to say about software patents. (txt)