I had been studying at my school for many years. I liked exact sciences such as math and physics. And at the 10th grade I understood that my head is turned to the side of computers and decided to become a programmer.

You ask why? It is not such a boring profession, as can appear on the face of it. You can spend time in a creative haze, consumed by ideas, watching your work come to life, going to bed eager to wake up quickly and go try things out. I am not suggesting that excessive hours are needed or even advisable; a sane schedule is a must except for occasional binges. The point is that programming is an intense creative pleasure, a perfect mixture of puzzles, writing, and craftsmanship.

Programming offers intriguing challenges. Some problems are investigative: Why is this code running slowly? What on earth is causing that bug? Others are constructive, like devising algorithms and architectures. All of them are a delight if you enjoy analytical work, immersed in a world full of beasts like malware, routers, caches, protocols, databases, graphs, and numbers.

This analytical side is what most people associate with programming. It does make it interesting, like a complex strategy game. But in most software the primary challenge is communication: with fellow programmers via code and with users via interfaces. By and large, writing code is more essay than puzzle. It is shaping your ideas and schemes into a coherent body; it is seeking clarity, simplicity and conciseness. Both code and interfaces abound with the simple joy of creation.

Another source of pleasure is that under certain conditions, beauty arises in programming. It may sound like nonsense but it is real, the kind of thing that makes your day better. Take for example Euclid’s 2-line proof that prime numbers are infinite. I think many would find it beautiful - such a fascinating result. This is the beauty of math, cold and austere, and it pervades software. It is in clever algorithms like “quick sort”, in the sources of kernels and compilers, in elegant exploits and in the tricks we pull to solve everyday problems. When you see these solutions, be it famous algorithm or mundane trick, you smile and think “how smart” and it feels good. How noble in reason.

This profession has a very high price and a lot of advantages. Nowadays none of us can do anything without computer skills. One time my father said there were three major future occupations: programmers, doctors and lawyers. I support this opinion. Our life on the Earth aims to the direction of comfort, longevity and improvement of all life parts. Of course without new technologies there will be no any development. But we have such factors as for example people relations. And they cannot exist without legal norms. Lawyers are people who will help. Also we may suppose in future it will be able to appear new forms of different diseases or something else. In this case doctors are our saviors.

To conclude I can say we in computing increasingly power major developments in science, culture, and business. The influence of technologists goes beyond bits and bytes: it was a programmer who invented “wikis” and our community started “blogs”.

If you find yourself stuck in a place that’s killing your innate passion for technology, by all means, move the hell on! Don’t stay put while your enthusiasm is slowly drained.

I had already told about three so-called professions of future. My turn is computers. That’s why I entered this university and I will try to take from it all that is needed to be a deserving programmer.