

Do we still need to program?

Maybe, maybe not, but we still need constructionism

Brian Silverman

Seymour, 1970

The fundamental ingredients of educational innovation must be better things to do and better ways to think about oneself doing these things.

MIT, 2026

Leaning into learning means creating a new "social contract" between teachers and students. All of us who teach at MIT will need to be prepared to help students understand both that the process of education is necessarily a productive struggle, and that the most important product of their education is not a GPA or a diploma but themselves : their personal growth and intellectual maturity and the development of their own imagination, insight, and judgment .

Why were we programming anyway?

- there were always many answers
- proteus of machines
- creating, exploring
- “think of doodling”

Programming going forward

- programming, but perhaps not as we know it
- Logo->Scratch->???

Essential vs. Accidental Properties

- ditch the syntax, keep the powerful ideas
- precise when necessary
- no yielding of agency
- understandable, remixable
- debug from scratch
- iterate, iterate, iterate

What to do?

- consider that there are many questions and many answers
- reflect on past innovation - driven changes
- listen, read, learn
- participate in the debate(s)

Please read:

- Twenty things to do with a computer
- Teaching children thinking
- Mindstorms