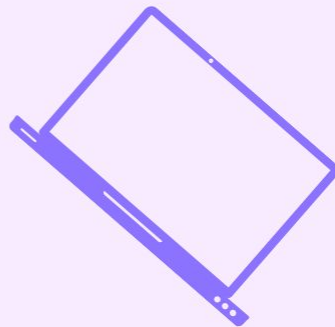
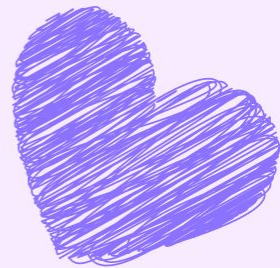




Versatility as a Technologist



carmenh.dev



**I've been around
for a minute.**

**My first job was as a
macOS developer**

**My first job was as a
Mac OS X developer**

It was on SVN

Pretty soon, my job there
involved lots of ops



Which led me to
Phoenix + Elixir

Which led me to
JS/TS

Which led me to
<insert stack here>

Which led me to
DevRel

Which led me to
Developer Education



**2025 hits pretty
different than 2009.**

**This job market
is rough, y'all.**

So I'm leaning into my
versatility.



I'm Carmen! (she/her)

From 🇨🇱, living in 🇦🇹

Co-Founder: BadWebsite.Club

Freelance Software Engineer

Developer Educator

Community member

Mozilla tech speaker alum

Kids' coding coach

Crafting Your Own Versatile Career

- What is versatility?

You've probably heard of
generalists

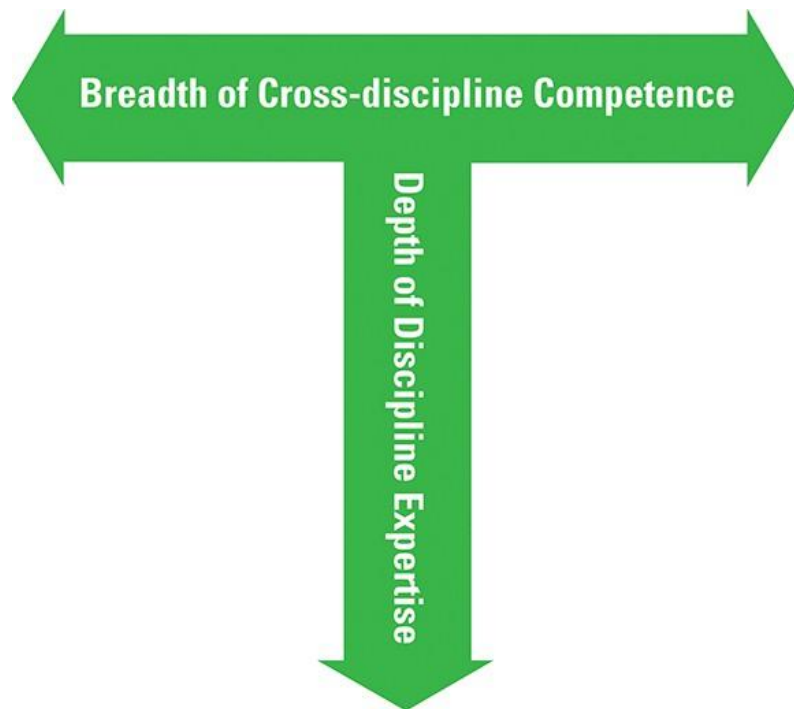
Generalists have a wide range of diverse skills.

You've probably heard of
specialists

Specialists have a strong focus on one specific knowledge domain or set of skills.

**What about the
T-shaped technologist?**

<https://letslearnabout.net/blog/what-it-is-a-t-shaped-developer-and-why-you-should-be-one/>



**Jack of all trades,
master of none.**

**Jack of all trades,
master of none...
but oftentimes better
than master of one.**

**This talk is about
none of that.**

versatile adjective

'vær-sə-təl 

[Definition of versatile >](#)

- **as in *adaptable***

able to do many different kinds of things

| a *versatile* baseball player can play any position

| this tool is *versatile* enough to serve as a wrench

Crafting Your Own Versatile Career

- What is versatility?
- Why embrace versatility?

Career Resilience

Problem-solving agility

Fulfillment

Fulfillment?

Crafting Your Own Versatile Career

- What is versatility?
- Why embrace versatility?
- The importance of fundamentals



Tools come and go.

**Frameworks
come and go.**

**“Best practices”
come and go**

**Fundamentals
never change.**

**Fundamentals
~~never change.~~**

**Fundamentals
move much slower.**

Fundamentals echo.

Crafting Your Own Versatile Career

- What is versatility?
- Why embrace versatility?
- The importance of fundamentals
- Soft skills

Crafting Your Own Versatile Career

- What is versatility?
- Why embrace versatility?
- The importance of fundamentals
- ~~Soft~~ Core skills

**“Core” because they’re
a core part of us as
technologists, team members, and
humans.**

Communication

Collaboration

Adaptability

Problem-solving

Getting unstuck

Asking for help

Learning

Lifelong Learning

Crafting Your Own Versatile Career

- What is versatility?
- Why embrace versatility?
- The importance of fundamentals
- Core skills
- Learning to learn

Constructivism

Jean Piaget

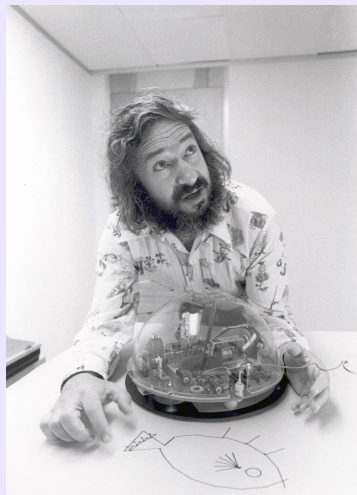


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**Knowledge is built upon
existing knowledge.**

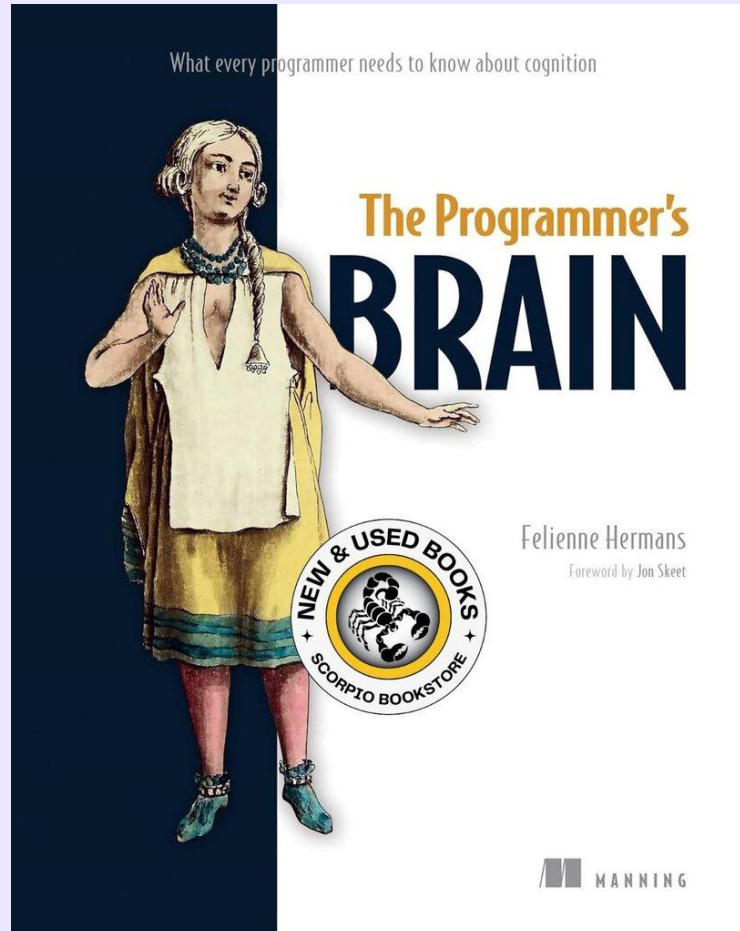
Constructionism

Seymour Papert



By Matematicamente.it - Matematica C3 Algebra DOLCE 1, Testo per il primo biennio della Scuola Secondaria di 1° grado, prima edizione anno 2014. Pagg. 344. ISBN 9788896354681; prezzo € 0,00; formato ebook pdf; licenza Creative Commons BY; editore Matematicamente.it:
http://www.matematicamente.it/staticfiles/manuali-cc/algebra1_dolce_1ed.pdf, CC BY-SA 3.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=46565196>

Constructivism + Learning by doing



CI stands for
Continuous Improvement

Mentorship

Staying up to date

Curse of the new and shiny

Networking

**We're here,
to learn.**

**But what about the opposite of
versatile?**

versatile adjective

'vər-sə-təl 

Definition of *versatile* >

- **as in *adaptable***

able to do many different kinds of things

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versatile adjective

'vær-sə-təl 

Definition of *versatile* >

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- **Antonyms & Near Antonyms**

limited

inexperienced

Is being limited bad?

**Jack of All Trades,
Master of Adaptability.**

We need to talk about the
Elephant in the room.

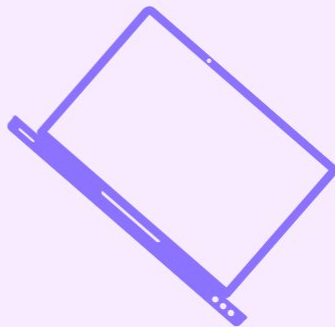
**We're reading and
adapting code.**

**We can still be versatile
even if the game changes.**

carmenh.dev/devops-versatility.pdf



Carmen Huidobro



**Thank you,
Friends!**



carmenh.dev/card

