

Debugging Method Checklist

Debugging by Thinking: A Multidisciplinary Approach

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www.debuggingbythinking.com

Technique	Already Using	Use Soon	Use Later	No Plans
Use cross-disciplinary knowledge				
Focus on facts				
Pay attention to unusual details				
Gather facts before hypothesizing				
State the facts to someone else				
Start by observing				
Don't guess				
Exclude alternative explanations				
Reason in both directions				
Watch for red herrings				
Use alibis as clues				
Eliminate impossible causes				
Exercise curiosity				
Reason based on facts				
Enumerate possibilities				
Use the power of logic				
Use a system for organizing facts				
Exercise caution when searching				
Use gestalt understanding				
Show how something could be done				
Don't look for it				
It isn't lost you are				
Remember the three c's				
It's where it's supposed to be				
Look for domestic drift				
You're looking right at it				
The camouflage effect				

Think back				
Look once, look well				
The eureka zone				
Tail thyself				
It wasn't you				
Use a binary search strategy				
Use a greedy search strategy				
Use a breadth-first search strategy				
Use a depth-first search strategy				
Use a program slice strategy				
Use a deductive-analysis strategy				
Use an inductive-analysis strategy				
Stabilize the program				
Create a test case				
Reduce the required input				
Categorize the problem				
Describe the problem				
Explain the problem to someone else				
Recall a similar problem				
Draw a diagram				
Choose a hypothesis from historical data				
Read the code				
Write unit tests				
Display variable values				
Display execution messages				
Display procedure arguments				
Generate a flow trace				
Generate a variable snapshot				
Generate a memory dump				
Force a variable value				
Assert assumptions				
Check data structures				
Display data structures				

Use runtime subscript checking				
Use runtime stack checking				
Use runtime heap checking				
Initialize global variables				
Initialize local variables				
Change storage class				
Use a different compiler				
Compile to an intermediate level				
Execute on a different platform				

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