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An Educator's Journey to Technical Competency

PROCEEDINGS

Lamar Wilkinson, Louisiana Tech University

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 Abstract & Citation

Abstract

Lamar Wilkinson was fifty before he learned how to open an electronic window. This simple task to my children was a mystery to me, even through they kept telling me there was nothing to the computer; stop being afraid. Enter the twenty-first century. They laughed with loving kindness and a lack of understanding towards my fears. These fears, as I reflect upon them, reminded me of the year I gave my mother a Jacuzzi foot massager for a Christmas gift. Later that year, I found the massager hidden and asked her about the gift. She said, "Oh, well, yes. I meant to use the foot massager, but you know how tired I get after working hard all day. I guess I forgot, but don't worry; I'll use your gift." A year later, the massager was still hidden. I laughed at my mother's fears and antiquated ways of thinking. Now I was experiencing some similar concerns and fears because I didn't understand computers. Computers were like monsters or aliens, something that was beyond my understanding. In reality, the only monster or alien was my own deep fear of learning something unfamiliar.

Citation

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