Mob Programming
A Whole Team Approach

mobprogramming.org
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“The value of another’s experience is to give us hope, not to tell us how or whether to proceed.”
Peter Block

Mob Programming
All the brilliant minds working together

on the same thing...
at the same time...
in the same space...
on the same computer...

Gather together people with all the needed skills and knowledge

Completely Different, All Together
This seems preposterous

Definition:
Contrary to reason or common sense; utterly absurd or ridiculous.
You can also do this remotely... A virtual Mob
A Day in the Life...

NASA Mission Control

Why would we work this way?
Why would we work this way?

- Knowledge sharing
- Continuous code and design review
- Higher quality
- Rapid feedback
- Many perspectives on the work
- Better solutions
- Work on the right things
- Flow of work items
- More fun, less stressful, more engaging... etc.

We’ve covered:
What is it,
Why we do it,
now a bit about a technique we use.

It is NOT:
5 people watching 1 person coding.
Not “Driver/Observer”!
This is NOT how we work

The person with the idea, takes the keyboard and the observer tries to follow along.

For an idea to go from someone's head into the computer it must go through someone else's hands.

Driver/Navigator

Driver/Navigators

For an idea to go from someone's head into the computer it must go through someone else's hands.

Driver/Navigators

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Rotate Every 4-7 minutes

Let's
We’ll need a query
Let’s try...
Create a Customer...
**Driver**

**Driver: Smart Input Operator**

Liberates the team to focus on the right stuff (The Problem, Solution, Design – not “the code”)  
- Helps the team remain in flow  
- Caution: Can easily block flow  
- There is no “hard and fast” rule

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**Navigators**

- Working together in the Same Context  
- Sharing the Cognitive Load  
- Dialogue - Talking, Listening  
- Visual thinking with whiteboards, flip charts, sticky notes, index cards  
- Sharing and integrating ideas  
- Contribute the right thing  
  - at the right time  
  - in the right way

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How it Started.

How we “discovered” Mob Programming

Big, Nasty Problems
Big, Nasty Projects

We put a few projects on the “back-burner”
No Estimates

No Interference

Let’s figure out how to work well together

We must learn to recognize “bad code” and what to do about it.
The people doing the work can best determine how to do that work

Weekly Team Practice Session

Using a Coding Dojo style of deliberate practice

We focused on getting good results from doing retrospectives
Then one day... It was time to resurrect one of those Big, Nasty Projects

Lots of unknowns lurking under the surface.

We gathered everyone together (For a meeting to re-familiarize ourselves with the project)
Working on it together

This combination of little ideas...

Let’s figure out how to work well together

The people doing the work can help different

Weekly Study Sessions

Taking a flexible attitude of deliberate practice

We also focused on getting really good at doing really

Turn Up The Good

The object isn’t to make art, it’s to be in that wonderful state which makes art inevitable

How can we work this way?

Individuals and Interactions

Kindness, Consideration, Respect
Relaxed, Sustainable

Be prepared to
Contribute
The Right Thing
At the Right Time
In the Right Way

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Mob Programming Book

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