Tools

CS4100

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From *Principles of Programming Languages: Design, Evaluation, and Implementation (Third Edition),* by Bruce J. MacLennan, Chapter 1.

1

Phenomenology of Tools

- Section 1.4
- Based on work of Don Idhe
- Programming Languages are tools
- Tools are non-neutral
- Influence focus and action

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Aspects of Tools

- Ampliative
  - Extends reach
  - Attitude: utopian
  - Reaction: fascination

3

Aspects of Tools

- Reductive
  - Lose direct experience
  - Attitude: dystopian
  - Reaction: fear

4

Tools

- Replace immediate (direct) experience with mediated (indirect) experience

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Mastery

- When a good tool is mastered
- Mediation becomes transparent
- Tool is embodied

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