

Top 10 Reasons to **Not** Share Your Code (and why you should anyway)

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Many objections would be raised...

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1c. My time is much better spent proving another result and publishing more papers rather than putting more effort into this one, which I've already proved.

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And... the student has since disappeared, along with the proof, but I'm sure it was correct!

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3d. The idea is so great I can commercialize and sell the proof.
(see Dijkstra's **Mathematics, Inc.**)

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4b. Referees would never want to have to read proofs. It would be too hard to determine correctness of long proofs and finding referees would become impossible.

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4d. My proof uses other theorems with unpublished (proprietary) proofs, so it won't help to publish my proof — readers still will not be able to fully verify correctness.

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Let's examine some code issues...

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- People understand that not all code is software. Much more embarrassing things appear on the web.



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Freely provided working code — whatever its quality — improves programming and enables others to engage with your research, says Nick Barnes.

Nick Barnes

www.nature.com/news/2010/101013/full/467753a.html

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(Codes developed in industry of labs may be different.)

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- Trying to use a research code for a new problem is often impossible without involvement of the authors.
⇒ new collaborations.

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- Techniques like Virtualization can help with some technical issues.

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- **Set a good example and push for change.**