



Software Insecta Zodiac

New Year is a time to ruminate on the past and gaze to the future, hoping to find destiny in the bygone. Two popular examples of this activity are the Chinese and Astrological Zodiacs. The only connection I found between software, China, and the stars was loads of late night Chinese take out prior to final installation.

However, after extensive research, I discovered a novel correlation between the character of software professionals, the month they developed their first application, and insects. I call this correlation the Software Insecta Zodiac in which insects represent each month of the year and impart distinct characteristics to those who initiated their software career in that month.

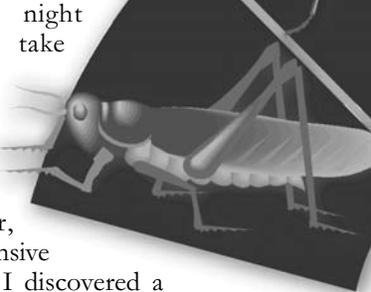
To tune in your karma, locate the month you developed your first software application and find enlightenment.

JANUARY IS THE MONTH OF THE HONEYBEE. Organized, diligent and industrious, honeybees are software manufacturers. They transform desire into reality. Honeybees meld architecture, design, language, platform, and constraints into sweet pliable solutions. They are true programmers.

FEBRUARY IS THE MONTH OF THE MANTIS. Powerful, deceptive, and predatory, mantes are software mercenaries. A mantis will design, code, or crack any system for a price. Thriving on big challenges mantes habitually prey on budgets.

MARCH IS THE MONTH OF THE LEPIDOPTERA. Flamboyant, chivalrous, and articulate, these moths and butterflies are highflying sages. Butterflies are fragile flighty egomaniacs that soar from job to job without conclusion. Moths are nimble, reliable, nocturnal gurus that stick with projects to closure.

APRIL IS THE MONTH OF THE LOCUST.



Communal, migratory, and voracious, locusts are project popinjays. Jumping from cubical to cubical, crickets deal gossip and grasshoppers party. In small numbers, they can gel a team. In swarms, they devour projects.

MAY IS THE MONTH OF THE MAYFLY. Intense, ostentatious, and impatient, mayflies are in the wrong profession. They seek riches in software only to find frustration. Mayflies that stay in the software business transform into mosquitoes that siphon life out of warm-blooded projects, organizations, and management.

JUNE IS THE MONTH OF THE BEETLE. Tough, persistent, and assiduous, beetles are the blue-collar staff of software. Rhinoceros beetles are headstrong, forceful engineers that push projects through tough challenges. Ladybugs are diligent reliable and perfect for security against intruding pests. Dung beetles scour project excrement to expose and tackle crucial obstacles.

JULY IS THE MONTH OF THE GADFLY. Persistent, caustic and irksome, gadflies are project critics. These backbiting gnats, piercing aphids, and parasitic fleas are curmudgeons that disparage decisions, derail design, and detour plans. Gadflies induce project paralysis.

AUGUST IS THE MONTH OF THE ANT. Strong, organized, cerebral, and disciplined, ants are software architects. They transform dreams into desire. They simplify the

complex. Ants are strong, social, and analytical; they bestow ingenious, yet pragmatic, solutions.

SEPTEMBER IS THE MONTH OF THE WALKING STICK.

Intense, scrupulous, and stealthy, walking sticks are the patrol officers of software. Seldom noticed, walking sticks perform critical functions like configuration control, inspection, and testing. Sticks keep projects in line and on target.

OCTOBER IS THE MONTH OF THE COCKROACH. Lascivious, sneaky and wasteful, cockroaches are software swindlers. Often holding multiple jobs, roaches pilfer and profligate hours, software, equipment, supplies, and eventually customers.

NOVEMBER IS THE MONTH OF THE TERMITE. Eccentric, intense, and resourceful, termites are software innovators. Termites destroy more than they build; yet in the end, their ingenuity rouses industry standards for the future.

DECEMBER IS THE MONTH OF THE DRAGONFLY. Energetic, aggressive, and inspiring dragonflies are software leaders. Dragonflies are pacesetters that seldom tire, offer expansive vision and prune the superfluous. Dragonflies inspire and deliver.

Do you work with any of these creatures? Pragmatist or mystic, your ability to recognize project detractors and contributors is crucial. Exterminate mayflies, gadflies, and roaches. Harness the flair of mantes, locust, and termites. Yield direction to moths and dragonflies, support walking sticks, and employ more ants, beetles and honeybees. In short, get your entomologic entourage together.

– Gary Petersen
Shim Enterprise, Inc.