

07 Tony Gaddis

[MUSIC PLAYING] TONY GADDIS: My name is Tony Gaddis and I'm an instructor at Haywood Community College in North Carolina. And I'm the author of the Revel titles Starting Out with C++, Starting Out with Java, and Starting Out with Python.

Students today, they have life that they have to deal with. Children that are in school. Students who have jobs. Time is a very important resource. Anything that we can do to help the student take advantage of what little time that they have, then we're putting them ahead, That's one of the benefits of Revel. We've helped them have everything right in front of them in a very convenient, accessible way.

Computer programming is an extremely abstract topic. We're trying to get students to that aha moment, where they understand how all of this works. With new interactive components that we have today, such as animations and interactive code listings, it helps break through the barrier that the student has in understanding what's going on under the hood of the computer.

Before we had things like Revel, before we had interactive digital components, teachers spent a lot of time in the classroom, trying to explain things. Revel really accelerates that. All of that interactivity, as well as the content of the textbook-- it's all together-- really puts the instructor in the role of a helper.

With Revel, the student has a program that they can click a button and that program will come to life. It will start executing.

Another way is with the placement of the sample code component. It just tells the student to write one line of code. That allows the student to try to do it themselves, see if it works. And if it doesn't work, the system tells the student.

In Revel, these interactive components are made to be used by the student on their own time. It maximizes the amount of time that the student and the instructor spend together. And they're at a point of greater understanding when they get with the instructor. Puts the student a notch ahead of where they would be without all of these tools.