

Fingerprints

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Abstract

Fingerprints is an improvised performance for collaborative live coding that explores ownership and identity within group creativity. It is performed by The Yorkshire Programming Ensemble (TYPE) and utilises a real-time concurrent multi-user text editor to facilitate meaningful creative exchanges in collaborative processes within the practice of live coding. The editor, Troop (Kirkbride 2017), allows multiple performers to share the same text buffer and write their own code while also interacting with code written by their co-performers. In fingerprints, each performer will work on code independently and create sound using “their own” musical algorithm before attempting to reshape their collaborators’ work. As this process continually repeats, the piece evolves and the performers are asked whether they can retain their own identities within a state of perpetual flux or if the communal process takes on a greater identity of its own.