Hi, a lot of you may be wondering: “what does the COA/MAES Software Engineer do?”. Well, I write software. Lots and lots of software. My best-known project here in Linfield is probably the system I wrote to facilitate the application for and awarding of our college scholarships.

Since first being used for College of Agriculture scholarships in 2012-2013 the scholarship system has been extensively revamped and expanded for use by the College of Engineering as well our Veterinary School scholarships.

Another well-known project I have done is Pestweb.
Pestweb allows near real-time monitoring of two important agricultural pests, the Orange Wheat Blossom Midge and, new for this year, the Alfalfa Weevil. Pestweb aggregates data collected by producers, extension agents, and crop consultants all over the state and displays it in a way that allows producers to assess the threat of an outbreak near them.

Other sites that are out there are the sheep ration calculator (msusheepration.montana.edu) and the Yellowstone Research Coordination network site (rcn.montana.edu), which provides access to data on almost 10000 thermal features in Yellowstone national park as well as a trove of published literature on the thermal features in the park.

I have also written code to collect and display weather data from a Campbell CR1000 datalogger. I’ve written desktop applications to help with routine accounting chores. I’ve written large spreadsheet programs which help with annual Federal reporting requirements. I’ve written software to help with the managing of our wool pools. Currently I am working on a website to aid data management for a group studying whitenose syndrome in bats.

So if you have a problem that needs some custom software, if you have a data management problem for which Access is not really working well, if you need some advice on database design, feel free to contact me at john.sully@montana.edu.