

Famous computer quotes

- "Computers in the future may weigh no more than one-and-a-half tonnes."
- *Popular Mechanics*, 1949
- "I think there is a world market for maybe five computers."
- *Thomas Watson, Chairman of IBM*, 1943
- "I can assure you that data processing is a fad that won't last the year."
- *Chief Business Editor, Prentice Hall*, 1957
- "Yeah, microchips, but what... is it good for?"
- *an IBM senior engineer*, 1968
- "There is no reason anyone in the right state of mind will want a computer in their home."
- *Ken Olson, President of Digital Equipment Corp*, 1977.
- "Bubble Memory, n.: A derogatory term, usually referring to a person's intelligence. See also *vacuum tube*."
- *The Devil's Dictionary to Computer Studies*
- "As soon as we started programming, we found to our surprise that it wasn't as easy to get programs right as we had thought. Debugging had to be discovered. I can remember the exact instant when I realized that a large part of my life from then on was going to be spent in finding mistakes in my own programmes."
- *Maurice Wilkes discovers debugging*, 1949.
- "Endless Loop: n., see Loop, Endless."
- "Loop, Endless: n., see Endless Loop."
- *Random Shack Data Processing Dictionary*
- "f u cn rd ths, u cn gt a gd jb n cmptr prgrmmng."
- *Anonymous*
- "You can measure a programmer's perspective by noting his attitude on the continuing viability of FORTRAN."
- *Alan Perlis*
- "ADA, n.: Something you need only know the name of to be an Expert in Computing. Useful in sentences like, "We had better develop an ADA awareness."
- *The Devil's Dictionary to Computer Studies*
- "God made machine language; all the rest is the work of man."
- *Anonymous*
- "SOFTWARE, n.: Formal evening attire for female computer analysts."
- *The Devil's Dictionary to Computer Studies*
- "Reach out and grep someone."
- *Bell Labs Unix*
- "Real Programmers don't write in PL/I. PL/I is for programmers who can't decide whether to write in COBOL or FORTRAN."
- *Programmers' World*
- "At the source of every error which is blamed on the computer you will find at least two human errors, including the error of blaming it on the computer."
- *Anonymous*

- **"Goto, n.: A programming tool that exists to allow structured programmers to complain about unstructured programmers.**
- *Ray Simard*
- **"Hardware, n.: The parts of a computer system that can be kicked."**
- *The Devil's Dictionary to Computer Studies*
- **"The world is coming to an end. Please log offf."**
- *Posix 2.1.1 System Shutdown Message*
- **"A language that doesn't affect the way you think about programming is not worth knowing."**
- *Alex Lu, commenting on Java Programming*
- **"BUG, n.: An undesirable, poorly-understood undocumented feature."**
- *The Devil's Dictionary to Computer Studies*
- **"Adding manpower to a late software project makes it later."**
- *Brook's Law*
- **"The C Programming Language: A new language which combines the flexibility of assembly language with the power of assembly language."**
- *Murphy's Introduction to C*
- **"User n.: A programmer who will believe anything you tell him."**
- *The Devil's Dictionary to Computer Studies*
- **"An elephant is a mouse with an operating system."**
- *Anonymous*
- **"Line Printer paper is strongest at the perforations."**
- *Murphy's Law of Line Printers*
- **"Pascal, n.: A programming language named after a man who would turn over in his grave if he knew about it."**
- *The Chartered Institution of C Programmers*
- **"C, n.: A programming language which was named thus because it cannot be named B after bees blocked it in a high-court case."**
- *The Royal Society of Pascal Programmers*
- **"C++, n.: C with fine print which is never quoted and no-one knows about; features which renders a correctly-written C programme useless."**
- *The Royal Society of Pascal Programmers*
- **"The goal of Computer Science is to build something that will last at least until we've finished building it."**
- *Anonymous*
- **"The New Testament offers the basis for modern computer coding theory, in the form of an affirmation of the binary number system. *But let your communication be Yea, yea; nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.*"**
- *Matthew 5:37*
- **"The primary purpose of the DATA statement is to give names to constants; instead of referring to pi as 3.141592653589793 at every appearance, the variable PI can be given that value with a DATA statement and used instead of the longer form of the constant. This also simplifies modifying the program, should the value of pi change.**
- **FORTTRAN manual for Xerox Computers**
- **"Every programme is a part of some other programme, and rarely fits."**
- *The Complete Microsoft Internal Jokes, Vol.III*

- **"When the programme refuses to work as intended, change the specification to fit the programme. It's easier than vice versa."**
- *Briefing for new programmers joining Microsoft, 1995*
- **"After I run your programme, let's make love like crazed weasels, okay?"**
- *Alice Blair, in a cupboard with Alan Robertson*
- **"During the next two hours, the network will be going up and down several times, often with lin~po_~{po~poz~ppo\~{ o n~po_~{o[po~y oodsou@No.w4k**n~po_~{ol;lkld;f;g;dd;po\~{o**
- **"How many hardware engineers does it take to change a lightbulb?"**
None: "We'll fix it in software."
- **"How many software engineers does it take to change a lightbulb?"**
None: "We'll document it in the manual."
- **"How many Microsoft engineers does it take to change a lightbulb?"**
None: "Let's define darkness as the industry standard."
- **"How many tech writers does it take to change a lightbulb?"**
None: "The user can work it out."
- **"Real Programmers don't play tennis, or any other sport that requires you to change clothes. Mountain climbing is OK, and real programmers wear their climbing boots to work in case a mountain should suddenly spring up in the middle of the machine room."**
- *Anonymous*
- **"I haven't lost my mind, it's backed up on tape somewhere."**
- *Anonymous*
- **"Information Center, n.: A room staffed by professional computer people whose job it is to tell you why you cannot have the information you require."**
- *The Devil's Dictionary to Computer Studies*
- **"Real Time, adj.: Here and now, as opposed to fake time, which only occurs there and then."**
- *The Devil's Dictionary to Computer Studies*
- **"Never test for an error condition you don't know how to handle."**
- *Steinbach's Guideline for Systems Programming*
- **"If the code and the comments disagree, then both are probably wrong."**
- *Norm Schryer*
- **"Every program has at least one bug and can be shortened by at least one instruction - from which, by induction, one can deduce that every program can be reduced to one instruction which doesn't work."**
- *Anonymous*
- **"Microcomputers are the tool of the 80's. BASIC is the language that all of them use. So the sooner you learn BASIC, the sooner you will understand the microcomputer revolution."**
- *30 Hour BASIC Standard, 1981.*
- **"I expect that any day now someone will invent a round thing which rolls along the ground and minimises friction, only it will need a 233-megahertz Pentium processor to do it."**
- *Garry Harant, Blackburn, Victoria, Australia*
- **"640k is enough for anyone, and by the way, what's a network?"**
- *William Gates III, President of Microsoft Corporation, 1984.*
- **"Linux is not portable."**
- *Linus Torvalds.*