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*In memory of Dennis Ritchie,  
creator of the C programming language  
and co-creator of the UNIX operating system.*

*Paul and Harvey Deitel*

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# Preface

## An Innovative C Programming Textbook for the 2020s

*Good programmers write code that humans can understand.*<sup>1</sup>

—Martin Fowler

*I think that it's extraordinarily important that we in computer science keep fun in computing.*<sup>2</sup>

—Alan Perlis

Welcome to *C How to Program, Ninth Edition*. We present a friendly, contemporary, code-intensive, case-study-oriented introduction to C—which is among the world's most popular programming languages.<sup>3</sup> Whether you're a student, an instructor or a professional programmer, this book has much to offer you. In this Preface, we present the “soul of the book.”

At the heart of the book is the Deitel signature **live-code approach**—we generally present concepts in the context of **147 complete, working, real-world C programs**, rather than in code snippets. We follow each code example with one or more live program input/output dialogs. All the code is provided free for download at

<https://deitel.com/c-how-to-program-9-e>  
<https://pearson.com/deitel>

You should execute each program in parallel with reading the text, making your learning experience “come alive.”

For many decades:

- computer hardware has rapidly been getting faster, cheaper and smaller,
- Internet bandwidth (that is, its information-carrying capacity) has rapidly been getting larger and cheaper, and
- quality computer software has become ever more abundant and often free or nearly free through the **open-source movement**.

- 
1. Martin Fowler (with contributions by Kent Beck). *Refactoring: Improving the Design of Existing Code*. Addison-Wesley, 1999. p. 15.
  2. Alan Perlis, Quoted in the book dedication of *The Structure and Interpretation of Computer Programs, 2/e* by Hal Abelson, Gerald Jay Sussman and Julie Sussman. McGraw-Hill. 1996.
  3. Tiobe Index for November 2020. Accessed November 9, 2020. <https://www.tiobe.com/tiobe-index/>.

We'll say lots more about these important trends. The **Internet of Things (IoT)** is already connecting tens of billions of computerized devices of every imaginable type. These generate enormous volumes of data (one form of "**big data**") at rapidly increasing speeds and quantities. And most computing will eventually be performed online in "the **Cloud**"—that is, by using computing services accessible over the Internet.

For the novice, the book's early chapters establish a solid foundation in programming fundamentals. The mid-range to high-end chapters and the 20+ case studies ease novices into the world of professional software-development challenges and practices.

Given the extraordinary performance demands that today's applications place on computer hardware, software and the Internet, professionals often choose C to build the most performance-intensive portions of these applications. Throughout the book, we emphasize performance issues to help you prepare for industry.

The book's modular architecture (see the chart on the inside front cover) makes it appropriate for several audiences:

- **Introductory and intermediate college programming courses** in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Information Systems, Information Technology, Software Engineering and related disciplines.
- **Science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) college courses** with a programming component.
- **Professional industry training courses.**
- **Experienced professionals** learning C to prepare for upcoming software-development projects.

We've enjoyed writing nine editions of this book over the last 29 years. We hope you'll find *C How to Program, 9/e* informative, challenging and entertaining as you prepare to develop leading-edge, high-performance applications and systems in your career.

## New and Updated Features in This Ninth Edition

Here, we briefly overview some of this edition's new and updated features. There are many more. The sections that follow provide more details:

- We added a **one-page color Table of Contents chart** on the inside front cover, making it easy for you to see the entire book from "40,000 feet." This chart emphasizes the book's **modular architecture** and lists most of the case studies.
- Some of the case studies are book sections that walk through the complete source code—these are supported by end-of-chapter exercises that might ask you to modify the code presented in the text or take on related challenges. Some are exercises with detailed specifications from which you should be able to develop the code solution on your own. Some are exercises that ask you to visit websites that contain nice tutorials. And some are exercises that ask you to visit developer websites where there may be code to study, but no tutorials—and the code may not be well commented. Instructors will decide which of the case studies are appropriate for their particular audiences.

- We adhere to the **C11/C18 standards**.
- We tested all the code for correctness on the **Windows, macOS and Linux** operating systems using the latest versions of the **Visual C++, Xcode and GNU gcc compilers**, respectively, noting differences among the platforms. See the **Before You Begin** section that follows this Preface for software installation instructions.
- We used the **clang-tidy static code analysis tool** to check all the code in the book's **code examples** for improvement suggestions, from simple items like **ensuring variables are initialized to warnings about potential security flaws**. We also ran this tool on the code solutions that we make available to instructors for hundreds of the book's exercises. The complete list of code checks can be found at <https://clang.llvm.org/extra/clang-tidy/checks/list.html>.
- GNU gcc tends to be the most compliant C compiler. **To enable macOS and Windows users to use gcc if they wish, Chapter 1 includes a test-drive demonstrating how to compile programs and run them using gcc in the cross-platform GNU Compiler Collection Docker container.**
- We've added **350+ integrated Self-Check exercises**, each followed immediately by its answer. These are ideal for **self study** and for use in "**flipped classrooms**" (see the "Flipped Classrooms" section later in this Preface).
- To ensure that book content is **topical**, we did extensive Internet research on C specifically and the world of computing in general, which influenced our choice of case studies. We show C as it's intended to be used with a rich collection of applications programming and systems programming case studies, focusing on **computer-science, artificial intelligence, data science** and other fields. See the "Case Studies" section later in this Preface for more details.
- In the text, code examples, exercises and case studies, we familiarize students with **current topics of interest to developers**, including open-source software, virtualization, simulation, web services, multithreading, multicore hardware architecture, systems programming, game programming, animation, visualization, 2D and 3D graphics, artificial intelligence, natural language processing, machine learning, robotics, data science, secure programming, cryptography, Docker, GitHub, StackOverflow, forums and more.
- We adhere to the latest **ACM/IEEE computing curricula recommendations**, which call for covering security, data science, ethics, privacy and performance concepts and using real-world data throughout the curriculum. See the "Computing and Data Science Curricula" section for more details.
- Most chapters in this book's recent editions end with **Secure C programming sections** that focus on the SEI CERT C Coding Standard from the CERT group of Carnegie Mellon University's Software Engineering Institute (SEI). For this edition, we tuned the SEI CERT-based sections. We also added **security icons in the page margin** whenever we discuss a security-related issue in the text. All of this is consistent with the **ACM/IEEE computing curricula docu-**

ments’ **enhanced emphasis on security**. See the “Computing and Data Science Curricula” section later in this Preface for a list of the key curricula documents.

- Consistent with our richer treatment of security, we’ve added case studies on secret-key and public-key cryptography. The latter includes a detailed walk-through of the enormously popular RSA algorithm’s steps, providing hints to help you build a working, simple, small-scale implementation.
- We’ve enhanced existing case studies and added new ones focusing on AI and data science, including simulations with random-number generation, survey data analysis, natural language processing (NLP) and artificial intelligence (machine-learning with simple linear regression). Data science is emphasized in the latest ACM/IEEE computing curricula documents.
- We’ve added exercises in which students use the Internet to research **ethics** and **privacy** issues in computing.
- We tuned our **multithreading and multicore performance** case study. We also show a **performance icon in the margin** whenever we discuss a performance-related issue in the text.
- We integrated the previous edition’s hundreds of software-development tips directly into the text for a smoother reading experience. We call out **common errors** and **good software engineering practices** with new margin icons.
- We upgraded our appendix on additional sorting algorithms and analysis of algorithms with Big O to full-chapter status (Chapter 13).
- C programmers often subsequently learn one or more C-based object-oriented languages. We added an appendix that presents a friendly intro to object-oriented programming concepts and terminology. C is a procedural programming language, so this appendix will help students appreciate differences in thinking between C developers and the folks who program in languages like C++, Java, C#, Objective-C, Swift and other object-oriented languages. We do lots of things like this in the book to prepare students for industry.
- Several case studies now have you use free open-source libraries and tools.
- We added a case study that performs visualization with gnuplot.
- We removed the previous edition’s introduction to C++ programming to make room for the hundreds of integrated self-check exercises and our new applications programming and systems programming case studies.
- This new edition is published in a larger font size and page size for enhanced readability.

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## A Tour of the Book

The **Table of Contents** graphic on the inside front cover shows the book’s **modular architecture**. Instructors can conveniently adapt the content to a variety of courses and audiences. Here we present a brief chapter-by-chapter walkthrough and indicate where



the book's case studies are located. Some are in-chapter examples and some are end-of-chapter exercises. Some are fully coded. For others, you'll develop the solution.

Chapters 1–5 are traditional introductory C programming topics. Chapters 6–11 are intermediate topics forming the high end of Computer Science 1 and related courses. Chapters 12–15 are advanced topics for late CS1 or early CS2 courses. Here's a list of the topical, challenging and often entertaining hands-on case studies.

### Systems Programming Case Studies

- **Systems Software**—Building Your Own Computer (as a virtual machine)
- **Systems Software**—Building Your Own Compiler
- **Embedded Systems Programming**—Robotics, 3D graphics and animation with the Webots Simulator
- **Performance with Multithreading and Multicore Systems**

### Application Programming Case Studies

- **Algorithm Development**—Counter-Controlled Iteration
- **Algorithm Development**—Sentinel-Controlled Iteration
- **Algorithm Development**—Nested Control Statements
- **Random-Number Simulation**—Building a Casino Game
- **Random-Number Simulation**—Card Shuffling and Dealing
- **Random-Number Simulation**—The Tortoise and the Hare Race
- **Intro to Data Science**—Survey Data Analysis
- **Direct-Access File Processing**—Building a Transaction-Processing System
- **Visualizing Searching and Sorting Algorithms**—Binary Search and Merge Sort.
- **Artificial Intelligence/Data Science**—Natural Language Processing (“Who Really Wrote the Works of William Shakespeare?”)
- **Artificial Intelligence/Data Science**—Machine Learning with the GNU Scientific Library (“Statistics Can Be Deceiving” and “Have Average January Temperatures in New York City Been Rising Over the Last Century?”)
- **Game Programming**—Cannon Game with the raylib Library
- **Game Programming**—SpotOn Game with the raylib Library
- **Multimedia: Audio and Animation**—The Tortoise and the Hare Race with the raylib Library
- **Security and Cryptography**—Implementing a Vigenère Secret-Key Cipher and RSA Public-Key Cryptography
- **Animated Visualization with raylib**—The Law of Large Numbers
- **Web Services and the Cloud**—Getting a Weather Report Using libcurl and the OpenWeatherMap Web Services, and An Introduction to Building Mashups with Web Services.