Computer Hardware: 2500 BC - wood

Abacus invented Sumeria c. 2500 BC,

Computer Hardware: 100 BC - brass

Antikythera mechanism
Analog computer used to predict astronomical positions and eclipses

Computer Hardware: 1835 - brass & steam

Analytical Engine designed by Charles Babbage 1835 - never built.
General purpose programmable computer using punch cards and steam power

The first Coder: 1835

Ada Lovelace - mathematician who wrote the first programs.
Computer Hardware: 1890 - electromechanical

Hollerith tabulating machine used for calculations in the US census, company eventually becomes IBM

Computer Hardware: 1944 - vacuum tubes

Colossus: arguably first programmable, electronic, digital computer. Designed by Tommy Flowers for WWII codebreaking.

Computer Hardware: 1959 - transistors

PDP-1 first computer in Digital Equipment Corporation’s successful line. Successors were first machines C and Unix used on.

Computer Hardware: 1975 - Integrated Circuits

PDP-11 computer using large-scale integrated circuits containing thousands of transistors.
The Modern Computer

What makes up a working computer?
- hardware (motherboard, CPU, RAM, HDD, etc.)
- bootstrapping code (BIOS)
- device drivers
- operating system (Linux, Windows, etc.)
- software (games, utilities, etc.)

The Operating System

Operating system (OS) is a piece of complex software layer that manages a computer’s hardware. Allows you to program without knowing (independent) of hardware details.
- GNU/Linux, Mac OS X, FreeBSD, and Solaris
- long history; many innovations come from Unix systems
- Unix is multi-user and multi-tasking
- reliable server and workstation operating system
Linux

Linux is a multi-user operating system, you will have **your own account** on the CSE machines, with a unique username and password. Logging in to your CSE account, either from a lab machine or from home, will give your access to your files and settings. These are **not to be shared** with anyone else.

- logging into a Unix system gives you access to a **terminal window**
- a terminal window is for text commands which the OS executes
- common commands: `ls`, `cd`, `mkdir`, `more`, etc.
- many tasks can be performed through the graphical user interface (GUI)

Programming Languages

Why don't we program in English?

- it is too informal
- it is too big

What does "Time flies like an arrow" mean?

So we invent a programming language that:

- is small
- is formal (syntax and grammar)
- is still reasonably intuitive for humans

Because programming language instructions are usually too complex to execute directly, they must be translated into an even simpler machine language.

The C Programming Language

Historical notes:

- created by Dennis Ritchie in the early 70's at AT&T Bell Labs
- named so because it succeeded the B programming language
- designed as a high(er)-level language to replace assembler
- powerful enough to implement the Unix kernel
- in 1978 Dennis Ritchie and Brian Kernighan published “The C Programming Language"
- now considered low-level, widely used for system and application programming

Why C?

- classic example of an imperative language
- many libraries and learning resources
- widely used for writing operating systems and compilers as well as industrial and scientific applications
- provides low level access to machine
- language you must know if you want to work with hardware
Like most programming languages, C supports features such as:

- program comments
- declaring variables (data storage)
- assigning values to variables
- performing arithmetic operations
- performing comparison operations
- control structures, such as branching or looping
- performing input and output

The program is complete, it compiles and performs a task. Even in a few lines of code there are a lot of elements:

- a comment
- a #include directive
- the main function
- a call to a library function, printf
- a return statement
- semicolons, braces and string literals

What does it all mean?

- //, a single line comment, use /* */ for block comments
- #include <stdio.h>, import the standard I/O library
- int main(...), the main function must appear in every C program and it is the start of execution point
- (void), indicating no arguments for main
- printf(...), the usual C output function, in stdio.h
- ("Hello world!\n"), argument supplied to printf, a string literal, i.e., a string constant
- \n, an escape sequence, special character combination that inserts a new line
- return 0, a code returned to the operating system, 0 means the program executed without error
The C Compiler

A C program must be translated into machine code to be run. This process is known as compilation. It is performed by a compiler. We will use a compiler named dcc for COMP1511. dcc is actually a custom wrapper around a compiler named clang. Another widely used compiler is called gcc.

Compiling A Program

- Create a file named hello.c containing the program
gedit hello.c
- Once the code is written and saved, compile it:
dcc hello.c
- Run the program:
  ./a.out

$ gedit hello.c &
$ dcc hello.c
$ ./a.out

ls

- Lists files in current directory (folder)
- Several useful switches can be applied to ls
  - ls -l (provide a long listing)
  - ls -a (list all file, i.e., show hidden files)
  - ls -t (list files by modification time)
  - Can combine options. For example, ls -la

mkdir

- mkdir directoryName
- Create (make) new directory called directoryName in the current working directory
- a directory is like a folder in windows
- To verify creation, type ls
- `cd directoryName`
- Change directory
  - Change current directory to `directoryName`
  - `directoryName` must be in the current working directory
  - We will see how to use more complex names(paths) later
- Special directory names
  - `cd ..`
    - move up one directory (to parent directory)
  - `cd ~`
    - move to your home directory