

Computer Languages

JavaScript is widely used to add functionality and interactivity to Web pages. Although JavaScript was dismissed as a ‘toy’ coding language in its early days, it has since gained respect. Its popularity has grown to the point where it’s now the most used coding language in the world.

Python was created in 1991 by Guido van Rossum. Python is a multi-purpose language mainly used to write scientific and numerical software. It’s also one of the lesser-used coding languages on the Web, with some big players using it – most notably Google.

SQL stands for Structured Query Language. It’s been used to interact with databases since 1974. SQL code is often written as standalone lines known as queries. Each query is designed to either create, read, update or delete data in a database. SQL is a vital part of software such as WordPress and MediaWiki.

PHP was created by Rasmus Lerdorf in 1995. It can be described as the link between the database that stores all the content on a website and the HTML that lets you view it. PHP remains hugely popular as a Web coding language. It’s used by the likes of Facebook, WordPress and Wikipedia.

Ruby was created in 1995 by Yukihiro Matsumoto. It was designed to be fun and productive to write with the needs of coders – rather than computers – in mind. Ruby is a high-level interpreted language that’s gained popularity on the Web through the Ruby on Rails framework. It powers many websites, including Twitter.

C is arguably the daddy of modern coding languages. C has been around since 1972, and although it’s not easy to learn, it’s extremely powerful. C is a compiled language and the lowest level of all the languages listed here. It’s readily built into nearly every operating system. C is used in Microsoft Windows and much of its software. C is truly an all-rounder coding language.

C++ is an enhanced version of C that adds the object-oriented paradigm. It was created by Bjarne Stroustrup in 1979. C++ is a compiled language and runs on multiple hardware platforms. Most computer games are written in C++. The language also accompanies C in the source code of Microsoft Windows and accompanying software.

Visual Basic is another Microsoft language, developed in 1991. It is designed to respond to user events such as mouse clicks or key presses. Visual Basic is used as an easy way to develop graphical user interface programs for Windows, but ultimately it’s limited and would not be considered a ‘serious’ coding language.

Java was developed by Oracle Corporation and first appeared in 1995. It is designed to run on just about any operating system. Java is seen all over the coding world, from the Web to desktops. These days it’s used to create Android apps.

Objective-C was developed by Apple in 1983 and is designed to be used in conjunction with the company’s Cocoa framework. Objective-C is a high-level compiled language and runs only on Apple operating systems. Objective-C is, unsurprisingly, Apple’s language of choice. The language is used to create software for iPhone, iPad and Mac OS X.

Perl was developed by Larry Wall in 1987. It’s a powerful and practical language that was originally designed for text processing. Perl has been called ‘the duct tape that holds the Internet together,’ referring to its power and perceived ugliness. Perl is a high-level interpreted language and has been used extensively on the Web.