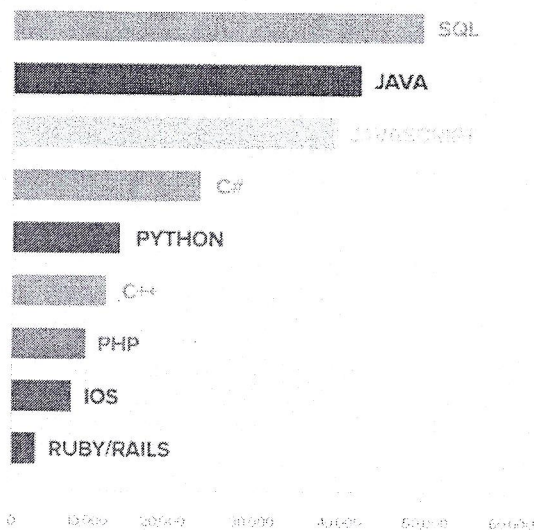# The 9 Most In-Demand Programming Languages of 2016

(Languages ranked by number of programming jobs in 2016)

The data comes from Indeed.com. It is an American worldwide employment-related search engine for job listings. The site aggregates job listings from thousands of websites, including job boards, staffing firms, associations, and company career pages.

Languages ranked by number of programming jobs

Data from
Indeed.com
2016

9. Ruby on Rails

Like Java or the C language, Ruby is a general purpose programming language, though it is best known for its use in web programming, and Rails serves as a framework for the Ruby Language. Ruby on Rails has many positive qualities including rapid development, you don't need as much code, and there is a wide variety of 3rd party libraries available. It's used by companies ranging from small start-ups to large enterprises and everything in-between. Hulu, Twitter, Github and Living Social are using Ruby on Rails for at least one of their web applications.

8. iOS/Swift

In 2014, Apple decided to invent their own programming language. The result was Swift – a new programming language for iOS and OS X developers to create their next killer app. Developers will find that many parts of Swift are familiar from their experience of developing in C++ and Objective-C. Companies including American Airlines, LinkedIn, and Duolingo have been quick to adopt Swift, and we'll see this language on the rise in the coming years.

7. PHP

Created by Danish-Canadian programmer Rasmus Lerdorf in 1994, PHP was never actually intended to be a new programming language. Instead, it was created to be a set of tools to help Rasmus maintain his Personal Home Page (PHP). Today, PHP (Hypertext Pre-Processor) is a scripting language, running on the server, which can be used to create web pages written in HTML. PHP tends to be a popular language since it's easy-to use by new programmers, but also offers tons of advanced features for more experienced programmers.

6. C++

C++ (pronounced C-plus-plus) is a general purpose object-oriented programming language based on the earlier 'C' language. Developed by Bjarne Stroustrup at Bell Labs, C++ was first released in 1983. Stroustrup keeps an extensive list of applications written in C++. The list includes Adobe and Microsoft applications, MongoDB databases, large portions of Mac OS/X and C++ is the best language to learn for performance-critical applications such as "twitch" game development or audio/video processing.

5. Python

Python is a general purpose programming language that was named after the Monty Python (so you know it's fun to work with)! Python is simple and incredibly readable since it closely resembles the English language. It's a great language for beginners, all the way up to seasoned professionals. Python recently bumped Java as the language of choice in introductory programming courses with eight of the top 10 computer science departments now using Python to teach coding, as well as 27 of the top 39 schools. Because of Python's use in the educational domain, there are a lot of libraries created for Python related to mathematics, physics and natural processing. PBS, NASA and Reddit use Python for their websites.

4. C#

Dating from 2000, C# (pronounced C-sharp) is a relatively new programming language designed by Microsoft for a wide range of enterprise applications that run on the .NET Framework. An evolution of C and C++, the C# language is simple, modern, type safe and object oriented.

3. JavaScript

JavaScript – not to be confused with Java – is another one of the world's most popular and powerful programming languages, and is used to spice up web pages by making them

interactive. For example, JavaScript can be used to add effects to web pages, display pop-up messages or to create games with basic functionality. It's also worth noting that JavaScript is the scripting language of the World Wide Web and is built right into all major web browsers including Internet Explorer, FireFox and Safari. Almost every website incorporates some element of JavaScript to add to the user experience, adding to the demand for JavaScript developers. In recent years JavaScript has also gained use as the foundation of Node.js, a server technology that among other things enables real-time communication.

2. Java

The tech community recently celebrated the 20th anniversary of Java. It's one of the most widely adopted programming languages, used by some 9 million developers and running on 7 billion devices worldwide. It's also the programming language used to develop all native Android apps. Java's popularity with developers is due to the fact that the language is grounded in readability and simplicity. Java has staying power since it has long-term compatibility, which makes sure older applications continue to work now into the future. It's not going anywhere anytime soon and is used to power company websites like LinkedIn.com, Netflix.com and Amazon.com.

1. SQL

It's no surprise SQL (pronounced 'sequel') tops the job list since it can be found far and wide in various flavors. Database technologies such as MySQL, PostgreSQL and Microsoft SQL Server power big businesses, small businesses, hospitals, banks, universities. Indeed, just about every computer and person with access to technology eventually touches something SQL. For instance, all Android phones and iPhones have access to a SQL database called SQLite and many mobile apps developed by Google, Skype and DropBox use it directly.

Any great craftsman has a belt full of tools, each a perfect choice for certain situations. Similarly, there will never be just a single programming language, and each language will evolve and improve over time to keep pace with innovation.