

# Switch

An introduction to switch statements which are also a way to execute selective code based on specified conditions.

The case of multiple if-else statements strung together to test for different values, and execute different code, is common enough that there is a special construct called the **switch statement** that is provided for this case:

```
switch (expression)
{
    case value1:
        program statement;
        program statement;
        ...
        break;
    case value2:
        program statement;
        program statement;
        ...
        break;
    case value3:
        program statement;
        program statement;
        ...
        break;
    default:
        program statement;
        program statement;
        ...
        break;
}
```



This is equivalent to the following series of if-else statements:

```
if (expression == value1) {
    program statement;
    program statement;
    ...
}
else if (expression == value2) {
    program statement;
    program statement;
    ...
}
else if (expression == value3) {
    program statement;
    program statement;
    ...
}
else {
```



```
    program statement;  
    program statement;  
  
    ...  
}
```

From my point of view the decision to use a switch statement versus a series of if-else statements is purely stylistic and is up to you. They accomplish the same thing.

Next, we'll talk about how we can exit a loop or skip an iteration.