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A **software engineer** is a person who applies the principles of software engineering to design, develop, maintain, test, and evaluate [computer software](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Software). The term [*programmer*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Programmer) is sometimes used as a synonym, but may also lack connotations of engineering education or skills.

Engineering techniques are used to inform[[*clarification needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Please_clarify)] the [software development process](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Software_development_process)[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Software_engineering#cite_note-BoDu04-1)[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Software_engineering#cite_note-swebookv3-4) which involves the definition, implementation, assessment, measurement, management, change, and improvement of the software life cycle process itself. It heavily uses [software configuration management](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Software_configuration_management)[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Software_engineering#cite_note-BoDu04-1)[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Software_engineering#cite_note-swebookv3-4) which is about systematically controlling changes to the configuration, and maintaining the integrity and traceability of the configuration and code throughout the system life cycle. Modern processes use [software versioning](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Software_versioning).

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