



## *A Programmer's Checklist :: 7 Rules*

**\*\*\* VERY IMPORTANT \*\*\*  
DID YOU REMEMBER TO**

- ✓ Rule #1 : Check all APIs for their failure case
- ✓ Rule #2 : Compile with warnings on (-Wall -Wextra) and eliminate all warnings as far as is possible
- ✓ Rule #3 : Never trust [user] input; validate it
- ✓ Rule #4 : Use assertions in your code
- ✓ Rule #5 : Eliminate unused (or dead) code from the codebase immediately
- ✓ Rule #6 : Test thoroughly; 100% code coverage is the objective. Take the time and trouble to learn to use powerful tools: memory checkers (Valgrind, the sanitizer toolset), static and dynamic analyzers, security checkers (checksec), fuzzers, etc
- ✓ Rule #7 : Do NOT Assume Anything  
(“**ASS**UME : makes an **ASS** out of **U** and **ME**” :-) )

Related article: [Low-level Software Design](#)