PREFACE

In computing, turning the obvious into the useful is a living definition of the word "frustration."

In the years since the first edition of *C Programming: A Modern Approach* was published, a host of new C-based languages have sprung up—Java and C# foremost among them—and related languages such as C++ and Perl have achieved greater prominence. Still, C remains as popular as ever, plugging away in the background, quietly powering much of the world's software. It remains the *lingua franca* of the computer universe, as it was in 1996.

But even C must change with the times. The need for a new edition of *C Programming: A Modern Approach* became apparent when the C99 standard was published. Moreover, the first edition, with its references to DOS and 16-bit processors, was becoming dated. The second edition is fully up-to-date and has been improved in many other ways as well.

What's New in the Second Edition

Here's a list of new features and improvements in the second edition:

- ***Complete coverage of both the C89 standard and the C99 standard.*** The biggest difference between the first and second editions is coverage of the C99 standard. My goal was to cover every significant difference between C89 and C99, including all the language features and library functions added in C99. Each C99 change is clearly marked, either with "C99" in the heading of a section or—in the case of shorter discussions—with a special icon in the left margin. I did this partly to draw attention to the changes and partly so that readers who aren't interested in C99 or don't have access to a C99 compiler will know what to skip. Many of the C99 additions are of interest only to a specialized audience, but some of the new features will be of use to nearly all C programmers.