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## Help Center > Asking

## What topics can I ask about here?

Stack Overflow is for professional and enthusiast programmers, people who write code because they love it. We feel the best Stack Overflow questions have a bit of source code in them, but if your question generally covers...

- · a specific programming problem, or
- · a software algorithm, or
- software tools commonly used by programmers; and is
- a practical, answerable problem that is unique to software development

... then you're in the right place to ask your question!

Please <u>look around</u> to see if your question <u>has been asked before</u>. It's also OK to <u>ask and answer your own question</u>. Questions which are too broad, unclear, incomplete or primarily opinion-based may be <u>closed by the community</u> until they are improved.

<u>Click here for tips on how to ask good questions</u> that are likely to be well-received by the community and attract good answers.

## Some questions are still off-topic, even if they fit into one of the categories listed above:

- 1. Questions seeking debugging help ("why isn't this code working?") must include the desired behavior, a specific problem or error and the shortest code necessary to reproduce it in the question itself. See: How to create a Minimal, Reproducible Example.
- 2. Questions about a problem that can no longer be reproduced or that was caused by a simple typographical error. This can often be avoided by identifying and closely inspecting the <a href="mailto:shortest">shortest</a> <a href="mailto:program necessary">program necessary to reproduce the problem</a> before posting.
- 3. Questions asking for *homework help* must include a summary of the work you've done so far to solve the problem, and a description of the difficulty you are having solving it.
- 4. Questions asking us to *recommend or find a book, tool, software library, tutorial or other off-site resource* are off-topic for Stack Overflow as they tend to attract opinionated answers and spam. Instead, describe the problem and what has been done so far to solve it.
- 5. Questions about *general computing hardware and software* are off-topic for Stack Overflow unless they directly involve tools used primarily for programming.
- 6. Questions on *professional server, networking, or related infrastructure administration* are off-topic for Stack Overflow unless they directly involve programming or programming tools.

- 7. Questions asking for <u>support for offsite resources</u> such as App Stores are off-topic for Stack Overflow. Direct your questions to the relevant organisation instead.
- 8. Legal questions, including questions about copyright or licensing, are off-topic for Stack Overflow. Open Source Stack Exchange or Law Stack Exchange may be suitable alternatives.

If your question is not on-topic for Stack Overflow, it may be on topic for another Stack Exchange site. If your question would be of interest to ...

- Computer enthusiasts and power users, ask on Super User.
- Professional system and network administrators, ask on Server Fault.
- Users of TeX, LaTeX, ConTeXt, and related typesetting systems, ask on <u>TeX LaTeX Stack</u> Exchange.
- Database administrators and professionals, ask on <u>Database Administrators Stack Exchange</u>.
- SharePoint enthusiasts, ask on <a href="SharePoint Stack Exchange">SharePoint Stack Exchange</a>.

If no site currently exists that will accept your question, you may <u>commit to</u> or <u>propose</u> a new site at <u>Area 51</u>, the place where new Stack Exchange communities are democratically created.