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.

Click here for tips on how to ask good questions 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">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 shortest program necessary to reproduce the problem 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. <u>Open Source Stack Exchange</u> or <u>Law Stack Exchange</u> 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 <u>Super User</u>.
- Professional system and network administrators, ask on <u>Server Fault</u>.
- Users of TeX, LaTeX, ConTeXt, and related typesetting systems, ask on TeX LaTeX Stack Exchange
- Database administrators and professionals, ask on <u>Database Administrators Stack Exchange</u>.
- SharePoint enthusiasts, ask on <u>SharePoint Stack Exchange</u>.

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.

Asking

What types of questions should I avoid asking?

What topics can I ask about here?

What does it mean if a question is "closed"?

How do I ask a good question?

How to create a Minimal, Reproducible Example

Why are questions no longer being accepted from my account?

Why are some questions marked as duplicate?

I've thought better of my question; can I delete it?

Why and how are some questions deleted?

What should I do if no one answers my question?

What are tags, and how should I use

Why is the system asking me to wait a day or more before asking another question?

Why do I see a message that my question does not meet quality standards?

What if I disagree with the closure of a question? How can I reopen it?

What should I do when someone answers my question?

How to Ask Questions in Private Beta

Privileges

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- Culture / Pecreation
- Culture
- Science

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