

Everything old is new  
again and again

What we could have learned  
from a book on COBOL from  
1976, but didn't

Chad Nelson

<https://chads.space/cobol>



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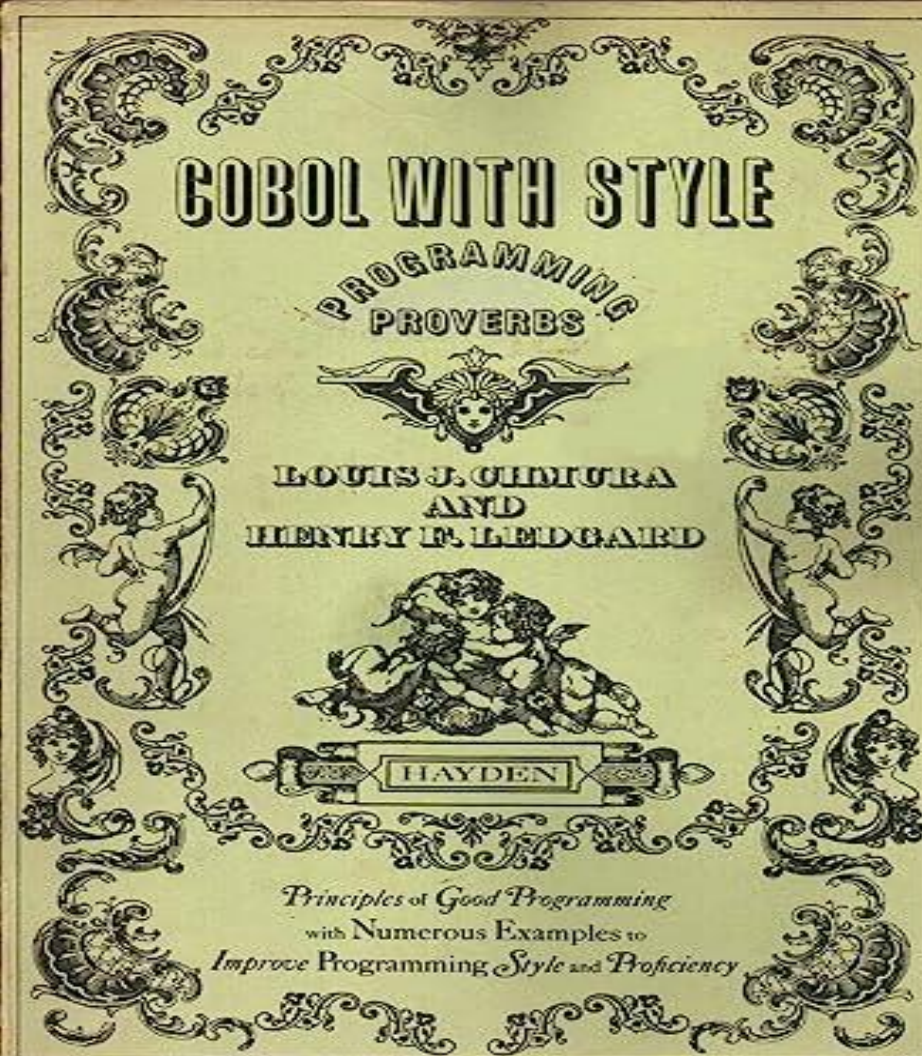
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# *COBOL with Style*

*Principles of Good Programming with  
Numerous Examples to Improve  
Programming Style and Proficiency*





Louis J. Chmura

Henry F. Ledgard

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**THE BOMBAY COOLER**

**THE BENGAL LANCER**

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**The Bengal Lancer . . .** Our **half-sleeve** leisure suit is adapted from the off-duty uniforms of the British Bengal Army. Note the button-flap pockets on chest and sleeve. Plus epaulets . . . high-back, long-point collar . . . chalk buttons . . . smart contrast stitching. Pants have flare

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Quan.	Item	Color	Jacket	Pant	Price
	Bombay Cooler	Copen Blue			
	Bombay Cooler	Yellow			
	Bengal Lancer	Bone			
	Bengal Lancer	Melon			
	T-Shirt	As Shown			

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*Why?*





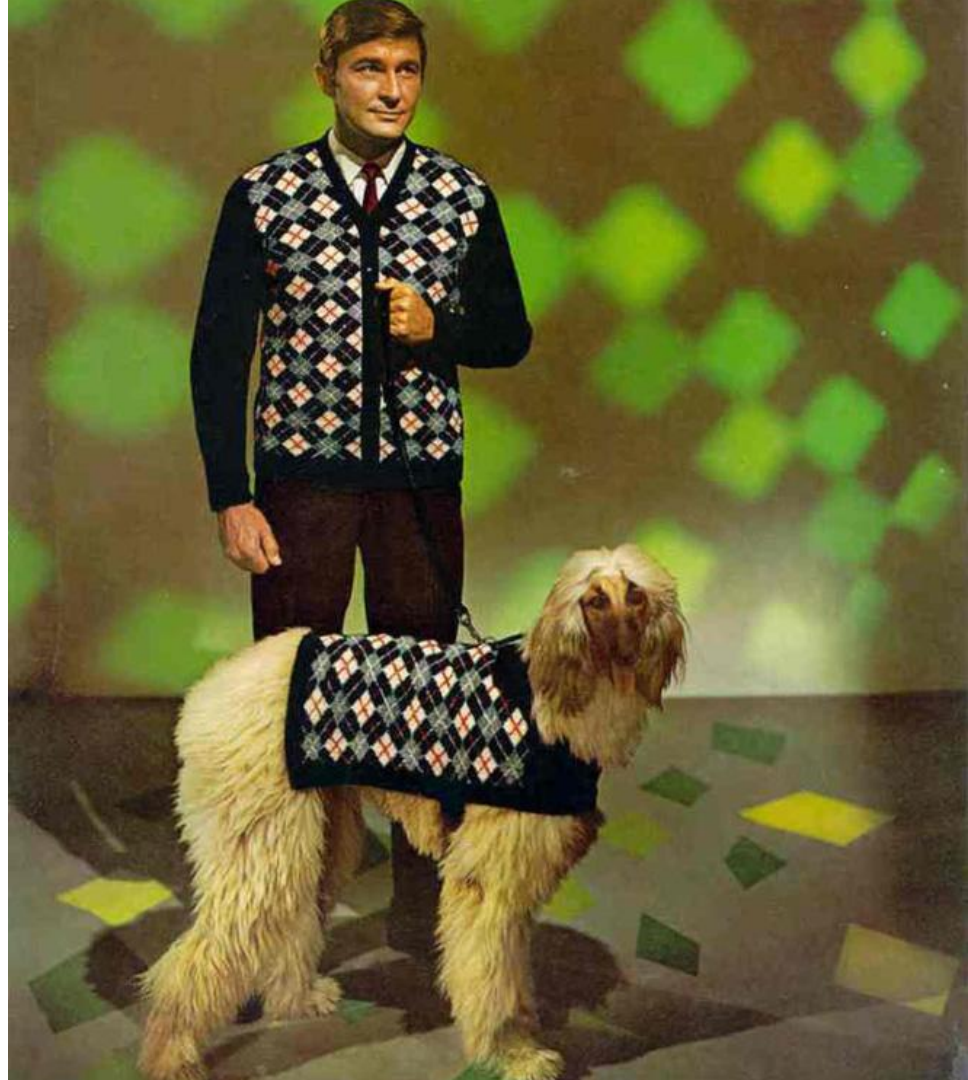
*Still Feels Modern*

*Technological Context*

*Genealogy of Software  
Ideas*



# *The Proverbs*



*Don't Panic*

*Start the Documentation  
Early*

*Think First, Code Later*





# *Proceed Top Down*

*Design in Levels*

*Initial Language Independence*

*Postponement of Details to Lower Levels*

*Formalization of Each Level*

*Verification of Each Level*

*Successive Refinements*

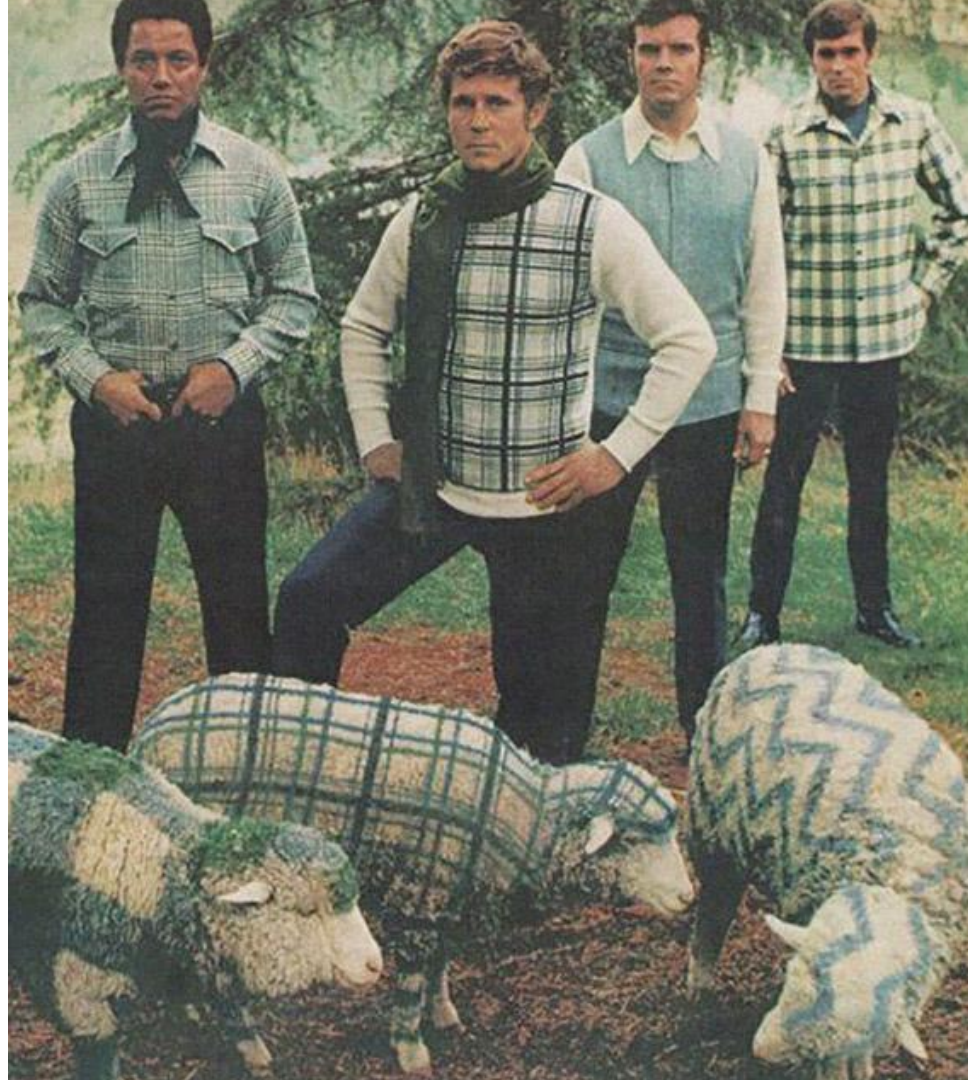


*Beware other approaches*

*Bottom up*

*Inside Out*

*Linear*

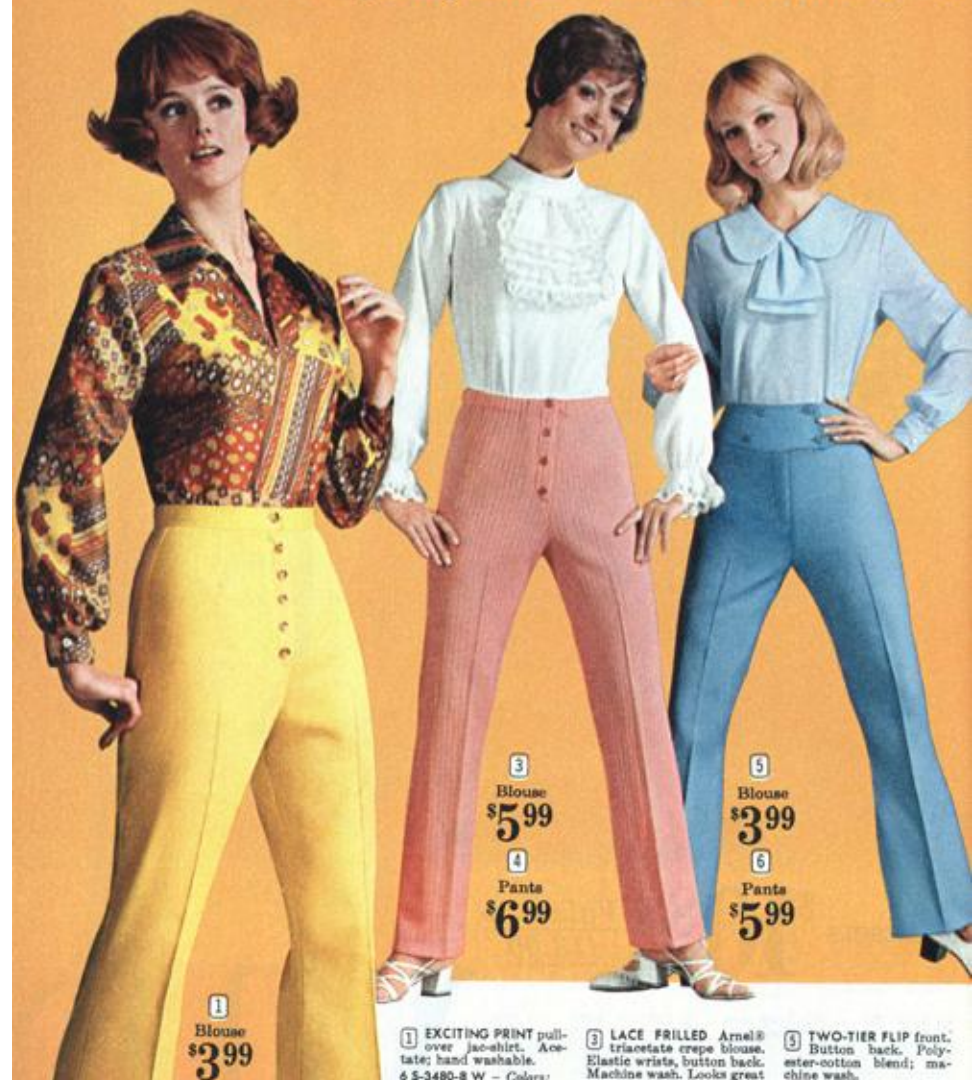




*Code in Modular Units*

*Plan for Change*

*Prepare to Prove the  
Pudding*





*Prettyprint*

*Comment Effectively*

*Use Mnemonic Words*

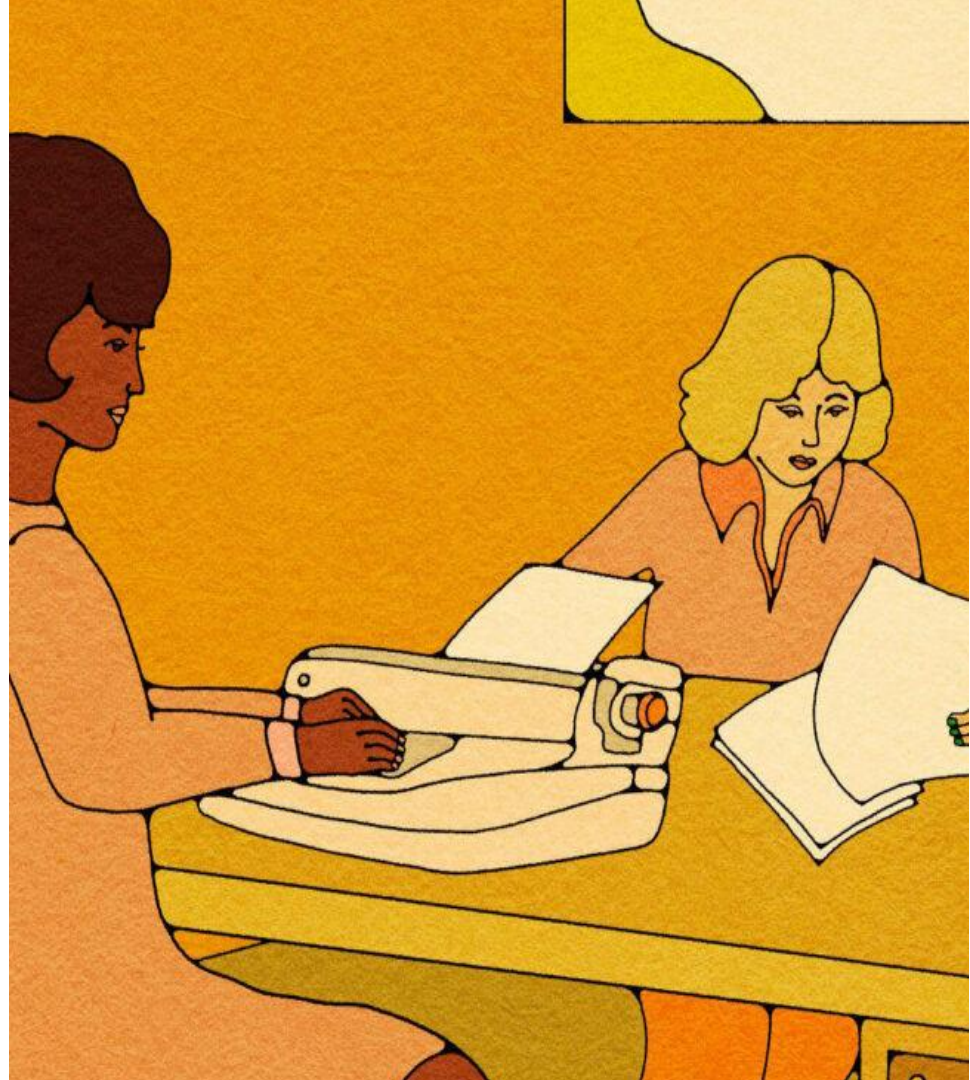
*Don't Leave the Reader in  
the Dust*



*Have Someone Else  
Read the Work*

*Read the Manual Again*

*Don't Be Afraid  
to Start Over*



*Still Feels Modern*





# *Technological Context*



# *Genealogy of Software Ideas*





[illegible]