



This article is about the use of the **?:** operator as a **ternary operator**. For use as a **binary operator**, see [Elvis operator](#).

In [computer programming](#), **?:** is a [ternary operator](#) that is part of the syntax for basic [conditional expressions](#) in several [programming languages](#). It is commonly referred to as the **conditional operator**, **inline if (iif)**, or **ternary if**. An expression  $a \ ? \ b \ :$   $c$  evaluates to  $b$  if the value of  $a$  is true, and otherwise to  $c$ . One can read it aloud as "if a then b otherwise c".

It originally comes from [CPL](#), in which equivalent syntax for  $e_1 \ ? \ e_2 \ : \ e_3$  was  $e_1 \rightarrow e_2, e_3$ .<sup>[1][2]</sup>

Although many ternary operators are possible, the conditional operator is so common, and other ternary operators so rare, that the conditional operator is commonly referred to as *the* ternary operator.



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## Bitwise Operators in C

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All the objects that are stored in a [computer](#) are ultimately converted into binary numbers which are sequences of 0s and 1s. Each digit in a binary number is stored on one bit of the computer memory. A *bit* is defined as the smallest unit of memory in a computer. In fact, computer manipulates a number by manipulating the bits on which the number is stored. In control systems also we often need to use operators to manipulate bits.

