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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 <u>the best Stack Overflow questions</u> 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 that fit into one of the categories listed above may be closed by the community because they aren't generally a good fit here or need additional information:

- 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 shortest program necessary to reproduce the problem before posting.
- 3. Questions asking for *homework help* are not inherently off-topic. However, you must have made a good faith attempt to solve it yourself. The question 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. For more detail, see How do I ask and answer homework questions??
- 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 asking for *customer support with third-party services* (such as App Stores) are off-topic for Stack Overflow. Instead, please direct your questions to the relevant company/organisation's technical support team.
- 6. 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.
- 7. Questions about general computing hardware and software



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