**Language: 3 COBOL**

Key:

Connor Schuetz

Charles Serrao

Mateo Jacome

Zoe Astifidis

Resources I found that are awesome 😀

[What is COBOL? | IBM](https://www.ibm.com/topics/cobol)

[COBOL | National Museum of American History (si.edu)](https://americanhistory.si.edu/explore/exhibitions/artifact-walls-cobol)

[What is COBOL? (facts you didn’t know) (linkedin.com)](https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/what-cobol-facts-you-didnt-know-zolt%C3%A1n-feh%C3%A9rv%C3%A1ri)

[50 years of running COBOL | National Museum of American History (si.edu)](https://americanhistory.si.edu/explore/stories/50-years-running-cobol)

I was thinking of making a powerpoint to present to class and a pdf document to submit to BlackBoard. Links are below:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1W3n6ktgJ2tsnZ_roeDoOOEH2CNaEOXu4nfegFvWQlpo/edit?usp=sharing>

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1o3WIo0hoeaMlbOgIxFT7T9vsfFTXveq5KZxNguAaPhw/edit?usp=sharing>

You guys can edit both the powerpoint and the google document so you can add your work. If you guys have any questions let me know…

I also created a meeting on google meets for tomorrow at 3:30. Link is below:

CMSC Language report group meeting

Monday, September 2 · 3:30 – 5:30pm

Time zone: America/New\_York

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: https://meet.google.com/kxx-ivgg-ccm

Or dial: ‪(US) +1 352-432-8287‬ PIN: ‪982 471 027‬#

More phone numbers: https://tel.meet/kxx-ivgg-ccm?pin=2564350565666

○ Decade in which it was first invented (specific years are even better)

Cobol is a programming language created in the year 1960. It was designed by the corporation CODASYL Committee (Conference on Data Systems Languages). (China, Goodwin, 2024)

○ Persons or organizations who invented it

The Common Business-Oriented Language(COBOL) was designed as a tool for banks and government industries by the 1959 Conference of Data Systems. The conference was made up of members of the US government and the private business community, who wanted to create a high-level language that could run on multiple computers and a language that everyone could understand clearly (Encyclopedia Britannica, n.d). And it was a success, becoming the most popular language in the world of business.

○ What problem was it trying to solve?

Cobol was designed with the intent in mind to have the ability to run this language on multiple different types of computer systems. Cobol was one of the first languages to incorporate English instead of machine code as was usual in many of the other programming languages of the time. (Kidwell, 2010) Kid

well Kidwell Kidwell Kidwell

○ What was new about it at the time?

What made COBOL so successful in the 1950s was its ability to run on more than one type of computer. Unlike programs in the past, COBOL’s commands were designed to look like English, and not machine code. This feature made COBOL easy to understand by non-programmers and programmers alike (National Museum of American History, 2010). The program’s only data types were numbers and strings of texts, which could be grouped and recorded into arrays. This ability to track and organize data was a huge plus for businesses and government agencies (Ferguson, 2019).

○ Is it still in use today? If so, where?

The COBOL programming language is still in use today by financial institutions and government agencies. Most notable companies are USAA, IBM, JPMorgan Chase, and Heise Online(“COBOL”).

○ Anything else you find that’s relevant, informative, or just interesting

More modern programming languages are being used replacing the legacy mainframes that use COBOL. This is a costly endeavor as 75% of rewrite programs on legacy COBOL systems fail to the cost.(Brunskill)

220 billion lines of COBOL are still in use by businesses today. 90% percent of Fortune 500 companies still use COBOL. It is still the force behind 95% of ATM transactions (Fehérvári, 2022)

Sources Cited:

* Brunskill, Vicki-Lynn, and Tr&eacute;a Lavery. “What Is COBOL (Common Business Oriented Language)? Definition from Searchitoperations.” IT Operations, TechTarget, 8 Oct. 2021, www.techtarget.com/searchitoperations/definition/COBOL-Common-Business-Oriented-Language#:~:text=By%201970%2C%20COBOL%20had%20become,institutions%20and%20by%20government%20agencies.
* “COBOL.” Companies Using COBOL, Market Share, Customers and Competitors, discovery.hgdata.com/product/cobol. Accessed 28 Aug. 2024.
* Ferguson, A. (2019). *A History of Computer Programming Languages*. Brown.edu. https://cs.brown.edu/~adf/programming\_languages.html
* Zoltán Fehérvári. (2022, August 24). *The Common Business Oriented Language (COBOL), which was designed largely for business purposes, is still alive and well, moving quietly among the major computer languages. Many believe it is on its way out.* Linkedin.com. https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/what-cobol-facts-you-didnt-know-zolt%C3%A1n-feh%C3%A9rv%C3%A1ri
* *50 years of running COBOL*. (2010, December 6). Si.edu. https://americanhistory.si.edu/explore/stories/50-years-running-cobol
* *COBOL | computer language*. (n.d.). Encyclopedia Britannica. <https://www.britannica.com/technology/COBOL>
* Kidwell, P. (2010, December 6). *50 years of running COBOL*. Smithsonian National Museum of American History. Retrieved September 1, 2024, from <https://americanhistory.si.edu/explore/stories/50-years-running-cobol>
* China, C. R., & Goodwin, M. (2024, April 19). *What is COBOL?* Retrieved September 2, 2024, from https://www.ibm.com/topics/cobol