

# Day of the Programmer

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The **Day of the Programmer** is an international professional day that is celebrated on the 256th (hexadecimal 100th, or the 2<sup>8</sup>th) day of each year (September 13 during common years and on September 12 in leap years). It is officially recognized in Russia.<sup>[1][2]</sup>

The number 256 (2<sup>8</sup>) was chosen because it is the number of distinct values that can be represented with a byte, a value well known to programmers. 256 is also the highest power of two that is less than 365, the number of days in a common year.

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## Official recognition

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This particular day was proposed by Valentin Balt and Michael Cherviakov (aka htonus), employees of Parallel Technologies (a software company). As early as 2002, they tried to gather signatures for a petition to the government of Russia to recognize the day as the official Day of the Programmer.<sup>[3]</sup>

On July 24, 2009, the Ministry of Communications and Mass Media (Russia) issued a draft of an executive order on a new professional holiday, Day of the Programmer.<sup>[4][5]</sup>

On September 11, 2009, President of Russia Dmitry Medvedev signed the decree.<sup>[2][6]</sup>

## Chinese Programmer's Day

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In China, the programmer's day is October 24,<sup>[7]</sup> which has been established for many years.<sup>[8]</sup> The date was chosen because it can also be written as 1024, which is equal to 2<sup>10</sup> and corresponds to the Ki binary prefix. It is also a consistent date regardless of leap years.

## See also

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- [World Information Society Day](#)
- [System Administrator Appreciation Day](#)
- [Public holidays in Russia](#)
- [Secretary's Day](#)

## References

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2. "Dmitry Medvedev issued an executive order establishing a new professional holiday, the Day of the Programmer" (<https://web.archive.org/web/20100916182426/http://archive.kremlin.ru/eng/text/news/2009/09/221572.shtml>). Kremlin.ru. 2009-09-12. Archived from the original (<http://archive.kremlin.ru/eng/text/news/2009/09/221572.shtml>) on 2010-09-16. Retrieved 2009-09-12. "Day of the Programmer will be celebrated on the 256th day of each year, that is on September 13 or 12 depending on whether the year is a leap year."
3. «Праздник 256-го дня» (<https://archive.is/20120630150913/http://www.vecherka.ru/articleprint/4847>)
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