The C Language

The programming language was developed between the years 1969 to 1972 alongside the development of the Unix operating system. Originally a Bells lab employee ken Thompson decided to make a language for the new operating system from the language BCPL later known as B. But because the language was slow and couldn’t take advantage of some the full features of the operating system. Very few programs were ever written with it. This guided another Bells Lab employee Dennis Ritchie who restored features from BCPL and then created C.

Altair 8800, first commercially success personal computer

In 1974 Ed Roberts created the first commercially successful personal computer called the Altair 8800. When the Altair was created it had impacted the technology field greatly. It said it sparked the microcomputer revolution. Shortly after seeing the machine on the cover of an issue of Popular electronics Bill Gates and Paul Allen were influence greatly, they founded Microsoft on the possibilities that this machine could bring to field of technology. They set out to write the first programming language for the new machine. The language was called Altair BASIC.

‘C with Classes’ and C++

‘C with Classes’ is supposed to be a successor to the C programming language it was developed by Bjarne Stroustrup who started out working with The Simula 67 language which was the first language that to support project-oriented programming model. He saw the potential for object-oriented programming regarding software development. His goal was to add object-oriented programming to the C language. “His language included classes, basic inheritance, inlining, default function arguments, and strong type checking in addition to all the features of the C language.”

The first compiler for the ‘C with Classes’ language was called Cfront. The cool think about Cfront is that the compiler itself was largely written with the “C with Classes” language making it a self-hosting compiler. It was later found that the compiler was difficult to use because there were challenges involved with implementing new features. Overall, the creation of the compiler was a steppingstone for “C with classes” language as well as the UNIX operating system.

In 1983 the language changed its to C++. The + + was an operator within the C language used to increment a variable like other languages such as Javascript. Other features were added to the language features such as virtual functions, function overloading is two of the more noteworthy features. Some features regarding commenting using double forward slashes. Within in two years in 1985 the creator Bjarne Stroustrup created a reference called *The C++ Programming Language* and within that same year C++ became a commercial product.

In 1990 the Borland Turbo’s C++ compiler was released. Which allowed for many libraries were implemented, which granted further influence towards the continuing development of the C++ language. Within 1998 the first international standard for the C++ language was established was coined C++98. *The annotated C++ Reference Manuel* was a large influence in developing the standard at the time. The next standard was informally dubbed C + + 0x in 2005. The next standard wouldn’t be released until the mid-2011. The Boost library project which is still being used as reference towards the standard C++ library today by the C++ Standards Committee adding additional support and sources. New features that were implemented are features such as regular expression support, a randomization library, a new C++ time library, as well as implementing a new for loop syntax.

References:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Altair_8800>

<https://www.cplusplus.com/info/history/>

<https://spectrum.ieee.org/build-your-own-altair-8800-personal-computer>

<https://www.section.io/engineering-education/history-of-c-programming-language/>

<https://www.britannica.com/technology/C-computer-programming-language>