**Introduction to the C# programming language for ICT students**

What is C#, and where did it come from?

The C# programming language is an easy-to-use, powerful, object-oriented language created in 1999 and 2000 by Microsoft, and standardized worldwide through ECMA and ISO. [Anders Hejlsberg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anders_Heljsberg) is the lead architect and principal designer of C#.

It may surprise you to learn that it was basically Anders and three others who designed and created the language. Its design was intended to be close to C++, but include deep object-orientation, and component orientation.

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**What’s the origin of the name, C#?**

Of geeky interest, your professor offers the following collection of facts and educated guesses about the origin of how C# got its name:

* Around 1960, the programming language Algol 60 was created (you can consider this to be the language  “A” for our purposes here)
* In the UK, an extended version of Algol 60 was created, and was referred to as the Combined Programming Langauge (CPL)
* This terminology was refined to “basic CPL”, or, BCPL
* Dennis Ritchie, while at Bell Labs in the late 1960′s, transformed BCPL into a programming language named B
* Dennis and Brian Kernighan later (early 1970′s) enhanced its ideas into the C programming language
* Around 1980, Bjarne Stroustrup, also with Bell Labs, created C++
  + Taking hints from the ++ iterator, C++ was “one up” from C
* Around the year 2000, Anders Hejlsberg of Microsoft created C#
  + Taking hints from music, C# was “one semitone higher” [than C]