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Cyber-Ballistic Podiatry: A Beginner's Guide

The proliferation of modem programming languages (all of which seem to have stolen countless features from one another) sometimes makes it difficult to remember what language you're currently using. This guide is offered as a service to help programmers who find themselves in such dilemmas.

c: You shoot yourself in the foot.

c++: You accidentally create a dozen instances of yourself and shoot them all in the foot. Providing emergency medical assistance is impossible since you can't tell which are bitwise copies and which are just pointing at others and saying, "That's me, over there."

FORTRAN: You shoot yourself in each toe, iteratively, until you run out of toes; then you read in the next foot and repeat. If you run out of bullets, you continue anyway because you have no exception handling ability.

Modula-2: After realizing that you can't actually accomplish anything in this language, you shoot yourself in the head.

COBOL: USEing a COLT 45 HANDGUN, AIM gun at LEG.FOOT, THEN place ARM.HAND.FINGER on HANDGUN.TRIGGER and SQUEEZE. THEN return HANDGUN to HOLSTER. CHECK whether shoelace needs to be retied.

BASIC: Shoot yourself in foot with water pistol. On big systems, continue until entire lower body is waterlogged.

FOURTH: Foot in yourself shoot.

APL: You shoot yourself in the foot; then spend all day figuring out how to do it with fewer characters.

Pascal: The compiler won't let you shoot yourself in the foot.

Concurrent Euclid: You shoot yourself in somebody else's foot.

Motif: You spend days writing a UlL description of your foot, the trajectory, the bullet, and the intricate scrollwork on the ivory handle of the gun. When you finally get around to pulling the trigger, the gun jams.

Unix: %:s foot.c foot.h foot.o toe.c toe.o % rm *.0 rm: .0: No such file or directory % is %.

XBase: Shooting yourself is no problem. If you want to shoot yourself in the foot, you'll have to use Clipper.

Paradox: Not only can you shoot yourself in the foot, your users can too.

Revelation: You'll be able to shoot yourself in the foot just as soon as you figure out what all these bullets are for.

Visual Basic: You'll shoot yourself in the foot, but you'll have so much fun doing it that you won't care.

Prolog: You tell your program you want to be shot in the foot. The program figures out how to do it, but the syntax doesn't allow it to compile.

370 JCL: You send your foot down to MIS with a 4,OOO-page document explaining how you want it to be shot. Three years later, your foot comes back deep-fried.

F#: You can concurrently shoot all toes on both feet. Note that this language is summarized by Microsoft as a fantastic scripted/functional/imperative/object-oriented programming language. Since it is "a .NET variant of ML with a core language similar to that of the OCaml programming language, with interactive scripting like Python," see each of those individual sublanguages for ways to concurrently shoot your foot.

Perl: There are so many ways to shoot yourself in the foot. ∎