C: A VERY BRIEF HISTORY & STANDARDS

C HISTORY 1

- C evolved from two previous languages, BCPL (Basic Combined Programming Language) and B.
- BCPL developed in 1967 by Martin Richards as a language for writing OSes and compilers.
- Ken Thompson modeled many features in his language, B, after their counterparts in BCPL, and used B to create an early versions of UNIX operating system at bell Laboratories in 1970 on a DEC PDP-7 computer.
- Both BCPL and B were typeless languages: the only data type is machine word and access to other kinds of objects is by special operators or function calls.
- The C language developed from B by Dennis Ritchie at Bell Laboratories and was originally implemented on a DEC PDP-11 computer in 1972.
- It was named C for new language (after B).
- Initially, C used widely as the development language of the UNIX OS.
- Today, almost all new major OS are written in C including Windows.

C STANDARDS

- The rapid expansion of C over various types of computers led to many variations - similar but incompatible.
- Need to be standardized. In 1983, the X3J11 technical committee was created under the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Committee on Computer and Information Processing (X3) to provide an unambiguous and machine-independent definition of the language and approved in 1989, called ANSI C.
- Then, the document is referred to as ANSI/ISO 9899:1990.
- The second edition of Kernighan and Ritchie, published in 1988, this version called ANSI C, then used worldwide.
- The more general ANSI then adopted by ISO/IEC, known as ISO/IEC C.
- Historically, from ISO/IEC, C programming language evolved from C89/C90/C95, C99 and the latest is C11.

END-OF-C HISTORY & STANDARDS