

What is a Computer Program?

Computers are such efficient machines that some people regard their operation as a sort of magic. Capable of complex, repetitive tasks, computers can complete operations in a matter of milliseconds that would otherwise take humans hours to finish. At the same time, some people understand computers to be error-generating, troublesome machines that can't seem to do anything right. Well, the truth is that computers are neither brilliant nor stupid; to put it simply, they only as intelligent and accurate as the code put into them.

So what is a program? A program is merely a collection of code that dictates how, when, and in what way data should function. A program can be as simple as a few lines of code or as complex as thousands and even millions of lines of code. This code is written in a specific computer language, but regardless of the language, code always has the same purpose: to tell a program what to do.