

# Niklaus Wirth

## Quotes

*Program, Programming, Design, People, Example, Software, Learning, Faster,  
Simple, Development, Teacher, Engineering, Problem, Work, Causes, Code  
Quality, Yield, Aspect, Computer, Choices*

But quality of work can be expected only through personal satisfaction, dedication and enjoyment. In our profession, precision and perfection are not a dispensable luxury, but a simple necessity.

~Niklaus Wirth

Software gets slower faster than hardware gets faster.

~Niklaus Wirth

Indeed, the woes of Software Engineering are not due to lack of tools, or proper management, but largely due to lack of sufficient technical competence.

~Niklaus Wirth

A good designer must rely on experience, on precise, logic thinking; and on pedantic exactness. No magic will do.

~Niklaus Wirth

In the practical world of computing, it is rather uncommon that a program, once it performs correctly and satisfactorily, remains unchanged forever.

~Niklaus Wirth

A primary cause of complexity is that software vendors uncritically adopt almost any feature that users want.

~Niklaus Wirth

C++ is an insult to the human brain

~Niklaus Wirth

Time pressure gradually corrupts an engineer's standard of quality and perfection. It has a detrimental effect on people as well as products

~Niklaus Wirth

Increasingly, people seem to misinterpret complexity as sophistication,

which is baffling -- the incomprehensible should cause suspicion rather than admiration.

~Niklaus Wirth

Software gets slower faster than hardware gets faster. (Or, sometimes known by] Grove [the head of Intel] giveth and Gates [the head of Microsoft] taketh away.)

~Niklaus Wirth

Software is getting slower more rapidly than hardware becomes faster.

~Niklaus Wirth

Programming is usually taught by examples.

~Niklaus Wirth

Our ultimate goal is extensible programming. By this, we mean the construction of hierarchies of modules, each module adding new functionality to the system.

~Niklaus Wirth

Usually its users discover sooner or later that their program does not deliver all the desired results, or worse, that the results requested were not the ones really needed.

~Niklaus Wirth

But active programming consists of the design of new programs, rather than contemplation of old programs.

~Niklaus Wirth

Many people tend to look at programming styles and languages like religions: if you belong to one, you cannot belong to others. But this analogy is another fallacy.

~Niklaus Wirth

Prolific programmers contribute to certain disaster.

~Niklaus Wirth

Good engineering is characterized by gradual, stepwise refinement of products that yields increased performance under given constraints and with given resources.

~Niklaus Wirth

Nevertheless, I consider OOP as an aspect of programming in the large; that is, as an aspect that logically follows programming in the small and requires sound knowledge of procedural programming.

~Niklaus Wirth

I have never designed a language for its own sake.

~Niklaus Wirth

My duty as a teacher is to train, educate future programmers.

~Niklaus Wirth

Programs should be written and polished until they acquire publication quality.

~Niklaus Wirth

Experience shows that the success of a programming course critically depends on the choice of these examples.

~Niklaus Wirth

Clearly, programming courses should teach methods of design and construction, and the selected examples should be such that a gradual development can be nicely demonstrated.

~Niklaus Wirth

The possible solutions to a given problem emerge as the leaves of a tree, each node representing a point of deliberation and decision.

~Niklaus Wirth

It is evidently necessary to generate and test candidates for solutions in some systematic manner.

~Niklaus Wirth

Program construction consists of a sequence of refinement steps.

~Niklaus Wirth

The idea that one might derive satisfaction from his or her successful work, because that work is ingenious, beautiful, or just pleasing, has become ridiculed.

~Niklaus Wirth

Reliable and transparent programs are usually not in the interest of the designer.

~Niklaus Wirth

During the process of stepwise refinement, a notation which is natural to the problem in hand should be used as long as possible.

~Niklaus Wirth

Go To statement considered harmful.

~Niklaus Wirth

Software development is technical activity conducted by human beings.

~Niklaus Wirth

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