C - Basic Introduction

C is a general-purpose high level language that was originally developed by Dennis Ritchie for the Unix operating system. It was first implemented on the Digital Eqquipment Corporation PDP-11 computer in 1972.

The Unix operating system and virtually all Unix applications are written in the C language. C has now become a widely used professional language for various reasons.

- Easy to learn
- Structured language
- It produces efficient programs.
- It can handle low-level activities.
- It can be compiled on a variety of computers.

Facts about C

- C was invented to write an operating system called UNIX.
- C is a successor of B language which was introduced around 1970
- The language was formalized in 1988 by the American National Standard Institue (ANSI).
- By 1973 UNIX OS almost totally written in C.
- Today C is the most widely used System Programming Language.

- Most of the state of the art software have been implemented using C

Why to use C ?

C was initially used for system development work, in particular the programs that make-up the operating system. C was adoped as a system development language because it produces code that runs nearly as fast as code written in assembly language. Some examples of the use of C might be:

- Operating Systems
- Language Compilers
- Assemblers
- Text Editors
- Print Spoolers
- Network Drivers
- Modern Programs
- Data Bases
- Language Interpreters
- Utilities

C Program File

All the C programs are writen into text files with extension ".c" for example *hello.c*. You can use "vi" editor to write your C program into a file.

This tutorial assumes that you know how to edit a text file and how to write programming insturctions inside a program file.