Bjarne Stroustrup, who invented C++, explains in this interview that he still stands by the language he built, and thinks that most programming being done now is below par. While there is quality software out there, like Google, he says, "looking at the 'average' piece of code can make me cry. The structure is appalling, and the programmers clearly didn't think deeply about correctness, algorithms, data structures, or maintainability."

Rather than being sure of a system's quality and why it works so well, Stroustrup says programmers are "in a constant state of grasping at straws to get our work done. The snag is we often do not know how we did it: a system just 'sort of evolved' into something minimally acceptable." In order to remedy this situation, he thinks that education must be improved, using "more-appropriate design methods, and design for flexibility and for the long haul." However, this fix is difficult to achieve because computer users do not want to be inconvenienced by abrupt changes; only a gradual, wide-ranging effort toward change will be effective. "Software developers have neutralized the astounding performance of modern computer hardware by adding layer upon layer of over-elaborate [software] abstractions," says Stroustrup, whose solution is that more experts should be trained to use C++, as it as fallen out of the mainstream, rather than simply "dumb[ing] down" programming languages. He says the generality built into C++ was the result of his "view that to do higher-level stuff, to build complete applications, you first needed to buy, build, or borrow libraries providing appropriate abstractions."

Stroustrup believes that the large amount of criticism that has been aimed at C++ is a testament to how useful it really is.

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