

A Long, Strange Trip in 2.5 Acts...and Counting



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About the Presenter



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Sometimes, It Can Be Tough to Find Your Bearings When...

- You're an only child
- Your parents are two (older) Holocaust survivors from Poland
- Your next closest relative lives 100 miles away, with none anywhere near your age on the same continent
- You show up for school after speaking mostly Polish and Hebrew at home (in Hollywood)
- You attend 4 different elementary schools (while living at the same address), mostly switching mid-term
- Sanity finally arrives with Jr. High (7th-9th grades). Same school, friends, straight through. Heaven.

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Computers: The First Three Years



BASIC,
FORTRAN

HOLLYWOOD
HIGH SCHOOL
Home of the Trojans



Keck Center
(sqrt(5))



Cedars of Lebanon Hospital
Plotting library for a French
Dr.'s echocardiographic heart
analysis pkg (and crashed a
doctors' server once... *oops!*)

SCCS



APL, COBOL



IBM 360 Assembler

A Teacher Made a Big Difference: Thank You Gene Robidoux



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The First Genius Hack I Witnessed

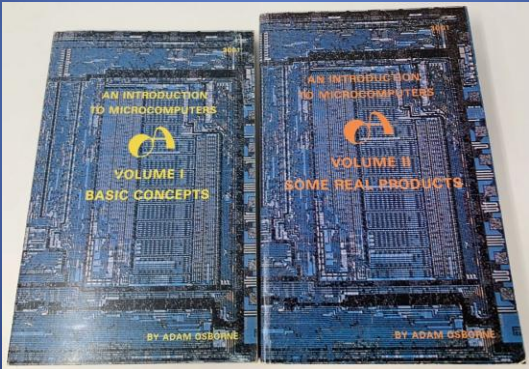


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Many thanks to Katelyn Zolman for the illustration!

Bought Adam Osborne's first book
from him across a huckster's table at an
SCCS swap meet...



The HP-25



My first programmable device

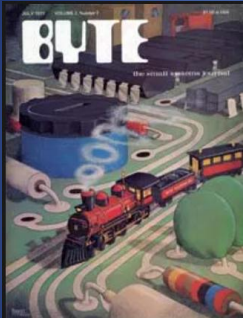
49 program-mable steps of volatile memory

The Machine... *



* ...that my life revolved around, 1975-1985-ish; the frugality of it all paid dividends down the road.

Early Writings



July '77

'78 (Creative Computing
Mag), '79 (Book)



1979 (?)
Greed (mine) delayed
publication of this article
by a year or more...

A One of a Kind Dorm



And a One of a Kind Friend



Edwin Paul Ziemba

- Ed Ziemba was a junior at Baker House when I showed up as a freshman in '76
- Ed *designed* and built his own rack-mount 8080-based microcomputer system, and of course wrote all the software for it
- Four years later we'd be on the verge of something huge together...

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Drop Day 1978



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Zenith Gave One to All the Top Guys in the Lab (not me ☺)...

Zenith Z-89



Zenith Z-89 in Paris 2008

Also known as Heathkit H89
Manufacturer Zenith Data Systems (ZDS)
Type Personal computer
Release date 1979; 45 years ago

In 1978, only two individuals at the MIT Lab for Computer Science had 9600 baud modems for personal use

Everyone else was stuck with 1200 baud

C was popular on the Unix Version 7 system (PDP 11/70) I administered...but tough to work with from home

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...So they needed a C compiler, as did I. And we all ran CP/M!



About the nicest thing anyone has ever written about me and BDS C: muq.sourceforge.net/muf3_toc.html#TOC26

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BDS C has a Wiki page (I don't...)

WIKIPEDIA

The Free Encyclopedia

Search Wikipedia

Search

Don't speak English?

3 languages

Contents

hide

(Top)

Reception

See also

References

External links

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Tools

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

BDS C (or the ***BD Software C Compiler***) is a [compiler](#) for a sizeable subset of the [C programming language](#), that ran on and generated code for the [Intel 8080](#) and [Zilog Z80](#) processors. It was the first C compiler for [CP/M](#).^[1] It was written by [Leor Zolman](#)^[2] and first released in 1979 when he was 20 years old. "BDS" stands for "Brain Damage Software."^[3]

BDS C was popular and influential among [CP/M](#) users and developers. It ran much faster than other Z80-hosted compilers. It was possible to run BDS C on single-[floppy](#) machines with as little as 30K of [RAM](#) in comparison to most other commercial compilers which required many passes and the writing of intermediate files to disk.

BDS C

Original author(s)

Initial release

Stable release

Operating system

Type

License

Website

Leor Zolman

1979; 46 years ago

1.60c

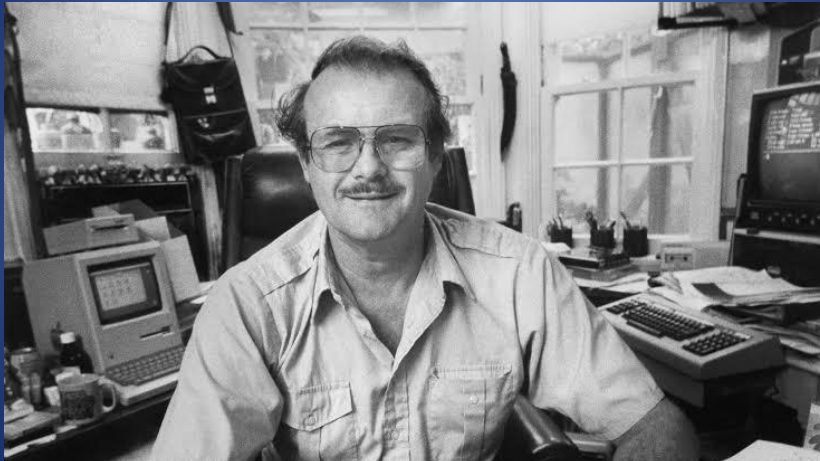
CP/M

Compiler

Public domain

www.bdssoft.com/resources/bdsc.html

Mr. Chaos Manor



MARC is Born

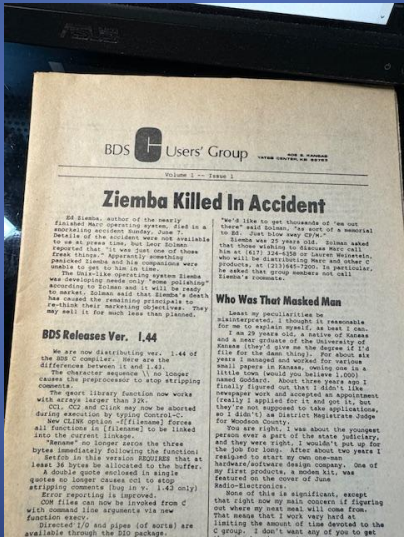
- While I worked on BDS C, Ed Ziemba was even busier
- The OS he wrote was morphing into a mini-Unix
- Soon BDS C for MARC joined the party
- My friend Leo Kenen wrote a CP/M emulator to allow off-the-shelf CP/M software to run unmodified under MARC
- We did a demo for Dennis Ritchie at Usenix in Boston (I was a bit star struck)
- We were about a month away from an official announcement. Everything worked.

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June 7, 1981

BDS C Users' Group Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

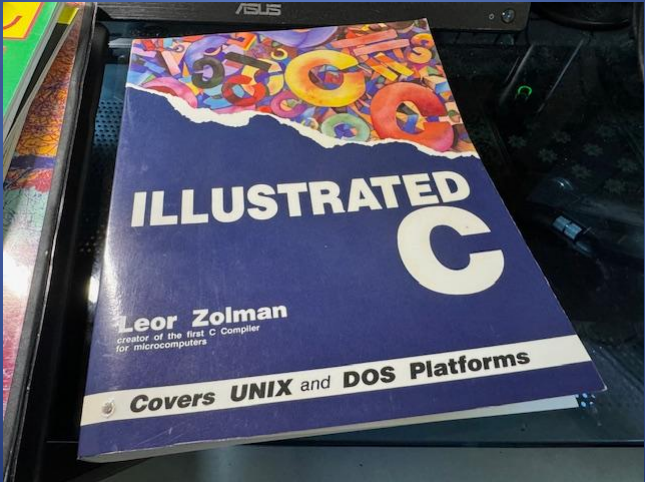


10 years of soul-seeking ensued...

Then I'm in Kansas, married with one kid and one on the way, helping to run a publishing company

And knowing I needed a new career.

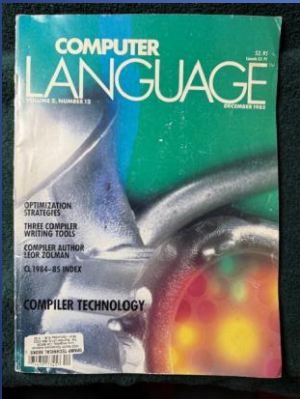
Hey, Let's Publish Books!
(Who Wants to Be the Guinea Pig?)



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Later Writings

Dec. 1985



July 2001 as STL was picking up steam

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Settling Down

- The return to Boston from Kansas in '92 marked the half-way point in my life
- Change is seldom easy...
 - But I knew I didn't want to code for a living anymore.
- It was time to go into a new line of business.

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BU Corporate Education Center

- P.J. ("Bill") Plauger referred me to BUCEC in 1992, launching my "second" career, training



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Soylent Green

- “It’s the PEOPLE!”
- C++ gurus/educators who inspired me:
 - Scott Meyers
 - Dan Saks
 - Herb Sutter
 - Andrei Alexandrescu
 - Steve Dewhurst
 - P.J. Plauger
 - Bjarne Stroustrup

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STLFilt

STLFilt: An STL Error Message Decryptor for C++

Open Source Freeware by Leor Zolman, Supporting:

Comeau C++

gcc 2.95.x/3.x/4.x (Dev-C++ compatible)

MSVC++ 6/7/8/9 (incl. Dinkum Libraries)

Metrowerks CodeWarrior Pro 7/8

Borland C++ / C++Builder

Intel C++ 7/8

EDG Front End (Generic)

Digital Mars C++

Please Note: Active Development on STLFilt has ended. The author sincerely hopes the C++ Standards Committee adopts "Concepts" sooner rather than later, rendering tools such as STLFilt unnecessary...

STLFilt simplifies and/or reformats long-winded C++ error and warning messages, with a focus on STL-related diagnostics (and for MSVC 6, it fully eliminates C4786 warnings and their detritus). The result renders many of even the most cryptic diagnostics comprehensible.

The active ingredient in each distribution is a Perl script, so you'll need a Perl interpreter installed; [ActivePerl](#) works best, and it's free.

The downloads follow, organized by platform:

- [Microsoft Visual C++ 6/7/8/9: stlfilt.zip](#) (484K, updated 10/22/2007). Includes the "Proxy" CL compiler, multi-platform-aware STLTask tray-resident control utility ([screen shot](#)), and support for long type-name wrapping (see



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My Daughter, Katelyn



Katie spent her college junior year abroad, returned in 2011, graduated...

...then crashed.

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What's Going On?

- Katie spent much of the next ten years up in her room with the door shut
- No one (including therapists) seemed to be able to figure it out
- Then in 2021, Katie self-diagnosed (w/therapists' help) as autistic!
- As soon as we began to talk about it...
...my own life began to make sense.

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Adobe Stock | #110537402

Some Terms I've Learned in the Past Year and a Half

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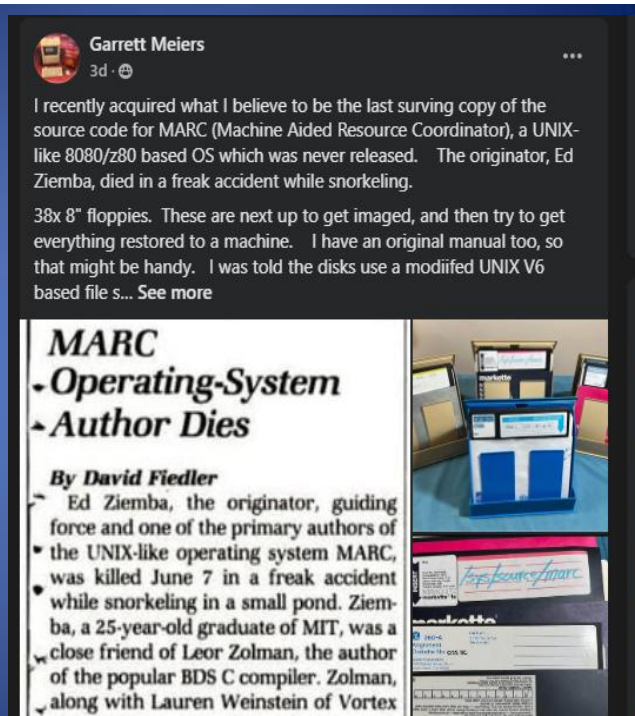
So What Were Those 2.5 Acts?

- Act I: Stay sane; write a C compiler to gain some self-respect
- Act II: Have a family, write/deliver IT training with some style
- Act III: Integrate ASD-awareness; rediscover my heart.
 - Two years in: Major inroads have been made. Now I know I'm not just "broken"

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Posted on
Facebook
2/27/2025

in the
CP/M Users and
Programmers
Group



"I have always wished for my computer to be as easy to use as my telephone; my wish has come true because I can no longer figure out how to use my telephone."

-Bjarne Stroustrup

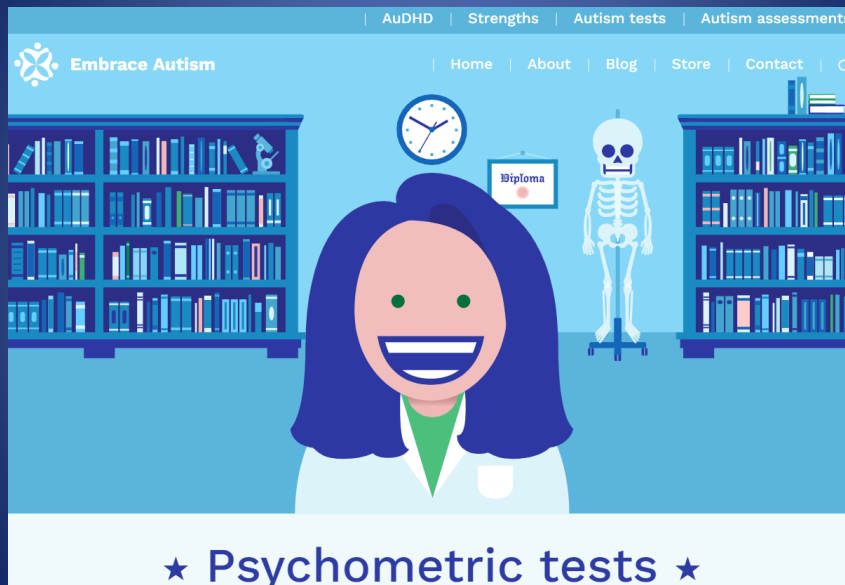
Thanks for attending!
Glad to be a part of VCF at last!

(If time permits, some resources follow)

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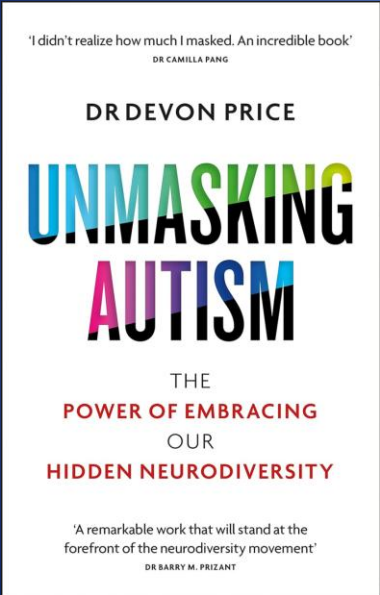
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Web site – embrace-autism.com



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Resources – Books on Autism

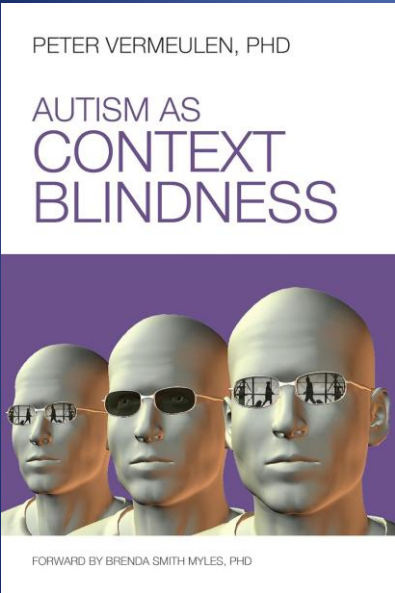


Very popular one right now. Both of my kids gave it to me for Xmas... independently! 😊

<https://shorturl.at/SWRBY>

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Autism Books

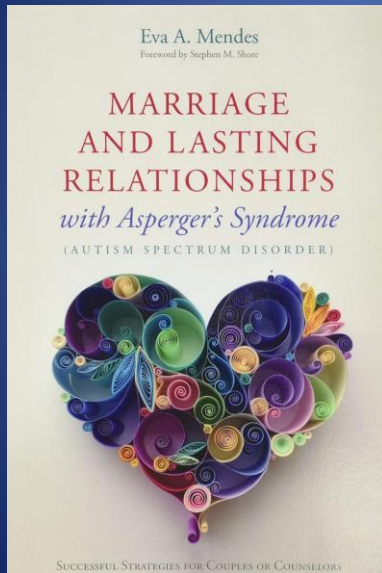


Best book I've read so far on what that major neuro-difference might actually be...

<https://shorturl.at/uBC6z>

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Autism Books



For when there's a
one ASD person and
one NT person
working on a
relationship

<https://shorturl.at/cs1ds>

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Internal Family Systems (IFS) Therapy

- I've done *much* psychotherapy through the years
- The form that was most supportive and has continued that way right through the Dx and beyond is IFS
- The magic word is:
non-pathologizing
- Having "multiple personalities" is not a disorder; it's regular human nature

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Google's Summary of IFS:

Internal Family Systems (IFS) therapy, developed by Richard Schwartz, views the mind as a system of interconnected parts, each with its own unique role and perspective, and aims to help individuals access their "Self" (a core of wisdom and compassion) to heal and integrate these parts.



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IFS Resources

- An introductory IFS video by Dick Schwartz:
<https://shorturl.at/sfPJn>
- Free mini-course in IFS:
<https://shorturl.at/XJ3is>
- Text introduction to IFS:
<https://shorturl.at/ivU78>
- Home of the official IFS training provider:
<https://ifs-institute.com/>
- The not-for-profit org. I support, funding outcome studies:
<https://www.foundationifs.org/>

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Meditation

- Also a nod to Buddhist Vipassana (or “Insight”) meditation, another tremendously valuable mindfulness practice 15 years on.



Photos are from the Insight Meditation Society in Barre, MA.

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