Abstract
The CS1 course is arguably the most important course offered in a Computer Science major; if students struggle in the course, they are likely to drop out of the major, and if certain key topics are covered, they may struggle in other courses later in their undergraduate program. For this reason, it is not surprising that the programming language used in a CS1 course as well as the teaching methodology is frequently a contentious subject. Richard Reid of Michigan State University kept a list of programming languages used in CS1 courses from the early 1990s until his retirement in 1999, and Reid’s former student, Frances Van Scoy, continued compiling the List until 2006. Siegfried et al. updated the List in 2011 and 2015. The historical data shows the different languages (and in some cases, approaches) used by the schools reported on the Reid List. Additionally, in compiling the last two lists, there were trends spotted, with some feedback from faculty at the Reid List schools, stating the reasons for changes that they made as well as why they currently use and previously used the various languages.

Richard Reid’s List
Richard Reid – tracked programming languages used in computing programs in the early 1990s.

Colleges were included on the list if they replied to Dr. Reid with reliable information.

Richard Reid began tracking programming languages in computing programs in the early 1990s.
The list was updated continuously.
A new list was released, when 10% of included colleges changed their language. (~ 2 per annum) until Reid’s retirement in 1999.
Frances Van Scoy continued compiling the list until 2006.
Siegfried et al. – updated the list in 2011 an 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Colleges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New England</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MidAtlantic (incl. DC)</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southeast</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kentucky and W. Virginia</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MidWest</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SouthWest</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alaska and Hawaii</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 - Geographic Distribution Breakdown of US Reid List Colleges

Methodology – Which Course?
The list was updated continuously.
A new list was released, when 10% of included colleges changed their language. (~ 2 per annum) until Reid’s retirement in 1999.
Frances Van Scoy continued compiling the list until 2006.
Siegfried et al. (2011) – updated the list.

Methodology – Which Language?
The programming language was determined by:
Examining the syllabus
Checking the bookstore’s website for a textbook adoption
Calling the bookstore
Members of the department were contacted to obtain this information.

Trends
Faculty replies to e-mail provided additional information. A few trends appeared:
Many Programs Used Different Programming Languages after the Introductory Course
Movement Away From Java
Movement To Java
Different Themes and Language in the Introductory Course
Language Should Not Matter
There were various reasons for Choosing a Particular Language

Conclusions
Python’s popularity is growing at the expense of Java.
88% of the Reid List schools use one of only 4 languages: Java, Python, C++, C.
More schools on the Reid List have shifted to Python than any other language.
More schools have shifted away from Java than any other language.
Python, Java and C++ remain the three most popular programming languages in CS1 courses.
Other languages may be used later in the curriculum.

Plans for the 28th Reid List Survey
The survey for the 29th Reid List will take place during the Spring 2019 Term. In addition, to finding the language used in CS1 courses, the following information is also sought:
Language used in CS 2 course
Paradigm used in CS1
Language previously used in CS 1 and CS2 and reason for changing

Reference

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