COS 109:   Computers in our World
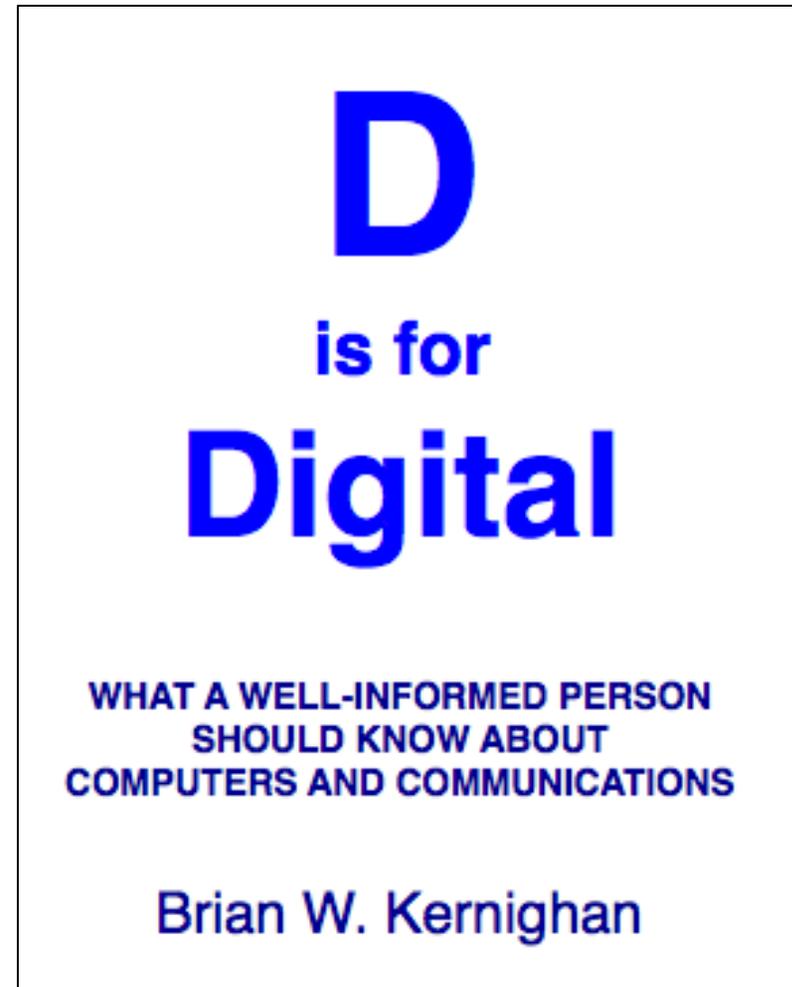
- Brian Kernighan
  - bwk@cs.princeton.edu   www.cs.princeton.edu/~bwk
  - 311 Computer Science Building, 258-2089 (email is always better)
  - office hours Mon & Tue 2:30-4:00, or make an appointment,
    - or just drop in any time

- fill out the survey, including your lab preferences
- labs start next week

- COS 109 web site:
  - www.cs.princeton.edu/courses/archive/fall12/cos109
- COS 109 on Piazza:
  - piazza.com/princeton/fall2012/cos109/home

Administrivia (check the web page and Piazza!)

- **notes will be posted online**
  - **but not everything will be in them or in the textbook**
- **readings: 1-2 hours/week, before class**
- **8 problem sets: 1-2 hours/week**
  - **the first one is posted, due Wed Sept 26**
- **8 labs: 2-3 hours/week plus reading to prepare**
  - **labs start next week somewhere in Friend Center**
    posted Sunday evening, due Friday midnight
  - **let us know your preferred sections so we can plan**
    come to any, all, or no sessions any time
    you can do most labs in your own room on your own computer, but no help from us
- **open-book take-home midterm during midterm week**
- **open-book sit-down-in-a-big-room final exam in January**
- **grading (approximately):**
  20% problem sets + 20% labs + 20% midterm + 40% final
    class participation helps; <u>frequent absences will definitely hurt</u>
    remember that P/D/F has three possible outcomes

Textbook

- available at Labyrinth
- $12.78 at Amazon
- there's a Kindle edition
  - but you can't take ebooks into exams!

D
is for
Digital

WHAT A WELL-INFORMED PERSON
SHOULD KNOW ABOUT
COMPUTERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Brian W. Kernighan

Outline

- ## hardware (3-4 weeks)
  - how computers represent and process information
  - what's inside a computer, how it works, how it's built

- ## software (3-4 weeks)
  - how we tell computers how to do things
  - a very gentle introduction to programming in Javascript

- ## communications (3-4 weeks)
  - how the Internet and Web work
  - threats and countermeasures: security, privacy, cryptography, ...

- ## along the way
  - history, current events, QR, ...