

Bertrand Meyer

Medium-length biography (250 words)

Bertrand Meyer is a computer scientist, researcher, and author who has fundamentally shaped the landscape of modern software engineering. He is best known as the creator of the Eiffel programming language and the pioneer of **Design by Contract (DbC)**—a revolutionary methodology that treats software construction as a system of mutual, mathematically precise obligations between components.

Meyer received a highly diverse education, holding engineering degrees from the École Polytechnique and Télécom Paris in France, a Master of Science from Stanford University, a Doctorate from the University of Nancy, and a degree in Russian literature from the Sorbonne. After working in industry at Électricité de France and teaching at the University of California, Santa Barbara, he founded Eiffel Software in 1985 to commercialize his language and tools.

From 2001 to 2016, Meyer served as Professor of Software Engineering and Department Chair at ETH Zurich, where his "inverted curriculum" approach to teaching transformed computer science education. He later served as Professor and Provost at the Constructor Institute of Technology in Schaffhausen, Switzerland, while continuing his entrepreneurial activities with Propulsion Academy (sold in 2022) and Recognize AI.

A prolific author, his seminal textbook *Object-Oriented Software Construction*, 2nd edition, Prentice Hall, 1997, earned the Jolt Award and remains one of the most cited works in computer science. For his profound impact on software quality, Meyer has received the field's highest honors, including the ACM Software System Award, the IEEE Computer Society Harlan D. Mills Award, the Dahl-Nygaard Prize, and election as an ACM Fellow.