Stub Encyclopedia Article

Stub

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Stub

A stub is a skeleton program or routine used early in the software development process to substitute for a fully functional program that has not been developed yet. Stub programs are temporary sections of **programming code** that assist in testing interfaces to and from the complete program.

Minimal programming code is written in a stub. A stub must contain enough code to be compiled and linked with the other related programs as well as test **data** values being passed to and from other programs. To do this the stub must include at least the **declarations** of variables and functions. In addition programmers sometimes include simple functionality or text **debugging** messages that allow them to view the sequence of logic being executed by the stub.

As the development process proceeds, stub functions are replaced one at a time with the real functions. This allows the programmer to isolate errors, improving the quality of development.