

The debate over the definition of computer science is as old as our discipline itself. In 1987, he wrote "...the core challenge for computing science is hence a conceptual one: what (abstract) mechanisms we can conceive without getting lost in complexities of our own making." [3] The problem with Dijkstra's definition is that it ignores implementation issues. These issues are very important to many computer scientists. A good example of a broad definition is the one given by Newell, Perils, and Simon in 1967. Their definition simply states that "computer science is the study of computers." The Computing Sciences Accreditation Board (CSAB) has tried to improve on this definition. On the other hand, a broad definition will include all relevant cases but might also include some concepts that are marginally legitimate at best. In his definition, Dijkstra prefers to limit our discipline to an intellectual exercise. 2