



Too Many Numbers

The media loves to report on millions, billions, and trillions, but frequently makes basic mistakes or presents such numbers in misleading ways. This talk will explore how to deal with intimidating and confusing numbers – and how to recognize how numbers are often misused in journalism, advertising, and politics. The talk will include many examples from the speaker’s latest book, “Millions, Billions, Zillions.” The target audience of this book is “all of us” – even diehard math-phobes will learn some ideas, shortcuts, and strategies to work with the numbers that are trying to fool us.

Brian Kernighan received a PhD in electrical engineering from Princeton in 1969. He was a member of the Computing Science Research center at Bell Labs until 2000, and he is now a professor in the Computer Science Department at Princeton.

He is a co-creator of several programming languages, including AWK and AMPL, and of a number of tools for document preparation. He is the co-author of a dozen books and some technical papers, and he holds 5 patents. He was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 2002. His research areas include programming languages, tools and interfaces that make computers easier to use, often for non-specialist users. He has also written two books on technology for non-technical audiences: *Understanding the Digital World* in 2017 and *Millions, Billions, Zillions: Defending Yourself in a World of Too Many Numbers*, which was published in November 2018.

Date:	Thursday, December 13, 2018, 8:00 pm. (Refreshments and networking at 7:30 pm.)
Place:	Large Auditorium, Room CS 104 Computer Science Building, Princeton University
Information:	Dennis Mancl (908) 285-1066
On-line info:	http://PrincetonACM.acm.org

All Princeton ACM / IEEE-CS meetings are open to the public. Students and their parents are welcome. There is no admission charge, and refreshments are served.

A pre-meeting dinner is held at 6:00 p.m. at Ruby Tuesday’s Restaurant on Route 1. Please send email to princetonacm@acm.org in advance if you plan to attend the dinner.

