

# CHANGES IN ADVANCED PLACEMENT COMPUTER

## SCIENCE: CASE STUDIES AND C++

### PANEL DISCUSSION

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For over 40 years, the College Board Advanced Placement Program has provided high school students with the opportunity to take courses that correspond to introductory-level college courses, and, through standardized examinations, receive college credit and placement. The AP Computer Science exam was first offered ten years ago, and is currently taken by about 10,000 high school students annually.

The dynamic nature of computer science provides special challenges in creating nationwide curricula and examinations for high school students. The AP Computer Science Exam Development Committee has recently adopted two changes to the AP course. One, the use of a casestudy during the course and on the exam, appeared for the first time on the 1995 exam. The other, changing the language of the exam from Pascal to a subset of C++, will take place no sooner than the 1998 exam.

Michael J. Clancy, Senior Lecturer in Computer Science at the University of California, Berkeley, and a former chair of the committee, will describe case studies and how they are used in the AP course and on the AP exam.

David G. Kay, Director of Introductory Programs in Information and Computer Science at the University of California, Irvine, and a member of the committee, will describe the reasons for the decision to change to C++.