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SLANG IN EVERYDAY LIFE AND PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATION

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Information technologies develop not only through new software and devices, but also through a unique professional language. The specialized IT vocabulary includes professional slang, which reflects the culture of programmers, their experience, humor, respect for their jobs and one another. Many terms originally appeared as professional humor, creative analogy or metaphors, yet over time they have become part of professional communication. The origins of IT slang can help gain a greater insight into the specifics of today's digital society. Here are some classic examples of IT slang, their origins, and how they reflect the unique culture of IT professionals.

"Bug" and "debugging" are perhaps the most well-known terms in the IT field today. In 1947, engineers at Harvard University discovered a moth in a computer relay. The logbook stated — "First case of bug being found". From then on, design flaws have been termed "bugs", and fixing them has become known as "debugging".

"Patch" has a physical history. In the 1960s, punched paper tape was used in programming. A programmer cut out part of the tape, which had an error, to replace it with a paper patch. Now, "patch" is a software update fixing errors in the original software.

"Legacy code" is an old code that still works but difficult to understand or modify.

"Hotfix" is an emergency update applied to a running system to fix critical issues without downtime.

"Spaghetti code" is a program with a tangled code, reminding a bowl of spaghetti.

"Rubber ducking" is an effective debugging method and an example of programmer humor. Explaining your code to a rubber duck helps you find logic errors.

"Vibe coding" appeared in 2025 describing programming with the help of AI, whereby developers provide high-level instructions to an artificial intelligence system, and accept the system's response as the generated code without fully understanding its logic. Derived from "good vibes" it means a relaxed and intuitive approach to software development.

Many IT abbreviations have developed alternative meanings through the years. "HR" is thought of as "human resources" but, for a system administrator, "HR" stands for "hardware reset". Another humorous definition for "HR" is "human robot", which describes the monotonous and automated work that happens in most offices today.

Thus, IT slang is not only terms used by IT professionals; it encapsulates the history of information technology, the culture of an engineer, and day-to-day activities of programmers. Many slang terms represent a historical event or joke and therefore, have been important to the evolution of how we communicate digitally today.