

How Software is Developed

There are two methods in developing software.

1. The software is developed from the top down.
2. The software is developed from the bottom up.

How Software is Developed (continued):

Top down - is where one or more individuals think they know what a program needs to do. They do not get a lot of input from the individuals who will be using the software. An example of top down would be Microsoft's Excel when it was first released.

How Software is Developed (continued):

Bottom up – involves interviewing the individuals who would be using the software and getting their ideas of what is needed. In Ball Research's 25 years of developing software and managing data, we have always used the bottom up approach.

How Software is Developed (continued):

Programmers like to know everything about the subject before they start writing code. Once you start writing code, questions are bound to come up. This causes the systems consultant to go back to the sources for more information by asking more questions.

How Software is Developed (continued):

The reason this happens is the sources are so used to doing the job, they forget steps in the process.

One final point: the software screens must be intuitive and F1 Help must always be provided.