Introduction to:
Computers & Programming:
Planning a Complex Program

Adam Meyers
New York University
How to Solve a Complex Problem

• Break down big problem into small problems
  – For each small problem either:
    • Solve the problem if you know how
    • Break it down further if you don't know how to solve it and:
      – Try to solve each of the smaller problems
      – Etc.

• We will ignore our current limitations in Python: We can implement this later in the term
Until we find problems easy enough to solve.
Exercise – Let's Write an Algorithm for a Complex Problem

• Given
  – Today's date:
    • Month, day, year, and day of the week
  – An arbitrary number of days in the future (e.g., 1500)

• How should we go about identifying that day in the future?
  – Month, day, year and day of the week
How Can We Solve This Problem?

1. Some Pieces of the Problem
   a) Find the year
   b) Find the month
   c) Find the day
   d) Find the day of the week

2. Are all calculation dependent on each other or are any independent of the others, i.e., is there an order

3. We will Write Out a combination of Code and Pseudo Code for Solving This Problem

4. I will be asking for contributions via voice and via etherpad