

Alan C. Kay, "Extracting Energy from the Turing Tarpit"

Part of Turing's fame and inspiration came from showing how a simple computer can simulate every other computer, and so "anything is possible". The "Turing Tarpit" is getting caught by "anything is possible but nothing is easy". One way to get caught is to stay close to the underlying machine with our languages so that things seem comprehensible in the small but the code blows up into intractable millions of lines. What if we used "anything is possible" to make very different kinds of computers which require new learning but the code compactly fits the problem and stays small?