

The readability of source code is improved with refactoring of the code in which the non-functional parts of the code are restructured without the functionality being affected. In contrast, obfuscation is the intention of creating source code which is difficult to understand. These concepts are related to the concept of maintainability in software engineering. Maintainability is the magnitude of how easy a product can be maintained after it has been produced. Low maintainability in a product can result in a software crisis. The term software crisis was used in the days where produced software was inefficient, over-budgeted, unmaintainable and of low quality.

The concept of modular programming is that every module or element in a piece of software is required to achieve the desired functionality in that software. The decomposition of software into these elements or modules is necessary for software engineers to understand the whole structure of the software. The lower the dependability each module has on one another, the better the readability and maintainability of the software. This is a concept known as low coupling and high cohesion. In contrast to modular programming, a monolithic application is a software application which is designed without modularity. This means it is a single-tiered application where its user interface and data access code are combined into one structure.