

Debugging is often done with IDEs. Standalone debuggers like GDB are also used, and these often provide less of a visual environment, usually using a command line. Whatever the approach to development may be, the final program must satisfy some fundamental properties. Debugging is a very important task in the software development process since having defects in a program can have significant consequences for its users. Provided the functions in a library follow the appropriate run-time conventions (e.g., method of passing arguments), then these functions may be written in any other language. Readability is important because programmers spend the majority of their time reading, trying to understand, reusing and modifying existing source code, rather than writing new source code. Methods of measuring programming language popularity include: counting the number of job advertisements that mention the language, the number of books sold and courses teaching the language (this overestimates the importance of newer languages), and estimates of the number of existing lines of code written in the language (this underestimates the number of users of business languages such as COBOL). As early as the 9th century, a programmable music sequencer was invented by the Persian Banu Musa brothers, who described an automated mechanical flute player in the Book of Ingenious Devices. One approach popular for requirements analysis is Use Case analysis. High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware. The following properties are among the most important: In computer programming, readability refers to the ease with which a human reader can comprehend the purpose, control flow, and operation of source code. Programmable devices have existed for centuries. Languages form an approximate spectrum from "low-level" to "high-level"; "low-level" languages are typically more machine-oriented and faster to execute, whereas "high-level" languages are more abstract and easier to use but execute less quickly. Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected. High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware. These compiled languages allow the programmer to write programs in terms that are syntactically richer, and more capable of abstracting the code, making it easy to target varying machine instruction sets via compilation declarations and heuristics. Later a control panel (plug board) added to his 1906 Type I Tabulator allowed it to be programmed for different jobs, and by the late 1940s, unit record equipment such as the IBM 602 and IBM 604, were programmed by control panels in a similar way, as were the first electronic computers. Assembly languages were soon developed that let the programmer specify instruction in a text format (e.g., ADD X, TOTAL), with abbreviations for each operation code and meaningful names for specifying addresses. While these are sometimes considered programming, often the term software development is used for this larger overall process – with the terms programming, implementation, and coding reserved for the writing and editing of code per se. In 1206, the Arab engineer Al-Jazari invented a programmable drum machine where a musical mechanical automaton could be made to play different rhythms and drum patterns, via pegs and cams. The choice of language used is subject to many considerations, such as company policy, suitability to task, availability of third-party packages, or individual preference. This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs. Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process. Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem. This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs. Some languages are very popular for particular kinds of applications, while some languages are regularly used to write many different kinds of applications.