

However, with the concept of the stored-program computer introduced in 1949, both programs and data were stored and manipulated in the same way in computer memory. Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected. Trade-offs from this ideal involve finding enough programmers who know the language to build a team, the availability of compilers for that language, and the efficiency with which programs written in a given language execute. By the late 1960s, data storage devices and computer terminals became inexpensive enough that programs could be created by typing directly into the computers. However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837. Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability.

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. Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use. This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs. For this purpose, algorithms are classified into orders using so-called Big O notation, which expresses resource use, such as execution time or memory consumption, in terms of the size of an input. Some text editors such as Emacs allow GDB to be invoked through them, to provide a visual environment. 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. A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. Computer programmers are those who write computer software. 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. The first computer program is generally dated to 1843, when mathematician Ada Lovelace published an algorithm to calculate a sequence of Bernoulli numbers, intended to be carried out by Charles Babbage's Analytical Engine. There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks. For example, when a bug in a compiler can make it crash when parsing some large source file, a simplification of the test case that results in only few lines from the original source file can be sufficient to reproduce the same crash.

Trial-and-error/divide-and-conquer is needed: the programmer will try to remove some parts of the original test case and check if the problem still exists. Unreadable code often leads to bugs, inefficiencies, and duplicated code. This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs. Code-breaking algorithms have also existed for centuries. Computer programmers are those who write computer software. This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs.