

Programmers typically use high-level programming languages that are more easily intelligible to humans than machine code, which is directly executed by the central processing unit. Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards. Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem. Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability. Auxiliary tasks accompanying and related to programming include analyzing requirements, testing, debugging (investigating and fixing problems), implementation of build systems, and management of derived artifacts, such as programs' machine code. Some languages are more prone to some kinds of faults because their specification does not require compilers to perform as much checking as other languages. In the 9th century, the Arab mathematician Al-Kindi described a cryptographic algorithm for deciphering encrypted code, in A Manuscript on Deciphering Cryptographic Messages. Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability. It is very difficult to determine what are the most popular modern programming languages. Programming languages are essential for software development. Use of a static code analysis tool can help detect some possible problems. 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. Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability. For example, COBOL is still strong in corporate data centers often on large mainframe computers, Fortran in engineering applications, scripting languages in Web development, and C in embedded software. Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process. It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones. Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation. Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use. 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. It involves designing and implementing algorithms, step-by-step specifications of procedures, by writing code in one or more programming languages. 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. 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). 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. Debugging is a very important task in the software development process since having defects in a program can have significant consequences for its users. It is very difficult to determine what are the most popular modern programming languages.