

Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem. In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them. Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem. Programs were mostly entered using punched cards or paper tape. 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. Programming languages are essential for software development. Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process. However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837. 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. In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them. A similar technique used for database design is Entity-Relationship Modeling (ER Modeling). Computer programming or coding is the composition of sequences of instructions, called programs, that computers can follow to perform tasks. 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. Debugging is a very important task in the software development process since having defects in a program can have significant consequences for its users. Code-breaking algorithms have also existed for centuries. However, readability is more than just programming style. In the 9th century, the Arab mathematician Al-Kindi described a cryptographic algorithm for deciphering encrypted code, in A Manuscript on Deciphering Cryptographic Messages. 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). Code-breaking algorithms have also existed for centuries. FORTRAN, the first widely used high-level language to have a functional implementation, came out in 1957, and many other languages were soon developed—in particular, COBOL aimed at commercial data processing, and Lisp for computer research. Many programmers use forms of Agile software development where the various stages of formal software development are more integrated together into short cycles that take a few weeks rather than years. 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. However, because an assembly language is little more than a different notation for a machine language, two machines with different instruction sets also have different assembly languages. Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms). Use of a static code analysis tool can help detect some possible problems.