

It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones. 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. Debugging is a very important task in the software development process since having defects in a program can have significant consequences for its users. Some text editors such as Emacs allow GDB to be invoked through them, to provide a visual environment. A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use. After the bug is reproduced, the input of the program may need to be simplified to make it easier to debug. 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. 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. 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. 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. It involves designing and implementing algorithms, step-by-step specifications of procedures, by writing code in one or more programming languages. By the late 1960s, data storage devices and computer terminals became inexpensive enough that programs could be created by typing directly into the computers. 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. 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. Programming languages are essential for software development. In the 9th century, the Arab mathematician Al-Kindi described a cryptographic algorithm for deciphering encrypted code, in A Manuscript on Deciphering Cryptographic Messages. Various visual programming languages have also been developed with the intent to resolve readability concerns by adopting non-traditional approaches to code structure and display. Some text editors such as Emacs allow GDB to be invoked through them, to provide a visual environment. 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. 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. 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. Code-breaking algorithms have also existed for centuries. Expert programmers are familiar with a variety of well-established algorithms and their respective complexities and use this knowledge to choose algorithms that are best suited to the circumstances. When debugging the problem in a GUI, the programmer can try to skip some user interaction from the original problem description and check if remaining actions are sufficient for bugs to appear.