

Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem. 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. 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. Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem. 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. A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. It is very difficult to determine what are the most popular modern programming languages. Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards. By the late 1960s, data storage devices and computer terminals became inexpensive enough that programs could be created by typing directly into the 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. Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help. 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. 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 academic field and the engineering practice of computer programming are both largely concerned with discovering and implementing the most efficient algorithms for a given class of problems. Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process. Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process. In the 9th century, the Arab mathematician Al-Kindi described a cryptographic algorithm for deciphering encrypted code, in A Manuscript on Deciphering Cryptographic Messages. 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. 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 affects the aspects of quality above, including portability, usability and most importantly maintainability. Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use. Code-breaking algorithms have also existed for centuries. They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones. 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. In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them.