

Programs were mostly entered using punched cards or paper tape. 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. 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. A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs. 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. 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. 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. After the bug is reproduced, the input of the program may need to be simplified to make it easier to debug. Languages form an approximate spectrum from "low-level" to "high-level"; "low-level" languages are typically more machine-oriented and faster to execute, whereas "high-level" languages are more abstract and easier to use but execute less quickly. 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. High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware. Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability. However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837. He gave the first description of cryptanalysis by frequency analysis, the earliest code-breaking algorithm. Some of these factors include: The presentation aspects of this (such as indents, line breaks, color highlighting, and so on) are often handled by the source code editor, but the content aspects reflect the programmer's talent and skills. 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. They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones. Use of a static code analysis tool can help detect some possible problems. 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. Some languages are very popular for particular kinds of applications, while some languages are regularly used to write many different kinds of applications. Programmable devices have existed for centuries. Some of these factors include: The presentation aspects of this (such as indents, line breaks, color highlighting, and so on) are often handled by the source code editor, but the content aspects reflect the programmer's talent and skills.