

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. Readability is important because programmers spend the majority of their time reading, trying to understand, reusing and modifying existing source code, rather than writing new source 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. Allen Downey, in his book *How To Think Like A Computer Scientist*, writes: Many computer languages provide a mechanism to call functions provided by shared libraries. Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process. One approach popular for requirements analysis is Use Case analysis. 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. 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. Implementation techniques include imperative languages (object-oriented or procedural), functional languages, and logic languages. 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. Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability. Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms). Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process. Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help. In the 9th century, the Arab mathematician Al-Kindi described a cryptographic algorithm for deciphering encrypted code, in *A Manuscript on Deciphering Cryptographic Messages*. In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them. 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. It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones. A similar technique used for database design is Entity-Relationship Modeling (ER Modeling). A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards. Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability. 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. Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms). Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process.