

Following a consistent programming style often helps readability. Computer programmers are those who write computer 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. Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use. 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. 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. Computer programming or coding is the composition of sequences of instructions, called programs, that computers can follow to perform tasks. By the late 1960s, data storage devices and computer terminals became inexpensive enough that programs could be created by typing directly into the computers. However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837. Unreadable code often leads to bugs, inefficiencies, and duplicated code. 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. High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware. 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. This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs. 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. Scripting and breakpointing is also part of this process. Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help. Following a consistent programming style often helps readability. Some languages are very popular for particular kinds of applications, while some languages are regularly used to write many different kinds of applications. There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks. In the 9th century, the Arab mathematician Al-Kindi described a cryptographic algorithm for deciphering encrypted code, in A Manuscript on Deciphering Cryptographic Messages. 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. Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use. They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones.