There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks. High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware. Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms). 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. However, because an assembly language is little more than a different notation for a machine language, two machines with different instruction sets also have different assembly languages. 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. 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. However, with the concept of the stored-program computer introduced in 1949, both programs and data were stored and manipulated in the same way in computer memory. 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. By the late 1960s, data storage devices and computer terminals became inexpensive enough that programs could be created by typing directly into the computers.

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. 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. Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected. Use of a static code analysis tool can help detect some possible problems. Computer programming or coding is the composition of sequences of instructions, called programs, that computers can follow to perform tasks. 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. Computer programming or coding is the composition of sequences of instructions, called programs, that computers can follow to perform tasks. 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. However, because an assembly language is little more than a different notation for a machine language, two machines with different instruction sets also have different assembly languages. 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. There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks. Some text editors such as Emacs allow GDB to be invoked through them, to provide a visual environment. Debugging is a very important task in the software development process since having defects in a program can have significant consequences for its users.