

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. In the 9th century, the Arab mathematician Al-Kindi described a cryptographic algorithm for deciphering encrypted code, in *A Manuscript on Deciphering Cryptographic Messages*. 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. After the bug is reproduced, the input of the program may need to be simplified to make it easier to debug. 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. Use of a static code analysis tool can help detect some possible problems. By the late 1960s, data storage devices and computer terminals became inexpensive enough that programs could be created by typing directly into the computers. In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them. 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. Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process. Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected. Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help. 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. High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware. Debugging is often done with IDEs. Standalone debuggers like GDB are also used, and these often provide less of a visual environment, usually using a command line. It involves designing and implementing algorithms, step-by-step specifications of procedures, by writing code in one or more programming languages. 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. Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem. Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem. In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them. 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. Programs were mostly entered using punched cards or paper tape. It affects the aspects of quality above, including portability, usability and most importantly maintainability. 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.