

Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability. 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. Scripting and breakpointing is also part of this process. 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. Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process. Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use. Programming languages are essential for software development. Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards. 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. High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware. Some text editors such as Emacs allow GDB to be invoked through them, to provide a visual environment. It involves designing and implementing algorithms, step-by-step specifications of procedures, by writing code in one or more programming 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. Scripting and breakpointing is also part of this process. Expert programmers are familiar with a variety of well-established algorithms and their respective complexities and use this knowledge to choose algorithms that are best suited to the circumstances. Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help. Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem. Methods of measuring programming language popularity include: counting the number of job advertisements that mention the language, the number of books sold and courses teaching the language (this overestimates the importance of newer languages), and estimates of the number of existing lines of code written in the language (this underestimates the number of users of business languages such as COBOL). 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. Use of a static code analysis tool can help detect some possible problems. Debugging is a very important task in the software development process since having defects in a program can have significant consequences for its users. Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards. Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem. There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks. Programming languages are essential for software development.