

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. 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. 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. For this purpose, algorithms are classified into orders using so-called Big O notation, which expresses resource use, such as execution time or memory consumption, in terms of the size of an input. Programs were mostly entered using punched cards or paper tape. Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation. Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem. Code-breaking algorithms have also existed for centuries. For example, COBOL is still strong in corporate data centers often on large mainframe computers, Fortran in engineering applications, scripting languages in Web development, and C in embedded software. Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms). FORTRAN, the first widely used high-level language to have a functional implementation, came out in 1957, and many other languages were soon developed—in particular, COBOL aimed at commercial data processing, and Lisp for computer research. There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks. 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. A similar technique used for database design is Entity-Relationship Modeling (ER Modeling). There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks. In the 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form. Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards. Programs were mostly entered using punched cards or paper tape. It involves designing and implementing algorithms, step-by-step specifications of procedures, by writing code in one or more programming languages. 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. 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. 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. Programming languages are essential for software development. 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. Proficient programming usually requires expertise in several different subjects, including knowledge of the application domain, details of programming languages and generic code libraries, specialized algorithms, and formal logic.