

Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability. Use of a static code analysis tool can help detect some possible problems. 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. 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. A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. Computer programming or coding is the composition of sequences of instructions, called programs, that computers can follow to perform tasks. Popular modeling techniques include Object-Oriented Analysis and Design (OOAD) and Model-Driven Architecture (MDA). Programmable devices have existed for centuries. However, readability is more than just programming style. 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. Debugging is a very important task in the software development process since having defects in a program can have significant consequences for its users. 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. The Unified Modeling Language (UML) is a notation used for both the OOAD and MDA. Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards. By the late 1960s, data storage devices and computer terminals became inexpensive enough that programs could be created by typing directly into the computers. Some of these factors include: The presentation aspects of this (such as indents, line breaks, color highlighting, and so on) are often handled by the source code editor, but the content aspects reflect the programmer's talent and skills. Programs were mostly entered using punched cards or paper tape. Their jobs usually involve: Although programming has been presented in the media as a somewhat mathematical subject, some research shows that good programmers have strong skills in natural human languages, and that learning to code is similar to learning a foreign language. Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use. 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. 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. 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. In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them. 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.