

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. Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards. 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. 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). 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. High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware. The following properties are among the most important: In computer programming, readability refers to the ease with which a human reader can comprehend the purpose, control flow, and operation of source code. 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. Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected. 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. 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. Provided the functions in a library follow the appropriate run-time conventions (e.g., method of passing arguments), then these functions may be written in any other language. It affects the aspects of quality above, including portability, usability and most importantly maintainability. Scripting and breakpointing is also part of this process. Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation. 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. 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. Debugging is a very important task in the software development process since having defects in a program can have significant consequences for its users. In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them. In the 9th century, the Arab mathematician Al-Kindi described a cryptographic algorithm for deciphering encrypted code, in A Manuscript on Deciphering Cryptographic Messages. They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones. Some languages are more prone to some kinds of faults because their specification does not require compilers to perform as much checking as other languages. Programs were mostly entered using punched cards or paper tape. Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability.