

A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. 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. Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem. 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. 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. Scripting and breakpointing is also part of this process. 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. Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability. Debugging is a very important task in the software development process since having defects in a program can have significant consequences for its users. Unreadable code often leads to bugs, inefficiencies, and duplicated code. Code-breaking algorithms have also existed for centuries. 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. The first step in most formal software development processes is requirements analysis, followed by testing to determine value modeling, implementation, and failure elimination (debugging). They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones. 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. When debugging the problem in a GUI, the programmer can try to skip some user interaction from the original problem description and check if remaining actions are sufficient for bugs to appear. 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. One approach popular for requirements analysis is Use Case analysis. 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. Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability. Trial-and-error/divide-and-conquer is needed: the programmer will try to remove some parts of the original test case and check if the problem still exists. Implementation techniques include imperative languages (object-oriented or procedural), functional languages, and logic languages. Programs were mostly entered using punched cards or paper tape. 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.