The first compiler related tool, the A-0 System, was developed in 1952 by Grace Hopper, who also coined the term 'compiler'. 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. However, readability is more than just programming style. It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones. However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837. Use of a static code analysis tool can help detect some possible problems. Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability. It is very difficult to determine what are the most popular modern programming languages. Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help. 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. Some languages are very popular for particular kinds of applications, while some languages are regularly used to write many different kinds of applications. 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. Scripting and breakpointing is also part of this process. 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. A similar technique used for database design is Entity-Relationship Modeling (ER Modeling). One approach popular for requirements analysis is Use Case analysis. In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them. It affects the aspects of quality above, including portability, usability and most importantly maintainability. Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use. After the bug is reproduced, the input of the program may need to be simplified to make it easier to debug. Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use. These compiled languages allow the programmer to write programs in terms that are syntactically richer, and more capable of abstracting the code, making it easy to target varying machine instruction sets via compilation declarations and heuristics.

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. 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.