

Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected. 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. The Unified Modeling Language (UML) is a notation used for both the OOAD and MDA. Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability. Programs were mostly entered using punched cards or paper tape. 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. While these are sometimes considered programming, often the term software development is used for this larger overall process – with the terms programming, implementation, and coding reserved for the writing and editing of code per se. 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. Programs were mostly entered using punched cards or paper tape. By the late 1960s, data storage devices and computer terminals became inexpensive enough that programs could be created by typing directly into the computers. Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process. A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. 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. Following a consistent programming style often helps readability. 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. It involves designing and implementing algorithms, step-by-step specifications of procedures, by writing code in one or more programming languages. It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones. 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. Debugging is a very important task in the software development process since having defects in a program can have significant consequences for its users. The first compiler related tool, the A-0 System, was developed in 1952 by Grace Hopper, who also coined the term 'compiler'. Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards. Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability. 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. 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. Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation.