

A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. The first step in most formal software development processes is requirements analysis, followed by testing to determine value modeling, implementation, and failure elimination (debugging). In the 9th century, the Arab mathematician Al-Kindi described a cryptographic algorithm for deciphering encrypted code, in A Manuscript on Deciphering Cryptographic Messages. Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process. Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards. 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. 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. 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. A similar technique used for database design is Entity-Relationship Modeling (ER Modeling). 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. It affects the aspects of quality above, including portability, usability and most importantly maintainability. Some languages are very popular for particular kinds of applications, while some languages are regularly used to write many different kinds of applications. In the 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form. Programmable devices have existed for centuries. Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem. 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. 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. New languages are generally designed around the syntax of a prior language with new functionality added, (for example C++ adds object-orientation to C, and Java adds memory management and bytecode to C++, but as a result, loses efficiency and the ability for low-level manipulation). Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation. 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. 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. He gave the first description of cryptanalysis by frequency analysis, the earliest code-breaking algorithm. Allen Downey, in his book How To Think Like A Computer Scientist, writes: Many computer languages provide a mechanism to call functions provided by shared libraries.