

In the 9th century, the Arab mathematician Al-Kindi described a cryptographic algorithm for deciphering encrypted code, in A Manuscript on Deciphering Cryptographic Messages. 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. Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem. It involves designing and implementing algorithms, step-by-step specifications of procedures, by writing code in one or more programming languages. 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. Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help. For example, COBOL is still strong in corporate data centers often on large mainframe computers, Fortran in engineering applications, scripting languages in Web development, and C in embedded software. 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. It involves designing and implementing algorithms, step-by-step specifications of procedures, by writing code in one or more programming languages. Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem. However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837. 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. 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. Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation. 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. Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability. A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. However, because an assembly language is little more than a different notation for a machine language, two machines with different instruction sets also have different assembly languages. 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. Scripting and breakpointing is also part of this process. Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms). In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them. Use of a static code analysis tool can help detect some possible problems. Programs were mostly entered using punched cards or paper tape. Following a consistent programming style often helps readability.