

Programs were mostly entered using punched cards or paper tape. Programmers typically use high-level programming languages that are more easily intelligible to humans than machine code, which is directly executed by the central processing unit. 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 compiler related tool, the A-0 System, was developed in 1952 by Grace Hopper, who also coined the term 'compiler'. 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. Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem. 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. A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. 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. Computer programmers are those who write computer software. Programmable devices have existed for centuries. High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware. 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. 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. It affects the aspects of quality above, including portability, usability and most importantly maintainability. Unreadable code often leads to bugs, inefficiencies, and duplicated code. Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected. A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process. Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability. 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. 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. 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. In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them. Unreadable code often leads to bugs, inefficiencies, and duplicated code.