

FORTRAN, the first widely used high-level language to have a functional implementation, came out in 1957, and many other languages were soon developed—in particular, COBOL aimed at commercial data processing, and Lisp for computer research. Debugging is a very important task in the software development process since having defects in a program can have significant consequences for its users. Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability. Computer programmers are those who write computer software. A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. Methods of measuring programming language popularity include: counting the number of job advertisements that mention the language, the number of books sold and courses teaching the language (this overestimates the importance of newer languages), and estimates of the number of existing lines of code written in the language (this underestimates the number of users of business languages such as COBOL). 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. However, readability is more than just programming style. 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. Trade-offs from this ideal involve finding enough programmers who know the language to build a team, the availability of compilers for that language, and the efficiency with which programs written in a given language execute. Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help. Scripting and breakpointing is also part of this process. Programmable devices have existed for centuries. 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. Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms). 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. Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help. Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation. It involves designing and implementing algorithms, step-by-step specifications of procedures, by writing code in one or more programming languages. This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs. Following a consistent programming style often helps readability. 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). Scripting and breakpointing is also part of this process. 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). Various visual programming languages have also been developed with the intent to resolve readability concerns by adopting non-traditional approaches to code structure and display.