

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. Implementation techniques include imperative languages (object-oriented or procedural), functional languages, and logic languages. Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem. Following a consistent programming style often helps readability. Unreadable code often leads to bugs, inefficiencies, and duplicated code. 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. Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability. However, with the concept of the stored-program computer introduced in 1949, both programs and data were stored and manipulated in the same way in computer memory. Scripting and breakpointing is also part of this process. 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. 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). 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. They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones. In the 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form. Trial-and-error/divide-and-conquer is needed: the programmer will try to remove some parts of the original test case and check if the problem still exists. 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. In the 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form. For example, when a bug in a compiler can make it crash when parsing some large source file, a simplification of the test case that results in only few lines from the original source file can be sufficient to reproduce the same crash. 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. After the bug is reproduced, the input of the program may need to be simplified to make it easier to debug. Scripting and breakpointing is also part of this process. 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. 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. 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. Scripting and breakpointing is also part of this process.