

Programs were mostly entered using punched cards or paper tape. 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. 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. Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards. It is very difficult to determine what are the most popular modern programming languages. 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 following properties are among the most important: In computer programming, readability refers to the ease with which a human reader can comprehend the purpose, control flow, and operation of source code. 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. Use of a static code analysis tool can help detect some possible problems. In 1206, the Arab engineer Al-Jazari invented a programmable drum machine where a musical mechanical automaton could be made to play different rhythms and drum patterns, via pegs and cams. 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. 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. 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. Implementation techniques include imperative languages (object-oriented or procedural), functional languages, and logic languages. Following a consistent programming style often helps readability. Whatever the approach to development may be, the final program must satisfy some fundamental properties. High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware. Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use. 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. One approach popular for requirements analysis is Use Case analysis. They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones. 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. Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help. 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. Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards.