

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. 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). Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem. Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation. In the 9th century, the Arab mathematician Al-Kindi described a cryptographic algorithm for deciphering encrypted code, in A Manuscript on Deciphering Cryptographic Messages. Programmable devices have existed for centuries. 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. By the late 1960s, data storage devices and computer terminals became inexpensive enough that programs could be created by typing directly into the computers. 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. 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. 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. 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. One approach popular for requirements analysis is Use Case analysis. This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs. Implementation techniques include imperative languages (object-oriented or procedural), functional languages, and logic languages. Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process. 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. Computer programmers are those who write computer software. Whatever the approach to development may be, the final program must satisfy some fundamental properties. 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. 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. By the late 1960s, data storage devices and computer terminals became inexpensive enough that programs could be created by typing directly into the computers. It affects the aspects of quality above, including portability, usability and most importantly maintainability. 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). A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it.