

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). Code-breaking algorithms have also existed for centuries. Implementation techniques include imperative languages (object-oriented or procedural), functional languages, and logic languages. However, readability is more than just programming style. 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 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. Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability. Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use. 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. Auxiliary tasks accompanying and related to programming include analyzing requirements, testing, debugging (investigating and fixing problems), implementation of build systems, and management of derived artifacts, such as programs' machine code. However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837. High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware. By the late 1960s, data storage devices and computer terminals became inexpensive enough that programs could be created by typing directly into the computers. Some text editors such as Emacs allow GDB to be invoked through them, to provide a visual environment. Expert programmers are familiar with a variety of well-established algorithms and their respective complexities and use this knowledge to choose algorithms that are best suited to the circumstances. Programming languages are essential for software development. Their jobs usually involve: Although programming has been presented in the media as a somewhat mathematical subject, some research shows that good programmers have strong skills in natural human languages, and that learning to code is similar to learning a foreign language. Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards. Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected. Programs were mostly entered using punched cards or paper tape. 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. 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. It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones. However, readability is more than just programming style. In the 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form.