

In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them. There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks. 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. Scripting and breakpointing is also part of this process. Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability. A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. Later a control panel (plug board) added to his 1906 Type I Tabulator allowed it to be programmed for different jobs, and by the late 1940s, unit record equipment such as the IBM 602 and IBM 604, were programmed by control panels in a similar way, as were the first electronic computers. It involves designing and implementing algorithms, step-by-step specifications of procedures, by writing code in one or more programming languages. Debugging is a very important task in the software development process since having defects in a program can have significant consequences for its users. Computer programming or coding is the composition of sequences of instructions, called programs, that computers can follow to perform tasks. The first step in most formal software development processes is requirements analysis, followed by testing to determine value modeling, implementation, and failure elimination (debugging). 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. It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones. Provided the functions in a library follow the appropriate run-time conventions (e.g., method of passing arguments), then these functions may be written in any other language. After the bug is reproduced, the input of the program may need to be simplified to make it easier to debug. Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected. 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. Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation. Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability. In the 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form. Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use. Programmable devices have existed for centuries. However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837. Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards.