

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. Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation. Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards. Programmable devices have existed for centuries. 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. 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. By the late 1960s, data storage devices and computer terminals became inexpensive enough that programs could be created by typing directly into the computers. 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. In the 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form. Assembly languages were soon developed that let the programmer specify instruction in a text format (e.g., ADD X, TOTAL), with abbreviations for each operation code and meaningful names for specifying addresses. 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. Following a consistent programming style often helps readability. Use of a static code analysis tool can help detect some possible problems. They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones. 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). Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards. There are many approaches to the Software development process. Various visual programming languages have also been developed with the intent to resolve readability concerns by adopting non-traditional approaches to code structure and display. 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. Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected. Popular modeling techniques include Object-Oriented Analysis and Design (OOAD) and Model-Driven Architecture (MDA). The Unified Modeling Language (UML) is a notation used for both the OOAD and MDA. 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.