

They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones. In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them. Scripting and breakpointing is also part of this process. 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. Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms). Programs were mostly entered using punched cards or paper tape. 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. Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation. Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help. Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process. Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected. Some languages are very popular for particular kinds of applications, while some languages are regularly used to write many different kinds of applications. 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. After the bug is reproduced, the input of the program may need to be simplified to make it easier to debug. Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability. Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation. High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware. These compiled languages allow the programmer to write programs in terms that are syntactically richer, and more capable of abstracting the code, making it easy to target varying machine instruction sets via compilation declarations and heuristics. 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 first step in most formal software development processes is requirements analysis, followed by testing to determine value modeling, implementation, and failure elimination (debugging). Some text editors such as Emacs allow GDB to be invoked through them, to provide a visual environment. In the 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form. Use of a static code analysis tool can help detect some possible problems. Some languages are very popular for particular kinds of applications, while some languages are regularly used to write many different kinds of applications. 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.