

The first compiler related tool, the A-0 System, was developed in 1952 by Grace Hopper, who also coined the term 'compiler'. Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability. 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). Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation. 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. Some text editors such as Emacs allow GDB to be invoked through them, to provide a visual environment. Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation. Languages form an approximate spectrum from "low-level" to "high-level"; "low-level" languages are typically more machine-oriented and faster to execute, whereas "high-level" languages are more abstract and easier to use but execute less quickly. 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. 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. As early as the 9th century, a programmable music sequencer was invented by the Persian Banu Musa brothers, who described an automated mechanical flute player in the Book of Ingenious Devices. Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability. Unreadable code often leads to bugs, inefficiencies, and duplicated code. In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them. Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards. Programs were mostly entered using punched cards or paper tape. After the bug is reproduced, the input of the program may need to be simplified to make it easier to debug. Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability. Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem. 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. However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837. Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation. 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. As early as the 9th century, a programmable music sequencer was invented by the Persian Banu Musa brothers, who described an automated mechanical flute player in the Book of Ingenious Devices. Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards.