

Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation. The following properties are among the most important: In computer programming, readability refers to the ease with which a human reader can comprehend the purpose, control flow, and operation of source code. A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. In the 9th century, the Arab mathematician Al-Kindi described a cryptographic algorithm for deciphering encrypted code, in *A Manuscript on Deciphering Cryptographic Messages*. 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*. Programming languages are essential for software development. Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help. Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards. This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs. 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*. Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help. Code-breaking algorithms have also existed for centuries. By the late 1960s, data storage devices and computer terminals became inexpensive enough that programs could be created by typing directly into the computers. 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. Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation. In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them. Unreadable code often leads to bugs, inefficiencies, and duplicated code. 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. 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. Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process. 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. 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. 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. 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.