

Some languages are very popular for particular kinds of applications, while some languages are regularly used to write many different kinds of applications. 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. A similar technique used for database design is Entity-Relationship Modeling (ER Modeling). They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones. 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. Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix 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. There are many approaches to the Software development process. Implementation techniques include imperative languages (object-oriented or procedural), functional languages, and logic languages. Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms). Popular modeling techniques include Object-Oriented Analysis and Design (OOAD) and Model-Driven Architecture (MDA). 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. Whatever the approach to development may be, the final program must satisfy some fundamental properties. However, readability is more than just programming style. In the 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form. Readability is important because programmers spend the majority of their time reading, trying to understand, reusing and modifying existing source code, rather than writing new source code. Following a consistent programming style often helps readability. Programmable devices have existed for centuries. In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them. Code-breaking algorithms have also existed for centuries. 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. When debugging the problem in a GUI, the programmer can try to skip some user interaction from the original problem description and check if remaining actions are sufficient for bugs to appear. It involves designing and implementing algorithms, step-by-step specifications of procedures, by writing code in one or more programming languages. 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.