

It involves designing and implementing algorithms, step-by-step specifications of procedures, by writing code in one or more programming languages. Some languages are very popular for particular kinds of applications, while some languages are regularly used to write many different kinds of applications. 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. Allen Downey, in his book *How To Think Like A Computer Scientist*, writes: Many computer languages provide a mechanism to call functions provided by shared libraries. FORTRAN, the first widely used high-level language to have a functional implementation, came out in 1957, and many other languages were soon developed—in particular, COBOL aimed at commercial data processing, and Lisp for computer research. After the bug is reproduced, the input of the program may need to be simplified to make it easier to debug. Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem. 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. 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. Use of a static code analysis tool can help detect some possible problems. Code-breaking algorithms have also existed for centuries. 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 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. Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected. Many programmers use forms of Agile software development where the various stages of formal software development are more integrated together into short cycles that take a few weeks rather than years. Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected. 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. Following a consistent programming style often helps 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). Use of a static code analysis tool can help detect some possible problems. Debugging is a very important task in the software development process since having defects in a program can have significant consequences for its users. The first computer program is generally dated to 1843, when mathematician Ada Lovelace published an algorithm to calculate a sequence of Bernoulli numbers, intended to be carried out by Charles Babbage's Analytical Engine. Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation. Programmable devices have existed for centuries. 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.