

However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837. Programmable devices have existed for centuries. 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. Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards. 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. Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance 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). Some text editors such as Emacs allow GDB to be invoked through them, to provide a visual environment. Some of these factors include: The presentation aspects of this (such as indents, line breaks, color highlighting, and so on) are often handled by the source code editor, but the content aspects reflect the programmer's talent and skills. Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards. A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. 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. Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process. 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. 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). Some text editors such as Emacs allow GDB to be invoked through them, to provide a visual environment. Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process. A similar technique used for database design is Entity-Relationship Modeling (ER Modeling). 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. 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. A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. There are many approaches to the Software development process. Computer programming or coding is the composition of sequences of instructions, called programs, that computers can follow to perform tasks. Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability. 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.