

It involves designing and implementing algorithms, step-by-step specifications of procedures, by writing code in one or more programming languages. Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms). They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones. Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use. 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. Debugging is a very important task in the software development process since having defects in a program can have significant consequences for its users. Computer programmers are those who write computer software. Trade-offs from this ideal involve finding enough programmers who know the language to build a team, the availability of compilers for that language, and the efficiency with which programs written in a given language execute. 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. 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. 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. 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. 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. In the 9th century, the Arab mathematician Al-Kindi described a cryptographic algorithm for deciphering encrypted code, in A Manuscript on Deciphering Cryptographic Messages. Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation. A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process. 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. After the bug is reproduced, the input of the program may need to be simplified to make it easier to debug. Some languages are very popular for particular kinds of applications, while some languages are regularly used to write many different kinds of applications. Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem. 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. 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. Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards.