

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. In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them. Languages form an approximate spectrum from "low-level" to "high-level"; "low-level" languages are typically more machine-oriented and faster to execute, whereas "high-level" languages are more abstract and easier to use but execute less quickly. Implementation techniques include imperative languages (object-oriented or procedural), functional languages, and logic languages. Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected. 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. 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. Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected. Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation. Programming languages are essential for software development. They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones. It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones. 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. Proficient programming usually requires expertise in several different subjects, including knowledge of the application domain, details of programming languages and generic code libraries, specialized algorithms, and formal logic. Following a consistent programming style often helps readability. A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. Programs were mostly entered using punched cards or paper tape. 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. Trial-and-error/divide-and-conquer is needed: the programmer will try to remove some parts of the original test case and check if the problem still exists. Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms). Trial-and-error/divide-and-conquer is needed: the programmer will try to remove some parts of the original test case and check if the problem still exists. Unreadable code often leads to bugs, inefficiencies, and duplicated code. It affects the aspects of quality above, including portability, usability and most importantly maintainability. 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).