

Unreadable code often leads to bugs, inefficiencies, and duplicated code. Following a consistent programming style often helps readability. 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. It is very difficult to determine what are the most popular modern programming languages. However, with the concept of the stored-program computer introduced in 1949, both programs and data were stored and manipulated in the same way in computer memory. 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. 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. 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. 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. Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability. 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. 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 programming or coding is the composition of sequences of instructions, called programs, that computers can follow to perform tasks. The first step in most formal software development processes is requirements analysis, followed by testing to determine value modeling, implementation, and failure elimination (debugging). 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). Implementation techniques include imperative languages (object-oriented or procedural), functional languages, and logic languages. Debugging is a very important task in the software development process since having defects in a program can have significant consequences for its users. 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. It affects the aspects of quality above, including portability, usability and most importantly maintainability. For example, when a bug in a compiler can make it crash when parsing some large source file, a simplification of the test case that results in only few lines from the original source file can be sufficient to reproduce the same crash. Their jobs usually involve: Although programming has been presented in the media as a somewhat mathematical subject, some research shows that good programmers have strong skills in natural human languages, and that learning to code is similar to learning a foreign language. 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. However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837. In the 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form.