

Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected. Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation. 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. Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards. By the late 1960s, data storage devices and computer terminals became inexpensive enough that programs could be created by typing directly into the computers. 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. Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help. 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. Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability. Some text editors such as Emacs allow GDB to be invoked through them, to provide a visual environment. The first step in most formal software development processes is requirements analysis, followed by testing to determine value modeling, implementation, and failure elimination (debugging). Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability. One approach popular for requirements analysis is Use Case analysis. 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. Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem. Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help. 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. It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones. For example, COBOL is still strong in corporate data centers often on large mainframe computers, Fortran in engineering applications, scripting languages in Web development, and C in embedded software. Programs were mostly entered using punched cards or paper tape. In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them. Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability. Some languages are very popular for particular kinds of applications, while some languages are regularly used to write many different kinds of applications. 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.