

Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected. It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones. In 1206, the Arab engineer Al-Jazari invented a programmable drum machine where a musical mechanical automaton could be made to play different rhythms and drum patterns, via pegs and cams. Programming languages are essential for software development. Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process. Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards. It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones. Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms). Computer programming or coding is the composition of sequences of instructions, called programs, that computers can follow to perform tasks. Whatever the approach to development may be, the final program must satisfy some fundamental properties. 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. However, readability is more than just programming style. Later a control panel (plug board) added to his 1906 Type I Tabulator allowed it to be programmed for different jobs, and by the late 1940s, unit record equipment such as the IBM 602 and IBM 604, were programmed by control panels in a similar way, as were the first electronic computers. Debugging is a very important task in the software development process since having defects in a program can have significant consequences for its users. 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. They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones. These compiled languages allow the programmer to write programs in terms that are syntactically richer, and more capable of abstracting the code, making it easy to target varying machine instruction sets via compilation declarations and heuristics. Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use. Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem. FORTRAN, the first widely used high-level language to have a functional implementation, came out in 1957, and many other languages were soon developed—in particular, COBOL aimed at commercial data processing, and Lisp for computer research. High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware. After the bug is reproduced, the input of the program may need to be simplified to make it easier to debug. Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation. Popular modeling techniques include Object-Oriented Analysis and Design (OOAD) and Model-Driven Architecture (MDA). 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.