

Computer programmers are those who write computer software. Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem. 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. While these are sometimes considered programming, often the term software development is used for this larger overall process – with the terms programming, implementation, and coding reserved for the writing and editing of code per se. Code-breaking algorithms have also existed for centuries. Programs were mostly entered using punched cards or paper tape. High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware. Programming languages are essential for software development. 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. Debugging is a very important task in the software development process since having defects in a program can have significant consequences for its users. Auxiliary tasks accompanying and related to programming include analyzing requirements, testing, debugging (investigating and fixing problems), implementation of build systems, and management of derived artifacts, such as programs' machine code. 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. When debugging the problem in a GUI, the programmer can try to skip some user interaction from the original problem description and check if remaining actions are sufficient for bugs to appear. There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks. Whatever the approach to development may be, the final program must satisfy some fundamental properties. 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. In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them. Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards. There are many approaches to the Software development process. 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. 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. A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. 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. Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help.