

It is very difficult to determine what are the most popular modern programming languages. 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. Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards. In the 9th century, the Arab mathematician Al-Kindi described a cryptographic algorithm for deciphering encrypted code, in *A Manuscript on Deciphering Cryptographic Messages*. 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. Computer programming or coding is the composition of sequences of instructions, called programs, that computers can follow to perform tasks. Code-breaking algorithms have also existed for centuries. 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. By the late 1960s, data storage devices and computer terminals became inexpensive enough that programs could be created by typing directly into the computers. Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem. It involves designing and implementing algorithms, step-by-step specifications of procedures, by writing code in one or more programming languages. Programming languages are essential for software development. It is very difficult to determine what are the most popular modern programming languages. 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. 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. A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. 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. 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. 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). Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability. New languages are generally designed around the syntax of a prior language with new functionality added, (for example C++ adds object-orientation to C, and Java adds memory management and bytecode to C++, but as a result, loses efficiency and the ability for low-level manipulation). Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation. Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation. 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.