

High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware. Computer programming or coding is the composition of sequences of instructions, called programs, that computers can follow to perform tasks. However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837. Some text editors such as Emacs allow GDB to be invoked through them, to provide a visual environment. 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. 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). Use of a static code analysis tool can help detect some possible problems. Programmable devices have existed for centuries. There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks.

Trial-and-error/divide-and-conquer is needed: the programmer will try to remove some parts of the original test case and check if the problem still exists. 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. 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. Some languages are very popular for particular kinds of applications, while some languages are regularly used to write many different kinds of applications. After the bug is reproduced, the input of the program may need to be simplified to make it easier to debug. Assembly languages were soon developed that let the programmer specify instruction in a text format (e.g., ADD X, TOTAL), with abbreviations for each operation code and meaningful names for specifying addresses. Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation. 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. There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks. 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. 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. 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. 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. It is very difficult to determine what are the most popular modern programming languages. After the bug is reproduced, the input of the program may need to be simplified to make it easier to debug.