

Some languages are more prone to some kinds of faults because their specification does not require compilers to perform as much checking as other languages. However, because an assembly language is little more than a different notation for a machine language, two machines with different instruction sets also have different assembly languages. Code-breaking algorithms have also existed for centuries. Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected. It affects the aspects of quality above, including portability, usability and most importantly maintainability. 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. 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). 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. Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards. Use of a static code analysis tool can help detect some possible problems. Scripting and breakpointing is also part of this process. Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability. 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. 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. This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs. Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem. By the late 1960s, data storage devices and computer terminals became inexpensive enough that programs could be created by typing directly into the computers. Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use. Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability. This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs. The first computer program is generally dated to 1843, when mathematician Ada Lovelace published an algorithm to calculate a sequence of Bernoulli numbers, intended to be carried out by Charles Babbage's Analytical Engine. Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem. 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.