

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. The following properties are among the most important: In computer programming, readability refers to the ease with which a human reader can comprehend the purpose, control flow, and operation of source code. Programmable devices have existed for centuries. Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards. 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. 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. Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process. Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation. Unreadable code often leads to bugs, inefficiencies, and duplicated code. Their jobs usually involve: Although programming has been presented in the media as a somewhat mathematical subject, some research shows that good programmers have strong skills in natural human languages, and that learning to code is similar to learning a foreign language. Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use. Popular modeling techniques include Object-Oriented Analysis and Design (OOAD) and Model-Driven Architecture (MDA). A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem. It affects the aspects of quality above, including portability, usability and most importantly maintainability. In the 9th century, the Arab mathematician Al-Kindi described a cryptographic algorithm for deciphering encrypted code, in A Manuscript on Deciphering Cryptographic Messages. Implementation techniques include imperative languages (object-oriented or procedural), functional languages, and logic languages. 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). In the 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form. A similar technique used for database design is Entity-Relationship Modeling (ER Modeling). The first compiler related tool, the A-0 System, was developed in 1952 by Grace Hopper, who also coined the term 'compiler'. A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. 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).