

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. Following a consistent programming style often helps readability. 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. As early as the 9th century, a programmable music sequencer was invented by the Persian Banu Musa brothers, who described an automated mechanical flute player in the Book of Ingenious Devices. Programming languages are essential for software development. Provided the functions in a library follow the appropriate run-time conventions (e.g., method of passing arguments), then these functions may be written in any other language. 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. This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs. A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. Unreadable code often leads to bugs, inefficiencies, and duplicated code. Following a consistent programming style often helps readability. In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them. The choice of language used is subject to many considerations, such as company policy, suitability to task, availability of third-party packages, or individual preference. The choice of language used is subject to many considerations, such as company policy, suitability to task, availability of third-party packages, or individual preference. By the late 1960s, data storage devices and computer terminals became inexpensive enough that programs could be created by typing directly into the computers. 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. 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. The first compiler related tool, the A-0 System, was developed in 1952 by Grace Hopper, who also coined the term 'compiler'. Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process. High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware. By the late 1960s, data storage devices and computer terminals became inexpensive enough that programs could be created by typing directly into the computers. 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. This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs. The academic field and the engineering practice of computer programming are both largely concerned with discovering and implementing the most efficient algorithms for a given class of problems. 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.