

Some languages are very popular for particular kinds of applications, while some languages are regularly used to write many different kinds of applications. In the 9th century, the Arab mathematician Al-Kindi described a cryptographic algorithm for deciphering encrypted code, in A Manuscript on Deciphering Cryptographic Messages. Allen Downey, in his book How To Think Like A Computer Scientist, writes: Many computer languages provide a mechanism to call functions provided by shared libraries. He gave the first description of cryptanalysis by frequency analysis, the earliest code-breaking algorithm. 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. In the 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form. In 1206, the Arab engineer Al-Jazari invented a programmable drum machine where a musical mechanical automaton could be made to play different rhythms and drum patterns, via pegs and cams. Languages form an approximate spectrum from "low-level" to "high-level"; "low-level" languages are typically more machine-oriented and faster to execute, whereas "high-level" languages are more abstract and easier to use but execute less quickly. Some languages are very popular for particular kinds of applications, while some languages are regularly used to write many different kinds of applications. Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process. 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. Use of a static code analysis tool can help detect some possible problems. 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. Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem. He gave the first description of cryptanalysis by frequency analysis, the earliest code-breaking algorithm. 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. Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability. 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. 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. Unreadable code often leads to bugs, inefficiencies, and duplicated code. By the late 1960s, data storage devices and computer terminals became inexpensive enough that programs could be created by typing directly into the computers. The first step in most formal software development processes is requirements analysis, followed by testing to determine value modeling, implementation, and failure elimination (debugging). 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. 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.