

Many programmers use forms of Agile software development where the various stages of formal software development are more integrated together into short cycles that take a few weeks rather than years. 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. By the late 1960s, data storage devices and computer terminals became inexpensive enough that programs could be created by typing directly into the computers. Computer programmers are those who write computer software. Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem. 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. Whatever the approach to development may be, the final program must satisfy some fundamental properties. Debugging is a very important task in the software development process since having defects in a program can have significant consequences for its users. Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation. Scripting and breakpointing is also part of this process. 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. It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones. Whatever the approach to development may be, the final program must satisfy some fundamental properties. It affects the aspects of quality above, including portability, usability and most importantly maintainability. It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones. Many programmers use forms of Agile software development where the various stages of formal software development are more integrated together into short cycles that take a few weeks rather than years. 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. Whatever the approach to development may be, the final program must satisfy some fundamental properties. Following a consistent programming style often helps readability. FORTRAN, the first widely used high-level language to have a functional implementation, came out in 1957, and many other languages were soon developed—in particular, COBOL aimed at commercial data processing, and Lisp for computer research. By the late 1960s, data storage devices and computer terminals became inexpensive enough that programs could be created by typing directly into the computers. 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.