

Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use. Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected. 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. Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation. Following a consistent programming style often helps readability. However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837. He gave the first description of cryptanalysis by frequency analysis, the earliest code-breaking algorithm. 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. There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks. By the late 1960s, data storage devices and computer terminals became inexpensive enough that programs could be created by typing directly into the computers. Implementation techniques include imperative languages (object-oriented or procedural), functional languages, and logic languages. 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. Following a consistent programming style often helps readability. They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones. While these are sometimes considered programming, often the term software development is used for this larger overall process – with the terms programming, implementation, and coding reserved for the writing and editing of code per se. Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help. 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. 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. However, readability is more than just programming style. By the late 1960s, data storage devices and computer terminals became inexpensive enough that programs could be created by typing directly into the computers. Unreadable code often leads to bugs, inefficiencies, and duplicated code. These compiled languages allow the programmer to write programs in terms that are syntactically richer, and more capable of abstracting the code, making it easy to target varying machine instruction sets via compilation declarations and heuristics. 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. 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.