

Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected. 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. 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. Auxiliary tasks accompanying and related to programming include analyzing requirements, testing, debugging (investigating and fixing problems), implementation of build systems, and management of derived artifacts, such as programs' machine code. 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. Programmable devices have existed for centuries. 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. 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). Readability is important because programmers spend the majority of their time reading, trying to understand, reusing and modifying existing source code, rather than writing new source code. 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. However, readability is more than just programming style. He gave the first description of cryptanalysis by frequency analysis, the earliest code-breaking algorithm. Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards. Unreadable code often leads to bugs, inefficiencies, and duplicated code. It affects the aspects of quality above, including portability, usability and most importantly maintainability. Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability. 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. Scripting and breakpointing is also part of this process. Implementation techniques include imperative languages (object-oriented or procedural), functional languages, and logic languages. Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation. In the 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form. Proficient programming usually requires expertise in several different subjects, including knowledge of the application domain, details of programming languages and generic code libraries, specialized algorithms, and formal logic. There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks. Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation. 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.