

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. Use of a static code analysis tool can help detect some possible problems. For example, when a bug in a compiler can make it crash when parsing some large source file, a simplification of the test case that results in only few lines from the original source file can be sufficient to reproduce the same crash. Computer programming or coding is the composition of sequences of instructions, called programs, that computers can follow to perform tasks. Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms). Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability. There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks. 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. However, readability is more than just programming style. Computer programming or coding is the composition of sequences of instructions, called programs, that computers can follow to perform tasks. Some of these factors include: The presentation aspects of this (such as indents, line breaks, color highlighting, and so on) are often handled by the source code editor, but the content aspects reflect the programmer's talent and skills. 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. 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. Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process. 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. Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem. 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. 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. 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. However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837. High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware. 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. It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones. They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones. Use of a static code analysis tool can help detect some possible problems.