

A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. 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. 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. One approach popular for requirements analysis is Use Case analysis. Code-breaking algorithms have also existed for centuries. He gave the first description of cryptanalysis by frequency analysis, the earliest code-breaking algorithm. 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). Whatever the approach to development may be, the final program must satisfy some fundamental properties. 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. Later a control panel (plug board) added to his 1906 Type I Tabulator allowed it to be programmed for different jobs, and by the late 1940s, unit record equipment such as the IBM 602 and IBM 604, were programmed by control panels in a similar way, as were the first electronic computers. Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help. 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. Trial-and-error/divide-and-conquer is needed: the programmer will try to remove some parts of the original test case and check if the problem still exists. New languages are generally designed around the syntax of a prior language with new functionality added, (for example C++ adds object-orientation to C, and Java adds memory management and bytecode to C++, but as a result, loses efficiency and the ability for low-level manipulation). Following a consistent programming style often helps readability. After the bug is reproduced, the input of the program may need to be simplified to make it easier to debug. There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks. 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. High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware. Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability. It involves designing and implementing algorithms, step-by-step specifications of procedures, by writing code in one or more programming languages. Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem. Various visual programming languages have also been developed with the intent to resolve readability concerns by adopting non-traditional approaches to code structure and display. In the 9th century, the Arab mathematician Al-Kindi described a cryptographic algorithm for deciphering encrypted code, in *A Manuscript on Deciphering Cryptographic Messages*. Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem.