

Some languages are very popular for particular kinds of applications, while some languages are regularly used to write many different kinds of applications. The following properties are among the most important: In computer programming, readability refers to the ease with which a human reader can comprehend the purpose, control flow, and operation of source code. Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards. 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. 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. 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. 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. For this purpose, algorithms are classified into orders using so-called Big O notation, which expresses resource use, such as execution time or memory consumption, in terms of the size of an input. A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem. Their jobs usually involve: Although programming has been presented in the media as a somewhat mathematical subject, some research shows that good programmers have strong skills in natural human languages, and that learning to code is similar to learning a foreign language. 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. Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation. 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. There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks. 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). 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. Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use. Scripting and breakpointing is also part of this process. Implementation techniques include imperative languages (object-oriented or procedural), functional languages, and logic languages. 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. 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. It is very difficult to determine what are the most popular modern programming languages. It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones.