

Debugging is a very important task in the software development process since having defects in a program can have significant consequences for its users. Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help. 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. Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability. 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. This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs. In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them. 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. It affects the aspects of quality above, including portability, usability and most importantly maintainability. 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. 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. Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards. 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 choice of language used is subject to many considerations, such as company policy, suitability to task, availability of third-party packages, or individual preference. Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability. Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms). 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, readability is more than just programming style. 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. 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. The Unified Modeling Language (UML) is a notation used for both the OOAD and MDA. High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware. However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837. Unreadable code often leads to bugs, inefficiencies, and duplicated code. It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones.