

Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation. 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. Computer programmers are those who write computer software. Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation. Implementation techniques include imperative languages (object-oriented or procedural), functional languages, and logic languages. Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem. Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem. Implementation techniques include imperative languages (object-oriented or procedural), functional languages, and logic languages. 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. Following a consistent programming style often helps readability. 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. 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. These compiled languages allow the programmer to write programs in terms that are syntactically richer, and more capable of abstracting the code, making it easy to target varying machine instruction sets via compilation declarations and heuristics. 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. Trade-offs from this ideal involve finding enough programmers who know the language to build a team, the availability of compilers for that language, and the efficiency with which programs written in a given language execute. 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. 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). 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. 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). Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability. 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. 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. Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability.