

Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms). However, readability is more than just programming style. They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones. Unreadable code often leads to bugs, inefficiencies, and duplicated code. Auxiliary tasks accompanying and related to programming include analyzing requirements, testing, debugging (investigating and fixing problems), implementation of build systems, and management of derived artifacts, such as programs' machine code. 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. 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. Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help. 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). Debugging is a very important task in the software development process since having defects in a program can have significant consequences for its users. 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. 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. 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. 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. A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. The first compiler related tool, the A-0 System, was developed in 1952 by Grace Hopper, who also coined the term 'compiler'. Scripting and breakpointing is also part of this process. It involves designing and implementing algorithms, step-by-step specifications of procedures, by writing code in one or more programming languages. Some text editors such as Emacs allow GDB to be invoked through them, to provide a visual environment. 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. 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. Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation. High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware. Proficient programming usually requires expertise in several different subjects, including knowledge of the application domain, details of programming languages and generic code libraries, specialized algorithms, and formal logic.