

They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones. In the 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form. It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones. Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help. Code-breaking algorithms have also existed for centuries. While these are sometimes considered programming, often the term software development is used for this larger overall process – with the terms programming, implementation, and coding reserved for the writing and editing of code per se. Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem. 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. In the 9th century, the Arab mathematician Al-Kindi described a cryptographic algorithm for deciphering encrypted code, in A Manuscript on Deciphering Cryptographic Messages. Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms). 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). While these are sometimes considered programming, often the term software development is used for this larger overall process – with the terms programming, implementation, and coding reserved for the writing and editing of code per se. 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. Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability. Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability. Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected. 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. Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process. Programs were mostly entered using punched cards or paper tape. Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability. 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. The first compiler related tool, the A-0 System, was developed in 1952 by Grace Hopper, who also coined the term 'compiler'. A similar technique used for database design is Entity-Relationship Modeling (ER Modeling). Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem. 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.