

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. Computer programming or coding is the composition of sequences of instructions, called programs, that computers can follow to perform tasks. There are many approaches to the Software development process. 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. 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. 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. Programs were mostly entered using punched cards or paper tape. It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones. Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation. It involves designing and implementing algorithms, step-by-step specifications of procedures, by writing code in one or more programming languages. 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. Programmable devices have existed for centuries. In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them. However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837. It affects the aspects of quality above, including portability, usability and most importantly maintainability. Code-breaking algorithms have also existed for centuries. 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. By the late 1960s, data storage devices and computer terminals became inexpensive enough that programs could be created by typing directly into the computers. 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. 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. It affects the aspects of quality above, including portability, usability and most importantly maintainability. A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. 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.