

In the 9th century, the Arab mathematician Al-Kindi described a cryptographic algorithm for deciphering encrypted code, in A Manuscript on Deciphering Cryptographic Messages. 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. Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation. 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. Whatever the approach to development may be, the final program must satisfy some fundamental properties. 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. 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. It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones. Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem. 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. After the bug is reproduced, the input of the program may need to be simplified to make it easier to debug. They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones. Following a consistent programming style often helps readability. 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. Some of these factors include: The presentation aspects of this (such as indents, line breaks, color highlighting, and so on) are often handled by the source code editor, but the content aspects reflect the programmer's talent and skills. Programs were mostly entered using punched cards or paper tape. 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. Implementation techniques include imperative languages (object-oriented or procedural), functional languages, and logic languages. Computer programming or coding is the composition of sequences of instructions, called programs, that computers can follow to perform tasks. There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks. It affects the aspects of quality above, including portability, usability and most importantly maintainability. In the 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form. However, because an assembly language is little more than a different notation for a machine language, two machines with different instruction sets also have different assembly languages. 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.