

In 1206, the Arab engineer Al-Jazari invented a programmable drum machine where a musical mechanical automaton could be made to play different rhythms and drum patterns, via pegs and cams. Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected. 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. Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process. 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. They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones. In the 9th century, the Arab mathematician Al-Kindi described a cryptographic algorithm for deciphering encrypted code, in A Manuscript on Deciphering Cryptographic Messages. In the 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form. Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation. In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them. 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). By the late 1960s, data storage devices and computer terminals became inexpensive enough that programs could be created by typing directly into the computers. Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation. A similar technique used for database design is Entity-Relationship Modeling (ER Modeling). Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation. In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them. 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. 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. However, readability is more than just programming style. However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837. There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks. 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). Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem. It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones.