

Readability is important because programmers spend the majority of their time reading, trying to understand, reusing and modifying existing source code, rather than writing new source code. Programming languages are essential for software development. In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them. 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. 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. This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs. 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. In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them. Implementation techniques include imperative languages (object-oriented or procedural), functional languages, and logic languages. For example, COBOL is still strong in corporate data centers often on large mainframe computers, Fortran in engineering applications, scripting languages in Web development, and C in embedded software. 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, 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. It involves designing and implementing algorithms, step-by-step specifications of procedures, by writing code in one or more programming languages. Various visual programming languages have also been developed with the intent to resolve readability concerns by adopting non-traditional approaches to code structure and display. The first computer program is generally dated to 1843, when mathematician Ada Lovelace published an algorithm to calculate a sequence of Bernoulli numbers, intended to be carried out by Charles Babbage's Analytical Engine. 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. Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem. High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware. 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. Implementation techniques include imperative languages (object-oriented or procedural), functional languages, and logic languages. A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process. However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837. Computer programming or coding is the composition of sequences of instructions, called programs, that computers can follow to perform tasks. However, with the concept of the stored-program computer introduced in 1949, both programs and data were stored and manipulated in the same way in computer memory.