

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, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837. Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability. Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms). In the 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form. 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. 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. 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. Their jobs usually involve: Although programming has been presented in the media as a somewhat mathematical subject, some research shows that good programmers have strong skills in natural human languages, and that learning to code is similar to learning a foreign language. Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected. Whatever the approach to development may be, the final program must satisfy some fundamental properties. Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms). In the 9th century, the Arab mathematician Al-Kindi described a cryptographic algorithm for deciphering encrypted code, in *A Manuscript on Deciphering Cryptographic Messages*. 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. A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. 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. Later a control panel (plug board) added to his 1906 Type I Tabulator allowed it to be programmed for different jobs, and by the late 1940s, unit record equipment such as the IBM 602 and IBM 604, were programmed by control panels in a similar way, as were the first electronic computers. Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem. 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. It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones. Computer programmers are those who write computer software. Code-breaking algorithms have also existed for centuries. Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help.