

Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability. 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). There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks. 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. 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). Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms). 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. As early as the 9th century, a programmable music sequencer was invented by the Persian Banu Musa brothers, who described an automated mechanical flute player in the Book of Ingenious Devices. Some languages are more prone to some kinds of faults because their specification does not require compilers to perform as much checking as other languages. A similar technique used for database design is Entity-Relationship Modeling (ER Modeling). 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. Computer programmers are those who write computer 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. 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. Some text editors such as Emacs allow GDB to be invoked through them, to provide a visual environment. Whatever the approach to development may be, the final program must satisfy some fundamental properties. High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware. Programmable devices have existed for centuries. In the 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form. Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem. A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. 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. Programmers typically use high-level programming languages that are more easily intelligible to humans than machine code, which is directly executed by the central processing unit.