

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. Trial-and-error/divide-and-conquer is needed: the programmer will try to remove some parts of the original test case and check if the problem still exists. 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. 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. 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. A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help. High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware. 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. Following a consistent programming style often helps readability. Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability. 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. 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. Some languages are very popular for particular kinds of applications, while some languages are regularly used to write many different kinds of applications. However, readability is more than just programming style. Following a consistent programming style often helps readability. 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. Following a consistent programming style often helps readability. Code-breaking algorithms have also existed for centuries. When debugging the problem in a GUI, the programmer can try to skip some user interaction from the original problem description and check if remaining actions are sufficient for bugs to appear. Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected. It is very difficult to determine what are the most popular modern programming languages. A similar technique used for database design is Entity-Relationship Modeling (ER Modeling).