

In the 9th century, the Arab mathematician Al-Kindi described a cryptographic algorithm for deciphering encrypted code, in A Manuscript on Deciphering Cryptographic Messages. Programming languages are essential for software development. 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. Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected. It involves designing and implementing algorithms, step-by-step specifications of procedures, by writing code in one or more programming languages. Allen Downey, in his book *How To Think Like A Computer Scientist*, writes: Many computer languages provide a mechanism to call functions provided by shared libraries. Expert programmers are familiar with a variety of well-established algorithms and their respective complexities and use this knowledge to choose algorithms that are best suited to the circumstances. For example, when a bug in a compiler can make it crash when parsing some large source file, a simplification of the test case that results in only few lines from the original source file can be sufficient to reproduce the same crash. 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. Use of a static code analysis tool can help detect some possible problems. 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. Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms). 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. Debugging is a very important task in the software development process since having defects in a program can have significant consequences for its users. Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult 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. Auxiliary tasks accompanying and related to programming include analyzing requirements, testing, debugging (investigating and fixing problems), implementation of build systems, and management of derived artifacts, such as programs' machine code. Popular modeling techniques include Object-Oriented Analysis and Design (OOAD) and Model-Driven Architecture (MDA). Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation. Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms). Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use. High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware. Some text editors such as Emacs allow GDB to be invoked through them, to provide a visual environment. 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.