

Computer programming or coding is the composition of sequences of instructions, called programs, that computers can follow to perform tasks. Some text editors such as Emacs allow GDB to be invoked through them, to provide a visual environment. After the bug is reproduced, the input of the program may need to be simplified to make it easier to debug. 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. 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). Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation. Debugging is a very important task in the software development process since having defects in a program can have significant consequences for its users. 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). Proficient programming usually requires expertise in several different subjects, including knowledge of the application domain, details of programming languages and generic code libraries, specialized algorithms, and formal logic. 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. 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. Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process. Some languages are very popular for particular kinds of applications, while some languages are regularly used to write many different kinds of applications. Following a consistent programming style often helps readability. Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem. 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. 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. However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837. Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards. 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. 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. 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. Some of these factors include: The presentation aspects of this (such as indents, line breaks, color highlighting, and so on) are often handled by the source code editor, but the content aspects reflect the programmer's talent and skills. 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.