

Programming languages are essential for software development. Assembly languages were soon developed that let the programmer specify instruction in a text format (e.g., ADD X, TOTAL), with abbreviations for each operation code and meaningful names for specifying addresses. The first compiler related tool, the A-0 System, was developed in 1952 by Grace Hopper, who also coined the term 'compiler'. 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). 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. However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837. Various visual programming languages have also been developed with the intent to resolve readability concerns by adopting non-traditional approaches to code structure and display. 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. For this purpose, algorithms are classified into orders using so-called Big O notation, which expresses resource use, such as execution time or memory consumption, in terms of the size of an input. 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. Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process. In the 9th century, the Arab mathematician Al-Kindi described a cryptographic algorithm for deciphering encrypted code, in A Manuscript on Deciphering Cryptographic Messages. Debugging is a very important task in the software development process since having defects in a program can have significant consequences for its users. 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. Implementation techniques include imperative languages (object-oriented or procedural), functional languages, and logic languages. 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). Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use. 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. A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. A similar technique used for database design is Entity-Relationship Modeling (ER Modeling). Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help. 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.