

Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability. Programmable devices have existed for centuries. A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. Computer programming or coding is the composition of sequences of instructions, called programs, that computers can follow to perform tasks. 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. It affects the aspects of quality above, including portability, usability and most importantly maintainability. Languages form an approximate spectrum from "low-level" to "high-level"; "low-level" languages are typically more machine-oriented and faster to execute, whereas "high-level" languages are more abstract and easier to use but execute less quickly. Debugging is a very important task in the software development process since having defects in a program can have significant consequences for its users. 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. 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. 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. Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected. 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. Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability. There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks. 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. Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms). Languages form an approximate spectrum from "low-level" to "high-level"; "low-level" languages are typically more machine-oriented and faster to execute, whereas "high-level" languages are more abstract and easier to use but execute less quickly. However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837. 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. 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. Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability. Unreadable code often leads to bugs, inefficiencies, and duplicated code.