

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. In the 9th century, the Arab mathematician Al-Kindi described a cryptographic algorithm for deciphering encrypted code, in A Manuscript on Deciphering Cryptographic Messages. 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. Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation. 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. There are many approaches to the Software development process. 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. Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process. A similar technique used for database design is Entity-Relationship Modeling (ER Modeling). This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs. It is very difficult to determine what are the most popular modern programming languages. 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. 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). 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. Some text editors such as Emacs allow GDB to be invoked through them, to provide a visual environment. 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. 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. FORTRAN, the first widely used high-level language to have a functional implementation, came out in 1957, and many other languages were soon developed—in particular, COBOL aimed at commercial data processing, and Lisp for computer research. 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. Unreadable code often leads to bugs, inefficiencies, and duplicated code. However, because an assembly language is little more than a different notation for a machine language, two machines with different instruction sets also have different assembly languages. In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them. This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs. Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use. Scripting and breakpointing is also part of this process.