

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. In the 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form. 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). 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. Programmable devices have existed for centuries. Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards. 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. The following properties are among the most important: In computer programming, readability refers to the ease with which a human reader can comprehend the purpose, control flow, and operation of source code. It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones. 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. These compiled languages allow the programmer to write programs in terms that are syntactically richer, and more capable of abstracting the code, making it easy to target varying machine instruction sets via compilation declarations and heuristics. Use of a static code analysis tool can help detect some possible problems. Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation. These compiled languages allow the programmer to write programs in terms that are syntactically richer, and more capable of abstracting the code, making it easy to target varying machine instruction sets via compilation declarations and heuristics. Later a control panel (plug board) added to his 1906 Type I Tabulator allowed it to be programmed for different jobs, and by the late 1940s, unit record equipment such as the IBM 602 and IBM 604, were programmed by control panels in a similar way, as were the first electronic computers. 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. 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. Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help. Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected. It is very difficult to determine what are the most popular modern programming languages. Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem. 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. Code-breaking algorithms have also existed for centuries. 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. Some languages are very popular for particular kinds of applications, while some languages are regularly used to write many different kinds of applications.