

Computer programming or coding is the composition of sequences of instructions, called programs, that computers can follow to perform tasks. Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability. Computer programmers are those who write computer software. 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. 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. The academic field and the engineering practice of computer programming are both largely concerned with discovering and implementing the most efficient algorithms for a given class of problems. A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it. Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected. The first compiler related tool, the A-0 System, was developed in 1952 by Grace Hopper, who also coined the term 'compiler'. High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware. This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs. Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms). The first step in most formal software development processes is requirements analysis, followed by testing to determine value modeling, implementation, and failure elimination (debugging). 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. 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. However, readability is more than just programming style. Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use. 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. Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation. Use of a static code analysis tool can help detect some possible problems. 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. Programming languages are essential for software development. In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them. After the bug is reproduced, the input of the program may need to be simplified to make it easier to debug. The Unified Modeling Language (UML) is a notation used for both the OOAD and MDA.