

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). There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks. Following a consistent programming style often helps readability. Programmable devices have existed for centuries. In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them. High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware. 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 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form. Code-breaking algorithms have also existed for centuries. Some languages are very popular for particular kinds of applications, while some languages are regularly used to write many different kinds of applications. 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. Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation. Whatever the approach to development may be, the final program must satisfy some fundamental properties. 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. 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. He gave the first description of cryptanalysis by frequency analysis, the earliest code-breaking algorithm. In the 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form. However, readability is more than just programming style. High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware. 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. Following a consistent programming style often helps readability. 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. 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. 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. Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use.