Review the differences between developing and maintaining software.

* Choose one difference and relate it to your current or former work environment. Discuss points such as how that activity is different in the development mode versus the maintenance mode.

One difference between developing and maintaining software is the speed at which different phases occur. While developing software, it can take months or longer to develop a platform, review the code with team members, test the software and deploy to a stable environment. For example, one site that I created to track quality notification for my company took about half a year to get production ready and have customers. However, in the O&M phase of development, the speed at which those phases occur can be much faster. For example, for a trivial bug during O&M, I was able to develop a patch, do a peer review, test the patch and deploy to production all before lunchtime (if testers and peer reviewers were available, which they usually were). While the patches were not as influential or interesting to develop as the platform, the speed at which they could be deployed was much faster than general development, for obvious reasons.