The first computer program is generally dated to 1843, when mathematician Ada Lovelace published an algorithm to calculate a sequence of Bernoulli numbers, intended to be carried out by Charles Babbage's Analytical Engine. In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" - a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them. 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. Implementation techniques include imperative languages (object-oriented or procedural), functional languages, and logic languages. There are many approaches to the Software development process. 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. Scripting and breakpointing is also part of this 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. The first step in most formal software development processes is requirements analysis, followed by testing to determine value modeling, implementation, and failure elimination (debugging). Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help. 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. Proficient programming usually requires expertise in several different subjects, including knowledge of the application domain. details of programming languages and generic code libraries, specialized algorithms, and formal logic. 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. 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 affects the aspects of quality above, including portability, usability and most importantly maintainability. It affects the aspects of quality above, including portability, usability and most importantly maintainability. 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. 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. 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. The first step in most formal software development processes is requirements analysis, followed by testing to determine value modeling, implementation, and failure elimination (debugging). Implementation techniques include imperative languages (object-oriented or procedural), functional languages, and logic languages. They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones. In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them.

Trial-and-error/divide-and-conquer is needed: the programmer will try to remove some parts of the original test case and check if the problem still exists. Some languages are very popular for particular kinds of applications, while some languages are regularly used to write many different kinds of applications.