Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem. 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. Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability. Programmers typically use high-level programming languages that are more easily intelligible to humans than machine code, which is directly executed by the central processing unit. Some text editors such as Emacs allow GDB to be invoked through them, to provide a visual environment. 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. Use of a static code analysis tool can help detect some possible problems. Debugging is a very important task in the software development process since having defects in a program can have significant consequences for its users. Computer programming or coding is the composition of sequences of instructions, called programs, that computers can follow to perform tasks. In the 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form. It is very difficult to determine what are the most popular modern programming languages. There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks. Some languages are more prone to some kinds of faults because their specification does not require compilers to perform as much checking as other languages. One approach popular for requirements analysis is Use Case analysis.

Code-breaking algorithms have also existed for centuries. Assembly languages were soon developed that let the programmer specify instruction in a text format (e.g., ADD X, TOTAL), with abbreviations for each operation code and meaningful names for specifying addresses. It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones. Programmers typically use high-level programming languages that are more easily intelligible to humans than machine code, which is directly executed by the central processing unit. There are many approaches to the Software development process. Debugging is often done with IDEs. Standalone debuggers like GDB are also used, and these often provide less of a visual environment, usually using a command line. Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem. Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms). He gave the first description of cryptanalysis by frequency analysis, the earliest code-breaking algorithm. 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. New languages are generally designed around the syntax of a prior language with new functionality added, (for example C++ adds object-orientation to C, and Java adds memory management and bytecode to C++, but as a result, loses efficiency and the ability for low-level manipulation).