By the late 1960s, data storage devices and computer terminals became inexpensive enough that programs could be created by typing directly into the computers..  
 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.  
They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones.  
  
 Following a consistent programming style often helps readability.  
It involves designing and implementing algorithms, step-by-step specifications of procedures, by writing code in one or more programming languages.  
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.  
 Programs were mostly entered using punched cards or paper tape.  
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.  
 These compiled languages allow the programmer to write programs in terms that are syntactically richer, and more capable of abstracting the code, making it easy to target varying machine instruction sets via compilation declarations and heuristics.  
 In the 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form.  
Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability.  
In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them.  
Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help.  
Programming languages are essential for software development.