Programmable devices have existed for centuries..  
Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected.  
 High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware.  
There are many approaches to the Software development process.  
 The first step in most formal software development processes is requirements analysis, followed by testing to determine value modeling, implementation, and failure elimination (debugging).  
 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).  
Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use.  
 Implementation techniques include imperative languages (object-oriented or procedural), functional languages, and logic languages.  
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.  
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.  
Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability.  
Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help.  
 Code-breaking algorithms have also existed for centuries.  
There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks.  
For example, when a bug in a compiler can make it crash when parsing some large source file, a simplification of the test case that results in only few lines from the original source file can be sufficient to reproduce the same crash.