As early as the 9th century, a programmable music sequencer was invented by the Persian Banu Musa brothers, who described an automated mechanical flute player in the Book of Ingenious Devices..  
Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process.  
 A similar technique used for database design is Entity-Relationship Modeling (ER Modeling).  
 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.  
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.  
They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones.  
One approach popular for requirements analysis is Use Case analysis.  
Use of a static code analysis tool can help detect some possible problems.  
Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem.  
 Debugging is a very important task in the software development process since having defects in a program can have significant consequences for its users.  
The choice of language used is subject to many considerations, such as company policy, suitability to task, availability of third-party packages, or individual preference.  
 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.  
Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help.  
In 1206, the Arab engineer Al-Jazari invented a programmable drum machine where a musical mechanical automaton could be made to play different rhythms and drum patterns, via pegs and cams.  
For example, COBOL is still strong in corporate data centers often on large mainframe computers, Fortran in engineering applications, scripting languages in Web development, and C in embedded software.