Computer programming or coding is the composition of sequences of instructions, called programs, that computers can follow to perform tasks..  
Methods of measuring programming language popularity include: counting the number of job advertisements that mention the language, the number of books sold and courses teaching the language (this overestimates the importance of newer languages), and estimates of the number of existing lines of code written in the language (this underestimates the number of users of business languages such as COBOL).  
In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them.  
Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability.  
 Following a consistent programming style often helps readability.  
This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs.  
 Debugging is a very important task in the software development process since having defects in a program can have significant consequences for its users.  
 Programmable devices have existed for centuries.  
 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.  
 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.  
A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it.  
 The first step in most formal software development processes is requirements analysis, followed by testing to determine value modeling, implementation, and failure elimination (debugging).  
Unreadable code often leads to bugs, inefficiencies, and duplicated code.  
Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability.  
 Whatever the approach to development may be, the final program must satisfy some fundamental properties.