Readability is important because programmers spend the majority of their time reading, trying to understand, reusing and modifying existing source code, rather than writing new source code..  
 Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation.  
Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability.  
 The first computer program is generally dated to 1843, when mathematician Ada Lovelace published an algorithm to calculate a sequence of Bernoulli numbers, intended to be carried out by Charles Babbage's Analytical Engine.  
 Following a consistent programming style often helps readability.  
Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help.  
 Whatever the approach to development may be, the final program must satisfy some fundamental properties.  
 High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware.  
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.  
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.  
A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it.  
Programming languages are essential for software development.  
 Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms).  
There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks.  
 It is very difficult to determine what are the most popular modern programming languages.