Unreadable code often leads to bugs, inefficiencies, and duplicated code..  
Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process.  
In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them.  
In the 9th century, the Arab mathematician Al-Kindi described a cryptographic algorithm for deciphering encrypted code, in A Manuscript on Deciphering Cryptographic Messages.  
However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837.  
There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks.  
Programming languages are essential for software development.  
 The first step in most formal software development processes is requirements analysis, followed by testing to determine value modeling, implementation, and failure elimination (debugging).  
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.  
 Auxiliary tasks accompanying and related to programming include analyzing requirements, testing, debugging (investigating and fixing problems), implementation of build systems, and management of derived artifacts, such as programs' machine code.  
 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.  
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.  
 Implementation techniques include imperative languages (object-oriented or procedural), functional languages, and logic languages.  
 It is very difficult to determine what are the most popular modern programming languages.  
Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use.