Programmable devices have existed for centuries..  
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).  
It affects the aspects of quality above, including portability, usability and most importantly maintainability.  
Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards.  
However, because an assembly language is little more than a different notation for a machine language, two machines with different instruction sets also have different assembly languages.  
Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem.  
There are many approaches to the Software development process.  
 Programs were mostly entered using punched cards or paper tape.  
A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it.  
In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them.  
 High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware.  
 Code-breaking algorithms have also existed for centuries.  
 After the bug is reproduced, the input of the program may need to be simplified to make it easier to debug.  
By the late 1960s, data storage devices and computer terminals became inexpensive enough that programs could be created by typing directly into the computers.  
For this purpose, algorithms are classified into orders using so-called Big O notation, which expresses resource use, such as execution time or memory consumption, in terms of the size of an input.