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..  
 Following a consistent programming style often helps readability.  
 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.  
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.  
The following properties are among the most important:  
  
 In computer programming, readability refers to the ease with which a human reader can comprehend the purpose, control flow, and operation of source code.  
However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837.  
In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them.  
A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it.  
  
 It is very difficult to determine what are the most popular modern programming languages.  
 A similar technique used for database design is Entity-Relationship Modeling (ER Modeling).  
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.  
Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process.  
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.  
Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards.