Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process..  
Scripting and breakpointing is also part of this process.  
The choice of language used is subject to many considerations, such as company policy, suitability to task, availability of third-party packages, or individual preference.  
 Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation.  
 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.  
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.  
 Code-breaking algorithms have also existed for centuries.  
Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help.  
Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards.  
The Unified Modeling Language (UML) is a notation used for both the OOAD and MDA.  
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).  
 A similar technique used for database design is Entity-Relationship Modeling (ER Modeling).  
One approach popular for requirements analysis is Use Case analysis.  
However, readability is more than just programming style.  
Many programmers use forms of Agile software development where the various stages of formal software development are more integrated together into short cycles that take a few weeks rather than years.