In the 9th century, the Arab mathematician Al-Kindi described a cryptographic algorithm for deciphering encrypted code, in A Manuscript on Deciphering Cryptographic Messages..  
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.  
 After the bug is reproduced, the input of the program may need to be simplified to make it easier to debug.  
  
The first compiler related tool, the A-0 System, was developed in 1952 by Grace Hopper, who also coined the term 'compiler'.  
A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it.  
 Various visual programming languages have also been developed with the intent to resolve readability concerns by adopting non-traditional approaches to code structure and display.  
Scripting and breakpointing is also part of this process.  
Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected.  
 Debugging is a very important task in the software development process since having defects in a program can have significant consequences for its users.  
Use of a static code analysis tool can help detect some possible problems.  
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).  
Some text editors such as Emacs allow GDB to be invoked through them, to provide a visual environment.  
 New languages are generally designed around the syntax of a prior language with new functionality added, (for example C++ adds object-orientation to C, and Java adds memory management and bytecode to C++, but as a result, loses efficiency and the ability for low-level manipulation).  
When debugging the problem in a GUI, the programmer can try to skip some user interaction from the original problem description and check if remaining actions are sufficient for bugs to appear.  
Unreadable code often leads to bugs, inefficiencies, and duplicated code.