Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation..  
 In the 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form.  
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.  
It affects the aspects of quality above, including portability, usability and most importantly maintainability.  
 The first step in most formal software development processes is requirements analysis, followed by testing to determine value modeling, implementation, and failure elimination (debugging).  
Some languages are more prone to some kinds of faults because their specification does not require compilers to perform as much checking as other languages.  
 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.  
There are many approaches to the Software development process.  
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.  
 A similar technique used for database design is Entity-Relationship Modeling (ER Modeling).  
Trial-and-error/divide-and-conquer is needed: the programmer will try to remove some parts of the original test case and check if the problem still exists.  
A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it.  
 Following a consistent programming style often helps readability.  
Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability.  
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.