High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware..  
However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837.  
 In the 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form.  
Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process.  
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).  
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.  
 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.  
Trade-offs from this ideal involve finding enough programmers who know the language to build a team, the availability of compilers for that language, and the efficiency with which programs written in a given language execute.  
 Some languages are very popular for particular kinds of applications, while some languages are regularly used to write many different kinds of applications.  
 It is very difficult to determine what are the most popular modern programming languages.  
 Readability is important because programmers spend the majority of their time reading, trying to understand, reusing and modifying existing source code, rather than writing new source code.  
Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards.  
They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones.  
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 applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use.