It involves designing and implementing algorithms, step-by-step specifications of procedures, by writing code in one or more programming languages..  
It affects the aspects of quality above, including portability, usability and most importantly maintainability.  
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.  
 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.  
By the late 1960s, data storage devices and computer terminals became inexpensive enough that programs could be created by typing directly into the computers.  
 Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms).  
 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.  
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.  
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.  
 Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation.  
Assembly languages were soon developed that let the programmer specify instruction in a text format (e.g., ADD X, TOTAL), with abbreviations for each operation code and meaningful names for specifying addresses.  
Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process.  
Some text editors such as Emacs allow GDB to be invoked through them, to provide a visual environment.  
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 similar technique used for database design is Entity-Relationship Modeling (ER Modeling).