Allen Downey, in his book How To Think Like A Computer Scientist, writes:  
 Many computer languages provide a mechanism to call functions provided by shared libraries..  
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.  
 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.  
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.  
 Whatever the approach to development may be, the final program must satisfy some fundamental properties.  
It affects the aspects of quality above, including portability, usability and most importantly maintainability.  
However, readability is more than just programming style.  
Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards.  
 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.  
 Debugging is a very important task in the software development process since having defects in a program can have significant consequences for its users.  
 Code-breaking algorithms have also existed for centuries.  
Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation.  
Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability.  
Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use.  
They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones.