Programmable devices have existed for centuries..  
This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs.  
However, with the concept of the stored-program computer introduced in 1949, both programs and data were stored and manipulated in the same way in computer memory.  
However, readability is more than just programming style.  
FORTRAN, the first widely used high-level language to have a functional implementation, came out in 1957, and many other languages were soon developed—in particular, COBOL aimed at commercial data processing, and Lisp for computer research.  
 Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation.  
 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.  
By the late 1960s, data storage devices and computer terminals became inexpensive enough that programs could be created by typing directly into the computers.  
 Implementation techniques include imperative languages (object-oriented or procedural), functional languages, and logic languages.  
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.  
 Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms).  
Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use.  
 High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware.  
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.  
It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones.