It involves designing and implementing algorithms, step-by-step specifications of procedures, by writing code in one or more programming languages..  
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.  
 Code-breaking algorithms have also existed for centuries.  
It affects the aspects of quality above, including portability, usability and most importantly maintainability.  
 New languages are generally designed around the syntax of a prior language with new functionality added, (for example C++ adds object-orientation to C, and Java adds memory management and bytecode to C++, but as a result, loses efficiency and the ability for low-level manipulation).  
However, readability is more than just programming style.  
 In the 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form.  
 Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation.  
There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks.  
 The first step in most formal software development processes is requirements analysis, followed by testing to determine value modeling, implementation, and failure elimination (debugging).  
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.  
In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them.  
Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process.  
Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability.  
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.