Some text editors such as Emacs allow GDB to be invoked through them, to provide a visual environment..  
  
In the 9th century, the Arab mathematician Al-Kindi described a cryptographic algorithm for deciphering encrypted code, in A Manuscript on Deciphering Cryptographic Messages.  
 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.  
There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks.  
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.  
 Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation.  
 In the 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form.  
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.  
A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it.  
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.  
Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem.  
Programming languages are essential for software development.  
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.  
Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem.