Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation..  
Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability.  
  
The first compiler related tool, the A-0 System, was developed in 1952 by Grace Hopper, who also coined the term 'compiler'.  
However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837.  
 Following a consistent programming style often helps readability.  
 Debugging is a very important task in the software development process since having defects in a program can have significant consequences for its users.  
Some text editors such as Emacs allow GDB to be invoked through them, to provide a visual environment.  
Unreadable code often leads to bugs, inefficiencies, and duplicated code.  
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 following properties are among the most important:  
  
 In computer programming, readability refers to the ease with which a human reader can comprehend the purpose, control flow, and operation of source code.  
 Programmable devices have existed for centuries.  
 The first computer program is generally dated to 1843, when mathematician Ada Lovelace published an algorithm to calculate a sequence of Bernoulli numbers, intended to be carried out by Charles Babbage's Analytical Engine.  
Use of a static code analysis tool can help detect some possible problems.  
Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help.  
 Popular modeling techniques include Object-Oriented Analysis and Design (OOAD) and Model-Driven Architecture (MDA).