Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation..  
 Code-breaking algorithms have also existed for centuries.  
Methods of measuring programming language popularity include: counting the number of job advertisements that mention the language, the number of books sold and courses teaching the language (this overestimates the importance of newer languages), and estimates of the number of existing lines of code written in the language (this underestimates the number of users of business languages such as COBOL).  
 A similar technique used for database design is Entity-Relationship Modeling (ER Modeling).  
 Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms).  
This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs.  
Languages form an approximate spectrum from "low-level" to "high-level"; "low-level" languages are typically more machine-oriented and faster to execute, whereas "high-level" languages are more abstract and easier to use but execute less quickly.  
 Implementation techniques include imperative languages (object-oriented or procedural), functional languages, and logic languages.  
  
In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them.  
 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.  
Programmers typically use high-level programming languages that are more easily intelligible to humans than machine code, which is directly executed by the central processing unit.  
 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.  
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.  
There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks.