Debugging is often done with IDEs.. Standalone debuggers like GDB are also used, and these often provide less of a visual environment, usually using a command line.  
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.  
It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones.  
Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability.  
Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards.  
 A similar technique used for database design is Entity-Relationship Modeling (ER Modeling).  
There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks.  
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.  
Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process.  
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.  
There are many approaches to the Software development process.  
The Unified Modeling Language (UML) is a notation used for both the OOAD and MDA.  
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.  
 The academic field and the engineering practice of computer programming are both largely concerned with discovering and implementing the most efficient algorithms for a given class of problems.  
Programming languages are essential for software development.