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..  
 Code-breaking algorithms have also existed for centuries.  
By the late 1960s, data storage devices and computer terminals became inexpensive enough that programs could be created by typing directly into the computers.  
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.  
 Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms).  
 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).  
The choice of language used is subject to many considerations, such as company policy, suitability to task, availability of third-party packages, or individual preference.  
 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.  
 Some languages are very popular for particular kinds of applications, while some languages are regularly used to write many different kinds of applications.  
Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation.  
 After the bug is reproduced, the input of the program may need to be simplified to make it easier to debug.  
A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it.  
 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.  
It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones.  
 A similar technique used for database design is Entity-Relationship Modeling (ER Modeling).