Their jobs usually involve:  
 Although programming has been presented in the media as a somewhat mathematical subject, some research shows that good programmers have strong skills in natural human languages, and that learning to code is similar to learning a foreign language..  
However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837.  
 Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms).  
They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones.  
Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem.  
 In the 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form.  
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).  
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 affects the aspects of quality above, including portability, usability and most importantly maintainability.  
Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem.  
Assembly languages were soon developed that let the programmer specify instruction in a text format (e.g., ADD X, TOTAL), with abbreviations for each operation code and meaningful names for specifying addresses.  
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.  
 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.  
  
The first compiler related tool, the A-0 System, was developed in 1952 by Grace Hopper, who also coined the term 'compiler'.  
Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability.