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..  
By the late 1960s, data storage devices and computer terminals became inexpensive enough that programs could be created by typing directly into the computers.  
 After the bug is reproduced, the input of the program may need to be simplified to make it easier to debug.  
FORTRAN, the first widely used high-level language to have a functional implementation, came out in 1957, and many other languages were soon developed—in particular, COBOL aimed at commercial data processing, and Lisp for computer research.  
While these are sometimes considered programming, often the term software development is used for this larger overall process – with the terms programming, implementation, and coding reserved for the writing and editing of code per se.  
It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones.  
It affects the aspects of quality above, including portability, usability and most importantly maintainability.  
They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones.  
 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).  
Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected.  
However, readability is more than just programming style.  
  
The first compiler related tool, the A-0 System, was developed in 1952 by Grace Hopper, who also coined the term 'compiler'.  
A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it.  
The Unified Modeling Language (UML) is a notation used for both the OOAD and MDA.  
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).