The following properties are among the most important:  
  
 In computer programming, readability refers to the ease with which a human reader can comprehend the purpose, control flow, and operation of source code..  
However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837.  
Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem.  
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.  
Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability.  
 Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation.  
 High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware.  
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.  
However, because an assembly language is little more than a different notation for a machine language, two machines with different instruction sets also have different assembly languages.  
It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones.  
 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.  
However, readability is more than just programming style.  
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.  
A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it.  
Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use.