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..  
Programming languages are essential for software development.  
 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.  
 Whatever the approach to development may be, the final program must satisfy some fundamental properties.  
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.  
Some of these factors include:  
 The presentation aspects of this (such as indents, line breaks, color highlighting, and so on) are often handled by the source code editor, but the content aspects reflect the programmer's talent and skills.  
A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it.  
 High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware.  
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.  
 Some languages are very popular for particular kinds of applications, while some languages are regularly used to write many different kinds of applications.  
One approach popular for requirements analysis is Use Case analysis.  
It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones.  
Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process.  
 Readability is important because programmers spend the majority of their time reading, trying to understand, reusing and modifying existing source code, rather than writing new source code.  
Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem.