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..  
They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones.  
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.  
Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem.  
However, with the concept of the stored-program computer introduced in 1949, both programs and data were stored and manipulated in the same way in computer memory.  
 Allen Downey, in his book How To Think Like A Computer Scientist, writes:  
 Many computer languages provide a mechanism to call functions provided by shared libraries.  
 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'.  
 Following a consistent programming style often helps readability.  
 Programmable devices have existed for centuries.  
 Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation.  
 Debugging is a very important task in the software development process since having defects in a program can have significant consequences for its users.  
 Whatever the approach to development may be, the final program must satisfy some fundamental properties.  
  
 In the 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form.