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..  
 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).  
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.  
Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected.  
Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability.  
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.  
However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837.  
Unreadable code often leads to bugs, inefficiencies, and duplicated code.  
 Computer programmers are those who write computer software.  
Sometimes software development is known as software engineering, especially when it employs formal methods or follows an engineering design process.  
  
 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.  
Expert programmers are familiar with a variety of well-established algorithms and their respective complexities and use this knowledge to choose algorithms that are best suited to the circumstances.  
Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help.  
One approach popular for requirements analysis is Use Case analysis.