Programmable devices have existed for centuries..  
 Some languages are very popular for particular kinds of applications, while some languages are regularly used to write many different kinds of applications.  
Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected.  
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.  
  
It affects the aspects of quality above, including portability, usability and most importantly maintainability.  
Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards.  
Some languages are more prone to some kinds of faults because their specification does not require compilers to perform as much checking as other languages.  
Programming languages are essential for software development.  
 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.  
 High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware.  
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).  
 Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation.  
Later a control panel (plug board) added to his 1906 Type I Tabulator allowed it to be programmed for different jobs, and by the late 1940s, unit record equipment such as the IBM 602 and IBM 604, were programmed by control panels in a similar way, as were the first electronic computers.