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)..  
 Some languages are very popular for particular kinds of applications, while some languages are regularly used to write many different kinds of applications.  
Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards.  
 It is very difficult to determine what are the most popular modern programming languages.  
It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones.  
 A similar technique used for database design is Entity-Relationship Modeling (ER Modeling).  
 The first step in most formal software development processes is requirements analysis, followed by testing to determine value modeling, implementation, and failure elimination (debugging).  
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.  
  
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.  
 High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware.  
For example, COBOL is still strong in corporate data centers often on large mainframe computers, Fortran in engineering applications, scripting languages in Web development, and C in embedded software.  
 Implementation techniques include imperative languages (object-oriented or procedural), functional languages, and logic languages.  
Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability.  
Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation.