Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability.  
Programming languages are essential for software development.  
However, readability is more than just programming style.  
To produce machine code, the source code must either be compiled or transpiled.  
One approach popular for requirements analysis is Use Case analysis.  
Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected.  
By the late 1960s, data storage devices and computer terminals became inexpensive enough that programs could be created by typing directly into the computers.  
Also, those involved with software development may at times engage in reverse engineering, which is the practice of seeking to understand an existing program so as to re-implement its function in some way.  
 Programmable devices have existed for centuries.  
 A similar technique used for database design is Entity-Relationship Modeling (ER Modeling).  
In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them.  
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.  
For example, when a bug in a compiler can make it crash when parsing some large source file, a simplification of the test case that results in only few lines from the original source file can be sufficient to reproduce the same crash.  
Programming involves tasks such as analysis, generating algorithms, profiling algorithms' accuracy and resource consumption, and the implementation of algorithms (usually in a particular programming language, commonly referred to as coding).  
 Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation.