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).  
In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them.  
However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837.  
The following properties are among the most important:  
  
 In computer programming, readability refers to the ease with which a human reader can comprehend the purpose, control flow, and operation of source code.  
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.  
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.  
However, because an assembly language is little more than a different notation for a machine language, two machines with different instruction sets also have different assembly languages.  
Relatedly, software engineering combines engineering techniques and principles with software development.  
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The choice of language used is subject to many considerations, such as company policy, suitability to task, availability of third-party packages, or individual preference.  
 Code-breaking algorithms have also existed for centuries.  
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The first compiler related tool, the A-0 System, was developed in 1952 by Grace Hopper, who also coined the term 'compiler'.  
They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones.