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.  
By the late 1960s, data storage devices and computer terminals became inexpensive enough that programs could be created by typing directly into the computers.  
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).  
To produce machine code, the source code must either be compiled or transpiled.  
However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837.  
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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.  
Some text editors such as Emacs allow GDB to be invoked through them, to provide a visual environment.  
A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it.  
Compiling takes the source code from a low-level programming language and converts it into machine code.  
 High-level languages made the process of developing a program simpler and more understandable, and less bound to the underlying hardware.  
The purpose of programming is to find a sequence of instructions that will automate the performance of a task (which can be as complex as an operating system) on a computer, often for solving a given problem.  
 It is very difficult to determine what are the most popular modern programming languages.  
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.  
Unreadable code often leads to bugs, inefficiencies, and duplicated code.