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.  
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.  
In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them.  
Their jobs usually involve:  
 Although programming has been presented in the media as a somewhat mathematical subject, some research shows that good programmers have strong skills in natural human languages, and that learning to code is similar to learning a foreign language.  
They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones.  
Relatedly, software engineering combines engineering techniques and principles with software development.  
Compiling takes the source code from a low-level programming language and converts it into machine code.  
Assembly languages were soon developed that let the programmer specify instruction in a text format (e.g., ADD X, TOTAL), with abbreviations for each operation code and meaningful names for specifying addresses.  
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.  
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Languages form an approximate spectrum from "low-level" to "high-level"; "low-level" languages are typically more machine-oriented and faster to execute, whereas "high-level" languages are more abstract and easier to use but execute less quickly.  
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.  
 In the 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form.  
By the late 1960s, data storage devices and computer terminals became inexpensive enough that programs could be created by typing directly into the computers.  
Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use.