Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability.  
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.  
The source code of a program is written in one or more languages that are intelligible to programmers, rather than machine code, which is directly executed by the central processing unit.  
Some text editors such as Emacs allow GDB to be invoked through them, to provide a visual environment.  
Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards.  
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.  
Relatedly, software engineering combines engineering techniques and principles with software development.  
It affects the aspects of quality above, including portability, usability and most importantly maintainability.  
Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards.  
They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones.  
Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected.  
Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation.  
Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability.  
 Allen Downey, in his book How To Think Like A Computer Scientist, writes:  
 Many computer languages provide a mechanism to call functions provided by shared libraries.  
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.