They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones.  
However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837.  
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.  
For this purpose, algorithms are classified into orders using so-called Big O notation, which expresses resource use, such as execution time or memory consumption, in terms of the size of an input.  
There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks.  
However, readability is more than just programming style.  
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.  
Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability.  
They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones.  
Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation.  
 Implementation techniques include imperative languages (object-oriented or procedural), functional languages, and logic languages.  
 Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation.  
A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it.  
Trial-and-error/divide-and-conquer is needed: the programmer will try to remove some parts of the original test case and check if the problem still exists.  
To produce machine code, the source code must either be compiled or transpiled.