Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation.  
This is interpreted into machine code.  
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).  
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.  
A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it.  
They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones.  
Compiling takes the source code from a low-level programming language and converts it into machine code.  
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.  
This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs.  
Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards.  
Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability.  
 Various visual programming languages have also been developed with the intent to resolve readability concerns by adopting non-traditional approaches to code structure and display.  
Later a control panel (plug board) added to his 1906 Type I Tabulator allowed it to be programmed for different jobs, and by the late 1940s, unit record equipment such as the IBM 602 and IBM 604, were programmed by control panels in a similar way, as were the first electronic computers.  
Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability.  
 A similar technique used for database design is Entity-Relationship Modeling (ER Modeling).