Many programmers use forms of Agile software development where the various stages of formal software development are more integrated together into short cycles that take a few weeks rather than years.  
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.  
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.  
Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards.  
There are many approaches to the Software development process.  
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.  
He gave the first description of cryptanalysis by frequency analysis, the earliest code-breaking algorithm.  
However, readability is more than just programming style.  
Scripting and breakpointing is also part of this process.  
Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem.  
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.  
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).  
This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs.  
Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help.  
Compiling takes the source code from a low-level programming language and converts it into machine code.