By the late 1960s, data storage devices and computer terminals became inexpensive enough that programs could be created by typing directly into the computers.  
For example, COBOL is still strong in corporate data centers often on large mainframe computers, Fortran in engineering applications, scripting languages in Web development, and C in embedded software.  
Compilers harnessed the power of computers to make programming easier by allowing programmers to specify calculations by entering a formula using infix notation.  
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.  
They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones.  
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.  
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.  
Trade-offs from this ideal involve finding enough programmers who know the language to build a team, the availability of compilers for that language, and the efficiency with which programs written in a given language execute.  
It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones.  
 Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation.  
Use of a static code analysis tool can help detect some possible problems.  
They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones.  
 In the 1880s, Herman Hollerith invented the concept of storing data in machine-readable form.  
 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.  
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.