Their jobs usually involve:  
 Although programming has been presented in the media as a somewhat mathematical subject, some research shows that good programmers have strong skills in natural human languages, and that learning to code is similar to learning a foreign language.  
They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones.  
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.  
In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them.  
Assembly languages were soon developed that let the programmer specify instruction in a text format (e.g., ADD X, TOTAL), with abbreviations for each operation code and meaningful names for specifying addresses.  
Many applications use a mix of several languages in their construction and use.  
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.  
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One approach popular for requirements analysis is Use Case analysis.  
Use of a static code analysis tool can help detect some possible problems.  
Compiling takes the source code from a low-level programming language and converts it into machine code.  
 A similar technique used for database design is Entity-Relationship Modeling (ER Modeling).  
Relatedly, software engineering combines engineering techniques and principles with software development.  
The Unified Modeling Language (UML) is a notation used for both the OOAD and MDA.