Proficient programming thus usually requires expertise in several different subjects, including knowledge of the application domain, specialized algorithms, and formal logic.  
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.  
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.  
They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones.  
To produce machine code, the source code must either be compiled or transpiled.  
It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones.  
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.  
A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it.  
Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability.  
Unreadable code often leads to bugs, inefficiencies, and duplicated code.  
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.  
Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help.  
When debugging the problem in a GUI, the programmer can try to skip some user interaction from the original problem description and check if remaining actions are sufficient for bugs to appear.  
 Implementation techniques include imperative languages (object-oriented or procedural), functional languages, and logic languages.  
 Programmable devices have existed for centuries.