They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones.  
Also, specific user environment and usage history can make it difficult to reproduce the problem.  
Scripting and breakpointing is also part of this process.  
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.  
Normally the first step in debugging is to attempt to reproduce the problem.  
Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help.  
However, with the concept of the stored-program computer introduced in 1949, both programs and data were stored and manipulated in the same way in computer memory.  
Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability.  
Unreadable code often leads to bugs, inefficiencies, and duplicated code.  
 Machine code was the language of early programs, written in the instruction set of the particular machine, often in binary notation.  
 Debugging is often done with IDEs. Standalone debuggers like GDB are also used, and these often provide less of a visual environment, usually using a command line.  
 Programs were mostly entered using punched cards or paper tape.  
  
The first compiler related tool, the A-0 System, was developed in 1952 by Grace Hopper, who also coined the term 'compiler'.  
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.  
 The academic field and the engineering practice of computer programming are both largely concerned with discovering and implementing the most efficient algorithms for a given class of problems.