Programming involves tasks such as analysis, generating algorithms, profiling algorithms' accuracy and resource consumption, and the implementation of algorithms (usually in a particular programming language, commonly referred to as coding).  
This can be a non-trivial task, for example as with parallel processes or some unusual software bugs.  
However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837.  
In 1206, the Arab engineer Al-Jazari invented a programmable drum machine where a musical mechanical automaton could be made to play different rhythms and drum patterns, via pegs and cams.  
A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it.  
He gave the first description of cryptanalysis by frequency analysis, the earliest code-breaking algorithm.  
The Unified Modeling Language (UML) is a notation used for both the OOAD and MDA.  
Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards.  
Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help.  
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.  
For example, when a bug in a compiler can make it crash when parsing some large source file, a simplification of the test case that results in only few lines from the original source file can be sufficient to reproduce the same crash.  
As early as the 9th century, a programmable music sequencer was invented by the Persian Banu Musa brothers, who described an automated mechanical flute player in the Book of Ingenious Devices.  
However, readability is more than just programming style.  
Expert programmers are familiar with a variety of well-established algorithms and their respective complexities and use this knowledge to choose algorithms that are best suited to the circumstances.  
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).