The source code of a program is written in one or more languages that are intelligible to programmers, rather than machine code, which is directly executed by the central processing unit.  
This is interpreted into machine code.  
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.  
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The source code of a program is written in one or more languages that are intelligible to programmers, rather than machine code, which is directly executed by the central processing unit.  
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.  
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Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability.  
There exist a lot of different approaches for each of those tasks.  
In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them.  
It is usually easier to code in "high-level" languages than in "low-level" ones.  
Use of a static code analysis tool can help detect some possible problems.  
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