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).  
Text editors were also developed that allowed changes and corrections to be made much more easily than with punched cards.  
Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability.  
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.  
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A study found that a few simple readability transformations made code shorter and drastically reduced the time to understand it.  
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.  
Unreadable code often leads to bugs, inefficiencies, and duplicated code.  
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.  
One approach popular for requirements analysis is Use Case analysis.  
 Code-breaking algorithms have also existed for centuries.  
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.  
  
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