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.  
In 1801, the Jacquard loom could produce entirely different weaves by changing the "program" – a series of pasteboard cards with holes punched in them.  
Techniques like Code refactoring can enhance readability.  
Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability.  
In the 9th century, the Arab mathematician Al-Kindi described a cryptographic algorithm for deciphering encrypted code, in A Manuscript on Deciphering Cryptographic Messages.  
Later a control panel (plug board) added to his 1906 Type I Tabulator allowed it to be programmed for different jobs, and by the late 1940s, unit record equipment such as the IBM 602 and IBM 604, were programmed by control panels in a similar way, as were the first electronic computers.  
Integrated development environments (IDEs) aim to integrate all such help.  
Programming languages are essential for software development.  
However, because an assembly language is little more than a different notation for a machine language, two machines with different instruction sets also have different assembly languages.  
The Unified Modeling Language (UML) is a notation used for both the OOAD and MDA.  
Ideally, the programming language best suited for the task at hand will be selected.  
Compiling takes the source code from a low-level programming language and converts it into machine code.  
It affects the aspects of quality above, including portability, usability and most importantly maintainability.  
Unreadable code often leads to bugs, inefficiencies, and duplicated code.  
For this purpose, algorithms are classified into orders using so-called Big O notation, which expresses resource use, such as execution time or memory consumption, in terms of the size of an input.