Many factors, having little or nothing to do with the ability of the computer to efficiently compile and execute the code, contribute to readability.  
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.  
Programming languages are essential for software development.  
They are the building blocks for all software, from the simplest applications to the most sophisticated ones.  
Provided the functions in a library follow the appropriate run-time conventions (e.g., method of passing arguments), then these functions may be written in any other language.  
For example, COBOL is still strong in corporate data centers often on large mainframe computers, Fortran in engineering applications, scripting languages in Web development, and C in embedded software.  
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.  
However, Charles Babbage had already written his first program for the Analytical Engine in 1837.  
Compiling takes the source code from a low-level programming language and converts it into machine code.  
Relatedly, software engineering combines engineering techniques and principles with software development.  
Provided the functions in a library follow the appropriate run-time conventions (e.g., method of passing arguments), then these functions may be written in any other language.  
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.  
 Different programming languages support different styles of programming (called programming paradigms).  
Scripting and breakpointing is also part of this process.  
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.