

The Evolution of the Personal Computer

The First 50 Years

- 1962 The LINC (Laboratory Instrument Computer) begins processing data at an MIT lab to assist with biomedical research. The minicomputer paves the way for PCs.
- 1965 The PDP-8, made by Digital Equipment Corp., debuts and becomes the first minicomputer success. Price: \$18,000.
- 1969 The Department of Defense establishes the first computer network, called the ARPANet - later named the Internet.
- 1971 ARPANet transmits the first email.
- 1972 Atari releases Pong, kick-starting the video game industry.
- 1975 *Popular Electronics* puts the Altair 8800 computer kit on its January cover, and its maker, MITS, is flooded with orders. Memory: 256 bytes.
- 1976 Steve Wozniak creates the Apple I. Its sales allows Wozniak and Steve Jobs to start Apple Computers.
- 1977 The Commodore PET, Apple II and Tandy Radio Shack's TRS-80 all debut.
- 1981 IBM calls its minicomputer the PC, turning the description into a brand. Sales soar.
- 1982 GRID Systems releases Compass, the first laptop. Price: \$8,150. Time names the computer "Machine of the Year" in a story written on a typewriter.
- 1983 Compaq Computer Corp. makes the first PC clone, 100% compatible with IBM's PC. First year sales: \$111 million.
- 1984 Apple's Macintosh debuts during a \$1.5 million Super Bowl commercial. The Mac is the first successful computer to feature a mouse and user-friendly graphics.
- 1990 The World Wide Web is invented. The first successful version of Microsoft's Windows 3.0 launches.

The First 50 Years (continued)

- 1995 Amazon and eBay both debut, revolutionizing the way we shop.
- 1998 Google and PayPal debut, transforming information searches and financial transactions. Apple's successful iMac becomes the first in its line of iProducts.
- 2007 Apple's iPhone goes on sale, boasting up to 8 gigabytes of memory in a pocket-size phone.
- 2008 Apple launches the iPad, selling more than 300,000 on the tablet's debut day.
- 2012 iPhone 5 debuts.

Then	Now
1962 LINC about 8 square feet	2012 iPhone 5 x 2 inches
1 kb of memory (1,000 bytes)	16 gb of memory (16,000,000,000 bytes)
sold for \$43,600	sells for \$199

Sources:

Computer History Museum

history.com

National Institutes of Health

oldcomputers.net

smithsonian.com

New York Times



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