

News from Nan

COMPUTER HISTORY

IBM 7094, AN ANCIENT MAINFRAME

FEBRUARY 2, 2015 | DICK | LEAVE A COMMENT

From 2014 to 2020 we researched and cataloged over 5000 items (hardware, software, and text) at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, California. We sometimes blogged about our experiences and the fascinating items we encountered; this post is part of that set.



IBM 7094

In 2014, the Computer History Museum got a large donation from Paul Pierce. The donated collection included an IBM 650, IBM 709, and IBM 7094.

When I first graduated from UCLA, the first machine I was paid to write software for was the IBM 7094. At the time the language being used to program it was Fortran II, since the 7094 was a “scientific” machine. IBM began selling it in 1962. It used transistors instead of vacuum tubes. When it was new, such a machine cost about \$3,000,000.

The image above is part of a donated IBM 7094 sitting in the Computer History Museum warehouse where Anna and I volunteer to help catalog and curate artifacts.

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