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COMPUTER HISTORY

MY HIGH-TECH ADVENTURE: CHAPTER 01, INTRODUCTION

JULY 28, 2018 | DICK | LEAVE A COMMENT

Dick wrote this post, which was part of a book, My high-tech adventure, to record his memories of working in the computer industry, starting in about 1960. It was first published in 2012.



IBM 7090 computer

This is not a history of computing (there are plenty of those already!), but rather a description of things I actually had experience with myself. I have written this because I think a “remembrance” of computing might be more interesting to some people than just a history. Computing has changed so much in the years I have been in it, that it might be hard for some people to believe that the world of computers did not always revolve around Microsoft Windows and the Internet.

My years in elementary school through my graduation from college coincided with the initial development of commercial computers and the birth of the computer industry.

The following table lists the dates I was in school and some of the most popular IBM computers at the time. This information will help to set the context for the next few chapters.

Note: During these years there were also computers marketed by other companies like CDC (Control Data Corporation) and UNIVAC, but my experience was mostly with computers from IBM.

Year	Computer type, model	Description
<i>Elementary school and junior high (1948-1956)</i>		
1952	IBM Defense Calculator	Early binary vacuum tube computer
1952	IBM 701	Early manufacturable computer
1955	IBM 704	First successful core memory mainframe
1955	IBM 650	Computer with magnetic drum memory
<i>High school (1956-1960)</i>		
1957	IBM 709	Last vacuum tube mainframe
1958	IBM 7090	Early transistor computer
1959	IBM 1620	Early small scientific computer
<i>University (1960-1965)</i>		
1959	IBM 1401	Early business computer
1962	IBM 7094	Large scientific transistor computer
1965	System/360	First models of new computer family delivered

Popular IBM computers during my time in school

[◀ 2018](#)
[◀ IBM](#)
[◀ IBM 1401](#)
[◀ IBM 1626](#)
[◀ IBM 650](#)
[◀ IBM 701](#)
[◀ IBM 704](#)
[◀ IBM 709](#)
[◀ IBM 7090](#)
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