

History of PC's

IN THIS GUIDE

This guide highlights many of the notable dates in technology history which have impacted on the evolution of the computer and it's use today.

File: 01_001 History of PC's

Rev: 4.0 For Beginners

PDF version (37kb)

The following table summarises some landmarks in the personal computers' history

Date	Event
1901	The first radio message is sent across the Atlantic Ocean in Morse code
1927	Bell Telephone Laboratories demonstrate publicly TV for the first time
1945	The term 'bug' as computer bug was termed by Grace Hopper when programming
1947	John Bardeen, Walter Brattain and William Shockley invent the first transistor at the Bell Laboratories
1955	Bell Labs introduces its first transistor computer. Transistors are faster, smaller and create less heat than traditional vacuum tubes, making these computers more reliable and efficient
1957	IBM announces it will no longer be using vacuum tubes and releases its first computer that had 2000 transistors
1957	Russia launches the first artificial satellite, named sputnik
1958	American President Eisenhower's Christmas address is the first voice transmission from a satellite
1967	IBM creates the first floppy disk
1968	Intel Corporation is founded by Robert Noyce and Gordon Moore
1969	The U.S. Department of Defense sets up the Advanced Research Projects Agency Network (ARPANET) this network was the first building blocks to what the internet is today
1969	AMD is founded
1970	Intel introduces the first microprocessor, the Intel 4004
1972	Atari releases Pong, the first commercial video game
1975	Paul Allen and Bill Gates write the first computer language program for personal computers, which is a form of BASIC. Gates later drops out of Harvard and founds Microsoft with Allen
1976	The first 5.25-inch floppy disk is invented
1976	The Intel 8086 is introduced
1977	Apple becomes Incorporated January 4, 1977
1979	More than half a million computers are in use in the United States
1980	IBM hires Paul Allen and Bill Gates to create an operating system for a new PC. The pair buy the rights to a simple operating system manufactured by Seattle Computer Products and use it as a template. IBM allows the two to keep the marketing rights to the operating system, called DOS
1981	IBM released the 'first' personal computer which set the standard for future PC's to be known as IBM Compatible
1982	1982 WordPerfect Corporation introduces WordPerfect 1.0 a word processing program that will become one of the computer markets most popular word processing program

1982	Lotus Development Corporation is founded and Lotus 1-2-3, a spreadsheet program is introduced
1982	The Intel 80286 processor is announced
1983	Lotus 1-2-3 becomes the first popular software application with revolutionary menus and on-screen help
1983	IBM release the first PC with a hard drive
1983	Companies like Compaq begin to 'clone' the IBM PC
1983	More then 10 million computers are in use in the United States
1984	The Apple Mac is born with a graphical interface
1985	Intel introduces the 80386, a 16 MHz processor with 275,000 transistor capable of accessing up to four gigabytes of memory
1986	Compaq are the first to release a PC with Intel's 386 processor
1986	More than 30 million computers are in use in the United States
1988	About 45 million PCs are in use in the United States
1989	Intel releases the 486DX processor, with more than 1 million transistors and multitasking capabilities
1990	IBM and Microsoft part company - Microsoft release Windows 3.0
1990	Microsoft exceeds \$1 billion in sales and becomes the first company to do so
1991	The World Wide Web is launched. Tim Berners-Lee develops the Web as a research tool
1991	America On Line (AOL) open up for business
1991	Linus Torvalds develops a UNIX-like operating system Linux which he gives a free licence to
1992	Microsoft introduces Windows 3.1. It sells more than 1 million copies within the first two months
1992	Intel releases the 486DX2 chip with a clock doubling ability that generates higher operating speeds
1993	Windows for Workgroups 3.11 is released
1993	Windows NT (New Technology) is released, it is DOS free. They also release Microsoft Office 4.0 and MS-DOS 6.0
1993	Fifty World Wide Web servers are known to exist
1993	Intel releases the Pentium Processor. It is a 60 MHz processor, with 3.2 million transistors
1994	The internet gains mass appeal with the release of the free browser Netscape's Navigator
1994	YAHOO is created in April, 1994
1994	Commodore computers files Bankruptcy
1995	Windows 95 is released, within four days sell a million copies
1995	Intel releases the new motherboard form factor ATX
1997	The Intel Pentium II 233 MHz processor is released
1998	Windows 98 is released with a built-in web browser Internet Explorer
1999	The Intel Pentium III 500 MHz is released
2001	Windows XP is released and DOS disappears completely
2001	AOL membership surpasses 28 Million



2002	Approximately 1 billion PCs have been shipped worldwide since the mid-'70s
2003	September, AMD release the Athlon 64 Processor
2003	Sir Tim Berners-Lee knighted (year end honours) in recognition of his creation of the 'World Wide Web'.