

PC Revolution

1972-1984 overview



1981 August 12, 1981. IBM announces **IBM 5150 PC** Personal Computer in New York. Features Intel 8088 CPU. Price \$2880. Color graphics version \$6000.



1981 April. Adam Osborne introduces the luggable **Osborne 1** at the West Coast Computer Faire. Forecasted first year sales of 10,000 units and sold that many in the first month. Price \$1795.

1982 Compaq Portable introduced at \$3590, one of the first IBM PC compatible computers.

The first PC! You Decide: Which came first, the Scelbi or the Altair?

Some credit the **Altair 8800** as the first mass produced PC, others say the **Scelbi-8H** as it was the first nationally advertised PC. Other contenders would be the **Mark-1**, **Kenbak-1**, **Micral**, **Sphere I** or the **Alto**. It is clear that the evolution of the PC has had a major impact on our life today. It's hard to imagine life without a personal computer.



1975 June. IMSAI announces the **IMSAI 8080 S-100** microcomputer.

1975 **Cromemco** founded by Harry Garland and Roger Melen. Company is named after their Crowthers Memorial dorm at Stanford.

1982 January. Commodore Business Machines demonstrates low priced **Commodore 64** personal computer at Winter CES show in Las Vegas. Price \$595. Top-seller.



1983 November 1, 1983. IBM launches the **IBM PC Jr.** (code name "Peanut"). Price \$669.00.

1982 March. Andy and David Kay of Non-Linear Systems announce **Kaypro II** (Basically a knock-off of the Osborne 1). Price \$1795

1983 January. Apple Computer announces **Lisa** business computer. Features 5MHz 68000 CPU, graphical user interface (GUI). Price \$9995

1984 January. Apple announces **Macintosh 128K** with GUI and mouse. Its pull down menus and icons upstage text-driven PC's. Price \$2495.



1972 Xerox Parc develops the first PC called **Alto** with a GUI, Mouse plus Ethernet.

1973 **Scelbi-8H**, the first advertised PC used Intel 8008 CPU. Designed by Nat Wadsworth.

1973 September. Radio Electronics publishes an article on Don Lancaster's **TV Typewriter**.

1973 Gary Kildall writes small control program called **CP/M** (Control Program/Microcomputer) enabling users to read and write files to 8" floppy.

1975 Sphere Corporation introduces **Sphere I** computer kit, with Motorola 6800 CPU, 4Kb RAM, ROM, keyboard and video interface. Price \$650.



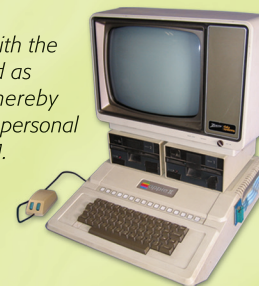
1975 **Altair 8800** appears on January front cover of Popular Electronics magazine. Offered in kit form for \$395. Also credited for Bill Gates and Paul Allen forming **Micro-Soft** in April and later dropped the hyphen.



1976 **Altair PONG** first shipped as Sears Tele-Games in 1975 and introduced the Atari PONG in 1976. Founded by Nolan Bushnell and credited by many as "The Father of the PC".

1977 April. Apple replaced Apple I with the first color computer, **Apple II**, adopted as the computer of choice by schools thereby introducing a generation of students to personal computing. Price \$1395 with 4Kb RAM.

1977 Dan Bricklin creates idea for **VisiCalc** spreadsheet program.



1977 April. Commodore Business Machines introduces prototype of **Commodore PET** computer at the West Coast Computer Faire features 6502 CPU. Price only \$600



1977 **Exidy Sorcerer** cartridge programmable computer was introduced at the Long Beach Computer Show by Paul Terrell for \$895.

1977 August. Tandy/RadioShack announces **TRS-80** called the "Trash-80" by computer nerds due to its flaky design.

To relive the early days of computing and learn how computers changed the way we work, live and play, visit The Freeman PC Museum on the web at thepcmuseum.net. We hope your visit to our web site will be educational, inspiring, rewarding and entertaining.



1978 Heathkit H8
Digital Computer and
H17 Floppy Disk

Donations

The Freeman PC Museum is one of the largest and most significant PC history museums dedicated to preserving computers and presenting the PC revolution from 1973 to the present.

The museum relies on broad-based community support in order to expand its collection. We appreciate the generosity of the countless computer users and hobbyists that have donated their personal collections to our museum and deeply thank you all for your support.

If you have any personal computers, home video games, old calculators, typewriters, slide rules, software, accessories, peripherals, memorabilia or any other timeless photos and magazines to share, we would appreciate your donation. We always enjoy hearing from old time collectors. Please contact us if you would like to share old memories, make a donation, or help us make our museum better.

Contact David Freeman at:
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714-558-8822



1975 Processor Technology
SOL-20 with Helios II Disk Drive



1981 June. Texas Instruments releases the popular **TI 99/4** cartridge based home computer for \$525. Almost 3 million sold!

We are looking for old photos, marketing brochures and memorabilia from the early PC days. If you have old pictures from computer shows, industry old-timers or vintage products (B&W or Color) please call Dave at:

714-558-8822

The Freeman PC Museum

Home of the History of the
Personal Computer

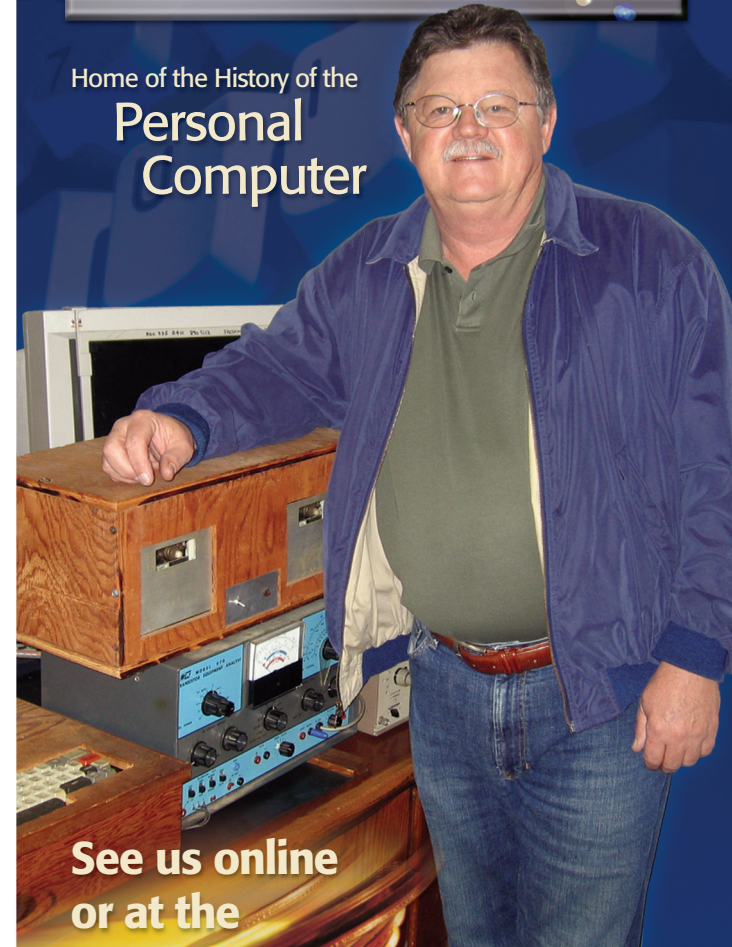
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The Freeman PC Museum was created to perpetuate the legacy of digital-age innovations and to inspire others to do the same.

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