

History in the Computing Curriculum

Appendix A8

1990 to 1999

1990: More than 54 million computers in use in the United States. (t)

1990: Microsoft introduces Windows 3.0 in May, intensifying its legal dispute with Apple over the software's "look and feel" resemblance to the Machintosh operating system. (e,t)

1990: Scientists at Bell Labs demonstrate the first all-optical processor on January 29. (e)

1990: Hewlett-Packard and IBM both announce RISC-based computers. (e)

1990: Intel's i486 and iPSC/860, and Motorola's 68040 become available. (e)

1990: Berners-Lee writes the initial prototype for the World Wide Web, which uses his other creations: URLs, HTML, and HTTP. (e)

1990: The World provides the first commercially available dial-up Internet access. Commercially available access ensures that the exclusionary nature of the Arpanet will not be the wave of the future. (f)

1990: Arpanet is officially decommissioned. (e)

1990: Laptop computers emerge as a portable computing platform. (p)

1990: A 14 year-old boy cracks the TRW credit bureau and orders \$11,000 in merchandise. A 12 year-old is arrested for tapping TRW credit files. (a)

1990: The Motorola 68040 chip is produced. (a)

1991: The Japanese Ministry of Trade and Industry abandons its program to build a fifth-generation computer and plans instead for a sixth-generation computer based on neural networks. (e)

1991: Cray Research unveils the Cray Y-MP C90 with 16 processors and a speed of 16 Gflops. (e)

1991: Go Corporation introduces its mobile, pen-based computers that can read handwriting. (p)

1991: IBM, Motorola, and Apple's PowerPC alliance is announced on July 30. (e)

1991: Almost 9 million people send 2.3 billion email messages. (p)

1991: The ACM and the IEEE Computer Society produce Computing Curricula '91 that includes curriculum recommendations for computer engineering and liberal arts programs. (a)

1991: Paul Linder and Mark McCahill create Gopher, a nongraphics based browser for the Internet. (f)

1991: Tim Berners-Lee develops the first code for the World Wide Web (WWW). The WWW was developed at CERN (Conseil Européen pour la Recherche Nucléaire – the European Particle Research Laboratory) and it immediately generated enthusiasm for its method of integrating text, sound, and graphics. (f)

1991: World Wide Web (WWW) standards released describing the framework for linking documents on different computers. (t)

1991: The Commercial Internet Exchange (CIX) founded by public data internetworking service providers. CIX promotes public data communications in national and international markets. (f)

1992: After generating great concern in early March, the Michelangelo virus results in little actual damage. (e)

1992: In March, the first M-bone audio multicast is transmitted on the Net. (e)

1992: DEC introduces the first chip to implement its 64-bit RISC Alpha architecture. (e)

1992: Mbone (multicast backbone) broadcasts audio and video in the Internet. (f)

1992: The Internet Engineering Task Force conducts a meeting via packet audio across the Internet. (a)

1992: Microsoft ships over 3 million copies of Windows 3.1 in the first two months of introduction. (p)

1992: Prodigy serves over 1 million subscribers. (p)

1992: Lucas NovaSensor, developers of microscopic electronic sensors that fit on the head of a pin, sell over a half-million sensors each month. (p)

1992: Apple Computer announces the Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) called the Newton Message Pad that incorporates a pen interface and wireless communications. (a,t)

1992: The number of distinct strains of computer viruses has grown from five in early 1988 to over 1000 by early 1992. (a)

1993: Apple releases the Newton, the first popular personal digital assistant. It uses a stylus pen, and the first generation suffers from poor handwriting recognition. (e)

1993 [March]: Intel's Pentium (P5) chip is introduced in March. It runs at about 112 MIPS and contains approximately 3.5 million transistors. (a,e,t)

1993: Students and staff at the University of Illinois' National Center for Supercomputing Applications create a graphical user interface for Internet navigation called NCSA Mosaic. (e)

1993: Marc Andreessen at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign develops Mosaic, which becomes the first graphics-based Web browser and the prototype for all Web browsers. (f)

1993: IBM, Apple, and Motorola produce the Power PC. (a)

1994 [April]: Jim Clark and Marc Andreessen found Netscape Communications (originally Mosaic Communications). (e)

1994: Leonard Adleman of the University of Southern California demonstrates that DNA can be used as a computing medium. (e)

1994: Netscape's first browser becomes available in September and creates a rapidly growing body of Web surfers. (e)

1995: Sun Microsystems releases Java, an object-oriented cross-platform programming language designed to work on network systems like the Internet. (f)

1995: The Java programming language, unveiled in May, enables platform-independent application development. "Duke" is the first applet. (e)

1995: Toy Story is the first full-length feature movie completely computer generated. (e)

1995 [August 24]: Windows 95 is launched with great fanfare. Windows 95 consists of more than 10 million lines of computer instructions, developed by 300 person-years of effort. More than 50,000 individuals and companies tested the software before it was released. (e,t)

1995-96: The Intel Pentium Pro is announced that contains 5.5 million transistors and performs at 250 MIPS. (e,t)

1996: Heavy traffic on the Internet causes outages on America Online, Netcom, and AT&T WorldNet. (f)

1996: In the U.S., 2 out of 3 employees have access to a PC; 1 out of every 3 homes has a PC. (t)

1997: Worldwide: 50 million world wide web users, 15 million Internet host computers. (t)

1997: Over 150 countries are connected to the Internet. (f)

1997: Microsoft releases Office 97 with major Web enhancements integrated into Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Access. (t)