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The main thing is Do you know Equipment The history of computer development is the topic of computer science, which is often used to refer to different generations of computing devices. Each of the five generations of computers is characterized by a major technological development that has fundamentally changed the way computers work. Most major events from the 1940s to the present have led to fewer, cheaper, more powerful and more efficient computing devices. What are five generations of computers? In this webopedia Study Guide, you'll learn more about each of the five generations of computers and the advances in technology that have led to the development of many of the computing devices we use today. Our journey of five generations of computers begins in 1940 with vacuum tube circuits and goes on to this day - and beyond - with artificial intelligence (AI) systems and devices. Let's see... Five Generations of Computers Checklist Beginning: Key Conditions to Know the First Generation: Second Generation Vacuum Tubes Third Generation Transistors Integrated Fourth Generation Microprocessors Fifth Generation Artificial Intelligence Start: Key Conditions to Know the Following Definitions of Technology Will Help You Better Understand Five Generations of Computing: First Generation: Vacuum Tubes (1940-1956) The first computer systems used by vacuum tubes for, and often were huge, taking away entire rooms. These computers were very expensive to operate and in addition to using a lot of electricity, the first computers generated a lot of heat, which is often the cause of the malfunctions. First-generation computers relied on machine language, the lowest-level programming language that computers understand, to perform operations, and they could only solve one problem at a time. Operators will need days or even weeks to create a new problem. The entrance was based on a perforated card and paper tape, and the exit was shown on printouts. UniVAC and ENIAC are examples of first-generation computing devices. UNIVAC was the first commercial computer delivered to a business client by the U.S. Census Bureau in 1951. UniVAC computer at the Census Bureau. Image Source: United States Census Bureau Recommended reading: Webopedia's ENIAC Definition of the Second Generation: Transistors (1956-1963) The world will see transistors replace vacuum tubes in the second generation of computers. The transistor was invented at Bell Labs in 1947, but did not see widespread use in computers until the late 1950s. The transistor far outperformed the vacuum tube, allowing computers to become smaller, faster, cheaper, more energy efficient, and more reliable than their first-generation predecessors. Although the transistor is still plenty of heat heat exposed to computer damage, this was a significant improvement over the vacuum tube. Second-generation computers continued to rely on a perforated card for input and printouts for output. From binary to assembly, second-generation computers have moved from the mysterious language of binary machines to symbolic, or assembly, languages, allowing programmers to point instructions in words. High-level programming languages, such as early versions of COBOL and FORTRAN, are also being developed. They were also the first computers to store their instructions in their memory, which went from magnetic drum to magnetic core technology. The first computers of this generation were developed for nuclear power. Early Philco Transistor (1950s)Image Source: Vintage Computer Chip Collectibles Third Generation: Integrated Circuit (1964-1971) The development of the integrated circuit was a hallmark of the third generation of computers. Transistors were miniaturized and placed on silicon chips called semiconductors, which dramatically increased the speed and efficiency of computers. Instead of punch cards and printouts, users interacted with third-generation computers through keyboards and monitors and interacted with the operating system, allowing the device to run many different applications at the same time as the central program that tracked memory. Computers first became available to a mass audience because they were smaller and cheaper than their predecessors. Do you know ... ? The Integrated Scheme (IC) represents if it is a small electronic device made of semiconductor material. The first integrated scheme was developed in the 1950s by Jack Kilby of Texas Instruments and Robert Noy of Fairchild Semiconductor. Fourth generation: Microprocessors (1971-Present) Microprocessor brought the fourth generation of computers, as thousands of integrated circuits were built on a single silicon chip. What filled the whole room in the first generation can now fit in the palm of your hand. The Intel 4004 chip, developed in 1971, houses all the components of the computer - from the CPU and memory to the input/output control on a single chip. In 1981, IBM introduced its first computer for a home user, and in 1984 Apple introduced the Macintosh. Microprocessors have also come out of the realm of desktop computers and into many areas of life as more and more everyday products have begun to use microprocessors. As these small computers became more powerful, they could be connected together to form networks, which eventually led to the development of the Internet. Fourth-generation computers have also seen the development of GUIs, mice and handheld devices. Intel's first microprocessor, 4004, was conceived by Ted Hoff and A. Mazor. Image Source: Intel Timeline (PDF) Fifth Generation: Artificial Intelligence (present and Fifth-generation computer-based artificial intelligence devices are still in development, although there are some applications, such as voice recognition, that are used today. The use of parallel processing and superconductors helps make artificial intelligence a reality. The quantum computing and molecular and nanotechnology will radically change the face of computers in the future. The goal of fifth-generation computing is to develop devices that respond to the input of natural language and are capable of learning and self-organization. This article was last updated on February 01, 2019 Computers are an integral part of our daily lives now most people take them and what they have added to life is completely taken for granted. It's the generation that has grown since infancy as part of the global revolution of desktops and laptops since the 1980s. The history of the computer dates back several decades, however, and there are five defined generations of computers. Each generation is driven by significant technological development that fundamentally changes the work of computers, leading to more compact, less expensive, but more powerful, efficient and reliable machines. 1940 - 1956: First Generation - Vacuum tubes These early computers used vacuum tubes as circuits and magnetic drums for memory. As a result, they were huge, literally taking away entire rooms and costing a fortune to escape. These were inefficient materials that generated a lot of heat, sucked up huge electricity and subsequently generated a lot of heat, causing ongoing breakdowns. These first-generation computers relied on machine language (which is the most basic programming language that computers can understand). These computers were limited to solving one problem at a time. The entrance was based on a perforated card and a paper tape. Exit went out on printouts. Two famous machines of this era were UniVAC and ENIAC machines - UNIVAC is the first commercial computer that was acquired in 1951 by a business - the U.S. Census Bureau. 1956 - 1963: Second Generation - Transistors Replacing Vacuum Tube Transistors Saw the Emergence of a Second Generation of Computing. Although first invented in 1947, transistors were not used significantly in computers until the late 1950s. They were a big improvement over the vacuum tube, despite still exposing computers to damaging heat levels. However, they have been vastly superior to vacuum tubes, making computers smaller, faster, cheaper and less heavy on electricity use. They still relied on tried cards to enter/print. Language has evolved from a mysterious binary language to a symbolic ('assembly') language. This is that programmers can create instructions in words. Around the same time, high-level programming languages were developed (early versions of COBOL and The transistor-controlled machines were the first computers to store instructions in their memories - moving from a magnetic drum to a magnetic core of technology. Early versions of these machines were developed for nuclear power. 1964 - 1971: Third Generation - Integrated Circuit To this stage, transistors are being miniaturized and put on silicon chips (called semiconductors). This has led to a massive increase in the speed and efficiency of these machines. These were the first computers where users interacted using keyboards and monitors that interacted with the operating system, a significant leap up from perforators and printouts. This allowed these machines to run multiple applications at once using a central program that functioned to monitor memory. As a result of these advances, which again made the machines cheaper and smaller, a new mass market of users appeared during the 60s. 1972 - 2010: Fourth Generation - Microprocessors This revolution can be summed up in one word: Intel. The chip maker developed the Intel 4004 chip in 1971, which positioned all computer components (processor, memory, input/output control) on a single chip. What filled the room in the 1940s now fits in the palm of your hand. The Intel chip contained thousands of integrated circuits. In 1981, the first ever computer (IBM) was introduced specifically for home use, and in 1984 Macintosh was introduced to Apple. Microprocessors have even gone beyond computers and into an increasing number of everyday products. The increased power of these small computers meant that they could be connected by creating networks. That eventually led to the development, birth and rapid evolution of the Internet. Other major advances during this period have been the GUI, mouse and recently striking achievements in lap top capabilities and portable devices. 2010 - : Fifth generation - Artificial Intelligence Computer devices with artificial intelligence are still in development, but some of these technologies are beginning to emerge and be used, such as voice recognition. AI is a reality that is made possible by the use of parallel processing and superconductors. Based on the future, computers will be radically transformed again by quantum computing, molecular and nano-technologies. The essence of the fifth generation will be to use these technologies to create machines that can process and respond to natural language, and have the ability to learn and organize themselves. David Burns is Marketing and Communications Manager at Origin IT davidb@originit.co.nz davidb@originit.co.nz www.originit.co.nz www.originit.co.nz www.originit.co.nz generations of computers pdf. generations of computers ppt. generations of computers wikipedia. generations of computers chart. generations of computers with examples. generations of computers slideshare. generations of computers mcqs. generations of computers pictures

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