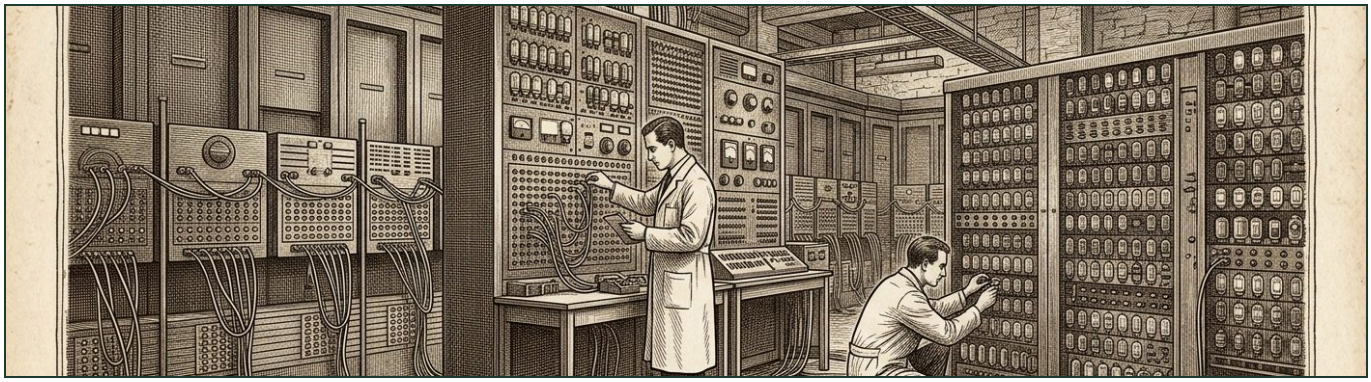


1936 – 2007

Computing & Internet History Timeline

The history of computing is the story of how humans went from filling entire rooms with calculating machines to putting a more powerful computer in every pocket — transforming every aspect of work, communication, science, and daily life in under a century.

1936 — Turing Describes the Universal Computer

British mathematician Alan Turing publishes 'On Computable Numbers,' describing a theoretical 'universal computing machine' that can simulate any calculation by reading and writing symbols on a tape — laying the mathematical foundation for all modern computers.

> **Why it mattered:** *Turing's paper proved what computers could and couldn't do before a single electronic computer existed — his theoretical framework defined the limits and capabilities of computing and influenced every computer design that followed; Turing is considered the father of computer science.*

1945 — ENIAC — First General-Purpose Electronic Computer

Engineers at the University of Pennsylvania complete ENIAC — the Electronic Numerical Integrator and Computer — filling an entire room with 18,000 vacuum tubes, weighing 30 tons, and performing thousands of calculations per second, far faster than any human.

> **Why it mattered:** *ENIAC proved that an electronic computer could solve real problems at useful speeds — it was used to calculate artillery firing tables and later hydrogen bomb calculations; its existence launched the race to build smaller, faster, more reliable computers.*

1969

ARPANET — First Internet Message

The US Defense Department's ARPANET sends its first message between computers at UCLA and Stanford on October 29, 1969 — the network crashes after just two letters ('LO' of 'LOGIN'), but the age of networked computing has begun.

> **Why it mattered:** *ARPANET was the seed of the modern internet — a network designed to survive a nuclear attack by routing information around damaged sections; within years it connected universities and research labs across the US, creating the communication infrastructure the internet would eventually inherit.*

1971

First Microprocessor

Intel engineers Ted Hoff, Federico Faggin, and Stanley Mazor design the Intel 4004 — the first commercially available microprocessor, placing the equivalent of an entire computer's processing power onto a single chip smaller than a fingernail.

> **Why it mattered:** *The microprocessor was the invention that made personal computers possible — instead of a roomful of circuits, a computer's brain could fit on a chip costing a few dollars; every computer, smartphone, and electronic device built since runs on a descendant of this idea.*

1975–76

Personal Computer Revolution Begins

The Altair 8800 kit computer ignites a hobbyist movement (1975); Bill Gates and Paul Allen found Microsoft to write software for it; Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak found Apple (1976) and release the Apple I — the first wave of computers designed for individual people, not institutions.

> **Why it mattered:** *The personal computer shifted computing from a tool of governments and corporations to something an individual could own — the garage-startup culture of Gates, Allen, Jobs, and Wozniak redefined who could shape the future of technology and launched the modern tech industry.*

1981–84

IBM PC and the Macintosh

IBM releases the IBM PC (1981), instantly legitimizing personal computers for business and establishing the architecture that most PCs still follow; Apple's Macintosh (1984) introduces a graphical user interface — windows, icons, and a mouse — to a mass consumer audience.

> **Why it mattered:** *The IBM PC set the hardware standard that created a mass market for personal computers; the Macintosh showed that computers didn't have to be command-line tools for experts — a visual interface made computing accessible to anyone, not just programmers.*

Computing & Internet History Timeline *continued*

1991 — **World Wide Web Goes Public**

British computer scientist Tim Berners-Lee publishes the code for the World Wide Web — a system of interlinked documents accessible via the internet — making it freely available to anyone, and transforming the internet from a scientists' network into a global public resource.

> **Why it mattered:** *The Web turned the internet from a network for sending files and email into a universal library and communication platform — Berners-Lee's decision to give it away free, rather than patent it, allowed it to grow from a single website in 1991 to billions of pages within a decade.*

1998 — **Google Founded**

Stanford PhD students Larry Page and Sergey Brin found Google, launching a search engine that ranks pages by how many other pages link to them — producing dramatically more useful results than existing search engines and quickly becoming the primary gateway to the web.

> **Why it mattered:** *Google solved the problem that was threatening to make the web useless — as pages multiplied into the billions, finding anything relevant became nearly impossible; Google's search algorithm organized the web and made it navigable, becoming the most used tool on the internet.*

2007 — **iPhone Launches the Smartphone Era**

Steve Jobs introduces the iPhone on January 9, 2007 — a device combining a phone, internet browser, camera, and music player in a touchscreen with no physical keyboard — launching the smartphone era and beginning the shift to mobile computing.

> **Why it mattered:** *The iPhone put a full-powered internet-connected computer in billions of pockets — within a decade, more people accessed the internet through smartphones than through computers; it also created a new economy of apps, reshaped social media, and changed how humans communicate, navigate, shop, and consume information.*