

~ Computer History Trivia ~

September 13, 2024 (this Friday!)

11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

@ Rhodes 471 (CSL Offices)



**+ Free Pizza from Sal's Pizzeria +
+ & Ice Cream from the Dairy Bar! +**



Fact Sheet

Make groups of 2-4 (depending on total number of people)
Get number of groups and names of each group beforehand
Each question ~60 seconds
Award: Coffee with group/friends TBD + street cred

1. Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak are best known as the creators of the Apple computer, but they also worked together on the prototype of a popular arcade game for Atari. Was it Space Invaders, Pac-Man, or Breakout? **Breakout**
Fact: Breakout was a worldwide commercial success, among the top five highest-grossing arcade video games of 1976 in both the United States and Japan.
2. Which famous English computer scientist is known as the creator of the World Wide Web? **Tim Berners-Lee**
Fact: Berners-Lee is also known as the inventor of the HTML markup language, the URL system, and HTTP.
3. What year was the ENIAC computer completed? **1945**
Fact: The ENIAC was Turing-complete and able to solve "a large class of numerical problems" through reprogramming.
4. Which of the following sort routines was named after a person: heapsort, quicksort, shellsort, or bubble sort? **Shellsort**
Fact: Donald Shell published the first version of this sort in 1959.
5. Since 1984, a contest has been held (on and off) on the USENET computer network to identify the most unreadable, creative, bizarre, but working C program. What is the name of the contest? **The International Obfuscated C Code Contest (IOCCC)**
Fact: Winning entries are awarded with a category, such as "Worst Abuse of the C preprocessor" or "Most Erratic Behavior."
6. Who is the founder of Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC)? **Morris Chang**
Fact: Chang's wife, Sophie, is a cousin of Terry Gou, the founder of Foxconn.
7. Which surgical robot, approved by the FDA in 2000 for general laparoscopic procedures, became the first operative surgical robot in the US and is now widely used for prostate removal? **Da Vinci Surgical System**
Fact: The system is called "da Vinci" in part because Leonardo da Vinci's study of human anatomy eventually led to the design of the first known robot in history. (It wasn't the first robot to assist in surgery, though: a PUMA 560 robotic arm helped guide a brain biopsy back in 1985.)
8. The open-access repository of e-prints known as arXiv, now hosted principally at Cornell University, originated as a physics archive at which institution?

Los Alamos National Laboratory

Fact: arXiv was developed by Dr. Paul Ginsparg, who is currently a faculty member in Cornell University's physics department.

9. What was the first home computer to sell a million units: the Apple II, the Commodore VIC-20, or the TRS-80? **The Commodore VIC-20**

Fact: The VIC-20 was announced in 1980, roughly three years after Commodore's first personal computer, the PET.

10. Which famous mathematician earned a reputation for mastering complex manual calculations (such as those used in orbital mechanics) at NASA and helped pioneer the use of computers to perform the tasks? **Katherine Johnson**

Fact: The space agency noted her historical role as one of the first African-American women to work as a NASA scientist, and she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015.

11. Which 8-bit microprocessor, launched in 1975, powered the Apple II, and in slightly modified versions the Atari 2600, Commodore 64, and NES? **MOS 6502**

Fact: Along with the Zilog Z80 (released in 1976), it sparked a series of projects that resulted in the home computer revolution of the early 1980s.

12. Which famous chess player did IBM's Deep Blue defeat in 1997? **Garry Kasparov**

Fact: Deep Blue was able to evaluate 200 million chess positions per second, achieving a processing speed of 11.38 billion flops (floating-point operations per second). By comparison, IBM's first supercomputer, Stretch, introduced in 1961, managed well under one million flops.

13. Where was C++ developed: Bell Labs, Xerox PARC, or Carnegie-Mellon? **Bell Labs**

Fact: Bell Labs is also credited with the development of radio astronomy, the transistor, the laser, the photovoltaic cell, information theory, UNIX, and several other programming languages (including C). Work done there has earned 11 Nobel Prizes and 5 Turing Awards.

14. At which university did Frank Rosenblatt, sometimes called the "father of deep learning" for his work on the Perceptron, obtain his PhD? **Cornell University**

Fact: Rosenblatt's perceptrons were initially simulated on an IBM 704 computer at Cornell Aeronautical Laboratory in 1957.

15. Who devised the so-called "Chinese Room" argument, which challenges the idea that a computer running the right program can truly understand or think? **John Searle**

Fact: Before Searle, similar arguments had been presented by figures including Gottfried Leibniz (1714), Anatoly Dneprov (1961), Lawrence Davis (1974) and Ned Block (1978).

Fact Sheet

16. The Bombe and Colossus are names of two computing devices developed during World War II. Were they used for designing the A-bomb; for cryptography; or for designing radar? **Cryptography**

Fact: The initial design of the British Bombe was produced in 1939 at Bletchley Park by Alan Turing.

17. Who is often considered the first programmer? **Ada Lovelace**

Fact: Ada was known for her work on Charles Babbage's proposed mechanical general-purpose computer, the Analytical Engine.

18. Only about 200 of these computers were produced, selling for \$666.66 apiece, but they helped launch a major microcomputer company. What was the computer? **Apple I**

Fact: In 2015, a woman dropped off her late husband's Apple I computer at an electronics recycling center in Silicon Valley, and the recycling firm sold it for \$200,000.

19. Which video game was so badly received that it is known as one of the biggest commercial failures in video game history and was considered a major factor in the video game crash of 1983? **E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial (1982)**

Fact: In what was once deemed only an urban legend, reports from 1983 stated that as a result of overproduction and returns, unsold cartridges were secretly buried in a landfill in Alamogordo, New Mexico, and covered with a layer of concrete. In 2014, an excavation of the landfill confirmed it.

20. In the word "terabyte," what is the original meaning of the Greek word "tera"? **Monster**

Fact: One terabyte was the size of the largest consumer hard drive in 2007.

21. In 1947, computer pioneer Grace Murray Hopper's team found an insect literally jamming a relay in the Harvard Mark II, and taped it into their log book as the "first actual case of bug being found." What kind of insect was it? **Moth**

Fact: The remains of the moth can be found taped into the group's log book at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. (Engineers had been calling glitches "bugs" since at least Thomas Edison's day; this was just the first literal one.)

22. Which well-known computer scientist invented the C language and co-created the Unix operating system? **Dennis Ritchie**

Fact: Although Brian Kernighan is known for his co-authorship of the first book on the C programming language, he affirmed that he had no part in the *design* of the C language, stating "it's entirely Dennis Ritchie's work."

23. What arcade game started the video arcade craze? **Pong**

Fact: A small company at the time Pong was created, Atari began manufacturing the games in an old roller skating rink, and by the end of 1974 the company had sold more than 8,000 Pong arcade machines.

Fact Sheet

24. What was the name of the person who introduced a famous "Worm" program into the internet on November 2, 1988 while attending Cornell University as a graduate student?

Robert Tappan Morris

Fact: Robert Morris created the "Morris Worm," and received the first felony conviction in the US under the 1986 Computer Fraud and Abuse Act.

25. In 1959, which company developed the first practical monolithic silicon integrated circuit: Fairchild, Shockley, IBM, or Bell Labs? **Fairchild**

Fact: Fairchild Semiconductor was founded in 1957 as a division of Fairchild Camera and Instrument by the "traitorous eight" who defected from Shockley Semiconductor Laboratory. (The very first working integrated circuit, made of germanium, was built a few months earlier, in 1958, by Jack Kilby at Texas Instruments, who later shared the 2000 Nobel Prize in Physics for it.)

26. What is half a byte called? **Nibble**

Fact: David B. Benson, a professor emeritus at Washington State University, remembered that he playfully used (and may have possibly coined) the term *nibble* as "half a byte" around 1958.

27. Who created the open-world fantasy role-playing video game Ultima? **Richard Garriott**

Fact: Richard Garriott is also a private astronaut: in 2008 he flew to the International Space Station.

28. Some say the personal computer era began when a micro-computer appeared on the cover of the January 1975 issue of Popular Electronics. Was that computer the IMSAI, the Altair 8800, the SCELBI, or the Apple I? **Altair 8800**

Fact: Inspired by the January cover of Popular Electronics magazine, friends Bill Gates and Paul Allen started Microsoft to develop software for the Altair 8800.

29. Some computer people use the slang terms "Little Endian" and "Big Endian" to describe two ways of ordering bytes in a computer word. From what famous book are these terms derived: Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, The Wind in the Willows, or Gulliver's Travels? **Gulliver's Travels, by Jonathan Swift.**

Fact: The terms describe two groups of people who broke open their eggs at the little end and the big end.

30. Which well-known feature film was the first to use computer-generated imagery (CGI), in its opening title sequence?

Vertigo (1958)

Fact: The rotating patterns in the title sequence were created through the use of a Kerrison Predictor, a mechanical computer which was used during World War II to aim anti-aircraft cannons at moving targets.

Fact Sheet

*Thanks to the CSL Steering Committee!
Especially those who helped with the catering!*

Winning Group: OutOfOrder

Runners Up: QuackDucktator, WeHaveNoClue