

Laboratory 1: Computer Museum

Early Home Computer History

1975	Altair 8800 Computer Kit S100 Bus – Altair (MS) Basic Intel 8080	
1977	Apple II First, non-kit, home computer MOS Tech. 6502 CPU	
1977	Commodore Pet Used widely as a small business computer 6502 CPU	
1981	IBM PC First PC accepted for Fortune 500 use Intel 8088 CPU – MS DOS	
1982	Commodore 64 low cost – games 6510 CPU	
1983	CompuPro 8/16 1983 Last/best S100 Bus Intel 8080/8086 CPM/CPM86	
1983	Compaq Portable First Clone - Portable	
1984	ITT Xtra IBM XT Clone	
1984	Macintosh Motorola 68000 GUI, Mouse, Ethernet	
1985	Commodore Amiga Motorola 68000 Early Multitasking OS Advanced Graphics	

Computer Subsystems/Components

We have seen several historical computer subsystems in the “museum”.

- CPU
- RAM
- System Bus
- GPU
- Secondary Storage
 - Floppy Disk
 - Hard Disk
 - Solid State

Homework – Pick one of the above and research its history/evolution. Write a report on your research (due next week). You also need to create a 15 minute presentation to give in class of your results (due in two weeks).

Lab Report

In a separate lab report on the Computer Museum discuss:

1. Evolution in packaging and construction of small computers.
2. Factors that determine winners/losers in technology.
3. What determine the useful life of a computer and how long you expect your computer to be useful?