

**The History of Computers as seen
through the eyes of Pete Tryon
1967 - 2011**

Early Time-sharing Dartmouth University - 1967

Leaving Fairbanks for a semester while my father was on sabbatical, I had the opportunity to try out programming in a time-sharing environment when it was still quite new. Hanover HS had a connection to the Dartmouth mainframe.

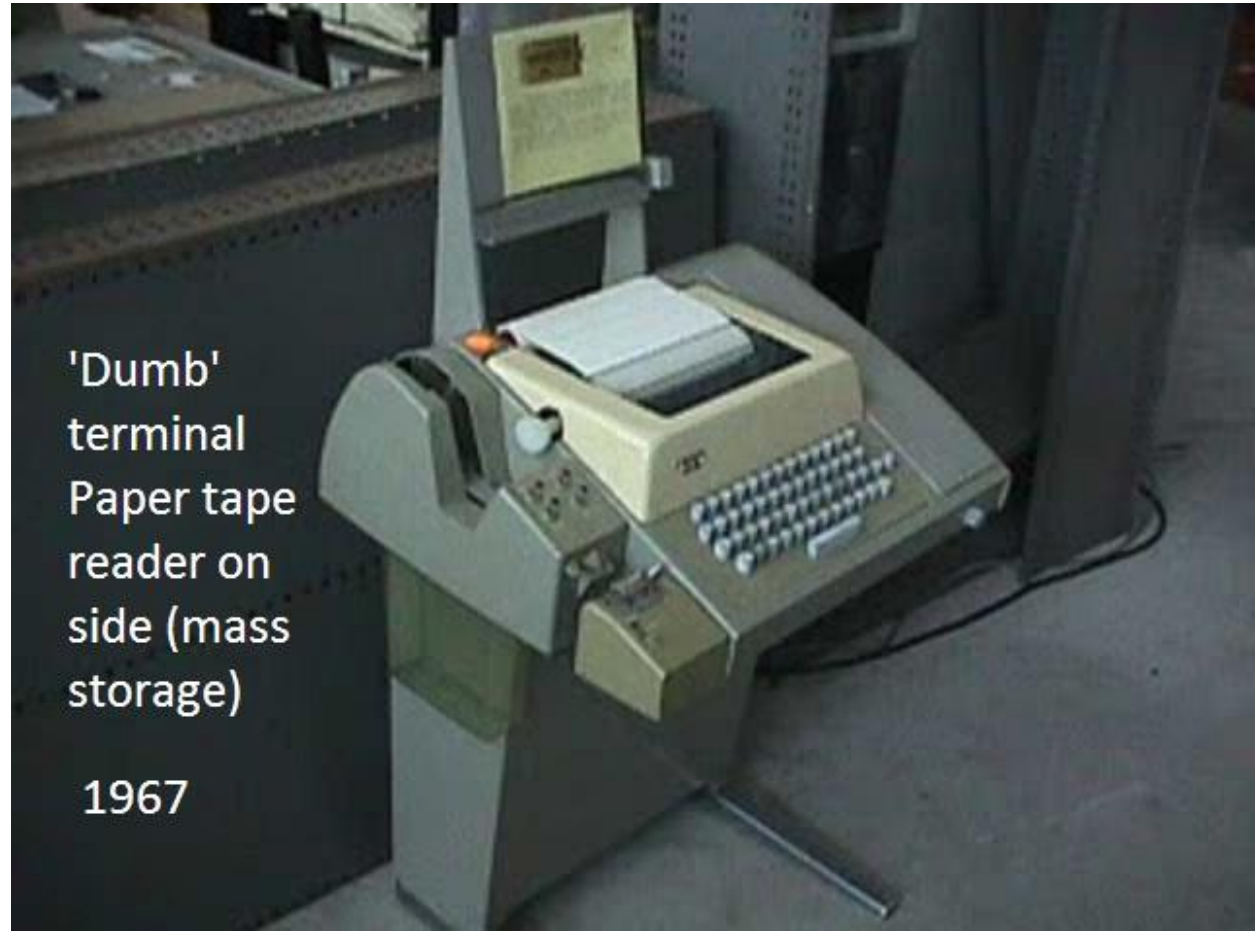


Dartmouth University, Hanover
High School, time-sharing, GE 625
1967

Input / Output, Mass Storage

Input / Output was done through a 'dumb' terminal. It printed in all caps on a roll of paper.

Programs were saved for future use on a paper tape that had holes punched in it. The tape could be read back in later.



Communication

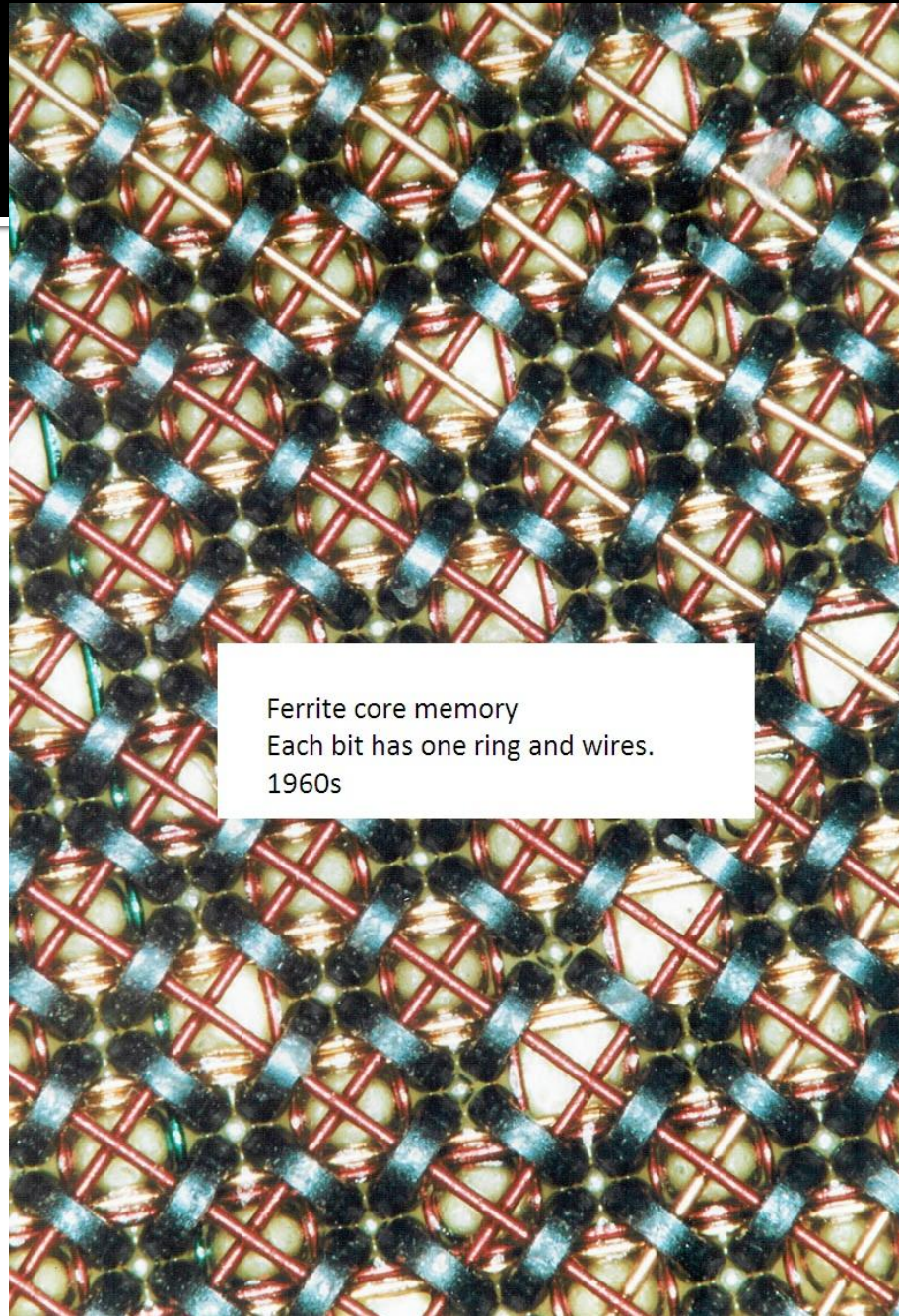
Communication to the mainframe was done by modem – 110 BAUD.

Compare that with 56K (57,000) BAUD or a 20 Megabit connection (21,000,000 BAUD)



Core Memory

Each bit of memory was saved with magnetic fields within an iron ring with a couple of wires threaded through it to change its value.



Ferrite core memory
Each bit has one ring and wires.
1960s

Off to College!

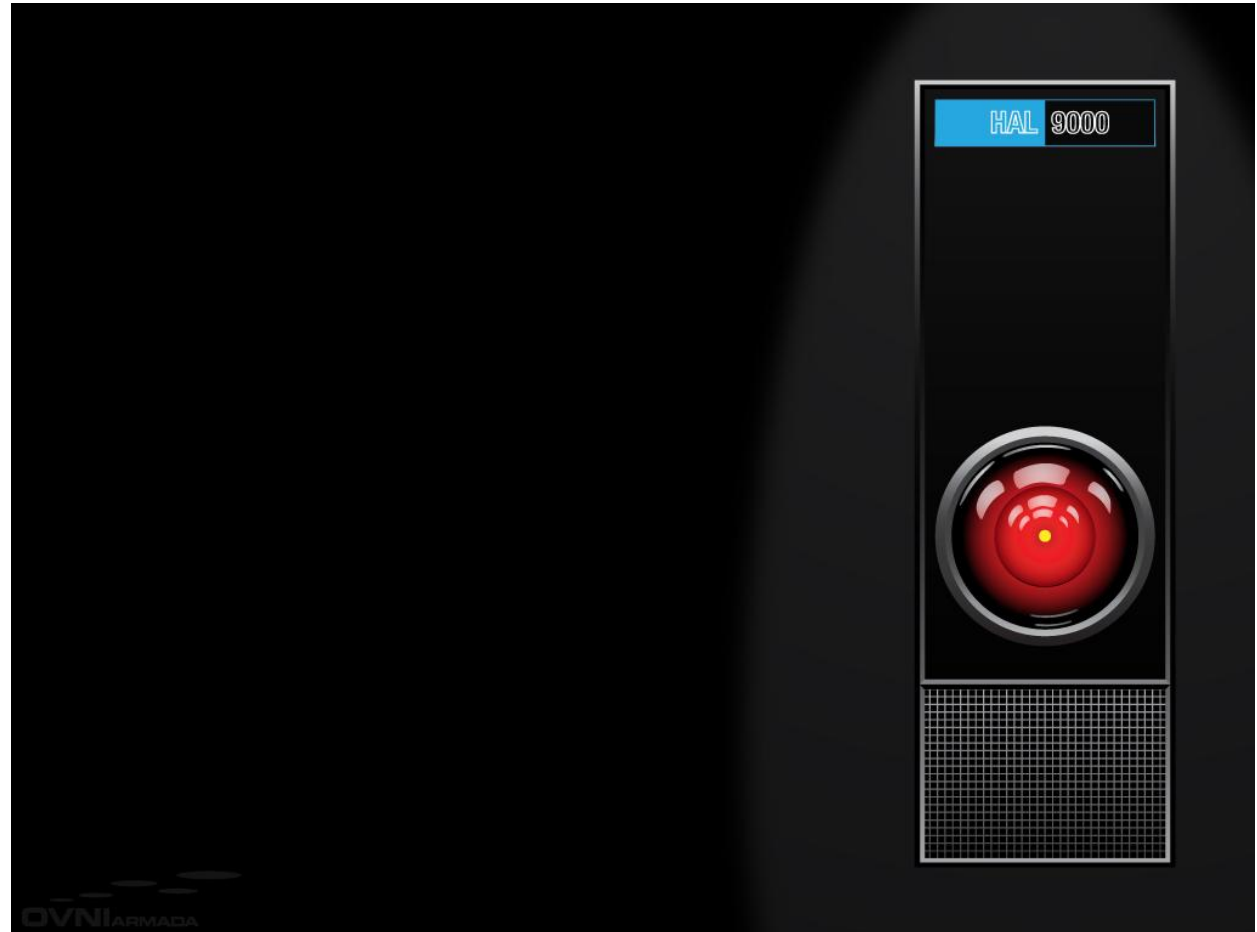
1970

Off to college and time to check out the computer center and its PDP11. (1970)



2001: A Space Odyssey

HAL suggested
implications for the
future.



Grad School 1976

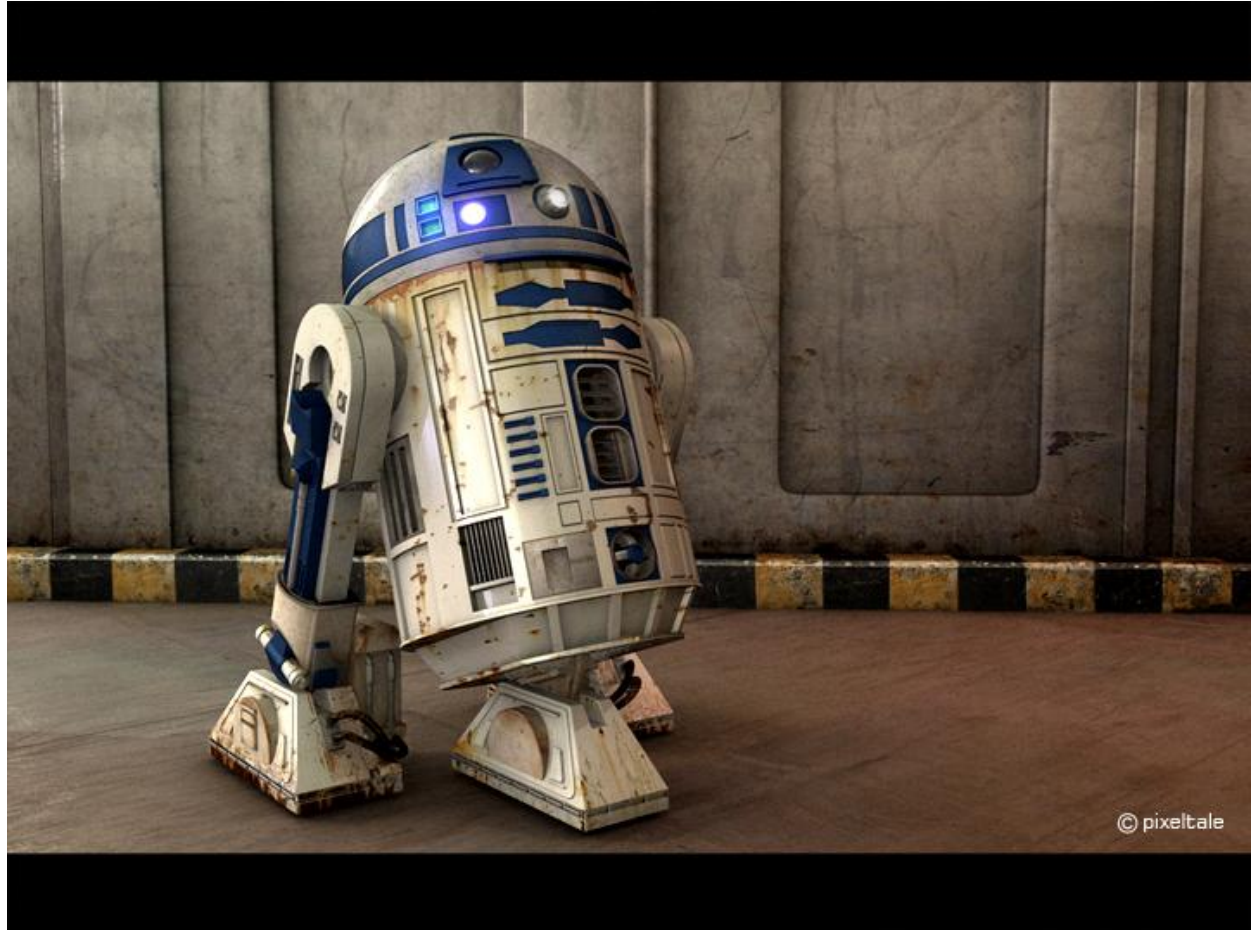
Grad school at UAF and an IBM 360. Of course I never actually saw it – it was back in an air-conditioned room.

If I needed a tape, I sent a message to a tech who would take it off a rack and mount it on the computer.



Star Wars

Not many movies
during grad school,
but...



CRTs!

The step to a CRT was huge! You no longer had to print off every line of code to look at it!

I wrote my thesis using QED, "Quick Editor", an early text editor.

The flashing green cursor would 'burn in' at the upper corner of the screen.

```
1 For I will consider my Cat Jeoffry.  
2  
3 For he is the servant of the Living God duly and dally serving him.  
4  
5 For at the first glance of the glory of God in the East he worships in h  
  is way.  
6  
7 For this is done by wreathing his body seven times round with elegant qu  
  lckness.  
8  
9 For then he leaps up to catch the musk, which is the blessing of God upo  
  n his prayer.  
10  
11 For he rolls upon prank to work it in.  
12  
13 For having done duty and received blessing he begins to consider himself  
14  
15 For this he performs in ten degrees. Early CRT monitor  
16  
17 For first he looks upon his forepaws to see if they are clean.  
18  
19 For secondly he kicks up behind to clear away there.  
20  
-- INERT --
```

Punch Cards 1978

I missed out on the key punch and cards – except that we had a scintillation counter hooked up to a pad of solenoids that automatically ‘typed’ cards on the keypunch.

Early electronic data acquisition!



Personal Computers! 1982

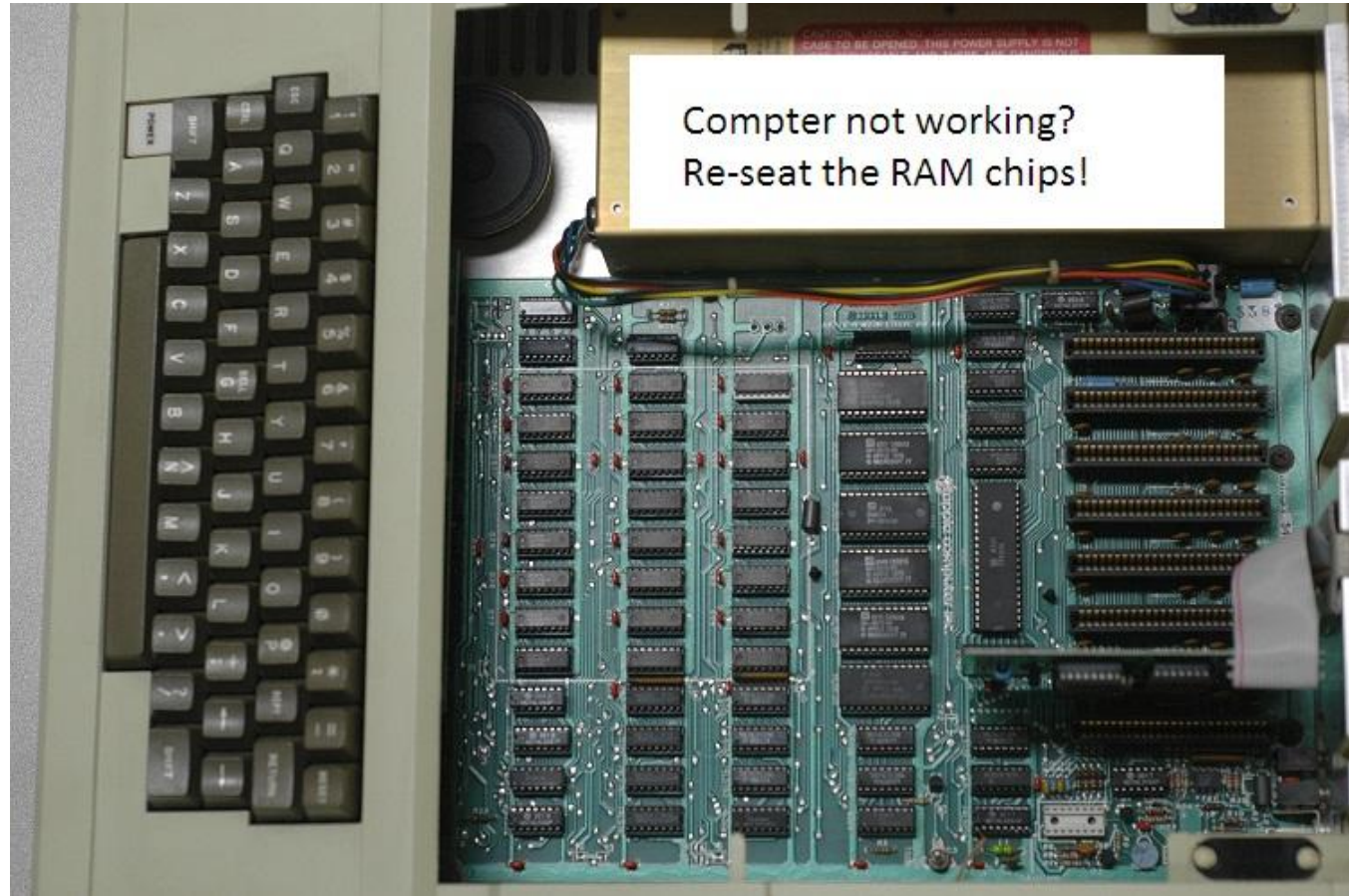
My first personal computer was an Apple II+.

As a first-year teacher, during the summer I tele-commuted to my old job in Fairbanks with my Apple and modem, connected to the university mainframe.



Memory chips

Teaching with a lab of Apple IIs, troubleshooting included pushing the memory chips back down after they 'jacked up' through many on/off/heating cycles.



Chameleon Computer 1983

My wife's first
computer.

The Chameleon came
out when people
couldn't decide
whether MSDOS was
going to win out over
CPM or not. So they
put in both. And you
could carry it around
with you!



MSDOS &
CPM both!
Portable,
too!

Spreadsheets

Visicalc on an Apple II+ wasn't that much different than Excel!

C11 (L) TOTAL		C1		
		25		
	A	B	C	D
1	ITEM	NO.	UNIT	COST
2	MUCK	43	12.95	556.85
3	BUZZ	15	6.70	100.50
4	TOE	250	49.95	12487.50
5	EYE	2	4.95	9.90
		SUBTOTAL		13155.50
		9.75% TAX		1282.66
		TOTAL		14438.16

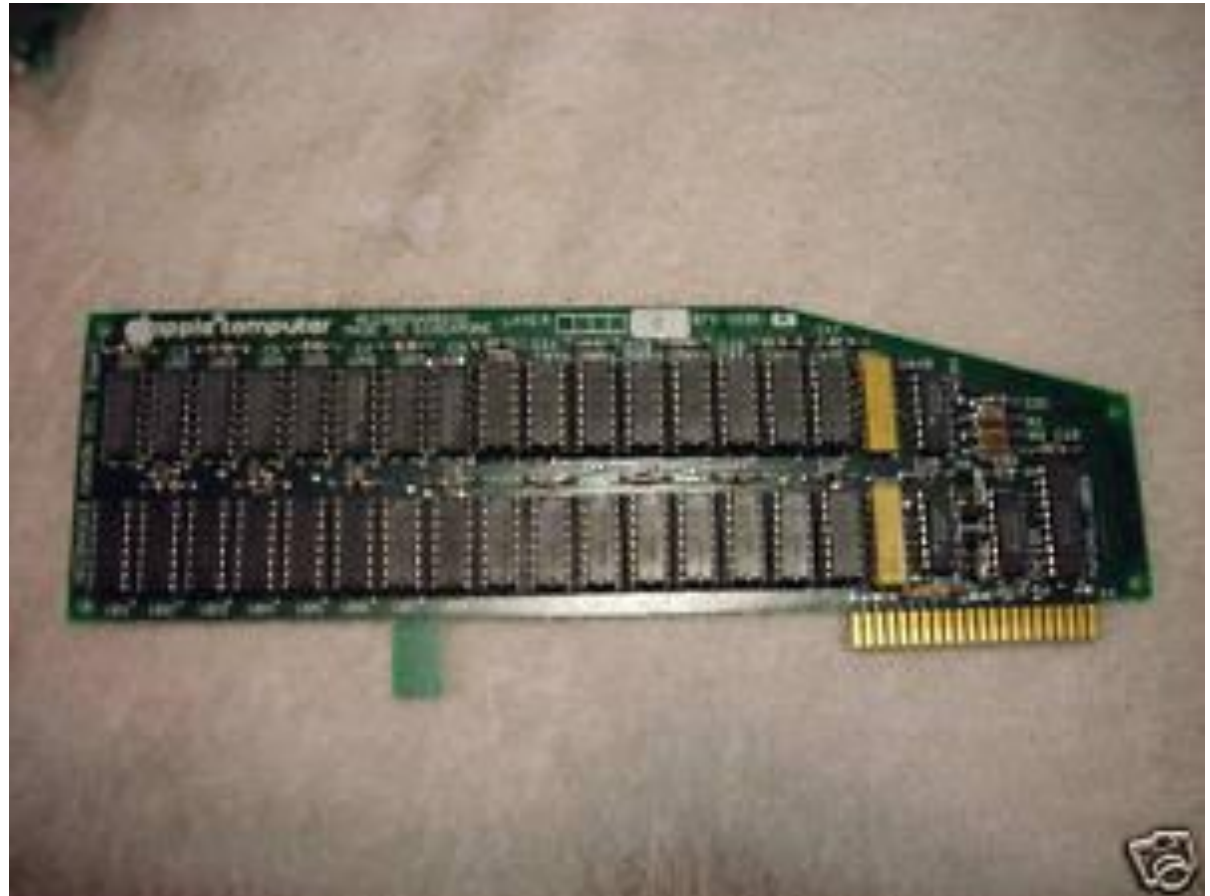
Visicalc on the Apple II+
~1985

The big time! 1988

1 MEG of RAM for the
Apple IIGS!

\$1000, but it was
worth it!!

You could put a whole
floppy disk on it and
your computer just
flew!!



Macintosh LC II

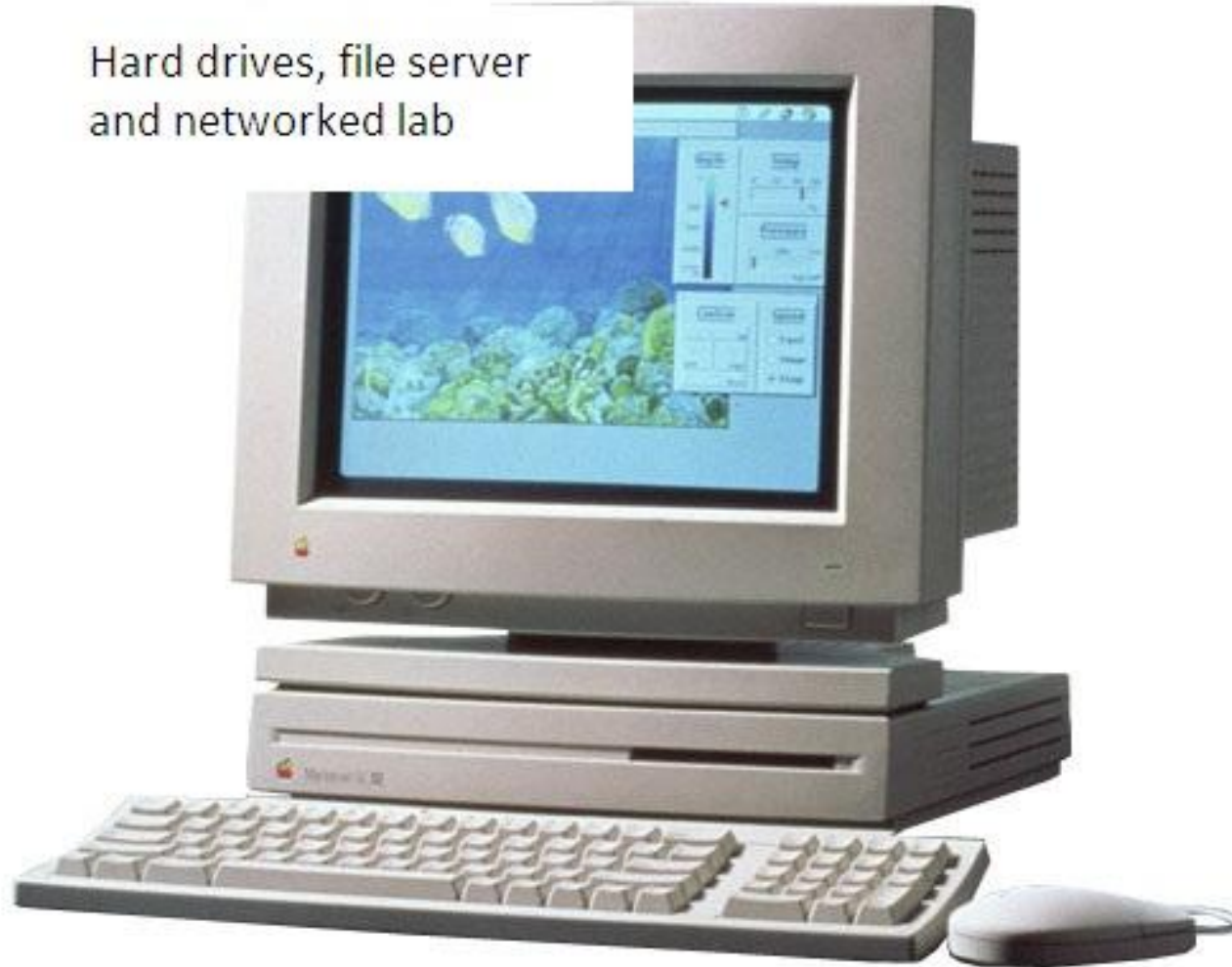
1992

Bartlett High School

A whole lab of these –
networked together,
hard drives, a server,
color monitors,...

Pretty cool!

Hard drives, file server
and networked lab



Windows 3.3

I missed out on the
DOS days of the PC.

But I caught the tail
end of Windows 3.3...



eMac 2003

What's to say...



Beige Dells

2002

Bartlett

A whole lab of beige
Dells and a server
under the desk.



SAHS, 2011

