Computer History Museum Quiz

Fall Semester 2012

Department of Computer Science
San Jose State University
Prof. Ron Mak

You can find all the answers among the Revolution exhibits. After you've completed this extra-credit quiz, please log into Canvas and enter your answers online. Each correct answer adds one point to your midterm score.

1. Silent 700
   a. Said by Larry Ellison of his first employees at Oracle who worked hard "without the sound of a bit dropping".
   b. The nickname of an early electronic computer that had 700 transistors instead of clicking mechanical relays.
   c. A group of anti-computer zealots who patterned themselves after the "Moral Majority" during the 1980s.
   d. A portable computer terminal introduced in 1971 which quietly due to its use of thermal paper.
2. A Hollerith card
   a. A printed circuit card with transistors on one side and diodes and resistors on the other side.
   b. A processing unit in an early blade server.
   c. Was the size of an $10 bill.
   d. Contained a magnetic stripe to store up to 256K bytes and was automatically picked up and read.
3. "The company lost its leadership" to a company with "34 people, including the janitor" was said by
   a. Charles Babbage after his funding was cut off.
   b. A disgruntled Apple vice president.
   c. A famous Harvard business school professor discussing Hewlett-Packard.
   d. The CEO of IBM disappointed by his company's performance.
4. Behemoth
   a. "Big Electronic Human Energized Machine, Only Too Heavy"
   b. The nickname for a Control Data supercomputer.
   c. Said of an early Intel chip whose prototype was much larger than originally specified.
   d. The title of a 1950s horror movie in which a giant electronic brain terrorizes a computer company.
5. The first so-called computer bug
   a. Inadvertently created by Ada Lovelace while programming the Babbage Difference Engine.
   b. A dead moth found inside the Harvard Mark II computer after the machine had stopped working.
   c. Theorized by Alan Turing during a lecture about his eponymous Turing Machine.
   d. Debated by John von Neumann and Howard Aiken over who was responsible.
6. "Death to the mainframe"
   a. The slogan of Cromemco, an early personal computer maker in 1985.
   b. Words literally eaten by Stewart Alsop, technology writer, in 2002.
   c. Translated from Russian, said by Lenonid Brezhnev in 1979 while claiming Soviet computing superiority.
   d. Proclaimed by mathematician Jan Lukasiewicz while discussing his treatise on reverse Polish notation in 1955.

7. The first computer game console that was installed in a Sunnyvale bar failed because
    a. It jammed from too many quarters inserted by players.
    b. The cheap CRT display couldn't keep up with the players' moves.
    c. The game controllers would break from overly aggressive playing.
    d. The Sunnyvale Police considered the console to be a gambling device.

8. It was designed to have 256 processors, but only 64 were built.
    a. IBM's embarrassing "Stretch" computer.
    b. Apple's ill-fated supercomputer.
    c. The Illiac IV computer at NASA Ames.
    d. The Cray IV supercomputer's floating-point unit.

9. $PARK
    a. The facetious new name proposed for Xerox PARC after they began to develop commercial software.
    b. The term used by the RAMAC instruction manual to indicate the location of the disk arm in its resting position.
    c. A built-in string variable in an early microcomputer version of the BASIC programming language.
    d. A software application from Wang Laboratories to perform inventory control.

10. Pac-Man Fever
    a. A term used to describe the first computer game addicts.
    b. An early computer virus that infected game consoles.
    c. A record album that went gold on the Billboard Hot 100, based on the computer game.
    d. The name of an advertising campaign to promote the Pac-Man game.

11. "Robot Squirrel"
    a. A popular computer game on the original Apple Macintosh.
    b. A robotics term designating a mobile sensor that can intelligently traverse a network of pipes.
    c. "Hunts its own food", according to a Popular Science magazine article in 1952.
    d. The pseudonym of a notorious hacker who brought down a major bank's computer system in 1993.

12. SafeType
    a. An ergonomic keyboard, 1998.
    b. A type-safe computer language, 1975.
    c. A keyboard encryption algorithm, 1968.
    d. The class system of a pioneering object-oriented programming language, 1989.

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1. It had a 64-bit magnetic shift register:
   a. The IBM 701 computer.
   b. The GE UNIVAC I.
   c. The Harvard Mark IV computer.
   d. The U.S. Army's EDVAC computer.
2. Its operating system was written in the Algol language:
   a. The IBM 360 Model 65.
   b. The Burroughs B5500 computer.
   c. The UNIVAC III.
   d. The ILLIAC supercomputer.
3. Cranking this too fast caused errors:
   a. The IBM Type 80 card sorter.
   b. The Burroughs's 1880 calculator.
   c. The Hollerith card reader.
   d. The ENIAC computer power supply.
4. It cost $0.50 in the 1870s:
   a. A box of Hollerith cards.
   b. A telegram message.
   c. A local telephone call.
   d. A data clerk's hourly wage.
5. A techno-liberation cooperative:
   a. The Free Software Foundation.
   b. A non-profit organization that collects old computers to distribute to impoverished nations overseas.
   c. A group of computer literacy schools in rural Brazil.
   d. "Community Memory" in Berkeley during the early 1970s.
6. It could only upload data:
   a. The first Ethernet installation.
   b. The first Internet message processor.
   c. An IBM token ring node.
   d. A Sony Typecorder modem.
7. Members of the Quarter Century Club:
   a. IEEE members after 25 years.
   b. Computer products voted the best of the past 25 years by readers of *Datamation* magazine.
   c. IBM employees after 25 years of service.
   d. Venerated Stanford University computer science professors who have taught over 25 years.
8. It had made more calculations than all of mankind until it was stopped by a lightning strike:
   a. The ENIAC computer.
   b. The Colossus computer.
   c. The Whirlwind computer.
   d. The Atanasoff-Berry computer.
9. Project Cyclone:
   a. Built the Whirlwind computer at MIT.
   b. Designed the cooling fans for the IBM Perseus supercomputer.
   c. A project at CalTech that designed computer-based sensors dropped by plane into tornadoes.
   d. A post-World War II guided rocketry project in the U.S.
10. "Jaws"
    a. The Colossus computer's "Jump and wait serially" instruction.
    b. The first U.S. "Discovision" film title.
    c. Nickname for an early NEC supercomputer that "eats the competition in one byte".
    d. A tool to extract jammed punched cards from a high-speed reader.

11. Kept at 149 degrees Fahrenheit:
    a. The memory core planes of the Honeywell “kitchen computer”.
    b. The mercury in mercury delay line tubes.
    c. Punched cards in order to be sorted reliably by the IBM Type 82 card sorter.
    d. Early germanium transistors to prevent hysteresis underflow.
12. Continental Europe’s only electronic computer in 1950:
    a. The Zuse Z4.
    b. The IBM 402 accounting machine.
    c. The Olivetti Programma Model 3.
    d. The Soviet BESM M-1.
13. It pioneered virtual memory, timesharing, and pipelining in the early 1960s:
    a. The Atlas computer.
    b. The IBM 1401 computer.
    c. The CDC 6400 computer.
    d. The Burroughs B5000 computer.
14. N4RVE:
    a. The serial number of the first ILLIAC disk drive.
    b. The character sequence that US Robotics modems used to establish a phone connection.
    c. Code name for a secret underwater computer for the U.S. Navy.
    d. The license number of the Behemoth.
15. It had over 60 miles of wires with no segment longer than 3 feet:
    a. The IBM 360 Model 95.
    b. A Cray supercomputer.
    c. The NCR Century 200 computer.
    d. The first RAID hardware.

Computer History Museum Quiz

Spring 2014

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You can find all the answers among the Revolution exhibits. Each correct answer adds one point to your midterm score. Yes, you can work together to find the answers. Please bring your completed quiz to class on Tuesday.

1. The IBM 1800 was designed by
   a. Alan Turing's third cousin
   b. Steven Spielberg's father
   c. John Wayne's nephew
   d. Steve Jobs's father-in-law
2. "Squee"
   a. The sound of a high-speed card reader as it jams on a bent card.
   b. What a beginning programming student at Stanford was called.
   c. "Sequential erase and enter" instruction of the NCR 200.
   d. The name of a robotic squirrel that hunted tennis balls.
3. "No alcohol during business hours."
   a. Dave Packard to HP senior staff.
   b. Thomas Watson to IBM salesmen.
   c. Ken Olsen to his VP of Marketing.
   d. Xerox PARC rule for researchers.
4. "Dealer sessions"
   a. Negotiations between IBM sales staff and their key customers.
   b. Weekly researcher meetings at the Xerox PARC Computer Science Lab.
   c. Said to occur at computer swap meets of the late 1990s.
   d. How the operating system resolved CPU contention in the Burroughs 5100 multiprocessing system.
5. It had over 600 mechanical parts in the mid 1950s and was difficult to reassemble by users.
   a. A IBM 704 card reader
   b. An NCR Model III cash register
   c. A Curta calculator
   d. A Mark IV printing unit
6. A commercial computer in the early 1950s used this memory technology.
   a. Flux capacitance
   b. Light inductance
   c. Sound waves
   d. Magnetic resonance
7. The first all-electronic desktop calculator.
   a. Was already obsolete because it used vacuum tubes.
   b. Was on an Apollo moon mission to calculate the landing sequence.
   c. Had an embarrassing division error found by a 10-year-old.
   d. Was banned by university math professors.
8. Lyons & Co. Tea Shop
   a. Where Alan Turing secretly went for his tea breaks during World War II.
   b. Where members of the MIT Whirlwind design team met.
   c. Threw out the chief engineer of the IBM 7900 after an altercation.
   d. Spun off a company to sell computers.
9. $620
   a. Daily cost to lease a moderate-size IBM S/360 in 1967.
   b. Larry Ellison's hourly consulting rate shortly after he founded Oracle.
   c. Normal average monthly salary of a computer programmer in 1958.
   d. IBM legal team's quarter-hour rate during the 1969 antitrust trials.
10. The oldest surviving printed math tables.
    a. Printed in 94 B.C. in China.
    b. Printed in 1064 in Arabia.
    c. Printed in 1403 in France.
    d. Printed in 1468 in Germany.

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1. A basic office automation task in 1925.
   a. Wiring typewriter plugboards.
   b. Rebooting accounting machines.
   c. Sorting punched cards.
   d. Reconfiguring adding machines.
2. "No alcohol during business hours."
   a. Dave Packard to HP senior staff.
   b. Ken Olsen to his VP of Marketing.
   c. Xerox PARC rule for researchers.
   d. Thomas Watson to IBM salesmen.
3. German V2 rockets were guided by:
   a. Op-amps.
   b. Primitive read-only memory units.
   c. Dead reckoning.
   d. Earth's magnetic field.
4. The oldest surviving printed math tables.
   a. Printed in 1064 in Arabia.
   b. Printed in 1468 in Germany.
   c. Printed in 94 B.C. in China.
   d. Printed in 1403 in France.
5. It had over 600 mechanical parts in the mid 1950s.
   a. The IBM 704 card reader.
   b. The NCR Model III cash register.
   c. The Curta calculator.
   d. The Mark IV printing unit.
6. The first all-electronic desktop calculator.
   a. Was already obsolete because it used vacuum tubes.
   b. Had an embarrassing division error.
   c. Was on an Apollo moon mission.
   d. Was banned by university math professors.
7. A commercial computer in the early 1950s used this memory technology.
   a. Flux capacitance.
   b. Light pulses.
   c. Sound waves.
   d. Magnetic resonance.
8. Lyons & Co. Tea Shop
   a. Where Alan Turing went during his tea breaks.
   b. Where the designers of the Colossus computer met.
   c. Threw out the chief engineer of the IBM 7900 after an altercation.
   d. Spun off a company to sell computers.
9. "FORTRAN for Precedent"
   a. Attributed to John Backus who was attending a language conference.
   b. Slogan on a button.
   c. Rallying cry of early computer science students at CalTech.
   d. Remark by the chair of the COBOL standards committee in 1964.
10. $620
    a. Daily cost to lease the top-of-the-line IBM S/360 in 1969.
    b. Larry Ellison's hourly consulting rate shortly after he founded Oracle.
    c. IBM lawyers' hourly rate during the antitrust trials of the 1990s.
    d. Normal average monthly salary of a computer programmer in 1958.

11. Among the earliest commercial computers to use paging.
    a. A Univac computer at the Dulles Airport.
    b. A Burroughs computer in 1961.
    c. An IBM mainframe in 1964.
    d. A PDP minicomputer at the San Francisco airport.

12. What the IBM CEO had to say about a competitor's faster computer.
    a. "That can't be! It won't compute!"
    b. "Our lawyers will have a field day."
    c. "34 people, including the janitor".
    d. "Their cafeteria staff designed this?"

13. It pioneered virtual memory, timesharing, and pipelining in the early 1960s.
    a. The Atlas computer.
    b. The IBM 1401 computer.
    c. The CDC 6400 computer.
    d. The Burroughs B5000 computer.

14. "Open door policy"
    a. What development of open source software was originally called.
    b. Part of the "HP Way".
    c. Trade policy with the Soviet Union in to sell them computers in 1971.
    d. Computer labs with unlocked doors at MIT during the early 1970s.

15. Squee:
    a. The sound of a high-speed card reader as it jams on a bent card.
    b. A robotic squirrel that hunted tennis balls.
    c. "Sequential erase and enter" instruction of the NCR 200.
    d. What a beginning programming student at Stanford is called.

16. Wagon Wheel
    a. A tavern where Fairchild employees met in the mid 1960s.
    b. What the timing flywheel was called in early Honeywell line printers that ensured proper print alignment.
    c. An early Atari computer game based on a then-popular Japanese gambling device.
    d. A favorite song of Seymour Cray when he still worked at CDC.

17. It would have cost $40K as a product.
    a. The never-released "Fuji" Apple Macintosh computer.
    b. The ill-fated Honeywell home computer in 1974.
    c. A game console developed by a "skunk works" group at IBM.
    d. The Xerox Alto I personal computer system.

18. It was, in effect, a networked computer in 1985.
    a. The TRS 80
    b. The Commodore 6400
    c. The Northstar Horizon
    d. The Mupid II

19. The IBM 1800 was designed by
    a. Steven Spielberg's father
    b. John von Neumann's nephew
    c. Steve Jobs's father-in-law
    d. Alan Turing's third cousin

20. This supercomputer was supposed to have 256 processors.
    a. The IBM Perseus
    b. The Cray IV
    c. The CDC 25600
    d. The Illiac IV

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Spring 2015

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1. "Ready or not, computers are coming to the people."
   a. Alan Turing, 1949
   b. IBM marketing slogan, 1965
   c. Rolling Stones article, 1972
   d. Xerox PARC, 1984

2. Commissioned Honeywell to forecast the future of computing
   a. George Lucas for "Star Wars"
   b. Robert Zemeckis for "Back to the Future"
   c. Gene Roddenberry for "Star Trek"
   d. Stanley Kubrick for "2001: A Space Odyssey"

3. 21,700 characters
   a. Capacity of a CRAM card
   b. Different Chinese characters printable by a type 8 laser printer
   c. Number of characters printed by an IBM 1403 printer in one minute
   d. Throughput of the HP 755 Plotter in one hour

4. Burned his boat because he had built a new one
   a. Steve Jobs
   b. Bill Gates
   c. Thomas Watson
   d. Seymour Cray

5. Designed to handle Social Security punched cards
   a. Hollerith card reader
   b. Type 026 keypunch machine
   c. Type 77 collator
   d. IBM 1401 computer system

6. Botanical Society of the British Isles
   a. Had Alan Turing as a member
   b. Used 40-column punched cards
   c. First to deploy a relational database
   d. Spun off the British Computer Society

7. Frances Bilas
   a. Wrote the second COBOL program
   b. Invented "name" parameters
   c. Was a Bletchley Park code-breaker
   d. Married an ENIAC programmer

8. "Bits to pixels, series of bytes to vectors, quadratic equations to curves"
   a. Said of computer graphics in a video
   b. From a Stanford Computer Science Department course description
   c. PIXAR vision statement
   d. SGI company motto

9. The Lorenz code could be broken
   a. By the Zuse Z1 computer
   b. By recursively applying the inverted 3-tape sorting algorithm
   c. A secret Churchill kept from the Soviets at the start of the Cold War
   d. Known by the Nazis who used it anyway during World War II

10. 128 40-bit words
    a. Memory cache size of the Univac I
    b. Storage capacity of the Williams-Kilburn tube of the Mark I
    c. Drum capacity of the Johnniac
    d. Memory capacity of the original HP digital watch

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1. Steven Spielberg's father
   a. Bought the Speak & Spell toy seen in *E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial.*
   b. Was a Luddite who warned his son about digital electronics.
   c. Designed an IBM computer system.
   d. Wrote software for *Jurassic Park*.

2. Tiger Electronics
   a. A 1960s Korean computer company.
   b. Its leading product spoke Furbish.
   c. Its electronic tags tracked big game in Africa.
   d. The first electronics store to allow customers to order by phone.

3. The world's first spam message
   a. Sent by the teenaged daughter of a Xerox PARC engineer.
   b. Sent by a DEC salesman to announce a product demo.
   c. Sent by the Hormel Foods Corporation.
   d. Bounced back to the sender as undeliverable.

4. Selected Lois Lane's ideal husband
   a. Bletchley Park code breakers.
   b. A Teddy Ruxpin talking bear.
   c. A Chinese abacus expert.
   d. A UNIVAC computer.

5. Born in San Jose
   a. The computer mouse.
   b. The quicksort algorithm.
   c. Disk drives.
   d. Divide-by-zero machine check.

6. SLT
   a. IBM's Solid Logic Technology.
   b. Apple ad's "Sold last Tuesday" lament for sold-out Macs.
   c. DEC's Silicon Layered Terminator.
   d. The Eniac's Shift Left and Test instruction.

7. Solved 6th order differential equations in 1928
   a. A Chinese abacus expert.
   b. The Babbage Difference Engine.
   c. The IBM 1401 computer system.
   d. The Bush Differential Analyzer.

8. Originally designed for 256 processors
   a. The ILLIAC IV supercomputer.
   b. The CDC 2560 supercomputer.
   c. The HP "super laser printer".
   d. Gordon Moore's "law chip".

9. "There are lots of Johns in the world."
   a. Said to justify the naming of the Johnniac computer.
   b. Said after a "SELECT name" query of the first relational database.
   c. Explains why so many startups are run by men named John.
   d. The very first tweet sent as a test.

10. "We never found it in error."
    a. Said of the IBM 360 by IBM's CEO.
    b. Said of the UNIVAC by the U.S. census bureau.
    c. Said by a Chinese abacus expert.
    d. Said of the HP 25 calculator by a mathematics professor.

Computer History Museum Quiz

Spring 2016

Department of Computer Science
Department of Computer Engineering
San José State University
Prof. Ron Mak

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1. Design #5 was by
   a. Thomas Watson
   b. Gordon Bell
   c. John von Neumann
   d. Alan Turing

2. The world's fastest computer in 1950
   a. Eniac
   b. Whirlwind
   c. SWAC
   d. Manchester Mark I

3. Open Door Policy
   a. Office cubicles without doors.
   b. Computer technology trade agreement with the Soviet Union.
   c. Part of the HP Way.
   d. Computer technology trade agreement with China.

4. The Silicon Valley napkin
   a. "Wiped up the venture capital mess" during the 1998 industry crash.
   b. A "roach coach" that provided lunches outside of Netflix headquarters.
   c. A preprinted template for starting a company while dining in a restaurant.
   d. Said to be worn by investors drooling over the prospects of a hot start-up.

5. Promoted by GE in 1965
   a. A vacuum tube desktop calculator.
   b. The Williams-Kilburn tube.
   c. The GE 1024 real-time processor.
   d. The BASIC programming language.

6. The first stored-program computer
   a. "Cognos"
   b. "Baby"
   c. "Honeybee"
   d. "Genie"

7. "A Salesman is a Man who Sells."
   a. An old IBM motto.
   b. An old HP motto.
   c. An old Xerox motto.
   d. An old DEC motto.

8. "Two cheeseburgers and a Big Mac to go."
   a. A typical lunch order by the first Facebook engineers.
   b. Displayed by DEC's Lunar Lander video game.
   c. A food order by the Stanford artificial intelligence program "Hungry AI".
   d. Winner's prize in an early computer game sponsored by MacDonald's.

9. A constant 149° F
   a. Internal temperature of the first IC.
   b. Temperature of mercury memory.
   c. CDC 6400 disk platter temperature.
   d. Johnniac enclosure temperature.

10. The first ATM
    a. Developed by a manufacturer of automated baggage handlers.
    b. Dispensed $2 bills that jammed.
    c. Made for Bank of America in 1965.
    d. Developed by a manufacturer of bank safes with programmable lock timers.