Computer ◆ Conservation ◆ Society

CCS-NW Christmas & New Year quiz 2018

If you have any spare time over Christmas and New Year, you may like to rack your brains. And your little memory cells. E&OE (in case I've messed up!)

Answers at (& circulated after) the 15th January meeting.

Good luck, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Bob Geatrell

Chair CCS NW Group.

Were you paying attention?

A few questions relating to the presentations this year. Which presentation and to what do they refer? There may be more than one …

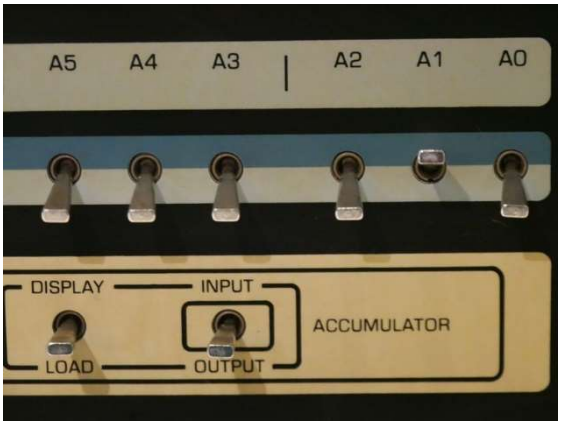
1. Which early computer had a 'sandwich'. And what was it?
2. Who bought an expensive spare they didn't use?
3. Who used magnetic logic?
4. Who uses a Raspberry Pi?
5. What sounds like a burst from a Sten gun (or less politely, a burp)?
6. What had Nesting?
7. Who used small punched cards?
8. Who had help from friends in Russia?
9. Who was the unexpected visitor a during a power cut at Midland bank?
10. Who introduced us? And to what?

Consoles

I started in my career just after the heyday of control panels, engineers' consoles and flashing lights. I've always thought it's a shame that they disappeared. Can you identify the following ?

Console #1

And where did those buttons come from?

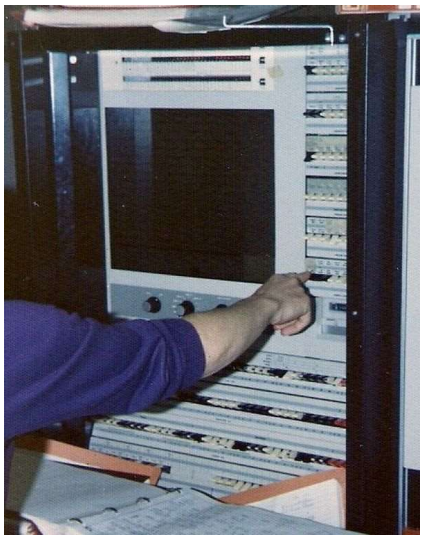


Console #2

Console #3

Console #4

Console #5



Console #6

Console #7

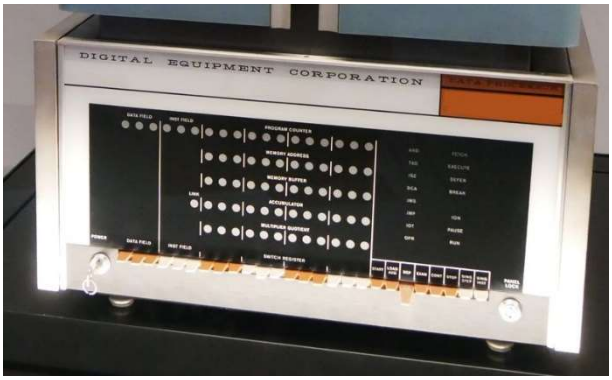
Console #8

Console #9

Pretty Darn Pervasive?

DEC's PDP (Programmed Data Processor) computers have been through many models. Can you identify these? Obviously, the type numbers have been obscured.

System #1



System #2

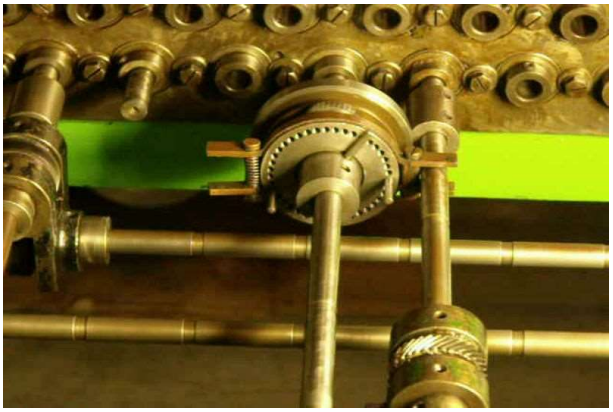
System #3

System #4

System #5

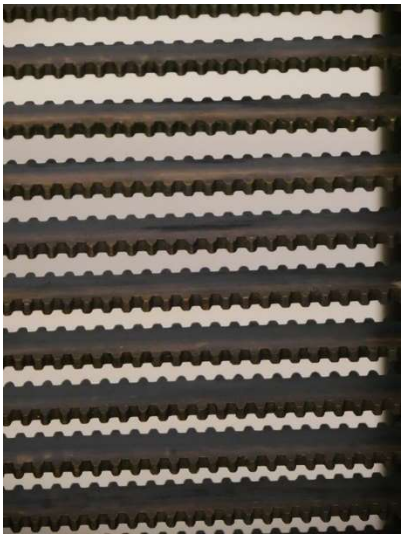
System #6

What are these?



WAT #1

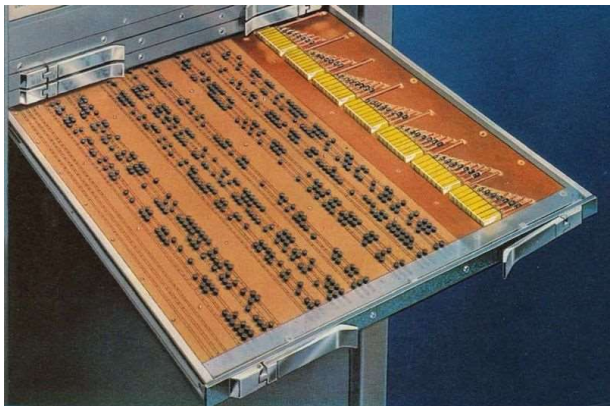
WAT #2



WAT #3

WAT #4

WAT #5



WAT #6

Coding?

1. I got my first taste of programming in my final years at school. I learned some FORTRAN - getting cards punched at the nearby University and waiting for the inevitable error listing the next day.

   But I also learned another fascinating language – sample below. What was it? And as a bonus, can you deduce (more or less) where I went to school?

   hd and *tl* are built-in functions for list handling.

```
function grt100 inlist; vars x;
        if null(inlist) then nil
                else hd(inlist) ->x;
                     if x>100 then x::grt100(tl(inlist))
                     else grt100(tl(inlist))
                close
        close
end;
```

   Example of calling from teletype:

```
grt100([90 101 85 109 113]) =>

** [101 109 113]
```

2. Alan Turing was well known for not suffering fools gladly. And probably not even people of reasonable intelligence.
   When he came first came to Manchester, he wrote the programming guide for the Ferranti Mark 1. Users were expected to know the base 32 (5-bit) codes. Assuming a 40-bit number coded as below, how would it decode into slightly more modern EBCDIC?

   ZQ:WB/LG

3. After Neil Macphail's talk earlier this year, he and I discussed inputting into the system he presented. If he had input the following, what would it mean?

   764453446370574475