

Computer History Museum Quiz

Spring Semester 2014

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 final exam score.

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.