

A photograph of a man with glasses and a blue sweater sitting at a desk, looking at a vintage computer monitor. The monitor displays a colorful screen with text and graphics. The man is resting his chin on his hand, appearing thoughtful. The desk has a keyboard and some papers. The background shows a window with a view of a building.

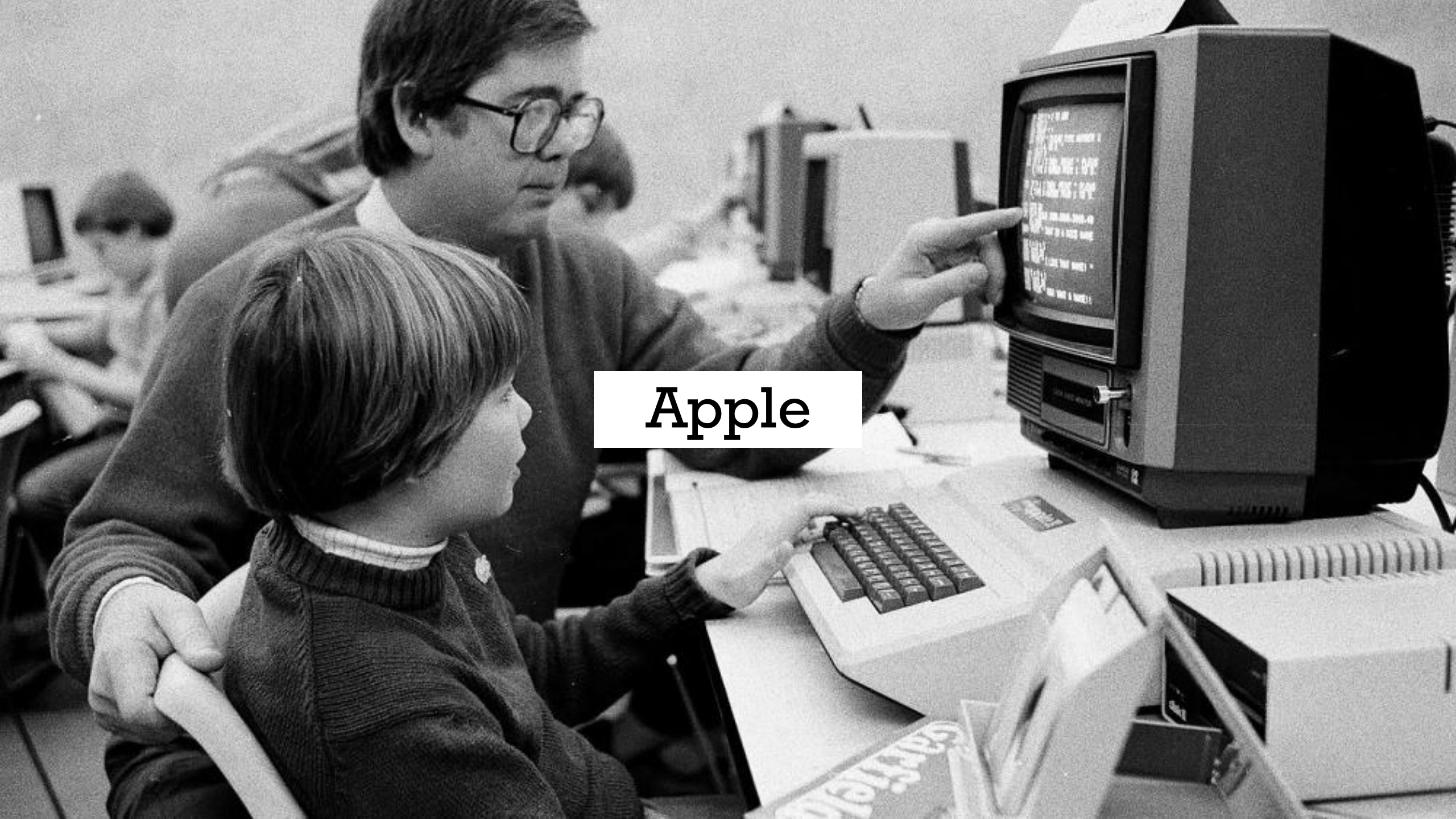
1984: Year of Computers

By Wyatt Circo

1984: An Important Year in Home Computing

- US Government passes the Comprehensive Crime Control Act to combat computer fraud
- IBM PC and clones sold 2 million plus units
- 8.2% of American households now had a home computer
- 24.6% of employed adults were using a computer at work on a daily basis
- 30% of K-12 students were using a computer on a daily basis
- Average computer price was \$1684, equivalent to over \$5000 today





Apple



Apple II

- Apple II introduced in 1976
- Quickly dominated the education market
- Apple II+ released in 1979 and sold through 82
- Apple IIe replaced II+ in 1983 and sold through 93
- 6502 CPU
- Color and high-resolution monochrome graphics



Macintosh 128K

- Macintosh released in 1984
- First successful computer with a GUI.
- The Apple Lisa introduced in 1983 had flopped, the macintosh was a heavily cost reduced version
- Classic "1984" advertisement used for the launch
- 68000 CPU
- High-resolution monochrome graphics



Apple IIc

- Released in 1984
- Compact/portable version of the IIe
- Available with an LCD screen, docking station with CRT monitor or by itself
- Base computer is equivalent of having 5 expansion cards in a IIe.
- 65C02 CPU





Commodore



PET

- Introduced in 1977 and ran through 82
- Aimed at school and business use
- Ran CBM Basic, licensed from Microsoft in 1976
- 6502 CPU
- 80 column text with internal monochrome display, PETSCII graphics



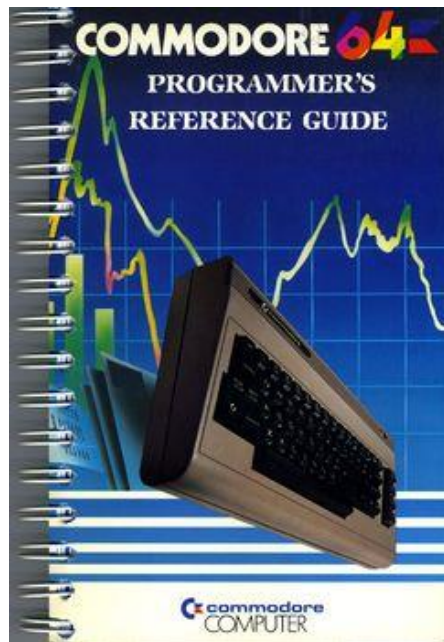
Vic-20

- Introduced in 1980 and ran through 85
- Aimed at home use, became very popular for gaming
- CBM Basic
- 6502 CPU 5Kb ram
- 22 column text, 16 color PETSCII graphics, composite video output



C64

- Introduced in 1982 and ran through 94
- Cutting edge sound chip
- CBM Basic
- Best selling computer ever, 12.5-17 million estimated units sold worldwide
- 6510 CPU with 64K ram
- 40 column text, 320 x 200 16 color PETSCII graphics with 8 sprites, svideo output



A vintage photograph of a man and a woman in a library setting. The man, on the left, is wearing a dark suit and glasses, and is seated at a wooden desk, typing on a large, beige computer keyboard. The woman, on the right, is wearing a dark blue jacket over a teal collared shirt and is smiling at the man. In front of them is a large, beige computer monitor displaying a grid of data. The background is filled with bookshelves containing numerous books. A white rectangular box with the text "Tandy Radio Shack" is overlaid on the image.

Tandy Radio Shack



TRS 80 Model IV

- Introduced in 1983 and ran through 91
- Last of the Z80 based Tandy machines
- Available with or without floppy drives
- Aimed at home and small business use
- 80 column monochrome display



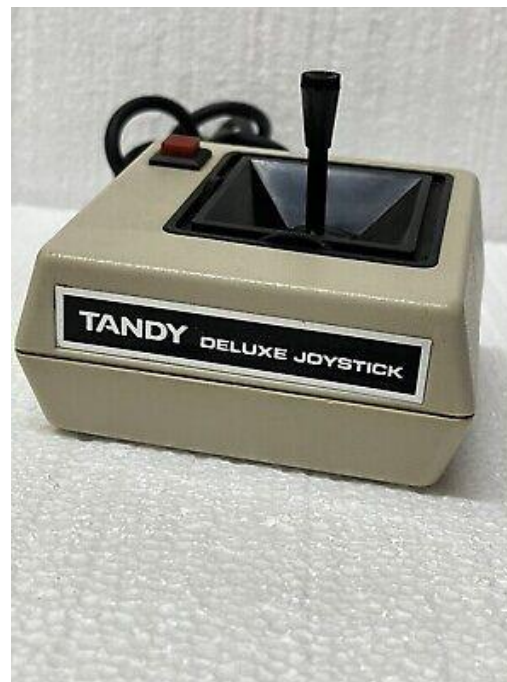
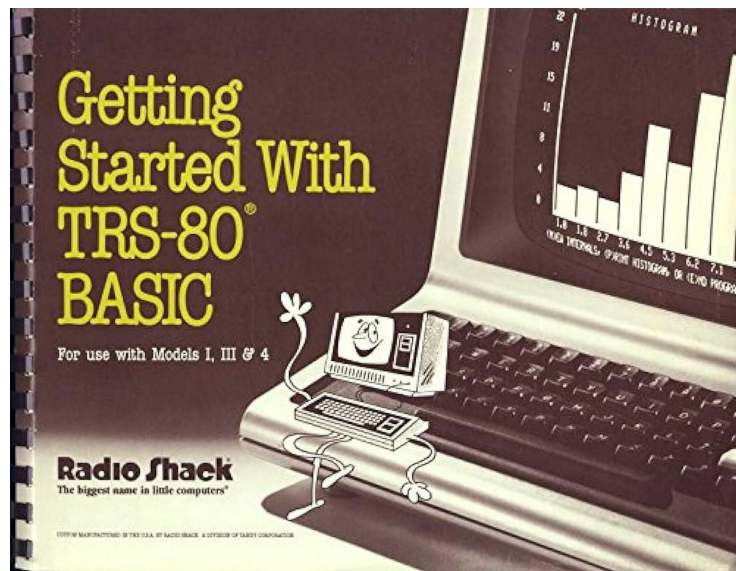
Color Computer II

- Introduced in 1983 and ran through 86
- Follow up to address issues with the CoCo I
- 6809 CPU
- Available with up to 64K ram
- Aimed at the home education market
- Up to 8 colors and 256 x 192 graphics resolution, RF video output



Tandy 1000

- Introduced in 1984 and ran through 86
- Tandy's first IBM PC compatible
- Aimed at home market and small business use
- 8088 CPU
- Very successful, created a new line of Tandy PCs
- CGA video with 16 colors and up to 640 x 200 resolution





The IBM Personal Computer

- Introduced in 1981 and ran through 87
- 8088 CPU with socket for an 8087 coprocessor
- IBM's first product aimed at home use
- Open architecture for 3rd party software and hardware, a new concept
- Introduced with PCDOS (MSDOS)
- Overwhelmingly popular with clones flooding the market soon after its release.
- IBM released the XT in 1983, including more expansion slots and 10-20mb hard disk



The IBM AT

- Introduced in 1984 and ran through 87
- An industry first with the 80286 and 16 bit ISA bus
- Aimed at home and business use
- Fully backwards compatible with PC hardware and software
- First computer to use the now standard 101 key layout



A vintage photograph of two young boys in a home environment. The boy on the left, with light brown hair, is seated in a wooden chair with a cane back, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt with dark stripes on the sleeves and blue jeans. He is looking towards the right. The boy on the right, with dark curly hair, is seated behind him, wearing a dark shirt and blue jeans, holding a piece of paper and looking down at it. In the foreground, a wooden desk holds an Atari 2600 console with a keyboard, a joystick, and a joystick on the floor. A television set is visible on the right side of the desk. The background shows a doorway and a wall with a light switch.

Atari and Others



Atari 400 & 800

- Introduced in 1979 and ran through 84
- Aimed at the home entertainment market
- 400 had 4Kb of ram, 800 had 8Kb
- 6502 CPU
- Predominately used with cartridge software
- 128 color graphics and up to 8 sprites
- Allowed for up to 4 joysticks for 4 player games



Atari 600XL & 800XL

- Introduced in 1983 and ran through 85
- Aimed at the home entertainment market
- 600 had 16Kb of ram, 800 had 64kb
- 6502 CPU
- Predominately used with cartridge software
- 256 color graphics and up to 8 sprites
- An upgrade of the 400 & 800



Osborne 1

- Introduced in 1981 and ran through 1983
- The first commercially successful portable computer
- Included a large collection of software almost equal to the value of the computer
- Aimed at traveling executives
- 3 inch monochrome text display
- Z80 CPU
- CP/M operating system
- Follow up Osborne Executive introduced in 1983 just prior to bankruptcy



Kaypro II

- Introduced in 1983 and ran through 1985 with some updates
- Direct competitor to the Osborne 1
- Included a large collection of software
- Aimed at home/business use
- Z80 CPU
- CP/M operating system
- 9 inch green monochrome text display
- Significantly cheaper than the Osborne, stealing sales



Mattel Aquarius

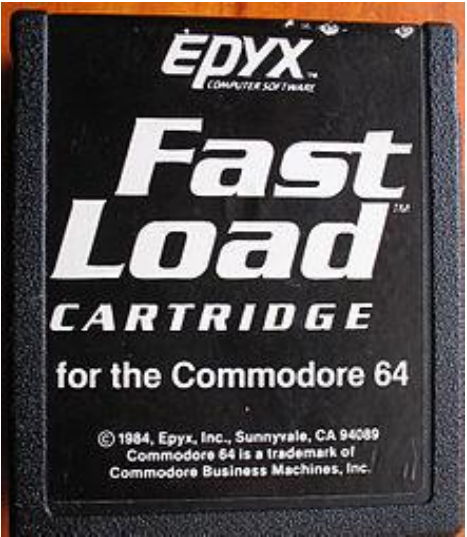
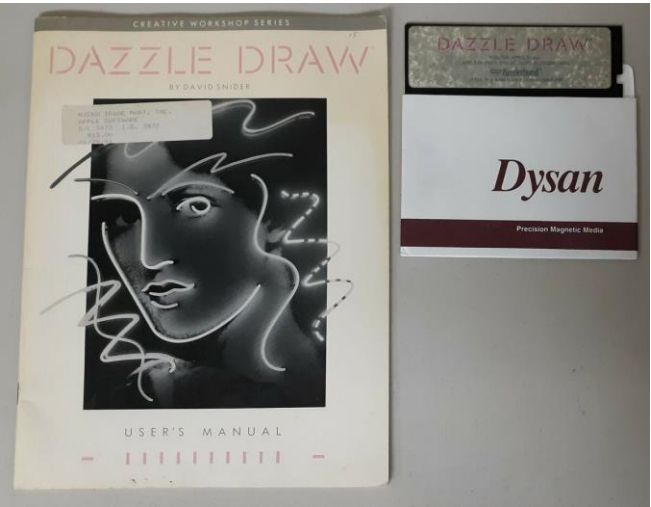
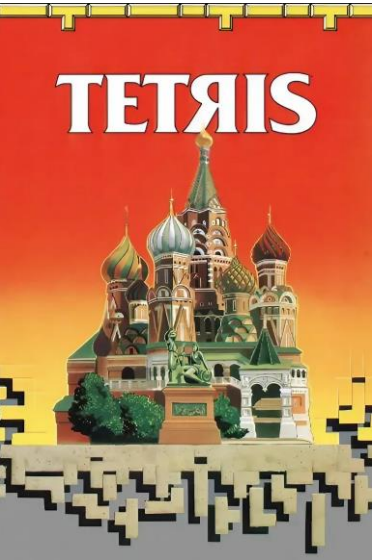
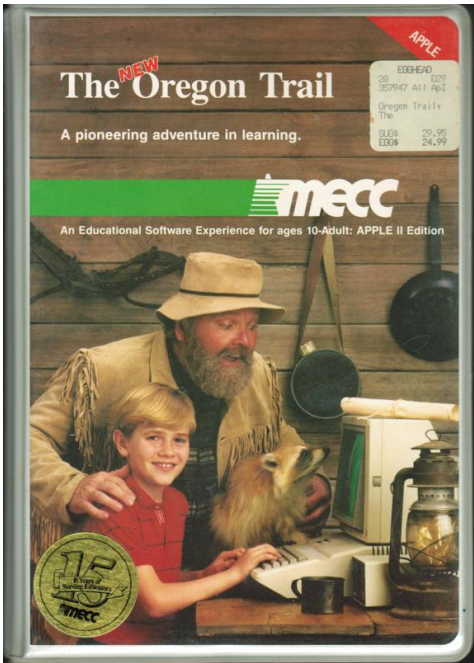
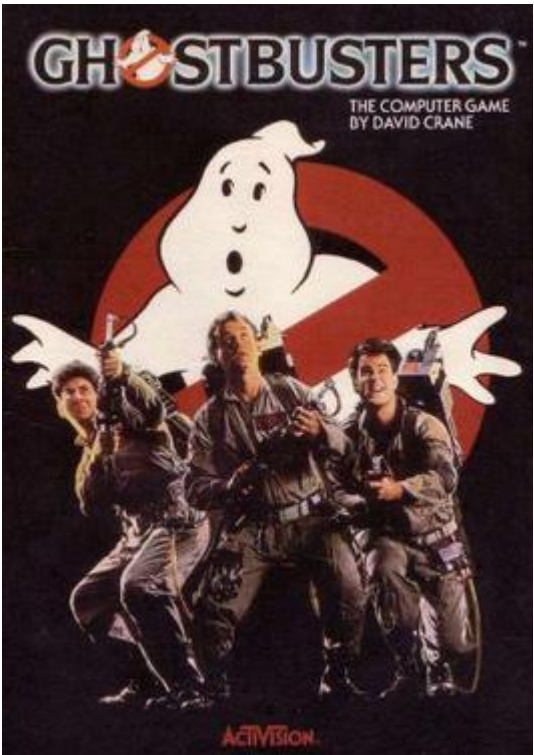
- Introduced in 1983
- Z80 CPU, 4Kb of ram, Basic OS
- Limited cartridge games available
- 80 x 72 video resolution with 16 colors
- "A system for the 70s" as put by one computer magazine
- Mattel pulled from the shelves after 4 months due to extremely poor sales



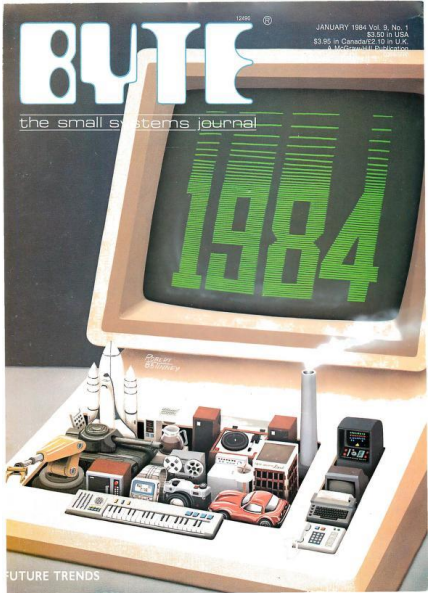
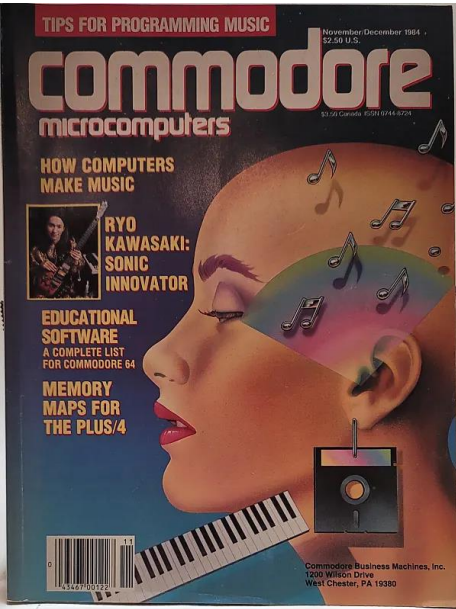
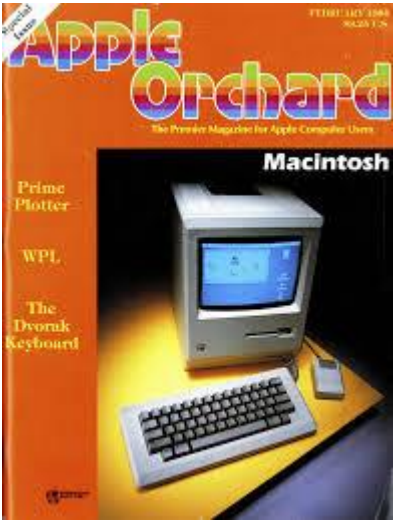
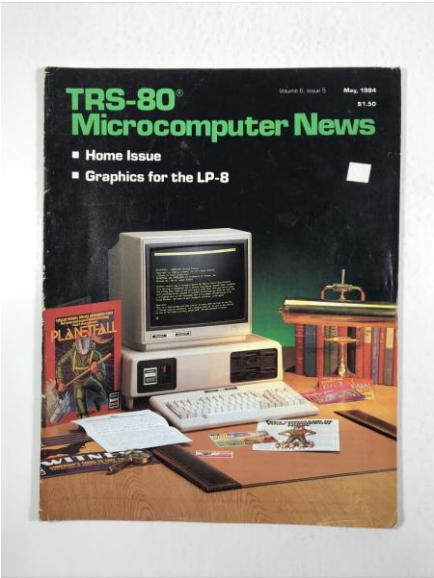
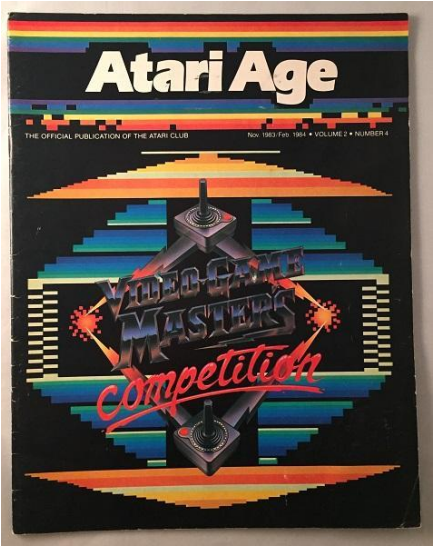
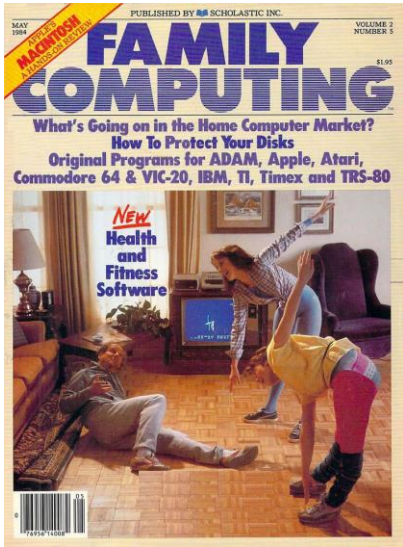
Franklin Ace 1000

- Introduced in 1983 and ran through 85
- Exact clone of the Apple II+, including OS and ROMs
- Follow up to the Ace 100, an Apple II clone
- Color video chip is installed by the user, an attempt to keep Apple happy
- Apple sues Franklin in 1984, wins but Franklin continues to sell computers

Popular software in 1984....



Some computer publications from 1984...



Important Computer events in 1984...

- CD-ROM is invented by Phillips, utilizing an audio storage format for data storage
- Flash memory is invented by Toshiba, a vital component of all computer systems in the modern age
- The 3.5" floppy disk was introduced and widely accepted by manufacturers
- The first 3D printer was created and demonstrated
- HP introduces the first Laser printer, the Laserjet
- IBM introduced EGA video, a vast improvement over CGA
- The first home computer graphics pad was introduced, the Koala pad
- MMS (Multimedia Messaging Service) was invented
- ASN.1 protocols first defined and implemented
- The first wireless mouse developed by Logitech
- Dell Computer was founded May 3rd
- Atmel was founded by a former Intel employee
- Lenovo was founded November 1st
- First GUI online service Prodigy is launched



Curious to try some 1984 computing?

Some online emulators to try.....

Commodore 64 emulator -----→ <https://c64online.com/c64-online-emulator/>

TRS80 emulator -----→ <https://www.my-trs-80.com/>

Commodore VIC-20 emulator -----→ <https://www.mdawson.net/vic20chrome/vic20.php>

IBM PC emulator -----→ <https://www.pcjs.org/machines/pcx86/ibm/5150/cga/>

Apple IIe emulator -----→ <https://www.scullinsteel.com/apple/e>