

(Brief) History of HCI

Key people, events and ideas in HCI



History of HCI

Digital computer grounded in ideas from 1700's & 1800's

Technology became available in the 1940's and 1950's

The "user" concept is relatively new

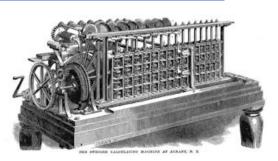


History of HCI

- Mechanical Computers http://www.thocp.net
- 1623 Schickard makes "Calculating Clock".
 6-digit machine can add, subtract, bell indicates overflow.
- ➤ 1674 Leibniz designs his "Stepped Reckoner"

 Can multiply, with operands of up to 5 and 12 digits.

 User turns a crank for each unit in each digit
- ➤ **1820 de Colmar makes "Arithmometer"**First mass-produced calculator. Does multiplication & division. It is also the most **reliable** calculator yet. Continue to be sold for about 90 years.
- > 1889 Felt invents the first printing desk calculator.
- > 1935 IBM introduces "IBM 601", punch card machine capable of 1 multiplication /second. 1500 are made.
- > 1945 Mauchly & Eckert "ENIAC" for ballistics.
 30 tons, 1000 ft² of floor, 140 kilowatts of electricity, 17,468 vacuum tubes
- Enigma: German coding machine in WWII









Batch Processing

- Computer had one task, performed sequentially
- No "interaction" between operator and computer after starting the run

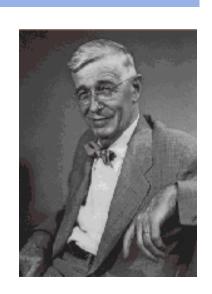


- > Punch cards, tapes for input
- Serial operations



Paradigm Shifter: Vannevar Bush

- Postulated Memex device
 - Stores <u>all</u>
 records/articles/communications
 - Items retrieved by indexing, keywords, cross references (now called hyperlinks)
 - (Envisioned as microfilm, not computer)
- Interactive and nonlinear components are key





Mid 1960's

- Timesharing mode of computing
 - Computers too expensive for individuals timesharing increased accessibility
 - interactive systems, not jobs
 - text processing, editing
 - email, shared file system

Need for HCI



Paradigm Shifter: J.R. Licklider

➤ 1960 - Postulated "man-computer symbiosis"

Couple human brains and computing machines tightly to revolutionize information handling





Paradigm Shifter: Ivan Sutherland

- > SketchPad '63 PhD thesis at MIT
 - Hierarchy pictures & subpictures
 - Master picture with instances (ie, OOP)
 - Constraints
 - Icons
 - Copying
 - Light pen for input
 - Recursive operations





Computers as Toolkits

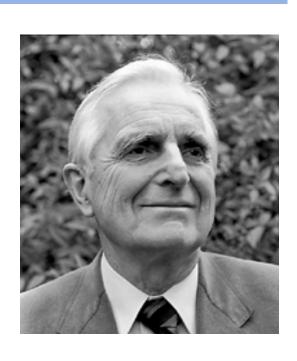
- Multipurpose toolkits
- Abstracting out common tasks (tools)
- > Reusable elements
- At the disposal of humans



Paradigm Shifter: Douglas Engelbart

- Landmark system/demo:
 - * Mouse, windows
 - Hypertext
 - Multimedia
 - High-res display,
 - Shared files, CSCW,
 - Electronic messaging, teleconferencing, ...

> Inventor of mouse

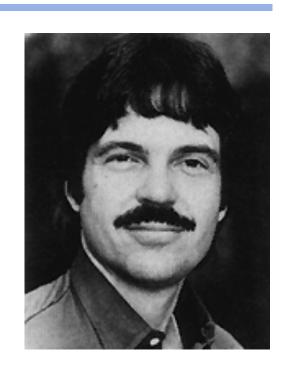




Paradigm Shifter: Alan Kay

"Personal Computing"

Dynabook: Notebook sized computer loaded with multimedia and can store everything



Desktop interface metaphor



Paradigm Shifter: Ted Nelson

Computers can help people, not just business

Coined term "hypertext"





Personal Computers

- > 1974 IBM 5100
- > 1981 Datamaster
- ➤ 1981 IBM XT/AT
 - Text and command-based
 - Sold lots
 - Performed lots of tasks the general public wanted done
 - A good basic toolkit
- ➤ 1978 VisiCalc

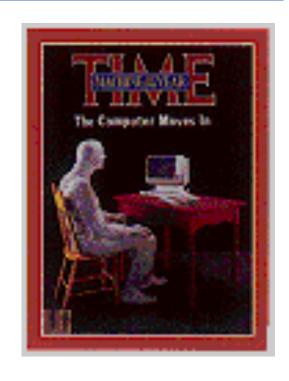






Personal Computing

- System is more powerful if it's easier to use
- Small, powerful machines dedicated to individual
- ➤ Importance of networks and time-sharing



Time names "The Computer" Man of the Year, 1982 (http://www.time.com/time/special/moy/1982.html)

WIMP

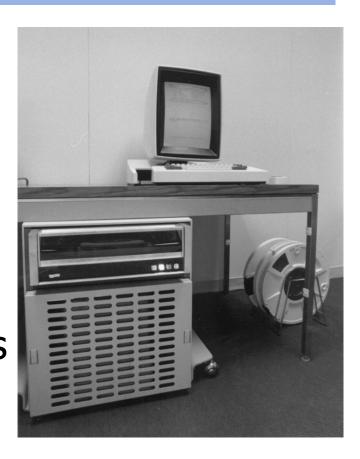


- > Windows, Icons, Menus, Pointers
- ➤ Timesharing=multiusers; now we need multitasking
- WIMP interface allows you to do several things simultaneously
- > Has become the familiar GUI interface
- > Xerox Alto, Star; early Apples



PCs with GUIs

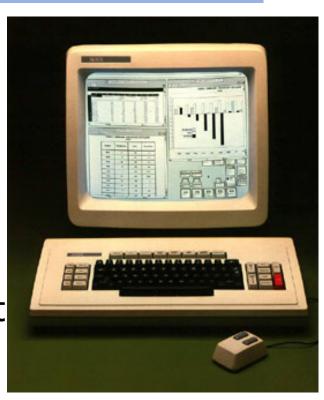
- > Xerox PARC mid 1970's
- > Alto
 - local processor, bitmap display, mouse
 - Precursor to modern GUI, windows, menus, scrollbars
 - LAN ethernet





Xerox Star - '81

- First commercial PC designed for "business professionals"
 - desktop metaphor, pointing, WYSIWYG, consistency and simplicity
- > First system based on usability
 - Paper prototyping and analysis
 - Usability testing & iterative refinement
- Commercial flop
 - ❖ \$15k cost
 - closed architecture
 - lacking key functionality (spreadsheet)





Apple Macintosh - '84

- ➤ Aggressive pricing \$2500
- Not trailblazer, smart copier
- ➤ Good <u>interface guidelines</u>
- > 3rd party applications
- High quality graphics and laser printer





Multimodality

- Mode is a human communication channel
 - Not just the senses e.g., speech and non-speech audio are two modes



Emphasis on simultaneous use of multiple channels for I/O



Speech, Language?

- Actions do not always speak louder than words
- Interface as mediator or agent
- Language paradigm
- How good does it need to be?
 - "Tricks", vocabulary, domains
- > How "human" do we want it to be?
 - * (HAL, Bob, PaperClip, Siri, Alexa)



Modern-Day Ubiquity

- Person is no longer user of virtual device but occupant of virtual, computationally-rich environment
- Can no longer neglect macro-social aspects
- Late '90s PDAs, VEs, ...
- > 2000's mobile phones, smartphones
- Now?...Social impacts: police, travel, protest, concerts, sports



Upcoming

- > Frameworks for thinking about HCI
- User Centered Design Process
- Usability Principles
- ➤ Bad Designs, and the Design Process

- > WIKI
- Project teams and ideas