

Evershine

Gateway to Bright Future

Learning

Computer





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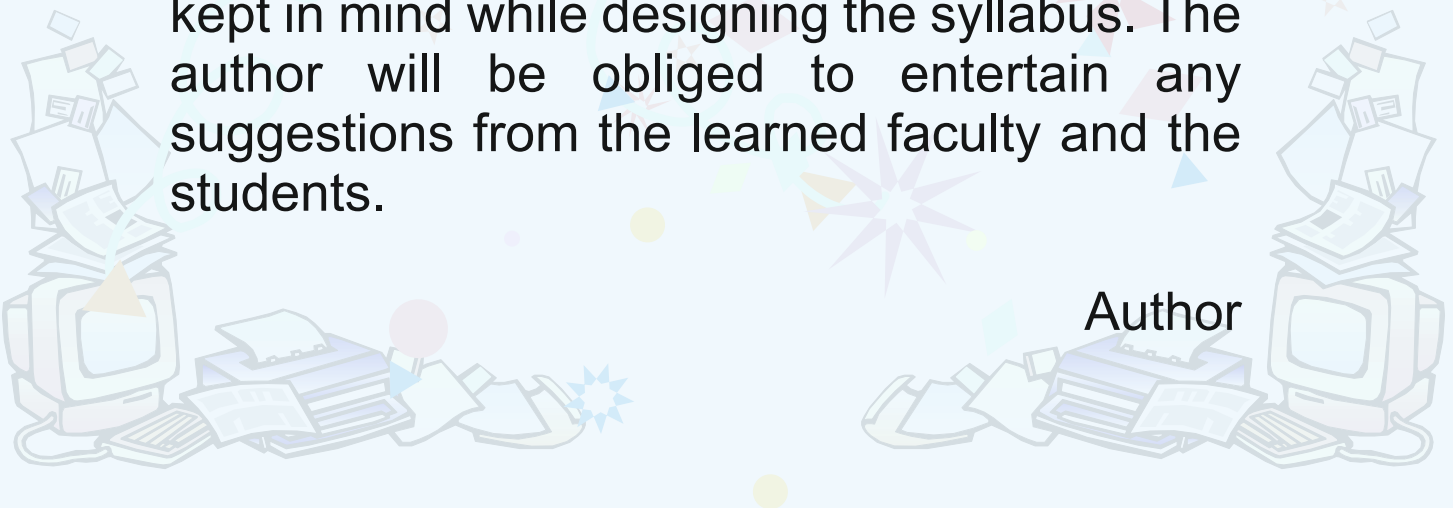
PREFACE

Computer is assumed such an important place in modern day-life that we cannot imagine a smooth and successful life minus it. Therefore, it becomes necessary to get a student equipped with computer and educate in it.

It is not easy to prepare a text book on this complicated subject in a simple manner thus I have tried to include in this book, the latest information about computer and covered topics, like windows, networking, computer virus, multimedia, Internet fundamentals and other computer related information.

The need of modern-day education was kept in mind while designing the syllabus. The author will be obliged to entertain any suggestions from the learned faculty and the students.

Author





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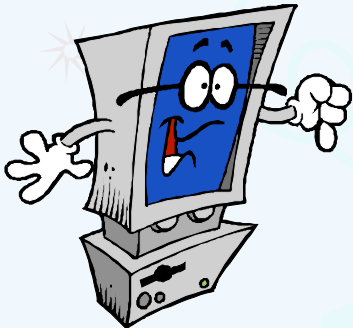
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1 Chapter



My Characteristics and Evolution



My Characteristics

We all know that I am designed to :

1. Accept data and instructions.
2. Store data and instructions.
3. Process the data according to the given set of instructions to give the output.

I am not just a fast calculator as I can also perform non-arithmetic operations like copying, moving, comparing etc. Some of my characteristics are :

Speed :

I can perform basic operations like addition, subtraction, etc. at a very fast speed.

Accuracy

I am very accurate. If the data entered into me is correct and if the set of instructions are correct, then the result produced will be accurate.

High Storage Capacity

I have a very large memory. I can store a large amount of data in a very small space. The data stored can be retrieved instantly and correctly whenever desired.

Diligence

Being a machine, I do not suffer from boredom or lack of concentration. Even if a million calculations are to be performed by me, I will perform all the calculations with the same accuracy and speed as the first one.

Versatility

I can perform different types of jobs efficiently. I can work with different types of data like graphics, audio, video, etc.



Limitations

In spite of so many advantages, I do have some limitations.

I lack decision making abilities. I need to be told in each and every step. If an unanticipated situation arises, I will either produce incorrect results or abandon the task altogether.

Early Calculating Devices.

Let us learn about some early computing machines.

Abacus

Abacus was the first calculating device. It was invented in the sixteenth century in China. Simple calculations, like addition or subtraction, could be performed using the Abacus.



Enhance your knowledge.

The three most popular abacus were – Chinese, Japanese and Russian.

Napier's Bones

In 1616, Sir John Napier made a calculating device for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

The device is made up of a set of rectangular rods.



Enhance your knowledge.

The improved form of Napier's Bones is used for performing division and finding square roots. The rods were made up of curved bones and that is why the device is known as Napier's Bones.

Pascaline

The first calculator was invented by *Blaise Pascal*. It consisted of a rectangular box with eight movable wheels.



Blaise Pascal

Difference Engine

In the 19th Century, *Charles Babbage* invented the first mechanical computer. It was called the *Difference Engine*.

Analytical Engine

Charles Babbage also invented the first general computer known as the Analytical Engine. The Analytical Engine had the same basic elements as the modern computers – input, output and memory devices.



Charles Babbage

Classification of Me According to the Technology Used

I am classified into the following generations :-

My First Generation (1946-1948)

I was called Mark I in this generation and was the first electronic computer. I was developed in the early years of 20th century. I was about 15 metres long. The wires connecting the various parts of me was about 800 kilometers long.

ENIAC

Electronic Numerical Integrator and Calculator (ENIAC) was the most popular of my kind in this generation.



1st Generation Computer

Enhance your knowledge.

ENIAC weighed approximately 27 tonnes.

My Second Generation (1956-1963)

The characteristics of my Second Generation were :

1. They were smaller, faster and more efficient than my first generation.
2. They also contained all the components-printer, memory, disk, strong operating system etc., which are present in me today.



2nd Generation Computer

3. I was cheaper than my first generation.
4. Languages such as COBOL and FORTAN came into common use during this time.

My Third Generation (1964-1971)

The characteristics of my third generation were :

1. I was smaller compared to my second generation.
2. New input and output devices like scanner, magnetic disk, character reader, etc. came into the market during this time.
3. Capacities of main memories were also enlarged.
4. I was used as an operating system that allowed machines to run many different programs.



My Fourth Generation

Following are the characteristic of my fourth generation :

1. My fourth generation has much greater computing power and extremely large memories.
2. Storage devices in me have greatly improved and are cheap.
3. Now, I can be linked together or networked to share memory space, software, information and communicate with each other.



My Fifth Generation

Till my Fourth Generation the major stress was on improving the hardware. This resulted in reduction of my size and increase in speed. The only draw-back of me was lack of thinking power. My fifth generation is expected to fulfill this gap and are being reformed to Supercomputers. I now became supercomputer with a very large storage capacity, high speed, ability to do highly sophisticated operations and the capability to make decisions of the right kind. Now, I am based on artificial intelligence.



Enhance your knowledge

PARAM and ANURAG are supercomputers made in India.

Tricky Terms

Computer : It is an electronic devices that processes the input data according to the given bit of instructions to give meaningful output or informations.

Input : It is the data or command that is entered into the computer.

Output : It is the results produced by the computer.

Retrieve : To get back the information stored in the computer.

Store : To retain information in the computer.

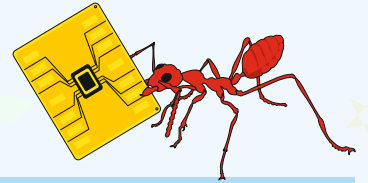
Versatility : It is the property of an object that enables it to turn easily from one subject to another.

ENIAC : Electronic Numerical Integrator and Calculator.

Points to Remember

- ★ A computer is an electronic device.
- ★ A computer can perform basic operations at a very fast speed.
- ★ A computer has a very large memory.
- ★ Computer can perform different types of jobs efficiently.
- ★ Computer don't get bored or tired.
- ★ Computer lack the ability to make decisions.
- ★ Abacus, invented in Sixteenth century in China, was the first calculating device.
- ★ In 1617, Sir John Napier made a calculating device called Napier's Bones. It was used for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.
- ★ Pascaline, the first calculator, was invented by Blaise Pascal.
- ★ Charles Babbage invented the first mechanical computer called the difference Engine. He also invented the Analytical Engine.

- ★ Computers have been classified into different generations based on the technological advancement.
- ★ Supercomputers have a very large storage capacity high speed and capability to make decisions.
- ★ Artificial Intelligence refers to making computers copy intelligent human behaviour.



A. Answer the following questions :

1. What is a Computer ?
.....
2. Write a short note on the characteristics of computers ?
.....
3. What are the limitations of computer ?
.....
4. Name the first calculating device.
.....
5. Who is known as the 'Father of modern computers' ?
.....
6. Which was the first electronic computer ?
.....
7. Name the two machines designed by Charles Babbage ?
.....
8. What is the full form of ENIAC ?
.....



B. Match the following.

Column I

- (1) First Generation
- (2) Third Generation
- (3) Fourth Generation
- (4) Second Generation
- (5) Father of Computer
- (6) Pascaline
- (7) Central Processing Unit
- (8) Second Generation

Column II

- (i) 1964 IC
- (ii) 1946 Vacuum Tubes
- (iii) 1982 Transistors
- (iv) 1971 LSI by VLSI
- (v) Blaise Pascal
- (vi) Transistors
- (vii) Charles Babbage
- (viii) CPU

C. State whether the following statements are True (T) or False (F) :

1. Computers are very accurate.
2. Abacus was invented in China.
3. The first calculator was invented by Charles Babbage.
4. Fourth Generation computer period is 1971 onwards.
5. IC's were used in Second Generation Computers.
6. First Generation Computers were smaller than Second Generation Computers.
7. In the beginning computers used to be very big.
8. The first electronic computer was Abacus.

D. Fill in the blanks.

1. Abacus was invented in
2. invented the first calculator.
3. invented Napier's Bones in
4. The first electronic computer was called
5. tubes were used in first generation computers.
6. The computers that we are using now do not have any
7. Transistors were used in generation computers.
8. We are using computers of generation.

Things To Do :

Make a Scrap book having pictures of different calculating devices.