The Personal Computer Revolution

THE PC REVOLUTION: THE IMAGE

THE PC REVOLUTION: THE REALITY

THE PC REVOLUTION AT THE MOVIES:

*Pirates of Silicon Valley* (TV) (1999)
The PC Revolution: The Image
The PC Revolution: The Image (Cont’d)

*WarGames* (1983)
The PC Revolution: The Image (Cont’d)

Electric Dreams (1984)
The PC Revolution: The Image (Cont’d)

Bill Gates (1955–)

Steve Jobs (1955–2011)
The PC Revolution: The Reality
Computing in 1970: The State of the Art

- Mainframe computers (government / business / scientific)
- Minicomputers (business / scientific)
- Consolidation of the computer industry (IBM and BUNCH)
- Most computers operate in isolation from their human users and other computers
The PC Revolution: The Reality (Cont’d)
The Computing Counterculture

- Computers as alternative technology for promoting liberty, knowledge, and happiness (“New Communalists”).
- Communalists and hobbyists envision computing as low-cost computer utilities and minicomputers, respectively.
The PC Revolution: The Reality (Cont’d)
The Computing Counterculture

Community Memory Public Terminal
(San Francisco, 1973–1975)
[FINDing: free / ADDing: 25 cents]

CM Terminal
(CRT version)
Instead of being a little mainframe, the PC is, in fact, more like an incredibly big chip. – Robert X. Cringely

- The microprocessor was invented by Ted Hoff in 1971.
- Manufactured massively and marketed cheaply by Intel.
The PC Revolution: The Reality (Cont’d)

Ed Roberts (1941-2010)

Altair 8800 (1975) [$399]

- Computer kit produced by Micro Instrumentation Telemetry Systems (MITS); I/O hardware and software provided by other companies, e.g., Micro-soft BASIC.
- Dozens of hardware and software companies in microcomputer market by 1976; hundreds by 1980.
The PC Revolution Computing At The Movies:
*Pirates of Silicon Valley* (TV) (1999)

- Based on (but cuts and departs from) non-fiction book by Freiberger and Swaine; focus on Steve Jobs and Bill Gates.
- Done just after start of Job’s second tenure at and resurrection of Apple.
- Steve Wozniak said personalities if not incidents accurately portrayed; Gates said it was “reasonably accurate”.
- Jobs hated it.